

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Lauren Zisa

551-486-3685

NEW EVIDENCE SURFACES CONNECTING MAYOR LANKEY, EDISON DPW DIRECTOR, AND SKYWAY STRATEGIES WITH "PEOPLE FOR PROGRESS"; PURCHASE OF STAMPS

Edison, NJ (May 28, 2019) - Edison Council Vice President, Ajay Patil, expressed frustration with the Edison Township Council's Committee of the Whole over the Committee's resistance to issuing subpoenas to Mayor Thomas Lankey, DPW Director Anthony Russomano, a corporate representative from Skyway Strategies, and a corporate representative from Jaffee Communications.

The purported purpose of the committee was to investigate the disgraceful Make Edison Great Again fliers and the political action committee "People for Progress", an entity that surfaced during the fall 2017 Mayoral election.

The mailers in 2017 were the first in a series of controversial fliers, most recently mailers from the Edison Democrats 2019 ("Real Democrats") campaign that were criticized by the ACLU and NAACP. A federal complaint against Edison Democrats 2019, a slate including Councilmembers Lombardi, Sendelsky, Diehl, Joshi, and Gomez, is pending.

Mr. Patil requested that the four witnesses be placed under oath to provide testimony regarding the racist Make Edison Great Again fliers and their role with "People for Progress." While Mayor Lankey issued a statement at the Committee's initial meeting on May 14, he was not placed under oath and he was not asked questions by the committee.

"In an effort to get the committee back on track for its initial purpose, on May 24, 2019, I requested the attorney for the committee to issue subpoenas for these individuals," said Mr. Patil. "I was advised by the attorney for the Committee, through an email, that I do not have the authority to request that these be subpoenaed and that the authority to do so rests with Council President Gomez. He has not advised me whether he intends to honor my request," said Mr. Patil.

Mr. Patil is pointing to an email from Mr. Russomanno that connects Mr. Russomanno with Skyway Strategies and People for Progress.

On September 19, 2017, Anthony Russomanno forwarded an email with the subject line "Final Version: Negative Republican Mailer." See Exhibit A. The email includes an email chain between Mr. Russomanno and Skyway Strategies describing a negative mailer against Keith Hahn. In the email Skyway Strategies states to Mr. Russomanno "This version includes your request to label Hahn as a cop who's such a dunce that he cannot pass a promotions test." It also asks for Mr. Russomanno's "written approval(s) to move ahead."

A mailer meeting these specifications was later released by the group known as People for Progress. See Exhibit B

A second email from Mr. Russomanno on October 10, 2017, with the subject line "Edison Dems Dear Neighbor Letter" included an image of a flier that Skyway Strategies recommended "easily copied at Office Max or Staples." From the email it appears that Skyway strategies is recommending that these fliers be mailed with stamps much like the racist flyer that was sent out as opposed to using a traditional mail house. See Exhibit C.

It has been revealed that Mr. Lankey's campaign paid for a large number of stamps in the fall of 2017. While the committee of the whole received testimony that Shariq Ahmad, the Chairman of the Edison Democratic Organization purchased \$3,920.00 in stamps, the Committee did not inquire as to who paid for the stamps. An ELEC report filed by Mr. Lankey on November 27, 2017 shows that the Lankey campaign paid \$3,920.00 on November 1, 2017 for postage. See Exhibit D.

“Unfortunately, the committee has become a parlor game, with fingers pointing at all. Instead of a committee searching for the truth, it has become a political vehicle for the Lankey Team, the Column A Democrats,” said Richard Brescher, a current Board of Education Member and council candidate.

Mr. Brescher stated that he provided committee members with evidence that Skyway Strategies was an entity related to Jaffee Communications, a Township vendor that is paid to act as the Mayor’s spokesperson. “I told Council member Diehl back in 2018 that Skyway and Jaffee communication were related entities. It baffles me why they would not call them for testimony,” said Mr. Brescher.

Mr. Hahn, in his testimony to the Committee of the Whole provided details regarding the funding of People for Progress and the associated mailers. According to Mr. Hahn, the PAC was funded by supporters of Mayor Lankey, specifically PegPAC. See Exhibit E.

In summary, there is now evidence that 1. Mr. Lankey’s campaign paid for stamps in November 2017; 2. That the Political Action Committee known as People for Progress sent mailers meeting the specifications created by Mr. Russomanno and Skyway Strategies; 3. Skyway Strategies and Jaffee communications are related entities; and 4. Evidence that People for Progress was funded through contributions from individuals supporting Team Lankey.

Exhibit A



Fwd: FINAL VERSION: NEGATIVE REPUBLICAN MAILER

Anthony <arusom819@aol.com>
To: A Patil <patilaja@gmail.com>, arussom819@aol.com

Tue, Sep 19, 2017 at 10:27 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Skyway Strategies <skywaystrategies@gmail.com>
Date: September 15, 2017 at 9:03:09 PM EDT
To: Russomanno Anthony <arusom819@aol.com>
Subject: Re: FINAL VERSION: NEGATIVE REPUBLICAN MAILER

A cop hat might be overkill. Let's paint him as a fool, not reinforce that he's a cop in people's minds.

We say he's a cop. Too many ordinary people associate cops with someone trustworthy. This guy's a dunce. A court jester . . . that's the subliminal message

On Sep 15, 2017 8:05 PM, "Anthony" <arusom819@aol.com> wrote:
Also I think a police cap would be better than the jester cap?

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 15, 2017, at 3:06 PM, Skyway Strategies <skywaystrategies@gmail.com> wrote:

\Gentlemen — attached is the final DRAFT of the NEGATIVE MAILER to Edison Republicans . . . and, so save a bit of your money, we can re-shuffle this for Edison Dems/Independents. This version includes your request to label Hahn as a cop who's such a dunce that he cannot pass a promotions test.

I would like your written approval(s) to move ahead. Also, Adam has NOT SUPPLIED us with a mailing universe for the Republicans recipients?.

Skyway Strategies
P.O. Box 15
Fanwood, N.J. 07024
Phone: (732) 470-0589

<Edison GOP NEGATIVE MAILER-SIDE 1.jpg>

<Edison GOP NEGATIVE MAILER-SIDE 2.jpg>



A Patil <patilaja@gmail.com>

Edison GOP NEGATIVE MAILER-SIDE 1.jpg

Anthony <arusom819@aol.com>
To: A Patil <patilaja@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 20, 2017 at 10:51 AM

Sent from my iPhone



Edison GOP NEGATIVE MAILER-SIDE 1.jpg
1830K

Exhibit B

EDISON REPUBLICANS: BEWARE!

KEITH HAHN IS NOT A LEADER.
HE'S NOT EVEN A REAL REPUBLICAN.
HE IS AN **OPPORTUNIST** WHO **LIES**
AND MAKES **PHONY PROMISES.**

HE **DOUBLE-CROSSED** DEMOCRATS
& **SWITCHED** TO REPUBLICAN
TO RUN FOR **MAYOR.**

A COP FOR 22 YEARS,
HAHN **CAN'T PASS**
A SERGEANT'S EXAM.

CAN HE REALLY
RUN EDISON?

**HAHN DOESN'T
HAVE WHAT IT TAKES!**

NO HONOR - NO SMARTS - NO PLAN

PROUDLY BY PEOPLE FOR PROGRESS. A. MORALE, TREASURER. PO BOX 20000 NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08900

WARNING: NEGATIVE CAMPAIGN

**KEITH HAHN HAS NO CLUE
HOW TO BE A MAYOR.
HE HAS NO PLAN
& NO PLATFORM.
SO, ALL HE DOES IS WHINE
AND COMPLAIN BECAUSE:**



**THROWING STONES
AT A MAYOR IS
EASIER THAN BEING ONE.**

A. Morans, Treasurer
PO Box 10153
New Brunswick, NJ 08906

0000970...000001...000002...SCH 5-DIGIT 08817 FBSC
Cardi and Wayne Mascola
16 Gates Pl
Edison, NJ 08817-3515

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
UNION, NJ
PERMIT NO. 628

Exhibit C



A Patil <patilaja@gmail.com>

Fwd: Edison Dems Dear Neighbor letter v1 - 2:30pm 10/10

Anthony <arusom819@aol.com>
To: A Patil <patilaja@gmail.com>

Wed, Oct 11, 2017 at 6:27 AM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Skyway Strategies <skywaystrategies@gmail.com>
Date: October 10, 2017 at 3:25:54 PM EDT
To: Russomanno Anthony <arusom819@aol.com>
Subject: Fwd: Edison Dems Dear Neighbor letter v1 - 2:30pm 10/10

Here is BEWARE letter that you request to . This pdf can be easily copied at OfficeMax or Staples

 EdisonDems_DearNeighborLetter_v1.pdf
135K

BEWARE of FAKE DEMOCRATS!

Dear Neighbor:

FAKE DEMOCRATS may try to **LIE TO YOU!**

The Democratic Committeemen & Committeewomen we recently elected from our neighborhood turned out to be **TRAITORS** to the **DEMOCRATIC PARTY.**

These **FAKE DEMOCRATS** may try to **TRICK YOU** into displaying **FAKE LAWN SIGNS** saying: **“DEMOCRATS FOR HAHN!”**

DON'T DO IT — DON'T BE FOOLED!

These **LIARS** are desperate **REPUBLICANS** helping Patrolman **KEITH HAHN.**

Real Democrats dumped **PATROLMAN HAHN.** Now he masquerades as a **REPUBLICAN**, but he does not and will not represent our community.

Proudly display **ONLY REAL LAWN SIGNS** for **EDISON MAYOR TOM LANKEY** and **“The Edison Team!”**

On Nov. 7 — ELECT Column B Democrats.

DON'T GET TRICKED - DON'T BE FOOLED

Exhibit D

FORM R-1	REPORT OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES		REPORT FILED: 20-DAY POSTELECTION
NEW JERSEY ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION P.O. BOX 185, Trenton, NJ 08625-0185 (609) 292-8700 or Toll Free Within NJ 1-888-313-ELEC (3532) Web site: http://www.elec.state.nj.us			
CANDIDATE OR COMMITTEE NAME THOMAS LANKEY			For State Use Only Submitted Via Internet 11/27/2017 At 10:05 PM
STREET ADDRESS 69 SALEM STREET			
CITY EDISON	STATE NJ	ZIP CODE 08820	
COUNTY MIDDLESEX	ELECTION DISTRICT OR MUNICIPALITY EDISON		
POLITICAL PARTY, IF ANY DEMOCRAT	OFFICE SOUGHT MAYOR		
ELECTION DATE November 07, 2017	ELECTION TYPE GENERAL ELECTION		
SUMMARY TABLES			
TABLE I. RECEIPTS			
		THIS REPORT	CUMULATIVE TO DATE
1. MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS / LOANS OF \$300 OR LESS		\$ 5,800.00	\$ 13,275.00
2. MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS IN EXCESS OF \$300 AND ALL CURRENCY CONTRIBUTIONS [Schedule A]		\$ 16,100.00	\$ 81,850.00
3. IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS OF \$300 OR LESS		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
4. IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS IN EXCESS OF \$300 [Schedule B]		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
5. LOANS RECEIVED IN EXCESS OF \$300 AND ALL CURRENCY LOANS [Schedule C]		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
6. SUB TOTAL (ADD LINES 1 THRU 5)		\$ 21,900.00	\$ 95,125.00
7. REFUND OF CONTRIBUTIONS [Adjustment Schedule]	(-)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
8. TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS		\$ 21,900.00	\$ 95,125.00
9. ADD FUNDS TRANSFERRED FROM PRIOR CAMPAIGN	(+)	\$ 0.00	\$ 109,764.08
10. TOTAL RECEIPTS (ADD LINE 8 + LINE 9)		\$ 21,900.00	\$ 204,889.08
TABLE II. EXPENDITURES			
1. DISBURSEMENTS - CAMPAIGN EXPENSES [Schedule 1(D)]		\$ 89,718.38	\$ 128,500.73
2. DISBURSEMENTS - OTHER [Schedule 2(D)]		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
3. DISBURSEMENTS - CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO OTHER CANDIDATES/COMMITTEES [Schedule 3(D)]		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
4. CONTRIBUTIONS MADE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS [Pro Rata Amount Schedules 1(D) and 2(D)]		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
5. IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS OF \$300 OR LESS (TABLE I, LINE 3)		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
6. IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS IN EXCESS OF \$300 (TABLE I, LINE 4)		\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
7. SUB TOTAL (ADD LINES 1 THRU 6)		\$ 89,718.38	\$ 128,500.73
8. REFUNDED DISBURSEMENTS [Schedule F]	(-)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
9. TOTAL EXPENDITURES (LINE 7 MINUS LINE 8)		\$ 89,718.38	\$ 128,500.73

