

## The Current Politics of East Greenwich

### *"The Coup d'état"*

The following is a timeline of a precise and calculated highjacking of our great town. All of the information was gathered from the town legal minutes, news articles, public statements, and meeting attendees.

**On March 21st 2017**, at the town council meeting, **Town Council President Sue Cienki** discussed how she located a firm called Providence Analytics. (legal minutes)

- *Who precisely did the **Town Council President** talk to about **Providence Analytics**?*
- *Was there any contact made with **Providence Analytics** around this time?*

**On March 27th 2017**, at the town council meeting, **Town Council President Sue Cienki** Proposed hiring a consultant with a legal cap of \$5,000.00. Approved 5-0 (legal minutes)

**On April 4th 2017** A RFQ (request for quote) was drafted to find a consultant for the town. The draft had a deadline of April 14th 2017. (legal minutes)

- *Who drafted the RFQ?*
- *When was the RFQ sent out?*
- *Where was the RFQ posted?*
- *How many were sent out?*
- *What company/companies were sent the RFQ directly?*
- *More precisely, was **Providence analytics** the only recipient?*
- *Where is **Providence analytics** response to the RFQ?*
- *Did they meet all requirements? Specifically the deadline?*

**On April 24th 2017** at the town council meeting Paul Dansereau of Baxter Dansereau & Associates presented the FY 2016 Audit. (legal minutes)

During the meeting Mr. Dansereau stated the town did have some issues in the school budget, however, overall he stated the town was in good financial standing.

- **Sue Cienki** argued that East Greenwich is the **next Central Falls**.
- **Sue Cienki** Argued with the auditor and states he does not have all the figures.
- *Why would we perform an audit without providing all the figures?*
- **Sean Todd** states there has been a 390% tax increase in East Greenwich Since **1987**.
- Since 1980 there has been a 28% growth in population in East Greenwich.
- Since this time Buildings have been built, roads created, a new police station, new parks created, school renovations, and a new school built.
- In 1980 a home could be purchased for under \$100,000.00
- The average median income has also grown in this town since 1980.
- The Point. There is no reason to compare today to 1987. In 1987 the town was a very different place.

At this meeting **Providence Analytics** was hired as a consultant to review the schools for a fee of **\$15,000.00**. No other quotes had been submitted and in the March 27th meeting the **legal cap was set to \$5,000.00**. (legal minutes)

- *What other companies received the RFQ?*
- *Was there enough time allotted for other responses to be submitted?*

**In May** A mailer was mass distributed throughout town with misleading information. It contained a letter from Town council president **Sue Cienki**.

- *It is unclear how the mailer was paid for.*
- *Did she personally pay for it, or did tax dollars?*
- *It is unclear how much the mailer cost.*
- *It is unclear where the data was selected from and how the calculations were formulated.*

**On May 15th 2017** at the town council meeting Town manager Thomas Coyle III presented a town budget for FY 2018. It was a 1.78% decrease from FY 2017. (legal minutes)

**Gayle Corrigan and Linda Dykeman** gave a powerpoint presentation. In this presentation there is a slide titled a tale of two cities. The comparison was **Central Falls circa 1987** and **East Greenwich**. (legal Minutes)

- *The same **Central Falls** and the same **1987** our Town Council was talking about prior to meeting Providence Analytics.*
- *What is a consulting firm - **a firm of experts providing professional advice to an organization for a fee** (Free dictionary)*
- *A consultant firm is **not** a firm of people **forcing an agenda** of the town council for a fee.*

**On May 22nd 2017** at the town council meeting **President Cienki** explained that the Town is taking a more aggressive approach on collecting past due taxes. **The firm will take 25%** of what is collected. Currently, **outstanding** motor vehicles tax is approximately **\$800,000** and personal property tax is approximately **\$300,000**. (legal minutes) **a total of 1.1 million dollars**.

