IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

STATE OF FLORIDA,	CASE NO.	2013-CF-064037-C
Plaintiff,		
v.		
ROSE HARR,		
Defendant.	,	
	/	

DEFENDANT ROSE HARR'S MOTION FOR CHANGE OF VENUE

THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE PART 3 OF DEFENDANT ROSE HARR'S MOTION FOR CHANGE OF VENUE - THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT WAS TOO LARGE TO E-FILE IN ONE FLING

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on November 15, 2013, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court by using the E-Filing Portal which will send a notice of electronic filing to Robert Wayne Holmes, Office of the State Attorney, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Building D, Viera, Florida 32940; BrevFelony@sa18.state.fl.us. and to Warren Lindsey, Esquire, Law Office of Warren W. Lindsey, P.A., 1150 Louisiana Avenue, Winter Park, Florida 32790; warren@warrenlindseylaw.com.

By: /s/ Mark L. Horwitz

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Friday, January 25, 2013

Brevard EDC Cites "Non-Disclosure Agreement" and Confidentiality With Regards to BlueWare Relationship

MELBOURNE, Florida - The president and CEO of The Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast declined on Friday to offer specifics of its proposal in May 2012 to lure BlueWare, Inc. to Melbourne.

"While a non-disclosure agreement precludes us from providing specific details, the company identified a need for a skilled labor pool and competitive tax environment," Lynda Weatherman said.

BlueWare and its subsidiary BlueGem, LLC were awarded a controversial \$8.7 million contract last summer from the former Brevard County Clerk of the Court Mitch Needelman to scan documents.

This contract is currently under scrutiny by current Clerk Scott Ellis. He has called it a "sham."

Ellis has filed an official request to the EDC for release of its documents related to BlueWare. Weatherman replied to Ellis that "the EDC legal counsel has advised the information held by the EDC is currently both confidential and exempt from disclosure."

Weatherman said to Brevard Times, "In general, the functions of an economic development organization working with an out-of-market prospect involve assisting the company in understanding comparative tax advantages, as well as the availability of a skilled workforce able to meet a company's growing needs, and other areas, such as incentives available at both the state and local levels,"

"Economic development analyses often include workforce availability and cost, payroll tax comparatives, property tax and corporate tax evaluations — in other words, the economic facets that businesses take into account when they consider alternate locations."

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About Me

Charles Parker

I cover politics, sports, and local

Weatherman also responded regarding a May 2012 press release from Governor Rick Scott that said BlueWare would "invest over \$1 million in tangible property and equipment to support operations."

"Our involvement in this project was limited to the standard, widelyaccepted and utilized economic development best practices that we offer to any business that we are encouraging to locate or expand in Brevard County," Weatherman said.

"The \$1 million investment refers to the company's corporate capital expenditure to support the start-up of its operation in Brevard County. We have no knowledge of the contract between the company and the Brevard Clerk of Court and it was not part of our economic development proposal."

Brevard Times asked Weatherman that since BlueWare has a government contract should they be required to make their budgetary information (payroll, equipment lease/purchase, building lease/purchase) and work deliverables (numbers of documents scanned and delivered) available to the press and public.

Weatherman said, "BlueWare is a privately-held company and, as such, is not required to release financial information."

Social media sites indicate that BlueWare owner Rose Harr has re-located from Brevard to England – after moving here from Michigan in June 2012. Weatherman was asked if EDC had any knowledge of this.

"We understand from working with BlueWare that the company has significant operations in the United Kingdom and sees that market as one with solid growth potential," Weatherman added. "However, we have no knowledge of the president's private living arrangements."

Gov. Scott's office was contacted regarding this story, but did not respond.

Posted by Charles Parker at 6:34 PM

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15 comments:



Anonymous January 26, 2013 at 9:12 AM

How deep does this cover up go?

Her Facebook page says she lives in the UK. She does not have significant operations in the UK and the only reason she is there now is hiding the money Needleman gave her by buying businesses and houses there so we cannot get it back. For a company that has significant operations there why was it so hard for her to make payroll and pay her employee expenses for 6 months until Brevard gave her the money. Really does not make sense.

We are not asking for you to reveal market analysis simply show up the parts that relate to how our money was spent to move this company from Michigan to Florida - that really is not classified information since it is our money. No one cares about your inflated formulas on workforce and market opportunity because they are speculation. All we care about is how much money was given and what were the tax incentives.

Where there clauses that said - you actually have to live in Melbourne and establish residency? That would be pretty important. You need to develop actuall business rather than just take the handouts that were given to you? You need to actually employ Melbourne residents?

These are all critical statements that it appears you may be covering up because you are trying to protect yourself.

If you really believe that this is a worldclass company do you know there world headquarters before they moved to Melbourne was a house? Not really sure how many global companies with significant operations in the UK work out of a house im the back woods of Michigan.



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My cousin runs a shipping company out of the shed behind is house in North Carolina I will have him call you on Monday to see if you can help him relocate here with some of this easy money.

Reniv



Anonymous January 26, 2013 at 9:14 AM

For such a global company how come there web site has not been updated and the executives listed there actually do not work there?

Could it be someone is hiding something?

Reply



Anonymous January 26, 2013 at 9:16 AM

Linda they are all hiding in the UK - you really need to take care of yourself and stop believing Rose's email where she tells you everything is taken care of and you have nothing to worry about.

If there was nothing to worry about wouldn't she be answering questions?

If there was nothing to worry about would her whole family be over there hiding?

If there was nothing to worry about would everyone be investigating what is going on?

I can hear someone knocking on the door.

Reply

* Replies



Anonymous February 28, 2013 at 4:53 PM

RINGO

Reply



Anonymous January 26, 2013 at 10:25 AM

Fine - then it's time to file a lawsuit to get the info. As a BC Tax Payer, I have no problem with Mr. Ellis spending whatever \$\$ is necessary to get to the bottom of this.

Our EDC (over-paid travel agents) seem to think we need to hand out \$\$ like candy to lure business here, and the word is apparently getting around-Free Money in Brevard - we are Suckers! Come and get it!

Recent article in the Vero Press Journal (1/25/2013)... "Financial incentives haven't been promised to lure Bass Pro Shops to the Treasure Coast, state and local officials said Thursday, as has been done in Brevard County... "Absolutely not, this stands alone," Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County President Larry Pelton said. "This stands on their business model and their expectations for the store, so no, there are no incentives being offered."

So where does it end if we just let this Blueware boondoggle go?

Reply



Anonymous January 26, 2013 at 3:33 PM

Excellent point. If the purpose of the EDC is to motivate businesses to relocate with incentives that we get back equal or higher than what was offered I am all fine with that.

But from what I can read about this boundoggle - a company was offered a lot of money and tax incentives to relocate, they were given money to buy a building, and given free labor and to top it all off they were given a \$6 million contract.

They promised they would improve the community by making ivestments and employ 193 people.

Here is the reality - they rented and never purchased homes (and actually owed rent on a lot of the properties), never really employed any local folks, took the money from the county and left as soon as the heat was turned up.

And to top it all off embarrassed HP who was caught with their parits down when they found out that Rose balled and left them with a worthless contract and in debt for \$6 million.

Nice job EDC - if I was in your position I would claim private and confidential as well. I know our President does that same thing so you might as well too.

And let's not even talk about the repurcussions of Gov. Scott when he finds out he was suckered in

on this deal

Where are all those political geniuses now that were posing with Rose at that imaginary ribbon cutting ceremony at the rented building.

Sure attack Mr. Ellis when he was trying to enlighten everyone and you called him crazy and smear tactics. Well where are all these name callers now - hiding in the UK counting their money and laughing at us.

Reply

▼ Replies



scott effis January 27, 2013 at 8:57 AM

The EDC is locking down the entire Blueware file claiming 'confidentiality'. The entire file, In the comingweeks I don't expect this to fly. Blueware was signed for up to \$4.2 million in free money incentives. Money has already been siphoned out. My belief is the EDC wants this one locked down as they may have some very intense involvment with the scheme.



Anonymous February 28, 2013 at 4:54 PM

Lets see where FDLE gets

Reply



Anonymous January 27, 2013 at 7:59 PM

Charles & Scott: Who is the atty for the EDC, and can we get a formal statement from them as to their specific exemption from the Sunshine laws?

Reply

▼ Replies



scott ellis January 27, 2013 at 9:48 PM

I have such a legal opinion and sent it to the Brevard Times right as Charles was publishing the article. They are welcome to publish the letter and legal opinion, or if you e-mail me at sellis@spacey.net I can send it to you.

Reply



Anonymous January 28, 2013 at 2:44 PM

Have Rose Harr's kids, David and Kaltlin moved to the UK or are they just on holiday visiting their con artist mother?

Reply



Anonymous January 28, 2013 at 4:01 PM

I thought Rose was now on the EDC Board. How can she be on the Board and be in England at the same time? Interesting.

Reply



Anonymous February 4, 2013 at 4:02 PM

I see Rose has returned to Florida. I do hope there is an arrest warrant soon in her future.

