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Of A Terrier
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EDITORIAL

Spencer Complaint Highlighted By Martinelli Newspapers In 2003 - Helped Pirro Defeat

We take you back to 2003. John Spencer was finishing his second term as Mayor of Yonkers, and was lashing out at the powers that be in his own Republican party. Also in 2003, Ralph Martinelli was warring with Republicans in leadership, especially Tom Doherty and Jim Cavanaugh in Eastchester.

In the summer of 2003, Spencer filed a bombshell 15-page complaint to Attorney General Eliot Spitzer calling for an investigation into "election fraud, public corruption and abuse of power in Westchester County."

Ralph Martinelli proudly printed Spencer's complaint on the front pages. This was Spencer at his best, pulling no punches and letting the chips fall where they may. Spencer's complaint detailed the Election Fraud case of 2000 involving Dennis Wedra and Anthony Mangone.

It also alleged a non-aggression pact between Republicans and Democrats in 2001, and then Westchester District Attorney Jeanine Pirro's refusal to prosecute political corruption. "No genuine

political corruption is investigated by the Westchester D.A.," wrote Spencer. "She uses her immense discretionary powers... to punish her enemies."

Now we move on to the recent election of 2006. Pirro was running for Attorney General against Andrew Cuomo, and Cuomo used the Spencer complaint as another example of questions about Pirro's integrity. "This is a very serious accusation," said Cuomo, who tried to make it seem that Pirro was still the subject of an investigation by the Attorney General three years later.

While the Attorney General's office said that the office was continuing their investigation based on Spencer complaint, it obvious that they never did, and will never do anything about Spencer's complaint.

The New York Sun ran a story about Spencer's complaint, and the Pirro-Cuomo election, which was picked up by the New York Times.

While Pirro claimed that she was unaware of Spencer's complaint, one of our readers took her to task. Elena Sassower, Director of

the Center for Judicial Accountability, wrote that Pirro "could not have been unaware of the report as it was printed, IN FULL, in the July 24, 2003 issue of The Westchester Crusader (and all 9 papers), beginning on the FRONT PAGE under the banner heading "Mayor Spencer Calls for Investigation in Westchester", which publicly endorsed its investigation."

Sassower called on us to highlight "your its courageous reporting on abuses of power and corruption."

We thank Sassower for her kind words and take credit for Ralph Martinelli, who called the Attorney General's office time and again about the complaint, which was probably thrown in the garbage, and wrote two follow-up stories in 2004.

Ralph would have been happy that Spencer's report, and his newspapers coverage, helped defeat Jeanine Pirro.

Spencer's entire complaint, and all three Martinelli Publication stories, can be found on the CJA website: www.judgewatch.org.