

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN
AND FOR BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

STATE OF FLORIDA,

CASE NO. 05-2013-CF-064037-AXXX-XX

Plaintiff,

vs.

MITCHELL A. NEEDELMAN,

Defendant.

**DEFENDANT MITCHELL A. NEEDELMAN'S MOTION FOR
DISQUALIFICATION OF JUDGES OF THE EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

**THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE PART 3 OF 3 PARTS OF DEFENDANT MITCHELL A
NEEDELMAN'S MOTION FOR DISQUALIFICATION OF JUDGES OF THE EIGHTEENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT - THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT WAS TOO LARGE TO E-FILE IN ONE
FILING AND HAS BEEN BROKEN UP INTO THREE PARTS.**

s/Warren W. Lindsey
WARREN W. LINDSEY, of
LAW OFFICE OF WARREN W. LINDSEY, P.A.
1150 Louisiana Avenue, Suite 2
Winter Park, FL 32789
Mail: P.O. Box 505
Winter Park, FL 32790
Telephone: (407) 644-4044
Facsimile: (407) 599-2207
Attorneys for the Defendant.
warren@warrenlindseylaw.com
Attorney No. 299111



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Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Charles Parker: Divergent Views on Clerk's Contract Continue

Within a 20-minute timespan on Monday, I received two emails whose contrast could not be starker.

The subject of both is the controversial contract between the Clerk's office and BlueGem Technologies to digitize court records. The contract has been under scrutiny since its signing during the summer.

Clerk of Courts-In-Waiting Scott Ellis sent out a missive that he entitled "Clerk Loots \$6.1 Million for Blueware: Hewlett Packard Left Holding the Bag." In it, he once again calls the BlueGem digitizing contract a "scam" and claims that Hewlett Packard has loaned money to the Clerk's Office to pay-off the contract.

Shortly after, Clerk of Courts-In-Limbo Mitch Needelman issued a press release that begins, "On Friday, December 07, 2012, a milestone event took place in Brevard County that will change the way the Clerk of Courts does business from now into the future."

The English teacher in me cries out, "...two roads diverged in a yellow wood..."

The contract has raised questions many questions. I am still waiting for the answer to a few of them: Who is working, how much are they being paid, what property/equipment was bought, and what are the contract deliverables?

I have asked the Clerk's Office, BlueWare/BlueGem, Matt DuPree, the Economic Development Commission, all five county commissioners, and the Melbourne Regional Chamber of Commerce.

None have answered. However, I think I already know the answer. These basic criteria – present in most government contracts – are not written down anywhere.

The contract is basically this: Here's the money. We don't care how you get the job done or how you spend the money, you have to get the job done by 2017. Oh – and if you don't – we're covered by insurance that we paid for. So really – we don't care whether you get the job done or not.

And evidently the terms of the contract have changed from the original one signed this summer.

Incoming Clerk Ellis lays out the wide-ranging and winding road-like scenario

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this way:

Needelman contracts with BlueWare. Needelman realizes Ellis will cancel the contract and tries to sell it. HP lends money to Needelman – who in turn gives some of the money to BlueWare, buys an insurance bond, and evidently purchases bowling balls (what else does Brunswick Corporation do?).

Also, in October BlueWare chief Rose Harr is given a cushy spot on the Brevard Workforce Board of Directors and then in November is given \$760,000 by the same board for job training.

In this scenario, Ellis assumes the motive of Needelman – to keep Ellis from stopping payments to BlueWare and cancelling the contract when he takes office in January 2013.

But there is a problem with assuming the motive: there is no proof. I am sure if Needelman did not write down contract terms and deliverables, he did not write down the terms of a nefarious plot.

As well, I am sure Needleman would say his motive to change the terms of the contract – which went from \$8.5 million to \$6.1 million - was solely to save taxpayers' money.

Ellis claims, "Clerks cannot enter into promissory notes and borrow money. Legal opinions will be forthcoming when I get into office." At the same time, I would be shocked if Needelman didn't have attorneys who gave him the "okay."

And so the beat goes on. Taxpayer money is being spent on a noble project, but the taxpayers don't really know whether their money is being spent legally and efficiently. For government projects, both should be the standard.

Posted by Charles Parker at 12:43 PM

+2 Recommend this on Google

35 comments:



scott ellis December 11, 2012 at 2:46 PM

The Clerk bylaw may not borrow money.

No terms in any Blueware contract have been changed.

Blueware got a \$5.7 million advance on the \$7.5 million remaining. The Clerk also picked up paying 3.55% interest on the note and the Clerk as customer paid for the Performance Bond for the vendor, Blueware (\$200,000) plus the bizarre \$200,000 payment to Brunswick.

Why would anyone borrow money to make an advance on a five year no interest contract, even if the contract were legit (and it is not)?

The money this time is stolen from Hewlett Packard.

Reply



Tyler Winik December 11, 2012 at 4:02 PM

Charles,

If non-taxing elected officials could apply for credit and obtain it from companies, wouldn't constitutional officers all over Florida and across the nation already have maxed out their credit ratings?

As the Clerk has its budget given to it by the Legislature, it doesn't have a bond rating. It cannot issue bonds, cannot tax, etc. It must spend only what the Legislature gives it, no more.

The budgets of the Clerks in Florida are heavily reviewed by the Clerk of Courts Operation Corporation ("CCOC") before being sent to the Legislature for ratification. Even then, the Legislature, not the CCOC, makes the final decision as to what county gets how much.

This is yet another illegal power grab in an attempt to provide liquid cash for Mitch & Co. pending January 8th.

Reply



scott ellis December 11, 2012 at 6:50 PM

It is also by no means a noble project. It is a useless and unnecessary project. It would be bad enough to pay triple price for something you need, but these files are so rarely touched no mass imaging serves any purpose. It serves a purpose by pushing money in a circle through a circle of friends and accomplices. Rose Harr made the statement she needed to defend her contract from Scott Ellis to another company they tried to use to scam the public (too honest, they refused) and they found their way by having the Clerk borrow the money for them.

About Me



Charles Parker

I cover politics, sports, and local news for Brevard Times. I also write opinion. You can

email me at cpbrevard@gmail.com and follow me on Twitter @cpbrevard These views are mine alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of Brevard Public Schools.

[View my complete profile](#)

Too bad for Hewlett Packard, they may already know they have been left holding the bag.

Reply

Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 2:34 AM



Charles, I can fully support Scott's contention that this is a wasteful, unnecessary make-work project that arose ONLY to facilitate the scam. I have used the Clerk's records in my work on a daily basis for decades. Since the land records from '80 forward have been on-line, I have never once needed a doct older than that (14+ yrs?). Should I ever require such an old doct, I would consider this archival research and understand that retrieving it may take more time and effort.

What we never got the numbers on:

1. How many requests does the Clerk get each year for these old documents and how much Clerk's time is spent responding to them.
2. How many total documents are there to be scanned?

Answers to these questions would have exposed this scam for what it is – hardly a 'noble' project.

Reply

Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 3:04 AM



To my previous post I can add this:

I can state with 99% certainty that no other county in FLA has spent \$\$ to digitize their ancient documents.

This from the first County Clerk record search I checked – Dade

"The Miami-Dade County Clerk's Office is making every effort to serve the public in an efficient, professional and courteous manner. Most recorded documents from 1974 to the present are available online at County Recorder's Official Record Search with older documents available from microfilm at our library located at Courthouse East."

Old records on Microfilm is good enough for Dade, but not little ol' Brevard?

Reply

Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 5:40 AM



You are all making this more complex than it really is. The first mistake is your applying logic trying to identify a need and then applying a solution. This whole project had nothing to do with improving a process. This is all about money and a quick hit.

Here is the history:

- 1 - Rose moved to Florida and needed to make money. She has no product and a big commitment to hire a lot of people in order to get the incentives blueware committed to.
- 2 - Matt meets Rose and they both need each other. Matt needs a big payday and Rose needs the money - see 1 above.
- 3 - Matt and Mitch are buddies. Matt can make a deal happen but needs to find something that somehow meets what Rose's company with no product does. Medical Records - Court Records, OK that's close enough.
- 4 - Matt writes some specifications, gives to Mitch he posts them, Rose responds with Matt authoring a response to his questions and Mitch awards the deal to Rose.
- 5 - Matt gets paid \$90,000 for bringing the deal in and then gets hired by Rose. Life is good but Mitch loses election.
- 6 - Rose needs to make sure she still gets the money. She tries to find a company to loan the county the money now so she can get paid. If she waits five years when the work is actually done it will be cancelled by someone not in the fix. IBM says no, HP says yes. HP does not know all the history.
- 7 - Rose gets the money and spends or hides it all.
- 8 - Result = County is out the money, HP is left holding the bag and Matt, Rose, and Mitch are laughing all the way to the bank.

Accomplishes to the scheme - Jennifer the make believe sales executive and Debbie the party planner.

Not that complicated.

Reply

Replies



scott ellis December 12, 2012 at 7:27 AM

I agree, Rose did not even have the rock for rock soup. However, I believe Matt & Mitch & Associates have taken in far more than \$90,000. Given how horrible the HP deal in unlawfully loaning money to the Clerk I'd give the money trail a few hound dog sniffs towards Hewlett Packard. Just as when something is too good to be true it is not, when something is too stupid to be true it also probably is not. Blueware/HP = Sarno Landfill/County Government. Both made \$6 million in one day producing nothing. Neither will ever be used.

Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 7:48 AM



The \$90,000 was the first installment. The day the county wrote a check to Rose for

\$500,000 she wrote a check to Matt for \$90,000. That was payment number one with moer to follow. Another part of the deal was she hired him as VP for BlueGem, paid him \$200,000 plus commissions for future jobs and passed jobs. He needed to get on the payroll as soon as possible to pay for his medical bills that were adding up.



scott ellis December 12, 2012 at 8:03 AM

Yes, and other payments of \$10,000 and \$30,000. On top of those were the \$5,000/\$10,000 monthly payments to Eligere, the corporate lobbying firm he ran. I would also bet a large chunk of the \$5.7 million has disappeared overseas. The funny item in the HP loan was the \$200,000 for Brunswick Corporation. Rose had wanted to buy a fancy boat, perhaps HP via the Clerk has now paid for it?



Neal December 12, 2012 at 8:46 PM

Wow, you might have something there. I got side tracked with the Bowling Ball silliness, but I recall now that Brunswick owns a boat builder. Too funny!

Reply



Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 5:56 AM

The funny part is the folks at Blueware think everyone is upset because the scanning is not done yet. So they are keeping a low profile trying to get it all completed as quickly as possible. Then in January they will pop their head out of their hole and say - Look we have 1.5 million documents scanned already.

The only problem is they are so naive they do not realize the reason people are upset is because we paid 3 times as much for a useless fixed project that never should have been awarded to anyone in the first place. All the hiding and avoiding answering questions can never change that fact.

Scott you also don't know they are using proprietary methods to scan the documents that you need their software to read the document. So when you fire them, any documents they have scanned you are going to have to pay them again to convert them into a readable format for any generic program out there.

That is how they made money over the last 18 months. All their old clients have been paying them the hostage fee to get their data back.

Reply



scott ellis December 12, 2012 at 7:13 AM

There will never be 1.5 million images in the next four weeks. The photos from the press release are a Potemkin Operation. Live files which had already been scanned were shipped down for the photo-op for the press release. HP should have followed up with me when I contacted them a month ago, they would have had a better chance at recovering some of their money.

I will say all damage wrought on this office since the election is due to the failure of those in power (and I am not talking FDLE) to have had the crooked rats removed back in September.

Reply



Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 7:44 AM

What photos? What press release? Is it on the web?

Reply



scott ellis December 12, 2012 at 8:14 AM

Charles has it as a .pdf. He graciously sent it to me. I am sure if you email BrevardTimes@gmail.com you can get it. It would be better if they have the time to post it, laughable, a pure Potemkin set-up. It is like the thieves on Wall Street skinning us alive and saying what a wonderful thing TARP is for the whole country.

Reply



scott ellis December 12, 2012 at 8:15 AM

Or e-mail me if you'd like, sellis@spacey.net.

Reply



Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 8:56 AM

I have read the press release and I am not really sure what they are proud of after reading the statements.

This digitization of records will enable everyone who desires to access public records to be able to do so from any computer anywhere by the year 2017 - I can monitor my whole house and access my home computer from my smart phone today. They are bragging about a capability that they will have in 2017. We paid \$8 million I want something today not in 6 years from now.

Reply

Replies



scott ellis December 12, 2012 at 10:43 AM

The Clerk's records are already online for the last decade. When was the last time you needed to see a case from 1993? Even worse, the Blueware plan is to do far more destruction than imaging. So if you really wanted to see that whole case from 1993, many pages will be gone forever.



Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 1:01 PM

And they have experience in destruction of classified records. There is nothing on their web site that indicated that. Let me guess they are subcontracting that part as well.

Reply



Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 8:59 AM

Brevard County is the FIRST in the State of Florida to get digitization underway. I am very proud of both the Clerk's employees and BlueGem for getting this project up and running so quickly -

Seriously!!! The contract was signed in April of this year and they just began scanning the documents after you have already paid them millions of dollars and you are proud of them for getting things up so quickly. What were they doing for the past 9 months???

Reply



Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 9:07 AM

After lengthy negotiations that have spanned months, the contract for digitization of Brevard County's citizens' private and public records was awarded to BlueGem Technologies -

I thought the specs were written by Matt, and then Matt responded to his own specs on behalf BlueWhere and then Mitch approved them and the contract was awarded. The whole process took three days. And from what I have read of the contract and specifications there is not a lot of details - we will give you \$8 million and have the records scanned by 2017. No milestones, no checks and balances, no requirements.

Oh yeah you had a bunch of make believe meetings in the Holiday Inn Express where Rose stood in front of the room pretending she was doing discovery for what the county needed and wanted with a whole bunch of fifth grade sticky notes. the contract was already written and signed at that point this was a dog and pony show for the employees to pretend it was some serious negotiations.

Not really sure where the law allows the winner of the contract to be the one identifying the specifications of the contracts with the employees. Shouldn't the specifications already be defined and then we ask the contractor to meet those needs. I would think the contractor would leave out the stuff they find in discovery that would be hard to do or expensive and take the low hanging fruit.

Reply



Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 10:27 AM

Can't wait for Karma to come and get Mitch and all of his associates for ripping off the taxpayers of Brevard County!!! Scott had said ALL along...Mitch is bad business. Boy was he right!!!!

Reply



Paul December 12, 2012 at 11:26 AM

Hey folks....you do know that the Clerk's Office already has 11 High-speed Canon 9050 scanners and in reality had NO NEED to Outsource the project in the 1st place. If the Clerk's Office was setup to index in a more efficient way they could internally scan 2 million images a month

Reply



Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 1:31 PM

So the Clerk's office had more equipment the day they signed the contract to scan documents than the company they signed the contract with.

Do you think a program to setup an index system cost more than \$8 million?

And you ask why everyone is so mad....

