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- [News](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Restaurants](#)
- -



- [Arts](#)
- [Movies](#)
- [The Ads](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [Columns](#)
- [Best Of](#)
- [Bars/Clubs](#)
- [Archives](#)
- [Reader Recommendations](#)
- [Promotions](#)
- [Coupons](#)



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blog

Stories



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By [Thomas Francis](#), Fri., May 21 2010 @ 9:07AM

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Bill Julian

Hallandale Beach Vice Mayor Bill Julian says he was "not concerned" about reports of an ethically dubious contract between City Manager Mike Good and a local real estate agent because those reports did not appear in the *Miami Herald* or *Sun-Sentinel*. They appeared here in Juice and in a print edition of *New Times*.

The city is finalizing its termination of Good, but Julian's remarks illustrate the difficulty that the region's major newspapers have in performing watchdog duties, given their dwindling resources and economically frail condition. If they cannot, the question is how that affects local government.

It's been over six weeks since Juice broke news about [what appeared an ethically dubious contract](#): a real estate agent named Joe Kessel retained as a consultant by Good in July 2008. A month ago, we reported that as a real estate agent Kessel [profited from the sale of at least one piece of land](#) to the city, receiving a commission of over \$15,000 at the same time he was under that consulting contract. He may also have collected \$13,500 in commission for another parcel sold to the city.

Thursday I asked Julian whether those dealings played a role in his decision to fire Good. "I wasn't very concerned about Kessel," said Julian. "I figured someone's probably doing an investigation, because it's gotten so much publicity."

But I corrected Julian, mentioning that in fact Juice was the only media source reporting on the Kessel contract. He conceded the point, then he said, "That's one reason I didn't have much concern, because the *Sun-Sentinel* and the *Herald* haven't written anything about this. So it really wasn't all that troubling, and we had so many other things to worry about."

Julian and Hallandale Mayor Joy Cooper have both claimed that their decision to abandon their past support of Good is based on the city manager's recent absenteeism. But as Commissioner Keith London and a slew of city activists have made clear, Good has been missing work long before he finally caught flak for it these last few weeks.

The timing suggests that the Kessel contract played a bigger role than city officials want to admit, particularly in the case of Cooper who displayed her reflex to defend Good in making a comment on [this blog post](#) that only got him -- and her -- in more trouble.

Thus far, Cooper is the only member of the commission to say that she knew of the contract Good drew up for Kessel. If that's the case -- and if the dealings between the two break Florida law -- then Cooper is potentially culpable.

In the past, Cooper has proven herself adept at rolling up voting blocs, and it appears that her abandoning Good triggered two other commissioners to do the same.

[Today's Sun-Sentinel article](#) on Good's termination (the paper's first), mentions the Kessel contract. But it creates an illusion that Good's firing was inevitable, that it happened organically through a system that works. Only the way the system is supposed to work is that the paper of record reports on potentially scandalous backroom deals, then the city manager is fired.

Too often, it seems, that happens in reverse, where some other event must occur to set the system in motion. For an even more vivid illustration of this troubling phenomenon, just check out [this corruption compendium](#) at Daily Pulp.

Of course, it's also disturbing that city officials would be so incurious about reports of possible corruption in their midst, so dependent on local media and law enforcement. That brings me to a quote from my interview yesterday with Julian. Asked to elaborate on his reasons for not citing the Kessel deal in voting to terminate Good, Julian said it was "because if there was any criminal wrongdoing, I'm sure it would come out." He added: "In the end, people will get their punishment -- if it's necessary."

I suppose it should be refreshing to hear someone with such faith in the system, but in this case, it's anything but.

Tags:

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Comments (23)

hrose says:

I emailed the suntimes (our gov't funded paper) twice (march & april) to write about what NT reported. They said thank you and that they will ask questions.

and

Emailed 2x to sun sentinel in april and no response....rcueto@tribune.com

Posted On: [Friday, May 21 2010 @ 10:24AM](#)

Chaz Stevens, Genius says:

@hrose

You forgot to see "pretty please with sugar on top".

Posted On: [Friday, May 21 2010 @ 11:04AM](#)

[ChangeHallandale.com](#) says:

Julian, wake up.

