

February 9, 2009

E-87

Tony Bamonte
P.O. Box 8625
Spokane, WA 99203

Rob McKenna, Washington State Attorney General
1125 Washington Street S.E.
P.O. Box 40100
Olympia, WA 98504-0100

Dear Mr. McKenna:

With this letter I am calling upon you to take four immediate steps to protect the public's safety in Spokane.

- 1) Pending inspection, initiate an immediate closure of the River Park Square parking garage in downtown Spokane based on the enclosed evidence that it is unsafe.
- 2) Cause an inspection of the garage by an agency independent of Spokane government and commerce to determine its true condition.
- 3) Empanel a state grand jury to investigate evidence that the garage's hazards result directly from a continuing organized criminal enterprise in Spokane involving the garage's owner (the Cowles family) and various Spokane government officials.
- 4) Take immediate action to insure justice is served by completing the investigation into the Jo Ellen Savage death in the River Park Square parking garage and bringing criminal charges against those who were recklessly responsible for her death. Based on the time already allowed to lapse there is an urgency to meet the statute of limitations which will expire on April 8, 2009.

The basis for these requests is contained in the enclosed 92-exhibit, 229-page documentation of evidence concerning the April 8, 2006, death of Ms. Savage. This evidence provides a time line of nonfeasance and, what appears to be, criminal assistance rendered by public officials concerning the first-degree manslaughter complaint I filed in August 2007 with the Spokane county sheriff and Spokane city police chief in the matter of Ms. Savage's death.

This documentation establishes evidence of criminal activity, corruption and subsequent cover-ups involving specific members of the Cowles family, the Spokane County sheriff and prosecutor, and the Spokane city police chief and mayor surrounding Ms. Savage's death. It also provides evidence that the hazard that caused Ms. Savage's death continues to exist and worsen with time. Further, the evidence suggests that the entire Cowles garage may be in such poor condition that an outright failure of that facility is possible. If that happened, a large number of people could be injured or killed.

This documentation establishes probable cause that there is sufficient evidence of criminal activity and corruption to immediately initiate a grand jury investigation into the public corruption that has caused this dangerous condition to exist in Washington's second-largest city. The public interest demands this investigation.

The reason I am taking this step now is because I just obtained the sworn statement taken from Rex Franklin, former manager of the Cowles parking garage, after the tragic death of Ms. Savage. This statement attests to the garage's dangerous condition and his futile efforts to correct those dangers while he was a Cowles employee. Mr. Franklin's statement, which is contained in the enclosed exhibits of evidence, provides information that represents strong probable cause for bringing first-degree manslaughter charges against the garage's owners. I further believe that evidence implicating public officials in Ms. Savage's death, and their failure to address a persistent public hazard in the River Park Square garage, constitutes probable cause for bringing various applicable criminal charges against those public officials involved.

With the receipt of this correspondence you now have clear knowledge of a grave public hazard in Spokane. You also have evidence that this hazard results from chronic public corruption in Spokane revolving around Spokane's most powerful family. I specifically allege that evidence surrounding the Cowles family's publicly funded River Park Square shopping mall indicates the family is engaged in an organized criminal enterprise that illegally laundered public money into its private real estate holdings. I also allege that the family uses its media empire to punish with unfair negative publicity public officials who try to expose and thwart its illegal activities, and to reward with deceptive favorable publicity those who aid and abet its criminal activities. I further allege that this pattern of practice led directly to Ms. Savage's death and threatens other members of the public with her fate. I also allege that the citizens of Washington State are being potentially exposed to a financial liability because state-funded signage on Interstate-90 directs motorists to River Park Square and its documented hazards.

As you will see from the evidence I now present you, a pattern of practice has also been established concerning my first-degree manslaughter complaint in the matter of Ms. Savage's death. This pattern suggests deliberate actions and inactions being made for the purpose of rendering criminal assistance by specific public officials to persons suspected of committing a Class A felony. This assistance to the suspects clearly appears to be for the purpose of allowing the statute of limitations to run out. As you know, under Washington law, this itself is a felony. Again, I wish to emphasize that only two months remain in the Savage death statute of limitations.

Mr. McKenna, I strongly request that you carefully study my documentation and immediately act on my complaint. There is easily sufficient evidence and probable cause to indict numerous Cowles family members, public officials and possible other suspects with felony crimes. -

I spent twenty-five years in law enforcement, twelve of those years as the three-term elected sheriff of Pend Oreille County, Washington and, thus, I am well-acquainted with the justice system. The evidence contained in my accompanying exhibits represents the most morally reprehensible disregard for human life and the most extreme public corruption I have ever witnessed.

Please advise me immediately of your intentions to respond to my requests. Your actions will influence the next steps I plan to take in doing everything possible to see justice done concerning the death of Jo Ellen Savage and Spokane's public corruption crisis. Similarly, please let me know if you have any questions concerning this material or if I may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Tony Bamonte