



Margaret Blank &lt;margaret.h.blank@gmail.com&gt;

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**Big Coppitt bidding irregularities**

3 messages

**Margaret Blank** <margaret.h.blank@gmail.com>

Sat, Jun 30, 2018 at 8:34 AM

To: Christopher Weber &lt;cweber@keyssao.org&gt;, Dennis Ward &lt;dward@keyssao.org&gt;

Hello;

A post I wrote a couple of years ago has gotten a few clicks lately and I thought I should pass it along to you. It was about suspicious bidding activity regarding the Big Coppitt sewer project.

Relevant facts:

- The first bid was scrapped for vague, mysterious reasons.
- The FCAA refused for years to provide the bid tab for that first bid.
- Turns out Charley Toppino & Sons benefited from the rebid. They scored an additional \$6 million worth of work.
- A side effect of the new bid was that another bidder entered the picture and knocked out FCAA favorite, Gianetti.
- That bidders contract was eventually terminated for convenience and surprise, surprise, the contract eventually went to Gianetti.
- When Toppino was appointed to the FCAA board, the public was misled about the extent of his serious ongoing conflicts of interest. We were told that Charley Toppino & Sons only did about \$1 million worth of work with the FCAA in the past 5 years. Turns out FCAA neglected to mention his subcontracts on Cudjoe Regional - roughly \$12 million.

Of course, you've already made it abundantly clear that you do not care about high level public corruption crimes and you will not investigate them no matter how suspicious the circumstances. However, I feel it may be useful one day to have a record of your refusals.

So here's a link to that [post](#). Now you can't say nobody ever said anything.

Best,

Margaret Blank

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**Dennis Ward** <dward@keyssao.org>

Sat, Jun 30, 2018 at 2:11 PM

To: Margaret Blank &lt;margaret.h.blank@gmail.com&gt;, cweber@keyssao.org, vwinter@keyssao.org

I don't know if you were around during my first term. Maybe you should research that before making ugly suppositions.

Sent from my iPhone

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Florida has a very broad public records law. Virtually all electronic mail sent or received by the Office of the State Attorney is available to the public upon request.

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**Margaret Blank** <margaret.h.blank@gmail.com>

Sun, Jul 1, 2018 at 9:30 PM

To: Dennis Ward &lt;dward@keyssao.org&gt;

Cc: Christopher Weber &lt;cweber@keyssao.org&gt;, vwinter@keyssao.org

I was. Acevedos (also lobster trap bandits). There are plenty of crooks worse than them still on the loose. Everybody piles on the school district. They are an easy, and deserving, target. They are the Joe Pesci of the Florida Keys crime family. But the FCAA and the county are just as bad, if not worse. Some would add the City of Key West in there as well.

As for the "ugly" - unfortunately, its the only thing that seems to work. In the Keys, "nice" gets you ignored. Let's not pretend here - "nice" means shut the hell up. The only reason I finally got that Big Coppitt bid tab is because I stayed on FCAA like a hound. I brought the suspicious FKSPCA Marathon contract to your office's attention and all that happened is Weber parroted Shady Bob's lines back to me. What am I supposed to think? The taxpayers are getting shellacked and you guys seem happy to go along with it. You can attack the messenger, but that won't change the optics.

I write a blog in my spare time. I can make a little noise and do research and call people's attention to shady-as-hell situations. But I don't have the power to stop it. You guys do, and you should use it. That's what you're paid to do.

I know its not easy. I see what happens to people who speak up. I saw what happened to Kathy Reitzel and Amy Heavilin. If you want to live happily ever after in the Keys you have to go along to get along. (Not my thing, but plenty of people do it.) That might make your life easier, but it doesn't do a damn thing for the people you're supposed to protect.

Oh, by the way the FKAA was required by contract to submit an "audit report" six months after the Big Coppitt project was complete. It took them six years. It is the stupidest, lamest, most uninformative thing I've ever seen. They mashed it up with the Duck Key project. Also, Toppino has recused himself in about half the FKAA meetings he's attended. More [here](#). There's two more things you can't pretend not to know about. You're welcome.

Signing off with high hopes, low expectations.

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