problems%2f%3ffbclid%3dlwAR21MyW5PIm8NM5HzeIMFWcSfeFzxXZNZIIV9yCXG\_-9NbrfW9LBLC0uGlc&c=E,1,b4z7zKhhl10X6pAb3OQf7PrrCDrazIj0Z0HzVtJ5on-2xejmL7zM9y7aitJ44BB57e48A6hYH5BFnhQmjVfriFJyL5uQjEwtkTxH62E mN2ofEQT&typo=1>

School district audit finds more P-Card problems - The Colletonian

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G.A. Smith Well represented in Dist. 11.

~Jerry

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From: Dowling, John R < John. Dowling@beaufort.k12.sc.us < mailto:John.Dowling@beaufort.k12.sc.us > >

Sent: Friday, May 17, 2019 2:55 PM

To: Orischak, Josephine A < Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us < mailto: Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us > >

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This is a serious cloud hanging over their heads. Should we reconsider doing business with them until there's a resolution to the allegations?

JOHN DOWLING

**DISTRICT 6 REPRESENTATIVE** 

**BEAUFORT COUNTY BOE** 

Sent from my iPad

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All,

I recently shared the below information with our Board. As you know, Berkeley County School District's CFO (Brantley Thomas) was recently imprisoned for embezzlement, fraud, etc. The Berkeley County School Board is suing a number of folks on the periphery, such as:

- Their auditing firm, Greene, Finney, & Horton LLP

https://www.berkeleyind.com/news/bcsd-files-suit-against-former-auditing-firm/article\_3d7548d8-f411-11e8-aa6b-9715b3770b93.html <a href="https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.berkeleyind.com%2fnews%2fbcsd-files-suit-against-former-auditing-firm%2farticle\_3d7548d8-f411-11e8-aa6b-9715b3770b93.html&c=E,1,\_yV6dJ6xbaL-xZtVsR88JIInxrUflZ1F8YFmP6hGO--RpJvuOkN7pZzFOcQErtisflJ6sh1Gf480v9WATUAZxEycMd67KwU4fRz\_3F54PUSrHAWd&typo=1 >

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I am attaching the complaint against Heizer, Nurick, and others for your review. Basically, the complaint asserts the imprisoned CFO could not have succeeded with such an intricate web of deception and fraud without the aiding and abetting of Heizer, Nurick and some others. The law firm representing the Berkeley County School Board is Smyth Whitley LLC. Lawyer, Joshua Whitley serves on the Berkeley County Council and is the Council's Finance Committee Chairman.

Feedback welcomed after you read the attached complaint.

JoAnn Orischak

Beaufort County Board of Education

District 11 (29928)

Hilton Head Island

C. (843) 338-1737

Sent from my iPad

<berkeley-school-complaint-against-advisors-030619.pdf>

Sent from my iPad

From:

Marilyn Bullard <bullardpiwko@aol.com>

Sent:

Saturday, May 18, 2019 10:37 PM

To:

Mike Gleason

Cc:

jerry at the beach; fran bisi; rachel wisnefski; Will Smith; Earl Campbell; melvin campbell; Christina Gwozdz; Cathy Robine; john dowling; Orischak, Josephine A; richard geier; tricia fidrych; david striebinger; Tonya V. Crosby; Herbert M. Berg; William H. Saunders; Terry G. Bennett; Joan Deery; Rick Caporale; David Lauderdale; Reggie D. Murphy; Lori

N. Mock; Liz Farrell; Richard Bisi; Thenerve.org Rick

Subject:

Re: Attachment

What is this 7.7 million dollar hit from the County about? Lyn

Sent from my iPhone

On May 18, 2019, at 10:05 PM, Marilyn Bullard <bullardpiwko@aol.com <mailto:bullardpiwko@aol.com > wrote:

OMG - what a mess! The CFO got

got applause because of announcing the District is on the verge of insolvency? This is nuts for sure. The referendum has nothing to do with operating funds. It's for construction and major repairs.