Reply



Anonymous February 14, 2013 at 8:37 PM

Check Cadillac, Ml. I hear they have a good amount of real estate up there. Of course the reason they moved was because people were on to them. If you ever get to inspect those documents, I'd say there is a good chance there is corruption.

Reply



Anonymous February 20, 2013 at 4:00 PM

I used to work for BlueWare... worst experience of my life, Ms. Harr is a child and would often have outbursts, wasting money left and right on a very expensive lifestyle. The business had absolutely

News: Brevard EDC Cites "Non-Disclosure Agreement" and Confidentiality With Regards to BlueWare Relationship NO structure - no human resources, no training, no thought put into anything. BlueWare is one of those companies that is crooked as they get and barely making it buy... while the president puts up a facade of success and sustainability. Most unprofessional, unorganized environment ever. Walmart and Burger Kings are run better than this "organization." Reply Enter your comment... Comment as: | Select profile..

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Tuesday, February 5, 2013

Ellis and Weatherman At Odds Over BlueWare Documents

MELBOURNE, Florida - Brevard County Clerk of the Court Scott Ellis claimed on a radio show Monday that the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast knowingly received a post-dated confidentiality agreement related to its association with BlueWare, Inc.

Ellis believes that after a January 10, 2013 visit to the EDC by Clerk staff, a blank confidentiality agreement was provided to BlueWare president Rose Harr, which was subsequently signed and returned with back-dating. Ellis is embroiled in a battle with the EDC over a file that contains information regarding the EDC's involvement in luring BlueWare to Melbourne last year.

Lynda Weatherman, president & CEO of the EDC said in response: "Brevard County Clerk of the Court Scott Ellis is wrong. His assertion that the non-disclosure agreement between BlueWare and the EDC was backdated was based on the time stamp from when copies of the original 2012 agreement, and a request for an extension, were faxed to EDC offices from England. In reality, the 2012 non-disclosure agreement was entered into more than a year ago, a fact the EDC would have clarified had Mr. Ellis asked. It appears the time stamp is what led to Mr. Ellis' erroneous conclusion."

The two documents in question can be seen at the end of this article.

Click here for the complete Ellis interview from the WMMB "Bill Mick Live" show:

http://www.wmmbam.com/player/?station=WMMB-AM&program_name=podcast&program_id=billmick.xml&mid=22844005

Ellis noted in the interview that he understands that some documents in the file may contain "business strategy" that is not related to the Clerk's office and could remain confidential. However, he also said that any information in the file that ties incentives to milestones should be open to the public.

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About Me

Charles Parker

He added he is considering legal action to see the BlueWare file at the EDC.

BlueWare has a controversial contract with the Clerk's office to digitize court records. Ellis has claimed in the past that the \$8.7 million contract is a "sham."

District 3 County Commissioner Trudi Infantini said, "The BlueWare transaction has been questioned by Scott Ellis for well over a year. In spite of all his efforts to prevent this transaction from taking place it still went through. People in a position of authority have violated the public trust and withheld public records from Mr. Ellis. And even now that Scott has been elected back to Clerk of Courts he is still being stonewalled and records are being withheld."

Previous Clerk Mitch Needelman, who Ellis defeated in a primary in August 2012, paid the BlueWare contract in full before leaving office by obtaining a loan from Hewlett Packard Financial Services. Ellis has said that this \$6.1 million loan is illegal and that the Clerk's office will not pay HP.

Following is a timeline of events related to Ellis and his communications with the EDC as well as communications with the EDC and Brevard Times.

1/10/2013 – Bart Carmichael of the Clerk's office visit the EDC and request to see the "BlueWare file." Ellis says they are told that the file cannot be released as it is subject to a confidentiality agreement, which sunsets on January 31, 2013.

1/11/2013 – The EDC receives two documents by FAX from BlueWare owner Rose Harr. One is a confidentiality request form signed by Harr and dated "January 31, 2012." The second is a letter requesting a 12-month extension to the original confidentiality agreement. While there is no address associated with BlueWare on these documents, the FAX originated at "Grand Hotel Eastbourne." This hotel is in East Sussex, England.

1/17/2013 – Carmichael formally requests the EDC/BlueWare "file" by email.

1/24/2013 – A legal opinion is provided to Ellis that says the documents in the BlueWare file are confidential.

1/24/2013 – When asked by Brevard Times whether they know that Harr lives in England, the EDC says they "we have no knowledge of the president's private living arrangements"

2/1/2013 – Ellis and Carmichael return to the EDC to request the BlueWare file as the original 12-month non-disclosure agreement ended on January 31. The EDC informed Ellis that the file was under a 12-month confidentiality extension and then presented with the two documents that had been faxed from England.

BlueWare representatives and the remaining county commissioners did not respond to email requests for comment.



I cover politics, sports, and local news for Brevard Times. I also write opinion. You can email me

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At M. Farr

Posted by Charles Parker at 7:35 PM

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19 comments:



Anonymous February 6, 2013 at 8:51 AM

OK Linda explain why a time stamp appears on the document of 2013 for a document signed in 2012. You indicate that his claim is based on this - yes that is true and we would like an answer now on why that is so.

Do not delay and try to come up with a story to explain this - answer the question I am sure your answer is not protected under confidentiality laws.

Reply



Anonymous February 6, 2013 at 9:03 AM

We should have a contest and see who can come up with the best excuses that Linda can use.

Let me start -

- 1 We found it was easier to call Rose in the UK and ask her to send her copy of the signed confidentiality agreement rather than going to our own filing cabinet and getting a copy.
- 2 Every time I travel abroad the three things I carry are my passport, medications I use, and my EDC confidentiality agreement with Brevard County EDC.
- 3 Funny you should ask, I know I said I do not know where Rose is located these days but I was

talking to her and she said I was cleaning out some old files and I found these documents in my suitcase and thought you may need them.

4 - Some people carry business documents with them when they move to a new country and some people even carry them when they are vacationing at a fancy hotel - ok let me see, sun tan lotion, a good book to read and I can't forget my EDC confidentiality agreement - OK I am packed time to go.

Reply



Anonymous February 6, 2013 at 10:58 AM

This is so whole line of articles are so unbelievably full of sh*t it's unbelievable

The quality of BrevardTimes.com news reporting is incredibly poor as this article is just full of pointbiank lies.

I suggest you perform a better un-biased investigation before you guys get yourself in a hefty law suit that you won't be able to pull yourselves out of.

Disgusting.

Reply

▼ Replies



Charles Parker February 6, 2013 at 11:07 AM

Quotes from both sides, attempted quotes from others, documents to view by readers. Where is the bias?



Anonymous February 6, 2013 at 11:14 AM

Charles don't get upset. You are getting too close for comfort so they use strategy 101 attack the messenger. I know you have a lot more speculation you can print but do not do it until you have confirmed the facts. They are just getting nervous.



Anonymous February 6, 2013 at 12:19 PM

The negative comment was probably written by someone from Blueware. Right Kaitlin?

Keep up the Great Reporting. This scam needs to be completely exposed and the guilty sent to jail.



Anonymous February 6, 2013 at 1:16 PM

Impossible - she was making sure someone buttoned their shirt correctly, combed their hair and took the laundry tag off the shirt - can't be her.



Anonymous February 6, 2013 at 2:35 PM

Rose's son David still has not learned to take care of himself I see.

Reply



Anonymous February 6, 2013 at 10:59 AM

If Blueware is an imaging company then shouldn't they have this kind of stuff accessible without having to send faxes from around the world?

Reply



Anonymous February 6, 2013 at 11:04 AM

Here is what I don't understand -

October 17, 2012 press release from Blueware Kaitlin Welliver - Rose's daughter and protege of the feader - here is the part of the press release justifying the recent contract -

Before the end of the year, BlueGEM will have scanned 1.5 million documents of the county's court records and have made them accessible online, allocating more time and resources of the tax payers' dollars to more pressing matters than the quality of paper storage that is no longer required.

Ellis told us yesterday they have only scanned a few thousand by December 31. So why is no one holding them accountable, why are they not explaining the reason, if you hire someone for a job and they do not do it do you ignore it or do you pay them - well the county pays them and ignores it.

Someone needs to explain to me where are my tax dollars and why was the work not done. This has gone far enough! It is time that someone from Blueware answers the questions or give us our money back and pack up and get out of town.

Don't ask me which one I prefer.

Reply



Anonymous February 6, 2013 at 11:12 AM

10:58 Anonymous - I am interested in knowing which part are lies -

- 1 the document was not sent from England the day after Ellis requested it it appears there is a time stamp on there to prove he is correct
- 2 only 8,000 documents were scanned when Blueware stated in their own press release http://www.blueware.us/news they would have 1.5 million - the link is there follow it
- 3 Rose wrote the contract herself and it was signed when everyone denied that was done. Ellis has sent emails proving that was true.
- 4 Legal counsel did not lie that no one knew about it when the court hearing was played back and Ellis shoed documents showing he was right.
- 5 Matt DuPree had a relation with Needleman and negotiated the deal and then went to work for Blueware that he created the deal for. He corresponds now as the VP of BlueGem.
- 6 Rose got prepaid for a contract that she wrote with no consequences for if she did not deliver. I am pretty sure we all knew she got the money before any real work was done.
- 7 Rose got incentives to move her company to Melbourne and create new job opportunities and invest in the community. How many of the 192 jobs have been filled with \$69,000 salaries, why does the woman move her and her family to the UK if she is the sole owner and is supposed to be developing business for Melbourne, FL. Why does she buy a house in the UK and still no purchases in Melbourne minus the building the state paid for.

