

August 19, 2010

Presiding Officer William Lindsay
725 Veterans Memorial Highway
Smithtown, NY 11787

Dear Presiding Officer Lindsay:

As you have moved ahead with appointment of special counsel for your oversight committee into the Ethics Commission and the financial disclosure process, if in fact there is going to be an analysis of the disclosure process, we would ask again that this committee be comprehensive, even-handed, and look at the legislative filings and resulting conflicts that have developed in recent times.

A casual review of the financial disclosure forms of Suffolk County elected officials, obtained by a citizen under the Freedom of Information Law and shared with my office, revealed a number of failings in the disclosure process of legislators that deserve equal scrutiny as part of any review.

As you are aware, on July 30th, I stated I will be forming by Executive Order my own review commission of the financial disclosure process. Before I move further with that process, so as not to be duplicative, I am asking if your oversight committee intends to exempt from review the financial disclosures of all legislators and of specific filing shortcomings that are evident upon review.

If there are problems with these filings, or perhaps legislators' interpretations of requested information, such a review would help ameliorate problems moving forward.

On the matter of my filing, I am confident that a full review of the process will concur with the legal opinions of the three of the highest ethics attorneys in New York that state law supersedes the county's filing requirements.

I am equally confident in the statements of all three present Ethics Commissioners, as well as past Ethics Commissioners, who have stated unequivocally that they have never been influenced, pressured, or persuaded on any ethics matter by myself, my administration, or the County Attorney.

Since it is your desire to move forward, we believe that, in fairness, the disclosure forms from both branches of government must be examined as part of your review. Please respond to this request in writing within the next seven days to let me know if you will agree to broaden the scope of your review, so that I may move to implement my own commission to review all filings.

Sincerely yours,

Steve Levy
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE
