

*Lawrence N. Gray, Esq.
20 Fireplace Drive
Kings Park, New York 11754*

Suffolk County Town Supervisors
c/o Smithtown Supervisor Patrick Vecchio
99 West Main Street
Smithtown, New York 11787

May 28, 2009

Re: 2008 Suffolk County Supervisors Association Luncheon—Reimbursement Voucher # 57202

Dear Supervisor Vecchio:

There is no such thing as free lunch at taxpayers' expense.

Whether you eat separately or together, all of you have to eat lunch no matter where you are. The state does not reimburse lunch. Until shown otherwise, I take it as a given that counties, cities and towns have similar reimbursement regulations and policies. Whether the Suffolk County Supervisors Association Luncheon is legitimate **government** business or just a backslapping, backstabbing, fertilizer- chucking luncheon among supervisors, the fact remains that taxpayers have no business – especially in these economic times – paying for your lunch at the Watermill Restaurant & Caterers.

There are ten towns in Suffolk County. ***If*** the 2008 Suffolk County Supervisors Association Luncheon was, for want of a better term, “hosted” by Smithtown Supervisor Patrick Vecchio and all ten supervisors attended, a bill of \$750 (attached) is clearly excessive. It is payment for more than a light lunch buffet style. One would enjoy seeing the itemized receipt from the Watermill. If alcoholic beverages were served were they served on a “cash-bar” basis? If all ten of supervisors attended that equals \$75 apiece --- *for lunch?! If they brought staff, were the staff members apprised of the payment details? How much staff per supervisor, if any?*

With this letter I am requesting that Supervisor Patrick Vecchio reimburse the Town of Smithtown \$750 out of his own pocket. Such would **not** be a campaign expenditure that is reimbursable by “Friends of Pat Vecchio,” any more than his tuxedo rental that he billed said committee to receive his award from the Smithtown Historical Society in the Autumn of 2008. He was not running for re-election in 2008. Whatever may or may not have been “the practice” or “custom” of a prior era has not taken on legal sanction or political legitimacy. I assume that no raffle tickets were sold at this luncheon.

Yours truly,

Lawrence N. Gray, Esq.

CC: Steven C. Bellone
Mark J. Lesko
William E. McGintee
Frank P. Petrone
Phil Nolan
Phillip J. Cardinale
James Dougherty
Linda A. Kabot
Scott A. Russell

Bcc: