

The Florida Democrat

Keeping Florida Democrats up to date on news in the state

Republican Lt. Governor and A.G. candidate tied to GOP-paid expenses for Disney tours



<http://www.weblogs.sun-sentinel.com>

Charlie Crist's Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp's Trip To Disney On The RPOF AmEx Card:..... **\$9,500**

Kottkamp's Living Large At Republican National Convention After RPOF Chairman Jim Greer Declared, "The time for politics and celebrations is over."..... **At Least \$5,852**

Republican Party Launching Website Calling Itself A Slush Fund... **A Few Hundred Dollars**

Mug Shots of Marco Rubio, Charlie Crist, Dean Cannon and Jeff Kottkamp Once Indictments Comedown: **Priceless**

McCollum Misleads Florida about Hiring of Anti-Gay Activist, Expert Witness, and Male Escort Employer

As soon as the story broke that Bill McCollum's expert witness for Florida's gay adoption trial was photographed traveling with a male escort from RentBoy.com, McCollum began distancing himself from Reverend George Rekers with a series of misleading statements in an effort to spread the blame.

But revealing letters from 2007 surfacing today between McCollum and then Department of Children and Families (DCF) Secretary Bob Butterworth show that while DCF initially declined to engage Rekers' services and expressed concern with his outrageous fees, McCollum personally and aggressively pushed Rekers as a witness.

In one letter, McCollum even wrote, "I believe that this expert and his testimony are necessary to ensure a successful result in this case." McCollum also rejected DCF's plan to spend taxpayer money on only one expert witness. Amazingly, Rekers was paid over \$120,000 by McCollum's Department of Legal Affairs in two separate payments in 2007 and 2009, even though DCF only agreed to pay \$60,900.

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Rubio on Dream Act Kids: Deport Em'

According to Sara Haile-Mariam from campusprogress.org, "Rubio's scenario of an ideal immigration system would require securing federal funding to deport over 65,000 young people who are undocumented citizens. It would require some sort of system to identify them, hunt them down, and facilitate their deportation.

"I understand the human stories that we're going to... We're gonna.... There are going to be stories of very young kids that were brought to this country at a very young age who don't even speak Spanish that are going to be sent back to Nicaragua or some other place. And it's gonna feel weird and I understand that."

Marco Rubio



<http://www.article.wn.com>

GOP AMEX: The 31 Cardholders and total spent

Jim Rimes, former executive director: \$2.2 million

Delmar Johnson, former executive director: \$1.4 million

Melanie Phister, aide to former Speaker Ray Sansom: \$1.2 million

Debbie Bishop, deputy finance director: \$694,000

Jim Greer, former chairman: \$478,000

Cameron Ulrich, Senate campaigns finance director: \$208,000

Carrie Madden, Senate campaigns staffer: \$175,000

Ray Sansom, former House speaker: \$167,000

Dean Cannon, incoming House speaker: \$124,000

Jeremy Collins, special assistant to Greer: \$118,000

Carole Jean Jordan, former party chairwoman: \$99,000

Marco Rubio, former House speaker: \$87,000

Andy Palmer, political affairs: \$87,000

Andrew Wiggins, Senate campaigns deputy director: \$80,000

Allan Bense, former House speaker: \$67,000

Kristin Seidel, finance staffer: \$64,000

Jeff Atwater, Senate president: \$44,000

Susan Miller, aide to former Senate President Ken Pruitt: \$41,000

Amanda Clark, Senate campaigns finance staffer: \$26,000

Dane Eagle, special assistant to Gov. Charlie Crist: \$25,000

Ken Pruitt, former Senate President: \$21,000

Sandra Stevens, Senate campaigns aide: \$16,000

Roger Beaubien, House campaigns staffer: \$15,000

Richard Swartz, party chief financial officer: \$12,000

Richard Corcoran, general counsel: \$10,000

Rachel Chandler, Senate campaigns staffer: \$9,000

<http://blogs.tampabay.com/buzz/2010/05/gop-amex-the-31-cardholders-and-the-totals-spent.html>

Bill McCollum paid at least \$60,900 to anti-gay activist for dismissed testimony

"Like Jesus Christ, I deliberately spend time with sinners with the loving goal to try to help them"
Doctor George Reker

"This story keeps unraveling, and Bill McCollum is the one standing in the middle of it," said Eric Jotkoff, spokesman for the Florida Democratic Party, about McCollum's hiring of the discredited anti-gay witness. "When news first broke about Rekers' hiring of a male escort, McCollum blamed DCF for hiring him, and mislead Floridians about his personal plea for Rekers to be hired. But these letters clearly show that Rekers was Bill McCollum's handpicked witness, and he urged that taxpayer dollars be spent on Rekers over the initial protest of the DCF Secretary."

