



MICHAEL A. MONTESANO
Assemblyman 15th District
Nassau County

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

MINORITY WHIP
Ranker - Judiciary

COMMITTEES
Ways and Means
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Ethics and Guidance
Oversight, Analysis and Investigation
Rules

Hon. Letitia James
Office of the Attorney General
The Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

July 12, 2021

Re: Investigation into Governor Cuomo & JCOPE Leaks

Dear Ms. James:

I am writing to respectfully request that you re-open the investigation regarding leaks from a Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE) meeting in January 2019 to Governor Cuomo.

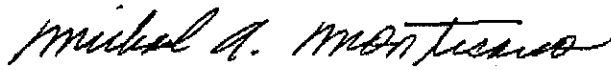
On Jan. 29, 2019, JCOPE voted on whether or not to launch an investigation targeting a former top aide to the governor, Joseph Percoco. Commissioner Jim Yates has since disclosed that within an hour of the closed-door vote, the governor found out how the commissioner voted and was not pleased with those who favored launching the investigation. Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie admitted that the governor contacted him after the vote to complain about how his appointees voted. Both Yates and another Heastie appointee, Julie Garcia, reported the leak to the state Inspector General's Office. To date, nothing has come of this issue.

As you know, it is a misdemeanor to leak information about any JCOPE meetings. They are confidential. For this reason, my colleagues and I on the Assembly Judiciary Committee are requesting that you launch a new investigation into this issue so that the person who leaked the information is held accountable and to ensure that it does not occur again. Time and time again, we have seen how the governor handles anyone going against his wishes. The commissioners of JCOPE should not have to deal with his bullying or have him intruding on their decisions.

No one should be above the law, especially the governor of our state. He cannot effectively lead our people through lies, deceit and special treatment. We are asking you to re-open this investigation to see that things are done lawfully, as they should have been done from the inception of the commission. Thank you for your time and consideration.



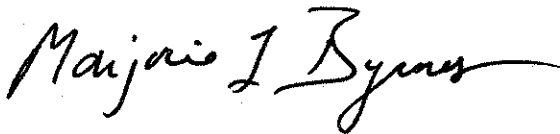
Sincerely,



Assemblyman Michael A. Montesano
15th Assembly District



Assemblyman Keith P. Brown
12th Assembly District



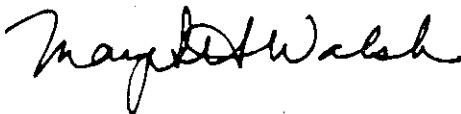
Assemblywoman Marjorie L. Byrnes
133rd Assembly District



Assemblyman Michael J. Norris
144th Assembly District



Assemblyman Michael Tannousis
64th Assembly District



Assemblywoman Mary Beth Walsh
112th Assembly District