SCHEDULE 1(D) - DISBURSEMENTS

Campaign Expenses

PAYMENT DATE	CHECK NO.	PAYEE NAME AND ADDRESS	PURPOSE	FULL AMOUNT	PRO-RATA AMOUNT THIS REPORTING ENTITY	PRO-RATA AMOUNT OTHERS
10/31/2017	1284	NIKIA TAYLOR LYONS 55 WINTHROP ROAD EDISON NJ 08817	GOTV-POLLWORKERS-ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES - CANVASSER	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
10/31/2017	1285	DAN ULLOA 7 SILVESTER COURT EAST BRUNSWICK NJ 08816	GOTV-POLLWORKERS-ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES - CANVASSER	\$375.00	\$375.00	\$0.00
10/31/2017	1287	FRIDAY FILMS LLC 350C N LAFAYETTE ROAD APT 2C METUCHEN NJ 08840	ADVERTISING PRODUCTION - FACEBOOK CAMPAIGN VIDEO	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
10/31/2017	1288	PRINCETON STRATEGIES LLC 13050 BUSTLETON AVE SUITE G PHILADELPHIA PA 19116	FOOD AND BEVERAGE (STAFF) - WATER	\$19.96	\$19.96	\$0.00
10/31/2017	1289	SKYWAY STRATEGIES PO BOX 1655 CRANFORD NJ 07016	PRINTING LITERATURE (HANDOUTS-FLYERS/PALM CARDS) - MAILERS	\$12,691.00	\$12,691.00	\$0.00
11/01/2017	1305	SHARIQ AHMAD 101 GREENWOOD AVENUE EDISON NJ 08817	DIRECT MAIL (PRINTING AND POSTAGE) - REIMBURSED FOR POSTAGE	\$3,920.00	\$3,920.00	\$0.00
11/01/2017	1306	CONSORTIUM COMPANIES 400 RARITAN CENTER PARKWAY SUITE F EDISON NJ 08837	DIRECT MAIL (PRINTING AND POSTAGE) - POSTAGE FOR LETTER	\$1,064.66	\$1,064.66	\$0.00
11/01/2017	1307	JERSEY SHORE AERIAL ADVERTISING LLC 24 HILLSIDE ROAD MANALAPAN NJ 07726	BILLBOARDS-LAWN SIGNS - AERIAL ADVERTISING	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
11/07/2017	1290	VOID	GOTV-POLLWORKERS-ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES - CANVASSER	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Candidate/Committee Name: THOMAS LANKEY

Exhibit E

This form can be electronically filed at www.elec.nj.gov



SUPPLEMENTAL EXPENDITURE INFORMATION

NEW JERSEY ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
P.O. Box 185, Trenton, NJ 08625-0185
(609) 292-8700 or Toll Free Within NJ 1-800-313-ELEC (3532)
www.elec.nj.gov

FORM E-1

FOR STATE USE ONLY

ELEC RECEIVED

OCT 27 2017

To be filed within 48 hours of expenditure by a candidate, joint candidates committee, or a political committee expending in excess of \$1,500 starting with the 15th day prior to the election up to, and including, the day of the election.

Candidate or Committee Name PEOPLE FOR PROGRESS	Election Date 11-7-17	Appointed? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Address (Number and Street, City, State, Zip Code) 110 MONROE AVE, NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 07921		
County SURSECT	Classification (Municipality, Township, etc.) FORWARD ELLISON CHAIRMAN	(Area) Evening Telephone
Committee Treasurer Name ROBERT RUDY	Address	Evening Telephone

Payment Date 10/27/17	Check No. 339	Purpose DONATION	Amount Incurred/Not Paid \$	Amount Disbursed \$ 7200
Full Name of Payee PEOPLE FOR PROGRESS				
Full Mailing Address				