Instead of claiming bad reporting and lies why don't you check the facts.

Reply



Anonymous February 6, 2013 at 12:17 PM

Can someone please explain to me why the State Attorney General's office has not moved on this sham contract? Rose Harr and her accomplices should all be in jail.

Regiv

▼ Replies



Anonymous February 6, 2013 at 1:13 PM

And there my friend lies the mystery we all want to know. I know in the past things like this are not investigated for many reasons but two that may be apparent here - too many local officials are involved and it could get messy or there was a big media push for the governor and creating publicity for getting 70,000 new jobs for Florida. He supported this effort and now it is an embarrassment.

Reply



Anonymous February 9, 2013 at 6:20 PM

Typical - these grievances and concerns get posted by tax payers and Linda and Rose's defense is to say nothing. So pathetic how corrupt these people are.

Wait Bluewhatever is on a big hiring spree job postings everywhere - I pity the fool who takes one of those jobs. She pays too low and it won't be very long working.

My favorite part - you will become a member of the President's Executive Team - that must be a very exclusive club because the members change every three months.

Repl



Anonymous February 9, 2013 at 10:21 PM

Here is one for you that you will love - she has this advisory board that is comprised of industry leaders that she put together since she has moved to Florida. They meet every other month. So many people have quit because they do not want to be associated with her that she has never had

two meetings with the same attendees.

She promises them all these phantom stock the only thing I do not realize it is a phantom company.



Anonymous February 13, 2013 at 4:24 PM

Here is a telling stat on how bad things have gotten at Blueware.

HIMSS is THE IT conference of the year. Rose has always spent \$50K plus each year to be a vendor at this event. They are not vending at this year's conference in New Orleans in couple of weeks.

Guess she figures she fleeced Brevard County for \$6M and has no need to continue to sell her Vaponware software. As stated above...good luck all you job hunters. Trust me, your current job or unemployment is better than working for Rose.

Reply



Anonymous February 14, 2013 at 4:50 AM

Wow! This is amazing! I only learned of BlueWare after finding out that my ex-wife has recently (January) hired on with them. I looked at her offer letter and at a glance it seemed to be a reputable company. The salary and benefits sounded inviting also. There was a pretty interesting statement concerning benefits however, it stated that the employee would have to wait 90 days to receive benefits. That doesn't sound like anything that I'm use to. Last but not least, they made sure to state that they are an employment-at-will company, meaning that they wouldn't have to give a reason to let employees go: Verbatim..

Benefits- all available upon success completion of the 90-day probationary period

- . Health, dental & vision benefits available
- · Life Insurance you are eligible for life/AD&D insurance of \$10,000
- \bullet Paid Time Off 12 days per annum accrued monthly after 90 days consecutive full-time employment
- Paid Holidays 7 pre-determined annual paid holidays, plus 3 floating holidays

Your performance will be evaluated after completion of 90-day probationary period.

BlueWare, Inc (including its affiliated companies) is an employment-at-will organization. Either BlueWare, Inc or you can terminate the employment relationship at any time, with or without cause, and with or without notice.

Reply

* Replies



Anonymous February 15, 2013 at 10:01 AM

There are two milestones in the life of a Blueware employee. The first is when you have been there 6 months and are eligible for unemployment. The second, and perhaps the greatest milestone, is the day you quit, get "laid off", or fired. Just getting away from the toxic environment is better than any paycheck.

Reply



Anonymous March 6, 2013 at 11:28 AM

Oh, what a tangled web we weave. The reason nothing has been done is because all these so called facts are false!

Reply

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The Saga of BlueWare in Brevard County

March 13th, 2013 2 Pat Pasley

Early in 2012 former Clerk of the Courts Mitch Needelman made a decision to digitize ten's of millions of old clerk of the courts documents that are in storage. What still cannot be determined is why he decided to take such actions since these documents are very rarely accessed. At the same time, scanning of much more needed current documents were backing up.

The BlueWare deal may turn out to be nothing more than a multimillion dollar waste of money that has been perpetrated on the people of Brevard. The Florida Today has refused to do any kind of investigative reporting on this issue. The only news organization that has been following this story is <u>Brevard Times</u> @ www.brevardtimes.com. and I applaud their excellent journalism on this story.

As the BlueWare deal continues, it stinks like ten day old fish. Because this story has been going on for almost a year, with little or no publicity, I thought it would be a good idea to give readers a summary of what has been happening. It's a confusing story because of the many corporate names associated with BlueWare, cast of characters and the various conflicting amounts of money. As soon as I receive updated information, I will post it on this website. I have also referenced back to Brevard Times articles and others wherever applicable to validate the information and to enable you to obtain even more information.

What is BlueWare/BlueGem?

In electronic health care management company that scans and digitizes documents. This company goes by many 10 different Corporate entities on the same day (5/16/2012 Fla) BlueWare Cloud, LLC; Bluezen, LLC; Roseware, LLC; BlueWare Land, LLC; BlueWare DOD, LLC; Bluescan, LLC; BlueWare Eire, LLC; BlueWare, Inc.; BlueWare International, Inc.; BlueGem International, Inc.

BlueGEM is a subsidiary company of BlueWare that specializes in the public sector work (Government, Education, Medical) for digitizing massive libraries that are soaking up tax-payer money automatically by just existing. BlueWare's founders realized the massive toll this takes on the community and is offering an inexpensive, tested way to bring that money back into the community.

Cast of Characters:

Scott Ellis - Current Brevard Co. Clerk of the Courts (Elected 11/8/12, took office 1/2013) Mitch Needelman - Former Brevard Co. Clerk of the Courts Rose Harr - Sole shareholder & Chief Executive Director of all BlueWare or all "Blue" entities.

Matt DuPree - One time Lobbyist for Eligere & former business partner of Mitch Needelman

Nicolas G. Geaney - Former Managing Director of Blueware

Kaitlin Welliver - Rose Harr's Daughter

David Welliver - Rose Harr's Son and Project Manager

Sean Campbell — Mitch Needelman's deputy

Mike McDaniel, Mitch Needelman's Finance Director

Lynda Weatherman — President and CEO of the Economic Development Commission

Merrily Longacre — Clerk's attorney

Mark Cook — Clerk's Attorney's

Deena Bringham — Former Clerk Finance Officer

The Saga Begins

As stated in the beginning, there is no clear understanding as to why Mitch Needelman, as the newly elected Brevard Clerk of the Courts made a decision to start digitizing old and rarely used outdated documents. He stated "I would like to digitize everything. The Florida Supreme Court has recently engaged in an effort to reduce paper and so should we." Needelman noted a gym in Titusville that is packed with Clerk records dating back to the 80's and 90's. What he didn't mention was that these records were rarely accessed. Note that the argument for reducing paper is to avoid it's use not to convert it once it exists.

March 20 – BlueGem invoices the Brevard Co. Clerk of the Courts for work performed. This invoice was for various activities that would be itemized in the June 29th final contract.

April 6 - A cost containment contract is signed by Mitch Needelman and Rose Harr of Roseware. Services stated in this contract is that Roseware will:

- Review all outside vendors on behalf of the clerk's office
- Identify contract savings and cost reductions
- Enter negotiations on the Brevard Clerk's office to implement immediate contract changes, cancellations or amendments to guarantee immediate cost reductions
- Once a new contract or service agreement is negotiated on behalf of the clerk's office & a vendor contract is received for review by Roseware, a formal acknowledgment of gross savings or cost reduction will be submitted to the clerk.
- RoseWare LLC will invoice the Brevard Clerk's office for an amount equal to 35% of the gross agreed upon savings or cost reduction as documented by the clerk's finance dept.

In an article written by Matt Nye regarding this contract he states:

"The contract with RoseWare LLC is not uncommon – it's a contingency style contract that pays RoseWare LLC 35% of any annual savings it is able to procure for the Clerk's office by renegotiating contracts with vendors or finding other vendors that offer the same services for less.

What is highly unusual is the fact that the same day the contract was signed, the Clerk wired \$100,000 to RoseWare LLC. My FS119 request for this type of information has thus far gone unfulfilled but I was provided with information from another source that indicates the transfer was through SunTrust on April 6th, and I have the sequence number as well as the beneficiary ID, account number and routing number.

The contract clearly states RoseWare LLC will invoice the Clerk upon the conclusion of the renegotiated contract, and after the Clerk has analyzed and documented the savings RoseWare LLC is then paid. The obvious question is: HOW COULD ROSEWARE LLC BE ENTITLED TO \$100K THE DAY THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED??? This would mean they would have had to document savings of \$285,714 the day the contract was signed!"

