



METROPOLITAN CRIME COMMISSION, INC.

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November 17, 2009

John Young
Councilmember-at-Large, Division A
200 Derbigny Street, 6th Floor
Gretna, LA 70053-5850

Re: Jefferson Parish Chief Administrative Officer
Tim Whitmer

Dear Councilmember:

The Metropolitan Crime Commission respectfully requests that the Parish Council of Jefferson Parish conduct a public vetting led by an independent special counsel of the business venture involving Jefferson Parish government's Chief Administrative Officer Tim Whitmer and West Jefferson Medical Center. A contract held by B&A Insurance Agency with West Jefferson Medical Center has been cancelled due to public scrutiny, and we believe that the Parish Council has a duty to ascertain if Mr. Whitmer has direct business relationships or possesses additional commission sharing agreements involving any governmental entities that should be severed.

We believe that the public's desire for transparency and accountability will not be best served awaiting the conclusion of a Louisiana State Ethics Commission probe into this matter. Furthermore, Parish President Aaron Broussard and Parish Attorney Tom Wilkinson have recused themselves from this matter after disclosing they have both been compensated by Mr. Whitmer for legal work they have performed on his behalf. Therefore, any investigation conducted by the executive branch of Jefferson Parish Government or the Parish Attorney or his staff will lack objectivity and credibility.

Accordingly, the Metropolitan Crime Commission calls upon the Parish Council to appoint an independent special counsel that does not practice law in Jefferson Parish to spearhead an investigation into Mr. Whitmer's business dealings with parish governmental agencies. Additionally, the Metropolitan Crime Commission respectfully suggests that the Parish Council, at its earliest convenience, place Mr. Whitmer under oath in public hearings to answer the following partial list of questions that the public is entitled to have answered:

- What were the circumstances that resulted in Lagniappe Industries receiving commissions in conjunction with B&A Insurance Agency for West Jefferson Medical Center's Colonial supplemental insurance policies?
- Why did Mr. Whitmer agree to a fee splitting arrangement that was specifically prohibited in the contract for West Jefferson Medical Center's Colonial supplemental insurance?
- What work was performed by Mr. Whitmer and Lagniappe Industries that justifies the commissions received from West Jefferson Medical Center's Colonial supplemental insurance policies?
- What commissions has Mr. Whitmer or Lagniappe Industries received from West Jefferson Medical Center insurance contracts for vision and dental insurance and/or term life insurance?

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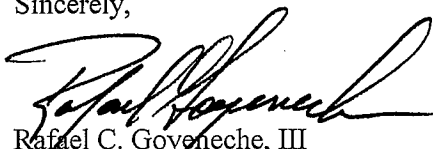
- What other commissions have been received by Mr. Whitmer or Lagniappe Industries from governmental entities since Lagniappe Industries was formed in 2002?
- What other business dealings has Mr. Whitmer had with governmental bodies outside of his official duties as Chief Administrative Officer?
- Did Mr. Whitmer disclose his business relationships with Jefferson Parish governmental bodies to his supervisors or subordinates?
- When did the Parish President and Parish Attorney become aware of Mr. Whitmer's business dealings with West Jefferson Medical Center or any other governmental bodies?

Once answers to these areas of concern are derived and the scope of Lagniappe Industries' and Mr. Whitmer's involvement is established, the Parish Council should take immediate and decisive action to rectify any problems that are uncovered. More importantly, the public will begin to receive the answers that they deserve regarding active business arrangements that Mr. Whitmer has with the governmental entity for which he serves as Chief Administrative Officer.

It has been reported that Mr. Whitmer is paid approximately \$190,000 per year to serve as the Chief Administrative Officer of Jefferson Parish. Louisiana Secretary of State records indicate that Mr. Whitmer has active involvement in four private corporations. Specifically, the Louisiana Secretary of state confirms Mr. Whitmer's association with CWC Gaming, Lagniappe Industries, CT Investments, and DHP. His involvement in these companies raises questions about whether the parish is receiving his full time services.

Determining Mr. Whitmer's involvement in the West Jefferson Medical Center contracts is only one facet of his business relationships that need to be examined. Mr. Whitmer's business relationships with all public and quasi-public agencies warrant scrutiny in light of the fee sharing arrangement that appears to have been deliberately concealed. Public hearings into this matter led by an independent special counsel will serve to restore public confidence in Jefferson Parish government that has been tarnished by the way this matter has been handled to date.

Sincerely,



Rafael C. Goyeneche, III
President

Enclosures: Louisiana Secretary of State records of Mr. Whitmer's business relationships

CC: Aaron Broussard
Tim Whitmer