

Statement from Jazmyn Jones, Chester Jones, Michael Ranallo, God-Is Ike, Esq. regarding their suit against Trenton Mayor Reed Gusciora and the Mercer County Board of Elections.

August 8, 2018

Trenton, NJ - The right to participate in fair and impartially managed elections is paramount to all Citizens. Meddling in that process, no matter how minor or trivial it is perceived to be, is something that should not be discounted or taken lightly by anyone.

Almost 40,000 registered voters reside in Trenton NJ, and election turnout is consistently a small fraction of that total. Interference in the electoral process can impact voter apathy and add to an extremely low participation rate. People do not vote because it is believed nothing ever changes.

Due to the misconduct witnessed and documented during the June 2018 Trenton Mayoral runoff election, a complaint was necessary in order to expose some of what has unfortunately become the normal practice within Trenton politics both on the part of Candidates and the Mercer County Board of Elections.

This complaint contains affidavits that address the misconduct of Mr. Gusciora and that of Mercer County Board of Election workers and Supervisors.

In one example, there is a video recording of Mr. Gusciora behind an election workers table looking through the voting rolls while conversing with that poll worker. In another documented example there are poll workers advising voters entering the voting booth that Mr. Gusciora is the "Democratic" candidate and Mr. Perez is the "Republican" candidate then reminding the voter to choose the "Democratic" option.

Our complaint specifically alleges and verifies the tactics used to further a broken system whereby individuals and institutions can be cajoled to achieve desired election results.

This complaint is an attempt to create a more fair and trusted electoral process moving forward.

Our intention was never to unseat Mr. Gusciora, embarrass him or move toward another election.

Any embarrassment Mr. Gusciora feels should stem from his actions that day and not the fact that he is being held accountable.

A meeting was offered to Mr. Gusciora and was promptly declined with no thought given to the expense of the City taxpayer who is paying Mr. Gusciora's legal defense or more importantly the missed opportunity to make progress and improve the electoral process in Trenton which would benefit every citizen.

We offered to move Trenton forward together without further proceedings or expense, but the offer was flatly refused.

This case should not be oversimplified or downplayed as an action solely focused on the distribution food - which is against election rules - because the complaint contains more than that.

Election laws and procedure exist for a reason and no matter how minor they may seem, we need them for faith, order and fairness in this most important process.

This case will not undo the past, but serious action and thoughtful consideration by all may help in deterring such misconduct from reoccurring and addresses a culture and environment of entitlement and privilege that violates not only the spirit but also the essence of the law.