Guess who the "someone" is that should be doing an investigation?

Guess who's responsible to ensure the city's own laws are upheld?

Guess who's culpable should repeated and public violations occur on their watch?

YOU, Commissioner Julian.

But wait, you say its not troubling for you because you didn't read about it in any paper? Is that the threshold for you to do your job? You have to read about it in a newspaper?

But Mr. Julian, you are correct. If there is any criminal wrongdoing, it will come out.

Even if those who committed the wrongdoing are blissfully ignorant of their duties, or their own wrongdoing, neither ignorance nor incompetence are justification for breaking the law.

Its time for you to call for a thorough investigation of the many clear violations of city law, for the city's sake, for the resident's sake, for your own sake.

Posted On: [Friday, May. 21 2010 @ 11:12AM](#)
Weird Science says:

Julian's afraid of Freddie Kruger (a.k.a Mayor Cooper).

She's his puppet and barely makes a statement or a move without out her permission.

The only reason he's spoken out more lately is because he's up for re-election and Freddie Kruger probably allowed him to do so. She needs all the puppets she can get.

THERE IS NO GOOD OR JOY LEFT IN HALLANDALE!

Posted On: [Friday, May. 21 2010 @ 11:32AM](#)
Chaz Stevens, Genius says:

@ChangeHallandale

What is up with you guys and gals down in HB? You keep forgetting your complimentary closing... For your previous post, I would have suggested the following sign off.

Its time for you to call for a thorough investigation of the many clear violations of city law, for the city's sake, for the resident's sake, for your own sake.

And for fuck's sake.

Or if that is "too formal", consider this then.

Its time for you to call for a thorough investigation of the many clear violations of city law, for the city's sake, for the resident's sake, for your own sake.

Fuck you, you fucking fuck.

Sincerely,
Genius

Posted On: [Friday, May. 21 2010 @ 11:35AM](#)
hrose says:

Mr London & hopefully the others on the commission, Atty. Jove & Interim City Mgr..... pretty please with sugar on top:

Its time for you to call for a thorough investigation of the many clear violations of city law, for the city's sake, for the resident's sake, for your own sake.

Posted On: [Friday, May. 21 2010 @ 11:46AM](#)
horse with no name says:

A few years before Mr. Intindola retired from the city, the Sun Sentinel hired someone who was a specialist in evaluating municipal budgets and Hallandale was ranked the most financially sound for a city of its size not only in the County but in the state. I've been away for a few years now and have moved out of town, but I am still shocked on how

they could go from the most financially sound to one of the worst.

Posted On: [Friday, May. 21 2010 @ 12:00PM](#)

PHAT BLACK CHICK says:

This is what local government/city officials/judges throughout Broward is counting on. One day(hopefully,this election cycle), local politicians are going to freak out when the next generation of voters get the dirt on them via the Internet Dailies--The New Times/ blogs/tweets before they cast their ballots. The Internet is forever and available 24/7/365.

Posted On: [Friday, May. 21 2010 @ 12:01PM](#)

hrose says:

http://web.me.com/mike.butler/Change_Hallandale/Blog_Updates/Entries/2010/5/20_Can%E2%80%99t_Touch_This_WHO_is_responsible_for_Good%E2%80%99s_Contract.html

I guess Mr. Julian had a senior moment.

Posted On: [Friday, May. 21 2010 @ 1:16PM](#)

[ChangeHallandale.com](#) says:

Chaz, I would have added a more colorful sign off, but refuse to take anything away from you. That sign off is copyrighted material, by Chaz Genius enterprises, no?

HRose: yeah, funny thing about Julian. Acting like he never knew about these provisions in the contract. Guess he forgot there were minutes back then, before Good and Cooper were able to change them into an almost meaningless waste.

Apparently the city doesn't have the resources to provide more detailed minutes of the city commission meetings, but has plenty of money to pay off the local newspaper, the local cheerleader, etc etc...

Posted On: [Friday, May. 21 2010 @ 8:09PM](#)

BILL JULIAN VICE-MAYOR,CITY OF HALLANDALE BEACH says:

First, I would like to respond to both articles written by Thomas Francis, concerning my interview with him. He printed the story as I had told him, no complaints.

