



ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE
HON. EDWARD A. RATH, III
LEGISLATOR

February 3, 2012

R+F

The Honorable Betty Jean Grant
Chairperson of the Legislature
Legislative Chambers
92 Franklin Street – 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: Recommendation of David Shenk for Comptroller

Dear Chairwoman Grant:

I wrote yesterday to request that we have an in depth process to vet candidates seeking to be appointed to fill the vacancy in the office of Erie County Comptroller. I appreciate your quick response and willingness to accommodate that request. It was comforting to learn that you and I had similar concerns, and that a process will take place. Thank you.

Today I am writing to you about the article that appeared in today's paper regarding a "committee" making a recommendation to the legislature on whom the appointment should be. I was disappointed to learn that the Democratic Party's citizen committee to interview candidates used legislative offices and resources to make a recommendation to our body. I worry that it gives the appearance that the recommendation made by a political party carries some sort of weight in the ultimate decision we make.

As a sitting legislator, I was troubled to learn of this meeting through the paper. I was also embarrassed to read that no legislator was aware this was happening in a public committee room within our chambers. It begs the question, who made the decision to have this meeting in our offices, and who allowed a legislative staff member to invite the press? As elected legislators, we deserve the answers to those questions.

I look forward to hearing back from you on this matter.

Sincerely,

Edward A. Rath, III
Erie County Legislator
District 6

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