

**COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY**



**THOMAS J. SPOTA
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

July 23, 2015

Gus Garcia-Roberts
Newsday
235 Pinelawn Road
Melville, NY 11747

Dear Mr. Garcia-Roberts,

The Suffolk County District Attorney's Office has never given any money to Edward Morris or the Suffolk County Sports Hall of Fame from asset forfeiture funds or any other fund. Any information you have received, and your assertion in your e mail to the contrary, are false.

Your question, which seeks the District Attorney's opinion about the propriety of a felon convicted of defrauding the government receiving public funds, is likewise based on a false premise since the facts are quite simply that Mr. Morris did not receive public funds from the District Attorney's Office. The question plainly speaks to a malicious and defamatory opinion on your part and demonstrates a reckless disregard for the truth.

Our Department of Justice filings for 2011 likewise do NOT demonstrate that there was any payment to Edward Morris or the Sports Hall of Fame. A careful reading of the document which you say you looked at demonstrates that the filing lists the name of the organization that is supported by our Community Based Programs, NOT who is actually paid the money. In this instance the \$25,000 was not payable to the Suffolk County Sports Hall of Fame but to a vendor directly.

For your information, not for profit agencies make their own requests for support from the District Attorney's Office. Until we were limited by federal regulation in 2015 the Office supported these worthy agencies, including supporting the Suffolk County Coalition against Domestic Violence, the Suffolk County Child Advocacy Center and its parent organization EAC, Inc., Mothers Against Drunk Driving, CAPS (Child Abuse Prevention Services) and VIBS (Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk) to name just a few, with more than \$450,000 in various

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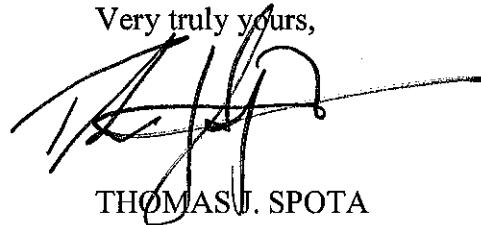
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forms of support. Indeed from 2002 through 2014 Suffolk County Coalition against Domestic Violence was supported by asset forfeiture funds in the amount of \$65,188.61. Once again Mr. Roberts your assertion that we supported Morris and the Sports Hall of Fame to a greater extent is false, malicious, defamatory as well as a reckless disregard for the truth.

The fact that you possess all of the relevant records yet make false assertions about their content to intentionally create a false narrative and to mislead your readers into believing something improper occurred is alarming and disturbing and, again, a reckless disregard for the truth. Your similar false assertions about the District Attorney's Office are malicious and defamatory.

This response and your email seeking comment from this office are being forwarded to your editor Deborah Henley, managing editor Richard Rosen, Newsday's publisher Gordon McLeod and Diane Sforza, Counsel to Cablevision. Although a pattern of maliciously false assertions and skewed reporting by Newsday has emerged, one would hope there is someone in your organization that will not recklessly disregard the truth.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TJS', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

THOMAS J. SPOTA
Suffolk County District Attorney

TJS/czs

cc:

Gordon McLeod, Publisher
Deborah Henley, Editor
Richard Rosen, Managing Editor
Diane Sforza, Esq.