WOW, even though I can't believe it,

I do believe it.

Thanks for that info Mike. A lot to absorb here.

Lyn

Sent from my iPhone

On May 18, 2019, at 9:11 PM, Mike Gleason <gleasonmj@gmail.com <mailto:gleasonmj@gmail.com > wrote:

That was in January, all fluffy with campaign promises and unicorns. I supported i and spent a lot of time doing needs assessments traveling around the County. Little did

anyone know the deep dark staff secret of a huge \$7.7 million hit to reserves which leaves insolvency a reality. We are borrowing money to meet payroll and so called budgeted needs. We use questionable sources to provide the certain debt. If any of our family members were on such a downward spiral caring family members would hold an intervention.

The current Board did not create this mess, for sure. They barely recently discovered it when the staff let the bad news cat they've known about out of the bag. And the CFO got applause! Congrats! You just bought the largest operations tax increase in County history. I was glad to hear about the 8-2 vote to take action against the County to recover the deficit in an attempt to determine accountability. Who's handling that? Lame Duck Dr. Berg wasn't there when that happened. Accountability needs to happen, but could only happen in a court room. It'll take years.

Meanwhile, keep borrowing money to keep the ship afloat. We can add up the damages later, maybe. Real leaders find ways to cut losses and the largest target is personnel and benefits. Real Leaders know where to extract it without a gap to serving students. So far, no furloughs of headquarters staff are on the table. More money will be paid to a new Superintendent to relocate. It's easy to spend money. Real leaders determine how to stop the bleeding before they ask for more money.

The future of the mission to educate students responsibly hangs in the balance. Thank you for your service Board members. Time to hunker down.

With great respect,

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Beaufort County school board lays groundwork for November 2019

referendum

 $< https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a\%2f\%2fwww.islandpacket.com\%2fnews\%2flocal\%2feducation\%2farticle224601205.html\&c=E,1,c\_ce8PkwVaOW0mBB0eJNxaTYzr8zCTQoyfDquOUfwL-LyYFEy7rREMH43MnOnVyZbKldlgm7fVTzFr5dglBInJRQpTKJGA4QMTqfcSdervqg-N6HMnc3PYeXHKiz\&typo=1>$ 

<a href="https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.islandpacket.com%2fnews%2flocal%2feducation%2farticle224601205.html&c=E,1,jgOKYxMgfjfeXqt7RQH3V86LtVQFg">https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.islandpacket.com%2fnews%2flocal%2feducation%2farticle224601205.html&c=E,1,jgOKYxMgfjfeXqt7RQH3V86LtVQFg</a>

wbVZhZMYqJw\_bEus8Irv0TVREmEI7hyoQM5JM\_qF4NtkVVR8cJY8Abok-Hjgg9fw9dlxtJn\_iQ\_E6TTrjus4Mjj9nYhOH8,&typo=1>

Beaufort County school board lays groundwork for November 2019 referendum

The Beaufort County, South Carolina school board voted to allow interim superintendent Herb Berg to start planni...

Sorry Dr. Berg,

When you stated; the most common characteristic of a successful referendum is unanimous support from the board,... you missed the most important ingredient.

The most common characteristic of a successful referendum Dr. Berg, is unanimous support from the ELECTORATE. Until an in depth forensic audit of our school district has been completed, and proof that taxpayer dollars are being carefully spent with diligent board oversight...there will be no new money.

G.A. Smith Well represented in Dist. 11.

On Saturday, May 18, 2019, 1:58:45 PM EDT, fran bisi <eyelandart@yahoo.com <mailto:eyelandart@yahoo.com> > wrote:

Until trust is regained by getting rid of Compass and the former McNair (who conveniently now has a new name), there will be no support for a referendum by any thoughtful voter.

BTW: how can the board vote on a budget when they have no information as to the efficacy of the myriad licensed programs on which the district currently spends million of dollars?

