

Alleged Government Corruption Adversely Affecting the Homeless In Nassau County

Nassau County, one of New York's 62 counties, is among the wealthiest counties in the nation, eliciting some of the highest property taxes rates in the country. So where exactly are Nassau County resident's tax dollars earmarked? As per [Nassau County's 10 Year Plan to End Homeless](#) under the jurisdiction of County Executive Thomas Suozzi , adequate resources are to being addressed to end homelessness by Government Agencies such as the Nassau County Department of Social Services. NCDSS provides a per diem rate to shelter providers for shelter services rendered. The NCDSS is charged to work with shelters throughout Nassau County by ["strengthening and preserving families by providing financial assistance and services to residents of Nassau County in accordance with state and federal regulations and laws"](#) however, Eager To Serve, Inc. a not-for-profit organization has experienced and documented alleged payment payout discrepancies, the enforcement of illegitimate regulations, and retaliation tactics for over half a decade. Shelter providers throughout our county experienced similar problems and have impressed upon NCDSS to address these issues which contradicts the mission statement of the Office of Minority Affairs. Instead, NCDSS is attempting to control who can do business with the government. Countless meetings have been held, legislators have been made aware and yet the NCDSS has not made absolving these concerns a priority. Unconstitutional practices have negatively impacted Eager To Serve Inc and many other black operated shelter providers' ability to aid the homeless in Nassau County effectively. Some providers back down or remain quiet about this alleged corruption out of fear of familiar

retaliation tactics such as being shut down, not placing clients, displacing clients that are in shelters, discontinuing [TANF](#) benefits, or seemingly being alienated from NCDSS altogether, and we know this because we have and are experiencing this all. However, we are committed to the initiative "From Homelessness to Healing."

This type of government corruption is not foreign to Nassau County in the slightest bit. There have been at least four indictments over the past 5 year of Nassau County officials including former Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano, who is currently being ordered to pay over 10 million dollars in restitution.

For over 34 years, Joseph Mondello who was the Nassau County Chairman used nepotism to create " a culture of sycophancy and clannish distrust of anyone outside his inner circle of party bosses. Such a culture leads to a government run by influence peddlers and special interests. The Nassau GOP's nominating "conventions" are scripted rubber stamps of Mondello's picks to run on the party line — and back-room bullying usually deters anyone who would consider a primary... The party bosses who prosper understand that to control the nominating process is to control the government, and to control the government is to be able to use it as their personal piggy bank." (2017 Scaturro) There is a nasty habit of the Nassau County Government officials mishandling the people's trust and money. Our liberties are being limited and power is being abused right under our noses. Nassau County residents have watched corruption squander in their own backyards and if we don't address this now it'll soon be knocking on your front doors ready to do even more damage. We simply cannot sit here and let this happen.

Now corruption is affecting the homeless population, a group of people who are already vulnerable. Families and individuals of various backgrounds and with several needs are being tossed around like golf puts at the hands of the greedy not the needy. It is imperative that once and for all we get NCDSS to eliminate their cupidity and serve the community as they were intended to do so. Eager To Serve, Inc is dedicated to their mission of promoting, fostering, and advancing the health welfare and well-being of children and families by providing educational, cultural, recreational, and residential services. We fight this fight because it's worth fighting for! We fight this fight because what you do unto the least of my brothers and sisters, you do unto me said Lord Jesus (Mathew 25: 40) These perilous acts will not deter Eager To Serve, Inc from being a pillar in the community.

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Sources:

Holy Bible: King James Version Apocrypha, American Edition.

Scaturro, Frank. "How a Political Machine Crushes Conservatism — and Democracy." *National Review*, 13 July 2017, www.nationalreview.com/2017/07/nassau-county-gop-corrupt-party-machine-crushes-challengers/.