



For Immediate Release

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The Union County Improvement Authority whose Executive Director is Union County Democrat Chairwoman Charlotte DeFelippo and whose 10 member board consists of 7 Union County employees with a combined annual salary of \$630,011 along with two members having use of 24-hour county vehicles, has not replied to Open Public Records Act requests seeking meeting minutes, agenda's and paid bills lists.

OPRA requests made on September 18, 2006, October 10, 2006 and October 23, 2006 have gone ignored. The Union County Watchdog Association uses OPRA to obtain the Authority's meeting minutes in an attempt to keep tabs on the expenditure of county tax dollars. They have not obtained meeting minutes from the Authority since July.

A Star-Ledger editorial dated September 24, 2006 stated "County improvement authorities, which are run by unpaid board members selected by county freeholders, can be a back-door way of doling out public money, contracts and even jobs, with little input from the taxpayers who ultimately foot the bills."

In a Letter to the Editor which was published shortly after the editorial Tina Renna, President of the Union County Watchdog Association wrote: "Trying to monitor the UCIA is almost impossible. I've only attended two meetings, which are held during working hours, one was a reorganization meeting, both meetings lasted less than 15 minutes. The meetings consisted of reading vague resolutions and approving them with no public discussion. Their minutes are a vague, condensed version of these readings. For instance resolution 21-2006 simply states: "Authorizing an increase in compensation". Which shows someone is being compensated beyond their county positions.

The Union County Watchdog Association will continue its struggle to shine a light on this opaque independent authority. The Open Public Records Act gives the public the right to obtain government records within 7 business days of a request.

The UCWA has filed a complaint with the States Government Records Council.  
You can view the complaint by clicking [HERE](#).