

Center for Judicial Accountability

From: Center for Judicial Accountability <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2013 10:06 AM
To: sflamisch@wnyt.com
Subject: DA Soares absent from two hearings -- at which his handling of State Board of Elections criminal referrals should have been examined -- but was not
Attachments: 11-8-13-foil-board-of-elections.pdf; 11-13-13-ltr-da-soares.pdf; 11-12-13-foil-division-of-budget.pdf; 11-12-13-foil-senate.pdf; 11-12-13-foil-assembly.pdf

Dear Steve:

Here is the May 20th piece by WNYT.com reporter Bill Lambdin – containing info similar to that in Ken Lovett’s Aug. 5th [Daily News](#) article, enclosed with our above Nov 8th FOIL request to the Board of Elections and November 13th letter to District Attorney

Soares. http://wnyt.com/article/stories/s3039341.shtml?cat=300&utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter. Bill’s article does not identify that DA Soares was MIA from the May 20th IDC hearing – and, as you know, Soares was absent from the Oct. 28th hearing of the Commission to Investigate Public Corruption, of which he is a member.

Here’s the link to the May 20th IDC hearing: <http://www.nysenate.gov/event/2013/may/08/restoring-voters-trust-new-york-state-government-reforming-new-york-states-campaig>. At 40 mins. Senator Valesky states: “The District Attorney here in Albany County, David Soares, was scheduled to testify. He has had something come up at the last minute. We’ll certainly take his written testimony into consideration.”

FYI, my e-mail to Ken last week is below.

Feel free to call, anytime, for further leads... -- and kindly forward this e-mail to Bill Lambdin with an invitation that he call me directly.

Thanks.

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 8:23 AM
To: 'klynnews@aol.com'; klovett@nydailynews.com
Subject: Conflict of Interest: Your Important August 5th Article -- & the Oct 28th hearing of the Commission to Investigate Public Corruption

Dear Ken,

Following up our brief conversation yesterday afternoon, here again are CJA’s Nov 8th FOIL request to the State Board of Elections & Nov 13th letter to Albany County D.A. Soares – to which – because they each rely on your Aug. 5th article “*Members of Cuomo’s anti-corruption panel failed to pursue 1,500 criminal referrals by the Board of Elections*”, you are the SOLE identified member of the press indicated as a recipient.

The State Board of Elections is “low-hanging fruit” – and your Aug 5th letter pointed to what is higher-up on the tree: the district attorneys. Where is the Commission’s scrutiny about how the district attorneys operate with respect to

complaints and referrals of Election Law and other violations? And how about those higher up on the tree – the Senate and Assembly Election Law Committees, the Division of Budget, the Governor, the Attorney General, etc.?

By the way, if you watch the video of the Commission's Oct 28th hearing, there are two points where comment is heard from the audience – both mine. Both hinted to the Commission that the dysfunction/corruption of official duties is NOT solely at the Board of Elections – and that the Commission should be expanding its inquiry:

at 1:21 mins, I say "Why haven't the committees of the legislature been asking these questions. They have Election Law committees, the Assembly and Senate both. Where have their hearings been?"

at 2:28 mins, I say, "Do the D.A.s?..."

Indeed, immediately upon the conclusion of the Oct. 28th hearing, I rushed forward to identify that the Commission's interrogation of the Board was deficient, that I had requested to testify, in writing, prior to the hearing, and that I was reiterating that request now. The Commission's response: to simply ignore me, with no inquiry by even a single Commissioner about what might have been deficient. Ken, your journalism should be the start of such expose – beginning with the Commission's failure to raise a single question as to the criminal referrals featured in your important Aug. 5th article – and the absence of D.A. Soares from the hearing.

Please call me so that I can give you further insight into the Oct. 28th hearing – as there are serious and substantial questions that must be raised about it. Meantime, here, additionally, are our Nov 12th FOIL requests to the Office of the Budget, Senate, & Assembly.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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