When questioned about the Kessel contract, I told him the truth about what I knew about it.

I never knew Kessel had a contract or worked for the city until I had read the e-mails from the United Condo Association of Hallandale Beach, (UCA of HB).

I explained I was, and still am upset that I did not get that information.

I did ask the City Manager, and our City Attorney, what this was all about and why did our Mayor have this information and not I?

Never got an answer on that one. But the issue with Kessel was explained twice during a Commission meeting.

If there was a violation I had my trust in our legal department it would be handled.

Now, looking back there must be a lot more to this and other dealings, and contracts that I would assume to be watched closely by our legal staff.

I will ask for answers concerning the European Club Project, Tower Park, and a few others that need explaining.

I can understand some people saying "Wake up" as I have been to complacent, in trusting the system to take care of itself.

That's my fault, but I promise you I am opening up some Pandora's Boxes from now on.

As for the Good contract. If you watched the Commission meeting you would see that it was myself that took this contract apart line by line, and first cut the severance money from 9 months to 5, as it was myself that had the only documents that I gave to the Commission that showed the attendance record of Mr. Good.

Then I went after the Health Plan, and finally the Education part of the contract.

I went so far as to ask our Attorney the meaning of "Derelict of Duty". Which would apply to Attendance, Communication to the Commission, and lack of Job Performance. This would show cause to void the entire severance agreement, but it went no farther than that, as our Attorney warned us of a huge lawsuit. I said bring it on, that no judge would support his behavior.

As for being a puppet to anyone, you don't know me very well do you?

To show that I am a real stand up guy, I am inviting, Hrose, Chaz Stevens, Change HB, Weird Science, Horse with no name, Phat Black Chick, and anyone else, to meet with me, and go over my faults, and or mistakes, and discuss whatever topic you might have.

Come to my office, or I'll come to your venue. Give me a call, (954)274-7230, and instead of throwing insults at each other, lets make Hallandale a better place to live.

Hey I'm not perfect, but I'm getting there. Bill Julian, Vice-Mayor, City of Hallandale Beach.

Posted On: [Friday, May. 21 2010 @ 10:41PM](#)

Hrose says:

Lol...I'll make dinner and you guys can brainstorm at my place. My table seats 8. Mike you email me. Xox.

Posted On: [Saturday, May. 22 2010 @ 2:02AM](#)

[ChangeHallandale.com](#) says:

THANK YOU BIII Julian! What a refreshing change from the way you've handled your duties to the residents for so many years. Please let this change be real and not just a political ploy so you can be reelected.

And yes, thank you for tearing apart the contract, but Mr. Julian, WHERE WERE YOU WHEN THAT CONTRACT WAS WRITTEN? THAT is when we needed you to take it "apart line by line". And the record actually shows that you were one of the primary instigators who gave it all away (see my last post on ChangeHallandale.com).

I welcome your comments, and look forward to a dialogue with you, but let's not reinterpret history based on one action taken after the horse left the barn and took all the other farm animals with him.

In the business world, your best customers are those that take the time to provide constructive criticism. Most don't care enough about the company to complain, they just stop doing business with the company. How many residents have just moved away? How many developers refuse to conduct business here?

Everyone who takes the time to become involved in this city, whether by following the events or commenting on blogs or volunteering, is doing it because they care. I'm glad you're finally open to listening to them, and look forward to meeting you.

Posted On: [Saturday, May. 22 2010 @ 8:18AM](#)
[ChangeHallandale.com](#) says:

Oh, and Hrose...I'll bring the wine!!

Posted On: [Saturday, May. 22 2010 @ 8:19AM](#)
[Andrew Markoff](#) says:

I am, of course, glad to see some potential dialogue opening up, and I would certainly like to see more cooperation and direct communications between those like "ChangeHallandale.com," who have continuing concerns about city government, and our elected officials and the city manager's office. Commissioner London has fostered an extremely hostile, cult-like atmosphere in which he cuts off communication from anyone he doesn't perceive as supporting him and his approach, and those who criticize the city too often do so anonymously and are often adamant in their refusal to directly communicate their concerns to city officials rather than just between one another.