- April 18 Scott Ellis issues a public records request to the Clerk's office for any and all contracts signed with Blueware or any of their subordinates as well as a request to know if the contract had been bid.
- April 24 A public debate was held between Mitch Needelman and Scott Ellis at the Republican Women's Club meeting. Even though Mitch stated that he was not working with Matt Dupree or their lobbying firm, Eligere, he still had a hard time explaining why Matt was at the BlueWare offices all week.
- May 3 Mitch Needelman issues an Invitation to Negotiate. The ITN documents a ridiculous project timeline as

follows:

- Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) issued: May 3, 2012
- Questions due to Brevard County Clerk of the Courts from Vendors: May 7, 2012
- ITN responses due May 11, 2012
- Vendor selection completed : May 16, 2012
- Initial project start date NLT August 1, 2012
- May 4 The Florida Governor's office issues a press release announcing that BlueWare is relocating to Melbourne. http://miamiheraid.typepad.com/nakedpolitics/2012/05/michigan-it-company-takes-gov-scott-up-on-move-to-florida-proposal.html
- May 11 This following referenced document is BlueGem's response to the Clerk's Digitization Invitation to Negotiate (ITN). Note the lack of details or project milestones. After you've reviewed this take a look at the Fidelity response and note the differences.

http://www.scribd.com/doc/100298506/Digitization-ITN-Response-BlueGem

Fidelty's response to the ITN from the Brevard Clerk of Courts received. Note the level of detail provided. Fidelity specializes in this type of work and has the references to prove it.

http://www.scribd.com/doc/100191521/Fidelity-ITN-Repsonse

- May 14 Copy of the BlueGem contract is sent to an outside attorney, hired by Mitch Needelman, for review.
- May 14 The EDC (Economic Development Commission) releases a press announcement that a Healthcare IT Company is to locate on Space Coast. They state that the company was awarded:
- 1. State of Florida Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund (QTI),
- 2. workforce incentives and a
- 3. Quick Action Closing Fund incentive to offset the costs of location, employee training and infrastructure.

The press announcement also stated that in order to secure this project they worked closely with the project partners that included:

- · Enterprise Florida,
- Brevard County
- Brevard Workforce
- * and the City of Melbourne to secure this project.

In return, BlueWare plans to hire 190 employees with an average wage of \$69,000 over the next four years.

http://www.spacecoastedc.org/NewsRoom/NewsReleases.aspx?

StoryID=07803e8cba5a4e699fc543ca23ab08aa&ModuleName=675

May 23 – BlueGem, an affiliate of BlueWare is awarded an \$8.5 million dollar contract for 5 years. This is the same contract that in a later debate Mitch Needleman denied existed or that even a contractor had been selected. On this day a \$500,000 initial payment is made to BlueGem.

Note of interest is that the second bidder came in at \$2.9 million was all inclusive, and was a firm that had done court records before. BlueWare/BlueGem has never done court records and their bid was for \$8.5 million.

May 24 – The Constitutional Officer's Forum is that evening. During the course of the debate, Mitch Needleman stated that no firm (of the three respondents) had yet been selected or that they have even began to negotiate a contract. Note that the ITN went out on May 3rd and replies were vendor replies received by the due date of May 11th.... only seven days for a multi-million dollar contract. It is suspected that during this time frame, the contract for BlueGem had already been prepared. In addition Mitch insisted that his former partner Matt Dupree had not informed him about BlueWare and that he also had no knowledge if Mr. DuPree was working for them.

June 1 - Scott Ellis receives an email from Sean Campbell, Mitch's Deputy, saying that as far as he knew, there

wasn't a signed contract and that the ITN was only an exploratory process to assess the feasibility of the project.

June 25 - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, BlueWare's relocation to Melbourne is made possible by a partnership with Brevard County Commission, Enterprise Florida, Brevard Workfoce, city of Melbourne and the Economic Development Commission (EDC). Some of the attendees were Lynda Weatherman, President & CEO of the EDC, Melbourne City Councilmen, John Thomas and Mark LaRusso.

June 26 - Scott Ellis files a lawsuit against Mitch Needelman, Brevard County Circuit Court, alleging that Needelman was refusing to provide him with public records related to the document-scanning contract.

June 29 – The final contract with BlueGem is signed and an additional \$50,000 is wired to them from the Brevard Clerk of the Courts.

June 30 -Dave Berman of Florida Today, reports on the lawsuit filed by Scott Ellis in which he is requesting copies of invoices for monies already paid BlueWare, contracts with individuals such as Tallahassee attorneys and PR spokesman and the bids returned from companies on the imaging contract..

www.floridatodav.com/article/20120701/news05/307010042/ellis-Needelman-odds-over-contract

July 3 – Scott Ellis acknowledges receipt of a copy of the contract that notes a pricing schedule that extends payments form the Clerk's office over the next five years for a total of \$8,520,000.00:

May 2012:

\$500,000 contract guaranty payment

June 29, 2012:

\$50,000 contract signing payment

July 1 – Nov 1, 2012:

\$250,000 total (5 monthly payments of \$40,000)

Dec 1, 2012 - Nov 1, 2013:

\$1,440,000 total (12 monthly payments of \$120,000)

Dec 1, 2013 - May 1, 2015:

\$2,610,000 total (18 monthly payments of \$145,000)

June 1, 2015 - May 1, 2017:

\$3,720,000 total (24 monthly payments of \$155,000)

http://cpnews.brevardtimes.com/2012/07/clerk-of-courts-digitizing-contract.html

July 9 - The Clerk's office uploads months of BlueWare's financial data.

July 21 – Another article by Dave Berman appears in Florida Today where he writes that Scott's questioning of the BlueGem contract is nothing more than a spat between the two candidates. An accompanying video has Mitch taking the Florida Today on tour of the Parkway Records Center (a dead file area) claiming that the facility is "full", "we're booked" to justify the BlueGem contract.

July 23 – The hearing of the court case brought by Scott Ellis vs. Mitch Needelman. Scott Ellis is petitioning for access to a legal opinon letter from the law firm Krasny and Dettmer, P.A. regarding the contract between the Clerk's Office and BlueGem LLC. Judge Harris rules that the letter is exempt citing Florida State Statutes Section 447.605(23). However the court does instruct the Clerk to continue to release other documents per state statute. It should be noted that Mitch Needelman himself did not show for this court case.

http://www.scribd.com/doc/101128918/Ellis-v-Needelman-Order-120726

http://cpnews.brevardtimes.com/2012/07/needelman-wins-partial-victory-in-court.html

Aug 14 - Scott Ellis defeats Mitch Needelman in the Primary Election

Aug 30 – A former BlueWare employee files suit against BlueWare in Michigan court for breach of contract (non-payment of sales commission). He alleges "illegal, improper and/or illicit" business activities with a certain government official in the State of Florida and improper conduct engaged in by Defendant Harr in an attempt to procure a business contract and/or relationship with the county. This official is identified as Brevard Clerk of Courts Mitch Needelman.

http://www.scribd.com/doc/105575323/Geaney-vs-Harr-BlueWare-Lawsuit

Sept 6 - The Brevard Co. Clerk's office review test images which are being done from a rental house located at Strawbridge & Oak. It is reported that a very limited amount of work is being done.

Late September - Matt Dupree, is hired as VP for BlueWare.

??? QUESTIONS ???:

- Where is the FI Today analysis of this entire bidding and award process?
- Why have the second and third bidders not been contacted for comment?
- Why has the Clerk not been asked to justify why BlueGem, at \$5.6 million, is better than Fidelity, another bidder which has actually done this type of work before?
- Why hasn't anyone questioned Mitch on his claim that on May 24th no bidder had been selected while in fact a wire transfer had been sent the day before for \$500,000 to BlueGem
- Why were electronic transfers, a total of \$900,000 from March to June to BlueGem not uploaded into the Courts financial system until July 9th?
- Why hasn't Florida Today written an editorial decrying the blatant disregard of the Clerk for the Florida Public Records Laws?
- Why did BlueGem get paid \$500,000 on May 23 without a signed contract? The Clerk's attorney stated on the record in Court there was no contract signed on May 23rd, in spite of the fact a half million dollars was wired to BlueGem and the invoice and wire transfer receipt stated "Initial payment upon signing"?
- Why was Mitch Needelman in such a hurry to scan old, rarely used documents while ignoring his job responsibilities of scanning current documents?
- * Why did he ignore using the much preferred RFP process (Request for Proposal) which would have received competitive bids from companies and go went straight to an Invitation to Negotiate?
- Referencing the ITN 2.2 Evaluation Criteria and Negotiating Process, it states:
- -The vendor must be able to provide experienced consultants
- Q: Who are the "experienced clerk Consultants" referred to in the ITN?
- -The vendor must agree to provide a performance bond of \$1,000,000.00
- Q: Who insured BlueWare for Performance Bond?
- -The vendor's cost reply shall be for a milestone and deliverable-based fixed price solution.
- Q: Why are there no state milestones in the contract?

