



E-72a

Tony and Suzanne Bamonte
P.O. Box 8625
Spokane, WA 99203
(509) 838-7114 e-mail bamonte@comcast.net

January 10, 2009

Governor Chris Gregoire
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Gregoire:

This is a letter of information and request for you to order a Washington State Patrol investigation or initiate a grand jury investigation into the abuse of office, illegal conduct and organized criminal activity that has been going on in Spokane City and County for at least the past 12 years.

I am a former elected sheriff of a Washington State county (Pend Oreille) and retired career law enforcement officer with over 25-years of law enforcement experience. For the last 15 years my wife and I have been writing and publishing local and regional history books. We are currently writing a definitive history of Spokane and, in the process of our research into the public corruption chapter, have uncovered major probable cause indicating white collar criminal activity involving Spokane's wealthiest and most powerful and wealthy media family, the Cowles family (owners of the *Spokesman-Review*). Disturbingly, there appears to be direct involvement and cover-up of criminal wrongdoing on the part of the Cowleses by the majority of Spokane's elected and appointed officials which includes a massive financial fraud and first degree manslaughter – a Class A felony. The motive for this cover-up on behalf of the Cowles family by our public officials appears to be to curry editorial favor from the Cowleses and to avoid censure in their media empire. The Cowles media has historically established a pattern of vindictiveness and governmental exploitation that can empirically be traced back to 1915.

The Cowles family controls Spokane through the power of their media, which encompasses over 90 percent of Spokane's total media. They make or break our elected officials with the power of their press. Within the last 12 years, based on a report by the Internal Revenue Service, they have fraudulently cheated Spokane's taxpayers out of over \$100 million with the city receiving no capital return. Most importantly, and involving this fraud, they were responsible for the tragic death of a woman by recklessly ignoring a dangerous life-threatening situation they knowingly allowed to exist in their public parking garage for over 12-years.

Of significance, the garage owners, specifically Betsy Cowles, asserted her influence in refusing to let the garage be inspected as required by city mandates – city officials knew of this danger yet complied. This was well documented by statements from the city's former real estate manager and a former assistant city manager who have commented publicly on this inspection failure (see attachments).

I am enclosing copies of letters I wrote to various public officials and media organizations, which provided them with evidence and probable cause of crimes. Among these officials who are willfully refraining

from performing the duties imposed upon them by law are the current Spokane County sheriff (publicly endorsed in the *Spokesman-Review* when he ran for election); the current Spokane County prosecutor (publicly endorsed in the *Spokesman-Review* when he ran for election) and the Spokane Chief of police, who, from the time she refused to investigate my complaint, has received exceptionally good press from the *Spokesman-Review*. Also, since the police chief has protected the Cowles family from a criminal investigation, the *Spokesman-Review* has completely altered their attitude toward the Spokane Police Department and no longer serves as an unbiased news source when the police commit wrongful actions.

In addition, the United States Attorney General (publicly endorsed by the Cowles in the *Spokesman-Review* was also a part of the Cowles fraud and has spent considerable time in covering up for the Cowles. Further, the current city council, with the exception of one member who has disagreed with the Cowles on various issues, were also endorsed by the *Spokesman-Review*.

In corroboration of the Cowles family's control of Spokane, I am enclosing an e-mail written to me by the current mayor of Spokane, Mary Verner. In that she refers to the Cowles family as "the powers that be," stating: "they will ensure that I do not get elected ... period" if she makes their fraudulent conduct a cornerstone of her campaign platform – Immediately following her successful election she appointed Stacey Cowles, the publisher of the *Spokesman-Review*, to her advisory board. When the mayor was running for office she requested a meeting with me. During that meeting at my home, which lasted over three hours and included a number of my associates, she clearly made it known that she was very aware of the control the Cowles family has over Spokane and how they use their media empire to make or destroy people and families. In hind sight, I now see that the purpose of the mayor's visit was not honorable, but for political purposes only.

Governor, it is my understanding a complaint against the Cowles family involving the RPS fraud and the Cowles family was filed with you at one time when you were the attorney general and you failed to take any action. I also see that you were endorsed by the Cowles family during your last election and, as elections are sometimes closely contested, you can understand the importance of good news coverage within your jurisdiction. I don't know what the circumstances were at that time but, if you study the evidence I am sending you regarding my manslaughter complaint, you will find it to be an exceptionally solid case that is blatantly being covered up by those in positions of public trust.

I realize how busy you are at this time, but less that four months remain on the statue of limitations involving the First Degree Manslaughter (class A felony) and those responsible for protecting the public appear to be deliberately letting the clock run out.

I respectfully ask that you carefully study all of my enclosed correspondence and the criminal evidence I have generated, then perform the duty imposed upon you by law.

I request that you respond to this letter by January 30, 2009. If I do not hear from you by that time, I will assume you do not intend to respond. Either way, please be assured this dishonorable conduct and abuses of office by those persons holding positions of trust will not go unnoticed or unchallenged.

Sincerely,

Tony Bamonte