- *This town council has allowed **over 1 million dollars in unpaid taxes** to go **uncollected***
- *They now are allowing **\$250,000.00 dollars to be collected by a third party**.*

**During this meeting President Cienki** recommended to the Town Council to have **Providence Analytics** do the same thing on the Town side before setting a budget. Approved 5-0 (legal minutes)

Also in this meeting **Long time Town Solicitor Peter Clarkin** **was terminated by the town council** and in place the new Appointment of Town Solicitor – **David M. D’Agostino**, Esq. of Gorham & Gorham, Inc. (legal minutes)

- **David D'agostino** currently is the solicitor in **Central Coventry Fire District where Gayle Corrigan is District Manager**
- Prior to **Central Coventry** Mr. **D'Agostino** was **terminated** from the town of Scituate as the town Solicitor.
- For what reason was he released?
- Is it reason for suspicion that D'Agostino the new solicitor is employed at **Central Coventry Fire District** where **Gayle Corrigan and her team are from?**

**On June 5th 2017** at the town meeting **Providence Analytics** gave a powerpoint presentation on their findings in the School Department and Town budgets. The presentation suggested corrections to over/under budgeting discrepancies; line item reductions/negotiations; reduction in capital spending and the preservation of \$700,000 prior year tax revenue budget line item. A resident asked what the number is that the Town is taking from the School. Ms. Corrigan replied approximately \$300-400,000. (legal minutes)

- *The presentation was in bullet point fashion with little to no data (graphs, charts or statistics) with exception of the last page which was a financial chart right from the town's finance department*
- *At no time during the meeting was any department head consulted or asked for any input or feed back.*
- **Town Council Member Andy Deutsch** interrupted the presentation with cheers of jubilation on what a great job **Providence analytics** had done. Only to be informed they had not even made any suggestions yet.
- **Multiple pink slips were handed out** throughout **the school department!**
- **Schools services were cut!**

**On June 8th** at the town meeting (legal minutes have not been posted)

*Executive Session RIGL 42-46-5 (a) per the following sections: (a) (1) discussions concerning the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person in the employ of the Town of East Greenwich, provided that such person affected shall have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held at an open meeting. (town agenda) Rumors of the The town manager was to be terminated.*

**East Greenwich Town Council abruptly ends discussion, OKs \$62M budget** (Headline From The providence Journal)

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*As a full gallery and balcony objected loudly, **Council President Suzanne Cienki** gavelled for quiet and **forced the vote**. Some were not sure whether the vote was to delay a vote on the budget or for the budget itself The budget, which consolidates all town and school administrative services, passed 4 to 1. As soon as she announced the tally, she asked for a **motion to adjourn**. (The Providence Journal)*

- Only 72 hours after hearing **Providence Analytics** empty presentation the new **Budget was forced** to a vote **by Council president Cienki**
- Meeting was adjourned
- **No public comment was allowed during the town Budget Approval meeting**
- **Juge Flanders and Gayle Corrigan were seated together during the meeting as seen video at**  
**(<http://turnto10.com/politics/east-greenwich-passes-contentious-budget-school-cuts-possible>)**
- **In an interview Town Council President denies any affiliation with Judge Flanders “No, you hire trouble shooters” as seen in video(<http://turnto10.com/politics/east-greenwich-passes-contentious-budget-school-cuts-possible>)**

**On June 12th** At the town Council meeting (in closed session) approved and signed a separation agreement between The town of East Greenwich and Town Manager Thomas Coyle III. The meeting was then opened to the public. It was then the votes were revealed on what had transpired in executive session. First item was the **separation agreement between the town and the town manager** (vote passed 3-1). Next item was to begin a search for an acting Town manager (vote passed 4-0). The final item was to nominate **Gayle Corrigan of Providence Analytics** the Acting Town manager (vote passed 3-1). The one opposing vote in items 1 & 3 was Council member Dr. Mark Schwager.

