

THE HUNTERDON COUNTY NEWS

- Breaking News -

02/03/06

TITLE: IN READINGTON CAMPAIGN VIOLATIONS RAISE EYEBROWS TOWARD AIRPORT
DESCRIPTION:

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ARTICLE

HC - Every time you turn around the Solberg airport debacle seems to take another twist or turn and this week it is no different. Committeewoman Julia Allen, who defeated James Hunter in a write in campaign in November, is alleging that a portion of Hunter's campaign funding came from Thor Solberg so that the airport could gain a foothold on the committee. The problem is no one really knows for sure because Hunter has not followed NJ election law procedure and has failed to file pre-election forms to account where his money came from. As of this date he claims that only \$4,575 dollars were spent on the campaign an amount that many in the township snicker at as unrealistic and not possible. Allen for example spent approximately 70 thousand on her campaign. Solberg denies donating money to Hunter. According to the election bureau candidates who don't file the proper forms can be subject to fines of up to 6 thousand for first time violations.

During the election THE HC NEWS STATED

Julia Allen lost in the primary to Gatti and Hunter as the voters seemed a bit ticked that she was running up some pretty serious legal bills and it appeared that this would be a non race come November. However, Allen has made a serious write in campaign challenge and a few things about candidate Hunter have come to light that may shock some of you.

Hunter has a criminal record Hunter and his business, James Hunter Real Estate and Construction are associated with a convicted felon with organized crime ties Hunter is linked to the owners of Solberg Airport Hunter and James Hunter Real Estate and Construction are being sued for alleged fraudulent business practices Hunter's other business, Sebastiano's, promotes a form of gambling designed to circumvent NJ laws prohibiting gambling activities on licensed premises Hunter is being reviewed by the NJ Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) for violations of election laws during the June 2005 primary Hunter appears to be an individual with little respect for the law, who flouts it as necessary to suit his own purposes, and not the type of person one would like to see on the governing body of a township. Please review the source public documents, linked to the text below, and judge for yourself.

James M. Hunter's Criminal Record A Middlesex County Grand Jury indicted James M. Hunter for "Receiving Stolen Property" on or about August 1, 1990 in the Borough of South Plainfield in violation

of N.J.S.A 2C: 20-7, a criminal offense of the third degree (felony). After appearing in Superior Court of Middlesex County, Mr. Hunter subsequently entered into a plea bargain with the prosecutor, and pleaded guilty to a crime of a lesser degree. In the Judgment of Conviction on March 11, 1991, Judge Richard Plechner specifically noted as an aggravating circumstance "the risk that the defendant [Hunter] will commit another offense". When confronted with this information, Mr. Hunter acknowledges its accuracy, downplays its importance, and comments that he thought that it had been 'expunged' from his record some time ago. As of the June 7, 2005 Primary Election, Hunter's record had not been expunged as evidenced by the cited documents, which were readily available through the courts.

James M. Hunter's Business Association with a Known Criminal With Organized Crime Connections
Mr. Hunter owns James Hunter Real Estate and Construction, Inc., which operates in Hunterdon and Warren Counties. This business was incorporated in March 2001 by a Clifton, NJ (Passaic County) accountant named Nicholas A. Lucarella. Lucarella became the registered agent of the corporation with an office at 400 Clifton Avenue, Clifton, NJ. At the time Hunter and Lucarella began a business association, Lucarella was under indictment (April 15, 2000) for assault, threats of violence, and threats to kill. Lucarella was subsequently convicted (November 27, 2001) of these charges. James Hunter had a very public reminder of Lucarella's character on March 5, 2003 when, as reported in the New York Times and other media including radio, Lucarella was arrested for the attempted murder, conspiracy, and aggravated assault of his former attorney. Lucarella was indicted on these charges by a grand jury in Monmouth County on June 23, 2003, and is currently free on \$2.5 million bail awaiting trial. The Monmouth County Prosecutor noted that, "investigators had to sift through 'layer upon layer' of organized-crime activity to make the connections" between Lucarella and another alleged perpetrator, the two of whom were introduced "by mobster friends they shared." Despite this, Lucarella continues to this day to conduct corporate business for James Hunter Real Estate and Construction, Inc. both as an accountant and as an agent. On April 4, 2005, two years after his most recent arrest and indictment, Lucarella as Managing Agent of James Hunter Real Estate and Construction, Inc., accepted service of a lawsuit against the company at the registered office at the Clifton address. It appears that the reservations of the Judge Richard Plechner concerning Hunter's future were well taken. When confronted with this information, Mr. Hunter downplays its importance, and comments that, "He is only my accountant." Even if that were the whole truth, would the average person continue to do business with a convicted felon with a history of violent behavior and organized crime ties?

The rest of the info was available here - but has since been changed - <http://www.huntersrecord.com/>

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