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## Dirty Campaign Tricks Continue In 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Aldermanic Race

A scurrilous illegal flyer, which was designed to slander Third Ward Aldermanic candidate Mell Monroe by falsely stating that he was hired by incumbent Alderman Dorothy Tillman, is being distributed in and near CHA housing in the Douglas neighborhood on the near South Side of Chicago.

“I have to conclude that the flyer is the work of staff members or supporters of Pat Dowell, a third candidate in the race,” Monroe said. “The flyer uses a mis-spelling of my wife’s maiden name to link us in a negative way with a prominent developer who is a contributor to, and well known supporter of, Ald. Tillman. It also accused the alderman of giving away half of the ward to the developer.

“You don’t have to be Sherlock Homes, Perry Mason or Columbo to figure out who’s behind this despicable flyer,” Monroe said. “It slanders me, insults Tillman and deceives the voters. The only one who could benefit from these lies is candidate Pat Dowell.

“I’m appalled that Pat Dowell or her campaign workers would stoop so low as to slander my wife’s good name and try to drag her down. My wife is a highly respected expert in early childhood-special education for the Chicago Public Schools. She doesn’t deserve to be insulted by Dowell’s dirty-tricks campaign.

“Using an attack flyer that does not truthfully identify the candidate who paid for, produced or distributed it, is a crime,” Monroe said. “It’s a violation of the Illinois Criminal Code Section 9-9.5 and if it’s proven that Pat Dowell authorized this grossly false flyer, she could go to jail.”

On Tuesday (Feb. 6) the flyer was found posted with other notices in CHA’s Ickes buildings at 2310 S. State St. and 44 W. 24<sup>th</sup> St. Residents said it was on top of mail boxes in Ickes buildings at 2220, 2222, 2240, 2250, 2330, 2420, 2430 S. State St. Another copy of the flyer was seen taped on a wall at Prime Food & Liquor grocery store, 2251 S. State St.

( more )

“My neighbors in Ickes don’t like dirty politics,” said Idella Ross, a resident of 2310 S. State St. “Politicians should stick to the issues and not use crap like this flyer,” she added.

The flyer has a circle of connecting arrows purporting to show a “great conspiracy” linking Dorothy Tillman, Mell Monroe and developer Elzie Higgenbottom (sic).

The text reads as follows:

“The old wheels of Politics are still turning. Even though our current Alderman has given ½ of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward to Elzie Higgenbottom, they still aren’t happy.

Anticipating losing the next election, she has hired Mell Monroe to

**TRICK YOU OUT OF YOUR VOTE AGAIN!!!!**

Connection: Mr. Monroe’s Wife (Maiden Name Higgenbottom) is closely related to Elzie Higgenbottom. Are we not supposed to figure this out. ????

A line in small 10-point type at the bottom reads “sponsored by the Hood Report.” A check of the telephone book and a web search on Google failed to provide any information about a Chicago area group, organization or publication called the Hood Report.

“The lies in the flyer are easy to spot and so are the errors,” Monroe said. “They misspelled my wife’s maiden name. It’s Higginbotham not Higgenbottom. Elzie Higginbottom, president of East Lake Management Co., spells his name with an “in” and not “en” as in the flyer. He’s a ‘bottom,’ she’s a ‘botham.’”

“Also, neither my wife, Angela Higginbotham Monroe, nor I have ever met Elzie Higginbottom, and she is not related to him.

“Finally, I have spoken out all over the ward at community meetings and held three news conferences criticizing Ald. Tillman’s misuse of the ward’s infrastructure money to benefit her family and her operating the Harold Washington Cultural Center like a family business. There is no way she would hire me and no way I would ever consider working for Tillman or accepting any payment from her.

“Two weeks ago, my supporters caught Pat Dowell’s campaign manager stealing my campaign signs and stuffing them in her van. We have eyewitnesses, a police report, the license number of the van and photos of the van parked alongside Pat Dowell’s campaign office. In addition, the license number was traced to attorney Audrey Wade, who is Dowell’s campaign manager.

“This scurrilous, illegal flyer appears to be another example that Pat Dowell’s campaign is willing to use classic dirty tactics perfected throughout Chicago’s notorious history,” Monroe said. “False campaign literature has been used before, but this may be the first time the perpetrator tried to smear two opponents with one flyer.”