



NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE

New Jersey Senate Republicans
State House, PO Box 099
Trenton, NJ 08625
(609) 847-3600

New Jersey Assembly Republicans
State House, PO 098
Trenton, NJ 08625
(609) 847-3400

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Steve Sweeney
Senate Democratic Office
P.O. Box 099
Trenton, NJ 08625

The Honorable Craig Coughlin
Assembly Democratic Office
P.O. Box 098
Trenton, NJ, 08625

Dear Senate President Sweeney and Speaker Coughlin,

For the second time in less than a month, it has come to light that the administration of Governor Philip D. Murphy has used taxpayer funds to reward individuals of questionable character. We believe a special investigation by the state Legislature is warranted given the serious nature of the reported allegations.

As we are sure you are aware, the governor recently defended the hiring of an ex-official convicted of bribery as a special assistant in the Department of Education despite state law prohibiting it. That employee quickly resigned after his illegal employment came under public scrutiny.

Less than two weeks later, we are learning of yet another disturbing hire by the Murphy Administration that has resulted in another sudden resignation.

The most recent instance involves Albert J. Alvarez, who was hired as the chief of staff for the Schools Development Authority. According to published reports, he was the subject of a criminal sexual misconduct investigation while serving on the governor's campaign.

It has been reported that the gubernatorial transition team was notified of the criminal investigation prior to his hiring. Further, it has been reported that the accuser contacted the Governor's Office in the spring to notify the governor of the alleged criminal conduct.

Despite knowing the nature of the allegations, the Murphy Administration allowed him to remain in his position until resigning last week.

The nature of these hires -- one clearly illegal, the other morally reprehensible -- leads to the appearance of a culture within the Murphy Administration that is more concerned with rewarding campaign supporters than serving the public interest.

Even worse, the hiring of someone subject to a criminal sexual investigation harkens to the governor's days at Goldman Sachs, which is reportedly the subject of a federal class action lawsuit by female employees who claim a culture of sexism and misogyny at the company.

It appears that the governor has brought this Wall Street boys-club mentality to State Street.

Because of these concerning hires and our duty to protect the public's trust in state government, we are calling for the New Jersey Legislature to conduct a special investigation into the hiring practices of the Murphy Administration.

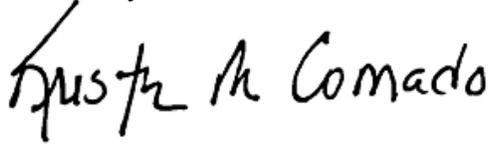
Among the issues raised, we are calling for the following:

1. Notifying the Murphy Administration, gubernatorial transition, and campaign to preserve all documents, texts, and electronic communications regarding hires;
2. A thorough review of the hiring practices of the Murphy Administration;
3. Requiring the Murphy Administration to address how hires were made if they knew about allegations during the transition.
4. Requiring the Murphy Administration to release all background checks on both former employees.
5. A determination of which county prosecutor reviewed allegations and why charges have not been filed; and,
6. A disclosure by the Murphy Administration of any and all incidents of sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual intimidation, or hostile work environment raised during the campaign, the transition, or presently within the administration.

We believe as the leaders of the state Senate and General Assembly that you share our interest in protecting the institutions of state government, and that a special legislative investigation is the proper mechanism to review the Murphy Administration's hiring practices.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Senator Kristin Corrado



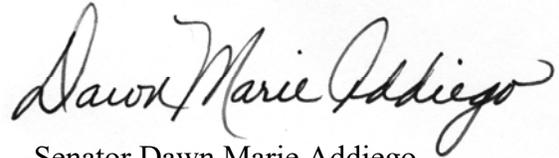
Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz



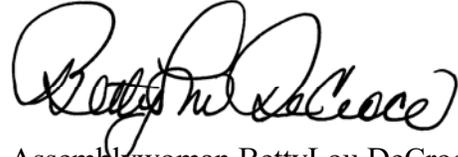
Assemblywoman Serena DiMaso



Assemblywoman Amy Handlin



Senator Dawn Marie Addiego



Assemblywoman BettyLou DeCroce



Assemblywoman DiAnne Gove



Assemblywoman Holly Schepisi

Related stories:

<https://nypost.com/2018/09/04/court-rules-women-can-sue-boys-club-goldman-sachs/>

<https://www.businessinsider.com/discrimination-suit-filed-against-goldman-2014-7>

<http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2014/07/goldman-sachs-a-boys-club.html>

<https://nypost.com/2018/05/31/goldman-sachs-poaches-execs-from-bank-of-america-unit-hit-with-sex-allegations/>