Reply



Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 2:10 PM

Anon 5:58 said: ...So when you fire them, any documents they have scanned you are going to have to pay them again to convert them into a readable format for any generic program out there.
- An additional criminal charge of Theft of Gov Property?

Anon 1:01 said: And they have experience in destruction of classified records?
-An additional criminal charge of Destruction of Govt Property?

Reply



Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 3:11 PM

Great to know we have all this scanning equip while the process of scanning the most RECENT daily records has ground to a screeching halt this month.

I'm now waiting on court case docs filed in early Nov to be viewable, that have for the past 5 yrs, been viewable within 5± days of filing. Yes, great progress.

Too bad we couldn't have gotten an INJUNCTION against screwing up all that was humming along just fine pre election!

Reply



Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 9:10 PM

But if Mitch didn't lay off all the staff that were doing the scanning already how was he going to justify a scanning project and pay Rose all the money - stop using logic!!!!

Reply



Anonymous December 14, 2012 at 7:15 AM

Sad to say....us Floridians are easy pray for the Chunky Tiger....

Reply



Anonymous December 19, 2012 at 7:32 AM

I see Blueware has conned some people to joining their "sales team". Good luck selling a non-existent product. Lets see: The product is not finished, there is no user manual, there is no defined installation process or project plan, there is no installation team, the list goes on and on. Yeah, a recipe for success.

Don't you people do your research on a company before joining them? You will make no money, be told by Matt Raab that he just cannot get an update/conversion done inside 6 months for your angry soon to be former customers, and you will be subjected to Rose's stupid ramblings about following her 23 steps to a sale. A bit of advice: Be sure you send out that Cup and Packet. I am sure getting a coffee cup and some tea will guarantee you get the sale.

I guess the job market is still so tough that people will work for a corrupt company run by a psycho nut job. My guess is they do not last 3 months..and that is being generous.

Reply



Anonymous December 27, 2012 at 6:03 PM

I worked at Blueware about 8 months ago - in sales. They kept promising the product was coming but in the meantime just keep selling to the customers I was told. I could never get a release schedule or what particular modules actually made the product.

When the sales were not coming - because people do not buy vaporware - Rose blamed me for not following her patented 23 steps to a sale. These 23 steps is her excuse to use on her team when things fail. If it was so successful don't you think others would be using the 23 steps.

And yes I was eventually fired because I did not send the coffee mug to my potential customer and she blamed the no-sale because I forgot that important step.

In the end it was the greatest day in my life to get away from her and her family who are all a little warped.

Let me tell you a secret - there is no product, she has no idea what she is doing and she blames everyone else. If you are a man she will hate you the moment she meets you.

Reply



Anonymous December 27, 2012 at 6:09 PM

I just looked at their web site and under leadership team why do they have a picture of people who no longer work there. Answer - no one else is willing to have their picture put up there.

The other interesting notation is she envisions Blueware leading the future of electronic health records. Here is the sad part of that diluted statement. There is this little thing called Meaningful Use - what it means is if the federal government certifies your product in the electronic health record arena they will pay people to use it. Like a rebate for your purchase. This Blueware software that Rose envisions for leading the future is not Meaningful Use certified, never has been and never will be. I am pretty sure if someone has an option between using vaporware with a dwindling user base and not reimbursable and any other product out there, they are probably going to chose any other product out there.

Her and her daughter need to stop making global statements that are not true and make no sense. Here is a New Year's resolution for you - try telling the truth just for one day.

Reply



Anonymous December 28, 2012 at 10:52 AM

Here is an absolutely hilarious comment by Rose. What a JOKE. Here is the url for the post:

<http://www.healthinformaticsforum.com/profile/RoseHarr>

Rose Harr commented on Chris Paton's blog post "Robot and Frank": The Future of Home Healthcare Robots?

"Dear Mr. Paton and my friend David, Thank you for this ! The video is wonderful. I will use it for my company meeting if you dont mind. We are working in Robots also with Artificial Intelligence. Thanks for inspiring us. Rose Harr"

Seriously??? Rose and Blueware are developing robots with artificial intelligence? They cannot even finish a software program. To envision her company as a developer of robots and artificial intelligence shows how delusional she really is.

Reply



Anonymous December 28, 2012 at 2:44 PM

How many years can she use that picture? It was a glam shot she had taken 10 years ago. I think it is time to get a new shot. No one will take you seriously in the tech field when you look like you are modeling for JC Penney. I think Ellen DeGeneres is using this same pose. Take some of the money you recently taken and get new photos.

Reply



Anonymous January 3, 2013 at 6:35 AM

It is the new year. Scott...when will the contract be cancelled and the legal proceedings begin?

Reply



Anonymous January 4, 2013 at 11:38 AM

Shoot, I'm just waiting for the office to be functional and up and running again in his first few weeks. The clerk services have all but ceased to exist at this point!

Needelman - the biggest loser/ferk/crook to ever have held an office in this County - hands down!!!

Reply



Anonymous January 9, 2013 at 10:00 AM

Scanning images and shredding, who cares? This is only part of the obligation, the easiest and cheapest part. The REDACTION process is the most critical component and most needed service for any of the scanning (regardless of who does it) to be of any value to the Clerk's office and citizens.

Reply

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Saturday, January 19, 2013

Former Clerk's Digitizing Contract Under More Scrutiny

TITUSVILLE, Florida - Documents released by the new Brevard County Clerk of Courts reveal a complicated payment arrangement between former Clerk Mitch Needelman and BlueWare, Inc. They also raise questions as to what a \$6.1 million is being used for.

New Clerk Scott Ellis has maintained since the summer of 2012 that the digitizing contract between Needelman and BlueWare is a "sham."

A promissory note – a copy of which was released to Brevard Times by Ellis – was signed on October 23, 2012 and indicates that the clerk's office would receive the funds from Hewlett-Packard Financial Services Company for "essential" equipment.

The note states specifically that "the use of the equipment is essential for Maker's proper, efficient and economic operation, Maker will be the only entity to own, use or operate the Equipment during the term of this note and Maker will use the Equipment only for Maker's governmental purposes."

A legal opinion written by Joe Teague Caruso, legal counsel for the clerk's office, also notes, "The Equipment is personal property and will not become a fixture."

Neither the note nor the legal opinion indicates specifically what the "equipment" is.

Then, on October 24, 2012, Needelman requested that the money be directed to three "vendors," each receiving differing amounts: Blue Gem - \$5,690,526; Brunswick Companies - \$209,474; and The Hanover Insurance Company - \$200,000. A second identical payment direction was signed on October 29, 2012.

Hewlett-Packard accepted the promissory note on October 27, 2012.

To further complicate the arrangement, there is disagreement between the documents as to exactly what it should be called.

The promissory note calls the agreement both an "advance" and a "lease." The payment direction letter calls it a "loan." And the clerk's legal representative calls it a "lease."

Deputy Clerk Tyler Winik told Ellis in email communication on January 15 that he is continuing to investigate the relationships between Blue Gem, Brunswick, and Hanover.

9/16/13

News: Former Clerk's Digitizing Contract Under More Scrutiny

Posted by Charles Parker at 6:42 PM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2013

Scott Ellis Sworn In As Brevard County Clerk of Court

TITUSVILLE, Florida -- Former Brevard County Clerk of Court Scott Ellis is back at his old job today after being sworn-in at the six-story Brevard County government complex in Titusville, Florida. Former Clerk Mitch Needelman left the office at close of business yesterday.



Judge Jack Griesaum - Left, Scott Ellis -Right

Ellis was cheered by about 200 in attendance, many Clerk employees, after he was sworn in by Brevard County Circuit Court Judge Jack Griesaum. It appears that many employees brought their leftover New Year's Eve noise makers to the ceremony.

"We will go back to making more information available online for free, saving both the public and the Clerk's Office time and money," Ellis told Brevard Times before today's ceremony. "Turning off many of the contracts signed by the current regime will save well over \$1 million annually.

"More regular workers will be added in place of the excess management and bogus contracts being paid. They will cost less than what is being subtracted, and we have to make it work as currently the office is being overspent through the long term contracts and the hiring of over 30 people after the election.

"I expect our overall staffing levels to be roughly the same. We may have a few more employees who do the work, but the few additional employees will be a saving over the excess management now leaving the building."

One of those contracts – the contentious court records digitizing contract with BlueWare, Inc. – is a focal point of Ellis' changes.

"The Clerk (outgoing clerk Needleman) unlawfully borrowed \$6.1 million from Hewlett Packard and fronted Blueware \$5.7 million for their five year contract. The \$8.3 million for digitizing will be over, unfortunately with more than \$1 million already gone down the drain," Ellis said.

Ellis noted that many of the upper level management are resigning, but there are still salary issues to be considered.

PHOTO and VIDEO by: Bobby Socks

Posted by Brevard Times at 12:21 PM

Friday, March 29, 2013

Details of Brevard Clerk of the Court Lawsuits Against BlueGem and RoseWare Emerge In Court Filings

VIERA, Florida – Brevard County Clerk of Court Scott Ellis filed two lawsuits on March 29 to call into question business relationships entered into by former Brevard County Clerk of Court Mitch Needelman regarding a disputed court document scanning deal that has been under scrutiny since last year.

Ellis is also asking the Circuit Court of the 18th Judicial Circuit to force BlueGem LLC and RoseWare LLC to return all sums paid by the Clerk of Court, plus interest and costs. The contracts are worth nearly \$6.5 million. Copies of both filings are posted at the end of this report.

Ellis said immediately after the filing, “We do not believe we received anywhere near promised deliverables on the RoseWare contracts (2013 – CA – 33453). We do not believe the BlueGem scanning contract was legitimately bid nor awarded for anywhere near a reasonable price (2013 – CA – 33457).”

The suit regarding the BlueGem contract alleges that Needelman used a bidding, selection, and negotiation process that was “fundamentally flawed and against public policy because BlueGem was intricately involved in the preparation of the ITN (Invitation-to-Negotiate) itself and essentially drafted the same.” It claims that BlueGem was responding to questions from other competing vendors prior through the clerk’s office.

It also alleges that “former Clerk of Court’s executive staff” used private email accounts to communicate “in an attempt to evade and frustrate the disclosure of such communications.”

The BlueGem suit also claims what Ellis has been contending for months – that the Clerk of the Court cannot borrow money “for the purposes of funding, in whole or in part, its contractual obligations.” Needleman changed the terms of the contract in October 2012 – paying BlueGem in full and signing a promissory note with Hewlett-Packard Financial Services. HP has recently threatened to sue Ellis to recoup its \$6.1 million loan – of which Ellis has not been paying the monthly obligation.

Counts 1 and 3 of the RoseWare suit claim that RoseWare breached an information technology consulting services contract signed by Needelman on April 6, 2012 by not meeting deliverables included in the contract. Ellis claims that Needelman paid RoseWare \$250,350.00 before any services were provided. The suit seeks return of those funds, plus interest and costs.

Count 2 claims that RoseWare breached an April 6, 2012 cost containment contract with Needelman. In this agreement, RoseWare was to renegotiate service and supplier contracts of the Clerk's Office and receive 35% of savings or cost reduction. Ellis claims "the Clerk of Court suffered damages."

Finally Count 4 demands a declaratory judgment that "provisions within the Contracts (named in the suit) are void and unenforceable, and/or the Contracts in their entireties are void, and ordering RoseWare to return to the Clerk of Court all sums paid by the Clerk of Court to RoseWare pursuant to the I.T. Consultancy Contract, the Addendum and the Cost Containment Contract..."

Media requests have been sent to representatives of BlueWare, BlueGem and RoseWare. Brevard Times will update this story as more information is gathered.

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AMPA BAY TIMES

08:01 PM, Monday, October 14, 2013

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THE BUZZ

From the staff of the Tampa Bay Times

Tampa Bay Times

THE BUZZ

From the staff of the Tampa Bay Times

Brevard Clerk files lawsuit against company lured to Florida with economic incentives



Toluse Olorunnipa, Times/Herald Tallahassee Bureau

Monday, April 1, 2013 11:58am

A company that was hailed by Enterprise Florida and Gov. Rick Scott when it decided to move to Florida last year has wasted no time getting into legal trouble.

The company, BlueWare Inc., is being sued by the Brevard County Clerk of Court after a \$8.6 million contract has gone sour.

The company is supposed to digitize millions of pages of records for the clerk's office under a five-year, \$8.6 million contract. But recently elected Clerk of Court Scott Ellis slammed the contract as corrupt and filed a lawsuit last week to recoup millions of dollars.

"The entire bidding, selection and negotiation process regarding the (Invitation to Negotiate) was fundamentally flawed and against public policy because BlueGEM was intricately involved in the preparation of the ITN itself and essentially drafted the same," the lawsuit reads.

Ellis put it more plainly in a recent interview: "It was a sham bid."

Ellis blames his predecessor, who lost a 2012 primary race for reelection, for entering into the poorly written contract and paying BlueWare millions of dollars upfront before the work could be done.

Ellis said BlueWare's vice president was a former business partner with the clerk.

Indeed, an internal memo from the clerk's legal counsel stated: "There may be a civilian insider who will gain a benefit from the awarding of this contract."

According to the lawsuit, two other companies submitted bids for the digitization contract and would have charged less. BlueWare executives were allowed to participate in the selection process and the company was ultimately selected, the lawsuit states.

Executives at BlueWare could not be immediately reached for comment.

The company received incentives awards from the state worth \$1.3 million, including a \$560,000 cash grant for start-up costs. It has not yet received any cash payments.

It's yet another example of an economic incentives project that has led to problems, causing many lawmakers to question if paying companies money to come to Florida is good public policy. Companies like Digital Domain, Banah International and Redpine have all gone bust after getting economic incentives from taxpayers.

Scott hailed BlueWare for relocating from Michigan to Florida last year, saying the company would create 190 high-paying jobs in Melbourne .

"BlueWare's choice to move to Florida is a testament to the strength of our business climate and the result of a common vision for economic growth by local, regional, business and government partners," he said in a statement. "Today's announcement is a great win for the Space Coast , as well as for the entire state."

The company received a contract worth \$760,000 to help train workers last year, but has only used \$1,224, according to the Brevard Times. The Brevard Workforce, which entered the contract, could not immediately provide information about the contract or job creation at BlueWare.

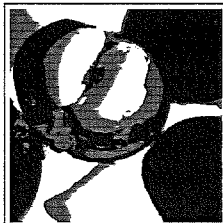
Ellis said the company has not reached its job creation goals and is far behind on digitizing the clerk's records.

BlueWare received more than \$6 million upfront for the five-year project, through a loan agreement between the Clerk of Court and Hewlett Packard last year. After becoming clerk in January, Ellis decided to stop making the payments to Hewlett Packard and filed suit against BlueWare to try and void the contract signed by his predecessor.

