



LEE DARRAGH
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NORTHEASTERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
HALL COUNTY / DAWSON COUNTY

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April 1, 2010

Honorable Richard A. Malone
Executive Director
Prosecuting Attorney's Council of Georgia
104 Marietta Street, Suite 400
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mr. Malone:

Recently, several citizens of Hall County met with representatives of the Hall County Sheriff's Office and presented various allegations and complaints concerning the Chairman of the Hall County Commission and the Hall County Commission in general. The Sheriff's Office contacted the Region Eight Office of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, specifically Special Agent in Charge Mike Ayers, and the citizens involved subsequently met with agents of the GBI. The GBI, in turn, contacted and met with me and asked for direction concerning whether a criminal investigation was warranted and whether the specific complaints constituted crimes. Further, the Hall County Commission itself "voted on Thursday, March 11, 2010 to refer to [my] office whether further criminal investigation is deemed appropriate [in] the matter of payments made by Hall County Government to Omega Consulting Services d/b/a Carlyle Cox," per Heather Bennett, Commission Clerk. Further, the Commission apparently voted 3-0 (with one absent and one recusal, per the press) "to include a financial audit of all five Commissioners, the County Administrator and the former county administrator."

Though I am both qualified and capable of making impartial decisions concerning the matters referred to above, the Hall County Commission controls a substantial percentage of my budget as the District Attorney of the Northeastern Judicial Circuit. To make decisions one way or another on the matter might be deemed by some to be influenced by that fact. Though I would decide impartially, ethically it is important for me to avoid even the appearance of impropriety. Therefore, because of your substantial experience as a prosecutor, former District Attorney and Executive Director of the Prosecuting Attorneys Council of Georgia, I am hereby requesting that you act in my stead in making prosecutorial decisions concerning the specific allegations raised and whether and to what extent it is appropriate for a District Attorney to conduct a generalized

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financial audit of the Hall County Commission, its members and present and last county administrators as requested by the current commission.

The GBI retains documents delivered to that agency by the citizens with whom the agents met. Special Agent Mike Ayers of the Georgia Bureau of Investigations, Region 8, 79 Cobb Vantress Drive, Cleveland, GA 30528, (706)348-4866, is the primary contact, followed by Assistant Special Agent in Charge Mitchell Posey.

Attached you will find memorandums from Heather Bennett, Commission Clerk, dated March 16, 2010, regarding the action of the Hall County Commission, and the cover page of a group of documents sent to me by the Commission on March 16, 2010, which Ms. Bennett described as "copies of all this office [of the Commissioners] has regarding Omega Consulting and/or Carlyle Cox's services to Hall County." The documents to which Ms. Bennett refers will be forwarded under separate cover.

Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lee Darragh". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Lee Darragh
District Attorney

c: William C. Blalock, County Attorney
Mike Ayers, GBI

HALL COUNTY GOVERNMENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEMORANDUM

To: Lee Darragh, District Attorney Northeast Judicial Circuit

From: Heather Bennett, Commission Clerk

Cc: Hall County Board of Commissioners
Charley Nix, County Administrator
Phil Sutton, Assistant County Administrator
Bill Blalock, County Attorney

Date: March 16, 2010

Re: Criminal Investigation of Omega Consulting Services to Hall County Government

Heather Bennett

The Hall County Board of Commissioners voted Thursday, March 11, 2010, to refer to your office for purposes of determining whether further criminal investigation is deemed appropriate the matter of payments made by Hall County Government to Omega Consulting Services d/b/a Carlisle Cox. Such payments have been made to Mr. Cox on a monthly basis since 2006.

Commissioner Ashley Bell made a motion seconded by Commissioner Bobby Banks to include a financial audit of all five Commissioners, the County Administrator and the former County Administrator.

Please contact Charley Nix for additional information.



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ADMINISTRATOR

HEATHER BENNETT
COMMISSION CLERK

JESSICA YORK
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

HALL COUNTY GOVERNMENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Date: March 16, 2010

Re: Criminal Investigation of Omega Consulting Services to Hall
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Pursuant to Commissioner Bell's motion on March 11, 2010, attached please find copies of all the documents this office has regarding Omega Consulting and/or Carlyle Cox's services to Hall County.



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