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**THE
“ME FIRST – BERWYN LATER COALITION”
Of Aldermen Bob Lovero, Nona Chapman, Michele Skryd and
City Clerk Tom Pavlik.**

The Investigators

While over a dozen referrals have remained pending and ignored by Chairman Skryd and her Administration Committee for over a year, it is the investigation of the “pet licensee list controversy” which absorbs the minds of committee members Lovero and Skryd.

I prefer the internet as the venue for the investigation of the contrived “pet licensee list controversy”. Public exposure puts you in charge of the "investigation" and takes it out of the hands of a handful of partisan political cranks.

The “pet licensee list investigation” was the dream-work of not only City Clerk Tom Pavlik. The fiction was also a product of efforts by his supporting cast including Aldermen Chapman, Lovero, Skryd and Phelan.

Let’s take a brief look at a couple of these players.

Alderman Michelle ***“It’s All About Me”*** Skryd, adept at getting her name in the paper for having done little more than figure out how to spend more taxpayer dollars to promote her own political career, refuses to answer questions about her handling of over \$160,000 of taxpayer money in the “management” of the farcical 2007 “Main Street Program” recently dubbed "The Drain Street Program".

I’ve asked her on more than one occasion for a detailed accounting of the “program’s” activities in 2007 and, although the farce was funded by taxpayer dollars, she refuses to provide any information. “The Drain Street Program” is also said to be the political grandstand for the likes of Alba Lovero, (Alderman Robert Lovero’s mother and former City Collector) and Nora Loretto.

There is particular interest for details about a cash beer stand operated by the organization at a Berwyn festival event. There has been a strange level of secrecy about the organization's 2007 activities and a total absence of the application of professional accounting practices. In a separate "Case Study", we will be examining what Berwyn taxpayers are getting in exchange for nearly a quarter of a million tax dollar "investment" in the "Drain Street Program". We will ask why these funds are not being used to meet the needs of Berwyn residents and why they are being wasted on promoting the political careers of a handful of politicians.

At a salary absorbing over a third of the "Drain Street" budget, even the new director is at a loss to come up with answers. The director's explanations as to how "Drain Street" activities are not redundant to services already provided or providable by the Berwyn Development Corporation are laughable.

Over the next few months we will also be examining Alderman Michele "***Its All About Me***" Skryd's ability to find city goodies for her family and take a look at her political-career-long-crusade to get her husband promoted in the Berwyn Police Department, her husband's alleged use of an allegedly fraudulent Internet "Degree" to help himself get promoted and the various lawsuits the Skryd family has filed against the City of Berwyn costing Berwyn taxpayers untold thousands of tax dollars in attorney's fees.

Alderman Robert "***I Don't Know Nothing About That***" Lovero, investigated by the U.S. Department of Justice for Political Corruption in Berwyn, now has other reasons to worry. Lovero's campaign fundraising practices have come under scrutiny and have been referred to the U.S. Attorney's Office for investigation.

Questions have also arisen regarding whether or not it was either ethical or appropriate for Alderman Lovero, as a sitting Alderman and member of the Administration Committee, to act as consultant to his mother in her claims against the city when she left her position with the City as Berwyn City Collector. Her claims for unpaid compensation, unused vacation and unused sick days are surprising and cost Berwyn taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars.

This raises more questions about the tens of thousands of dollars paid to former city officials under policies created by the Marzullo-Lovero-Stillo regime which permitted officials to charge Berwyn taxpayers for “unpaid comp”, “unused” sick days and “unused” vacation days. The evidence is disturbing and the amounts paid are staggering.

In the Marzullo-Lovero-Stillo tax subsidized world, Berwyn taxpayers didn't have a chance. In addition to paying tens of thousands of dollars for the college and graduate education of certain employees (at least one of whom was related to Police Superintendent Frank Marzullo), Berwyn taxpayers picked up the tab for other “customary privileges of power” created by this political machine.

Lovero has been taking care of things for the last ten years as alderman, voting to transfer millions of taxpayer dollars to the politically connected. While he was giving away your money, the Cermak Plaza was deteriorating into a commercial ghost town. He didn't have a clue that Costco was trying to set up shop in his ward at the Cermak Mall. Costco packed up and left town before he even knew that they were interested in locating in Berwyn.

In the nearly twenty years he has been draining this city dry, Lovero has not made one single proposal for a plan of economic development to help relieve the tax burden on Berwyn residents. But he found time to go fishing in Canada with Sonny Stillo a couple weeks before Stillo entered Federal Prison for his conviction of bribery. And he has found time to vote to raise your taxes every time the opportunity has arisen. You can read a little bit about his woeful political career on this website under case study number one.

Lovero, a study in all that is slick, rarely offers anything significant at city council meetings. When not posing for the cameras, he contrives political side shows at city council meetings where his “I Love Berwyn” Marzullo-Lovero-Stillo loyalists always show up to support whatever inane political stunt he can contrive. These are the same “I Love Berwyn” characters that have been showing up at city council meetings with their hands out for the last 20 years.

Breaking his own slick mold a few months ago, Lovero argued passionately for his friend Jerry Marzullo, (the son of Frank Marzullo) and “persuaded” Aldermen Chapman, Skryd and Phelan to pay Marzullo \$160,000 of Berwyn Taxpayer’s money in settlement of a claim Marzullo had against the City of Berwyn.

This money would have paid the salaries of the laid-off city employees about whom Lovero feigns so much concern. Throw in the tens of thousands of dollars paid to members of the Marzullo-Lovero-Stillio regime for “unpaid comp”, “unused” vacation, “unused” sick days and college tuitions and suddenly you’ve got enough money to start meeting the needs of Berwyn residents, like tree trimming, tree removal, sidewalk repairs, alley maintenance and the long list of other resident needs that were ignored by the Marzullo-Lovero-Stillio machine for well over a decade.

In future “Case Studies” we will examine what these self-serving “I Love Berwyn” politicians were doing while Costco was packing up and leaving town, how they were draining this city dry while stunting economic development and imposing greater and greater tax burdens on Berwyn residents. We will also be addressing the question as to why so many of the “I Love Berwyn” democrats don’t even live in Berwyn.

Here, however, the issue has to do with a contrived investigation as an attempt to draw attention away from the conduct of those making the accusations and those conducting the “investigation”. It doesn’t matter how much this bogus investigation might cost Berwyn taxpayers as long as it suits their political needs.

The internet venue for this “investigation” is designed to take politics out of the mix and illustrate why Aldermen Skryd and Lovero should resign as members of the Administration Committee and resign as Aldermen in the interest of restoring credibility to our city government and protecting the city’s bank account.

Joel Erickson