



NEW JERSEY SENATE

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May 31, 2019

Dear General Grewal:

You may be aware that the City of Linden is involved in a contentions primary race. Mayor Derek Armstead is backing a column C slate of candidates including Councilman Ralph Strano in the 7th ward. Councilman Strano is the Chairman of the City of Linden public works committee which is charged with oversight of the City of Linden Department of Public Works. Councilman Strano is being challenged by Mr. Terrance Brown with a slate of candidates on Column A. Councilman Strano arranged for the hiring of the current City of Linden Public Works Director Mr. Frank Dann from Dover Township who is charged with day to day operations.

On Wednesday, May 31, 2019 a city of Linden public works truck was spotted removing Mr. Brown's signs from several private residential lawns and private property throughout the 7th ward in the city of Linden.

Later in the day, dozens of Mr. Brown's signs were found in the back of a Linden public works truck on City of Linden Public Works property.

One public works employees on site, "Mike," indicated that he was removing the signs from private property but was only following the directions of higher ups and did not wish to get in trouble.

I have attached photographic evidence to support these allegations taken by Linden City Councilman John Francis Roman. Additionally, there is a police report associated with this incident filed by Mr. Terrance Brown who is the 7th Ward Council Candidate and had his personal signs stolen from his lawn by Linden Public Works employees.

There is only one logical conclusion. That official misconduct has taken place and that Mayor Armstead and Councilman Strano are responsible for directing public resources to carry out a political vendetta. What's next, will Mayor Armstead direct the police department to pull over and harass Mr. Brown's canvassers or Mr. Brown himself while he is campaigning. This type of behavior is reprehensible and flies in the face of civics and good government and cannot be allowed to stand. I urge you to have your office of Public integrity conduct a full investigation of the facts and prosecute the offenders to the fullest extent of the law.

Please feel free to contact with any questions regarding this matter.

Very truly yours,

Sen. Nick Scutari