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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 11/08/2011

To: Albany

Attn: FIG

[Redacted]

From: Albany

4
Contact: [Redacted]

Approved By: [Redacted]

Drafted By: [Redacted]

Case ID #: [Redacted]

Title: PUBLIC CORRUPTION
TYPE 3 ASSESSMENT
[Redacted]

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Synopsis: To document a meeting with the League of Women Voters.

Details: On November 8, 2011, Special Agents [Redacted] and [Redacted] met with representatives of the League of Women Voters (LWV) at the Office of the LWV located at 62 Grand Street, Albany, New York. SAs [Redacted] and [Redacted] met with LWV [Redacted] and LWV [Redacted]

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Prior to the meeting, [Redacted] requested a description of the purpose of the meeting as she was unclear why the Federal Bureau of Investigation wished to meet with the LWC. In an email dated November 4, 2011, SA [Redacted] explained that the FBI was committed to investigating public corruption and was interested in the perspective of the LWV. The email was enclosed in a FD-340 envelope.

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[Redacted] and [Redacted] advised that the LWV is a steering committee member of the government reform coalition Reshape New York. The LWV has working relationships with other government reform groups on the Reshape New York steering committee, including New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), Common Cause, and Citizens Union. LWV has also worked on projects with Reinvent Albany and the Brennan Center for Justice.

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[Redacted]

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To: Albany From: Albany
Re: [redacted] 11/08/2011

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[redacted] was not aware of any acts of public corruption in the form of bribes or kickbacks. [redacted] expressed concern that New York State had created a campaign financing system that allows lobbying firms and private donors to impact the legislative process without the need for bribes or kickbacks. [redacted] continued that New York's adoption of high limits for campaign contributions provides donors with a legal mechanism to influence a legislator's actions.

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Similarly, [redacted] was not aware of any acts of public corruption in the form of bribes or kickbacks. [redacted] concurred with [redacted] assessment of the campaign financing system allowing contributors to influence legislators. [redacted] also described that the New York Legislature is self protective. Particularly in the New York Senate, senators abide strictly by the direction of party leadership. To do otherwise, would be detrimental to that senator's productivity and support for reelection.

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[redacted] gave the example of redistricting reform being very slow and weak due to the New York legislature being self protective. [redacted] described that there is no incentive for an incumbent candidate to commit to redistricting reform because to do so would impact the chances of reelection for the candidate and the candidate's political party members.

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[redacted] has worked to promote further investigation of the environmental effects of hydraulic fracturing. [redacted] explained that although the effects and future value on land used for hydraulic fracturing are not fully known, those in favor of hydraulic fracturing are pushing it toward approval. [redacted] suspects that natural gas companies are over estimating the amount of fuel that they will be able to extract through hydraulic fracturing so that greater economic potential will pressure legislators to pass legislation in support of hydraulic fracturing. [redacted] also suspected that land owners were leasing their land for hydraulic fracturing based upon misrepresentations.

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[redacted] and [redacted] expressed a greater understanding of FBI Albany's interest in public corruption and agreed to contact agents [redacted] and [redacted] if they come upon information that would interest the FBI.

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To: Albany From: Albany
Re: [redacted] 11/08/2011

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Accomplishment Information:

Number: 1
Type: DI-LIAISON-CONTACT (PRIVATE/COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION)
ITU: INTEL PROGRAM
Claimed By:
SSN: [redacted]
Name: [redacted]
Squad: 4

Number: 1
Type: DI-LIAISON-CONTACT (PRIVATE/COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION)
ITU: INTEL PROGRAM
Claimed By:
SSN: [redacted]
Name: [redacted]
Squad: 4

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Number: 1
Type: DI-LIAISON-CONTACT (PRIVATE/COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION)
ITU: INTEL PROGRAM
Claimed By:
SSN: [redacted]
Name: [redacted]
Squad: 4

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