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2 messages

Margaret Blank <margaret.h.blank@gmail.com>
To: "Shillinger, Bob" <Shillinger-Bob@monroecounty-fl.gov>

Sun, Feb 26, 2017 at 9:16 AM

Dear Mr. Shillinger;

It appears that [county staff failed to follow state law](#) when they advertised the RFP for the sale of the Hickory House property. State law requires that an ad must be placed in a local newspaper once a week for two weeks. At a minimum. According to documents available on Demandstar, they don't appear to have met even that very modest requirement.

Seems like a small thing until you recognize two factors.

1. County taxpayers took a \$1 million dollar loss on the sale of this property.
2. This property is wrapped up in the shameful Ocean's Edge debacle.

Your reaction when the former Clerk deleted a few emails indicates that you are concerned with protecting the public interest. Or at least pretend to be when convenient. In the case of the Hickory House, the taxpayers suffered a tangible, observable, measurable, and very large financial loss. I hope that you will take this matter at least as seriously as those deleted emails.

As you recall the email matter was aired to the press along with harsh condemnation, and was referred to the state attorney for investigation. In an effort to assist you, I copied some members of the local Keys press so that they are aware of this issue. I'll leave it to you to refer this matter to the state attorney.

You're welcome,

Margaret Blank

Margaret Blank <margaret.h.blank@gmail.com>
To: "Shillinger, Bob" <Shillinger-Bob@monroecounty-fl.gov>

Sun, May 7, 2017 at 11:47 AM

Cc: Naja Girard <editor@thebluepaper.com>, kharris@keysnews.com, "Goodhue, David" <dgoodhue@keysreporter.com>, George Neugent <boccdis2@monroecounty-fl.gov>, BOCCDIS3 <boccdis3@monroecounty-fl.gov>, BOCCDIS4 <boccdis4@monroecounty-fl.gov>, BOCCDIS5 <boccdis5@monroecounty-fl.gov>, Danny Kolhage <boccdis1@monroecounty-fl.gov>

Dear Bob,

I never did receive a response regarding the very important Hickory House matter.

As you might recall, county taxpayers took a \$1 million loss on the sale of the Hickory House property. Ultimately, it was purchased by Pritam Singh to be folded into the very controversial Ocean's Edge project - which somehow morphed into a 175-room resort in the midst of an affordable housing "crisis". The BOCC has refused to investigate how that might have happened. Their lack of curiosity is...interesting.

To add insult to injury, it appears that county staff failed to advertise the sale in accordance with the very minimal requirements of Florida law. It is plain common sense that if the sale were more widely advertised, the county would likely have received better offers. And, perhaps, the taxpayers would not have been stuck with a \$1 million loss.

What remedy is there for the taxpayers? Will there be any consequences for the staff members who violated state law? How do you plan to prevent this from happening again? In general, why doesn't the county advertise in more widely read publications in order to secure the best possible deal for the taxpayers?

I look forward to your prompt, constructive and courteous response.

Thanks in advance,

Margaret

[Quoted text hidden]