

## **MISMANAGEMENT: PRIVATE BIDS AND CONTRACTS TO TOP CAMPAIGN DONORS**

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### **Bear, Stearns, & Co. pitches county on restructuring its debt; County hires Bear, Stearns & Co. to restructure its debt**

Bear, Stearns, & Co. restructured the city of Milwaukee's debt and contacted Milwaukee County to make a presentation to them regarding what services they could offer Milwaukee County in restructuring its debt. Bear, Stearns, & Co. came to make a presentation to her [Pamela Bryant], Scott Manske and Linda Seemeyer sometime in 2002, but she does not know the exact date. There was no decision made at that point about whether Milwaukee County would refinance or restructure its debt. She believes she may have sent Bear, Stearns, & Co.'s proposal to their financial advisor at the time, Robert W. Baird & Co. (Baird). At some point, the decision to restructure Milwaukee County's debt was made, but she is not exactly sure how that decision was reached. There was an internal meeting at Seemeyer's request and that is when the decision was made to restructure instead of refinance the debt.

[District Attorney's Office, Inter-office Memorandum, July 19, 2004, RE: Bear, Stearns, & Co. Investigation; Statement of Witness: Pamela Bryant]

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### **Inmate Transport Bid Put in Budget Before Contract Awarded**

A Milwaukee County Board committee on Tuesday rejected a plan by Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. to privatize inmate transport services with a company in Nashville, Tenn. Supervisors said the move hadn't been well thought out and should not have been included in County Executive Scott Walker's budget proposal. The finance committee voted 6-0 to reject the \$1.5 million privatization plan. Though no contract had been awarded, Clarke based his savings projections on a TransCor bid to drive inmates from one lockup to another. Walker's budget lists a \$1.5 million cost to hire TransCor for the last 10 months of 2008. [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 10/17/2007]

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## **BHD Administrator Praises a Private Contractor Expected to Seek that Contract Work**

Walker's plan to replace 67 county food service workers at the Mental Health Complex with private contract workers remains intact, though an effort to undo that privatization is likely to be revived before the full board adopts a budget on Nov. 10.

A move to undo Walker's privatization of 30 hospital admissions and billing jobs was defeated Wednesday, after Behavioral Health Division Administrator John Chianelli praised a private contractor expected to seek that contract work. [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 10/30/2008]

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## **Investment bankers pitch Walker on privatization of profitable county airport, Walker then goes on to attempt airport privatization**

"I'm open to it," he said. "The concept, I think, makes a lot of sense." **Investment bankers who met with Walker and two county supervisors this month pitched the privatization idea**, noting that Chicago hopes to reap perhaps \$3 billion through issuing a long-term lease for Midway Airport. [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 12/25/2007]

### **Airport Privatization Gaining Momentum**

Privatization is now on Milwaukee County's radar screen because County Executive Scott Walker, who has long championed it, and two county supervisors met with investment bankers last month to discuss it...He also sees potential in leasing golf courses, marinas and swimming pools. [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/6/2008]

### **Walker Renews Airport Privatization Plan Following Board Rejection**

Separately, Walker called for a new \$100 million "innovations fund" for job creation. That money would come from proceeds of a long-term lease of Mitchell International Airport. The County Board last year rejected Walker's request for \$500,000 for a study of privatizing the airport. Walker said he would renew the airport privatization issue but cut the amount he wants for a study to \$100,000. [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 2/16/2009]

### **Walker Pushes Privatization for 2011**

In an interview, Walker said he would propose hiring a consultant this year to advise the county on privatizing the airport. [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 1/13/2010]

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## **Major Walker contributor got \$300,000 no-bid contract, even though firm was initially rejected because of conflict of interest**

When staff members for Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker needed to find an engineering firm to inspect county buildings to make sure none poses a safety risk, this is what they did:



They gave a no-bid contract to a major Walker campaign contributor.

Just recently, the county hired Graef-USA, a politically active engineering firm, to conduct emergency inspections of many county buildings to look for any safety hazards. The firm is to be paid up to \$300,000 through the end of August.

The move came after last month's accident at O'Donnell Park's garage. A 15-year-old Greenfield boy was killed and two others injured when a 13-ton concrete panel fell from the parking ramp near the Summerfest grounds.

Campaign records show that Graef officials have donated nearly \$15,000 to Walker's campaign fund since he was elected county exec in 2002. Any contributions from this year won't be made public until later this month.

...There was talk early on about hiring Graef to help with the investigation of the O'Donnell Park garage.

Walker told a Journal Sentinel reporter shortly after the June 24 accident that the county was comfortable having Graef do all the testing of the parking garage as part of the probe into what happened. But the idea was nixed, Walker said, because the firm had a minor role in the later stages of the \$30 million construction project in the early 1990s. [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 07/11/2010]

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## **Janitorial Services Awarded to Campaign Donor; Toilets Overflowing**

### **Walker Awards Janitorial Services Contract to Campaign Donor**

Aprahamian, the owner of a West Allis janitorial firm, inherits the job of cleaning the Milwaukee County courthouse complex and other buildings as the county privatizes its custodial staff. It's a move County Executive Scott Walker has long sought and the County Board resisted.

Walker won the privatization fight in the 2010 budget, as one of a number of measures used to help plug a large budget shortfall. The county last week awarded MidAmerican Building Services a \$1.2 million contract for cleaning the courthouse and nine other Milwaukee County buildings, picking it over about 10 other firms. [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 12/14/2009]

### **Workers Walk After Jobs Privatized**

One day after the Milwaukee County Board agreed to privatize scores of county housekeepers, 19 of the 25 custodial staff at the courthouse complex called in sick, county officials said Thursday. [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 11/20/2009]

### **WI DEM PARTY: Walker's Privatization Plan Clogs County Courthouse**

Scott Walker's privatization of the Milwaukee County Courthouse housekeeping staff has already left him with a mess on his hands. Friday marked the last day for 30 housekeepers, leaving the remaining Courthouse employees to work in a building where piles of garbage and bloody paper towels have become common. [DPW, 12/14/2009]

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