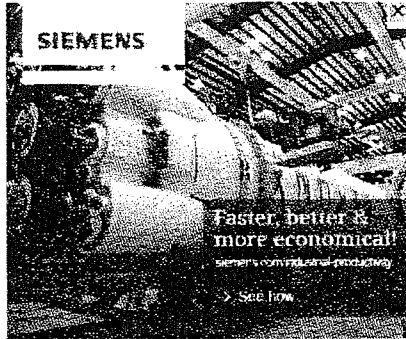


Arrest Records: 2 Secrets

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Tuesday, December 4, 2012

Charles Parker: Hey Mitch and Matt: How About Some Answers?

I am fairly easy to get along with. And I try not to make assumptions about others' motives. But, I don't like to get jerked around either.

I have been covering the ongoing saga of the \$8.5 million digitizing contract between the Brevard County Clerk of Courts office and BlueWare/BlueGem since the summer. I have covered it objectively and fairly. I have given all sides airtime. I have not jumped to unfounded conclusions. I have been proud of the work product.

But I'm starting to get irritated – and hence – suspicious. So with suspicion comes my now subjective look at things.

You see, every time I've written a story, more questions are raised. So I have tried to follow-up with the principals involved – primarily Mitch Needelman, one of his research clerks, or anyone at BlueWare/BlueGem that would respond to an email. It has been generally futile.

Within the last couple of weeks, I have begun to hear helicopters – I'm just not sure if they are black ones or not. And though he has yet to provide what I deem as solid proof of corruption, Scott Ellis might have been right all along. I have concluded this not by what Needelman and BlueWare have said or done, but because of what they have not said and done.

I wrote a story on October 17 to outline where the scanning process stood. The Clerk's office and BlueWare jumped at the chance to crow. But then, questions were raised about staffing and facilities. So on November 1, I followed up and the Clerk's office directed my inquiry to BlueWare. Over the next two weeks, I wrote two stories about how neither side would respond to the legitimate questions.

Finally, on Saturday November 17, Matt DuPree – the elusive ex-partner of

- Maier Law, P. A.
- Free Construction Bids
- Coye Law Workers Comp
- Orlando Probate Attny
- In a Car Accident?
- Atcachunas Law Firm, P.A.
- CHM Government Services

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
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- Merritt Island High School Students Get First-hand Look at Space Launch

Politics

Needelman and now BlueWare manager – emailed me and asked for me to call. I did and we spoke for about 30 minutes. He answered previous questions and agreed to meet me at their new facility the following Wednesday.

But – of course – that story raised even more questions. And then DuPree cancelled our appointment. And he didn't respond to my text.

So, on November 29, I sent an email to Needelman, his research clerk, DuPree, and a BlueWare staffer. I asked for some basic information that should be a part of any government contract:

1. Performance bond contractual information as it relates to deliverables for the digitizing contract with BlueGem/BlueWare
2. Breakdown of BlueGem/BlueWare contractor costs, including salaries, benefits, equipment lease/purchase, other overhead
3. Copies of any contracts that contractor - BlueGem/BlueWare - has with subcontractors regarding digitizing work, including scanning, transportation, redaction, destruction.

My inbox is still empty. And Rose Harr won't even accept my Facebook friend request.

I worked for a government contractor for 10 years and helped write many proposals. Every time we bid on a contract, we had to supply deliverables, costs, and subcontractor information. While we were rocket scientists, it was not rocket science. We were asking to use taxpayer dollars – and taxpayers have a right to know this stuff. And we still do.

I assume Mitch is simply trying to last until January. And Matt said he worked mostly with the Blue Group overseas. Evidently neither wants responsibility or accountability.

I'm an old ACC basketball fan. I spent years watching the Tar Heels and the Dean Smith four-corner offense run out the clock. But it won't work on me. You see, I know how to beat it – attack the ball aggressively, foul occasionally to stop the clock, and make it count when you get a shot.

So – let's play ball.

Posted by Charles Parker at 1:40 PM

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- 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](#)

43 comments:




Anonymous December 4, 2012 at 5:39 PM

i have to say, i think this is one of the better reports ive read in a long time
Reply



scott ellis December 4, 2012 at 9:21 PM

The stories are pretty good but the blogs have been filled with information. Florida Today used to get this as well when they allowed anonymous postings: the reader needed to sort fact from fiction. The Blueware scanning contract has been financed/purchase by Hewlett Packard. I'e been in touch with them and they clammed up rock solid, but in the process it may have slowed or killed the latest scam to buy 600 PCs from HP via another spinoff company where Rose Harr can be an 'agent' (that's three entities getting some vig). My public records request for new IT and Attorney contracts and payments have been unanswered for many weeks. I am just shocked the Clerk would sandbag public records.
Reply

 Anonymous December 5, 2012 at 5:47 AM

Mr. Parker months ago I emailed you anonymously. I tried to get you to listen to a third party, but you wouldn't. I understand you had trepidation regarding Mr. Ellis theory, but you really needed to listen to a third party that could help you come to this conclusion a lot sooner. I understand most believe Brevard County is a small county, where corruption wouldn't exist, but as you are finding it can happen even in the smallest of communities. Mr. Needelman destroyed lives for his and his friends to benefit from. All done for money, greed, power, and vindictiveness. All at the hands of a egotistical flamboyant megalomaniacs. This man and his cronies turned a office upside down and laughed while doing it. Take out the lives that were destroyed and just focus on the millions of dollars that were spent at OUR EXPENSE! Please don't forget the other leaders in this community that backed him while doing this. While you are starting to realize the helicopters might be landing, please know there is much more. I urge you Mr. Parker, talk to others you won't believe what more is to uncover. Look into why the staff attorney has left, and why other bonuses have been handed out in the past 30 days under the guise of severance packages even though these people are still employed with the Clerk of Courts. Sounds to me like they are hedging their bets in case they get found out or just saving for their legal defense. Here's a great one, one commissioner is considering hiring Mr. Needelman's assistant and don't forget Mr. Ziegler openly endorsed Mr. Needelman. Why would they do that? Had the media covered this story properly we would not have all these people still in office. Don't you think it's odd that these people went against Mr. Ellis who all along put himself on the backburner to stop all of this madness. I have watched and listened to what Mr. Needelman and his cronies have done. I can promise you one thing Mr. Parker, this writer who might be writing anonymously will continue to be a thorn in all of these people's side until the very end. We are not crazy, we are just people that know right from wrong. Some look attacks from others on this very webpage for doing and writing the right thing. Come January I'm sure Mr. Ellis will openly handover everything that was done and I can only hope that you will tell the employees of the Brevard County Clerk of Court, you're sorry you didn't use your ability to get the story out quicker. They deserve that Mr. Parker from you and everyone else that thought Mr. Ellis heard helicopters. Mr. Parker I will apologize if it seems I am attacking you, but sir you must understand the lack of enthusiasm could have cost Mr. Ellis the election which would have only hurt the employees and tax payers.


