

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2017 10:29 AM
To: 'spechenik@rensko.com'
Cc: 'cmeyer@rensko.com'; 'info@andreasmyth.com'; 'chair@gpny.org'; 'chair2@gpny.org'
Subject: What is Rensselaer County's response to CJA's July 14, 2016 and August 8, 2016 FOIL requests pertaining to D.A. salaries, compensation, state aid, etc.?
Attachments: 7-14-16-foil-56-counties.pdf; 7-14-16-email-transmitting-foil-request-to-counties.pdf; rensselaar-7-15-16-acknowledgment.pdf; 8-8-16-foil-state-aid-counties.pdf; 8-8-16-email-to-counties-foil.pdf

TO: Rensselaer County Attorney Stephen Pechenik

Following up the voice mail I just left for you moment ago and our phone conversation yesterday on the subject, attached are the two FOIL requests that I made last year to New York's 62 counties, including Rensselaer County: (1) my July 14, 2016 FOIL request pertaining to the salaries and other compensation and non-salary benefits of the district attorney and other elected county officers – with my transmitting e-mail and a July 15, 2016 acknowledgment letter from your FOIL officer, Peter Kehoe; and (2) my August 8, 2016 FOIL request pertaining to state aid for district attorney salaries – with my transmitting e-mail.

I have no record of any substantive response from Rensselaer County to either. With respect to the second, there may have been an August 16, 2016 acknowledgment letter, but I am unable to locate same.

Kindly advise – and, additionally, update each FOIL request as follows: (1) as to the July 14, 2016 FOIL request, please add info/records pertaining to 2017; and (2) as to the August 8, 2016 FOIL request, please add info/records pertaining to 2018.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [mailto:elena@judgewatch.org]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 5:43 PM
To: 'cmeyer@rensko.com' <cmeyer@rensko.com>
Cc: 'spechenik@rensko.com' <spechenik@rensko.com>; 'info@andreasmyth.com' <info@andreasmyth.com>; 'chair@gpny.org' <chair@gpny.org>; 'chair2@gpny.org' <chair2@gpny.org>

Subject: The Rensselaer County budget, the Rensselaer D.A. salary it includes -- & the race for Rensselaer County Executive & fiscally-responsible, clean, honest government

TO: Rensselaer County Deputy County Executive Chris Meyer

This follows up the phone message I left for you at about 3:30 this afternoon, with receptionist Mary Jeanne, requesting to speak with you about the Rensselaer County budget – and, in particular, about the Rensselaer County district attorney salary – which, thanks to the willful and deliberate nonfeasance of Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin and his fellow

legislators in Albany – I believe to be the highest of all elected Rensselaer County officers, by approximately \$60,000 a year, paid from the Rensselaer County budget.

I already had an extensive phone conversation earlier in the afternoon with Rensselaer County Attorney Stephen Pechenik, who returned my call seeking information from him about the salaries of Rensselaer County's elected officers and about the date of County Executive Jimino's undated message concerning Rensselaer's 2017 budget, stating:

“District Attorney salaries across the State will increase as they are tied by law to judges' salary. In the past, the State has paid for these mandated salary increases, but has not done so this time thus requiring local taxpayers to foot the additional expense.” (at p. 5).

I told County Attorney Pechenik that I would be phoning you later today – or tomorrow – about the district attorney salary/reimbursement issue – and its explosive ramifications on the race for Rensselaer county executive, including your decision, in wake of your loss to Assemblyman McLaughlin in the Republican primary, to remove yourself as a candidate for Rensselaer county executive on the Independence and Reform Party lines to foster Assemblyman McLaughlin's win, in the general election, over Democratic candidate Andrea Smyth, who has the Working Families and Women's Equality party lines, and Green Party candidate Wayne Foy.

Please call me, at your convenience, tomorrow. Meantime, here's the webpage I created on the Center for Judicial Accountability's website, www.judgewatch.org, pertaining to Assemblyman McLaughlin's run for Rensselaer county executive: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/elections/2017/renselaer/ending-road-mclaughlin.htm>, which I showed and discussed with County Attorney Pechenik during our phone conversation. It is part of a collection of webpages, accessible from CJA's homepage, via the prominent center link: **“OUTING CORRUPT & COLLUSIVE INCUMBENTS & Ending their Road to Re-Election & Higher Office in 2017, 2018, & Beyond – WITH EVIDENCE”**. I particularly recommend, by way of overview, that you watch the VIDEO of my January 30, 2017 testimony before the Legislature at its budget hearing on “local state officials/general government”, at which I testified, at length about the D.A. salary/reimbursement issue. The direct link to CJA's webpage posting the VIDEO – and the VIDEOS of my testimony on January 31, 2017 at the Legislature's budget hearing on “public protection” and on February 6, 2013, at its budget hearing on “public protection” – is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/2017-legislature/budget-hearings.htm>. The significance of this testimony is highlighted by the attached August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER sent – by the first e-mail on the below e-mail chain -- to all eight of New York's recognized political parties, pertaining to this year's race for Westchester county executive – and to all other electoral races involving incumbent state legislators and our statewide public officers.