To sort out the facts from the fiction, we have compared McCollum's current statements with his 2007 words below:

BLAME GAME: Miami Herald Reported That McCollum "Steered The Blame Toward The Department Of Children And Families. McCollum "defended his agency's handling of the case, and steered the blame toward the Department of Children and Families, which he said hired him. 'I think our team's done what it should do,' he said. 'We've been defending the Constitution of the state and we've been representing the Department of Children and Families, who hired him and paid him and needed expert witnesses and he was available and credentialed.'" [Miami Herald/St. Petersburg Times, 5/10/10]

FACT: Attorney General Bill McCollum Personally Urged That The State Hire George Rekers. "Attorney General Bill McCollum personally urged that the state hire George Rekers, the anti-gay psychologist whose recent European trip with a gay male escort has exploded into a furious media frenzy since it was first reported last week." [Florida Tribune, 5/11/10]

BLAME GAME: McCollum Implied DCF To Blame In Statement to Press. The Orlando Sentinel reported that McCollum's office stated: "The contract was executed at the direction of the Department of Children and Families" without any mention of the 2007 disagreement. [Orlando Sentinel, 5/7/10]

FACT: DCF Said They Were Concerned About Cost Of Rekers. The Department of Children and Families

said they were concerned about the potential costs of Rekers' testimony. In a July 2007, letter, DCF's chief wrote to McCollum: "Due to declining state revenues, this department is under a mandate to reduce its budget by a minimum of \$72 million this year. As such I am reluctant to an open-ended contract which could, as you point out, result in an obligation" over \$60,900. [Bill McCollum Letter to DCF's Robert Butterworth, 7/27/07 and DCF's Robert Butterworth Letter to Bill McCollum, 7/30/07]

FACT: DCF Agreed To McCollum's Team Hiring Rekers As Long As The Cost Was Limited To \$60,900-Rekers Was Eventually Paid Twice That.

Roman, 20, would give nude "sexual" massages to Rekers, 61, every day during their trip, the younger man told CNN correspondent Randi Kaye for Anderson Cooper

"Butterworth wrote a letter back to McCollum three days later saying that he gave "great weight to the analysis and recommendation of your staff" and authorized the hiring of Rekers as long as the state's obligation did not exceed \$60,900 for services through the trial. The state eventually paid twice that much over a two-year period." [Florida Tribune, 5/11/10]

BLAME GAME: In 2008 McCollum's Office Blamed DCF For Finding Rekers Which "Infuriated A DCF Official". "Rekers was so embarrassing, even back in 2008, that McCollum's office blamed DCF for finding him. That infuriated a DCF official, who said the Attorney General's Office found him, which McCollum now confirms," according to the Orlando Sentinel. [Orlando Sentinel, 5/9/10]

FACT: The Department Of Children And Families Initially Refused To Hire Rekers But McCollum Pushed For Him In July 2007 Letter. "McCollum in his letter noted that initially DCF refused to hire Rekers, due primarily to the potential cost of his fees. Instead the child welfare agency wanted to only hire Walter Schumm, a professor of family studies at Kansas State University. 'Dr. Schumm is a good expert, but his areas of expertise are different from Dr. Rekers,' wrote McCollum." [Florida Tribune, 5/11/10]

Link to copy of 2007 letters:
<http://findout.typepad.com/files/rekers-letters.pdf>

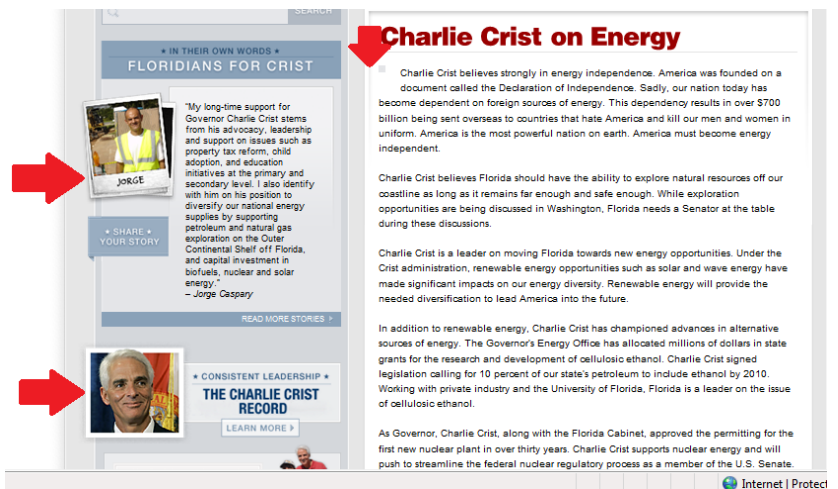
Scrubbing Of Crist's Website Starts Just One Hour After Being Called Out By The Florida Democratic Party

- 1) Oil derrick: Gone*
- 2) The Charlie Crist's Record: No Longer "Conservative" (At least if you live in Crist's Orwellian World)
- 3) But, looks as if they have more work to do, since Jorge still says, "I also identify with him on his position to diversify our national energy supplies by supporting petroleum and natural gas exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf off Florida..."

*But his position, at least in the past hour, hasn't changed according to the text on the page, which still spells out his support for drilling off Florida's beaches.



Obtained 05/07/2010 at 2:06PM <http://charliecrist.com/on-the-issues/energy/>



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, May 22, 2010:

"Dinner with Democrats"

- Sponsor: **Martin County DEC**
- Location: Monarch Country Club
2601 SW Monarch Club Drive
Palm City, Florida 34990
- Time: Cash Bar at 6:00 PM
Dinner at 7:00 PM
- Event Type: Fundraiser
- Contact Info: David Drew
772-221-0405 or 772-419-8788
martindemocrats@bellsouth.net

Saturday, May 15, 2010

"Haitian Heritage Banquet"

- Sponsor: Haitian AM Caucus of FL (Palm Beach County)
- Location: West Boynton Beach
Recreation Center 6000 Northtree Blvd. and Jog Road
Lake Worth, FL 33463
- Time: 7:00PM-10:00PM
- Contact: Evelyn Garcia
evietgarcia@yahoo.com

Paid for by the Florida Democratic Party (214 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301, 850-222-3411) and not authorized by any federal candidate or candidate's committee.