Reply

▼ Replies

 Anonymous December 5, 2012 at 6:54 PM


AMEN!!!! I wondered how long it would take for you all to catch on to her lies, schemes, and ticks!!
So sad that lots of you WANTED to believe Mitch...

Reply

 Anonymous December 5, 2012 at 5:53 AM

Charles, Nice article. I hate to say it but everything played out the way Matt, Mitch and Rose planned and wanted it to. They created the contract need, accepted only one bid and executed the scam. Once the heat was turned up and Mitch would no longer be in office, they tried to sell the contract to IBM - when they ran, they got HP to take the bait. So Rose got her money, Matt got a great commission check for orchestrating it all and a job as VP of BlueNothing and Mitch - well he was the one who got the short end of the stick. He was supposed to come work for Bluesomething but with all this attention they are looking for a new home for him.

Reply

 Anonymous December 5, 2012 at 6:20 AM

Sounds like that phone call and then follow up meeting at the new location was just a stall tactic so you would stop printing articles that are making them sweat.


Matt DuPree is not working on business overseas. He spends his days either chasing the Colonel down to go shooting with him to win the new Florida VA bid contract that is getting ready to hit the street or trying to hide from you.

Yes, he has been on some phone calls for the new business Rose purchased in the UK with the money Brevard County gave her - thank you by the way citizens of Brevard County - but Matt is not involved in overseas business.

Here are the facts - a BlueWare employee in Michigan wrote the specifications for the Digitizing contract based on the direction of Matt Dupree. Mitch awarded that contract without question or due diligence. Matt received a commission for orchestrating it all and then was hired by BlueWare to manage the contract.

I am no legal expert but something sounds a little strange here.


Reply

 Anonymous December 5, 2012 at 6:45 AM

I cannot wait for them all to go to jail for stealing from Brevard County's taxpayers!! They are all evil

and disgusting to me. Mitch Needelman, you are nothing but pure evil for treating the citizens in this way. When you go down, remember, your grand children. They will have to be known as Mitch Needelman's poor grand children. A label that you have given them. They will see that you used the system to steal millions of dollars from the people of Brevard County. Soon the charade will be over and Mr. Ellis will be able to see all the documents and publish them for all to see. Tick Tock, Tick Tock.

Reply

 **Anonymous** December 5, 2012 at 8:12 AM


Mr. Parker do not let them get away with this. They have a duty to respond to our questions. If they wanted to be a private company then they should not have accepted a public contract with public money. It is not Rose's money and it is not Mitch's money. It is our money and there are questions that need to be answered.

I do believe there is corruption and wrong-doings on both sides here - BlueWare and Brevard County.

I found it interesting Mr. Ellis response that HP has gone quiet. If Rose thinks she pulled off on off a Fortune 500 company and left them with an empty promise and they are not going to collect - she has a big surprise for her in the New Year.

All I can say is I hope it was all worth it. A lot of people life's have been ruined and justice is about to be served.


Reply

 **Anonymous** December 5, 2012 at 10:22 AM

Charles - appreciate every time you write about this Scam of the Century and the continuing criminality of these THIEVES that has been allowed to continue for this long. As for worthless FT - the only story you will ever see from them on this is a little blub if & when these cons go to prison. Plus, wasn't one of their bloggers implicated when this started coming out (Greg something?).

So, thank you for being on it. However, it sure took you (& apparently our do-nothing authorities) long enough to get to "GAME ON".

Reply

 **Anonymous** December 5, 2012 at 11:04 AM

You guys need some national exposure on this and quickly. Your law enforcement and government oversight process is failing you. Call John Stossel and get this out in the national public and you might be able to get some movement.

Reply

 **Anonymous** December 5, 2012 at 11:20 AM

Charles - have you gotten any info from the EDC on this? I e-mailed Greg Weiner a few months ago asking what was up with the whole Blueware deal. IMC this Commission is nothing but a bunch of overpaid, glorified travel agents with no concern outside their ridiculous salaries, but I did receive a response which confirms my opinion of them. Exactly as the e-mail was written by Weiner:

Happy to discuss if you would like to call my office. I can be reached at 321 638 2000.

Please be assured that, all state and local incentives are performance based.

Best Regards,
Greg

Reply

 **scott ellis** December 5, 2012 at 7:25 PM

The EDC has an audit clause in their contract with the Board. First we'll get the information on how this deal went down. Later, depending on Civil or Criminal actions or both, there may be some depositions.

Reply

 **scott ellis** December 5, 2012 at 10:11 PM

By the way, the Melbourne Chamber and County Commission appointed Ms. Harr last month to the Brevard Workforce Development Board. The BWDB voted to pay Blueware up to \$800,000 to train employees for: up to six months, so pretty much this scam contract gets free labor.

<http://brevardworkforce.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/3-Agenda-packet-111612.pdf>

Reply



Anonymous December 6, 2012 at 5:53 AM

You have to hand it to Rose. She is brilliant. She is a thief, crook, swindler, and total sociopath, but she is brilliant. What a tangled web of scams she continues to weave.

Reply



Anonymous December 6, 2012 at 9:19 AM

In re: Scott at 10:11

Apparently, our local and state officials consider this woman to be the 8th great wonder. However did Brevard County survive without her?

Every Brevard tax payer, employee, and biz owner should consider this a direct insult - a slap in the face - from our Commission - you, the current citizens and biz owners of Brevard, are not WORTHY of any PUBLIC FUNDS as economic assistance or incentive, and we had to go all the way to Michigan to find someone so brilliant and deserving of YOUR money.

Reply



Anonymous December 6, 2012 at 9:54 AM

What's next County Commissioners? A new entry on our property tax bills entitled: The Rose Harr Corporate WELFARE Fund?

Reply



scott ellis December 6, 2012 at 6:13 PM

The contract was finally uploaded. It is not a contract. It is a PROMISSARY note from the Clerk to Hewlett Packard for \$6.1 million at an annual interest rate of 3.55%. More to hit the fan later.

Reply



Anonymous December 7, 2012 at 9:06 AM

Scott, I am completely disgusted that Needelman has been allowed to remain in office despite this obvious attempt to defraud the tax payers of Brevard County. Where is the oversight? Why have the Brevard County Commissioners not held an emergency meeting on this? I only pray that you can bring back sanity to the Clerk's office, investigate this (I know you will), and have the FDLE arrest these individuals on charges of tax fraud.

