

ROBERT MONTGOMERY THOMAS
848 WASHINGTON STREET
WEYMOUTH, MA 02189-1525
781 - 335 - 1796
BOBMONTGOMERYTHOMAS@GMAIL.COM

NOVEMBER 12, 2014

Carmen M. Ortiz, Esq.
United States Attorney, District of Massachusetts
John J. Moakley United States Federal Courthouse
1 Courthouse Way, Suite 9200
Boston, MA 02210

Attorney General-elect Maura Healey
Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General
John W. McCormack Building
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108-1518

Federal Bureau of Investigation
1 Center Plaza, Suite 600
Boston, MA 02210

Internal Revenue Service
JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02203

Social Security Administration
Office of Public Inquiries
1100 West High Rise
6401 Security Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21235

Office of Campaign and Political Finance
John W. McCormack Building
One Ashburton Place, Room 411
Boston, MA 02108

Massachusetts Department of Revenue
51 Sleeper Street
Boston, MA 02210

Governor-elect Charles Baker
c/o Mass Republican State Committee
85 Merrimac Street, Suite 400
Boston, MA 02114

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To those who may have an interest and to those who may not:

Perhaps if we had a few more-competent Massachusetts law enforcement agencies and offices, a little more delving into the campaign contributions by the Merullo Family of Lynnfield and their employees and associates that are injected into local political races might take place. As can be seen on the chart behind New York U.S. Attorney Loretta Lynch in the embedded picture, the gist of the complaint against Congressman Michael Grimm of Staten Island, NY was about income tax evasion. It is said that one picture is worth 1,000 words so I will leave the rest to the imaginations of the readers of this missive.

The Merullo's and their partner-associates in the Ricupero Family of Winthrop and East Boston are the owners of Capitol Waste, which also goes by the name of EZ Haul, which has municipal contracts for rubbish removal and recycling. Complaints were filed several years ago when it was discovered that a number of North Shore residents all gave the sitting mayor of Weymouth close to \$10,000 in campaign contributions without the employer information required by MGL c. 55, the Massachusetts campaign finance law. A quick Internet search led to the discovery that the same individuals had contributed to the mayoral campaign of the late Thomas Menino of Boston. That is where their employer information was found. So it appears that we may now be looking at close to or more than \$20 thousand, just for 2010 alone, in potential contributions to two candidates by straw donors – or conduits – in order for someone to get first dibs on municipal trash contracts.

This then begs the question as to how many other campaigns, mayoral or otherwise, were the beneficiaries of large amounts of money funneled through the Merullo's and the Ricupero's. This also begs the question as to how many tax dollars the IRS and the Social Security Administration were cheated of in this obvious ruse over many years – at least an obvious ruse to this writer.

Interesting is that soon after being re-elected, Mayor Kay saw fit to award a \$26 million five-year contract to EZ Haul while several competitors' bids were shelved. Also interesting is that EZ Haul did not provide the bid-required performance bond until some months later when a FOIA request was made, by me, to get copies of all the bid and contract papers ... an oversight perhaps? The mayor asked, by letter, for more than 10 business days to act upon the FOIA request while EZ Haul company president Michael Merullo was busy tidying up the loose ends, which cost him \$2.5 million for the bond according to the final documents received by the requester.

The original complaint was entirely ignored, in this writer's humble opinion, by the Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance, which declined to research the matter further and then forward a complaint to the Attorney General; the office of U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz, which referred the matter to the FBI for further investigation, which also then declined to look into the matter; the office of the Massachusetts Attorney General in a separately filed complaint, which then declined to look into the matter, and other Massachusetts agencies with which a complaint was filed, which all then declined to look into the matter using that tired and worn military excuse that it wasn't in their job description. So that begs the question as to whose job it is to prosecute the law — or just how big or dangerous are the Merullo's and the Ricupero's that no one in law enforcement wants to take them on — or if there is complicity lurking in the shadows.

Recent news articles tell us that President Obama wants to nominate Loretta Lynch to be the next U.S. Attorney General. A look into her history as a prosecutor tells us why: she actually does her job – and apparently very well. While some might argue that there are racial overtones in the president's selection, I think her sheer tenacity and competency should rule out those rumors.