As I have been stressing for a long time now in my public comments on-line, we must learn to politely and professionally deal with what we've got. Our commissioners are reachable and responsive if they're not being attacked for political or personal reasons. The former city manager, however, was not reachable or responsive in the least during six years I've lived here. Somebody posted a comment on another article that nothing will change in the way the city manager's office functions under its new leadership. We cannot let that happen. I expect our new interim city manager to be responsive and sensitive to concerns and criticism.

I do not expect, however, that blogger David Smith will choose to be responsive as a Hallandale resident and engage with city officials in an attempt to promote positive changes. Rather than behaving as a resident with a direct interest in engaging city government, Smith has instead chosen to snipe and complain on his blog and ignore the fact that he has lived within walking distance of City Hall and could act as a resident rather than some kind of "objective" blogger.

The most important point made by Tom Francis, however, and a point not made often enough, is that the consolidation of media ownership allowed in the United States at least since the 1996 Telecommunications Act has resulted in large corporations controlling the flow of information that we need to consistently know what's going on in our local governments, let alone in our communities and throughout the state. To cut back on that coverage and remain ignorant of not only the political but the human stories behind the goings-on in local government is not a business model that will increase revenues and readership, I don't believe.

Everyone should always remember that we don't get geniuses or Rhodes Scholars elected to city governments. We get ordinary people with varied business and educational backgrounds who happened to get elected. They sometimes lack basic computer proficiency and sometimes they cannot even construct readable sentences or spell basic words. They need feedback and guidance, but mostly they need engagement. Left to their own devices, through either public apathy or their own arrogance, they will likely fail in their basic duties.

Let's please remind anyone who ever comments on these on-line articles with the claim that we need to get rid of all of them or get rid of Ross, Sanders and Cooper that, in fact, only two seats are open at a time, there is quite a while to go with those other seats, and we have to deal with what we've got rather than insulting them and calling them names. That rule should apply even when the Mayor calls a resident a name or disparages anyone's character. That is her choice to do so, but it certainly doesn't have to be yours.

Lastly, pointing to alleged financial discrepancies, higher costs relative to other cities and supposedly underhanded dealings on a website is not enough. We also need to offer potential solutions. If there are no means of effecting the changes that ChangeHallandale.com wants, then don't expect any changes in city officials the next time the opportunity arises. Please offer some potential means of getting the changes that you want. Tell the residents what it is that they could do other than getting furious and raging and complaining to one another and insulting anyone and everyone and pointing fingers and congregating within the cult of Keith London while excluding all those who question their methods.

Posted On: [Saturday, May. 22 2010 @ 9:23AM](#)
[CATO](#) says:

I totally agree w Phat Black Chick...girl, I'd like to meet you, in person, because we have another brew ha ha coming to a head at the next P&Z vote this Wed 1:30pm. ...where Mayor Joy wants to put a Ben Gamla (publicly funded charter school, whose goal is to infuse Hebrew, Jewish history & culture) into the mist of our quiet, small residential area. We residents have to deal w all the traffic congestion, noise, that 900 charter-approved student body(who will predominantly be fr outside this community) plus staff will bring to our small streets, but the majority of us, who are not Jewish, won't gain the benefit from...And, well-hidden in the CRA budget, a fund ear marked for economically challenged areas of the City, is the budget to make the street in front of this proposed BG school (not a blighted area, btw), into a two-lane street...hmmm..anticipating an easy pass on the vote?

It's the African-Amer., Hispanic, Christian families, who are ultimately going to pay the bill for this school, w/out the benefits. Dwindling enrollments in an already budget- cut-to-death public schools will translate to closed schools. Where's the quality education for the rest of this community?

PBChick, you're right. This Mayor & several commissioners have not quite understood that the informational hwy is here for good. They can no longer cut those under-the-table deals w ex-congressmen...in return for what?

Someone please start a No Confidence procedure against this Mayor. She can't continue to have temper tantrums and call everyone a Nazi, when she doesn't get her way. Then, perhaps, we can have mtngs in the evenings so that there can be transparency and the community can participate.

Posted On: [Saturday, May. 22 2010 @ 1:19PM](#)
hrose says:

Did'n't Hitler control the newspapers?