For more details refer to:

http://government.brevardtimes.com/2012/07/contract-scandal-taints-florida.html

BLUEWARE - The Saga Continues Part 2

October - In this time frame it is believed that companies were being pursued by Rose Harr to loan money to Brevard County. Both IBM and Chase Bank refused but Hewlitt Packard started negotiations. They too would have probably refused if they only knew the truth. It was rumored that BlueWare was not only having trouble paying their payroll but they were late on paying expenses and owed almost every vendor they do business with from their landlord to their employment agency.

There is also reports of numerous firings and people leaving BlueWare. Someone who hired on as CFO lasted two days. After looking at the financials on day one...they left on day two.

Oct 9 - Rose Harr is appointed to the Brevard Workforce Board of Directors. Appointment approved by the Board of County Commissioners, Item III.C.3

October 17 - Kaitlin Welliver (Daughter of Rose Harr) issues a press release mainly stating that:

• The main deliverables described in the contract with the Brevard County Clerk of the Court stated that BlueGEM must provide improved accessibility of the community's court records in an electronic environment and the ability to view the documents through a web-portal.

- The contract is set to 5 years and within the past 3 1/2 months, both teams (BlueGEM's and Brevard County's) have been working constantly in setting up the process. The design phase is wrapping up and preparations for the production phase are underway.
- Before the end of the year, BlueGEM will have scanned 1.5 million documents of the county's court records and have them accessible only.
- A permanent location is promised to be active in a matter of weeks and an open house is set for late November or early December.

This press release prompts an inquiry by the Brevard Times in which they ask the following questions:

- 1. What is the current employment in BlueGem digitizing efforts and how/when will ramp-up occur? Is it true that you are required to hire 192 workers within 24 months to receive Brevard EDC incentives?
- 2. There was a claim that veterans would be hired. How is that process going? Is there specific system in place to connect your HR with veterans? How many have been hired?
- 3. There are claims that there has been a high turnover rate in your company as of late. Can you comment on the truth of these claims?
- 4. Where is the new permanent site and what equipment purchases have been made for it?

Note: The Clerk's office replied that BlueWare would "respond in some capacity" by Nov 7.

Oct 23 — Hewlett Packard negotiates a deal with Brevard County in the amount of \$6.1 million. They send Joseph Caruso, the Clerk's hired attorney, not a county staff attorney, the exact language needed for his opinion to bless this deal and the attorney collects \$50,000 fee for it. A promissory note is signed and it indicates that the clerk's offices will receive funds from HP for "essential" equipment. There are some contradictory terms as the promissory note is called an "advance" and a "lease" while the payment direction letter calls it a "loan". However a loan would mean that Needelman unlawfully borrowed this \$6.1 million from Hewlett Packard because it is stated in Florida Statutes that the clerk is not allowed to borrow money. He then fronts Blueware \$5.7 million for their five year contract. Note that the price for digitizing these old records would be over 10% of the Clerk's budget for five years. (We are still trying to confirm if the attorney got \$30K or \$50K).

http://cpnews.brevardtimes.com/2013/01/former-clerks-digitizing-contract-under.html

Oct 24 - Mitch Needleman directs that the money be sent to three vendors each receiving a differing amount:

- BlueGem \$5,690,526
- Brunswick Companies \$209,474 (Still trying to find out what part did Brunswick play in this.)
- Hanover Insurance Company \$200,000.

The clerk is to pay \$110,000 monthly to HP for the next five years at 3.55% interest.

- Oct 27 HP accepts the promissory note.
- Oct 29- An identical payment direction as listed on Oct 24 was signed by Needelman.
- Oct 31 Rumors indicate that no one is working at the rental house doing any scanning. There are ads for scanning supervisors at \$20K per year, a far cry from the \$69K per year they promised. Additionally their demonstrations for their latest software was canceled because the product is still not complete.
- **Nov 7** BlueWare misses clerk's office deadline for response to the inquiries made by Brevard Times (see Oct 17). http://cpnews.brevardtimes.com/2012/11/blueware-misses-clerks-office-deadline.html
- Nov 8 Money from promissory note is dispersed with and money being sent directly to Blueware and by-passing the Clerk's office. (The exact amount is still trying to be confirmed. Was it \$5.7 million?, or 6.1 million? Supposedly there was a million dollar discount given.)
- Nov 12 Matt DuPree, VP of Blueware, informs the Brevard Times that a building for \$850,000 and equipment had been purchased. The process would begin with documents being picked up in Titusville, delivered to

Melbourne, checked and prepped and then scanned in and indexed by using the BlueWare software. Remember, BlueWare was paid \$500,000 back on May 23rd but up until this point, no work had proceeded. He also states the scanning process will save the county money in other areas like free cloud storage. The means that cloud (internet server) storage capacity for the scanned documents would include capacity for other County storage requirements).

- **Nov 16** Brevard Workforce gives BlueWare \$760,000 for job training. Page 16 in the following: http://brevardworkforce.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/3-Agenda-packet-111612.pdf
- **Nov 16** Brevard Times reports that no response was received regarding their questions of Oct 17. A response from Katerina Hingis, a Public Records Research Clerk states that the Clerk's office may not compel contractors to respond to public records requests nor is the Clerk's office the custodian of the what is requested. Sounds like they were not only not compelled, but also not interested.

http://cpnews.brevardtimes.com/2012/11/clerk-and-company-owner-mum-regarding.html

Dec 31 - BlueWare was required to hire 44 people by the end of the year then ramp over the next 12-24 months for a total of 192 employees. Question, so just how many employees are there working for BlueWare?

??? QUESTIONS ???:

- What is the status BlueWare's special software that has been in development for over 3 years? Why are the product demonstrations being moved out or canceled?
- Just where are BlueWare's Corporate Offices? They are as follows:
- Michigan: A 1400 square foot house with 13 staff who work out of the living room
- Melbourne: A 600 sq. ft. rented office and a 1200 sq ft rented house that has a lease of 6 months
- UK a 220 sq ft office in an office park that has 67 other offices and where they have recently been evicted for back payment issues. (See entry at beginning of Oct regarding this issue.)

BLUEWARE – The Saga Continues Into Year 2013

- Jan. 1 The million plus documents that BlueWare promised to have scanned by this time is only in the thousands.
- **Jan. 8** Scott Ellis is sworn in as the new Brevard County Clerk of the Courts. As Scott takes office, he finds that a lot of the office was scrubbed before he got there, even down to memory on copy and fax machines. In addition many documents were also shredded. Why?
- Jan. 10 Scott Ellis & Bart Carmichael go to the offices of the EDC (Economic Development Commission) to get a copy of the BlueWare file. This is so he could get an understanding on how the BlueWare deal evolved. It is understood that some portions of the file may be confidential but the EDC locks down the entire file saying it was legal opinion that all was confidential for one year, sunsetting on 1/31/13, and that Rose Harr could sign an extension for another year.
- Jan 11 The EDC receives faxed copies of the confidentially statements sent from England sent by Rose Harr. One was dated Jan. 31, 2012 The second document was a letter from Harr requesting the extension for one year. After Scott Ellis's visit did the EDC email these two agreements, one of which was backdated by a year, to Rose Harr? Wouldn't that then be wire or mail fraud?
- Jan 17 Bart Carmichael, from the Brevard Clerk of the Courts office, makes a formal email request to the EDC for the BlueWare file.
- Jan 24 Scott Ellis is given a legal opinion that those BlueWare files are confidential. Ellis produces email correspondence between Longacre, Mark Cook, BlueGem owner Rose Harr and BP of Finance Deena Brigham

proving that they did indeed have knowledge of a contract prior to June 29th. At the July 23rd hearing, Merrily Longacre denied any this information.

http://cpnews.brevardtimes.com/2013/01/ellis-provides-emails-that-appear-to.html

Feb 1 – Knowing that the confidentiality clause would have sunsetted on Jan 31, Scott Ellis and Bart Carmichael return once again to the EDC. They are given the two faxed copies that were received by the EDC from Rose Harr regarding the confidentiality of the deal.

http://cpnews.brevardtimes.com/2013/02/ellis-and-weatherman-at-odds-over.html

Feb 25 - A letter is sent from Lynda Weatherman to Scott Ellis acknowledging that the EDC has been served a subpoena from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) regarding any of the BlueWare files and that they will be responding to them.

http://cpnews.brevardtimes.com/2013/02/space-coast-economic-development.html

- Feb 27 An invitation-only cocktail party "to get to know BlueWare/BlueGEM on a more personal note" was held.
- Mar 14 A public open house on Thursday March 14 from 10 am to Noon and from 4:30 6:30 pm. Attendees will receive refreshments and a gift. The public may RSVP to sales@blueware.net or call 321-953-5999. BlueWare's address is 202 West Drive, Melbourne, FL 32904

Even though I had made an appointment, I was asked if I was Pat Pasley of eyeonbrevard and after confirming that I was, I was then refused entry into the BlueWare open house.

