



Margaret Blank <therealpoop.org@gmail.com>

really very curious

Margaret Blank <therealpoop.org@gmail.com>
To: "Tamborrino, Richard" <rtamborrino@keynoter.com>
Cc: jkleinman@miamiherald.com

Thu, Apr 5, 2018 at 9:02 PM

Well, like I said in my original email the Citizen appears to have a substantial conflict. That would certainly explain their desire to ignore, downplay, and distort unflattering stories about Monroe County government. In fact, the most common reaction to that bit of news so far is, "well, that explains a lot". Nobody is all that surprised.

Your paper, the Keynoter/Reporter, has the same tendency to ignore, downplay or distort unflattering stories. I provided two egregious examples in my original email. My research didn't turn up any obvious conflicts. That's why I asked the question. Your vague non-answer doesn't shed any light on the matter, but it does imply that there probably is a conflict that you'd prefer not to acknowledge. Again, I don't think anyone would be surprised. May as well come out with it.

Monroe County is run by five county commissioners who have all admitted to serious ethics violations, and were fined accordingly. Five of five. Do you have any idea how difficult it is to nail a public official on ethics violations? The process is stacked against the complainants. You really have to have your ducks in row. You'd never know it from reading the Keynoter/Reporter, but this was a major accomplishment and a huge service to the community. With the shaky state attorney, this is the only accountability we're ever likely to see.

Your newspaper tried to paint the guilty-as-sin commissioners as the victims of some sort of vendetta. And if people didn't buy that, you provided additional cover by amplifying the excuse that all those lies were actually just mistakes caused by "convoluted" instructions. That would come as a shock to anyone who's ever filed a tax return. None of this is normal. It's not normal for even one commissioner to admit to ethics violations and remain in office - never mind five. Its definitely not normal for one major local newspaper to run interference for crooked officials - much less two.

I know you don't get this (or maybe just don't care) but Monroe County is a community headed for trouble. Overspending was causing debt to sky-rocket even before the storm. Between the ethics violations, the iPhone scandal, the reckless spending, the negligent unfairness, the sketchy "partnerships" and the unending lies, the five commissioners and the iPhone Bandit have demonstrated that they are completely unfit to govern. This situation is not sustainable. Who knows how deep it goes and how bad the long-term damage will be?

It seems the Keynoter/Reporter has chosen to be part of the problem. That is really too bad because the Keys need people to step up and be part of the solution.

Thanks for responding at least. I didn't expect even that to be honest.

Best,

Margaret Blank

On Thu, Apr 5, 2018 at 9:59 AM, Tamborrino, Richard <rtamborrino@keynoter.com> wrote:

Margaret, most businesses in Monroe County have a relationship with Monroe County to varying degrees. The Keynoter and Reporter are now being managed by the Miami Herald and are publishing only digitally at this point on flkeysnews.com.

Not sure what you were seeking but anything regarding the depth and breadth of our reporting should be directed to Jeff Kleinman at the Herald (jkleinman@miamiherald.com).
Thank you.

On Wed, Apr 4, 2018 at 9:14 PM, Margaret Blank <therealpoop.org@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello;

Does the Keynoter/Reporter have some sort of business relationship with Monroe County? Or are they seeking a business relationship with Monroe County?

The reason I ask is that there have been stories that are so slanted and biased it's hard to believe that the Keynoter/Reporter is a truly independent newspaper.

One example would be this story about all five county commissioners admitting to ethics violations. The Keynoter/Reporter basically parroted the commissioners' lame excuses and painted the complainant as the bad guy.

Another would be this one-sided attack on the former Clerk of Court.

It turns out that the Key West Citizen, also guilty of extreme bias, does have a business relationship with Monroe County. So their bias has a certain logic to it.

Yours doesn't. Was hoping you could shed some light on that.

Thanks in advance for your prompt, accurate, and truthful response.

Best,

Margaret Blank

--

Richard Tamborrino
Publisher
P.O. Box 500158, Marathon, FL. 33050
rtamborrino@keynoter.com
t. 305-440-3225 | f. 305-743-9586
twitter: @RTamborrino

KEYNOTER **FLKEYSNEWS**
TheReporter **unwind**