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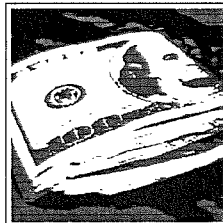
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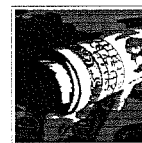
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THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2013

Former Brevard County Clerk of Court, Business Partner Arrested - Warrant Issued for BlueWare CEO



Mitch Needelman

UPDATE: BlueWare CEO Turns Himself In

MELBOURNE, Florida – Agents of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Office of Executive Investigations, arrested former State Representative and Brevard County Clerk of Court Mitch Needelman, 60, and his one-time business partner, lobbyist William Matthew Dupree, 47.

The two were charged with bid tampering and bribery related to the BlueWare scanning contract signed by Needelman when he was the Brevard County Clerk of the Court. Needelman is also charged with official misconduct for allegedly directing employees to use private email accounts to circumvent public records laws.

In addition to Needelman and Dupree, an arrest warrant has been issued for BlueWare CEO Rose Harr, 55, also on bid tampering and bribery charges.

The investigation began in July 2012 when FDLE received information alleging Needelman approved Brevard County Clerk of Court contracts with BlueWare in exchange for personal financial gain for himself and Dupree. The investigation focused on a multi-million dollar scanning contract for digitization of Brevard County records even though, at the time, BlueWare had no equipment to scan the documents.

Florida State Attorney Phil Archer said in a release that the investigation revealed that Dupree introduced Needelman to BlueWare CEO Harr and COO Nick Geaney in January 2012.

In March 2012, Needelman and Dupree met with Geaney at Needelman's residence and allegedly told him Brevard County would enter into the scanning contract with BlueWare if a portion of the money paid to BlueWare would be diverted back to Dupree for Needelman's 2012 reelection campaign. According to Archer, the investigation shows that a portion of the BlueWare payments was allegedly funneled back to Dupree for Needelman's 2012 reelection campaign.

In April 2012, BlueWare allegedly assisted in drafting the invitation to negotiate (ITN) for Brevard County Clerk of Court for the scanning contract and subsequently responded to the ITN. The ITN was posted on May 4, 2012, and records indicate questions from other bidders were sent to a county employee's personal email account and then forwarded to Harr and Geaney to write

responses. The responses were then emailed back to the bidders using the county email system. On May 23, 2012, a payment of \$500,000 was wired to BlueWare even though the contract had not been signed. The actual contract was signed June 29, 2012, and on that day, the first monthly payment of \$90,000 was sent to BlueWare.

In August 2012, Needelman lost his bid for reelection for Brevard County Clerk of Court. Before leaving office, in October 2012, Needelman entered into a loan with Hewlett-Packard Financial Services for \$5.6 million dollars. Information obtained indicated that BlueWare received the loan money although Brevard County was obligated to repay the loan.

Needelman was arrested at his home this morning; Dupree was arrested at his office, 2012 West Drive, Melbourne, Fla. Each was booked into the Brevard County Jail on bonds of \$50,000.

"The investigation shows Needelman, Dupree and Harr swindled Brevard County taxpayers out of millions of dollars," said Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Gerald Bailey. "Although not the final chapter, today's arrests should present a degree of satisfaction to Brevard County taxpayers."

Brevard County State Attorney Phil Archer's office will prosecute the case. Archer said his office assisted FDLE throughout the probe by subpoenaing records and data crucial to the case.

"This partnership allows professionals to do the job they are trained to do, free from any outside alliances or influences. It benefits both agencies by allowing prosecutors to attack white collar crime in the courtroom with the facts the law enforcement experts have pursued and established," Archer said.

"FDLE has done an outstanding job on the case," said current Brevard Clerk of Court Scott Ellis who repeatedly raised these allegations during his 2012 campaign to defeat Needelman. "We are mostly just relieved to see these actions brought to justice."

Bill Mick Live Discusses Needelman Arrest
State Attorney Archer Discusses Needelman Arrest
Clerk of Court Scott Ellis and Matt Nye Discuss Needelman Arrest

Brevard Times was the only news source to continue a series of in-depth investigative articles led by Charles Parker into this story:

Scott Ellis To Run For Clerk of Court Again January 4, 2012

Clerk of Court Staffer Endorses Needelman, Ellis Responds February 7, 2012

Needelman Calls Ellis A Liar In Brevard County Clerk of Courts Debate February 16, 2012

Brevard County Clerk of Court Debate: Video March 23, 2012

Brevard County Clerk of Court Debate in Titusville: VIDEO April 23, 2012

Scott Ellis Wins Clerk of Court Viewer Poll April 30, 2012

Brevard County Clerk of Court Debate in Melbourne: VIDEO May 8, 2012

Mitch Needelman Named Finalist For 'Tax Cutter' Award May 17, 2012

Brevard Constitutional Officer's Straw Poll Results May 25, 2012

Charles Parker: Clerk's Race Heats Up May 30, 2012

Brevard County Clerk of Court Debate: VIDEO June 4, 2012

Ellis: Taxpayers Foot Bill for Endless Self Promotion of Mr. Needelman June 25, 2012

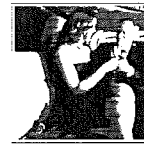
Charles Parker: Mitch Needelman June 25, 2012

Charles Parker: Scott Ellis June 25, 2012

Needelman: Ellis' "Complicated" Requests Delayed Release of Clerk Documents, BlueWare Contracts Jul 5, 2012



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5 Foods You Should Never Eat Again

EDC Claims It's Not A Public Agency, Not Required To Produce BlueWare Records

Florida Food Stamp Cuts Begin Today

Charlie Crist Will Run For Florida Governor

Obamacare 'Navigator' Ready to Help Brevard Residents

Congressman Alan Grayson Compares Tea Party To KKK

IRS: Tax Refunds, Returns Will Be Delayed Next Year

Was President Obama's Fainting Woman Staged? (VIDEO)

Cuts Coming To Florida Food Stamps On November 1st

Free School Lunch In Florida For Some Kids Who Can Afford It

Louisiana Walmart To Pay For Food Stamp Rampage: VIDEO

Republicans To Blame For Gas Prices Under \$3

Activists Join Global "March Against Monsanto"

CONTRACT CONTROVERSY TAINTS FLORIDA GOVERNOR'S JOBS CAMPAIGN JULY 10, 2012

Scott Ellis Republican Picnic Video (Mitch Needelman Not Present) July 15, 2012

2012 Bi-Annual Brevard Republican Picnic Straw Poll Results July 15, 2012

Clerk of Court Sunshine Lawsuit Hearing Monday July 21, 2012

Needelman Wins Partial Victory in Court Case Brought by Ellis July 23, 2012

Opinion: Why I Support Ellis, Bickley, Ivey, Trettis, Kneessy, Romney July 25, 2012

Republican Primary Candidates Brevard County Clerk of Court Monday, July 30, 2012

Needelman: Ellis Complicit in Extortion Plot? August 12, 2012

Ellis: Panic sets in as Race comes to an End August 13, 2012

DIRTY: BREVARD COUNTY POLITICS CAUGHT ON SURVEILLANCE VIDEO AUG 13, 2012

Brevard Clerk of Court Recount, No Layoffs Anticipated August 24, 2012

\$8.5 MILLION BREVARD CLERK OF COURT RECORDS DIGITIZING UNDERWAY OCT 17, 2012

CLERK'S ATTORNEY REFERS STAFFING QUESTIONS TO BLUEWARE NOV 1, 2012

BLUEWARE MISSES CLERK'S OFFICE DEADLINE NOV 7, 2012

UPDATE: Needelman and Company Owner Mum Regarding Digitizing Contract Nov 15, 2012

DuPree Confirms BlueWare Scanning Readiness Nov 17, 2012

Charles Parker: Hey Mitch and Matt: How About Some Answers? December 4, 2012

Charles Parker: Divergent Views on Clerk's Contract Continue December 11, 2012

ELLIS PLANS MONEYSAVING CHANGES IN CLERK'S OFFICE JAN 5, 2013

SCOTT ELLIS SWORN IN AS BREVARD COUNTY CLERK OF COURT JAN 8, 2013

BREVARD CLERK LOWERS FLORIDA 'FIX IT' TICKET TO \$10 JAN 19, 2013

FORMER CLERK'S DIGITIZING CONTRACT UNDER MORE SCRUTINY JAN 19, 2013

ELLIS: EMAILS APPEAR TO CONTRADICT NEEDELMAN ATTORNEY'S TESTIMONY JAN 24, 2013

BREVARD EDC CITES "NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT" AND CONFIDENTIALITY JAN 25, 2013

ELLIS CLAIMS PROOF OF NEEDELMAN CAMPAIGN LIES IN EMAILS AND VIDEO JAN 29, 2013

ELLIS AND WEATHERMAN AT ODDS OVER BLUEWARE DOCUMENTS FEB 5, 2013

COMMISSIONER ASSERTS EDC CONFIDENTIALITY CLAIM "RAISES QUESTIONS" FEBRUARY 14, 2013

Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast Subpoenaed By FDLE February 28, 2013

Charles Parker: BlueWare, Rose Harr, and Me March 2, 2013

BlueWare Not Using Available Training Funds Mar 15, 2013

Hewlett Packard Threatens Lawsuit Over BlueWare Debt Mar 23, 2013

Brevard County Clerk of Court Files Suit Against BlueGem March 29, 2013

Details of Brevard Clerk of the Court Lawsuits Against BlueGem and RoseWare Emerge In Court Filings March 29, 2013

Space Coast Economic Incentives Make Florida Headlines Apr 1, 2013

BlueGem Counter-Sues Clerk's Office: Claims Ellis' "Ignorance" May 5, 2013

Ellis and Hewlett-Packard Still At Odds Over Scanning Contract Loan Payments June 2, 2013

Hewlett Packard Sues Brevard Clerk of Court For Disputed Scanning Contract Payments Jul 26, 2013



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Former Brevard County Clerk of Court, Business Partner Arrested - Warrant Issued for Blueware CEO August 15, 2013

BlueWare CEO Turns Herself In August 16, 2013

County Commission Tells Economic Development Commission To Turn Over BlueWare Documents August 20, 2013

Posted by Brevard Times at 11:08 AM

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63 comments:



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 11:15 AM

I'd like to see their mugshots.

Reply



L. McKinney August 15, 2013 at 11:28 AM

EXCELLENT! It's about time! Scott Ellis is vindicated!

Reply

Replies



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 4:04 PM

another crooked Republican. Who's surprised?

Reply



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 11:30 AM

I hope Matt and Rose enjoyed Fiji enough to make life time memories. Rose your family must be so proud of you.

Reply



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 11:33 AM

Where is Rose, Kaitlin and Jennifer now posting on this board that everyone was telling lies? Where is the Rose's lawyer threatening he was going to go after everyone on this board for telling lies? All the lies that Rose has been telling to all of us and all her employees for 18 months and using people for her own personal gain.

Reply



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 12:18 PM

This is just THE BEST NEWS! Thanks in large part to Ellis or this scum would still be in that position, and to Charles Parker for giving it (us) a voice.

Thanks FDLE - I really had my doubts based on past history here in Brevard. I take back all the bad I said about you.

Rock on Lady Justice!

Reply

Replies



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 4:17 PM

Thank you both, Mr. Ellis and Mr. Parker. Journalism can work if it is not corrupted by political ideology.

Reply



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 12:23 PM

These are the words of Debbie Caldwell, Rose's trusted friend and VP of something at Blueware -

We are a medical software company, check us out on Blueware.net, Great place to work, very fast and forward moving, We have a great CEO called Rose Harr, she is visionary.

I am not going to address the obvious about spelling - too easy to pick on the foreigner - but the whole thing about visionary just gets me.

Trying to skirt Florida laws does not make you a visionary.

Reply



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 12:30 PM

Watching the sleaze politics that operates in Brevard under the cover of Tea Party zealots and the Right wing, it was a pleasure to see one of the roaches get caught in the light.

Florida Today seems to have a "live and let live" policy with this community, with the exception of Matt Reed. At times I think "Hometown News," has more cajones and enlightenment in their "Rants and Raves" section.

Now that I see there's a Brevard Times, I'll bookmark it and count on learning REAL scoop there.

Reply

Replies



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 12:44 PM

I'm quite happy you'll be reading BT since your first two paragraphs show just how clueless you currently are.



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 1:04 PM

That's a sad reply. The corruption here has to be under the republican flag at least on the government level because there are no democrats running the show here.

You remember, anybody that's not a card carrying NRA member convinced that the D's are are facists for taking away their right to discriminate against anybody they feel like while collecting socialist SS and Medicare and VA benefits has to be a commie trying to take away their "liberty," right?

LOL.



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 1:17 PM

I wasn't implying FT was in the Right-wing corner; but the overall impression I've had is as I wrote - "live and let live" attitude and rare hard-investigative reporting.

Also, if I'm not mistaken, Mr. Ellis is a Republican - just not a rabid, ignorant lemming on all things "Right"

Can't tell you how happy I am to visit a community where the most frequent site is an NRA sticker on a truck with a set of bull sacs hanging off the hitch or the tranny. It's like...like Appalachia without the mountains!

Reply



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 12:43 PM

Certainly glad that corruption is being pursued here, at long last. It seems to me that there are more than a couple of opportunities to go after the "lakers" here in Brevard - well known for corrupt machinations between the EDC, CoC, and those very self righteous "entrepreneurs" who are so very precious that all plebs must bow to their entitled (read: net worth) greatness. Citizens of Brevard, you are being played and stolen from. Don't believe the political hype - it's done just to distract you.

Reply



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 1:14 PM

\$50,000 bail bonds doesn't fit the crime.

Reply

Replies



Anonymous August 16, 2013 at 10:07 AM

\$50,000 is the bail not the punishment. Punishment will come along a bit later. Bail is just used to make sure the alleged criminal sticks around for their trial.



Anonymous August 16, 2013 at 12:20 PM

The punishment will be Rose not being able to walk around town with her head in the air like she is better than the rest of us. I heard she is actually filing to open a

Politics: Former Brevard County Clerk of Court, Business Partner Arrested - Warrant Issued for Blueware CEO

new company called BluePlates. Evidently, she is thinking about organizing the other inmates she will be doing time with to outsource their labor back to the county for making license plates. When she was told they already do it for free her reply was if I can figure out how to get the county to give me \$6 million for digitizing records that did not need to be digitized I am sure I can figure out how to get them to pay for free labor - what an amateur.

Reply



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 1:20 PM

You know, I've got nothing against anybody making money. Lots of it, if that's all that soothes their souls. I only have a problem with it when the rest of us are ripped off in pursuit of it. As is the case here. Money does not equal good in every instance, and there are so very many instances of stealing from the public in so many ways - for-profit prisons, outsourcing vital gov't svcs, tax "abatements," and the like that I consider most, if not all, business people to be government employees themselves, since all or most of their money comes from government largess via taxes we pay. That's why I find all the complaining about government so ironic. Think DRS and all the others aren't dependent on gov't just as much as any so call welfare queen? Think again. They just take more off the top, leaving less for us. Worse than gov't is corporate gov't.

