

WHICH PAPER CAN YOU BELIEVE? – SBCA/NBCA “Reality Check”

(Opinion by John Thompson © 2007, Essentially as published in *By-the-Sea Times* of April 6, 2007)

Occasionally a reader will write “One paper says one thing, the other says the opposite. How can anyone know which one to believe?” Our advice is always to check what you read in ANY publication against readily the available facts and documentary evidence.

A case in point is an April 2007 article in the by-the-sea-developer copy-cat paper labeling as “misrepresentations” *By-the-Sea Times*’ investigative reporter’s exposé of the great South Beach Civic Association scams, including the SBCA’s political history and extensive political activity.

Claiming to offer a “reality check,” that other, politically inspired publication writes that as a not-for-profit FL corporation, the SBCA/NBCA “is prohibited from engaging in any political activities and does not do so.” Perhaps they have adopted Mayor Parker’s approach, that if you cite to some alleged regulation with sufficient conviction, people will believe you.

In fact, of course, there is no such prohibition unless a corporation wishes to claim tax-free status. Many Florida-based political committees are, in fact, not-for-profit corporations. And as to the political origins of the SBCA in particular, we offer another message from the past: a 1999 memo from Supervisor-of-Elections official Mary Cooney welcoming Chuck Clark and his SBCA as a newly registered political committee. (As can easily be established by visiting the FL Corporations website, the SBCA did not register as a corporation not-for-profit until August 2000.)

Devoting much time and effort to insuring the accuracy of material published in *By-the-Sea Times*, we are intrigued not only by that other publication’s blatant disregard for the truth, but also by their careless publication under the guise of a “reality check” statements that can so easily be shown to be false.

In a future edition we will publish more messages from the past, to debunk the equally ridiculous claims that the SBCA “took no part in the 2004 election or any other election” and “made [no] contributions to Commissioners John Yanni and Chuck Clark.”



JANE CARROLL

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
BROWARD COUNTY
BROWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
115 SOUTH ANDREWS AVENUE, ROOM 102
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301
Phone: (954) 357-7050
Fax: (954) 357-7070

MEMORANDUM

To: Charles T. Clark, Chairman
South Beach Civic Association

Thru: Jane Carroll
Supervisor of Elections

From: Mary Cooney
Candidate Qualifying Officer

Date: December 1, 1999

Pursuant to 106.03(6)F.S., this is to acknowledge receipt of your Statement of Organization of Political Committee and Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository registering South Beach Civic Association as a political committee in Broward County.

Enclosed is a copy of the 2000 Handbook for Committees which outlines important information pertinent to political committees including copies of forms to be used, and reporting dates for 2000. Should your Political Committee become involved in elections other than the ones scheduled for the fall of 2000, additional Treasurer's Reports would be required.

Please feel free to contact me at (954)357-7064 should you have any questions.

JC:MC:mc
sbeachcivic.wpd

THERE ARE SEVERAL BRANCH OFFICES LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE. PLEASE CALL (954) 357-7050 FOR THE LOCATION OF THE OFFICE NEAREST YOU.