Posted On: [Saturday, May. 22 2010 @ 1:27PM](#)
Bill Julian-Vice-Mayor says:

To All,

Yes, I was there when the contract was written, years ago.

This is basicly the same contract RJ. Intindola, the former city Manager was written for, except the Educational clause.

But in the new severence eagrment, I don't see the Performance Clause as it was written in the orignal contract.

Being a newly elected commissioner in 2001, I trusted our legal department to draw up contracts, and understood this was the normal agreement between the city and an employee.

Having owned and trained a successful Thoroughbred Racing business we never had delt in contracts. A hand shake, and a verbal agreement was all that was needed, as it still is today, and this involved hundreds of thousands of dollars and employed dozens of employees.

As I become educated in the Municipal business world it was on the job training that has gotten me to this point in time.

It was almost eight years since I had seen a contract involving Mike Good, until I began requesting it last month.

There is no way that anyone who has been derelict of duty in his job performance should get a bonus.

Does everyone realize this man is being FIRED?

I believe his failure to perform his duty voids the severence agreement, and he should be lucky to recieve his pension, and lets call it even.

Our Attorney advises that we settle and just move on to avoid a huge lawsuit.

I said bring it on, as no Judge would ever rule in his favor when they read his attendance record.

This week I will request the employees contracts of all Department Heads for review.

I will ask for an outside attorney's,opinion and recomendation for the present contracts, and future contracts.

Posted On: [Saturday, May. 22 2010 @ 2:23PM](#)
Anonymous says:

Vice Mayor Julian,

Do you think it's curious that the only person in the City Attorney's office who knew anything about ethics and contract law was fired a year ago for not being a "team" player and calling things into question? Things that make you go hmmm...When people started asking questions at city hall as to whether the City Manager had the authority to do the things he was doing they were promptly fired.

Posted On: [Monday, May. 24 2010 @ 8:31AM](#)
hrose says:

Dear Vice Mayor,

I hope the mayor isn't ripping your face apart this morning. I really do appreciate & respect your responses over the weekend.

I took notice when you were questioning Good's severance package late Wednesday night. I think the city Atty. should have done that way before the meeting. I'm guessing he was Good's friend too. Maybe Good helped him lift his baggage or something.

Thank you for trying.

Posted On: [Monday, May. 24 2010 @ 10:48AM](#)

hrose says:

Oh CATO...

If you were at the Ben Gamla meeting, Peter Deutsch said it was going to be a free school. It wasn't going to cost us anything. How can that be?

Didn't i read somewhere that art class was now discontinued at all Hallandale schools?

I guess art class isn't free but the Ben Gamla school is free.

I'll admit I'm not the smartest cookie in the jar, but this free school looks like someones legacy to his people and someone elses foot in a new door, wherever that is.

Put this free school in a blighted area if you must. Why a quiet little neighborhood?

Posted On: [Monday, May. 24 2010 @ 11:16AM](#)

Anonymous says:

hrose,

The City Attorney owes his job solely to Mr. No-Good and Mayor Joyless, so why would he rock the boat. Also, given that he was supposed to be the gate keeper as to whether the city manager's contract was kosher or not when it was originally written, do you think he would bother to point out his own tremendous inadequacies as an attorney? Probably not. The city commission needs to hire an outside firm (and NOT weiss serota which will surely offer the city attorney a job as soon as it is clear is will be fired) to assess the legality the contract. Mr. No-Good should be FIRED with no severance. Let him SUE because he has a facacta case. He would be laughed out of court.

Posted On: [Monday, May. 24 2010 @ 1:25PM](#)

[ChangeHallandale.com](#) says:

Visit [changehallandale.com](#) to see all the city manager's contracts. Tomorrow I'll post information related to the city attorney. The comments above are correct that city manager Good and city attorney Jove are connected.

There are two types of city attorneys. Those that want to ensure the law is followed at all times, and those that do whatever is necessary to keep their job.

Unfortunately, people have been fired for not being a "team player", loosely translated as "whatever Joy says". So while no excuse for their behavior, some employees chose employment over their duty to the position.

Posted On: [Monday, May. 31 2010 @ 9:08AM](#)

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