

Exhibit B

Duarte, Janice

From: Gregory Cannata <cannata@cannatalaw.com>
Sent: Friday, April 9, 2021 7:38 PM
To: Duarte, Janice; duarte.d@outlook.com; Janice Duarte
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Councilwoman Janice Duarte

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Dear Neighbors,

I am sad to report to you that the swamp creatures of Mount Vernon are active once again.

On April 5, Councilwoman Janice Duarte's campaign filed papers with the Board of Elections to knock me off the ballot.

Apparently, Duarte thinks the best way to get re-elected is to eliminate any candidate who wants to discuss the issues confronting Mount Vernon. What she is really afraid of is that I will tell the public about her disastrous record on the City Council.

Here are some of the "highlights" of Duarte's career on the City Council:

- [Duarte was one of the key players who orchestrated the failed \\$35,000 pay-off to ex-Mayor Richard Thomas to vacate his office after he pled guilty to corruption charges.](#) Of course, Section 25 of the City Charter makes it clear that Thomas forfeited his office "on conviction" and that he was not entitled to any severance pay. Nevertheless, Duarte thought it was a fine idea to give Thomas

\$35,000 in taxpayer funds anyway. Fortunately, sanity prevailed and this theft of public money was blocked.(The Journal News August 9, 2019)

- After Thomas' guilty plea, Andre Wallace, as President of the City Council, became Mayor pursuant to Section 61 of the City Charter. Despite the clear language of the City Charter, Duarte voted to appoint Councilwoman Copeland as the City Council President, thus becoming the Mayor. [After wasting thousands of tax dollars on lawyers, a Judge in the Supreme Court ruled that Wallace automatically became the Mayor when Thomas pled guilty and Duarte's efforts to remove Wallace as the Mayor were illegal.](#) (The Journal News, July 19, 2019). The tax money spent on this unsuccessful coup was not repaid to the City by Duarte.
- In 2018 then Mayor Thomas unilaterally raised the Water Bureau rates by 14%. He did this to create a multi-million dollar slush fund for all sorts of questionable purposes such as paying his criminal defense attorneys in his criminal trial, paying a public relations firm which had not been approved by the Board of Estimate, and paying for the criminal defense of one of his Commissioners who had been arrested for drunk driving. Only the City Council, not the Mayor, has the authority to set water rates. (Section 49 of the City Charter) [What did Councilwoman Duarte do in response to this improper money-grab by Thomas?](#) Nothing, Zilch, Nada. Was there a single City Council hearing? No. Did Duarte issue subpoenas to learn how much money was stolen? No. The Water Bureau just released the 2017 audit (three years late). There is so much money missing and the records are so incomplete, the auditors could not certify the audit. [Again, the question is asked, what did Duarte do to protect the taxpayer's money? The answer again is nothing.](#)

In the weeks ahead, I will be providing you with more examples of Duarte's misfeasance and malfeasance.

Why is Mount Vernon doing so poorly? Why can't City Hall function? The answer is obvious: elected officials like Duarte are not only incompetent, but they are only interested in accumulating personal power.

We need elected officials who will put the people first, not last. Duarte has proven to be a disaster in office. She has little to show for her four years in office, but she has a lot to answer for.

[Let's get rid of Duarte and replace her with leaders who can lead.](#)

GREGORY CANNATA

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