

SHAME ON YOU, HOUSE SPEAKER RAY SANSOM

You were to be a leader in budget cutting and fiscal responsibility, yet chose feathering your own nest and rewarding your campaign contributors with OUR taxpayer dollars. And this after preaching tight budget rhetoric to fellow lawmakers.

As reported by Alex Leary in the St. Pete Times on December 21, on the day that he was installed as House Speaker, Ray Sansom was given a \$110,000-a-year job as a Vice President at Northwest Florida State College - after he quietly turned a \$1 million building project for the school into \$35 million in the previous two legislative sessions. The money includes using \$6 million of education funds to build an aircraft hanger requested by Sansom's friend and campaign contributor.

The Republican Party of Florida lists its principles on its website WWW.RPOF.org and they include: "I believe....sound money management should be our goal."

Although nearly every major newspaper editorial board in Florida has called for the resignation of Speaker Sansom, the Republican Party has mostly been silent. Do you believe in careful management of taxpayer funds or protecting Party members?

The late Archibald Cox, former Common Cause Chairman Emeritus said, "A free society depends upon a high degree of mutual trust. The public will not give that trust to officials who are not seen to be impartially dedicated to the general public interest, nor will they give trust to those high in government who violate the rule of law they ask citizens to obey at the expense of self-interest, or to those who present government as the place where one feathers his own nest, [or] exchanges favors with friends and former associates."

Common Cause Florida and its members call on the Republican Party of Florida, all legislators and office holders to repudiate the actions of Speaker Sansom. Common Cause Florida and its members call for Governor Crist to appoint a Special Prosecutor to conduct a thorough investigation of these matters and determine if criminal charges are appropriate. Common Cause Florida also calls on the Florida legislature to close the loophole, if it exists, that allows this misuse of taxpayer funds.

The Governor's office email address is: Charlie.Crist@myflorida.com. Speaker Ray Sansom's email address is: ray.sansom@myfloridahouse.gov.

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