

Robert Burns

From: Robert Burns <robert@auctionsellsfast.com>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 3:52 PM
To: 'Michael McDuff'
Cc: 'emalie.boyce@la.gov'; 'boards@la.gov'; 'matthew.block@la.gov'; 'Cedarsc@ag.louisiana.gov'; 'Murrille@ag.louisiana.gov'; 'Tom Aswell'; 'Danosd@ag.louisiana.gov'; 'fremimb@ag.louisiana.gov'; 'jefflandry@me.com'; 'wisherr@ag.louisiana.gov'
Subject: RE: LSCB Attorney Larry Bankston's Son Have Ties to Third Place Bidder and, If So, Why No Recusal?

Mr. McDuff:

Thank you so much for your prompt response.

My I ask what forms the basis of “my understanding” (meaning yours)? Specifically, has Mr. Bankston been point-blank asked the question. If he has and has stated his son does not “work for” any of the team members of Rebuild Louisiana Now, has anyone asked if he has “an interest or is in any way affiliated with” any of the team member companies. Does he have any contracts with them? Are any such **potential** contracts currently under negotiation or consideration.

Entailing the foregoing, has anyone asked Mr. Bankston to execute a sworn affidavit stating that his son does not have **any interest in or association with** any of the team members?

Let me be blunt with you, Mr. McDuff. You may recall that I attended the first few meetings of the LSBC immediately after the flood and formed a website to track same and videotaped the first few meetings: www.lacontractorboard.com. You will note on that site a link for Mr. Bankston’s prior felony conviction; furthermore, you will note a link to an article in which Attorney General Jeff Landry objected vehemently to Mr. Bankston serving as attorney for that Board. You will also note a link at which I provide extensive video coverage of Mr. Bankston conducting a so-called “hearing” entailing me at the Louisiana Auctioneer Licensing Board. He did so at the direct behest of former AG James D. “Buddy” Caldwell (who is the one who insisted that the Board hire Bankston) entailing my having reported the Executive Director of that Board, Sandy Edmonds, engaging in “blatant payroll fraud.” (Note: the Louisiana Office of Inspector General subsequently cited her for such payroll fraud **NOTWITHSTANDING** Mr. Bankston stating ON THE VIDEO ON THAT PAGE **beginning at the 8:40 mark on the video that my reports were “unquestionably false and misleading.”**) Mr. McDuff, for simplicity sake, I encourage you to click on this DIRECT LINK to the video, advance to the 8:40 mark, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBWdy8yMOqs#action=share>, and listen to Mr. Bankston’s authoritative statement yourself! Of course, he was equally convinced that a thinly-disguised bribe he received from Fred Goodson for a sham condo rental was totally legal. Unfortunately for Mr. Bankston, the FBI sharply disagreed with his interpretation (not to mention a jury of his peers **IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA!!** concurring with the FBI’s take on the matter).

Now, Mr. McDuff, within the next week, I will have a *Sound Off Louisiana* post devoted exclusively to Mr. Bankston and some of the specific quotes he made on those FBI wire taps. I know you have expressed confidence in him when Landry was calling for his contract’s termination. I advise you to make sure “my understanding” is correct because I would love nothing more than to throw your email below in your face if you are wrong!

Nothing personal against you, Mr. McDuff, but I’m you can surmise I wouldn’t trust Larry S. Bankston to be involved in any contract opinions involving even two pieces of bubble gum.

Thanks again for your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Robert Burns

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From: Michael McDuff [mailto:MMcduff@lsbc.louisiana.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 2:50 PM
To: Robert Burns <robert@auctionsellsfast.com>
Subject: RE: LSCB Attorney Larry Bankston's Son Have Ties to Third Place Bidder and, If So, Why No Recusal?

It is my understanding that Mr. Bankston's son does not work for any bidders (or team members) responding to this RFP. Therefore a recusal would not be necessary.

The written opinion prepared in this matter was based upon the unanimous opinion of our staff responsible for the enforcement of the contractor licensing laws of this state. There is no question that the RFP bidders must have a contractor's license.

This office has no authority in the awarding of this or any such contract. That decision is solely held by the Division of Administration (DOA) and the Office of Community Development (OCD) with this RFP.

It is our understanding that the RFP has been cancelled because of costs and will be reissued. In order to insure that each bidder has the appropriate license, our office is prepared to assist the DOA and any bidders to apply and become licensed by meeting all requirements required by law before the next bid date.

Michael B. McDuff
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From: Robert Burns [mailto:robert@auctionsellsfast.com]
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 1:16 PM
To: Michael McDuff
Cc: 'Tom Aswell'
Subject: LSCB Attorney Larry Bankston's Son Have Ties to Third Place Bidder and, If So, Why No Recusal?

Mr. McDuff:

I am sending this correspondence to ascertain whether the Contractor Board has inquired of its attorney, Larry S. Bankston, regarding whether his son has ties to the third-place bidder for the recent contract for Louisiana's flood relief program (Rebuild Louisiana Now, comprised of SLS Companies, of Galveston, Texas – and of which Bankston's son is said to have "ties"; the Mississippi-based Horn Accounting Services; Ardurra Group, a New Orleans-based engineering group; and Elos Environmental, of Hammond) .

If the Board has made inquiry (or does) and finds that, in fact, Mr. Bankston's son does have such ties, I'd like to get an explanation for why Bankston did not recuse himself from any involvement whatsoever in the bidding process. If the Board had knowledge of any such ties, I'd like to know why it did not seek his recusal. If no inquiry was made and the Board is now aware (or becomes aware upon inquiry) of any such ties, does the Board plan to seek his recusal and also seek an explanation from Bankston entailing why he did not voluntarily made such a recusal previously?

The basis for my inquiry stems from comments by Byron Lestor as reflected at the following link (first article): <https://www.businessreport.com/article/250m-flood-recovery-contract-now-question>.

Thanks, and I look forward to receiving a response back from you.

Robert Burns

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