Following are some partial campaign contribution lists from 2010 that should prove interesting:

Suspect Capitol Waste straw donors to the Weymouth Mayor Sue Kay campaign, all \$500:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Michael Merullo, 370 Chestnut Street, Lynnfield, | (CW president) |
| 2. Susan Merullo, 370 Chestnut Street, Lynnfield, | (wife of CW president) |
| 3. Daniel Larovere, 14 Durham Drive, Lynnfield, | (Lynnfield ins. agent) |
| 4. David Larovere, 33 Oakes Street, Everett, | (Lynnfield ins. agent) |
| 5. Timothy Larovere, 10 Todd Lane, Lynnfield, | (Lynnfield ins. agent) |
| 6. Joseph Ricupero, 500 Pleasant Street, Winthrop, | (co-owner-president) |
| 7. Joseph Ricupero, Jr., 500 Pleasant Street, Winthrop, | (VP – lives in E. Boston) |
| 8. Linda Scanelli, 120 Yeoman's Street, Revere, | (CW employee) |
| 9. Joseph Scanelli, 120 Yeoman's Street, Revere, | (wed to CW employee) |
| 10. William Higgins, 47 Farragut Road, S. Boston, | (ins. agent) |
| 11. Robert Ryan, 257 E Street, S. Boston, | (CW unknown) |
| 12. Marcia Brown, 10 Gatta Circle, Woburn, | (CW admin asst) |
| 13. Brian Coughlin, 12 Spindle Tree Lane, Amesbury, | (CW supervisor) |
| 14. Michael Grilli, 660 Grove Street, Framingham, | (CW unknown) |
| 15. Deborah McNeff, 356 Winthrop Street, Winthrop, | (CW admin asst) |

Partial 2010-2011 Mayor Thomas Menino contributors, all \$500:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Marcia Brown, 10 Gatta Circle, Woburn, | (CW admin asst) |
| 2. Brian Coughlin, 12 Spindle Tree Lane, Amesbury, | (CW supervisor) |
| 3. Alexander Lauria, 1 Hewes Circle, Peabody, | (CW driver) |
| 4. Deborah McNeff, 356 Winthrop Street, Winthrop, | (CW admin asst) |
| 5. Leo Merullo, 33 Paul Ave. Peabody, | (CW supervisor) |
| 6. Joseph Ricupero, 500 Pleasant Street, Winthrop, | (CW president) |
| 7. Vincent Ricupero, 34 Greeley Street, Hudson, NH, | (CW management) |
| 8. Joseph Ricupero, Jr., 222 Everett Street, E. Boston, | (CW supervisor) |
| 9. Marc Scannelli, 120 Yeamans Street, Revere, | (CW clerk) |
| 10. Linda Scannelli, 120 Yeaman's Street, Revere, | (CW office mgr) |
| 11. James English, 494 Adams St. Winthrop, | (Pres Cap Bldg Serv.) |
| 12. Edmond English, 10 Stonegate Road, Revere, | (CW Clerk) |
| 13. Howard Elkus, 35 Stonehedge Road, Peabody, | (CW Management) |
| 14. Jodi D'Urso-Matthews, 17 Swan Lane, Woburn, | (CW Admin Asst) |
| 15. Mary Katherine Dwyer 780 Boylston St., PH B, Amesbury, | (CW Supervisor) |
| 16. Gerard Dwyer, 9 Helena Road, Peabody, | (CW Driver) |
| 17. Amy Dwyer, 36 Auburn Street #1, Winthrop, | (CW Admin Asst) |
| 18. Timothy Egan, 282 Moody Street, 3 rd F, E. Boston, | (CW Supervisor) |
| 19. William Eisen, 64 Fairbanks Ave. Revere, | (CW Office Mgr) |
| 20. Andrew Dunne, 181 Woodland Drive, Hudson, NH, | (CW Management) |

Embedded herein is a NY Daily News article about Rep. Grimm's campaign finance problems:

"Rep. Michael Grimm made a possibly telling misstatement last week that ties him to an ex-girlfriend who [pleaded guilty](#) to campaign finance fraud.

It's a slip that, according to critics, casts doubt on Grimm's denial of involvement in his ex's illegal scheme.