Reply



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 1:38 PM

Note to Scott Ellis-

We heard the news earlier today about Mitch Needleman being arrested. It's an embarrassment to citizens of Brevard County. But what really, really gets my blood boiling is when I recall how the Florida Today staff reporters and editorial board dismissed your calls for investigation as merely a political spat. You were the only one to warn us about this "sweetheart deal" at the Clerk's office and it's mismanagement of the office and complete decay of employee morale. So, thank you for standing up once again for the Citizens of this County.

It so refreshing to see a public servant that serves the public for a change! Thanks

Reply

Replies



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 2:06 PM

Nothing is printed in FT that hasn't been passed through the Chamber for approval first.

Reply



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 2:13 PM

There are a lot of former Blueware employees who are smiling today. Karma has a way of catching up with you.

Reply

Replies



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 3:11 PM

99 years in jail could not be enough for the pain and suffering that woman, her daughter, her son and her protected followers - Debbie and Jennifer bestowed upon us. Walking around thinking you are better than the rest of us. Flying to the UK, Australia, Fiji, and Malaysia when we were just trying to get our back pay. Posing in fancy cars and having dinners and staying at the Ritz Carlton claiming we are all suffering. I hope they all go to jail for a long time.



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 3:27 PM

Well said.



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 11:25 PM

BRAVO!!! BRAVO!!! I'VE ALWAYS SAID KARMA IS A BITCH



Anonymous August 16, 2013 at 10:10 AM

I missed something here. Were the Clerk employees outsourced to Blueware? I thought Blueware was the company illegally selected for the scanning project.



Anonymous August 16, 2013 at 12:15 PM

You did not miss anything - clerk employees under Mitch's supervision worked with Blueware employees to make it all happen. There are people who should be concerned but they will give them deals to make the case more secure against the three amigos.

Reply



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 2:29 PM

Why is Florida Today being blamed for this?

Reply

Replies



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 3:09 PM

Because they were asked to investigate and they ignored because too many of their precious protected politicians may be involved.



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 3:26 PM

Florida Today did this community a grave injustice when they wouldn't touch this story with a ten foot pole.

That will not soon be forgotten by many ex-subscribers, including this one!

Reply



Ron Taylor August 15, 2013 at 3:43 PM

Scott Ellis is a true Brevard hero! This isn't a shameful story about a corrupt politician (well maybe a little bit :) It's much more a story that a politician can be ethical, undaunted in the search for truth, and a great human being. Scott Ellis is an inspiration who restores our faith in the political system.

Reply



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 3:51 PM

I just read the reporter's biography. As a retired school teacher, I think it is just wonderful that a teacher uncovered the biggest scandal in the county when the newspaper didn't!

I still take the newspaper because I like to do crosswords in pen. But I usually watch channel 2 in the mornings for news before Hoda. I am so glad I found the Brevard Times that doesn't charge a subscription on the internet! But I haven't seen their newspaper anywhere. I will keep an eye out for it next time I am at the supermarket.

Reply



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 4:22 PM

A combined "Thank You Scott Ellis" from all of Brevard Residents!

Reply



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 5:17 PM

Wow, so glad that justice is coming soon on this matter. Such a frustrating thing to watch. Many of the news channels wouldn't even cover this story for whatever reason. Well, now they have too! People will say that this was politically motivated. It's so obvious from the beginning that this was a "closed" bid process. Republican or Democrat, it doesn't matter. Politicians from BOTH parties have been known to be corrupt. The thing that gets me, aside from basically stealing taxpayers money for his campaign, is he pompous attitude. Seems like most corrupt politicians always feel like they can't be stopped. Like they are so powerful that they are invincible. I know he still has to be proven guilty, but I expect that will come fairly quickly. Likely a plea deal. I would think. What a loser! Rose sucks too! Ha!

Reply

Replies



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 7:22 PM

Ha! Well Said

Reply



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 5:22 PM

Can anyone tell me if Blueware is still in business in Melbourne?

Reply

Replies



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 5:54 PM

Were they ever?



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 7:15 PM

Yeah, they had that big grand opening of their office on the river. Behind that old bar at 192 and US1. I just don't know if they have any clients other than the Clerk's office which they never started. I've heard some employee rumbings, but never any details. Weird situation!



Anonymous August 21, 2013 at 2:47 PM

They had around 60 US hospitals last year. But most of them were one large national chain - and they were likely losing them. The funny/sad thing is that Blueware had a good product in development but they never completed it and were expecting their sales people to sell their vaporware to unsuspecting customers. And for their current clients, they made them pay upfront for software interfaces then took 6 months to deliver a product for them. Very poor customer service.

Reply



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 5:45 PM

Brevard County is the most Corrupt County in the State and I'm hoping that this is just a start..

Reply



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 10:12 PM

Agreed, Brevard is Corrupt beyond belief and Florida Today coddles the culprits. Doesn't matter if you in County Government or Brevard State Legislature Representative... So sorry for all of the hard working employees that were innocent victims of this sham.

Reply



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 10:13 PM

Agreed, Brevard is Corrupt beyond belief and Florida Today coddles the culprits. Doesn't matter if you in County Government or a Brevard State Legislature Representative... So sorry for all of the hard working employees that were innocent victims of this sham. Thank you Scott Ellis for never backing down on exposing this!

Reply



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 11:46 PM

Blueware is still trying to secure business. They bid out a job in Orange Co FL. I hope the investigators will research this bid as well.

Reply



Anonymous August 16, 2013 at 12:04 AM

On Rose's Facebook today she liked 9 Florida newspapers. Seriously, is there something wrong with this woman. Newspapers are writing stories about having a warrant out for her and she is liking the newspaper who write the stories. Is her mind that warped? Someone please stop her and shut this company down.

Reply



Anonymous August 16, 2013 at 3:29 AM

Scott, You took a lot of arrows for coming back out of retirement and getting back into the race. There were a few of us who really understood the situation and without you, Mitch would still be in power looting our county. This county owes you a big debt of gratitude. Thank you so much!!!!

Reply

Replies

Anonymous August 16, 2013 at 11:38 AM



I'm a Democratic Party member but can cross the aisle to 100% fully agree with your comment.

Reply



Anonymous August 16, 2013 at 6:59 AM

Rose always wanted blueware to go public. WHAAAAT!!!!?

Reply



Anonymous August 16, 2013 at 7:37 AM

What today must feel like to be a Blueware employee - everyone is happy the scandal has come out, one of your VPs was dragged out of work yesterday in handcuffs, your incredibly obnoxious boss is hiding from the law (but yet has time to post on her FB page) and you probably are not going to be paid ever again. I hate to tell you but you are getting what you deserve. All the former employees who told you to not take the job Mike, or to run as quick as you can Jennifer were ignored. Good luck.

Did they kick her out of the yacht club yet?

Reply



Anonymous August 16, 2013 at 7:58 AM

Rose's lawyer said she is going to turn herself in on Thursday or Friday - after all this woman loves to make a big deal out of everything. What are the chances of the county getting their money back or has this egomaniac spent and hidden every penny?

Reply

Replies



Anonymous August 16, 2013 at 10:11 AM

Today or NEXT Thursday or Friday? She a flight risk! They better get her! She loved to travel!

Reply



Anonymous August 16, 2013 at 8:01 AM

Getting our money back is all up to the civil case -let's hope she hasn't spent it all on shoes.

Reply



Anonymous August 16, 2013 at 8:06 AM

Did any one see the video of Mitch leaving the jail? Classic - for the first time he had nothing to say. The lawyer was like - I am not sure why we are even here - I haven't seen any charges. And the reporter was great and she kept asking him the same question he continually ignored. The biggest crime here - who wears knee high socks with shorts? Oh my bad - you got arrested first thing in the morning and you did not see it coming - sorry but you should not even have that as a choice of outfits.

Reply



Anonymous August 16, 2013 at 11:36 AM

Brazen enough to do this at the county level, does anyone wonder what he was doing when he was at the State level?

Reply



Anonymous August 16, 2013 at 3:25 PM

Has Rose Harr turned herself in yet? Been searching online and can not find any reference to her being arrested.

Reply

Replies



Anonymous August 16, 2013 at 3:50 PM

Not yet. I don't see anything yet. Maybe she fled to Fiji!

Reply



Anonymous August 16, 2013 at 3:51 PM

Her lawyer said she would turn herself in but she has not done it yet. She is too busy sending tweets out and posting on FB and trying to hide the money in the mattress - shhhh don't tell anyone.

Reply



Anonymous August 16, 2013 at 3:53 PM

She turned herself in! Can't believe it. It's on Florida Today. Mug shot and all. Florida Today is soooo sad that they have to cover this now. Tried to hide it forever!! Poor Florida Today....not!!

Reply



Anonymous August 16, 2013 at 4:09 PM

I love the little radio news clips... "Mitch Needelman arrest has law makers considering changes to ethics laws."

HAHAHA!

Reply



Anonymous August 16, 2013 at 4:12 PM

From the Toady article:

In August, 2012, Geaney filed a Whistleblower Act suit against BlueWare and Harr, alleging in part that he was wrongfully terminated from BlueWare after expressing his intention to report Harr's involvement with "a certain government official in the state of Florida," according to court documents. The suit was filed Wexford County, Mich., in the county seat of Cadillac, former corporate headquarters of BlueWare.

Looks like somebody knew it was time to break ranks and sell out

Reply



Anonymous August 16, 2013 at 4:27 PM

<http://www.floridatoday.com/article/20130816/NEWS01/130816011/BlueWare-CEO-turns-herself-in>

Reply



Anonymous August 16, 2013 at 4:36 PM

Florida Today has taken to Facebook in the last hour to defend itself win the comments section by directing readers to "selected" articles on the left hand side of the column.

The articles (just he-said he-said with no investigation by FT) are stripped of the comments that were made when they were first published.

FT and Rose Harr are both trying to put lipstick on a pig!!

Reply



Anonymous August 16, 2013 at 4:42 PM

Rose is a pig. And she is about to be spit roasted.

Reply



Anonymous August 16, 2013 at 4:43 PM

You would think with almost \$6 million in her bank account you would have a nicer haircut or join some health club - this woman is never going to make it through the pressure of a court trial.

Reply



Anonymous August 16, 2013 at 4:44 PM

She looks terrible - like a lot of pressure she has been under - maybe she can feel an ounce of the suffering I experienced trying to get my paycheck out of this company every two weeks - and now to find out they had the money all the time.

Reply



Anonymous August 18, 2013 at 7:22 AM

Someone help me out here. After reading Matt Reed's article this morning, I seem to recall him blasting BT for being Scott's mouthpiece. But I can't find it on the internet or remember where I saw it.

Reply

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Wednesday, November 7, 2012

BlueWare Misses Clerk's Office Deadline

MELBOURNE, Florida - BlueWare, Inc., the Brevard County Clerk of Courts digitizing contractor, has missed a deadline to respond to questions from Brevard Times. The Clerk's office had previously said that BlueWare would "be responding in some capacity" by November 7, 2012, according to Katerina Pringis, a Public Records Research Clerk.

In a November 1 email, Jennifer Kenna of BlueWare questioned the relevance of the inquires, but declined to provide clarification, noting that whether or not the company would have further comment "is not my decision to be made." Emails to another BlueWare employee, Kaitlin Welliver, have not been acknowledged by BlueWare. Welliver previously provided on-the-record information.

The follow-up questions were raised after public comment resulting from a October 17 story in Brevard Times about the five-year \$8.5 million digitizing contract between Clerk Mitch Needelman and BlueWare. That story can be linked at <http://cpnews.brevardtimes.com/2012/10/court-records-digitizing-underway.html>

The outstanding questions include:

1. What is the current employment in the BlueGem digitizing effort and how/when will ramp-up occur? Is it true that you are required to hire 192 workers within 24 months to receive Brevard EDC incentives?
2. There was a claim that veterans would be hired. How is that process going? Is there a specific system in place to connect your HR with veterans? How many have been hired?
3. There are claims that there has been a high turnover rate in your company as of late. Can you comment on the truth of these claims?
4. Where is the new permanent site and what equipment purchase have been made for it?

The questions were also provided to the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast. Dina Reider-Hicks said that the EDC's role with BlueWare was limited to "business recruitment."

A press release from EDC said, "The EDC worked closely with the company to demonstrate the competitive advantages of locating in Brevard County and developed a competitive proposal outlining the tax advantages and skilled labor pool. BlueWare selected Brevard County over two other potential sites primarily due to its skilled labor pool and attractive tax climate."

Reider-Hicks added, "We have no knowledge or information related to the questions" and "as for the incentives question, BlueWare was awarded performance-based incentives through the state of Florida. You can find details regarding the performance requirements for the incentives on the Enterprise Florida website."

A search of the Enterprise Florida website found no references to "BlueWare," "BlueGem" or "Rose Harr." As well, the press link did not have any related stories in 2012.



Recent

- Eastern Florida Wins \$1.5 Million Grant for New Degree Programs
- Eastern Florida Faculty Art on Display
- North Brevard Zone Seeks to Provide \$6.5 Million Grant to Developer
- FIT to Host Make-A-Wish Night Saturday at Old School Pizza
- Merritt Island High School Students Get First-hand Look at Space Launch

Politics

- EDC Claims It's Not A Public Agency, Not Required To Produce BlueWare Records
- Florida Food Stamp Cuts Begin Today
- Charlie Crist Will Run For Florida Governor
- ObamaCare 'Navigator' Ready to Help Brevard County Residents

About Me



Charles Parker

I cover politics, sports, and local news for Brevard Times. I also write opinion. You can email me at cpbrevard@gmail.com and follow me on Twitter @cpbrevard These views are mine alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of Brevard Public Schools.

View my complete profile

Posted by Charles Parker at 11:25 PM

[Recommend this on Google](#)

68 comments:



Anonymous November 8, 2012 at 9:03 AM

I am going to share a secret with all my fellow citizens of Brevard County.

Here is Business 101 from the Blueware strategy handbook.

1 - Never answer any questions that may reveal the truth.

2 - Never provide solid proof that you are doing what you say.

3 - Here is the most important, when anyone attacks you never counter with facts. Call them liars and sling mud their way.

And now how all these guidelines have been implemented in the latest string of stories that Blueware is not actually scanning documents but just collecting money on a contract that pays them \$120,000 a month to do nothing except fly to England to plan their escape when Ellis comes to office.

Rule 1 counter - They were asked to respond to the citizen questions by November 7. They ignored the request. If it was me, I would have had a press conference to answer these questions and field any new questions.

Rule 2 counter - You rent a building instead of buying, you hire temporary employees through a hiring agency and you fire any real business people. If you really planned on staying wouldn't you have purchased a building by now instead of claiming there is no where for our big operations. You are evidently doing it in a 1,200 sq foot house right now. Why do you not hire full time employees instead of using a temporary agency? You can skirt a lot of the state regulations by hiring temporary employees. Every real executive who has walked through those doors left within 8 weeks and now you have a party planner and a part time marketing person with no sales experience leading sales.