- It should be noted this was the first town meeting held at 8:00 am in anyone can recall in 30 years.
- What kind of search lasts less than the length of a meeting?
- **The appointment of Gayle Corrigan** is in **direct violation** of the Town Charter in accordance with article VIII C-67 & article XIII C-87.
- **Article VIII C-67 F.** In the event that the Town Manager is at any time absent or unable to perform the duties of his or her office for a period in excess of 35 consecutive days or in the event that the Town Manager resigns or is removed from office or if for any other reason a vacancy exists, to designate an officer of the Town, other than a Town Council member, to serve as Town Manager with all the powers and duties of the Town Manager until his or her absence or disability terminates or until a successor to the Town Manager has assumed the duties of the office.
- **Article XIII C-87** By letter filed with the Town Clerk, the Town Manager shall designate, subject to approval of the Town Council, a qualified officer of the Town to exercise the powers and perform the duties of Town Manager during his or her temporary absence or disability for a period of 35 consecutive days or less. During such absence or disability the Town Council may revoke the designation at any time and appoint another officer of the Town to serve until the Town Manager returns or his or her disability ceases.

- It also should be noted it is a **conflict of interest** to have a consultant to be paid to address issues they claim to have found.

On June 17th In article posted by Rfuture.org writer Bob Plain writes **Flanders** told me he's been talking with EG **Town Council President Sue Cienki** about imposing **Central Falls-styled restructuring in East Greenwich**. "We talked about doing some sort of analysis," said **Flanders, of his talks with Cienki**. Not long after **Flanders and Cienki spoke**, the **Town Council, without going out to bid, hired Gayle Corrigan, a longtime Flanders friend and confidant** who was his chief of staff in **Central Falls**, to review school finances. Since working for **Flanders in Central Falls, Corrigan** has built a niche for herself recommending governments take a hard line with rank and file employees. She's also worked on public restructurings in East Providence and at the Central Coventry Fire District.

"**Gayle was someone we did talk about, yes,**" Flanders told me. "We talked about her skill set and what she can bring to the table."(Bob Plain RI future.org)

On June 24th The "**Honorable Sue Cienki**" hosted a fundraiser on behalf of Retired Justice Robert Flanders future Senate campaign.

- Is this a conflict of interests?
- **Juge Flanders** openly admits discussing **Providence analytics** with **Town Council president Cienki**.
- Is this some sort of political favor between Town Council president "**The Honorable**" **Sue Cienki, Judge Flanders and Gayle Corrigan?**
- It should be noted in the **Central falls restructuring**, between Judge **Flanders and Gayle Corrigan** and her chief of staff, taxpayers were on the hook for nearly **1 million dollars**.

On June 30th "Acting town manager" **Gayle Corrigan of Providence Analytics Terminates** 3 town employees. The town finance director is terminated and replaced by **Linda Dykeman of Providence Analytics**. The town manager's secretary is terminated and a New Position is created "**Chief of Staff**" **Michaela Antunes** is appointed to this position. The Human Resource director is terminated and Rose Emilio is appointed.

- It should be noted **Linda Dykeman** is an **employee of Providence Analytics** which is the same firm that consulted the town.
- Is this a conflict of interest?
- It should be noted **Michaela Antunes** is **associated** with the Hope Club where **Judge Flanders and Gayle Corrigan** have also had affiliations.
- Is this a conflict of interest?
- How much is the town going to pay **Gayle Corrigan?**
- How much is the town going to pay **Linda Dykeman?**
- How Much is the town going to pay **Michaela Antunes?**
- How much are the unemployment benefits going to cost the taxpayer?

- If they are just consultants why are they needlessly **replacing town employees with employees of Providence Analytics?**
- Where is the transparency? With these major changes the town council has not addressed any of these concerns.

**Who is Providence Analytics?:** (New company Name. Unknown reason?)

**Gayle Corrigan** (President MMRP, Inc., PEOpeople, Municipal Management solutions, inc. Perennial International Inc.)

- **Why so many business names and group names since 2010?**

**Sonesco 2004-2010 worked with Judge Flanders Released due to fraud allegations. "Gayle Corrigan was terminated for cause as a result of violating her fiduciary duties to Senesco Marine, LLC while an officer of the company. Unbeknownst to Senesco, Gayle Corrigan had incorporated and was surreptitiously running a staff leasing company which provided contract labor to Senesco, from which she was profiting."** (Providence Journal Carol Kozma, Channel 10 news Parker Gavigan)