- Mar 20 A letter is sent from the law office of Berger Singerman to Scott Ellis, Brevard Clerk of the Courts. They inform him that they are representing Hewlett Packard and demand that all amounts due which presently totals \$332,328 be paid. They go on to say if payment is not received in 10 days, they have been authorized to pursue a lawsuit on behalf of HP. http://www.scribd.com/doc/131966307/HP-Contract-Demand-Letter
- Mar 29 -Scott Ellis files suit against BlueGem stating that on March 20, 2012 BlueGem sent an invoice to the former Clerk of the Courts, Mitch Needleman for services related to the evaluation of the Clerk of the Courts document scanning capabilities, its software and hardware needs, and personnel requirements. To the best of the Clerks knowledge, no contract was ever executed between the former clerk and BlueGem establishing a basis for payment of the invoice. The invoice from BlueGem also outlined several professional services that BlueGem was to perform including an oral report on all audits and activities.
- May 3 BlueGem files counter suit against the Brevard County Clerk of the Courts office for breach of contract requesting all costs, expenses and attorney's fees and "amounts due and payable under the Scanning Contract and Amendment".
- **May 15** A letter is sent from Hewlett Packard Attorney, Charles Lichtman from the law offices of Berger Singerman stating, "Following your statement that software and scanning equipment underlying the promissory note was neither received nor being used by the Clerk's office, we made further inquiries and learned that in fact, you had personally visited the site where the scanning equipment is loated and being fully utilized and that you and your staff continue to use the scanning equipment, despite your refusal to pay for it." He further requests that Scott Ellis "advise us in writing" by May 24 whether or not Ellis would honor the promissory note.
- May 3 BlueGem files counter suit against the Brevard County Clerk of the Courts office for breach of contract requesting all costs, expenses and attorney's fees and "amounts due and payable under the Scanning Contract and Amendment".
- **July 23** The law office of Berger Singerman, representing Hewlett Packard, files suit against the Brevard Clerk of the court for defaulting on payment under the conditions of the promissory note. http://www.scribd.com/doc/156206546/HP-Lawsuit-Against-Clerk

Aug 15 - Mitch Needleman, former State Representative and former Brevard County Clerk of the Courts, arrested on bribery charges.

Also his former business partner, Matt Dupree, is arrested on charges of being a principal to bribery. A warrant is out for Rose Harr.

http://www.eyeonbrevard.org/2013/08/15/fdle-arrests-former-brevard-clerk-of-court-and-local-lobbyist/

Final Notes, thoughts and Questions:

- Quote from Scott Ellis: "The Clerk (outgoing clerk Needelman) unlawfully borrowed \$6.1 million from Hewlett Packard and fronted BlueWare \$5.7 million for their five year contract. The \$8.3 million for digitizing will be over, unfortunately with more than \$1 million already gone down the drain."
- The Clerk's office also paid a performance bond for BlueWare to do the work and did so with a promissory note signed by the clerk. It is unlawful for the clerk to borrow money.
- If BlueWare potentially received \$4.3 million dollars from the State of Florida, Brevard County and city of Melbourne, with various milestones that were to be met to get that money, why can't the public see these transactions? Even if it is withheld from the public, it still should be available to the clerk's office who is administering the deal between this company and the office. Shouldn't the county commission, who voted to give them this money, be able to see the particulars of the deal? The money has come down from the State of Florida and no information can be obtained either from the EDC or the State. If a company is awarded money from the state, county or city, all this should be public including their milestones. Everything in the County Commission and in the Clerk of the Courts is public record unless it is involved with litigation in which case it becomes public after the litigation is over.
- Just because the clerk is independently elected it does not mean he has free reign to do whatever he chooses. And although the County Commission fundamentally played no immediate part in all of this, they may certainly ask how the taxpayers money is being spent. Back in 2011, Scott Ellis asked the board to take a look at the money that they appropriated the clerk, practically 2 million dollars per year, and do a post spending audit, but that was never done.
- IBM and Chase Bank were the first two approached for the loan but each refused. Finally Hewlitt Packard agreed. After the Mitch lost the election, why were payments made on the contract before the payments were even due? Would you pay your lawn service five years in advance with no agreement on the deliverables?
- BlueWare got a \$5.7 million advance on the \$7.5 million remaining. The Clerk also picked up paying 3.55% interest on the note and the Clerk as customer paid for the Performance Bond for the vendor, Blueware (\$200,000) plus the bizarre \$200,000 payment to Brunswick. (Still checking on what is Brunswick and what part did they play in this?)
- The budgets of the Clerks in Florida are heavily reviewed by the Clerk of Courts Operation Corporation before being sent to the Legislature for ratification. Even then, the Legislature, not the CCOC, makes the final decision as to what county gets how much.
- At the November 2012 Brevard Workforce Board meeting, five people were approved as new Board members: "Motion to ratify the Executive Committee approval of Rose Harr of Blue Ware, Inc., Robert Bial of Professional Aircraft Inc., Mark Judge of Everest University, Amar Patel of Brevard Achievement Center, and Laura Canady of Economic Development for the City of Titusville as members". All of them except Rose Harr are now on the Board. Questions still remain about if she refused or did they drop her.
- Scott Ellis states that he refuses to pay HP for the loan because the whole transaction appears to be illegal and

invalid.

To Sum This All Up:

It's really not all that complex. This whole project had little or nothing to do with improving a process but rather it's was all about money. Now the county is out the money, HP is left holding the bag and those who came up with this scheme are laughing all the way to the bank.

Not that complicatednot that complicated at all.

COPIES OF DOCUMENTS

http://www.scribd.com/collections/3709463/Corruption-in-the-Clerk-s-Office-The-BlueGem-Saga

Posted in Commentary 🐧 Tags: BlueGem, BlueWare, Brevard Co. Clerk of the Courts, brevard county, Ellis, Needelman, Rose Harr

« A Very Important Message From Commissioner Infantini

Matt Reed: Big-money recycling fuels WM deal »

You can leave a response, or trackback from your own site.

17 Responses to "The Saga of BlueWare in Brevard County"

Peter Fusscas says:

March 17, 2013 at 12:41 pm

Nice summation Pat. If FDLE does not lay down multiple indictments the floodgates of government corruption will be open to all in Brevard County.

What is to discourage it?

Reply

Wondering says:

April 1, 2013 at 10:23 am

What precipitated the FDLE investigation? Why was the subpoena from the FDLE for the BlueGem EDC records made public to the Clerk's office by the EDC? Does it have anything to do with the statement that any records in lawsuit are not public record? Since there have been so many different lawyers involved in all these transactions how can any one think that what has transpired is illegal? Prediction: FDLE investigation reveals all is within the law and the Clerk's office owes HP back payments plus interest plus attorney's fees. Big difference between 'ethical' and 'illegal'.

Reply

scott ellis says:

April 15, 2013 at 10:24 pm

It is ILLEGAL for the Clerk's Office to borrow money. Period. An \$8.5 million contract was awarded for an at most \$3 million job to a company which never before had done such work. Do that math.

Reply

Richard McCoy says: April 1, 2013 at 11:30 am

On July 17, 2012 I submitted a letter to the Editor urging Florida Today that they had a huge story if they would just pursue it. The Florida Today has no one capable of truly doing an investigative report, and this investigation will snare bigger fish than just Needleman and Dupree if done correctly by FDLE. Great article and timeline it would behoove Florida Today to hire someone like you to who can actually do an investigative story.

Reply

Anonymous says: June 13, 2013 at 2:49 pm

I can't believe these guy had the nerve to show up at the Florida Association of City Clerks convention looking for new victims.

Reply

Company that Shunned Michigan for Florida's Tax Giveaways Now Being Sued By Florida County | Michigan Populist Blog says: June 20, 2013 at 1:32 pm

[...] of Brevard. The whole thing is such a mess that The Eye on Brevard, a local blog, has dedicated a page to keeping up with the ongoing events and the "cast of [...]

Reply

Anonymous says:
June 24, 2013 at 1:03 pm

Since June 1, 2013 – BlueWare hasn't paid its laid off or regular employees in over a month. If their employees can't make it in for longer than 3 days, they're fired on the spot! Make matters worse, Harr, daughter, and Dupree headed off to Fiji from June 15-17, for Anthony Robbins Resort & Spa, (http://www.namalefiji.com/reservations.php.)

Reply

YOU are HARRTLESS says:

August 17, 2013 at 3:19 pm

What I cannot believe is that no one is investigating where the money came from to purchase the homes for Kaitlin and David Welliver, the children of Rose Harr.

What about the trips that Debbie Caldwell and her husband took to London and Ireland for a month? Who paid for that? Tell us why was all those papers in your office being shredded none stop for hours at a time? Bags and bags being taken out to the trash of shredded documents?

Reply

Company that Shunned Michigan for Florida's Tax Giveaways Now Being Sued By Florida County says: July 2, 2013 at 9:49 am

paid an upgrade to go to his house, and rubbed it in unpaid employees faces when she returned!

[...] of Brevard. The whole thing is such a mess that The Eye on Brevard, a local blog, has dedicated a page to keeping up with the ongoing events and the "cast of [...]

Reply

Ray Jamison says:

July 21, 2013 at 3:42 pm

BlueCompany defrauded J2 Systems in Boston, InterSystems, Boston and Qatalys, Inc. Dallas. Did not pay their bills and law suits in Michigan are pending.

They cheat and absolutely don't care about others money.