Rule 3 counter - Blueware has not provided any solid facts to counter any claim that was made in the 85 comments made in the feature articles about their company. They talk about Ellis like he is dirty, cannot provide proof of another client they did this same type of work for, and most importantly cannot show how their over priced solution is the right choice for the citizens who are paying the bill.

Remember these words, the man who has nothing to hide, hides nothing.

How come their special software that has been in development for 3 years and we purchased for \$5.7 million is still not in production anywhere?

We paid a lot of money for nothing.

[Reply](#)



Anonymous November 8, 2012 at 9:19 AM

After reading these articles and all the comments made, it would seem that this would be easy to figure out if something was going on here.

I am small business owner in town, I have never executed a complicated government contract or claim to understand the complexity of software and hardware deals but I do understand business.

Brevard County paid so far to this company Blueware about a million dollars of our money to do a job I am guessing by reading all the comments and articles.

Shouldn't the county be able to go to them and say what have you purchased so far to do this job? How many employees have you hired to get this done? And, what goals have you met?

I know it is their company but it is our money.

Why are these questions so hard to answer? I am all for making a profit and believe every company needs to do that to survive, but let's get some answers and stop this non-sense now.

If we gave you \$1 million show me what you spent it on and how much it has cost you.

In my business every single customer I deal with gets to see what they pay for, how about giving me the same rights!

[Reply](#)



Anonymous November 8, 2012 at 9:35 AM

6:19 AM there you go using logic.

Let me paint this picture for you.

What if you used all the money that was paid to you for this project to cover all your payroll expenses for a company that has made no money in the last 3 years.

What if the first installment of \$90 k was paid to your consultant Matt who made the deal happen?

What if you are funding trips to the UK on these payments?

Would you purchase real scanning equipment and real redacting software for \$4 million dollars if you knew that you were just going to sub the work out to other companies?

It would seem to me that there would not be much money left to do the job you were hired to do so you would try to use smoke and mirrors to simulate a real operation, maybe rent instead of buy, any one who questions your actions call them liars, try to ruin the credentials of the 27 people who have been hired and left since you moved to Florida and maybe avoid answer questions when they are put forward.

It is not real complicated once you know all the facts. If it walks like a duck, quacks like a duck and swims like a duck - it probably is a duck.

Reply



Anonymous November 8, 2012 at 5:32 PM

The following information was taken from the original ITN that the clerk initiated. I would like to know who are the "Experienced Clerk Consultants" "Who Insured BlueWare for Performance Bond requirement" Why there are no stated milestones in the contract?

2.2 Evaluation Criteria and Negotiation Process

- The vendor must be able to provide experienced consultants
- The vendor must agree to provide a performance bond of \$1,000,000.00.
- The vendor's cost reply shall be for a milestone and deliverables-based fixed price solution.
- Any vendor not meeting the minimum qualifications will not be considered for further evaluation.

The ITN also called for these criteria.

4.0 AGENCY PROFILE AND REFERENCES

4.1 General Overview

A. Describe the expertise of the personnel to be utilized for each aspect of this project. Include Bio/resume of account executive(s) responsible for this account.

B. Indicate the number of years and nature of your experience on related projects.

C. Indicate the number of years and nature of the company's experience and expertise in the scanning and digital records industry.

D. Detail company location that will be used to support the BREVARD COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS (Brevard County locations will receive priority preference).

E. Describe commitment and procedures in delivering service to your clients.

F. Describe your procedures during any given emergency that will enable you to carry on the business contained in this ITN on behalf of BREVARD COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS.

G. List current and past clients and the industries they represent.

Where are they? Breach of Contract?

Reply



Anonymous November 8, 2012 at 8:05 PM

Very interesting. They somehow produced credentials to meet those requirements and now the people are gone or someone turned a blind eye. Either way, none of the original staff are there when they were awarded this contract and they have not been replaced by qualified individuals.

In regards to the performance bond, I heard they tried to get IBM to loan the county the money and Rose would get her money right away instead of waiting five years and taking a chance that when Ellis came on board he would cancel the contract.

Reply



scott ellis November 8, 2012 at 10:49 PM

There is no performance bond. The whole job is a scam and very little has been accomplished by Rose's kid and his Day Laborers.

Reply

Anonymous November 9, 2012 at 8:26 AM



From what you are saying Scott, it is interesting that her "project manager" is her son David Welliver. I guess the word is out and she cannot hire anyone with the proper qualifications or skills to develop a true production scanning facility. Of course, that is making the assumption she even wanted to create a true production facility in the first place. From what I am seeing and hearing, this has been a scam from the very beginning. Scott, can you share with us your plan on Day 1 when you being your new position. I think we would all love to know what you are going to do to correct this travesty. Of course we do not want you to tip off Rose about your action steps...so we would understand if you are vague or prefer not to disclose those steps at this time.

Reply



Anonymous November 9, 2012 at 8:58 AM

I guess if this wasn't a scam they would have already purchased a permanent building. Don't you find it interesting they rented the house to do their scanning only until January - is it a coincidence that Scott takes office in January so when they get kicked out of town their lease is up?

I guess if they were on the up and up they would have already purchased scanning equipment. Instead they are using borrowed licenses that Matt gets because he is pretending to sell the scanning solution to other businesses. That is one way to avoid making any real capital investment. You use licenses Kofax supplies to get sales of their equipment in production mode. It would be like taking poop bags from the dog park that are for free and selling them to the county at a premium as containers to store their office supplies.

I guess if this wasn't a scam they would have hired real employees instead of having her twenty something daughter and son and a party planner run the company. Instead they have a temporary hiring agency do all the hiring so they can bypass paying benefits and no real leadership with any real world experience in what they are doing.

If they really wanted to become part of the community they would have purchased homes instead of renting condos on the beach that leases run out in January so they can have a quick departure.

I guess if they were really in it for the long haul they would not have tried so hard to get IBM to finance the deal by loaning the county the money and taking one lump sum payment of \$8 million from IBM in September so when this whole thing falls apart in January they can skip town with their - excuse me - our money.

The only problem is besides Mr. Ellis knowing what they are doing so do the authorities and they are breathing down their backs.

Reply



scott ellis November 9, 2012 at 9:20 AM

After I am sworn in no further money will be released to Blueware. At that point I will also have access to anything signed or paid and suppressed to date.

Reply



Anonymous November 9, 2012 at 10:04 AM

Thank you Scott - finally an end to this nightmare. So they will get two more payments totalling \$240,000 for doing nothing.

The only problem for them is that is when the real problems start for Rose and M & M. Because although the payments stop, law enforcement won't.

You have some good folks at the county who tried to put square wheels on this deal to the best of their ability but there were also some who had no backbone and were helpers to the scam.

Reply



Anonymous November 9, 2012 at 11:54 AM

I am very confused to what is going on with this company. I was interviewed two times with Blueware and told on my second interview that they wanted me to start right away. I was told by rose and kaitin that my veteran status was very important to them. Before leaving my second interview kaitin told me she would like me to start as soon as possible. I put my life on hold for these people and trusted what they were saying to me. They were willing to give me a starting salary of \$60,000 a year and I was told I would be working in England quite a bit. After all the interviews, great conversations, emails, phone calls, nothing happen. They did higher a new COO Robert Baldwin and I did finally receive an e-mail from him telling me strategy has recently shifted to first hiring the executive team so that they can then hire the right people to fill out their respective organizations. He also told me that an offer was extended to a VP of Business Development and expect him to be on board in August. He then wrote "The CTO is the final executive we need to hire but we have a good candidate for that as well. Thanks for being patient as we build the team to take BlueWare to the next level." After about three or four weeks I tried to reach them again and absolutely nothing. They don't owe me anything, but if they are the professional software company that they presented to the citizens of this county that I think they should act professional.

Reply



Anonymous November 9, 2012 at 1:25 PM

Don't be confused they did the same thing to me. I was interviewed three times - Rose, Kaitlin and Debbie all told me I was the best and they would send me an offer letter the next day. The letter never came and when I called to follow up I got unreturned calls followed by unanswered emails.

After reading everything about this company and how they do business, I believe it was a blessing I did not get hired.

But I do see your point and agree totally with you. They tell the public one story but execute a different one behind back doors.

Reply

Replies



Anonymous November 9, 2012 at 1:53 PM

I agree, "I believe it was a blessing I did not get hired." It was just so unprofessional and it hurt me and my family! They should be ashamed for what they have put many good family's through with there promises.

Reply



scott ellis November 9, 2012 at 1:59 PM

If you were interviewed and detected things going on which you feel were shaky or illegal you should contact FDLE. If you wish to contact me my e-mail is sellis@spacey.net

Reply



Anonymous November 9, 2012 at 3:36 PM

Mr. Ellis,
What of those people/statements that have been provided to the FDLE?
Will the FDLE be taking any action or is BlueWare at all teflon?
Do you or will you have access to that information?

Reply



scott ellis November 9, 2012 at 5:12 PM

FDLE holds everything confidential. The prosecution would be the State Attorney. I don't have access to the interviews. If for some bizarre reason this is not prosecuted the whole file will become public record, like the Samo Landfill report. I'm pretty sure this one will not have the ball dropped.

Reply



Anonymous November 9, 2012 at 5:39 PM

Trust me many of us have been interviewed by FDLE and we are not allowed to share what we were asked or what we told them.

That is all I am allowed to say for now.

Reply



kenlyn November 9, 2012 at 7:25 PM

They have this now posted, are they for real or what. <https://www.theladders.com/job/jobboard?cr=4600531&pl=s4-S1>

Reply



Anonymous November 9, 2012 at 7:39 PM

Who would take a job there? There are a lot of desperate people out there who do not know better.

The funniest part is the 23 steps to a sale. This is something Rose lives by. It is something she created (or so she says) and if you follow all 23 steps you are guaranteed a sale. Guess what - in the last 3 years they have never sold their product called Bestbond. One reason is because it still has not been completed and the other running into a deal like Mitch gave them is very rare.

They forgot a qualification: Must be able to live without getting regular paychecks, do not complain when your expenses are not paid, do not ask questions like - do we actually have a real product and the most important- believe Rose and her make believe world she creates.

Reply



Anonymous November 10, 2012 at 10:28 AM

Did anyone do there homework before giving these people Money or promoting them like Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs Ret. Army Col. Mike Prendergast did?...and what about Brevard County Commissioner Mary Bolin, did she do her homework?...and what about and Melbourne city manager Jack Schluckebier? These are people that where at the ribbon cutting ceremony giving praise to these folks. We have schools shutting down for a lack of funds and we are giving it to this company and i do not see anyone that really cares. Is Florida Today on top of this? Has anyone sent the FBI to arrest these people? I'm perplexed i really am. I see all this talk but not a bit of action. Do we have any back ground on this company that is real? Have they ever been a legit company? Do WE KNOW ANYTHING!!!!?

Reply

Replies



Charles Parker November 10, 2012 at 1:53 PM

Who cares if Florida Today is on top of this. Brevard Times is...



Anonymous November 10, 2012 at 2:10 PM

Thank you, I really hope so!!

Reply



Anonymous November 10, 2012 at 12:54 PM

Well this was from August of this year -

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/105575323/Geaney-vs-Harr-Blueware-Lawsuit>

So evidently this is business as usual for these folks.

When the heat is being put on like it is for them right now no one wants to be associated with a company like this. No colonels, commissioners or managers are going to even claim they knew them or had anything to do with their relocation.

What I have been told is at one time they were a legit company but their technology grew old and weak and could no longer be competitive. The founder evidently has trouble keeping her eye on the ball and hires and fires people like we change our clothes. If you do not agree with her then she fires you. Which is her option but if you do not want to listen to logic it is often called being dilusional.

The problem all started about 3 years ago when they would not spend the money to get their product certified and no one wanted to buy it any more. Speculation on why they would not spend the money had many theories but the bottom line is they do not have a product and it still is in development after three years.

Their customer base started to abandon them. At one time they had 65 hospitals and locations in the UK but since that time all but three customers are gone and the UK kicked them out of the country. Those 3 customers are actively testing new solutions and should be gone in January.

Rose will not read any bad news about her or her company and if someone brings it up she throws a landrum.

Right now she is playing a game of hide and seek until she can get a product developed. Unfortunately, as she is buying time for that to happen she has fallen victim to some shady deals to keep the company afloat.

Do I think there was malice when this all started - no. But I also believe Bernie Madoff had no malice when he started.

It is what it is and she is trying everything she can to keep it together and not let any one know. I know this because my friend worked there for many years and saw this all happen.

Instead of working on things like fulfilling the contract they signed with the county she is telling everyone she is developing a software product that will work with IBM Watson to predict diseases before they happen. If that was true would IBM leave her high and dry on the Brevard County deal - probably not.

Reality is reality and unfortunately the folks of Brevard were led to the three card monty table by an exiting Clerk of the Court who had his personal interest over what was best for the county.

Don't be fooled by side stepping comments by them. Everything has been orchestrated for deception and they are good.

Why you do not know much about them is because in 2004 Rose exited to the UK because things got hot in the US and she needed to leave the country. She went to the UK and started things over there until it got hot over and she was kicked out. Now she is back here trying to start up here again hoping no one remembers.

Reply



Anonymous November 10, 2012 at 1:26 PM

This comment has been removed by a blog administrator.

Reply



Anonymous November 10, 2012 at 1:32 PM

So this was June, almost 6 months ago.

Not one of the 30 people have relocated from the Michigan unless you count Rose and her two kids who live with her.

In this economy, they have not been able to buy one building.

And how many of those 192 \$69,000 jobs have been files for more than 8 weeks.

Don't spend too much time on figuring it out I will tell you real quick no employees, no building, and no new hires.

And you wonder why no one wants to touch this with a 10 foot pole.

Reply



Anonymous November 10, 2012 at 1:43 PM

Where does Robert Baldwin COO come into all this, is he still with them, and why would a guy like him get involved with this company. He used to be CEO of a major Healthcare company called Medi-Share. To many questions and no answers.

Reply



kenlyn November 10, 2012 at 1:46 PM

Gov. Rick Scott of Florida endorsed them ????
<http://miamiherald.typepad.com/nakedpolitics/2012/05/michigan-it-company-takes-gov-scott-up-on-move-to-florida-proposal.html>

Reply



Anonymous November 10, 2012 at 1:50 PM

Time to call our Senators on this one!!!

Reply



Anonymous November 10, 2012 at 3:37 PM

I can answer this one - Robert is no longer with them and has been gone for some time. Robert was recruited heavily by Blueware and only went to them because some top executives that Rose asked for help in finding the best COO in Melbourne highly recommended him. Robert took the job with some very lofty promises that were never met.

He was there for only 6 weeks and then left. He tried to change things around with the company as Rose requested but every suggestion he made she ignored or would refuse to meet with him when he asked for meetings to answer questions like - where are we with the Bestbond product, could you review this building that we should buy or we need to hire some resources to meet the requirements of the county scanning project and buy some equipment. She became furious with him for asking questions or trying to get answers.

So when Robert knew things could not and would not change, he gracefully bowed out. He has never spoken a bad word about the company or Rose - he is too classy for that. However, Rose has taken every opportunity to blame him for all the problems.

