

CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT
PROJECTS (COPS)

CITIZENSOVERSIGHT.ORG

PO Box 252
EL CAJON, CA 92022
619-820-5321

June 20, 2008

Jerry VanDeWeghe, District Director
Senator Dennis Hollingsworth
36th Senate District, CA State Legislature
1870 Cordell Court, #107
El Cajon, CA 92020



REF: T00036-C00012

Dear Mr. VanDeWeghe:

You have recently requested that you be allowed to subscribe to our "blackwater" email list, and in the process of responding to you, the following set of emails have been traded.

First, you sent this email to the list.

Date: Mon, 9 Jun 2008 11:54:23 -0700
From: "VanDeWeghe, Jerry" <Jerry.VanDeWeghe@SEN.CA.GOV>
To: <blackwater@citizenoversight.org>
Subject: [Blackwater] Mailing List

Ray,

Somehow my email status got changed and I would like to continue to read what the people on the list are thinking about Blackwater. I make sure that my offices know what is going on with the Blackwater issue and I am sure this was not done intentionally. I am sure you and the group like having your thoughts shared with a CA state senate office. Please let me know if there is a problem. Thank you.

Jerry VanDeWeghe, District Director
Senator Dennis Hollingsworth
36th Senate District, CA State Legislature
PH (619) 596-3136 FAX (619) 596-3140

And I responded as follows

Date: Mon, 09 Jun 2008 20:09:20 -0700
From: Raymond Lutz <raylutz@citizenoversight.org>
Organization: Citizens' Oversight
To: "VanDeWeghe, Jerry" <Jerry.VanDeWeghe@SEN.CA.GOV>,
blackwater@citizenoversight.org
Subject: Re: [Blackwater] Mailing List

(Please don't send such administrivia to the list. I've set your moderation to ON so you can't make such mistakes in the future.)

You almost make me laugh out loud with that ridiculous drama session in federal court, Mr. VanDeWeghe, with the Blackwater attorney asking YOU to turn on the recording of Mayor Jerry Sanders making statements on the Roger

Hedgecock show and submitting that as evidence, and the attorney making a silly claim that it was just too complicated to press PLAY on the digital player. Maybe that was a way to get the evidence in and get you into the transcript for posterity sake. A few brownie points is apparently what you live for. I hope you are embarrassed and at least toss and turn at night at how you again misuse the courtesy we have extended to you. Pile that on top of the ridiculous technicality you brought forth at the January 2007 Potrero Planning Group meeting, delaying reconsideration of the Blackwater issue for another two months. You should come to the community and apologize for your continued attempts to put Blackwater on the map, including the Tent City. What else are you doing with them, or are you willing to start being honest with us at all?

You've gone down in history as being a lap-dog for Blackwater. Why should we be so kind to even allow you to subscribe to our discussion list? I noticed that Brian Bonfiglio had the audacity to include emails from this list and pages from the website in his 99-page declaration, and then to redact the emails of whoever the slime is that is sending those his way (or am I so bold as to just assume it is you, or is BW working with their CIA-equivalent spy operation and looking at the list anyway?) Bonfiglio included those emails while at the same time, not redacting the personal email addresses and other information by others who posted to the list and did not approve of further dissemination.

I must add that such behavior is in violation of list etiquette rule #12, where Bonfiglio posted a message to another "list" (this time the federal court documents) without giving the person the right to respond. See the etiquette rules here: <http://www.copswiki.org/twiki/bin/view/Common/ListServeEtiquette>. I should probably add to that list a new item for your benefit, that no emails from the list are allowed in ridiculous federal court hearings, before a GHW Bush Appointee, and with Blackwater lackey VanDeWeghe providing the emails from the list and playing recording that are certainly out of place before any other judge.

I'll let the list have their say... What do you think? Should we allow a known Blackwater operative to subscribe to the list, and allow such behavior to continue? Or should we penalize him for his behavior at the recent abortion of justice in the federal courthouse, and strike him from the subscription roles??

What say ye, list subscribers?

We received a number of responses, all except one voting to disable your subscription. To one of these, you wrote:

I find it hard to believe that a group like this would want to keep a state senators office off the list. How can you say you are for the people and public disclosure and not let a state office at least read what the people say.

Jerry VanDeWeghe
619-954-9243

And, then I wrote:

Date: Tue, 10 Jun 2008 12:23:48 -0700
From: Raymond Lutz <raylutz@citizenoversight.org>
Organization: Citizens' Oversight
To: "VanDeWeghe, Jerry" <Jerry.VanDeWeghe@SEN.CA.GOV>
CC: blackwater@citizenoversight.org
Subject: Re: [Blackwater] Mailing List

I think you have this a bit backward, my friend. You are representing the elected official-- you are the party that needs to open up. This list is just an outgrowth of the public. You've been a member of the list for over a year, and have contributed nothing to the discussion. The overwhelming passion of the members of the list is to simply cast you aside, since you have proven yourself to be not just an interested bystander, but a man who was willing to become a pawn in the federal hearing for Blackwater.

Indeed, you have a great tendency to drift outside your district, as both the Potrero project and this Otay mess are both outside the 36th Senatorial District and in Denise Moreno Ducheny's district (30th SD).

But I think Jan Hedlun (as usual) may have the most wise contribution in this debate, at least for now. So let's see what we can make of this dialog.

Because you claim that you are such a proponent of public disclosure, please consider this to be an official records request, under the California Public Records Act, which requires all elected officials and components of our government to provide records when requested, recognizing that the public owns the government lock, stock, and barrel.

CPRA REQUEST:

Please provide any and all written correspondence, such as emails, text messages, letters, with Blackwater, Brian Bonfiglio, their attorneys, and any related parties. Also, I'd like you to disclose your meeting itineraries and any meeting notes related to meetings with the same. Also, has Dennis Hollingsworth accepted any contributions for past or future campaigns from Blackwater, et al?

Please answer this question, if you would be so kind: Why do we find you, supposedly a subordinate to an elected official who has been elected to represent the residents in the 36th Senatorial District, suddenly working to support a North Carolina corporation in a federal law suit against the City of San Diego and in stark contradiction to the traditions of local control?

--> Why did you play the tape at the hearing?

--Ray

Since then, I have heard nothing from your office. Although we have had no trouble corresponding by email in the past, it appears that your office does not wish to acknowledge this CPRA request. The normal turnaround for such requests is ten days, and since today is exactly ten days later, I am retransmitting this to your office by both email and by certified letter. We do expect an acknowledgment and a thorough response. Please feel free to respond by email.

Sincerely,

Raymond Lutz
Coordinator, Citizens' Oversight Projects (COPs)