

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 10:55 AM
To: 'John Ravitz'; 'Lee.Miringoff@Marist.edu'
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Subject: Today's Westchester County Executive Debate -- & Empowering Westchester Business Council Members to Make Their Own Informed Decisions, Electorally & Otherwise

TO: John Ravitz/Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer of the Business Council of Westchester Lee Miringoff, Director of the Marist Institute for Public Opinion & Associate Professor of Political Science/Marist College

It appears that the Westchester Business Council's county executive debate is a sold-out membership event – not open to the public, such as myself.

<http://web.thebcw.org/events/Westchester-County-Executive-DebateSold-Out-Contact-Amanda-DePalma-at-adepalmathebcworg-for-Wait-List-1490/details>. Will it be recorded? Televised?

I assume press will be attending – particularly Gannett's Journal News/Lo-Hud, which yesterday evening posted an article by Mark Lungariello on today's debate – and on the two press-sponsored debates, including its own, that have been scheduled – and the cancelled League of Women Voters debate:

<http://www.lohud.com/story/news/politics/elections/2017/10/09/astorino-latimer-debates/739289001/>. Be sure to read the posted comments on Astorino's town-hall meetings, as they are quite disturbing.

I respectfully request that my August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER, sent to Candidates Latimer and Astorino, be identified and made the subject of questioning. Indeed, CJA's webpage for the OPEN LETTER, with its posting of EVIDENTIARY PROOF, <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/elections/2017/8-10-17-open-ltr.htm>, establishes that again, and again, and again, Senator Latimer willfully disregarded his duty to protect the public fisc and the public's rights with respect to the state and county budgets – simultaneously disregarding policy positions of the Westchester Business Council. Among these, the policy position reflected by the Business Council's 2017 Legislative Agenda, <https://thebcw.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Leg-Agenda-2017-1.pdf>:

(1) "light of day" budgets, that do "not occur in the early hours of the morning. Debating and voting on the State's Executive Budget should be done in a transparent manner that gives the public the opportunity to have a clear understanding of the state's spending plan"; and

(2) unfunded mandates – as, for instance, state-imposed district attorney salary increases that are funded from the county budget.

And, of course, Senator Latimer again, and again, and again, willfully disregarded his duty to advance legislative rules reform, the *sine qua non* for a functioning legislature – so-recognized by Westchester Business Council, as may be seen from footnotes 19 and 38 of the May 2007 New York City Bar report: “*Supporting Legislative Rules Reform – The Fundamentals*”, posted on CJA’s website, here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/judicial-compensation/rules-reform-resource-page.htm>. All this to perpetuate a corrupt *status quo*, which has utterly disabled our state government, including by slush-fund state budgets, funneling out billions of unaccounted-for tax dollars.

To further assist you in comparing the corruption of the New York state budget, to which Senator Latimer has been an active perpetrator – over my consistent protest throughout the past four years -- and Westchester County’s own transparent, accountable process for its budget, here’s the direct link to the Westchester County Charter, Chapter 169: https://library.municode.com/ny/westchester_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTICH_CH167COBU, which, since the weekend, has been posted on CJA’s webpage for the August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER, as likewise my January 24, 2014 e-mail to Westchester County Executive Astorino -- and my 2016 correspondence to Westchester County pertaining to the statutorily-violative, fraudulent and unconstitutional district attorney salary increases, whose costs are being borne by Westchester County taxpayers. Suffice to further note that, as a result of Senator Latimer’s inaction – and the inaction of County Executive Astorino and his administration -- the Westchester County district attorney is the highest paid elected officer whose salary is paid from the county budget. The Westchester County executive salary is, currently, approximately \$195,000 , in other words, about \$35,000 over the county executive’s salary – and will rise to about \$205,000 next year, if not voided by the courts or overridden by the Legislature. Will Senator Latimer, if elected as Westchester county executive, or County Executive Astorino, if re-elected, take steps to ensure either?