And before Robert there was Nick. And we was a problem because he became upset with Rose because she would not pay him because he had bills to pay. And then there was Paul who had to be let go because he tried to implement big business policies for a company with no morales. And then there was Justin who questioned why we needed to spend so much time calling up customers for good referrals instead of just trying to do a good job for the existing customers. And then there was Carol who questioned how Blueware was going to scan documents with no staff or equipment and was blamed for causing problems. And then there was Todd who was brought in to head the Sales team of one and when he asked Rose what he was supposed to sell since they had no product, he was told to follow the 23 steps and just sell the concept and by the time all the paper work is done the product will be done. And my favorite Man who lasted two days. She was hired as the CFO and looked at the financials on day 1 and left day 2.

Do you get the idea? It is a pattern and the one thing that remains constant is the head of the monster.

Reply



Anonymous November 11, 2012 at 10:06 AM

Now I am confused about this company and what they do.

The best I can tell this is a woman, some relatives and a few employees back in Michigan. They claim to own and run about 10 companies.

Rose Harr statement in newspaper article - BlueWare Is Framework of 10 Companies.

On her LinkedIn page she claims to own a production company that makes movies, screenplays and publishes books:

RoseWare has create 1 movie - "Life Expectancy of the Rise" . RoseWare has 4 screenplays in the production stage. Cartoon about Boston Terriers, Mystery movie about reincarnation, Historical Fiction about the town of Cadillac Michigan and the difficulty experienced in the 1950-1960s when BF Goodrich pulled out and left the town with 50% unemployment.

Also, she states that Bluegem is on its way to \$20 million dollars in revenue in 2012. And that is only 1 of the ten companies.

So my question is if this is all true, do you think they would be able to afford a building to buy instead of renting an old house as their business office for their global headquarters that they claim Melbourne has become?

How can so much be accomplished by one woman, her two kids and some temporary hire employees she uses?

You don't think we have a Wizard of Oz scenario here and she is trying to keep the curtain closed from all of us - do you?

Reply



Anonymous November 12, 2012 at 9:10 AM

For those of you curious how a sale could actually take 23 steps, here they are - as created by Rose Harr. Based on following these 23 steps, every 90 days you should have a new customer. If Rose swears by these as a previous writer said, how come they have not brought anyone on in over 3 years now? Oh I know, it cannot be the process or the "lack of product", it must be the people she hires. Yeah right.

23 Steps to a Sale

Noticing (10 Days)

- Step 1 - Budget
- Step 2 - Time Frame
- Step 3 - Name of Influencer
- Step 4 - Send Sales Packet

Identifying (5 Days)

- Step 5 - Webcast Viewing

Validating (25 Days)

- Step 6 - Internet Demo or On-Site Demo
- Step 7 - Demo Feedback & Identify Approval Process
- Step 8 - Decision Maker(s) & Buying Process
- Step 9 - Send the Following Requests and Set Up Clarification Conference Call
- Step 10 - Clarification Conference Call

Qualifying (5 Days)

- Step 11 - Design Review (Internal)
- Step 12 - Change Request Process if New Functionality

Conditionally Agreeing (20 Days)

- Step 13 - Design Review (customer)
- Step 14 - Proposal Complete (Internal Review & Delivery)
- Step 15 - On-Site Demo (Optional If Done in Step 6)
- Step 16 - Reference Site Visit
- Step 17 - ROI

Winning (20 Days)

- Step 18 - Proposal Review
- Step 19 - Present at Monthly Doctor Meeting
- Step 20 - Board Meeting - Letter & Packets

Implementing (5 Days)

- Step 21 - Signed Proposal
- Step 22 - Schedule Implementation
- Step 23 - Introduce Project Manager & Schedule Kick-Off Meeting

Reply



Anonymous November 12, 2012 at 10:03 AM

Are you serious? This is the formula to claimed success.

Let me make her life a little easier:

- Step 1 - Have a good product
- Step 2 - Have a fair price
- Step 3 - Stand behind your product and support your customer
- Step 4 - Repeat Step 1 thru 3 and go to a new customer

But from what I can tell from reading I do not think they have Step 1 completed yet.

Reply



kenlyn November 12, 2012 at 11:50 AM

This comment has been removed by the author.

Reply



kenlyn November 12, 2012 at 11:52 AM

Are these people still around? Do they have a office?

Reply



Anonymous November 12, 2012 at 12:14 PM

What people?

Reply



kenlyn November 12, 2012 at 12:39 PM

Blueware, are they still in Melbourne conducting business?

Reply



Anonymous November 12, 2012 at 12:50 PM

Is this a trick question on conducting business?

Reply



Anonymous November 12, 2012 at 12:55 PM

Per their website.

FLORIDA
1825 Riverview Dr.
Melbourne, FL 32901 USA
Tel: +1 (321) 953 5999

MICHIGAN
3060 W. 13th St.
Cadillac, MI 49601 USA
Tel: +1 (231) 779 0224

UK LOCATION

Basepoint Business & Innovation Centre
Caxton Close
Andover, Hampshire
SP10 3FG
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0) 1264 326356

Reply



Anonymous November 12, 2012 at 12:59 PM

Blueware is renting two locations -

1825 Riverview Dr.
Melbourne, FL 32901

316 E. Strawbridge Ave
Melbourne, FL 32901

Both locations are rented.

Riverview location they are renting an office with 6 cubicles. The Strawbridge Ave location is a 1200 square foot house that is now the center for scanning all the Clerk of the Court records.

Reply



Anonymous November 12, 2012 at 1:02 PM

Now, conducting business is another question.

Are they taking orders from current customers for interfaces, data conversion - Yes. Are they delivering the product in a timely manner - No. Are they trying to sucker some hospitals/health care systems into buying their vaporware - more commonly known as BestBond - Yes. Are they successful at selling any product - No. Are they collecting money from Brevard County taxpayers - Yes. Are they producing in accordance with the contract - No.

So, are they doing business? You have to make the judgement. They are doing something. Just not sure it can legitimately be called business.

Reply



kenlyn November 12, 2012 at 1:04 PM

I apologize but I am not able to see through your sarcasm. It's not intended to be a trick question. I am reading all of these post and the above article and trying to figure out if these people are still in business. Is the state of Florida allowing them to take taxpayer money? Has any legal action been taken if they are still conducting business to stop them from conducting business? We are a small community of hardworking taxpayers with schools being closed and I see we apparently continue to give these folks money. I apologize but it all seems so surreal

Reply

Replies



Anonymous November 13, 2012 at 4:01 PM

This is not the person that responded to you earlier and I apologize for their sarcasm, for some, this is a very emotional issue and I am sure it was their level of frustration that came out with no intent to blur your understanding. It is difficult to watch your county get screwed and not be able to do much about it.

Yes they are still getting monthly payments from the County 125,000 per month currently. No, they are not performing any of the duties they contracted for, no scanning, no redaction, nada.

No legal action yet, if there will be any remains to be seen. The FDLE and other agencies are and have been investigating.

Reply



Anonymous November 12, 2012 at 1:08 PM

Just to make it perfectly clear what these world wide offices are:

Michigan a run down house they own and have 13 staff located. 4 people work behind desks that used to be the living room. 1400 square feet.

The Melbourne world wide corporate headquarters is a rented office that is 600 square feet.

The scanning center that is the center for the \$8 million contract is a 1200 square foot house that has been rented for 6 months.

The UK offices is a 220 square foot office in an office park that has 67 other offices. They rent the space and have been recently evicted for back payment issues.

Very liquid operation.

Reply



kenlyn November 12, 2012 at 1:13 PM

What can the citizens of this community do at this point. I would like to know if we have some TV stations with cameras in their faces and asking them direct questions and demanding direct answers. Do we have our largest newspaper with cameras in their face asking them direct questions and demanding direct answers. Or are the above post just disgruntled people. If the above is true then I would expect TV stations, newspapers, and someone trying to do something to stop these people.

Reply



Anonymous November 12, 2012 at 1:16 PM

Your frustration is being felt by all of us Kenlyn. I think the public has become frustrated by this company and it has gotten close to the point of hysteria.

The newspaper and Clerk of the Court has asked Blueware to address the very questions you have risen and they refuse to respond. No one will answer any questions and the monthly payments of \$120,000 continue despite the fact nothing has been accomplished.

They are currently being protected by the current Clerk of the Court hiding all documents that relate to the contract being awarded and it will be until January when Scott Ellis is in office to reveal what has happened.

In the mean time, they have taken close to a million dollars of our money and have nothing to show for it. The frustration also comes from the fact they are allowed to parade government officials bragging about everything they were going to do for Melbourne and have done nothing.

Apparently, the frustration you are reading is the result of these actions.

I personally am frustrated that I drive through our community and see empty buildings and they claim there are no buildings to buy.

My children go to a school where activities have been cancelled because there are no funds and we pay this company \$1 million dollars for nothing.

Kenlyn this is a tragedy that has befallen our community and no one seems to care or can do anything about it.

Reply



Anonymous November 12, 2012 at 1:18 PM

Kenlyn, Yes, legally they are still doing business. To the best of my knowledge, the State of Florida has not stepped in and prohibited them from taking our money. They are being investigated by the FDLE, but as of yet, there has been no arrests. We are hopeful that at minimum Rose Harr, and Mitch Needleman will be charged. There are others that are culpable, such as Mitch's deputy Sean Campbell, and his Finance Director Mike McDaniel, Rose's lobbyist Matt Dupree, and perhaps a few others on the BlueWare side.

Reply .



Anonymous November 12, 2012 at 1:21 PM

Great question on who has voiced all these concerns.

It would seem to me that if the company had a counter for these questions or it was from disgruntled employees wouldn't they respond to the questions or be proactive.

I am sure it would not be hard to provide employment history, current staffing levels, documents that have been scanned, real estate transactions. These would not reveal any company secrets would it? Especially if these milestones were related to EDC incentives or public contracts they have been awarded.

Reply



Anonymous November 12, 2012 at 1:23 PM

I can confirm that I have heard the same about the ongoing investigations. I heard it has taken so long because the case is so big they are trying to figure out how many people are involved and the extent of the charges.

Reply



kenlyn November 12, 2012 at 1:43 PM

The only way that were going to get anywhere at this point in time is to let every single citizen of this community know what's going on. The question is this, how can we do that. I have contacted Florida today and have not received a response as of yet. I have contacted our senators and have not received a response as of yet, I see that the governor is involved as well by promoting this company. I don't want to sound like a conspiracy person but could it be that this is so big of a deal with so many politicians involved that they are simply trying to sweep this under the rug? The only way that this is going to get legs is that the media gets involved in a big way. We need to see this lady and governors face on TV being asked questions with a reporter demanding answers. That is the only way at this point I can see this will get anywhere. If anyone has any better ideas please as a pain taxpayer let me know and I will do my best as long as it's legal.

Reply



Anonymous November 12, 2012 at 1:45 PM

All these discussion have been about the scanning contract. Is anyone looking into the other contracts?

With the Cost Containment contract, Blueware has been paid over \$140,000 for three contract that were "renegotiated" without any documentation of where the "savings" came from. Were contracts ever rewritten?

They have sold the County overpriced "off the shelf" software under the guise of computer maintenance/security. They were paid thousands of dollars for this sham of an agreement.

I do hope Scott and FDLE is aware of these other contracts and they are being investigated as well.

Reply



Anonymous November 12, 2012 at 2:09 PM

Do we have a local TV station or an Orlando TV station with an "On Your Side" investigative reporter to ask these simple questions?

Reply



kenlyn November 12, 2012 at 3:29 PM

We need to call or contact these folks, they can help! I Have...<http://www.wesh.com/tv/contact>

Reply



Anonymous November 13, 2012 at 9:49 AM

Scott Ellis do you have any updates for us?

Reply



scott ellis November 13, 2012 at 11:15 AM

The whole Blueware deal is nothing but a multi-million scam perpetrated on the people of Brevard and Florida. The Florida Today has REFUSED to do any kind of investigative reporting on this issue all year. Prior to the election it could have hurt Needeman's chances, after it would confirm the things they failed to investigate. There is still a \$250,000 Blueware IT 'Audit' that was refused as a public record. Blueware recently bought a large building on West Drive, we'll know by mid January if the Clerk paid for it or not.

Reply



Anonymous November 13, 2012 at 1:35 PM

Word on the street was once IBM refused to finance the deal they went to HP and they financed the deal. After that was completed, Rose purchased an insurance company in Europe and plans on moving to the UK. She will leave the operations in the US to some appointee and she is getting out of town.

This fit into her master plan of getting her money as quickly as possible so when Ellis took office and cancelled the contract someone else would be left holding the note and she would hide the money in a place no one could touch - maybe a company in a foreign country.

And yet the masquerade continues and no one does anything.

Reply



Anonymous November 13, 2012 at 2:05 PM

So Rose has got her \$8M taxpayer dollars and is skipping town. Isn't that just great. How can a company like HP be stupid enough to finance a deal like this?

If I am understanding this correctly, if/when she skips town and this deal falls apart, there is nothing that can be done to get back any of the money the County paid her. Or, does the County now owe HP \$8M and the court fight will be between the County and HP? How does this all work now?

Hopefully the legal system will still nail her!

Reply



Anonymous November 13, 2012 at 2:45 PM

That is the beauty in the plan. It is a master piece. HP provided the loan to the county, the county paid Rose her money as soon as they received it and Rose transferred the money out of the county and has it tied up in foreign businesses.

Now the beauty in the plan - once the contract gets cancelled by Scott, the note is between HP and the county and not Blueware. HP and their building full of lawyers will be fighting with the county to get their payment and the county will have to fight with Blueware to get the money. If Blueware is no where to be found then who gets left holding the bag - you got it - the county.

Now the funny part in this whole thing. Why did HP take the deal - they are loaning money to the county with interest and the county is buying HP hardware.

Why would the county agree to payment in advance for services that have not even been rendered?

Rose valued her software that is not even completed yet or installed anywhere at \$5 million dollars and said it is installed and running. I am no technology expert but if they had \$5 million dollars worth of software for scanning and retrieval do you think it would be running in a \$800 per month rental house?

Reply



scott ellis November 14, 2012 at 6:05 AM

If the HP deal is computer hardware the County Commission was warned. The contract would be with the Clerk, not the Board of County Commissioners. It will be an operational disaster if true. If HP bought out the scanning contract they'll get what they deserve (nothing) and good luck getting any money back from whatever BlueXXXX took the check. A contract awarded under fraudulent conditions is not valid. FDLE has been all over this. They cannot do the indictment. Needelman should have been indicted and removed months ago. If this blog is correct it is more millions of tax dollars squandered by delaying justice for all of these firm firm artists.

Reply



Anonymous November 14, 2012 at 11:11 AM

Thanks for update Scott, I'm concerned with your statement - ..."They cannot do the indictment...". What!?? So it is possible no one will go down for this heist?