Or to put it another way, where is Bonnie Almond? She is MIA just when she's needed the most!!

fran bisi

On Saturday, May 18, 2019, 12:38:23 PM EDT, jerry at the beach <gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com <mailto:gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com >> wrote:

Thank you for an excellent and thoughtful post Lyn,

I could not agree more on your compliments to Fran and Richard.

Regarding:

These new school board members may have to learn a tough lesson in chool finances if a forensic audit is not done before they ask the voters to approve an enormous financial referendum. Community confidence needs to be restored and they cannot count on a new Supt. to do this in such a short time without some positive oversight action coming from the school board so that he can relate that to the citizens the corrections that are being made to bring financial accountability back into the school district.

May I request you send the above to all our school board members? I agree...they still don't get it. Our 'New Board' needs to understand; the victims of the boards lack of fiscal oversight and managerial responsibilities are and will continue to be...the students.

Jerry

On Saturday, May 18, 2019, 12:00:14 PM EDT, Marilyn Bullard <a href="mailto:bullardpiwko@aol.com">bullardpiwko@aol.com</a> > wrote:

Fran: you and Richard are the best informed citizens when it comes to this school districts operation.

Keep up the good work!!

These new school board members

May have to learn a tough lesson

in school finances if a forensic audit is not done before they ask the voters to approve an enormous financial referendum.

Community confidence needs to be restored and they cannot count on a new Supt to do this in such a short time without some positive

oversight action coming from the school board so that he can relate that to the citizens the corrections that are being made to bring financial accountability back into the school district,

Regards,

Lyn

Sent from my iPhone

On May 18, 2019, at 10:48 AM, fran bisi <eyelandart@yahoo.com <mailto:eyelandart@yahoo.com > wrote:

How's this for a blast from the past. I wrote this to the whole board on Dec 9, 2017 at 1:29 PM:

"What I find extremely interesting and troubling is:

\* Firing auditing firm Greene, Finney & Horton, which had given the district a clean audit report in January, and Compass Municipal Advisors, the financial firm that has Thomas' brother-in-law as a partner.

The fact that Compass, a firm that Moss and Crosby put a lot of trust in has been fired, is just another reason for a complete independent audit. "

The board didn't listen then..will they now?

On Saturday, May 18, 2019, 10:10:42 AM EDT, Dowling, John R 
<John.Dowling@beaufort.k12.sc.us < mailto:John.Dowling@beaufort.k12.sc.us > > wrote:

Jerry,

I don't think the idea of Oversite has really registered with some of the Board Members as of yet. If you listen to our public conversations, you will hear some of the newer members say things such as "We must Trust our Superintendent", or "They are the Professionals" or in the case of a 25 year veteran of the Board "Don't tie the Superintendent's hands". There's a big difference between an Advisory Council and a Governing Body.

I've heard this before, in the Moss era. I don't know, but I suspect, that you might have heard similar sentiments in Berkley County.

Trust but verify. Challenge every assumption. Ask why? Questions are not accusations.

You are well represented.

JOHN DOWLING
DISTRICT 6 REPRESENTATIVE
BEAUFORT COUNTY BOE

Sent from my iPad

On May 18, 2019, at 9:27 AM, jerry at the beach <gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com <mailto:gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com> > wrote:

\*\* WARNING: This email originated from outside of Beaufort County School District's email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. \*\*

Let's connect the dots. How much of this sounds familiar?

was/is.

The Berkeley CFO was under FBI investigation, just as Moss

Rebate checks,... P-Cards come to mind.

Overpaid for some construction projects,... hence the current

FBI investigation.

Unnecessary and extravagant junkets,... in our case unidentified travel expenses on Transparency Reports.

And what a coincidence; Our school district has relied heavily on Heizer and Nurick for years as our bond counsel and advisor,... just as Berkeley did.

But wait, there's more!