Reply



scott ellis December 7, 2012 at 12:40 PM

The County Commissioners and County Manager never wanted to know what was going on, they may have to then act on it.

It is much more than tax fraud.

Investigations go on, unfortunately the corrupt POS should have been indicted and removed in September and has been left to squander and loot further millions.

Reply



Anonymous December 7, 2012 at 1:42 PM

Scott,

What does that mean a Promissory note? Was Bluewhatever paid any money by HP? Is the Prom. note binding on the County?

Reply



Anonymous December 7, 2012 at 1:45 PM

Ok I am totally confused on this whole work force thing you referenced scott. I followed the link and read the minutes. Rose was nominated to the board and then at her first meeting they approve a \$800,000 contract for her. Ok I am not sure how you approve yourself money from a board you are appointed but maybe they like the foxes watching the chickens. But when you start putting the pieces together it gets crazier. The incentive they brag about giving rose to move to Florida was for her to improve the local economy by employing 192 people. The incentive in cash rewards and tax breaks. Now we are going to actually pay her to employ the people she is getting the tax incentives and rebates for? Does any of this make sense?

The only company in the whole world who can do this blueware who does not even have a working product. Do your homework people and ask the tough questions. Where is the software installed and working and give me contact names and numbers.

Reply



Anonymous December 7, 2012 at 1:53 PM

News flash Blueware just was nominated the best software company to work for and the most innovative and creative. The nomination and approval was by Rose Harr. Rose Harr will also be presenting herself the key to the city.

Rose Harr has also suggested we change the name of Melbourne to either BlueVille or RoseTown. When asked why two different names she said she wanted to give people the appearance of a choice.

Reply



scott ellis December 7, 2012 at 2:32 PM

Promissory Note #4792367500100001
Amount \$6,100,000
October 23rd, 2012

If they are smart they are using a chunk of the money to prepay their lawyers.

Reply



Anonymous December 8, 2012 at 3:52 PM

Mr. Parker, I really find it hard to believe that you haven't chimed in. I also find it funny that Mr. Ellis can find out more in a day than you or any other so called reporter can!

Reply

▼ Replies



Charles Parker December 8, 2012 at 4:24 PM

Mr. Anonymous,

Just so you know, I have three full-time jobs and this is not one of them. In fact, I do not get a regular paycheck for this one. I'm not sure how Mr. Ellis spends his days, but I know I am fairly busy and do not need a lecture from you about my work ethic.

I have written more on this story than anyone around (including the guys who get paid to report this stuff). I continue to build stories and write/publish them when they are ready and have been properly sourced.

Reply



Anonymous December 8, 2012 at 5:11 PM

Mr. Parker, my post was more out of frustration, then it was an attack on you. Attacks are not necessary, but I am a person that has suffered from Mr. Needelman's dealings I do take everything very serious. You have the perfect platform to investigate the issues at hand where we do not. Mr. Ellis is very passionate about this charade and I can only urge you to help get to the bottom of this. I would like to remind you and everyone else, doing the right thing in life should never come with a price. You being a writer and having a place to spread the word to the public with what is going on, is the same thing as helping a person in need. This is your money being spent too. I'm sure your familiar with the MADOFF heist. This is no different. A few men looked at the numbers and knew right away something wasn't right. However MADOFF was able to continue his scam for many years, where Mr. Ellis and is trying to end the scam immediately. Also you might recall these men all investigated and blew it out of the water for free. I'm not putting you down, I'm simply trying to get you to understand you have more resources and abilities to bring this story to the public then any of us. I have tried very hard not to compare Needelman and his cronies to the MADOFF scheme; however the two run so parallel that it's frightening. I'm sure Needelman and his cronies are reading this and I hope they realize no one is letting up. Just like those few men that didn't let up on MADOFF! The ending will be the same for them. Remember history normally does repeat it self!

Reply

▼ Replies



Richard Charbonneau August 24, 2013 at 5:16 AM

I am a person that has suffered from Mr. Needelman's dealings I do take everything very serious.

So why remain or post anonymous, if you have something to say and its that serious step up and be counted.

Reply



Anonymous December 9, 2012 at 7:27 AM

I want to thank both Mr. Parker and Scott Ellis for their diligence on pursuing this scam and its cover up.

Reply



Anonymous December 9, 2012 at 2:13 PM

Any outrage toward the media should be directed where deserved, at Florida Today Newspaper who has turned a blind to the biggest local political corruption story in decades.

They are supposed to be our main print media source who long ago abandoned its readers in the interest of cheap labor that produces error-filled fluff pieces reduced to what I call an 'event-pamphlet'. They print no news that requires investigation (gasp), isn't a regurgitation of other source data, or that may eventually lead to crony-corruption (defined as anyone or business that may ever want to place any ad in the paper or knows someone that knows someone that may). Their reporting on this story would have sped things up.

My 25+ year subscription went from daily to twice a week a few years back. Their lack of reporting on this story was the final nail in the coffin-cancelled. RIP FT. Long live BT and thanks.

Reply



Anonymous December 9, 2012 at 7:38 PM

Please do not blame Mr. Parker. It is not his fault so many have turned a blind eye. There are a large number of people who are hiding because they are worried about being associated to BlueWare because they sang the praises of this company and their arrival to Melbourne - especially Florida Trend - who have turned a blind eye.

I think with the lack of actually compelling any scanning or even having a product the company should change the spelling to BlueWhere since no one can get answers to simple questions about what our money has been spent on.

You heard it here first - January 2013 several individuals will be going to jail and everyone is going to say if we only knew. And the beauty of the internet is we will reference these blogs and Scott and Charles will get the respect and credit they deserve.

Reply



Anonymous December 10, 2012 at 6:14 AM

I wonder if the anti-Charles Parker notes are being written by someone at Blueware in a feeble attempt discredit him and by association this story. Could they really be that desperate?

Reply



Anonymous December 10, 2012 at 8:31 AM

Let's look at the facts:

FDLE is investigating you
There is talk of serious jail time
The new BC Clerk of the Court is not only going to cancel your contract but turn everything over to the authorities
You have no product
You have been lying for 12 months to everyone
And HP is going to want some answers to the bad publicity and bad deal you brought them.

Desperate may not be a strong enough word.

Reply




Anonymous December 10, 2012 at 10:57 AM

Besides Rose and Matt someone needs to focus on these two other individuals - Jennifer Kenna and Debbie Caldwell. They have been seen jet setting over to the UK every other week on Brevard County money helping Rose and Mitch with this scheme. I am not sure how a company that has had one contract can afford so many expenses with no real product to talk of.


Jennifer has no real world experience and now she has a very unique position and relation with Rose Harr. Debbie ran a party store and now she is the VP of Operations. The only thing these two do is pose for pictures with Rose and fly all over on our dime. The corruption runs deep there.

Reply

Replies

 **Anonymous** February 20, 2013 at 7:25 PM
oh crap now shes selling real estate---

Debbie Caldwell
Address:232 5th Avenue, Indialantic, FL, 32903
Office Phone: (321) 951-3300
Cell Phone:(321) 427-4497
Fax:(321) 951-3080
Email: debbiecaldwell9@gmail.com

 **Anonymous** February 20, 2013 at 7:29 PM
your right I found this on linkedin im sure she is a good realtor in between her flights to UK and she is also a great event planner, bet HP thinks so

Debbie Caldwell's Experience

Director of Human Resources BlueWare
Privately Held; 51-200 employees: Computer Software industry

June 2012 – Present (9 months) Melbourne , Florida

We are a medical soft ware 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.

Realtor Coldwell Banker Paradise
April 2010 – Present (2 years 11 months) 232 5th Ave Indialantic , Florida


I live and work in Melbourne , Florida .How lucky am I . I can help you make your home right here . Beautiful beaches , clean air and plenty of things to do , you are only an hour away from Disney and all the other attractions.

Event co-ordinator and decorator Blank Canvas Event Decorating

September 2001 – Present (11 years 6 months) Melbourne, Florida Area

Let us make your event one to remember.We provide you with custom decorations tailored to your event . Make your next celebration one that will be the Talk of The Town .

Reply

 **Anonymous** December 10, 2012 at 3:09 PM
Please check out this article from Space Coast Magazine -


The title is People to Watch in 2013. I agree except when they included Rose they should have changed the title to People to Watch Out For in 2013.

<http://www.spacecoastbusiness.com/people-to-watch-in-2013/>


This woman is everywhere. She really needs to spend some time getting the scanning done or getting an actual software product done. This company is half hype and half vaporware.

I guess that is why she has the party planner and the make believe sales executive to run the ship when she is not in Melbourne. Oh wait that can't be, they are off in the UK spending our money.

Reply

 **scott ellis** December 10, 2012 at 8:00 PM
I have to admit the depth of the deception is stunning. SpaceCast Business Daily names the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce's appointee to the Brevard Workforce Development Board as a person to watch.
I'd agree. To date she has collected over SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS from the taxpayers and produced - NOTHING.

Reply

 **Anonymous** December 11, 2012 at 6:22 AM
What happened to the press conference that was promised for November? How about the open house at the scanning facility Blueware promised? Scott...did you ever get your personal tour of the new scanning facility from Matt Dupree?

More broken promises and more lies. What a surprise. I am beginning to suspect we cannot trust Kaitlin, Rose, Matt, Debbie, and Jennifer (sarcasm implied).

Reply



scott ellis December 11, 2012 at 6:52 AM

The building is up and running. It's all free money. Free building and free employees. Then the Clerk goes out and borrows \$6.1 million to front you the money on your five year contract which already was overcharged by \$6 million.

Reply



Anonymous December 11, 2012 at 8:15 AM

How else could they do it if it wasn't free. The company has had no revenue until the contract was signed. They could not make payroll or pay expenses until the county gave them the money. And once the money was received and they paid all their owed debts, Rose, Jennifer and Debbie went off for the jet set life spending whatever remaining money there was left. Now the county is on the line for a \$6.1 million loan, we cannot get our money back from BlueWhere because it is all spent or hidden and we are left holding the bag.

Explain to me again how this whole incentive thing works, we pay carpet baggers to come to town, live the high life and we all end up suffering.

Can you hear that chuckle in the air? That is all of them laughing at us. No accountability, no answers to questions and they are going to have a wonderful XMAS on our dime.

Reply



Anonymous December 11, 2012 at 8:22 AM

Does anyone find it strange that the blueware website has no news or lists any new products or any customers. It is almost like they have gone silent to try and hide or they are afraid anything they say will be used against them.

It doesn't even list any of their leadership employees except the 30 year old picture of Rose and some techies she has working for her in the house in Michigan.

Very strange.

Reply



scott ellis December 11, 2012 at 6:58 PM

Ms. Harr and Blueware have collected about \$8 MILLION from the State, County, City, and Clerk and have not ONE THING to show for the money. Better than Rock Soup, she came here from Michigan and could not even afford the rock.

Reply



scott ellis December 11, 2012 at 7:00 PM

New Article and Blog Underway:

<http://cp.opinion.brevardtimes.com/2012/12/charles-parker-divergent-views-on.html>

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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.

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Politics

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 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

 +1 +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?

- 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](#)

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. 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 doc older than that (14+ yrs?). Should I ever require such an old doc, 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 then 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 bluewhere 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 more 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 any one 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, January 5, 2013

Ellis Plans Moneysaving Changes In Clerk's Office



Incoming Brevard Clerk of Courts Scott Ellis

TITUSVILLE, Florida - The Clerk of Courts office will have fewer managers and "more people who do the work" as part of a plan to save money for the taxpayers, according to incoming Clerk Scott Ellis.

He will be sworn in on Tuesday at Noon at the Brevard County Government Complex in Titusville and will then visit all of the Clerk's offices. Ellis defeated incumbent Mitch Needleman in a primary last summer.

"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 added. "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

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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

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.

"The new layer of management (that Needleman installed) has been leaving on their own, collecting \$15,000 to \$20,000 severance bonuses on the way out," Ellis said. "The last round of pay raises must be rescinded and I believe a large amount of the first round will be removed as we prepare to re-badge the outsourced employees in the first month."

Ellis added that he hopes to determine the fiscal outlook for the office within his first week.

"The management and structure of the Viera and Titusville offices will have been reworked. We will have an auditor and paralegal on board to sort through what has happened over the last two years as we meet with members of the Clerk's staff. We are going to see what we have legally in past expenditures and contracts as well as what exactly the current financial situation is of the office."

Posted by Charles Parker at 7:02 AM

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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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15 comments:



Anonymous January 5, 2013 at 4:02 PM

WELCOME BACK SCOTT!!!! :)

NOW MAYBE YOU CAN PAY THE SCHOOL BOARD ADMINISTRATION OFFICE A VISIT AND FIRE AND HIRE SOME WORKERS????

[Reply](#)



Anonymous January 6, 2013 at 9:59 AM

There is a new sheriff in town and his name is Scott Ellis - thank god.