Reply

Anonymous says: July 27, 2013 at 12:48 pm

Hewlett Packard is suing Brevard County.. Looks like Rose is Scott free.

http://cpnews.brevardtimes.com/2013/07/hewlett-packard-sues-brevard-clerk-of.html

Amazing!!

Reply

Pat Pasley says: August 15, 2013 at 10:55 am

BREAKING NEWS

FL TODAY:Mitch Needelman arrested on bribery, tampering charges

Sanz said Needelman entered into a \$8.53 million contract with the company with the agreement that a portion of that money would be funneled back into his reelection campaign.

Reply

Pat Pasley says:

August 15, 2013 at 11:12 am

breaking news: FDLE

In addition to Needelman and Dupree, an arrest warrant has been issued for BlueWare CEO Rose Harr, 55, also on bid tampering and bribery charges.

Reply

Michigander says:

August 16, 2013 at 8:35 am

Wowwhat a mess!!

Reply

Pa

Pat Pasley says:

August 16, 2013 at 10:05 am

Lynne Bumpus-Hooper says: August 15, 2013 at 12:44 pm

News Release

August 15, 2013

State Attorney Phil Archer Announces Arrest

Of Former Clerk, State Representative, on Bribery Charges

Former Brevard Clerk of Courts and State Representative Mitch Needelman was arrested this morning on charges of bribery, bid tampering, and official misconduct, State Attorney Phil Archer and Florida Department of Law Enforcement Director Cindy Sanz announced during a news conference at the Viera headquarters of the Brevard-Seminole State Attorney's Office. Sanz is the director of the FDLE Office of Executive Investigations in Tallahassee.

The charges stem from a year-long FDLE probe. Needelman, who was arrested by agents with the Office of Executive Investigations, faces an additional charge of conspiracy to commit bribery.

State Attorney Archer said his office assisted FDLE throughout the probe by subpoening information relative to the case and providing statutory information as requested, a function the office provides for all law enforcement agencies.

"This partnership allows professionals to do the job they are trained to do, free from any outside alliances or influences. It benefits both agencies by allowing prosecutors to concentrate their efforts in the courtroom while experienced law enforcement agents investigate and uncover the facts and evidence," Archer said.

Archer said he assigned his office's Economics Crimes attorney, Assistant State Attorney Laura Moody, to the case along with Chief Trial Attorney Bill Respess. Chief of Operations Wayne Holmes assisted FDLE in analyzing material gathered by agents and recommending the appropriate corresponding charges and will be assisting in the prosecution.

Additionally, a colleague and former business partner of Needelman's, Matt Dupree, was arrested on charges of being a principal to commit bribery, conspiracy to commit bribery, and principal to bid tampering. There is one warrant still outstanding in the case, Archer said. FDLE will be providing additional details in a later news release.

Lynne Bumpus-Hooper

Reply



GreedySin says:

August 16, 2013 at 11:05 am

Excellent reporting! The detailed back story helped to weed through the mess of the situation. It's disheartening and disgusting to know that unassuming employees jobs and livelihood have been affected by this culture of greed and unethical behavior. Hopefully, all that are guilty will receive more than a simple slap on the hand and some fines.

Reply



Pat Pasley says:

August 23, 2013 at 11:34 am

-NOTICE-

I received a letter from the law Office of Mark L.Horwitz dated August 21, 2013. Mr. Horwitz, who represents Rose Harr, wrote that certain comments

posted by someone posing as Rose Harr and referencing the Eye on Brevard article "Saga of Blueware in Brevard County" falsely attributed remarks to Rose Harr. Mr. Horwitz further stated that the remarks were not made by Rose Harr nor authorized by Rose Harr. Upon receiving this notification, the referenced biogger comments were immediately removed. Eye on Brevard sincerely regrets that false comments were posted by someone appearing to be Rose Harr.

Reply

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2013

Brevard Clerk of Court Sues Economic Development Commission For BlueWare Documents

BREVARD COUNTY, Florida -- Brevard County Clerk of Court Scott Ellis filed a lawsuit today against the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast (EDC) which seeks a Circuit Court judge's order that the EDC hand over its documents regarding BlueWare.

BlueWare is the company caught up in a public corruption criminal case brought by Florida State Attorney Phil Archer against former Clerk of Court Mitch Needelman, his former business partner Matt Dupree, and BlueWare CEO Rose Harr.

The EDC had helped BlueWare and some of its affiliated companies to qualify for various government programs and other "workforce incentives" that could have totaled at least \$1.31 million from the State of Florida, plus a local match of somewhere between \$250k to \$350k from the City of Melbourne and Brevard County. None of those incentives were ultimately awarded to BlueWare because it did not meet its performance benchmarks.

After the Clerk's office learned from a *Brevard Times* investigative article published on August 26, 2013 that State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity officials said the BlueWare's confidentiality had lapsed and Governor Rick Scott's Office said the BlueWare incentive contract was canceled on April 5, 2013, the Clerk sent his auditors to the EDC in Rockledge the next day to request a copy of the EDC file on BlueWare. The Clerk alleges in the lawsuit that the EDC then refused to comply with the public records request made by his auditors or provide a current reason why the documents would be exempt from Florida's public records laws.

Additionally, the Clerk alleges that BlueWare's "purported" request to the EDC in January 2013 for an extra year of confidentiality failed to meet the statutory criteria because BlueWare was not "actively considering locating, relocating, or expanding its business" since BlueWare had already located its business headquarters in Melbourne.

Last week, the Brevard County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to request that the EDC relinquish its documents regarding BlueWare to the Clerk.

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Also today, the EDC filed an action in Brevard County County Court which seeks a declaratory judgment as to whether or not the BlueWare documents should remain confidential.

According to an EDC press release, the EDC's decision "supports the recommendation of County Attorney Scott Knox" who wrote in an advisory opinion to the County last week that "The declaratory judgment action might be an option the EDC wants to consider should any person requesting the records insist that they be made available immediately."

Knox advised the County that the documents could be considered confidential because they are now part of a criminal investigation after the Florida Department of Law Enforcement subpoenaed the documents from the EDC and that BlueWare had requested an extension for confidentiality in January 2013.

The EDC added in the release that if it turns over its files at this time as requested, it could face fines and up to six months in jail.

"We believe we have complied with the Florida statute and look forward to the court clarifying our interpretation of the law," said EDC President and CEO Lynda Weatherman.

Editor's Note: The Brevard Times received an email from the Clerk's office announcing the lewsuit at 4:24 p.m. on Thursday and did not get wind of the EDC's announcement until afterwards. According to an e-mail sent by Lynda Weatherman to the EDC's Board of Directors earlier that day, of which FLORIDA TODAY belongs:

"As a valued member of the EDC Board of Directors, we wanted to be sure you were the first to know about some steps we've taken today in connection with the BlueWare records request...

...Please review the attached news release, which we plan to send out this afternoon, for additional details. We wanted to be sure you were informed before we made our actions public."

Had the EDC sent the announcement to the Brevard Times earlier, its statements could have been blended more evenly in the article rather than added as an after-thought and the headline might have also been altered.

Brevard Times was the only news source to continue a series of in-depth investigative articles led by Charles Parker into this story;

Scott Ellis To Run For Clerk of Court Again January 4, 2012

Clerk of Court Staffer Endorses Needelman, Ellis Responds February 7, 2012

Needelman Calls Ellis A Liar In Brevard County Clerk of Courts Debate February 16, 2012

Brevard County Clerk of Court Debate: Video March 23, 2012

Brevard County Clerk of Court Debate in Titusville: VIDEO April 23, 2012

Scott Ellis Wins Clerk of Court Viewer Poll April 30, 2012

Brevard County Clerk of Court Debate In Melbourne: VIDEO May 8, 2012

Mitch Needelman Named Finalist For 'Tax Cutter' Award May 17, 2012

Brevard Constitutional Officer's Straw Poll Results May 25, 2012

Charles Parker: Clerk's Race Heats Up May 30, 2012



Hot Pictures of Kaley Cuoco, The Beauty Dating Tennis Star Ryan



How Cruise Ships Fill Their Unsold Cabins



Tricks Car Insurance Agents Don't Want You to Know



How to Get Freakishly Long Eyelashes in 7



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How to Exercise Your Brain to Make It Strong

EDC Claims It's Not A Public Agency, Not Required To Produce BlueWare Records

Florida Food Stamp Cuts Begin

Brevard County Clerk of Court Debate: VIDEO June 4, 2012

Ellis: Taxpayers Foot Bill for Endless Self Promotion of Mr. Needelman June 25, 2012

Charles Parker: Mitch Needelman June 25, 2012 Charles Parker: Scott Ellis June 25, 2012

Needelman: Ellis' "Complicated" Requests Delayed Release of Clerk Documents, BlueWare Contracts Jul 5, 2012