School district audit finds more P-Card problems - The

## Colletonian

<a href="https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2fthecolletonian.com%2fschool-district">https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2fthecolletonian.com%2fschool-district</a> audit-finds-p-card-

problems%2f%3ffbclid%3dIwAR21MyW5PIm8NM5HzeIMFWcSfeFzxXZNZIIV9yCXG\_-9NbrfW9LBLC0uGlc&c=E,1,6b8ish0dtq9I4fE6i4yymEU9lcnbfYGDNwXk3svRSUsnaU0vYe7Ob\_BwAgcp-jOHqGtwKXIR0qLv2sp1aSZVsgmMkTKv9FKB5jqDLjkB&typo=1>

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EB4hCj7Dx2fkcaZ8Dm5e7Tx70b1aYtkycZEkutlbkpHGkHrjP7njjQ,,&typo=1>

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<mailto:John.Dowling@beaufort.k12.sc.us>>

Sent: Friday, May 17, 2019 2:55 PM

To: Orischak, Josephine A

<Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us <mailto:Josephine.Orischak@beaufort.k12.sc.us> >

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idpc@hargray.com <mailto:jdpc@hargray.com>; bisi@roadrunner.com

<mailto:bisi@roadrunner.com> ; eyelandart@yahoo.com <mailto:eyelandart@yahoo.com> ;

gleasonmj@gmail.com <mailto:gleasonmj@gmail.com>; jiaco@wtoc.com

<mailto:jiaco@wtoc.com> ; efarrell@islandpacket.com <mailto:efarrell@islandpacket.com> ;

bullardpiwko@aol.com <mailto:bullardpiwko@aol.com>

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JOHN DOWLING

**DISTRICT 6 REPRESENTATIVE** 

**BEAUFORT COUNTY BOE** 

Sent from my iPad

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bwMbrAW8SKpKbPmkoWQNPAAXKRuFw0Q_	_sxFx102nx8dgIRBi2MzD9MIdV-
LA8VNIRAWDyyyeTZjNUE8qoMCqdj-Asr7nOy	/5-jbPrQ0gKw,,&typo=1>

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**Beaufort County Board of Education** 

District 11 (29928)

Hilton Head Island

C. (843) 338-1737

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Saturday, May 18, 2019 11:46 PM

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Marilyn Bullard

Cc:

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Subject:

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Attachments:

4-16-19 Budget Presentation.pdf

Lyn: The \$7,7 million is the projected shortfall in collections for the current FY. It's on page 5 of the attachment. It's the projected result of current year budgeted spending vs. projected revenue. It hits the fund balance harder than anticipated. Keep in mind that no significant revenues will flow in until November, and most of them hit at the end of December when the mortgage companies/banks pay them from borrower escrow accounts. Hurricane season is well under way by then. If it sounds risky, it is. You wouldn't run your household this way.

It's largely a result of failed reassessment year millage rate roll down calculation required by state law. Nobody has taken "credit" for that failure yet. County Council is the only authority that can create a millage tax ordinance. That happens after the BOE certifies its' budget. To the credit of the Board, they passed a motion brought by John and JoAnn to get to the bottom of this and seek compensation if warranted. None of this means much to taxpayers who will pick up the tab either way. Or to Bond Rating agencies who know risk when they see it.

All the BOE does is create differentiation on what is good and bad spending. That's the focus and the time to do that for the next FY year is dwindling. They really didn't need the CFO to drop this on them unexpectedly. The current state doesn't deserve appliance for the BOE or County CFO's. Meanwhile, the heat is on! Stay tuned! - Mike

On Sat, May 18, 2019 at 10:36 PM Marilyn Bullard <bullardpiwko@aol.com <mailto:bullardpiwko@aol.com > wrote:

What is this 7.7 million dollar hit from the County about? Lyn

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SjRFqBijOHHRWAMrYLJbhWzUkZHlhcmBzjslV5mpVxcGQ\_gs,&typo=1>

<https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.islandpacket.com%2fne
ws%2flocal%2feducation%2farticle224601205.html&c=E,1,jZJ55xrYcNDVAZxenipVqO8ySBM0N
2lrk1M\_ZXla9P-VkLuiel0SWCtiibYjl\_Wp0avfGHMqdSqXmxf53D3zbv4R046LS4BQ8hG9ycyzNbAtDwxH7uK5KM,&typo=1>

Beaufort County school board lays groundwork for November 2019 referendum

The Beaufort County, South Carolina school board voted to allow interim superintendent Herb Berg to start planni...