Expenditures on Behalf of Candidate(s)/Committee(s) (Identify Recipient)			
Candidate/Committee Full Name	Election Date	Election District or Municipality	Prorated Amount \$

Payment Date 10/27/17	Check No. 340	Purpose DONATION	Amount Incurred/Not Paid \$	Amount Disbursed \$ 2800
Full Name of Payee BOE UNIFY TEAM				
Full Mailing Address				

Expenditures on Behalf of Candidate(s)/Committee(s) (Identify Recipient)			
Candidate/Committee Full Name	Election Date	Election District or Municipality	Prorated Amount \$

Payment Date	Check No.	Purpose	Amount Incurred/Not Paid \$	Amount Disbursed \$
Full Name of Payee				
Full Mailing Address				

Expenditures on Behalf of Candidate(s)/Committee(s) (Identify Recipient)			
Candidate/Committee Full Name	Election Date	Election District or Municipality	Prorated Amount \$

(COMPLETE THIS LINE FOR EVERY PAGE USED)	TOTAL, THIS PAGE	\$	2,800
(COMPLETE THIS LINE FOR LAST PAGE USED)	GRAND TOTAL	\$	2,800

Candidate or Treasurer Signature: **JOHN SCHATTER** Date: **10/27/17**

New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission. Leave this field blank if your telephone number is unlisted. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 17:27A-1, if an unlisted telephone number is not a public record and must not be revealed on this form. Form E-1, Revised 11/2/2016

RECEIVED VIA FAX

ITEMIZED RECEIPTS (Other than Loans)		SCHEDULE A	Page No.	of 2
PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT. PHOTOCOPIES MAY BE USED IF ADDITIONAL FORMS ARE NEEDED.				
Receipt Type (Use a separate "Schedule A" for each type and for each separate account.)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Currency		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Other Monetary Contributions		<input type="checkbox"/> In-Kind Contributions-Expenditures Made by Others
<input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursements/Refunds of Disbursements				<input type="checkbox"/> Dividends/Interest
Committee Name PegPac				
Account Name PegPac				
Contributor Name Jalloh and Jalloh		State Use Only	Contributor Address (Number and Street) 21 West Blancke Stree	
Occupation		State Use Only	City, State, Zip Code Linden, NJ 07036	
Employer Name		Date(s) Received this Period		Amount(s) Received this Period
Employer Address		7/17/17		\$500
City, State, Zip Code				
Receipt Description (If In-Kind)		Aggregate Year-to-Date		
Contributor Name Rainona Coughlin Minchello		State Use Only	Contributor Address (Number and Street) 1 Woodbridge Center Suite 515	
Occupation		State Use Only	City, State, Zip Code Woodbridge Township, NJ 07095	
Employer Name <i>PARTNER to NEW SPENCER LAW FIRM</i>		Date(s) Received		Amount(s) Received
Employer Address		7/19/17		\$500
City, State, Zip Code				
Receipt Description (If In-Kind)		Aggregate Year-to-Date		
Contributor Name Hodulik and Morrison		State Use Only	Contributor Address (Number and Street) 1102 Raritan Ave	
Occupation <i>EAISON AUDITOR</i>		State Use Only	City, State, Zip Code Highland Park, NJ 08864	
Employer Name		Date(s) Received		Amount(s) Received
Employer Address <i>VICE CHAIR OF MAGYME BANK -> WITH LANKEY 733-319-6796</i>		9/18/2017		\$7200
City, State, Zip Code				
Receipt Description (If In-Kind)		Aggregate Year-to-Date		
Contributor Name Election Fund of Chalg Coughlin		State Use Only	Contributor Address (Number and Street) PO Box 388	
Occupation		State Use Only	City, State, Zip Code Woodbridge, NJ 07095	
Employer Name <i>NEW SPENCER OF ASSEMBLY</i>		Date(s) Received		Amount(s) Received
Employer Address		9/25/2017		\$2,500
City, State, Zip Code				
Receipt Description (If In-Kind)		Aggregate Year-to-Date		
1. SUBTOTAL (Add all receipts listed on this page.)				\$10,700
2. TOTAL RECEIPTS, THIS PERIOD (Complete this line on the last page used for each receipt type. Carry forward to applicable line on Page 2, Column A.)				