

NEWS RELEASE

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Concord, Ohio

Lobbyists for Citizens Uncovers Questionable Practices in the Lake County Commissioner's Office

Lobbyists for Citizens of Concord, Ohio, is an apolitical group of concerned citizens that examines local government practices as they relate to the impact on property taxes for senior citizens and the integrity with which elected officials conduct themselves.

"Our group has uncovered questionable practices and conduct by Commissioner Dan Troy as it relates to his conduct in office", notes Brian Massie, member of the citizens group. He continues, "We have uncovered data that points to Commissioner Troy accepting contributions from 101 employees under the direct supervision of the Commissioners of over \$33,000.00 since 2005. LFC believes that, while legal, it does not represent a sound management practice and may actually lead to a 'pay-to-play' environment where employees fear retribution for not contributing. Multiple sources have told LFC that the Cuyahoga County corruption case started with elected officials accepting employee contributions. A recent resolution to prohibit Commissioners from accepting employee contribution proposed by Commissioner Jerry Cirino failed to gain support from the other Commissioners.

"We continue to also investigate a very concerning incident where Commissioner Troy bullied the Director of the Port Authority into cancelling a planned luncheon at the Rider's Inn in Painesville solely because the Inn displayed a sign in their property supporting Troy's opponent", Massie continued. LFC believes that this intimidation to cancel an agreement was completely inappropriate since Troy explicitly reminded the Port Director that, as a Commissioner, he "is a member of the Port's primary funding authority". The event was then moved to another location, causing the business owner to suffer loss of business for exercising her First Amendment rights. A copy of the email from Troy to the Port Authority is in the possession of LFC and can be made available to the media.

Another matter that is very disconcerting to LFC is the questionable transaction dealing with Commissioner Troy's 2012 campaign in his quest for the State Representative position. LFC's research cannot account for \$42,618.91 in excess funds that his campaign, by law, had to spend down. A non-profit called the "Lake County Governance and Educational Fund" was established, but how or to whom the funds were distributed is still a mystery.

LFC is extremely concerned by Commissioner Troy's bullying of the Lake County Engineer, Jim Gills. LFC is in possession of correspondence from Mr. Gills stating that Commissioner Troy would not support the Vrooman Road bridge project if Mr. Gills did not endorse Troy for Commissioner.

LFC also has documentation from a political consultant stating that he was informed that since he is working for Troy's opponent, he will never get work in Lake County again.

There is also a questionable practice by Troy appointing a female friend as his paid Alternate on the Board of Revision.

"These are practices and tactics unbecoming of an elected official and voters need to be aware of them", noted Massie. "Our group does not support individual candidates; we simply look at practices and ethics and we will call out any official regardless of their Party affiliation, if we deem that their actions are not in the best interests of the Lake County taxpayers", Massie concluded.

Members of the media can learn more about this by contacting Brian Massie at brian@LobbyistsforCitizens.com or (440) 479-7061. He is prepared to present the media with all documentation regarding his findings.