Sorry Dr. Berg,

When you stated; the most common characteristic of a successful referendum is unanimous support from the board,... you missed the most important ingredient.

The most common characteristic of a successful referendum Dr. Berg, s unanimous support from the ELECTORATE. Until an in depth forensic audit of our school district has been completed, and proof that taxpayer dollars are being carefully spent with diligent board oversight...there will be no new money.

G.A. Smith Well represented in Dist. 11.

On Saturday, May 18, 2019, 1:58:45 PM EDT, fran bisi <eyelandart@yahoo.com <mailto:eyelandart@yahoo.com> > wrote:

Until trust is regained by getting rid of Compass and the former McNair (who conveniently now has a new name), there will be no support for a referendum by any thoughtful voter.

BTW: how can the board vote on a budget when they have no information as to the efficacy of the myriad licensed programs on which the district currently spends million of dollars?

Or to put it another way, where is Bonnie Almond? She is MIA just when she's needed the most!!

fran bisi

On Saturday, May 18, 2019, 12:38:23 PM EDT, jerry at the beach <gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com <mailto:gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com > wrote:

Thank you for an excellent and thoughtful post Lyn,

I could not agree more on your compliments to Fran and Richard.

Regarding:

These new school board members may have to learn a tough lesson in school finances if a forensic audit is not done before they ask the voters to approve an enormous financial referendum. Community confidence needs to be restored and they cannot count on a new Supt. to do this in such a short time without some positive oversight action coming from the school board so that he can relate that to the citizens the corrections that are being made to bring financial accountability back into the school district.

May I request you send the above to all our school board members? I agree...they still don't get it. Our 'New Board' needs to understand; the victims of the boards lack of fiscal oversight and managerial responsibilities are and will continue to be...the students.

Jerry

On Saturday, May 18, 2019, 12:00:14 PM EDT, Marilyn Bullard <a href="mailto:bullardpiwko@aol.com">bullardpiwko@aol.com</a> > wrote:

Fran: you and Richard are the best informed citizens when it comes to this school districts operation.

Keep up the good work!!

These new school board members

May have to learn a tough lesson

in school finances if a forensic audit is not done before they ask the voters to approve an enormous financial referendum.

Community confidence needs to be restored and they cannot count

on a

new Supt to do this in such a short time without some positive oversight action coming from the school board so that he can relate that to the citizens the corrections that are being made to bring financial accountability back into the school district,

Regards,

Lyn

## Sent from my iPhone

On May 18, 2019, at 10:48 AM, fran bisi <eyelandart@yahoo.com mailto:eyelandart@yahoo.com> > wrote:

How's this for a blast from the past. I wrote this to the whole board on Dec 9, 2017 at 1:29 PM:

"What I find extremely interesting and troubling is:

\* Firing auditing firm Greene, Finney & Horton, which had given the district a clean audit report in January, and Compass Municipal Advisors, the financial firm that has Thomas' brother-in-law as a partner.

The fact that Compass, a firm that Moss and Crosby put a lot of trust in has been fired, is just another reason for a complete independent audit. "

The board didn't listen then..will they now?

fran

On Saturday, May 18, 2019, 10:10:42 AM EDT, Dowling, John R <John.Dowling@beaufort.k12.sc.us < mailto:John.Dowling@beaufort.k12.sc.us > wrote:

Jerry,

I don't think the idea of Oversite has really registered with some of the Board Members as of yet. If you listen to our public conversations, you will hear some of the newer members say things such as "We must Trust our Superintendent", or "They are the Professionals" or in the case of a 25 year veteran of the Board "Don't tie the uperintendent's hands". There's a big difference between an Advisory Council and a Governing Body.

