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Fitzpatrick defends Moreland, Cuomo

Posted on July 28, 2014 at 8:51 am by Casey Seiler, Capitol bureau chief in Bulletin, Moreland

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Less than two hours before Gov. Andrew Cuomo is scheduled to make his first public appearance since the release of the New York Times' account of his administration's meddling with the Moreland Commission, its co-chair, Onondaga County DA William Fitzpatrick, has released a long statement that, while not refuting anything in the Times story, defends the panel's overall independence.

"The Governor announced in forming the Commission that it would be an independent body. It was," he writes. If anyone had ordered it to take or not take an action, "we all would have resigned. That never happened."

Still, the Republican DA writes, "The Governor recently said the Commission was 'not legally independent.' I'm sure the Governor will be asked to explain exactly what he meant by that."

He makes it clear that he views some of the recent attacks on the Moreland Commission's work as criticism of his own independence, and insists that if he temporarily held back any subpoenas at the advice of Cuomo's Secretary Larry Schwartz, it was merely to "absorb as much advice as I can before making major decisions."

Fitzpatrick concludes by saying he would sign on for another Cuomo effort "in a New York minute."

Here's the full statement:

[Fitzpatrick](#)



Onondaga County DA William Fitzpatrick with Gov. Andrew Cuomo.



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