What happens to all the people Rose hired at Blueware to do the digitizing contract - do they get fired, does she get in trouble for making false promises to so many people - I know once again she will blame some one else for the actions she has to take. If it was up to me I would keep you all on board but the bad man named Ellis is making us do it - I can hear her now saying,


I think the relocation people need to reexamine the tax rebates and incentives they gave her to come down here. I believe they meant you need to hire and keep employed 192 people - not just hire and fire people to make your numbers and get your money.

If she has already taken \$1 million dollars maybe she should give us the brand new building she purchased and we will call it even - or actually we won't be able to call her if she is in jail. If she calls we will accept the charges and say even.

Do the prison jump suits come in blue? I do know how much she loves blue.


Scott - STOP THE MADNESS!!!!!!!!!!

[Reply](#)

 **Anonymous** January 6, 2013 at 12:42 PM


Welcome back Scott! Finally, things will get back to normal, although it will take time for you to actually see how much damage Mitch Needleman has done. He definitely has ripped-off the citizens of Brevard County. Wonder what will be on Needleman's agenda next? Prison? Stealing from the clerk's office will land him there. Aikios Needleman, you did nothing for the COC...just screw us all over!!

Reply

 **Dspangler** January 6, 2013 at 6:15 PM


Welcome Back Scott the chaos is almost over. And it feels really good to not have to hide behind an Anonymous name. Thank the Lord for answering prayers, and thank goodness the Clerks office will have the right man to restore the damage that has been done.

Reply

 **kenlyn** January 7, 2013 at 1:47 PM


This comment has been removed by the author.

Reply

 **kenlyn** January 7, 2013 at 1:48 PM


cott Ellis Please keep us up to date on that Blueware scam. With schools closing and good people out of work we do not need this place to be attached to Brevard County. We need you to step up to the plate and do what is right. Thank you Mr. Ellis

Reply

 **Anonymous** January 8, 2013 at 10:15 AM

Well perhaps if Rose does have the \$1million then she would kindly repay the money she owes my company which put us and our staff through some very difficult times during this global recession; nearly forcing us into liquidation. Thanks Rose


Reply

 **Anonymous** January 8, 2013 at 10:51 AM

oh, scott, you are a joke. it will not take too many years for you to quit again. as soon as you spend all the excess money that was left to you, you will be right back where you were before.

Reply

↳ Replies

 **Anonymous** January 9, 2013 at 2:28 PM

Eric and David you really need to work on your punctuation. Or maybe it was lbbe trying to learn English and practicing on blogs.

FYI - there is no extra money - everyone knows that and you can try to paint Scott as the bad guy but that is not true. We all know the truth.


Here are some questions for you to ponder?

Why has Rose and Jennifer went to go hide in the UK if the reason they moved to Melbourne in the first place was because of all the opportunity here in Florida?

How come no one from your office has answered any of the questions regarding the contract that was signed - afraid of the truth?

The truth will set you free.


Reply

 **Anonymous** January 9, 2013 at 2:32 PM

"Historic Downtown Melbourne will be enhanced by the siting of BlueWare in the heart of downtown. Revitalization, together with 190 new high-tech, high wage employees in the growing health care sector, combine to form an outstanding development arrangement. We appreciate the State and Brevard County for helping expedite this business location," said Cindy Dittmer, Planning and Economic Development Director, City of Melbourne.

Then why is their office located next to the interstate - this makes no sense?????

Reply

 **Anonymous** January 9, 2013 at 2:39 PM

I am still stuck on the whole comment from above. You are telling me that Rose paid for us to move her to Melbourne and buy her a building and other tax incentives and the reason was to higher local folks and to develop local business and now her and her followers are in the UK?


Does any one besides me see this as a problem?

How much are we going to let this woman get away with and what idiots are continuing to work for her?

If you moved to Florida to do business don't you think you should do more than one contract before you high tail it to another country.


You don't think she is hiding over there because her world is about to fall apart??? I heard she does not like bad news and often hides from it than facing it.

Reply

 **Anonymous** January 10, 2013 at 2:47 AM

Re Rose and all her followers in the UK. Quite simply, no. She has no followers in the UK, at least to my knowledge. It is a phoney business

Reply


 **Anonymous** January 10, 2013 at 8:02 PM

Those are some pretty strong words -

A phoney business means you do not have a product, you sell people vaporware, you negotiate contracts for things you really cannot do and when you are asked questions about it you cannot provide answers.


My apologies you are right - it is a phoney business.

Reply

 **Anonymous** January 13, 2013 at 8:52 AM

the final audits and accounting of funds in the clerk's office, by INDEPENDENT auditor firm are public record. why don't you all go and READ them before shooting off your mouths about things you know nothing of? gripes me that people always speak authoritatively with no information. stupid, unwashed masses.....

Reply

 **Anonymous** January 13, 2013 at 9:16 AM

Mitch it is good to see you have some extra time to blog these days. I am so glad you want to speak authoritatively about something. If you are so open why did you give a job to a company that had no experience in doing the job for three times more than any one else would do it for? Why did your right hand man Matt get such a big payout for bringing you this cozy vendor - there were no vendors in Melbourne who could have done this? Why did you try so hard to keep everything under wraps while you were in office? Why would you pay money to a vendor for a product that is due in five years with payment upfront? Why did you give so much work to one vendor if the all the businesses in the county need work? Why would you even hire a vendor to do a job when we have county staff that can do it and equipment sitting in our offices that can do it? Why would you pay a company to do the work who never did it before, buy them a building to do it in and then pay them from your EDC to have the people do it? None of this makes sense.

So before you get on your high horse and talk about people who know nothing, we are not stupid and can smell a fix a mile away. You are a self serving individual who only cares about lining your pocket at the expense of others and then you have the nerve to ridicule us when we question how you did it.

Do you ever wonder when it all went wrong. Is it something systemic and you neer really had any business skills and your only virtue in life was the hustle. It is so sad when you look back at your legacy the only thing people will read is this about you and what you have accomplished.

I would rather you go to your house and wait for the authorities to come knock on your door to take you away then add more to this pathetic memory we all have of your regime.

Reply

Enter your comment...

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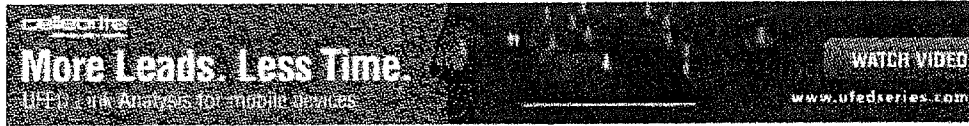
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Saturday, January 19, 2013

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.

