

A History – Part II

Assessor Tritz was not alone in knowing who Martinez really is. Tritz related to me a conversation with one of the previous Commissioners, who had the revelation that Martinez “is really just a con artist, isn’t he?” Well, yes, that is what he is, a professional plying his trade. As I understand it, in that line of work, once one understands at an early age that one has a talent for lying and fast-talking oneself out of trouble, that can often be followed by the realization that if one gets good enough at those one has hardly ever to learn anything else. The rest, as they say, becomes history.

Along that line, I was told that an appraiser with decades of experience had offered to impart his knowledge to Martinez so that he, Martinez, could actually do his job. The offer was immediately, even contemptuously, spurned. And why not? He knew all he needed to know to do the only job he planned to do.

As a bit of a sidelight here, Tritz also showed me letters Martinez had written the Commissioners in relation to a sliming effort he made against another employee after that employee, accurately and loudly, had called him a f_____g idiot. Apart from their notably semi-literate construction, in one of them he described himself as an honorable man. By that point I knew with certainty what he really is and I laughed out loud reading that. What a joke! His government career has been dishonorable and dishonest piled upon chicanery piled upon charlatanism piled upon lies and gross misbehavior.

If Martinez possessed an ounce of honor, after about two weeks on the job he would have known that it required learning and effort and he would have quit, knowing it wasn’t a job for him. Instead he stayed on, collecting 100% of his salary and benefits while doing about 5% of his job, and that fraudulently, defrauding the county taxpayers, defrauding the county taxing entities, defrauding the county property owners, defrauding his fellow employees and the county Assessor Office, defrauding the county government, and thoroughly corrupting the system and its procedures that form the very heart of the rationale for having an Assessor Office, and all under the wandering eye of a spineless administrator. That is your “honorable” Miguel Martinez, the admired legacy of the previous Assessor and the pride and joy of the Lake County Democrat Party. Sick, sick, sick!

Every Commissioner since the day he was mis-hired has known that he always got a full weeks pay, despite being suspiciously-often absent. (But see Tidbit Two in Appendix, below.) The offices are within a few feet of each other. Commissioners know that the county taxpayers, since January 2015, have been funneling \$1000 or so per week to someone who is even more absent.

Again, from what my queries uncovered, rumors had been reaching Commissioner ears for some time of issues in the Assessor Office, all revolving around one fraud and the spineless department head, some of them coming from the responsible employees of that office. And then I went so far as to inform, in some detail, one present and two former Commissioners, what had been, was, and still is going on in that department. Their response was essentially, “So what? He’s a Democrat, and that makes it right as rain.” When I presented one Commissioner with a preliminary summary showing the differences in values between valid and fraudulent property valuations, her immediate response was a plaintive, despairing, “Ohhh, Howard!”, indicating that she knew immediately where the long-time responsibility lay. Within days, however, she had determined that, to gloss a phrase, cowardice is the better part of valor, and joined her colleagues in sweeping the stench under the carpet, where it yet remains, stinking up not only the Assessor Office but the BOCC too.

The sad truth is that right now, not all, but far too much of Lake County Government has become a refuge where the lazy and the contemptible are encouraged to thrive. Fluency in falsehood and nonchalant, blasé dishonesty are well-trod paths to success in Lake County politics, as will happen where there is no opposition to one-party rule. I would like to change that, at least in one department, but as it is now a tenet of the Democrat Party that corrupt government is good

government so long as the corruption is Democrat corruption, and with this being a Democrat county, it is an uphill battle.

The present situation is this: we have several elected officials, past and present, who have all concluded that protecting the political career and the reputation of a scoundrel outweighs sworn oaths of office, outweighs protecting the interests of every owner of real property and every taxing district in the county, outweighs protecting the integrity of county government, and outweighs just doing the right thing. Then they gasp and say, "How could you?" when I say we live in a very sick society, and one that is only getting sicker.