Two days ago, I telephoned Candidate Smyth and discussed with her the content of the “End of the Road” webpage for Assemblyman McLaughlin – and the August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER -- which she stated she would review. She was not then at her desk and I am awaiting her follow-up call. I do not know whether Candidate Foy is aware of the webpage, as the New York State Green Party has not furnished me with any contact information for him, despite my requests for same, beginning last Friday – as reflected by the below e-mail chain to its two co-chairs, which included the above attachments.

Tomorrow, I will telephone Assemblyman McLaughlin and alert him to the webpage, so that he can appropriately prepare himself for scrutiny of his record, as assemblyman, by the other county executive candidates, by the parties sponsoring the candidates, and by the press.

I am ready and eager to assist you, to assist Assemblyman McLaughlin, to assist Candidate Smyth, and to assist Candidate Foy, to the max – so that, once and for all, and by “blowing the whistle”, we can all do what can READILY be accomplished: clean up the systemic governmental corruption and larceny of taxpayer monies that flows from the Legislature's willful nonfeasance and dysfunction, fed and perpetuated by an unconstitutional and unlawful “slush-fund” state budget and a wholesale lack of “leadership”.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 8:42 AM
To: 'chair@gpny.org' <chair@gpny.org>; 'chair2@gpny.org' <chair2@gpny.org>
Subject: Status? This year's race for Rensselaer County Executive -- and Beyond...

TO: New York State Green Party Co-Chairs Gloria Mattera and Peter LaVenia

I have received no response from either of you to my below September 24, 2017 e-mail. Nor to my September 22, 2017 e-mail, also below. I have also received no communication from the Green Party's Rensselaer County Executive Candidate, Wayne Foy. Kindly advise as to the reason – and the outcome of your review of the VIDEOS of my January 30, 2017, January 31, 2017, and February 6, 2017 testimony before the Legislature at its budget hearings and of the record of CJA's unfolding citizen-taxpayer action against ALL the elected incumbents who will be up for re-election next year.

Are the Green Party's executive committee – and county committee chairs -- aware of what I have furnished the Party?

Please advise, without further delay – and deem this my request that this e-mail, with attachments, be IMMEDIATELY furnished to the Green Party's executive committee, county chairs, etc..

TIME is of the essence – both for this election year and next...

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 1:58 PM
To: 'chair@gpny.org' <chair@gpny.org>
Cc: 'chair2@gpny.org' <chair2@gpny.org>

Subject: CJA webpage for outing & ousting NYS Assemblyman McLaughlin as collusive in the very governmental corruption he decries

TO: New York State Green Party Co-Chair Gloria Mattera

Following our phone conversation and my below September 22nd e-mail to you, I have been busy constructing a webpage for outing and ousting Assemblyman Steven McLaughlin as collusive in the very governmental corruption he decries: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/elections/2017/rensselaer/ending-road-mclaughlin.htm>. Please forward it on to Green Party Rensselaer County Executive Candidate Wayne Foy – and, additionally, send me his e-

mail/phone number – so that I can contact him tomorrow and review with him the evidentiary significance of what I have posted.

Have you seen the September 22nd article “*Rensselaer County Democrats Seek Investigation of GOP moves in county executive race*” – <http://www.timesunion.com/7day-rensselaer/article/Rensselaer-County-Democrats-seek-investigation-of-12221681.php> which I discovered, after we spoke?

I will wait to hear from Green Party Candidate Foy – and you – before reaching out to the other candidates and parties. Obviously, I don’t want to delay more than a few days in furnishing Candidates Andrea Smyth and Chris Meyer with the webpage on Assemblyman McLaughlin’s ACTUAL record with respect to public corruption, transparency, the budget, and unfunded mandates – and, likewise, in furnishing it to the other parties, to the press, and to Assemblyman-Candidate McLaughlin.

Finally, I take the opportunity to note that my below September 22th e-mail to you and Green Party Co-Chair Peter LaVenía misidentified the Chief Judge defendant in the second citizen-taxpayer action. It is Chief Judge DiFiore – and I have corrected it below to so-reflect.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 9:08 PM
To: 'chair@gpny.org' <chair@gpny.org>
Cc: 'chair2@gpny.org' <chair2@gpny.org>; 'sec@gpny.org' <sec@gpny.org>

Subject: CJA's August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER to NYS' Political Parties -- & this year's race for Rensselaer Co. Executive

TO: New York State Green Party Co-Chair Gloria Mattera

Thank you for your return call, in the late afternoon, in response to the phone message I left for you a few hours earlier – upon discovering your phone number and e-mail address – and that of Peter Lavenía -- on the Green Party’s September 16, 2017 press release “*Primary Day Means Dems and Republicans Stealing Third Party Ballot Lines Through Obscure Laws, Says Green Party of NY*”: http://www.gpny.org/primary_day_2017.