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About Me

Charles Parker

I cover politics, sports, and local

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.



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 6:42 PM

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14 comments:



Anonymous January 20, 2013 at 7:32 AM

Who is Maker?

[Reply](#)



Charles Parker January 20, 2013 at 8:17 AM

"Maker" is the Brevard County Clerk of Court

[Reply](#)



Anonymous January 20, 2013 at 8:54 AM

I was under the impression that any government contract has a 24 hour cancellation clause without cause. If that is true couldn't the county simply cancel the contract with HP and stop payment. Yes HP would basically be out of the money they paid in advance but that is not the county's problem.

I guess the real question is how does HP get the money they have advanced? I would hope they would have provisions in their contract with Bluegem that if that clause was exercised they would have the ability to reimburse the advance.

I am still not sure why would HP advance money for services not rendered? I remember we had to indicate work was complete, services delivered or equipment was received and then payment would be issued. Has any of the above been completed for HP to make payment and if so why are the documents not all digitized?

So many questions that have not been answered and I still do not understand why public pressure cannot have the owner of Bluegem come forward and explain to tax payers the complexity of this contract in simple terms.

I understand private businesses have the right to keep their business private but once you enter the public sector everything is supposed to be transparent and correct me if I am wrong we are talking about a public sector contract?

[Reply](#)



Anonymous January 20, 2013 at 9:01 AM

Anonymous 5:54 - you want simple terms I will help you out -

Blueware pulled a fast one on the county and HP and despite warnings got away with it.

Rose is hiding in the UK leaving everyone else here out to dry.

HP can't get their money. It is either spent or hidden. She is laughing at all you fools who gave her the contract, did not stop it despite warnings, paid for a building for her, paid for the employees who work there and think she was the saviour.

You had one basic question to ask and no one was smart enough to do it - why are we paying in advance for services not rendered?

Is that simple enough for you?

Reply



scott ellis January 20, 2013 at 10:48 AM

You can't say Blueware pulled a fast one on the Clerk's Office if the upper management of the Clerk's Office was in on it. Just because a deal is stupid for some does not make it stupid for all, witness the Sarno Landfill.

Reply



scott ellis January 20, 2013 at 10:53 AM

HP has no contract with Blueware, it is the beauty of the scheme orchestrated by Blueware. HP loaned \$6.1 million to the Clerk of Court, who directed \$5.7 million of the loan proceeds to Blueware and the other \$409,000 for a Blueware performance bond. HP thought they were the smart ones by sending the Clerk's hired attorney (who collected \$50,000) the language he needed for 'his' opinion to bless the deal. All they did was ensure their own loss of six million dollars.

Reply



Anonymous January 20, 2013 at 11:46 AM

So in the end Rose won. She found some people she could manipulate - the economic development committee, an easy mark in Mitch, a company hungry for a sweet deal and put her devious plan in motion.

Six months later - nothing has improved in the county, Mitch is somewhere counting his payout, HP is stuck with a significant loss of money and Rose is across the pond living large on stolen money.

How sad things are. I am just pissed that I did not realize the taking was that easy or I would have figured a plan to take a few million myself instead of working hard in a struggling economy - who is the fool?

Reply



scott ellis January 20, 2013 at 12:24 PM

It's not over yet. There is still plenty of evidence of fraud and misconduct. I suspect the desire is to pull the money and split leaving behind a 'corporate mess' but evading any criminal issues. We'll see how it unfolds, there is evidence aplenty if the State Attorney chooses to act on it.

Reply

↳ Replies



Anonymous January 20, 2013 at 3:05 PM

will your office still continue to make entire case files available online or will we have to do it in person???



scott ellis January 20, 2013 at 8:42 PM

We have been scanning for ten years and will continue. The Blueware files are all ten years or older.

Reply



Space Coast Conservative [dot]com January 20, 2013 at 5:52 PM

This story still appalls amazes me. Why is Needelman NOT in jail yet? When will that happen? When will Brevard County Taxpayers get our money back? I know we won't actually get a refund, but at least bring it back to be used properly by the Clerk's office if nothing else.

Please do put the records online and be completely transparent in this. It will be good for Brevard County Taxpayers to be able to see what happened to their money and how it was misused and mishandled by Needelman. This scam needs to be totally uncovered and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Reply



Anonymous January 20, 2013 at 8:35 PM

Too many people involved who are in political offices for anyone to want to touch this one. It is safer to just count the losses and say we learned from this one.

Once you start peeling back the layers you have to go all the way back to say who wanted this

company to come to Florida in the first place and the answer is not pretty.

Reply



Anonymous January 20, 2013 at 8:36 PM

They close schools and spend fraudulent money on this scam?
Where is the state attorney???

Reply



Anonymous January 24, 2013 at 4:42 PM

I see Rose's kids Kaitlin and David have traveled to England. Are they on holiday visiting their scam artist mother, or have they moved there to avoid the scandal as well?

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Thursday, January 24, 2013

Ellis: Emails Appear To Contradict Needelman Attorney's Testimony



From left: Scott Ellis, Mark Cook, Merrily Longacre during July 23, 2012 court hearing.

TITUSVILLE, Florida - Emails released by Brevard County Clerk of the Court Scott Ellis indicate that an attorney for former Clerk Mitch Needelman may have been mistaken in a court hearing last summer regarding contracts between Needelman's office and BlueGem, L.L.C. for scanning operations. Ellis defeated Needelman in last November's election.

During those proceedings before Brevard County Circuit Court Judge John M. Harris on July 23, 2012, Merrily Longacre, speaking on behalf of Needelman's office, denied knowledge of a contract prior to the one officially released on June 29. She said that Ellis had been provided with all contracts related to BlueGem.

(A partial court transcript and video of the exchange between Longacre, Ellis, and Judge Harris that is germane to this article is included at the end.)

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About Me

Charles Parker

| 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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Ellis contended at the time that there was a contract on May 23, which released \$500,000 to BlueGem. The original contract was worth over \$8.5 million.

Ellis has now provided email communication from May 23 and 24 to Brevard Times that shows correspondence between Longacre, another clerk's attorney Mark Cook, BlueGem owner Rose Harr, and BlueGem Vice-President of Finance Deena Brigham regarding a contract.

"There never was a signed copy," Ellis said. "They agreed (Michael) McDaniel (former Clerk Finance officer) would send the \$500,000 that day and they'd officially 'sign' a contract later, meaning after the election. Legally the Electronic Funds Transfer is an implied contract, but realistically the contract was drawn and existed as I have said all year. Even on the Electronic Funds Transfer McDaniel noted it was the contract down payment."