Should we all start writing to FDLE to ask what is going on? Because it sure seems like we/they are purposefully looking the other way while boatloads of our \$\$ go out the back door.

Reply



scott ellis November 14, 2012 at 2:32 PM

FDLE is not the State Attorney. Law enforcement may investigate but only the State Attorney can prosecute. FDLE is not looking the other way, but any further information on the Blueware deal would be appreciated, especially should any HP deal materialize. They already bought the building, no telling how it was paid for.

Reply



Anonymous November 14, 2012 at 5:36 PM

Most of us posting here since pre-primary didn't think this thing could stink worse at the time, and I

STATE VS NEEDELMAN MITCHELL

for one thought something would have been done by now. Not so much. Check the dichotomy of this scam and the appraiser Jim Ford office scandal of '07.

When FDLE was investigating Ford/Larson they just stormed the office and hauled out the records. There was really no immediacy to that issue as the alleged loss was in the form of revenue never received from assessment favoritism.

In this case-- where we have large amounts of \$ continuing to be paid on a fraud contract - I am reading on this blog ..."There is still a \$250,000 Blueware IT 'Audit' that was refused as a public record", and that we will have to 'wait until Jan' to find things out...see if we paid for the building...

FDLE and/or the St Atty apparently do NOT see any need for quick action in this case or they would have obtained a warrant to just go in and look for the records, no? Very troubling.

Reply



Anonymous November 15, 2012 at 12:59 PM

On-line access to the clerk's official records has been down since 7 am today. More lost productivity due to Needeiman & Co. I don't think I can afford him being in there another week let alone until January!

Reply



Paul November 16, 2012 at 9:06 AM

More schools closing...let's give Rose more money to take to the UK for her afternoon tea....Wake up people of Brevard County...she is taking YOUR money...oh wait, she is a Woman so it's okay to steal as she is just trying to compete in a man's world...good grief how does she sleep at night...oh wait, it's the meds

Reply



Paul November 16, 2012 at 9:10 AM

"Please allow me to introduce myself
I'm a woman of wealth and taste
I've been around for a long, long year
Stole many a man's soul and faith

I was 'round when Jesus Christ
Had his moment of doubt and pain
Made damn sure that Pilate
Washed his hands a' sealed his fate

Pleased to meet you
Hope you guess my name"

Reply



Anonymous November 28, 2012 at 9:20 AM

This comment has been removed by a blog administrator.

Reply



Anonymous January 31, 2013 at 1:02 AM

Mr. Ellis,
My ex-wife interviewed with this company on Dec 19, 2012 and accepted a job which she started on Jan 7, 2013. She also quit another well-paying job to start with Blueware. After reading these posts I am a bit concerned because we do have kids between the two of us. Is there a possibility that this company is shutting down soon? I was wondering if I should inform her of this website and all the negative postings concerning the company that she's working for.

Reply



Anonymous August 15, 2013 at 2:00 PM

This should answer all questions:
<http://www.floridatoday.com/article/20130815/NEWS01/130815006/Mitch-Needelman-arrested-bribery-tampering-charges>

Reply




Anonymous August 31, 2013 at 12:26 AM

Amazing this has all been out here for so long and after one year of Mr. Ellis's relentless pursuit of the criminals do we finally see a light at the end of the tunnel. Thank you Scott for being you!!! We all owe you. I only pray she does not use her money to buy herself out of trouble.

Reply

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Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Charles Parker: Divergent Views on Clerk's Contract Continue

Within a 20-minute timespan on Monday, I received two emails whose contrast could not be starker.

The subject of both is the controversial contract between the Clerk's office and BlueGem Technologies to digitize court records. The contract has been under scrutiny since its signing during the summer.

Clerk of Courts-In-Waiting Scott Ellis sent out a missive that he entitled "Clerk Loots \$6.1 Million for Blueware: Hewlett Packard Left Holding the Bag." In it, he once again calls the BlueGem digitizing contract a "scam" and claims that Hewlett Packard has loaned money to the Clerk's Office to pay-off the contract.

Shortly after, Clerk of Courts-In-Limbo Mitch Needelman issued a press release that begins, "On Friday, December 07, 2012, a milestone event took place in Brevard County that will change the way the Clerk of Courts does business from now into the future."

The English teacher in me cries out, "...two roads diverged in a yellow wood..."

The contract has raised questions many questions. I am still waiting for the answer to a few of them: Who is working, how much are they being paid, what property/equipment was bought, and what are the contract deliverables?

I have asked the Clerk's Office, BlueWare/BlueGem, Matt DuPree, the Economic Development Commission, all five county commissioners, and the Melbourne Regional Chamber of Commerce.

None have answered. However, I think I already know the answer. These basic criteria – present in most government contracts – are not written down anywhere.

The contract is basically this: Here's the money. We don't care how you get the job done or how you spend the money, you have to get the job done by 2017. Oh – and if you don't – we're covered by insurance that we paid for. So really – we don't care whether you get the job done or not.

And evidently the terms of the contract have changed from the original one signed this summer.

Incoming Clerk Ellis lays out the wide-ranging and winding road-like scenario

Opinion

- Charles Parker: Obama Feckless and Reckless
- Charles Parker: Is Xun Energy the EDC's Next BlueWare?
- Charles Parker: State Education Disarray Offers Chance For "Deep Breath"
- FIRST LOOK: 2014 Candidates for County Commission District 4
- FIRST LOOK: 2014 Candidates for County Commission District 2

Recent

- Eastern Florida Wins \$1.5 Million Grant for New Degree Programs
- Eastern Florida Faculty Art on Display
- North Brevard Zone Seeks to Provide \$6.5 Million Grant to Developer
- FIT to Host Make-A-Wish Night Saturday at Old School Pizza
- Merritt Island High School Students Get First-hand Look at Space Launch

Politics

- EDC Claims It's Not A Public Agency, Not Required To Produce BlueWare Records
- Florida Food Stamp Cuts Begin Today
- Charlie Crist Will Run For Florida Governor
- Obamacare 'Navigator' Ready to Help Brevard County Residents

this way:

Needelman contracts with BlueWare. Needelman realizes Ellis will cancel the contract and tries to sell it. HP lends money to Needelman – who in turn gives some of the money to BlueWare, buys an insurance bond, and evidently purchases bowling balls (what else does Brunswick Corporation do?).

Also, in October BlueWare chief Rose Harr is given a cushy spot on the Brevard Workforce Board of Directors and then in November is given \$760,000 by the same board for job training.

In this scenario, Ellis assumes the motive of Needelman – to keep Ellis from stopping payments to BlueWare and cancelling the contract when he takes office in January 2013.

But there is a problem with assuming the motive: there is no proof. I am sure if Needelman did not write down contract terms and deliverables, he did not write down the terms of a nefarious plot.

As well, I am sure Needleman would say his motive to change the terms of the contract – which went from \$8.5 million to \$6.1 million - was solely to save taxpayers' money.

Ellis claims, "Clerks cannot enter into promissory notes and borrow money. Legal opinions will be forthcoming when I get into office." At the same time, I would be shocked if Needelman didn't have attorneys who gave him the "okay."

And so the beat goes on. Taxpayer money is being spent on a noble project, but the taxpayers don't really know whether their money is being spent legally and efficiently. For government projects, both should be the standard.

Posted by Charles Parker at 12:43 PM

+2 Recommend this on Google

35 comments:



scott ellis December 11, 2012 at 2:46 PM

The Clerk by law may not borrow money.

No terms in any Blueware contract have been changed.

Blueware got a \$5.7 million advance on the \$7.5 million remaining. The Clerk also picked up paying 3.55% interest on the note and the Clerk as customer paid for the Performance Bond for the vendor, Blueware (\$200,000) plus the bizarre \$200,000 payment to Brunswick.

Why would anyone borrow money to make an advance on a five year no interest contract, even if the contract were legit (and it is not)?

The money this time is stolen from Hewlett Packard.

Reply



Tyler Winik December 11, 2012 at 4:02 PM

Charles,

If non-taxing elected officials could apply for credit and obtain it from companies, wouldn't constitutional officers all over Florida and across the nation already have maxed out their credit ratings?

As the Clerk has its budget given to it by the Legislature, it doesn't have a bond rating. It cannot issue bonds, cannot tax, etc. It must spend only what the Legislature gives it, no more.

The budgets of the Clerks in Florida are heavily reviewed by the Clerk of Courts Operation Corporation ("CCOC") before being sent to the Legislature for ratification. Even then, the Legislature, not the CCOC, makes the final decision as to what county gets how much.

This is yet another illegal power grab in an attempt to provide liquid cash for Mitch & Co. pending January 8th.

Reply



scott ellis December 11, 2012 at 6:50 PM

It is also by no means a noble project. It is a useless and unnecessary project. It would be bad enough to pay triple price for something you need, but these files are so rarely touched no mass imaging serves any purpose. It serves a purpose by pushing money in a circle through a circle of friends and accomplices. Rose Harr made the statement she needed to defend her contract from Scott Ellis to another company they tried to use to scam the public (too honest, they refused) and they found their way by having the Clerk borrow the money for them.

About Me



Charles Parker

I cover politics, sports, and local news for Brevard Times.


I also write opinion. You can

email me at cpbrevard@gmail.com and follow me on Twitter @cpbrevard These views are mine alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of Brevard Public Schools.

[View my complete profile](#)

Too bad for Hewlett Packard, they may already know they have been left holding the bag.

Reply

 Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 2:34 AM


Charles, I can fully support Scott's contention that this is a wasteful, unnecessary make-work project that arose ONLY to facilitate the scam. I have used the Clerk's records in my work on a daily basis for decades. Since the land records from '80 forward have been on-line, I have never once needed a doct older than that (14+ yrs?). Should I ever require such an old doct, I would consider this archival research and understand that retrieving it may take more time and effort.

What we never got the numbers on:

1. How many requests does the Clerk get each year for these old documents and how much Clerk's time is spent responding to them.
2. How many total documents are there to be scanned?

Answers to these questions would have exposed this scam for what it is – hardly a 'noble' project.

Reply

 Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 3:04 AM

To my previous post I can add this:


I can state with 99% certainty that no other county in FLA has spent \$\$ to digitize their ancient documents.

This from the first County Clerk record search I checked – Dade

"The Miami-Dade County Clerk's Office is making every effort to serve the public in an efficient, professional and courteous manner. Most recorded documents from 1974 to the present are available online at County Recorder's Official Record Search with older documents available from microfilm at our library located at Courthouse East."

Old records on Microfilm is good enough for Dade, but not little ol' Brevard?

Reply

 Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 5:40 AM

You are all making this more complex than it really is. The first mistake is your applying logic trying to identify a need and then applying a solution. This whole project had nothing to do with improving a process. This is all about money and a quick hit.

Here is the history:

- 1 - Rose moved to Florida and needed to make money. She has no product and a big commitment to hire a lot of people in order to get the incentives Blueware committed to.
- 2 - Matt meets Rose and they both need each other. Matt needs a big payday and Rose needs the money - see 1 above.
- 3 - Matt and Mitch are buddies. Matt can make a deal happen but needs to find something that somehow meets what Rose's company with no product does. Medical Records - Court Records, OK that's close enough.
- 4 - Matt writes some specifications, gives to Mitch he posts them, Rose responds with Matt authoring a response to his questions and Mitch awards the deal to Rose.
- 5 - Matt gets paid \$90,000 for bringing the deal in and then gets hired by Rose. Life is good but Mitch loses election.
- 6 - Rose needs to make sure she still gets the money. She tries to find a company to loan the county the money now so she can get paid. If she waits five years when the work is actually done it will be cancelled by someone not in the fix. IBM says no, HP says yes. HP does not know all the history.
- 7 - Rose gets the money and spends or hides it all.
- 8 - Result = County is out the money, HP is left holding the bag and Matt, Rose, and Mitch are laughing all the way to the bank.

Accomplishes to the scheme - Jennifer the make believe sales executive and Debbie the party planner.

Not that complicated.


Reply

Replies



scott ellis December 12, 2012 at 7:27 AM

I agree, Rose did not even have the rock for rock soup. However, I believe Matt & Mitch & Associates have taken in far more than \$90,000. Given how horrible the HP deal in unlawfully loaning money to the Clerk I'd give the money trail a few hound dog sniffs towards Hewlett Packard. Just as when something is too good to be true it is not, when something is too stupid to be true it also probably is not. Blueware/HP = Sarno Landfill/County Government. Both made \$6 million in one day producing nothing. Neither will ever be used.

 Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 7:46 AM

The \$90,000 was the first installment. The day the county wrote a check to Rose for

Charles Parker: Charles Parker: Divergent Views on Clerk's Contract Continue

\$500,000 she wrote a check to Matt for \$90,000. That was payment number one with moer to follow. Another part of the deal was she hired him as VP for BlueGem, paid him \$200,000 plus commissions for future jobs and passed jobs. He needed to get on the payroll as soon as possible to pay for his medical bills that were adding up.



scott ellis December 12, 2012 at 8:03 AM

Yes, and other payments of \$10,000 and \$30,000. On top of those were the \$5,000/\$10,000 monthly payments to Eligere, the corporate lobbying firm he ran. I would also bet a large chunk of the \$5.7 million has disappeared overseas. The funny item in the HP loan was the \$200,000 for Brunswick Corporation. Rose had wanted to buy a fancy boat, perhaps HP via the Clerk has now paid for it?



Neal December 12, 2012 at 8:46 PM

Wow, you might have something there. I got side tracked with the Bowling Ball silliness, but I recall now that Brunswick owns a boat builder. Too funny!

Reply



Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 5:58 AM

The funny part is the folks at Blueware think everyone is upset because the scanning is not done yet. So they are keeping a low profile trying to get it all completed as quickly as possible. Then in January they will pop their head out of their hole and say - Look we have 1.5 million documents scanned already.

The only problem is they are so naive they do not realize the reason people are upset is because we paid 3 times as much for a useless fixed project that never should have been awarded to anyone in the first place. All the hiding and avoiding answering questions can never change that fact.

Scott you also don't know they are using proprietary methods to scan the documents that you need their software to read the document. So when you fire them, any documents they have scanned you are going to have to pay them again to convert them into a readable format for any generic program out there.

That is how they made money over the last 18 months. All their old clients have been paying them the hostage fee to get their data back.

Reply



scott ellis December 12, 2012 at 7:13 AM

There will never be 1.5 million images in the next four weeks. The photos from the press release are a Potemkin Operation. Live files which had already been scanned were shipped down for the photo-op for the press release. HP should have followed up with me when I contacted them a month ago, they would have had a better chance at recovering some of their money. I will say all damage wrought on this office since the election is due to the failure of those in power (and I am not talking FDLE) to have had the crooked rats removed back in September.

Reply



Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 7:44 AM

What photos? What press release? Is it on the web?

Reply



scott ellis December 12, 2012 at 8:14 AM

Charles has it as a .pdf. He graciously sent it to me. I am sure if you email BrevardTimes@gmail.com you can get it. It would be better if they have the time to post it, laughable, a pure Potemkin set-up. It is like the thieves on Wall Street skinning us alive and saying what a wonderful thing TARP is for the whole country.