As discussed, the Green Party does not post any e-mail address or phone number on the “Contact Us” page of its website. There is only a message feature – which I utilized. Attached is a copy of the message I had sent, via the “Contact Us” feature – to which I had received no response. Thereafter, I went to the Westchester County Board of Elections and obtained the attached 3-page contact information list for the parties, which lists you as “Co-Chair/Presiding Officer” for the NYS Green Party and, identically, as the contact for Westchester County. It furnished no phone number for you – and the e-mail addresses it lists are: chair2@gpny.org and sec@gpny.org. These are the two e-mail addresses I used in sending the attached August 10th OPEN LETTER, via the below e-mail. I see, however, the chair2@gpny.org is actually Peter LaVenía’s e-mail address – and that yours is chair@gpny.org.

Before leaving my today’s phone message for you, I left one for Peter, with whom I believe I spoke several years ago. In any event, I am also sending him this e-mail – and would welcome speaking with him directly.

I would appreciate speaking with you again after you read the August 10th OPEN LETTER and review the substantiating evidence posted on CJA's webpage for it: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/elections/2017/8-10-17-open-ltr.htm>. Suffice to say that the referred-to substantiating evidence which is the record of CJA's citizen-taxpayer action against Governor Cuomo, the Legislature, Attorney General Schneiderman, Comptroller DiNapoli, and Chief Judge DiFiore pertaining to the 160-plus-billion-dollar slush-fund NYS budget – and the VIDEOS of my testimony before the Legislature at its January 30, 2017, January 31, 2017, and February 6, 2013 budget hearings – expose the unfitness of Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin, running, on the Republican line, for Rensselaer county executive, after defeating Rensselaer Deputy County Executive Chris Meyer in the primary. It is why I want to speak to Wayne Foy, the Green Party's candidate for Rensselaer county executive – whose contact info I have been unable to locate. Indeed, making contact with Candidate Foy is all the more imperative since, according to today's Albany Times Union, the Rensselaer County Republican Party is putting together a deal to get Chris Meyer off the Independence and Reform Party lines by giving him a judgeship: <http://www.timesunion.com/7day-rensselaer/article/Rensselaer-County-GOP-moves-to-get-McLaughlin-12219036.php>.

I have already begun to construct a webpage pertaining to would-be Rensselaer County Executive McLaughlin – one that will post my correspondence with him and his press statements about public integrity, transparency, and the state budget, etc. – as part of CJA's webpages “**OUTING CORRUPT & COLLUSIVE INCUMBENTS & Ending their Road to Re-Election & Higher Office in 2017, 2018, & Beyond – WITH EVIDENCE**”, accessible *via* our homepage, www.judgewatch.org. I will make it a priority so as to be fully prepared for my contact with Green Party Candidate Foy, who I invite to call me, at his convenience, including over the weekend and at night.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2017 12:27 PM
To: 'curtis@curtissliwa.com' <curtis@curtissliwa.com>; 'PopulistReformNY@gmail.com' <PopulistReformNY@gmail.com>; 'mjmesq@aol.com' <mjmesq@aol.com>; 'rluthmann@luthmannfirm.com' <rluthmann@luthmannfirm.com>; 'morano@nycradio.com' <morano@nycradio.com>
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Subject: OPEN LETTER: The NYS Reform Part of Curtis Sliwa MUST Rescind its Endorsement of, & Party Line to, Senator Geo. Latimer for Westchester Co. Executive & the Other Parties Must Follow Suit -- Unless They Deem Corruption in Office a Qualification

Attached is the Center for Judicial Accountability's OPEN LETTER of today's date entitled "**The NYS Reform Party of Curtis Sliwa MUST Rescind its Endorsement of, & Party Line to, Senator George Latimer for Westchester County Executive & the Other Parties Must Follow Suit – Unless they Deem Corruption in Office a Qualification**", herewith sent to ALL eight recognized political parties and to the three candidates seeking election/re-election to the office of Westchester County Executive: Messrs. Latimer, Astorino, and Jenkins.

The OPEN LETTER is already posted on CJA's website, www.judgewatch.org, accessible *via* the prominent link "**OUTING CORRUPT & COLLUSIVE INCUMBENTS & Ending their Road to Re-Election & Higher Office in 2017, 2018, & Beyond – WITH EVIDENCE**". The direct link to the webpage for the letter, which also furnishes THE EVIDENCE on which it is based, is here:
<http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/elections/ending-the-road-latimer.htm>.

I am available to answer questions, under oath, and to assist you to the max, toward what should be our common goal of open, honest, fiscally-responsible, responsive, and accountable government, such as we do NOT remotely have on the state level... You can change that!

Thank you.

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