Karen Kirksey, Public Information Coordinator for the Florida Bar, said in an email that there is not an open Florida Bar investigation against Longacre in the matter.

When asked about an attorney's ethical obligations to the judge regarding the truth, Kirksey cited all of Florida Bar Rules of Professional Conduct 4-3.3 CANDOR TOWARD THE TRIBUNAL. The rule not only prohibits a lawyer from lying to a judge, but also imposes the extra duty that "A lawyer who represents a client in an adjudicative proceeding and who knows that a person intends to engage, is engaging, or has engaged in criminal or fraudulent conduct related to the proceeding shall take reasonable remedial measures, including, if necessary, disclosure to the tribunal."

Kirksey added that it would depend on the facts of the case and the attorney's background as to the penalties an attorney might face for making misrepresentations to a judge.

Brevard Times was unable to locate Longacre to obtain a response to this story. Harr and Brigham did not respond to email requests.

On May 23, an unsigned contract was emailed as an attachment from Brigham to McDaniel, Cook, and Longacre. The accompanying message said, "In addition to the change we made whilst on the phone, I have added the Proof of Coverage verbiage as Clause 11.3 and the Indemnity verbiage as Clause 26. Payment schedule has been revised as well. Please let me know if you have any questions."

This was the only email released by Ellis that had an attachment.

Cook responded at 9:00 am on May 24, "Deena, the only other change is we need to replace 11.7 with the same language in 11.4.3 (supplier shall be liable for provable damages). I will be out of the office most of the day, I have to go to the 5th DCA . If you need me I will be on my cell 321-427-6812. Thanks Mark."

Brigham replied at 9:15 am, "Here is the scanning contract with the requested revision."

At 12:15 pm, Longacre wrote to Cook, "Please advise if this contract is ok with you and see that it gets signed. Original to go to Mike McDaniel. Scanned copy of fully executed original to be provided to Carole for logging into my contracts file. Thanks for your help. M"

Cook responded to Longacre at 3:15 pm, "Not sure what's going on with contract. Will let you know. Mark"

At 3:46, Longacre responded to Cook, "I got the finished copy! Have they signed? Call Mike. I am on the way to the plane!! Thanks. M"

Then at 3:48, Harr wrote to Longacre and copied to Brigham and Cook, "Dear Merrily, Good afternoon, Thank you for reaching out to me. I have received your email and I happily acknowledge receipt. Thank you for your good council on the recent contract we worked on with you."

"How can this be when we were told there is no May 23rd contract?" Ellis queried.

Beyond the issues with the court, the dates are also important politically because Needelman claimed at the time - during his campaign against Ellis - that a vendor for the scanning operation had not been chosen until June.

Transcript from Brevard County 18th Circuit Court July 23, 2012:

THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Ellis, what is your next issue?

MR. ELLIS: My belief is that there was a Contract signed on May 23rd between the Clerk and BlueGem. I would like to request a Copy of that contract. If the clerk insists there is no such Contract, I would like a letter that no contract exists. What I have is a SunTrust wire transfer on May 23rd of \$500,000, which clearly states initial payment on Signing. And I've got given you a Copy of that up there. Clearly, if that's initial payment on signing, that indicates the contract has been signed.

THE COURT: That is what that would indicate. Ms. Longacre.

MS. LONGACRE: I believe, Your Honor, the document speaks for itself, and at the bottom it says it's in escrow, and that it's refundable. And as far as I know, to my knowledge, there was no Contract signed on the 23rd. The contract actually came to fruition on June 29th. And copies of that were supplied to Mr. Ellis, and, therefore, he has everything that he has asked for in that regard.

THE COURT: Well, is that what was requested, or is it the contract itself?

MR. ELLIS: Yes. And, Judge, and also for Ms. Longacre, what I was given as the SunTrust wire transfer, which I've printed for you, there's nothing on here about any kind of trust. It's just not here. And I've given -- you've got a copy over there. I printed that straight from the PDF file that I was given.

MS. LONGACRE: Oh, he's right. I was thinking of another transfer.

MR. ELLIS: And it may be, but what I was given, it says initial payment upon signing. And it's \$500,000, not 5,000, \$500,000. My contention is on May 23rd a contract was signed, therefore, there were no negotiations after May 23rd, that the vendor had been selected, the vendor had been paid. The Krasny/Dettmer were evaluating the contract for BlueGem, and they met on that on May 21st. Every indication is that the Contract was signed on the 23rd. Therefore, this whole month of June, you can't claim that they're in negotiation if you've already given them a half a million dollars.

MS. LONGACRE: If I may object to relevancy and materiality. Mr. Ellis has asked for certain things in the petition. The petition goes through May 22nd, May 26th, May 29th. To my knowledge, he has been given everything. He admits he has everything with the one

exception that was just noted to Your Honor. And you have that for in Camera inspection. He has all the ITN'S. He has the committals. He has the Contract for BlueGem, Blueware, Roseware, all of them that we have. There's a drawer, I went through it. He has May 23rd does not ring a bell with me. And I know that nothing that was given to me, disclosed to him, involves a contract, actually, signed on May 23rd. Now, having said that, I will have to object to relevancy and materiality to continuing to argue about a Contract that he supposes exists. To my knowledge, I don't have

THE COURT: Let me look at the petition, Mr. Ellis. Where in the petition do you ask for this contract?

MR. ELLIS: Judge, I've asked for all contracts with BlueGem, Blueware, Roseware. Those were part of my public records request.

THE COURT: Ms. Longaore, the request, specifically, seems to be copies of any of the contracts involving Blueware, Roseware. Your position is, not just an agent for the clerk's office, but an officer of this Court, that there is no contract between the clerk's office and Blueware, Roseware relative to the request by Mr. Ellis, other than the signed one from June 29th?

MS. LONGACRE: Well, there's one on June 29th. There's one on the April 6th. There's an addendum to that one on May the 1st. And there was one earlier than that on cost containment. I think there was one in March. As far as I know, he has all of those contracts.

MR. ELLIS: Yes, ma'am.

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Ellis, it appears that the Clerk has responded to that request, and given you copies of what they have. And their position is there is no May 23rd contract.

MS. LONGACRE: Not that I know of.

THE COURT: If it turns out there is, we're going to have a conversation.

