



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
RICHMOND

WILLIAM J. HOWELL  
SPEAKER

SPEAKER'S ROOM  
STATE CAPITOL  
POST OFFICE BOX 406  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23218

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT:  
RULES (CHAIRMAN)

TWENTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT

August 24, 2009

E. M. Miller, Jr.  
Director  
Division of Legislative Services  
General Assembly Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
910 Capitol Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear E. M.,

Pursuant to Section 30-114 of the Code of Virginia and the procedures it sets forth, I write to you in your capacity as staff to the House Ethics Advisory Panel to request an immediate inquiry by that five-member independent entity into any possible violation by Delegate Phillip A. Hamilton of Articles 2 (§ 30-102 et seq) through 5 (§ 30-109 et seq) of the Commonwealth's Comprehensive Conflict of Interest Act.

Last week, I was deeply disappointed to learn about prior actions by Delegate Hamilton regarding the creation and state funding of a teacher center at Old Dominion University (ODU) while simultaneously discussing the possibility of employment with ODU. I believe he did the right thing in resigning his position at ODU and in accepting full personal responsibility for his role in this very unfortunate situation.

The seriousness with which I view this matter merits additional attention and action.

As Speaker, I swore an oath to faithfully and impartially discharge all duties incumbent upon me as Speaker and believe in protecting the institutional integrity of the entire House of Delegates. Accordingly, I convened a special meeting yesterday with the House Majority Leader, the House Majority Whip and the House Majority Caucus Chairman to discuss this matter and chart a course of action. We unanimously agreed to request an investigation by the House Ethics Panel of Delegate Hamilton's actions. I telephoned and have informed him of that decision. I also have alerted retired Judge William Whitney Sweeney, chairman of the House Ethics Advisory Panel, that a request for an independent inquiry by me was forthcoming and that I hoped the panel could conduct and conclude its work as expeditiously as possible.

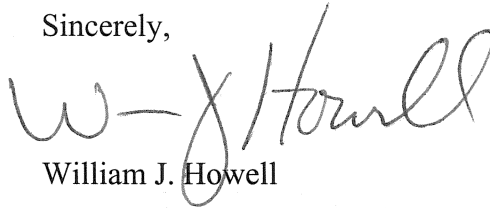
E. M. Miller, Jr.  
August 24, 2009  
Page Two

Delegate Hamilton himself has stated publicly that the recent revelations of e-mails exchanged between him and ODU officials "clearly creates the perception of impropriety." I am attaching several of the e-mails and newspaper articles that I have seen and read over the past several days that raise questions about Delegate Hamilton's conduct in this matter. I believe them to be accurate and also am attaching a signed and properly sworn document to that effect in compliance with § 30-114.

The actions by Delegate Hamilton surrounding the paid job he took with ODU after helping it obtain a state appropriation in the course of conducting legislative business are very concerning to many. It is important to me and the citizens in whose name all delegates serve to know whether his activities in this matter were legal and in keeping with expected standards of conduct for lawmakers.

Virginia has a reputation for good government and I want to keep it that way.

Sincerely,

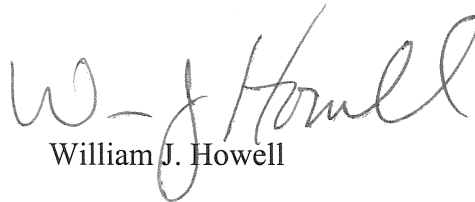


William J. Howell

WJH/gpn

Enclosures

I certify that the above information and following enclosures are true to the best of my knowledge.



William J. Howell

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24<sup>th</sup>  
day of August 2009  
Witness my hand and official seal.



Notary, Public