CONTRACT CONTROVERSY TAINTS FLORIDA GOVERNOR'S JOBS CAMPAIGN JULY 10, 2012

Scott Ellis Republican Picnic Video (Mitch Needelman Not Present) July 15, 2012

2012 Bi-Annual Brevard Republican Picnic Straw Poll Results July 15, 2012

Clerk of Court Sunshine Lawsuit Hearing Monday July 21, 2012

Needelman Wins Partial Victory in Court Case Brought by Ellis July 23, 2012

Opinion: Why I Support Ellis, Blickley, Ivey, Trettis, Kneessy, Romney July 25, 2012

Republican Primary Candidates Brevard County Clerk of Court Monday, July 30, 2012

Needelman: Ellis Complicit in Extortion Plot? August 12, 2012

Ellis: Panic sets in as Race comes to an End August 13, 2012
DIRTY BREVARD COUNTY POLITICS CAUGHT ON SURVEILLANCE VIDEO AUG 13, 2012

Brevard Clerk of Court Recount, No Layoffs Anticipated August 24, 2012 \$8.5 MILLION BREVARD CLERK OF COURT RECORDS DIGITIZING UNDERWAY OCT 17, 2012

CLERK'S ATTORNEY REFERS STAFFING QUESTIONS TO BLUEWARE NOV 1, 2012 BLUEWARE MISSES CLERK'S OFFICE DEADLINE NOV 7, 2012

UPDATE: Needelman and Company Owner Mum Regarding Digitizing Contract Nov 15, 2012

DuPree Confirms BlueWare Scanning Readiness Nov 17, 2012

Charles Parker: Hey Mitch and Matt: How About Some Answers? December 4, 2012

Charles Parker: Divergent Views on Clerk's Contract Continue December 11, 2012 ELLIS PLANS MONEYSAVING CHANGES IN CLERK'S OFFICE JAN 5, 2013

SCOTT ELLIS SWORN IN AS BREVARD COUNTY CLERK OF COURT. JAN 8, 2013

BREVARD CLERK LOWERS FLORIDA 'FIX IT' TICKET TO \$10 JAN 19, 2013

FORMER CLERK'S DIGITIZING CONTRACT UNDER MORE SCRUTINY JAN 19, 2013

ELLIS: EMAILS APPEAR TO CONTRADICT NEEDELMAN ATTORNEY'S TESTIMONY JAN 24, 2013

BREVARD EDC CITES "NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT" AND CONFIDENTIALITY JAN 25, 2013

ELLIS CLAIMS PROOF OF NEEDELMAN CAMPAIGN LIES IN EMAILS AND VIDEO JAN 29, 2013

ELLIS AND WEATHERMAN AT ODDS OVER BLUEWARE DOCUMENTS FEB 5, 2013

COMMISSIONER ASSERTS EDC CONFIDENTIALITY CLAIM "RAISES QUESTIONS" FEBRUARY 14, 2013

Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast Subpoenaed By FDLE February 28, 2013

Charles Parker: BlueWare, Rose Harr, and Me March 2, 2013

BlueWare Not Using Available Training Funds Mar 15, 2013

Hewlett Packard Threatens Lawsuit Over BlueWare Debt Mar 23, 2013

Today

Charlie Crist Will Run For Florida Governor

Obamacare 'Navigator' Ready to Help Brevard Residents

Congressman Alan Grayson Compares Tea Party To KKK

IRS: Tax Refunds, Returns Will Be Delayed Next Year

Was President Obama's Fainting Woman Staged? (VIDEO)

Cuts Coming To Florida Food Stamps On November 1st

Free School Lunch In Florida For Some Kids Who Can Afford It

Louisiana Walmart To Pay For Food Stamp Rampage: VIDEO

Republicans To Blame For Gas Prices Under \$3

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.: 16-203-04-0096

SCOTT ELLIS, in his official capacity as Brevard County Clerk of the Circuit Court,

Petitioner.

٧.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF FLORIDA'S SPACE COAST, INC., a Florida non-profit corporation,

Respondent.

FILED IN TYLES FIRED OF COLLECTION OF COLLEC

PETITION FOR ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS

COMES NOW, Petitioner, SCOTT ELLIS, in his official capacity as Brevard County

Clerk of the Circuit Court (the "Clerk"), and sues Respondent, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PACE COAST, INC. (the "EDC"), a Florida not-for-profit

corporation, and alleges as follows:

7 comments:

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS



Anonymous August 29, 2013 at 10:20 PM an action for access to public records pursuant to Section 119.11, F.S.

Scott, there you go trying to be a here again. The Clerk is an independent constitutional officer created and governed by Article

AND YOU ARE SO MINE! Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

V, Section 16, Florida Constitution, Article VIII, Section 1(d), Florida Constitution, Chapter 28, Let's start cleaning up this hot mess from bottom to top - starting exactly where you are heading-EDC. This action is long, overque for the health of Brevard going forward. F.S., and Section 4.2.1, Charter of Brevard Country, Florida.

Reply

3. The EDC is a non-profit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the



Ron Taylor Austate of Florida, with its principal place of business located at 597 Haverry Court, Suite 40,

It's time for the EDC to come to the citizens of Brevard with open hands...not to ask for money...but for transparency and to rebuild trust in the organization. It is a noble cause they espouse and their behavior needs to match the public image they portray. BlueWare was alase # 05-2013-CA-069095-XXXX-XX very serious incident and the EDC needs to do more than just say "trust us" and expend. ocument Page # 2 monies on legal maneuvers to avoid the inevitable. Scott Ellis is on solid legal ground on this process.

Panls



Anonymous August 30, 2013 at 1:02 PM

I have a question for Lynda - if the EDC did their due diligence in vetting Blueware how come they did not know this company was a financial mess when they came to Florida? Everyone in the industry knew no one used their product and the only money they actually made was people paying to get off their system. But why did no one check at the EDC? Did they read only the web site hype or listen to Rosie and her marketing bs? Blueware was in a negative growth cycle for the past two years so what made them think they were going to grow their company 5 times moving to a depressed area unless they were promised the ability to buy contracts - just doesn't make sense.

Renty



Anonymous August 30, 2013 at 1:06 PM

Blueware claims to have their software installed at 220 hospitals when in reality at their peak it was maybe 60. The problem is Rosie counts every building at a hospital as an installation. Here is the truth about the software - it is old, tired and not very creative in many analyst opinions. Users knew this and wanted off - so the only way they could get off the Blue system and move to something new was to pay Blue to convert the data for them so it could be transported. That is how Blue made all the money they have made over the last 2 years. Probably not the business model you would want to incentivized to move to Metbourne. Call any hospital on their web site that they tout as customers and see if any of them are using the software.

Reply

* Replies



Anonymous September 3, 2013 at 9:37 AM

Their biggest customer is/was the hospital chain - CHS. And they are/have moved off the Biueware product to another system. They are going on almost 4 years without a new hospital client.

Rose required companies to pay upfront for converting their data and it takes months (up to 6+ months) for Blueware to even start the conversion process.

Rose admits in private the software side of the business is dead. She was hoping and praying some other company would step up and buy it from her. Of course that is not likely to nappen.

Rose also admits privately that Melbourne is a stop over on her way to the sunny shores of California. She will undoubtedly try this scam again once she gets out of prison.

She played Melbourne, Brevard County, and the State of Florida for fools. She would have got away with if too if it were not for Scott Ellis. Now, all I see in her future is bankruptcy and prison. A fitting end for a truly horrible person.



Anonymous September 4, 2013 at 7:26 AM

I have witnessed these same conversations and facts you have declared here. Her exact words were - they said I couldn't build a company and I did, they said we would never have a European presence and we do and they said we would never conquer Florida and I have. My next dream is to have a west coast office.

Now I am the first to say dreams and goals are great but first you need a product and the second is you need to have an honest business. One built on lies and deception in the end will only lead you to her fate.

It is just mind boggling to me when you read her Facebook posts or the comments from her daughter on their multiple twitter and blog sites they feel they have done nothing wrong. They feel the enemy is Ellis and some type of personal vendetta for them

How can one family be so delusional and not see the reality of their ways? But then you read the Facebook comments of her son Brian and you realize the family as a whole has some serious mental challenges and we should probably consider pity for them.

If by some luck or another deception she is able to avoid jail or paying back the money that has been stolen I think we will all be a little sad that she was able to manipulate, deceive and play the weakness of our system for her benefit. But the fact is Bluexxxx is dead and it is now just closing down the pieces and having a fire sale if a fool is interested in buying if. But I am not sure what you are buying - no product, no reputation and no presence.

In the end one thing will be true - she will have to wake up every morning and realize the reality of her lies where nothing but delusions in her mind. I know she likes to quote famous people and their comments on their struggles so here is one for you - the things we are remembered for tomorrow are the things we have done yesterday - from where I am sitting yesterday was not so good to you.

Reply

Anonymous September 23, 2013 at 9:41 AM



What we have here is a bunch of crooks in the Brevard County Government, particularly the County Commissioners themselves. Why would they need an expensive organization such as this EDC? AT \$1.5M a year, they have spent far more than they've brought into the tax base.

We have too much government and the more government you have, the less freedom and money you have.

Needleman slipped up and got caught. I suspect that is but the tip of the iceberg here. Anderson/Bolin/Neison/Fisher all appear to be communist thinkers. They are corrupt.

Reply

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