

April 7, 2009

**E-98**

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:

On February 6 and February 9 of 2009, I wrote you letters concerning the cover-up of a first-degree manslaughter that occurred in Spokane on April 8, 2006. I also enclosed 207 pages of documentation regarding that cover-up, which involved members of Spokane's powerful Cowles family and numerous public officials.

The Cowleses, as you are no doubt aware, have controlled Spokane's media for more than a century. Throughout Spokane's history, the family has used its media to manipulate Spokane's government for its own business purposes. This was the dynamic that the IRS documented in its June 2004 report finding that the City of Spokane sold municipal bonds that violated federal tax code to help the Cowleses redevelop their downtown shopping mall, River Park Square. As a result the IRS found more than ten million dollars of excess profits were illegally funneled into Cowles real estate companies. Among the agency's damning findings: "It is clear from the factors of this case, the developer had, and continues to have, a particular relationship with the City of Spokane... such that it was in a position to control or influence its activities." (See "The Casino was Rigged" at [www.camasmagazine.com](http://www.camasmagazine.com) to read the entire IRS report.)

In my correspondence to you I documented how the public corruption that built River Park Square led directly to the 2006 death of Jo Ellen Savage in the Cowles-owned River Park Square garage.

On April 4, 2009, in the Cowles newspaper, the *Spokesman-Review*, it was announced: "the state Attorney General's office concluded in separate reviews that there's not enough evidence to prove the owners of the River Park Square garage were guilty of criminal recklessness or criminal negligence beyond a reasonable doubt." This reflects a blatant failure on your part to discharge the duties entrusted to you. If you would have taken the time to study and follow up on the materials I provided you, I believe you would have discovered strong and abundant evidence to support charges. Not only did you not have the courtesy to respond to my letters and concern for the public's safety, but you made yourself a part of this cover-up. You have sided with the corrupt and powerful Cowles family against the public upon which the family preys. And you have implicated your office, and the State of Washington, in the first-degree manslaughter death of Ms. Savage. Was your motive to maintain the media favor of the Cowleses? This is precisely how the family has used its media as a weapon against the public of Eastern Washington for more than a century.

Mr. McKenna, at a time when the American people need ethical government more than ever before in this nation's history, you have added your name to a roll of dishonor. The public can ignore actions like

yours only at its peril and that of future generations. My conscience will not allow me to ignore your conduct. I intend to continue the pursuit of justice in the matter of Ms. Savage's death. If I fail, I will have at least made a clear record of the circumstances that killed a much-loved woman and mother. Those circumstances now involve the Office of Attorney General of the State of Washington. This is a very sad day for all residents of this state.

Sincerely,

Tony Bamonte