I've heard this before, in the Moss era. I don't know, but I suspect, that you might have heard similar sentiments in Berkley County.

Trust but verify. Challenge every assumption. Ask why? Questions are not accusations.

You are well represented.

JOHN DOWLING
DISTRICT 6 REPRESENTATIVE
BEAUFORT COUNTY BOE

Sent from my iPad

On May 18, 2019, at 9:27 AM, jerry at the beach <gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com <mailto:gringoviejotwo@yahoo.com> > wrote:

\*\* WARNING: This email originated from outside of Beaufort County School District's email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. \*\*

Let's connect the dots. How much of this sounds familiar?

The Berkeley CFO was under FBI investigation, just as Moss

Rebate checks,... P-Cards come to mind.

Overpaid for some construction projects,... hence the current

FBI investigation.

was/is.

Unnecessary and extravagant junkets,... in our case unidentified travel expenses on Transparency Reports.

And what a coincidence; Our school district has relied heavily on Heizer and Nurick for years as our bond counsel and advisor,... just as Berkeley did.

## But wait, there's more!

School district audit finds more P-Card problems - The

## Colletonian

< https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a = http%3a%2f%2fthe colletonian.com%2fschool-district-audit-finds-p-card-

problems%2f%3ffbclid%3dlwAR21MyW5PIm8NM5HzeIMFWcSfeFzxXZNZIIV9yCXG\_-9NbrfW9LBLC0uGlc&c=E,1,lbctnEKn5Vcbr3AD-Y62NzczXlheh1mC0DKMMvQXN-o3fTsLYD1BekkXiBtFcDDlso4y7aNv-yHbTwOwJRvzyAckDXQgcUJDNOsB2\_pC0Q\_XZ-3S7i9D8gwM&typo=1>

<https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2fthecolletonian.com%2fschool-district-audit-finds-p-card-problems%2f%3ffbclid%3dlwAR21MyW5PIm8NM5HzeIMFWcSfeFzxXZNZIIV9yCXG\_-9NbrfW9LBLC0uGlc&c=E,1,KoB6lkkQnqTX7KpIGvKVNyjHGcYEXadwrZU2v7H98rvYwSFIP8XLdivoPP3oyR4xUjCiSLf67FuwvQ633HSJgK4sLufEBM4OIRzJrWcUilcs8hMBq5ne78uTWng,&typo=1>

chool district audit finds more P-Card problems - The Colletonian

School district audit finds more P-Card problems

Thank you JoAnn for bringing this important information to the surface. Where is our Firewall against fraud?

When will our 'new board's' fiduciary duties kick in?

Before any more talk of another referendum, our board should be talking about an Audit.

	Rest assured, the 'old electorate' will not grant the 'new board' on of a procurement audit of the school district's funds, district's P-Cards demonstrating current school dollars are complete transparency.
urging [reconsidering] doing bu allegations.	At the very least I agree with the Representative from Dist. 6 siness with Heizer and Nurick until there's a resolution to the
	Once again I am proud to be able to sign off as,
	G.A. Smith Well represented in Dist. 11.
	~Jerry
<rpc1@hargray.com <mailto:rp<="" td=""><td>On Friday, May 17, 2019, 4:27:10 PM EDT, Rick Caporale c1@hargray.com&gt; &gt; wrote:</td></rpc1@hargray.com>	On Friday, May 17, 2019, 4:27:10 PM EDT, Rick Caporale c1@hargray.com> > wrote:
	John:
regard to any potential referen	You might want to consider keeping them at arm's length with dum.
	However, in fairness to everyone, I have to admit I have always

had a great deal of faith and trust in Frannie Heizer,