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CLOSE-OUT MEMORANDUM

To: File
From: Christopher Killoran *CK*
Re: Michele Lazarow and Anabelle Taub – Hallandale Beach City
Commissioners – SP 16-11-116
Date: October 23, 2017

Reason for Close-out:

In November, 2016 the Special Prosecutions Unit of the Broward SAO launched an investigation alongside BSO PCU Detective John Calabro (“Calabro”) into the conduct of sitting Hallandale Beach Commissioner Michele Lazarow (“Lazarow”) and candidate for Hallandale City Commission Anabelle Taub (“Taub”). The allegations derived from a complaint by civilian Dorian Wilkerson-Ware (“Wilkerson-Ware”) that she received illegal campaign payments from Lazarow and Taub to do work for them instead of volunteer work composed mostly of handing out campaign literature at early voting sites for Commissioner Bill Julian (“Julian”) and candidate Alexander Lewy (“Lewy”). After a very extensive investigation, including the procurement of audio or video evidence, conducting multiple sworn statements of witnesses, procuring CTR’s for the commissioners and candidates, taking statements pursuant to invite letters from Lazarow and Taub as well as extensive statutory and case law research, it has been determined that the conduct of both Lazarow and Taub was not criminal and therefore no charges will be brought forward against either one of them.

This case derived from a complaint that Wilkerson-Ware made with Hallandale Beach Police (“HDPD”) in regards to an incident that occurred at the early voting site in Hallandale Beach on the first Friday of the early voting period. According to Wilkerson-Ware, both Lazarow and Taub approached her and offered to pay her money to not hand out literature for Julian and Lewy and basically to stand down. Two of these conversations were audio recorded on Wilkerson-Ware’s cell phone and are in evidence. The audio recordings seem to suggest that both Lazarow and Taub were interested in hiring Wilkerson-Ware, and her friend Leonerist James (“James”) to stop handing out Julian and Lewy literature. A price of \$1,250 is heard being proposed for payment for the work by Wilkerson-Ware and James for a determined number of days as poll workers for Lazarow. A second recording from that day is Taub discussing how Lazarow’s campaign has more money and that Lazarow can afford to pay workers but Taub doesn’t have that kind of campaign money. After this initial interaction occurred, Wilkerson-Ware contacted HDPD to file a complaint. The Officer at HDPD contacted BSO Public Corruption Unit and Detective Calabro was assigned for further investigation. Calabro, alongside ASA Ryan Kelley, met with Wilkerson-Ware on November 9, 2016 to take a statement. Wilkerson-Ware testified that she was not paid by Julian or Lewy to hand out literature, but

rather that she was a volunteer and that she was approached by Lazarow and Taub and paid to not do the work for Julian and Lewy. She also provided a copy of a check for \$500 from Lazarow's campaign account dated 11/4/16. After this statement, Calabro continued his investigation and another meeting was scheduled between Lazarow and Wilkerson-Ware. This meeting was video recorded by Wilkerson-Ware. At this meeting, which took place in a parking lot with Lazarow never leaving her car, Lazarow handed Wilkerson-Ware another check for \$100 for Wilkerson-Ware's work for the Lazarow campaign. Another statement was taken from Wilkerson-Ware after this meeting to document her testimony. Calabro also procured Taub and Lazarow's CTR's to see if the payments were recorded. Lazarow did in fact record the \$600 paid to Wilkerson-Ware on her CTR's. Taub did not record anything on their CTR's, but she never paid anything to Wilkerson-Ware either. This investigation was conducted to determine whether or not the actions by Lazarow or Taub violated any Florida Criminal Statutes. The answer is that the conduct was not criminal.

The Undersigned investigated this matter with a multitude of criminal statutes in mind, including but not limited to 104.071, 838.022, 839.13, as well as a slew of campaign/ election law violations. Taking into account the conduct of Lazarow and Taub, their actions do not violate any of these statutes. According to Lazarow and Taub's statements voluntarily given, Lazarow hired Wilkerson-Ware and James to work for her campaign. According to Lazarow, Wilkerson-Ware stated she was not being paid by Julian or Lewy and if Lazarow paid her, she would work for her. Wilkerson-Ware also gave sworn testimony that she volunteered for Julian and Lewy; however, CTR's procured showed that she was in fact paid by Lewy raising credibility issues. Lazarow agreed to pay Wilkerson-Ware \$1,250 for work for a number of days. Lazarow stated she only paid \$600 because Wilkerson-Ware did not work all of the agreed to days and that Lazarow only paid Wilkerson-Ware for work done for Lazarow, not for anything done (or not done) for Taub. Lazarow also testified that Wilkerson-Ware, from the initial conversation in early November until the final meeting in late November, either contacted or attempted to contact Lazarow to procure more money.

Taub testified that she offered to pay Wilkerson-Ware to not hand out the literature that Wilkerson-Ware was handing out because it contained personal information about Taub. Flyers procured by the Undersigned confirmed that some flyers being handed out that day did contain personal information, such as four digits of her social security number as well as an address of Taub's. She testified to the undersigned, in a very credible manner, that she spoke with Wilkerson-Ware to basically get her to stop handing out that information because she was concerned about that information being public knowledge. Taub testified she never paid Wilkerson-Ware because she never did any work for her and nothing is on her CTR's because she never paid anything.

These actions do not violate any campaign/election law statutes because both Lazarow and Taub accurately detailed in their CTR's everything having to do with the interaction with Wilkerson-Ware. Additionally, Lazarow's conduct does not amount to Official Misconduct because she was within her lawful rights to pay a worker to do work for her. She was also within her lawful rights to only pay a portion of the agreed amount due to Wilkerson-Ware not completing all the agreed upon work (that being working early voting polls handing out Lazarow's literature for a certain amount of days). Taub was not under investigation for Official Misconduct (F.S. 838.022) because she was not a sitting commissioner like Lazarow, and a

