

A scandal is brewing in Lompoc and you should be concerned!





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A scandal is brewing in Lompoc and it should concern all voters in the 4th Supervisorial District and throughout Santa Barbara County because it involves your hard-earned tax dollars and it involves 4th District Supervisor Joni Gray and her staff.

Many have learned in recent months about the collapse of Lompoc Housing and Community Development Corporation, the entity that ran two homeless shelters and 255 units of affordable housing in Lompoc. All purchased with \$6 million of your tax money.

Lompoc Housing was a mess. It was grossly mismanaged, refusing to provide tax returns, bylaws, articles of incorporation, financial statements, or any records showing how it was using the taxpayer money the County gave it, according to the Santa Barbara Independent.

While voting to hand over your tax money to this mismanaged agency, Joni Gray's law firm (of which she had one-third interest) was receiving thousands of dollars in legal fees from Lompoc Housing. A review of Gray's FPPC Form 700s show Gray had a financial conflict of interest beginning in 2007 for any legal work her husband, George Wittenburg (Lompoc Housing's attorney of record) and/or her firm may have performed for Lompoc Housing.

The plot thickens. Joni Gray's executive assistant Susan Warnstrom served as president of Lompoc Housing and Sue Ehrlich, the executive director of Lompoc Housing used county property (Supervisor Gray's fax machine, to be exact) to demand the termination of a county worker investigating the problems at the homeless shelters.

A few months ago, County Counsel had to intervene to stop Gray from voting on issues regarding Lompoc Housing because of the financial conflict-of-interest with her law firm.

And as a lawyer, she didn't know this?

Joni Gray's answer: "Oh, jeez, I didn't know that's what they were doing."