**Central Falls 2011-2013 Appointed by Judge Flanders as Chief of staff (Flanders made \$400,000.00 during receivership) Gayle Corrigan and her deputy made \$300,000.00 per year.** (Channel 10 news Parker Gavigan) Central Falls currently has one of the highest tax rates in all of Rhode Island (GoLocalProv) The town manager prior to their arrival salary was \$79,000.00 Central Falls votes to investigate chief of staff (headline), The memo from revenue director Rosemary Booth Gallogly said an audit found no evidence that Chief of Staff Gayle Corrigan hired family or friends, although in the same three pages it says she hired her lawyer's daughter. And there's no mention of why Corrigan was fired from her previous job (channel 10 parker Gavigan) Chief of Staff Gayle Corrigan has essentially replaced the mayor as the executive in charge and answers directly to state-appointed receiver Robert Flanders. Corrigan owns Municipal Management Solutions, a company aimed at righting the city's sinking ship. For her services, she's paid \$100 an hour. Her deputy gets \$60 an hour. That's roughly \$26,000 a month and more than \$300,000 a year. All of it comes from the coffers of Central Falls. "No top employee in the city was ever paid that kind of money in one year. In one year. That to me is sinful," Crowley said (state Sen. Elizabeth Crowley). Sources said Corrigan's mother, Patricia, who was also a Senesco employee, was also fired after company officials accused her of forging her daughter's time records. (news to watch.com)

**RI Housing 2013-2015** Corrigan became Rhode Island Housing's deputy director in June making about \$157,500 a year (NBC 10), Headline from Providence Journal "**Corrigan out**

as RI Housing deputy director, will receive \$118,125 lump-sum payment plus extras" A separation agreement with a gag order was signed.

**Providence YMCA 2015-?** Voted out 32-0 Quote from board chair Jamia McDonald "To date, we have not been formally served with allegations, but it is important to note that **Gayle Corrigan was a member of this Board of Directors until she was removed by 32-0 vote for providing false information as well as abusing her authority for personal gain.**" (Katie Davis Channel 10)

**Central Coventry Fire District 2016-present** In her time at the district, two Fire Chiefs resigned. All tax office employees were laid off. Currently **six** of those **positions** are now **held by employees of her private business.** Thirty firefighters have left the department to seek employment elsewhere.

**The Town of East Greenwich April 24th 2017-Present** In **three months** she has **threatened our schools.** The town manager left with a separation agreement, She assumed this role, The town manager's secretary position has been eliminated and a Chief of staff position has been created. The town Finance director has been terminated and replaced by a Providence analytics employee. The Human resource director has been terminated and replaced.

Linda Dykeman Providence Analytics (MMRP, inc., PEOpeople)

Electrical Contractors 2004-2011

City of **Central Falls 2011-2013** Worked with **Gayle Corrigan and Judge Flanders**

**Central Falls School District 2013-2013** Employed for **six months**

City of East Providence 2014-2016 Left to pursue **non-governmental work**

**Providence YMCA 2016-2017** Worked with **Gayle Corrigan**

**Central Coventry Fire District 2016-?** Works for **Gayle Corrigan's** private business MMRP

**The Town of East Greenwich April 24th 2017-present** In three months she went from being a consultant to School department finance director to Town Finance director

The alarming sequence of events that have taken place in our town are not random but are rather a part of predetermined plan. The evidence is in this timeline. These moves have been thought out well in advance. To what purpose you might ask? Certainly not for the betterment of our community while in the short term cutting taxes may seem appealing, keep in mind that as our town has grown its needs have as well. Family's move here for the school system and long term residents have enjoyed the value of their

property increasing. These hired consultants have been given incredible power. They've already cut from the school department and town hall, other services are sure to follow. Again to what purpose, certainly the largest benefit will be to their own financial gain. They may call themselves consultants but what they are in truth is a network of people working together for political and financial gains. They will take from this community and then move on to the next and by the time are done it will already be too late.