

September 26, 2014

Richard Thornton  
Director of Campaign Finance, RI Board of Elections  
50 Branch Ave.  
Providence, RI 02904

Dear Richard:

I was outraged to read the Newport Daily News story this morning ("Complaint Filed Against Anti-Casino Group") and discover that the small, wealthy, anti-casino group basically admitted to breaking the state's campaign finance laws.

But is this the first time that this small, wealthy anti-casino lobbyist group - Citizens Concerned About Casino Gambling, Inc. - has broken the state law? And will they be held accountable for their illegal activity?

I looked on the Internet for their 2012 filings and there was some disturbing activity.

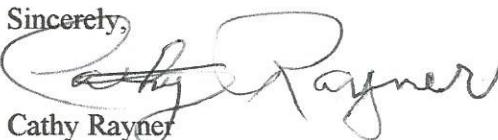
1. CCACG was an ILLEGAL ENTITY in 2012 when they were spending money to derail the future of Newport Grand. Their corporate charter was actually revoked on 4/13/12 and it was not reinstated on 11/16/12. Isn't there a legal requirement that an entity making an expenditure must be a legal entity?"
2. This was not the first time CCACG was in trouble with the State as they have received 4 notices of corporate revocation from the Secretary of State since 2007.
3. In 2012, they filed their first report on 11/1/12 and listed only their top 5 donors and only estimated that they received 75 donations.
4. On 11/2 they have 10 donors making "Misc. donations" that they don't list by name.
5. On the 11/5 report, they list 5 more "Misc. donations" and 6 by name.

I know that these laws were designed to prevent outside, shadowy individuals and groups from buying or influencing elections. And, I know that CCACG has at least admitted that they have broken the law this year and that they are being funded with up to \$10,000 checks from out of state donors - Florida, Pennsylvania, Manhattan's upper east side and even Hong Kong. Please do your best to protect the interests of Newport and our middle class's future by preventing them from further breaking the law and holding them accountable for their prior actions.

Transparency is important so let me be transparent with you. I have worked at Newport Grand for 38 years and this job has helped me have a middle class life in our great city of Newport. And, it has helped hundreds of families do the same. There is a lot at stake in this election for families like mine in Newport and we can't let a few rich elites try to steal away our city's middle class.

In conclusion, please consider this letter a complaint against the lobbyist corporation, Citizens Concerned About Casino Gambling, and their failure to comply with RI Campaign Finance Law and potentially other state and federal election laws. And, please take swift action to defend our laws and stop any attempt to illegally buy or influence the future of Newport.

Sincerely,



Cathy Rayner  
16 Channing St.  
Newport RI 02840