I am available to answer your questions and assist you, as likewise Westchester Business Council members – all of whom should be furnished with CJA’s web address for the August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/elections/2017/8-10-17-open-ltr.htm>, so that they can examine it, for themselves, and make their own appropriate, informed determinations as to the fitness of the Westchester county executive candidates before them.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [mailto:elena@judgewatch.org]
Sent: Friday, October 6, 2017 6:05 PM
To: 'John Ravitz' <JRavitz@thebcw.org>
Cc: 'Lee.Miringoff@Marist.edu' Lee.Miringoff@Marist.edu

Subject: thank you! -- RE: Bravo to the Westchester Business Council for its Hosting of the Oct 10th Debate between the Westchester County Executive Candidates

Much appreciate your kind acknowledgment.

Yours, for honest, fiscally-responsible, accountable government,

Elena

From: John Ravitz [<mailto:JRavitz@thebcw.org>]
Sent: Friday, October 6, 2017 5:44 PM
To: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Subject: RE: Bravo to the Westchester Business Council for its Hosting of the Oct 10th Debate between the Westchester County Executive Candidates

Thank you for sending this over.

John Ravitz

John Ravitz
Executive Vice President/COO



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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]
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Subject: Bravo to the Westchester Business Council for its Hosting of the Oct 10th Debate between the Westchester County Executive Candidates

TO: John Ravitz/Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer of the Business Council of Westchester

This follows my brief phone conversation with you a short time ago. As you concurred that the Westchester Business Council considers the Westchester county budget to be among the most important tasks of the Westchester county executive, attached is my August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER reciting Senator Latimer's facilitating role in the larcenous, slush-fund New York State budget – directly impacting upon Westchester taxpayers and upon the Westchester county budget – as to which Westchester County Executive Astorino has had knowledge since January 2014. The OPEN LETTER was sent to New York's eight "recognized" political parties and to Senator Latimer, to County Executive Astorino, and to then County Executive Candidate Ken Jenkins by the below August 10, 2017 e-mail. There has been no response from them. None have denied its accuracy in any respect – and you can verify, for yourself, the EVIDENTIARY PROOF substantiating the OPEN LETTER as it is all posted and/or accessible from the Center for Judicial Accountability's webpage for the OPEN LETTER, here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/elections/2017/8-10-17-open-ltr.htm>.

I again commend the Westchester Business Council for hosting the October 10th debate between Westchester County Executive Candidates Latimer and Astorino – the first – and thus far the only – scheduled debate between them.

While writing this e-mail, I received a return call from your debate moderator, Lee Miringoff, for whom I had left a phone message earlier -- and with whom I have now spoken at fair length about the August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER. It was a great privilege to have spoken with Dr. Miringoff, as he is not only the Director of the Marist Institute for Public Opinion, but, more importantly, an associate professor of political science at Marist College. There is an EXIGENT need for scholarship about the systemic corruption that infests our state government -- aided and abetted by a conflicted, dishonest, and lazy press, which rigs the polls by its reporting, non-reporting, and materially false and misleading editorializing. By copy of this e-mail to Dr. Miringoff, I respectfully request his assistance in building scholarship on the August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER -- and the mountain of EVIDENTIARY PROOF substantiating it (beginning with the VIDEOS of my testimony at the Legislature's budget hearings), as to which there has been NO MEDIA REPORT: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/elections/2017/westchester/press-outreach.htm> -- so that, at long last, the long-suffering People of the State of New York can protect themselves from unworthy incumbents, who are perpetrators of the very governmental corruption they rhetorically decry.

I am available to answer your questions -- and Dr. Miringoff's -- throughout the weekend and holiday, including during night time hours.

To enable Candidates Latimer and Astorino to prepare themselves for appropriate debate questions concerning the specific facts recited by my August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER -- including from each other -- I am cc'ing them on this e-mail. Should you or Dr. Miringoff have a more direct/personal e-mail for either candidate, I would welcome your forwarding it *via* such e-mail address.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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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.

Elena Sassower, Director
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