



**UNION COUNTY
WATCHDOG ASSOCIATION**

*Shining a Light
on Government*

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March 4, 2010

The Honorable Christopher Christie
Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Re: Corruption

Dear Governor Christie:

On February 9, 2010 the enclosed letter and exhibits were submitted to the Attorney General's Office via registered mail. I have not been contacted to date; therefore I am submitting this additional information to your office for consideration.

The February 9 letter requested an investigation of whether favoritism or other improper purpose influenced the Westfield Municipal Prosecutor to decline to prosecute Gennaro J. Mirabella on October 14, 2009. This matter is of public interest because Mirabella, until October 5, 2009, was a seventeen-year veteran of the Garwood Borough Police Department and is also the brother of Union County Freeholder Alexander Mirabella.

A belief that justice was subverted is especially easy to embrace given that Mirabella's guilt apparently would not have been difficult to prove since both of the offenses mentioned in the complaints were reportedly caught on tape.

Questions arise that there may have been politics and conflicts of interest involved due to all participants that controlled this disposition:

A) The Mirabella incident involved a police officer who is the brother of the democrat Union County freeholder chairman Alexander Mirabella, who was up for election in 2009, the year of the incident and who did not need a negative incident involving a close sibling just months before the election.

Our Mission

The Union County Watchdog Association, Inc. is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization working on behalf of residents and taxpayers to monitor Union County government and advocate for the elimination of waste, corruption and incompetence. We believe that good government can only be achieved through a system of checks and balance - a system that includes the watchful eye of the people.

B) Union County government at every instance during January 2010 after the incident was resolved internally denied OPRA requests from the public for any paperwork regarding any investigations or determinations involving the Freeholder chairman's brother's criminal actions, responding that none are in existence. Yet two letters signed by the Union County Prosecutor's office turned up in the Garwood files. This in itself may prove some nefarious political involvement and cover-up and is particular concern because the Union County Prosecutor's office should be above such petty political tactics.

C) The Garwood Clerk also initially tried to deny access to records under the OPRA

D) The Garwood Borough attorney, Robert Renaud, who was involved throughout this investigation and settlement as an overseer of the process and was involved in the advice to the Borough during the incident is the Vice Chairman of the Union County Democrat Committee who guides the selection and campaign of the democrat freeholders including freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella who was up for election. His law firm, in which he is a partner, is a Union County vendor.

E) The mayor of Garwood, Dennis McCarthy, is a democrat and was put in a position to decide if the Borough would pursue further charges of criminal trespass against the brother of a freeholder. He is also a Union County vendor. His company, Garwood Auto Parts, receives tens of thousands of dollars annually from the Union County.

F) The Union County Prosecutors office, who chose not to prosecute the freeholder chairman's brother is headed by a democrat political appointee, Theodore Romankow, who a few years ago was the subject of approved state legislation adjusting his tenure in government in order to bump his pension to approximately \$100,000/year.

G) The State Attorney General's office that elected not to prosecute "in the interests of justice" is a political appointment position under the recently ousted governor John Corzine. The state attorney generals office recently had 2 out of 4 NJ state attorney generals forced to step down under high profile abuse of power situations which raises questions of this department's integrity. Since then, Prosecutor Paula Dow has taken the helm of the agency.

H) The Superior Court Judge for the final "expungement" hearing is the brother-in-law of Assemblyman Joseph Cryan, a main democrat political force overseeing state democrat elections on higher levels and who works for Union County as a high paid under-sheriff, and who is closely aligned to the Freeholders who are in all appearances his employer.

This is a matter of public safety concern, not only because of the possible deceit of political appointees, government employees and elected officials, Genarro Mirabella, since the record may be now expunged, can work as a police officer again, as the agreement signed by the Garwood Mayor under the consent of the Garwood Borough Attorney stipulates that future employers will be told he left in good standing.

Upon this record, I believe that a reasonable member of the public might suspect that Mirabella was spared prosecution due to his status as a police officer and a Freeholder's brother and that all participants in this had reason to attempt a cover-up.

Under the circumstances, we believe that the public would benefit by having the Attorney General's Office conduct an investigation into this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tina Renna', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Tina Renna
President

cc: Paula Dow, NJ State Attorney General

Encl.