During his final debate against Democratic challenger Domenic Recchia last week, Grimm was asked what political candidate he most recently contributed to.

The Staten Island congressman said he couldn't recall.

"I think it was a general running for Congress and he didn't win," Grimm [said](#).

Grimm's last personal political contribution in fact appears to have gone to former Rep. Bob Turner (R-Queens) in 2011, [according to](#) Federal Election Commission records.

The general who didn't win looks like a reference to Bert Mizusawa, who unsuccessfully sought the Republican nomination to represent a Virginia congressional district in 2010.

Grimm never gave to Mizusawa or any former general.

But Diana Durand, who in September pled guilty to using straw donors to illegally steer more than \$10,000 to Grimm's 2010 campaign, [did](#).

Durand, whose lawyer has said she was involved romantically with Grimm at the time, gave \$600 to Mizusawa on March 31, 2010.

The contribution came the same day that Jonathan Chetrit, the brother of New York real estate big Joseph Chetrit, gave \$4,200 to Mizusawa. Also on the same day, a D.C.-based lawyer named Bazil Facchina gave \$4,800 to Grimm.

This was a clear example of campaign insiders call "donor swapping." The Chetrts and Durand had already given the maximum legal amount to Grimm's campaign. Facchina had given the maximum allowed to Mizusawa.

By agreeing to give matching contributions to candidates they had not maxed out to, the supporters boosted the amount they effectively gave the candidate they originally backed.

One donor, who is maxed out to candidate A, gives to candidate B. In return a donor maxed out to candidate B gives the same amount to candidate A. It is as if donors reimbursed each other for the donations to the other person's candidates.

Durand's \$600 was notable because when added to \$4,200 Chetrit gave Mizusawa, it matched the \$4,800 Facchina gave Grimm.

The swap was part of more than \$75,000 in such swaps between Grimm backers and supporters of other candidates that boosted the Congressman's 2010 fundraising, the Daily News [reported in](#) February. Durand was involved in all the swaps.

Donor swapping exists in a legal gray area. The practice [has figured](#) in prosecutions of lawmakers, and has been [targeted](#) in FEC [complaints](#) by opponents of those using it. But it is rarely prosecuted. Candidates in both parties have used the tactic.

What is [illegal is reimbursing someone else](#) for a contribution they make to a candidate. Federal campaign law prohibits a person from paying a friend back for making a contribution to a candidate they support.

In her guilty plea, Durand acknowledged steering more than \$10,000 to Grimm's 2010 campaign through such straw donations.

She and Grimm deny that he knew of the straw donor scheme.

By incorrectly recalling a contribution to Mizusawa, Grimm did not admit to illegality.

But the statement strongly suggests that he was involved in donor-swapping effort. He also seems to have inadvertently confused his finances with Durand's.

Grimm was indicted in April for 20 counts related to tax fraud. The indictment resulted from an investigation into allegations that Grimm broke campaign finance laws in 2010, in part by soliciting straw donations.

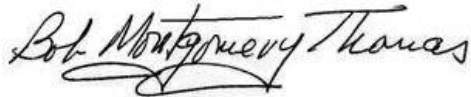
Federal prosecutors conducting that probe spent months unsuccessfully pushing Durand to cooperate against Grimm. They think the congressman knew of the straw donation scheme, and that Durand, a political novice, would not have concocted it alone.

For those with such suspicions, Grimm's misstatement is grist for the mill. If he can't remember where his donations end and Diana Durand's start, could he really not know she was steering illegal donations to his campaign?"



In closing, please consider this letter as a continuing complaint into the matter of influencing local elections by the Merullo and Ricupero families by way of making potentially illegal donations through straws or conduits, which is a violation of local, state and in this case, federal laws, in possibly denying the IRS and the Social Security Administration of the taxes imposed on the rest of society for the good of society. This issue can not and should not be overlooked as it has been in the past. The facts are there if any of the agencies or individuals in the employ of said agencies copied here feel they are up to the task. If not, your **immediate** resignations would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, and thank you for your kind attention,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Montgomery Thomas". The signature is written in black ink and is centered below the closing text.

cc: The Boston Herald
The Boston Globe
The Patriot Ledger
The Weymouth News