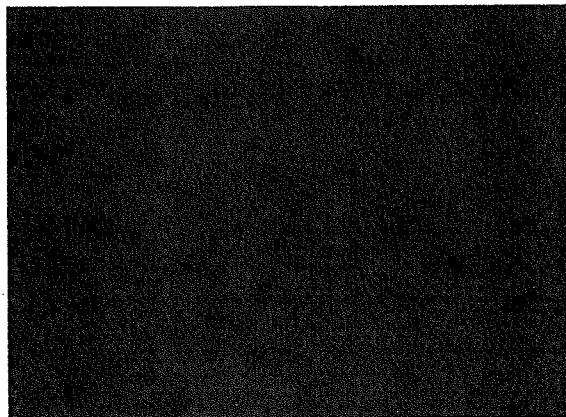
MS. LONGACRE: I understand that.

MR. ELLIS: Judge, I want you to understand that what we're hearing from the attorney is that she has no knowledge. You clearly said you have no knowledge of the contract. I would like to you did you know -- you cannot know there's no Contract. The only person who could know that would be the clerk. Only the clerk can state there's no contract.


MS. LONGACRE: I'm going to object to the line of argument, Your Honor.

THE COURT: She's speaking for the clerk's office today. She works for the Clerk's Office. She's the attorney for the clerk's office. The clerk's office position, as Stated by Ms. Longacre, is there is no Contract from May 23rd. Therefore, hiding behind that not that I know of, doesn't work. Your position is there is not one, right?

MS. LONGACRE: Correct.



Posted by Charles Parker at 5:06 PM

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13 comments:



Anonymous January 24, 2013 at 6:02 PM

Lawyers never lie.

Reply



Anonymous January 24, 2013 at 8:33 PM

Wow. Good stuff. If that isn't enough for the State Atty to move forward then I will be absolutely convinced that Needelman is being PROTECTED by the FL SA's office. No question about it.

Harr: "Dear Merrily... Thank you for reaching out to me...I happily acknowledge receipt. Thank you for your good council on the recent contract we worked on with you"... Longacre working for (counseling) both sides seems like a big conflict of interest – all to BC's detriment.

Yeah, I'll bet you happily took your ill-gotten gains from the BC tax-payers, Harr.

Thanks again Scott Ellis and Charles Parker for not letting this go and getting the word out.

FL State Atty: The taxpayers of Brevard deserve action on this. We are WAITING, Where are YOU?!

Reply



Anonymous January 24, 2013 at 9:03 PM

Scott Ellis was right again!!! You go Scott...I'm sure he will be providing more proof of Needelman's lies as he digs deeper. We will be waiting for the next round.

Reply



Anonymous January 24, 2013 at 9:14 PM

Good time to look back at what Florida Today chose to report on after that hearing, and who has since avoided this obvious scam like the plague.

Rick Neale FLORIDA TODAY July 24, 2012 ..."Needelman did not attend the hearing. Interviewed Monday afternoon, he said the \$500,000 wire transfer was "a deposit in good faith to continue negotiations" — and he called Ellis "a pathological liar. The man lives in fantasy world. He just makes things up out of the blue. The contract was signed on the 29th of June. There was no contract on (May) 21. Six attorneys worked on the contract — four with us and two with the company," Needelman said."

Reply

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Anonymous January 25, 2013 at 5:46 AM

We can never rely on FLORIDA TODAY to do any real "watch dog" work. They are in the center of, and help facilitate the corrupt politics in Brevard.

Look at their heavy connections with the Space Coast EDC which sets up all these dirty deals. FT is always the cheerleader for these crony projects.



Randall Brungart January 25, 2013 at 6:31 AM

Merrily Longacre appears to have lied, as an officer of the court, to the Judge. Judge John M. Harris needs to "have a conversation" with Attorney Longacre, doesn't he?



Randall Brungart January 25, 2013 at 6:47 AM

to anonymous, for your post at 9:14pm, January 24, 2013, Rick Neale of Florida Today, July 24, 2012, in his article quoted then Clerk of the Court, Mitch Needelman as having said, the \$500,00 wire transfer was "a deposit in good faith to continue negotiations-..."

That statement by former Clerk of the Court, Mitch Needelman, was clearly a total lie.

Who is the pathological liar? As most of us who have known Scott Ellis and Mitch Needelman for a very long time would say under oath, Mitch is the pathological liar, to the best of our knowledge.

I don't know what happened to Mitch when he went to Tallahassee as a member of the Florida House of Representatives. I wish I knew.

Is it just that money corrupts? I don't know. Do you?



Anonymous January 25, 2013 at 10:19 AM

In Mat Reed's world, no Brevard County corruption exists outside the school maintenance building.

Reply



Randall Brungart January 25, 2013 at 6:35 AM

Charles Parker of Brevard Times should be commended for his reporting.

Why did we not see this event and its follow-up published in the Florida Today newspaper?

Reply



Randall Brungart January 25, 2013 at 7:27 AM

I was present at this hearing July 23, 2012 in Judge John M. Harris' court proceeding.

Scott Ellis acquitted himself well against Mark Cook and Merrily Longacre. Merrily fortunately had the sense to leave her position early this year before the problems began to be uncovered by Scott.

Will we see a "perp" walk later this year?

Reply



Anonymous January 25, 2013 at 8:57 AM

Where is Rose Harr now? She always had so much to say until the truth surfaced. She had press conferences, ribbon cutting ceremonies, she is attending EDC meetings and now she is nowhere to be found.

Sure seems strange to me she has all of a sudden became quiet. I thought they were having a big open house and ribbon cutting ceremony in December. What happened to that party?

I guess they took our money and now her and her kids are hiding in the UK. What ever happened to looking forward to coming to Melbourne and hiring the local talent and developing roots here? You got what you wanted and left town?

Let's get real and stop talking about what we are going to do - they broke the law, the state attorney needs to get the files from FDLE and prosecute these crooks - end of story.

Reply



Anonymous January 25, 2013 at 9:06 AM

Anyone know if there is any activity going on at the building in West Melbourne that Harr paid top dollar for with our stolen money?

Reply



Anonymous January 25, 2013 at 9:15 AM

I went by the building this week and despite the ominous sign on the front door that says "By Appointment Only" it looks like an empty shell with folding tables and chairs made to look like a busy work environment.

I think the most money they spent on it was getting it painted blue from green and I heard they did not pay for that but that was part of the deal in buying it the original owner had to paint it blue.

Amazing a woman who tries to pretend to be a division of IBM with her continual use of the word Blue did not get IBM to give her the money for the deal but had to go to HP when IBM looked at the her software and the business requirements and told her she was crazy and walked away from the table.

Poor HP got stuck believing the wizard of Oz and now they are stuck with an empty wallet and she is off in the UK buying houses and businesses and living the good life.

So to answer your question - nothing is going on there except what the wizard wants you to believe.

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