

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 10:30 AM
To: 'fscandale@lohud.com'
Cc: 'gtroyano@lohud.com'; 'tbauer@lohud.com'; 'mdolan@lohud.com';
'mlungariel@lohud.com'; 'metro@lohud.com'; 'jbandler@lohud.com';
'jfitzgib@lohud.com'; 'dwilson3@lohud.com'; 'ceberhart@lohud.com';
'jfusco@lohud.com'; 'elgarcia@lohud.com'; 'rliebson@lohud.com';
'mmckinney@lohud.com'; 'dreiner@lohud.com'; 'mspillane@lohud.com';
'jspector@gannett.com'; 'jcampbell1@gannett.com'
Subject: AGAIN -- What is the status of Gannett/LoHud-Journal News' review of CJA's August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER -- & the evidence substantiating it?
Attachments: 8-10-17-open-ltr.pdf; 8-16-17-automated-email-from-gannett-lohud.pdf

TO: Gannett-Journal-News/Lo-Hud "Watchdog Strategist" Frank Scandale –
<http://www.lohud.com/staff/41511/frank-scandale/>

This follows up our extensive phone conversation together on September 18, 2017, upon your call to me approximately five hours after I sent the below e-mail, with the above attached two exhibits.

In our nearly half-hour conversation, I discussed with you the content of my attached August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER pertaining to the Senate record of Senator George Latimer – sent to him, to County Executive Astorino, to then-Westchester County Executive Candidate Ken Jenkins – and to the eight recognized political parties. You told me you had not yet fully read it, but that you would get back to me within a couple of days, after you had done so and reviewed the substantiating EVIDENCE, posted on CJA's webpage for the OPEN LETTER: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/elections/2017/8-10-17-open-ltr.htm>.

It is now ten days later – and I am unaware of any further phone call or e-mail from you – or from anyone else at Gannett-Journal-News/Lo-Hud. Have you or anyone else tried to reach me? What's happening? Will Gannett-Journal-News-Lo-Hud be reporting on the OPEN LETTER -- and getting answers from the candidates and parties? And has the OPEN LETTER been furnished to ALL members of the Journal-News' editorial board, who, within the very near future, will presumably be interviewing Senator Latimer and County Executive Astorino for purposes of making an editorial endorsement as to who Westchester voters should elect to be their next county executive?

Please advise, without further delay. I am ready, *immediately*, to be interviewed as to my direct, first-hand-experience with the candidates and parties -- and to assist the Journal News' "watchdog" journalists and editorial board to the fullest. Time is of the essence. The November 7, 2017 elections are now less than six weeks away.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [mailto:elena@judgewatch.org]
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2017 11:37 AM

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Subject: What is the status of Gannett/LoHud-Journal News' review of CJA's August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER -- & the evidence substantiating it?

This follows up my voice mail messages earlier this morning for LoHud/Journal News President/Publisher George Troyano and for reporter Mark Lungariello.

Other than the attached August 16, 2017 automated e-mail acknowledgments from Gannett's Albany Bureau reporter Jonathan Campbell – and from Lo-Hud/Journal News reporter Lungariello, and News Director Mary Dolan, I have received no responses from Gannett/Lo-Hud/Journal News to my August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER regarding the record, in office, of New York State Senator George Latimer, running to be Westchester's highest executive office – the Westchester county executive. Have you read the August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER – and examined the substantiating proof posted on CJA's website: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/elections/2017/8-10-17-open-ltr.htm>. Is it your view that it does not mandate reporting and investigation by what is essentially the ONLY media outlet for Westchester county with the staff and resources to do the job?

How are Westchester country residents supposed to make informed electoral decisions if Gannett/Lo-Hud/Journal News does not report on the records, in office, of incumbent public officers who are seeking higher public office?

Have you reported on Senator Latimer's record, in office, as a state senator? And will you be reporting on the records, in office, of Westchester's other state senate and assembly members – presumably all running for re-election in 2018? As stated by my August 10th OPEN LETTER (at p. 6), the systematic corruption involving them that is described and reflected by my testimony before the Legislature at its February 6, 2013, January 30, 2017, and January 31, 2017 budget hearings and by the pleadings in CJA's two citizen-taxpayer actions, in which they are defendants, sued for corruption, will blow open ALL the essentially non-competitive state senate and assembly electoral races – and the statewide races for governor, attorney general, and comptroller . Have you watched the VIDEOS of my testimony? Have you examined the pleadings – and record – of the citizen-taxpayer actions? Do you disagree?