Reply



scott ellis December 12, 2012 at 8:15 AM

Or e-mail me if you'd like, sellis@spacey.net.

Reply



Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 8:56 AM

I have read the press release and I am not really sure what they are proud of after reading the statements.

This digitization of records will enable everyone who desires to access public records to be able to do so from any computer anywhere by the year 2017 - I can monitor my whole house and access my home computer from my smart phone today. They are bragging about a capability that they will have in 2017. We paid \$8 million I want something today not in 5 years from now.

Reply

Replies



scott ellis December 12, 2012 at 10:43 AM

The Clerk's records are already online for the last decade. When was the last time you needed to see a case from 1993? Even worse, the Blueware plan is to do far more destruction than imaging. So if you really wanted to see that whole case from 1993, many pages will be gone forever.



Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 1:01 PM

And they have experience in destruction of classified records. There is nothing on their web site that indicated that. Let me guess they are subcontracting that part as well.

Reply



Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 8:59 AM

Brevard County is the FIRST in the State of Florida to get digitization underway. I am very proud of both the Clerk's employees and BlueGem for getting this project up and running so quickly -

Seriously!!! The contract was signed in April of this year and they just began scanning the documents after you have already paid them millions of dollars and you are proud of them for getting things up so quickly. What were they doing for the past 9 months???

Reply



Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 9:07 AM

After lengthy negotiations that have spanned months, the contract for digitization of Brevard County's citizens' private and public records was awarded to BlueGem Technologies -

I thought the specs were written by Matt, and then Matt responded to his own specs on behalf BlueWhere and then Mitch approved them and the contract was awarded. The whole process took three days. And from what I have read of the contract and specifications there is not a lot of details - we will give you \$8 million and have the records scanned by 2017. No milestones, no checks and balances, no requirements.

Oh yeah you had a bunch of make believe meetings in the Holiday Inn Express where Rose stood in front of the room pretending she was doing discovery for what the county needed and wanted with a whole bunch of fifth grade sticky notes. the contract was already written and signed at that point this was a dog and pony show for the employees to pretend it was some serious negotiations.

Not really sure where the law allows the winner of the contract to be the one identifying the specifications of the contracts with the employees. Shouldn't the specifications already be defined and then we ask the contractor to meet those needs. I would think the contractor would leave out the stuff they find in discovery that would be hard to do or expensive and take the low hanging fruit.

Reply



Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 10:27 AM

Can't wait for Karma to come and get Mitch and all of his associates for ripping off the taxpayers of Brevard County!!! Scott had said ALL along...Mitch is bad business. Boy was he right!!!!

Reply



Paul December 12, 2012 at 11:26 AM

Hey folks....you do know that the Clerk's Office already has 11 High-speed Canon 9050 scanners and in reality had NO NEED to Outsource the project in the 1st place. If the Clerk's Office was setup to index in a more efficient way they could internally scan 2 million images a month

Reply



Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 1:31 PM

So the Clerk's office had more equipment the day they signed the contract to scan documents than the company they signed the contract with.

Do you think a program to setup an index system cost more than \$8 million?

And you ask why everyone is so mad....

Reply



Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 2:10 PM

Anon 5:58 said: ...So when you fire them, any documents they have scanned you are going to have to pay them again to convert them into a readable format for any generic program out there.

-An additional criminal charge of Theft of Govt Property?

Anon 1:01 said: And they have experience in destruction of classified records?
-An additional criminal charge of Destruction of Govt Property?

Reply



Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 3:11 PM

Great to know we have all this scanning equip while the process of scanning the most RECENT daily records has ground to a screeching halt this month.

I'm now waiting on court case docs filed in early Nov to be viewable, that have for the past 5 yrs, been viewable within 5± days of filing. Yes, great progress.

Too bad we couldn't have gotten an INJUNCTION against screwing up all that was humming along just fine pre election!

Reply



Anonymous December 12, 2012 at 9:10 PM

But if Mitch didn't lay off all the staff that were doing the scanning already how was he going to justify a scanning project and pay Rose all the money - stop using logic!!!!

Reply



Anonymous December 14, 2012 at 7:15 AM

Sad to say....us Floridians are easy pray for the Chunky Tiger....

Reply



Anonymous December 19, 2012 at 7:32 AM

I see Blueware has conned some people to joining their "sales team". Good luck selling a non-existent product. Lets see: The product is not finished, there is no user manual, there is no defined installation process or project plan, there is no installation team, the list goes on and on. Yeah, a recipe for success.

Don't you people do your research on a company before joining them? You will make no money, be told by Matt Raab that he just cannot get an update/conversion done inside 6 months for your angry soon to be former customers, and you will be subjected to Rose's stupid ramblings about following her 23 steps to a sale. A bit of advice: Be sure you send out that Cup and Packet. I am sure getting a coffee cup and some tea will guarantee you get the sale.

I guess the job market is still so tough that people will work for a corrupt company run by a psycho nut job. My guess is they do not last 3 months..and that is being generous.

Reply



Anonymous December 27, 2012 at 6:03 PM

I worked at Blueware about 8 months ago - in sales. They kept promising the product was coming but in the meantime just keep selling to the customers I was told. I could never get a release schedule or what particular modules actually made the product.

When the sales were not coming - because people do not buy vaporware - Rose blamed me for not following her patented 23 steps to a sale. These 23 steps is her excuse to use on her team when things fail. If it was so successful don't you think others would be using the 23 steps.

And yes I was eventually fired because I did not send the coffee mug to my potential customer and she blamed the no-sale because I forgot that important step.

In the end it was the greatest day in my life to get away from her and her family who are all a little warped.

Let me tell you a secret - there is no product, she has no idea what she is doing and she blames everyone else. If you are a man she will hate you the moment she meets you.

Reply



Anonymous December 27, 2012 at 6:09 PM

I just looked at their web site and under leadership team why do they have a picture of people who no longer work there. Answer - no one else is willing to have their picture put up there.

The other interesting notation is she envisions Blueware leading the future of electronic health records. Here is the sad part of that diluted statement. There is this little thing called Meaningful Use - what it means is if the federal government certifies your product in the electronic health record arena they will pay people to use it. Like a rebate for your purchase. This Blueware software that Rose envisions for leading the future is not Meaningful Use certified, never has been and never will be. I am pretty sure if someone has an option between using vaporware with a dwindling user base and not reimbursable and any other product out there, they are probably going to chose any other product out there.

Her and her daughter need to stop making global statements that are not true and make no sense. Here is a New Year's resolution for you - try telling the truth just for one day.

Reply



Anonymous December 28, 2012 at 10:52 AM

Here is an absolutely hilarious comment by Rose. What a JOKE. Here is the url for the post:

<http://www.healthinformaticsforum.com/profile/RoseHarr>

Rose Harr commented on Chris Paton's blog post "Robot and Frank": The Future of Home Healthcare Robots?

"Dear Mr. Paton and my friend David, Thank you for this ! The video is wonderful. I will use it for my company meeting if you dont mind. We are working in Robots also with Artificial Intelligence. Thanks for inspiring us. Rose Harr"

Seriously??? Rose and Blueware are developing robots with artificial intelligence? They cannot even finish a software program. To envision her company as a developer of robots and artificial intelligence shows how delusional she really is.

Reply



Anonymous December 28, 2012 at 2:44 PM

How many years can she use that picture? It was a glam shot she had taken 10 years ago. I think it is time to get a new shot. No one will take you seriously in the tech field when you look like you are modeling for JC Penney. I think Ellen DeGeneres is using this same pose. Take some of the money you recently taken and get new photos.

Reply



Anonymous January 3, 2013 at 6:35 AM

It is the new year. Scott...when will the contract be cancelled and the legal proceedings begin?

Reply



Anonymous January 4, 2013 at 11:38 AM

Shoot, I'm just waiting for the office to be functional and up and running again in his first few weeks. The clerk services have all but ceased to exist at this point!

Needelman - the biggest loser/jerk/crook to ever have held an office in this County - hands down!!!

Reply



Anonymous January 9, 2013 at 10:00 AM

Scanning images and shredding, who cares? This is only part of the obligation, the easiest and cheapest part. The REDACTION process is the most critical component and most needed service for any of the scanning (regardless of who does it) to be of any value to the Clerk's office and citizens.

Reply

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Saturday, March 23, 2013

Hewlett Packard Threatens Lawsuit Over BlueWare Debt: Ellis Stands Firm

TITUSVILLE, Florida – Hewlett-Packard Financial Services has warned Brevard County Clerk of the Courts Scott Ellis in a letter from their attorney that they will “file a lawsuit” to recover funds regarding the Clerk’s office digitizing contract with BlueWare, Inc.

In the past Ellis has said he would not pay the note. Ellis added on Friday, “I am looking forward to the lawsuit and we shall govern ourselves accordingly!”

In part the letter from Berger Singerman law firm says, “As you know, on October 23, 2012, the Brevard County Clerk of the Circuit Court (the “Clerk”) executed Promissory Note number 479236750100001 (the “Note”) in the amount of \$6,100,000.00 payable to HPFS representing payment for certain software provided to the Clerk’s office, which has been and continues to be used by the Clerk. As you know, no payment has been made to HPFS on this obligation since December 2012 and the Note is now in default. (Another payment of \$110,776.00 is due on March 26, 2013.)

The letter further says that the loan is in arrears of \$332,328.00 and to be current the Clerk’s office should pay \$443,104.00 by March 26. (See entire letter below.)

Former Clerk Mitch Needelman originally hired BlueWare in the summer of 2012 with an \$8.5 million contract to scan court documents. Needelman changed the deal in October 2012 by borrowing \$6.1 million from Hewlett-Packard and paying BlueWare in full.

BlueWare has repeatedly refused comment on the scope of work completed so far. They have said that their goal was to have 1.5 million documents scanned by December 2012.

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About Me



Charles Parker

I cover politics, sports, and local news for Brevard Times. I also write opinion. You can email me at cpbrevard@gmail.com and follow me on Twitter @cpbrevard These views are mine alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of Brevard Public Schools.

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Posted by Charles Parker at 8:40 AM

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13 comments:



Space Coast Conservative [dot]com March 23, 2013 at 2:17 PM

Stand Strong, Scott Ellis! We don't need Needelman's wrongful dealings hogtying us. We need to be free from his vile deeds.

[Reply](#)



Anonymous March 23, 2013 at 2:22 PM

How about a claim on the insurance policy so we can add insurance fraud to all of this.

[Reply](#)



Anonymous March 23, 2013 at 10:15 PM

How about they said there would be 1.5 million documents scanned and they have not done that yet - Blueware defaulted on the contract so HP needs to go after them and leave the county alone. If they want to sue the county then go after Mitch - he is the one who signed the contract.

[Reply](#)



Anonymous March 23, 2013 at 10:17 PM

I am a little rusty on my state law but if I remember correctly the clerk of the court is the only elected position that is able to sign a contract with a no bid method. The caveat to all of it is that same position becomes personally laible for any contracts that are signed. Sounds like HP needs to go after Mitch. Let's see if Matt and Rose will be standing behind him then. I haven't seen any of them at the yacht club lately - they must have found a new place to hide.

[Reply](#)



scott ellis March 24, 2013 at 11:36 AM

The Clerk cannot lawfully borrow money. If the Clerk could borrow money they could lose an election, borrow all kinds of money and distribute it to friends, and leave the new Clerk holding the bag.

Reply



Anonymous March 24, 2013 at 1:05 PM

Does anyone even know where Mitch is located these days? I am sure if HP wants to go to court he is going to be their star witness. I can imagine the first question by Mr. Ellis's attorney - Mr. Needleman do you think it would have been important to tell HP that you lost the election and the contract you are signing is illegal? Mitch's response - is that important fact or is this another conspiracy theory? Judge - OK this hearing is over - Mitch go directly to jail and do not pass go - bailiff please get Ms. Harr in the court room so we can hear her side of the story - Bailiff - your honor Ms. Harr said she cannot make it in right now she is in the lobby and sees that we need a new carpet in the reception area and she is forming a company called Blue Carpet and wants us to buy the carpet from us. Judge - Does she know anything about carpet? Bailiff - I asked that same question and her response was the usual - is that a requirement, I thought you all just gave money away in this county???

Reply



Anonymous March 24, 2013 at 2:05 PM

Needelman, a star witness? No way. HP would likely have to name MN and Harr as co-Defendants or their case goes nowhere, and that band of thieves won't be talking while an FDLE investigation is under way.

A lawsuit would mean we finally get to do some discovery. Open those books on this whole scam, and I'm sure Scott has plans for Admissions and Depositions locked and loaded. Bring it on HP!

Reply



Anonymous March 25, 2013 at 9:50 AM

Comment to Scott...Isn't that what happened? Mitch borrowed money and gave it to Rose and Matt?

Reply



scott ellis March 27, 2013 at 7:44 AM

Mitch signed off on a deal brokered by Bluegem with HP. The Clerk's Office signed an unlawful \$6.1 million promissory note and the money went to Bluegem, never touching the Clerk's Office.

Reply



Anonymous March 28, 2013 at 4:19 PM

"payment for certain software provided to the Clerk's office, which has been and continues to be used by the Clerk."

What "software? Continues to use what?

Is that what the Chunky Tiger is telling HP? or that BlueScam provided something that is in use today?

Reply



Anonymous April 9, 2013 at 6:48 PM

As a former Michigan BlueWhatever employee, this has all been intriguing to watch. I very well remember the day Rose returned from her first Florida trip and bragged about the new contracts and all the money...while we were all wondering how she would make payroll that week. I was hired and "Laid off" in a three month period, ending March 2012 just after the move was announced. So many people were let go in Michigan to fund this adventure, all while Rose and kids jetted to FL and the UK and back again. Showing pictures of her wonderful new place...paid for by you of course. I learned the term Vaporware only after I was hired by BlueWare, lol! They were masters of it. Rose is literally the most unstable, frightening person; I think she is a true sociopath. You should also ask how she gets away with all of the UK trips, she made all of us lie about why we were entering the UK on work trips. We were always there to visit good old Barry Geaney, an old family friend! There is sooooo much bitterness and hate I'd love to spew, but it won't do any good. I just hope when the lawsuit moves forward, that they think to subpoena Michigan employees who might have been hired at the beginning of this process, most heard way too much for Rose's comfort.

Reply



Anonymous April 9, 2013 at 8:24 PM

I certainly hope someone will be smart enough to question Michigan BlueWare employees let go or excuse me "Laid Off" around the time this all began. Rose came back from Florida in February to brag it up and had a payment of some sort by late February and a commitment. Moving began immediately for her and her family. I think this started a bit earlier than most people realize.

Reply

Anonymous April 18, 2013 at 11:50 AM

Some of us former Michigan BW employees have been interviewed by FL PD.

STATE VS NEEDELMAN MITCHELL

11/5/13

News: Hewlett Packard Threatens Lawsuit Over BlueWare Debt: Ellis Stands Firm



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