

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 10:13 AM
To: 'jsherwood@messengerpostmedia.com'
Subject: Follow-Up: Senator Helming & the larger scandal of nonfunctional, dysfunctional, & corrupt legislative committees of which the lulus -- and Senator Helming -- are a tiny piece
Attachments: 2-6-17-ltr-to-leadership-with-enclosures.pdf

Dear Ms. Sherwood,

Please confirm for me that you would like the LEAD on the below story, as I have been holding off contacting other reporters about it. Meantime, here's a relevant story/video by Spectrum News reporter Nick Reisman bearing upon the issue of what work is actually being done by the so-called vice-chairs: <http://www.twcnews.com/nys/buffalo/politics/2017/05/17/new-york-state-legislature-stipend.html>.

I am available to speak with you.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [mailto:elena@judgewatch.org]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 5:18 PM
To: 'jsherwood@messengerpostmedia.com' jsherwood@messengerpostmedia.com

Subject: Senator Helming & the larger scandal of nonfunctional, dysfunctional, & corrupt legislative committees of which the lulus -- and Senator Helming -- are a tiny piece

Dear Ms. Sherwood,

Following up our brief phone conversation a short time ago, below is the e-mail I sent you early this morning.

If Senator Helming believed – as you report -- that the “the stipend might be for her position as chair of the Legislative Rural Resources Commission”, not for her vice-chairmanship of the Senate Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Correction, – she should prove to you that the Legislative Rural Resources Commission is actually functioning. According to its website, <https://www.nysenate.gov/committees/legislative-commission-rural-resources>, accessible from her own, <https://www.nysenate.gov/senators/pamela-helming>, there are only three members in addition to herself: Senators Akshar, Ritchie, and Valesky, and it has not held a single meeting. The Assembly website, <http://nyassembly.gov/comm/?id=47>, reflecting the chairmanship of Assemblyman Frank Skartados, indicates a single member: Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton. Both Senate and Assembly websites for the Commission reveal its inactivity – and not just in this session of the legislature, but over the past years, including under now Senate Finance Committee Chair Catharine Young.

The Legislative Rural Resources Commission is one of 13 statutory commissions, established pursuant to Legislative Law, Article 5-A (§§82, 83 – *to wit*, by 83-i). On February 6, 2017, I wrote to Senate and Assembly leadership – Temporary

Senate President Flanagan, Assembly Speaker Heastie, Senate Minority Leader Stewart-Cousins, and Assembly Ranking Member – focusing on two of those statutory commissions, but encompassing the others, as well. Among the indicated recipients of the letter was Senator Gallivan, the purported chair of the Senate Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Correction, as well as its ranking member, Senator Jamaal Bailey.

If, in fact, the Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Correction was itself functioning in any cognizable, legitimate way, its chairman, Senator Gallivan would have shared with his vice-chair, Senator Helming, the February 6, 2017 letter – or Senator Bailey would have. Didn't they read the letter – and review the videos of my testimony before the Senate and Assembly at their January 30th and January 31st budget hearings and the September 2, 2016 verified complaint in the citizen-taxpayer action – to which my letter refers. Didn't they believe they had a duty to respond, beginning with a request to me for further particulars of district attorney non-enforcement of the penal law -- and their outsized compensation. Yet I heard nothing from the Senate Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Correction, nor any of the other recipients of the letter, to whom I followed-up with phone calls, confirming receipt and emphasizing its significance.

Attached is the February 6, 2017 letter – and its webpage is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/2017-legislature/2-6-17-ltr-to-leadership.htm>. The direct link to the webpage of the videos of my January 30th and January 31st testimony is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/2017-legislature/budget-hearings.htm>.

The committees/commissions of the legislature are sham – and Senator Helming, a newbie, should have been blowing the whistle on what goes on, instead of accepting chairmanship and vice-chairmanship positions – and a lulu for her silence.

I am available to assist you, to the max. Let's speak tomorrow after you review the February 6th letter, watch the videos of my January 30th and 31st testimony, and examine the September 2, 2016 verified complaint in the unfolding citizen-taxpayer action, <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/searching-nys/budget/citizen-taxpayer-action/2016/menu-2nd-citizen-taxpayer-action.htm>. All expose the flagrant corruption, of which the lulu scandal is but a tiny piece.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 3:25 AM
To: 'jsherwood@messengerpostmedia.com' [jsherwood@messengerpostmedia.com]

Subject: tip of the iceberg: Your yesterday's article "Helming responds to scandal over stipend pay"

Dear Ms. Sherwood,

RE: Your yesterday's article in the Daily Messenger, "*Helming responds to scandal over stipend pay*": <http://www.mpnnow.com/news/20170516/helming-responds-to-scandal-over-stipend-pay>.

There's an even bigger scandal in Senator Helming's response to you – and it includes the Crime Victims, Crime and Corrections Committee, to which she is vice-chair AND the Legislative Rural Resources Commission, she chairs.

As I'd like to give you the lead, please call me, as soon as possible, so that I can furnish you the details -- & substantiating documents.

Thank you.

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