Please let me hear from you, without further delay, so that I can understand your inaction to date, having such dire consequences for our democracy.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, August 16, 2017 11:04 AM

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Cc: 'gtroyano@lohud.com' <gtroyano@lohud.com>

Subject: "OVERLOOKED"? -- FOLLOW-UP: "Latimer endorsed by the party Astorino started: Incumbent Rob Astorino will seek to steal the line back in a write-in primary in September" (8/7/17-Mark Lungariello/Gannett/lohud.com)

As I have received NO response from Mark Lungariello – or ANY of the many indicated Gannett/LoHud recipients – to my below August 11th e-mail pertaining to the 2017 electoral race for Westchester county executive, I am resending it, in the event it was “overlooked” by all.

Please advise as to whether Westchester’s premier, funded and staffed news outlet will be furnishing its Westchester readership with an investigative story – or any story, for that matter – and, if not, why not. So that President and Publisher George Troyano can undertake appropriate oversight of the situation, this e-mail is also being sent to him, in advance of my telephoning his office, which I will do shortly.

For your convenience, the direct link to the webpage for my attached August 10, 2017 OPEN LETTER to the political parties and candidates for Westchester county executive is here: <http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/elections/2017/8-10-17-open-ltr.htm>.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]
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Subject: FOLLOW-UP: "Latimer endorsed by the party Astorino started: Incumbent Rob Astorino will seek to steal the line back in a write-in primary in September" (8/7/17-Mark Lungariello/Gannett/lohud.com)

TO: Mark Lungariello/Gannett-lohud.com

Your August 7, 2017 article “*Latimer endorsed by the party Astorino started*”, with the provocative subtitle “*Incumbent Rob Astorino will seek to steal the line back in a write-in primary in September*”, updated on August 8,

2017: <http://www.lohud.com/story/news/politics/elections/2017/08/07/reform/537871001/>, makes it appear that Senator Latimer rightfully enjoys the endorsement of the Reform Party. You quote Reform Party Chair Curtis Sliwa as saying: "It was clear to us that Rob Astorino had veered away from the concept of the Reform Party while Latimer seemed to be more in league [with] what we stood for". No mention as to whether the 13 members of the state Reform Party's executive committee, who unanimously voted to endorse Latimer, had considered any other candidates for Westchester county executive, as for instance, county Legislator Jenkins – or the "process", if any, that preceded the vote. Were candidates required to complete questionnaires? Were they interviewed? Was there any outreach to Westchester County's 35 Reform Party members? You then **uncritically** quote Senator Latimer as saying that he is looking "to restore civic engagement and transparency" in Westchester. No mention of his senate record, in Albany, on "civic engagement and transparency", though you do report that a spokesman for Astorino stated that he would be running on his record as county executive.

It is essential that you follow up with an investigative story – especially in light of your subtitle accusation of Astorino "seek[ing] to steal the line back" – which your article particularizes as follows:

"Astorino will try to take the line back in a Sept. 12 primary. Latimer will appear on the ballot, but Astorino's name will have to be written in.

There are only 35 registered Reform members in the entire county, according to most recent Board of Elections active voter logs.

There is still time for voters not registered to a party to become Reform members, though."

What is the source for your inference that Astorino will flood the Reform Party with new registrants who will write in his name? Is it Latimer's written statement, from which you quote – or is his written statement merely his response:

"Latimer, a state senator from Rye, said in a statement he was looking 'to restore civic engagement and transparency' in Westchester.

'These are values that Rob Astorino has taken for granted...,' Latimer said. 'No amount of political tricks o[r] party raiding attempts by Astorino will change this,

and that is why the Reform Party has turned its back on him."

Surely, if Astorino is flooding the ranks of the Westchester Reform Party with new registrants to achieve a write-in victory on the Reform Party line, Latimer is doing likewise to secure his own write-in victory. And, how about Jenkins, from whom, apparently, you have gotten no comment. Would it be "theft" if he tried to get in on the action by recruiting new Reform Party members who will write in his name on its line? And why have you not mentioned Jenkins as having a stake in any primary other than the Democratic primary as a challenger to Latimer. Indeed, is nothing happening on the "write-in" front with respect to the Working Families, Independence, and Women's Equality lines, which, as you report, Latimer has, in addition to the Reform Party line.

To assist in your investigative follow-up of the candidates and the parties – and germane to all the foregoing – attached is my **OPEN LETTER**, as director of the Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA), **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"**. It was sent yesterday, by the below e-mail, to candidates Latimer, Astorino, and Jenkins – and all eight recognized political parties.

In furtherance of our common goal of furnishing the electorate in Westchester county and throughout the state with the information essential to its casting intelligent votes in the September 12th primary and November 7th general elections, I am available to answer your questions and to be interviewed, directly, not through a spokesperson or by written statement.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]
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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.

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