

Via First-Class Mail	Please return response to:
Hon. Andrew Bruck, Acting Attorney General Office of the Attorney General 140 E. Front St. Trenton, NJ 08608	Friends of Lori Annetta for Senate P.O. Box 999 Edison, NJ 08818 Lorifornj@gmail.com

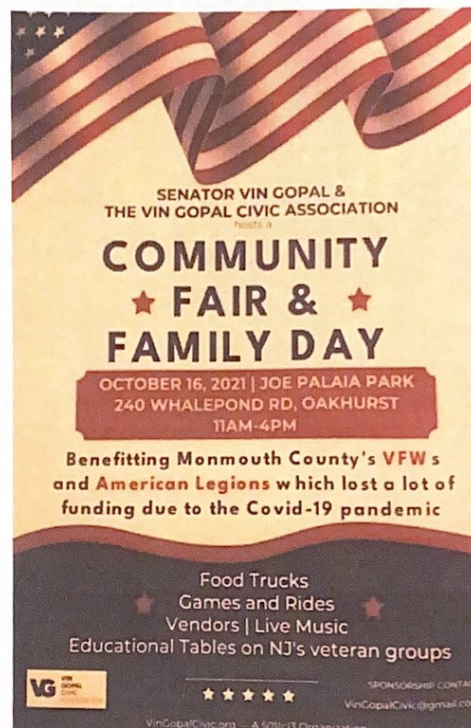
Re: Request for Investigation – Vin Gopal Civic Association

Dear Acting Attorney General Bruck:

Please accept this letter as my formal request for an investigation of the Vin Gopal Civic Association by the Office of the Attorney General (the "Attorney General") for conduct that appears to violate the New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act, the Charitable Registration and Investigation Act and possibly other New Jersey laws. Enclosed are Complaints filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission and the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") concerning the conduct that serves as the basis for this request.

State Senator Vin Gopal is listed as the "President" of the "Vin Gopal Civic Association" (the "Civic association") on publicly available forms filed with the IRS and has received approved as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. The Civic Association is also a registered with the State of New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs, Charities Registration Section as a charity. It is my understanding that the law does not allow charities to solicit funds based upon the premise that they will be used for charitable purposes, then later use those funds for another non-charitable purpose, such as political self-promotion. As the enclosed Complaints filed with the IRS indicate, Senator Gopal is clearly using the Civic Association and its funds to promote himself during his current campaign for reelection to the New Jersey State Senate in District 11. Most recently, Senator Gopal used Civic Association funds to send a mail piece to thousands of

District 11 residents inviting them to attend a “community fair & family day” that was fortuitously scheduled two weeks before election day and after vote by mail ballots were already delivered in a swing town in District 11 with a population of over 26,000 people. Use of charitable funds in this manner appears to be a violation of the Charitable Registration and Investigation Act.



Mailed invitation to “charity” event touting Vin Gopal as “Senator” during the voting period



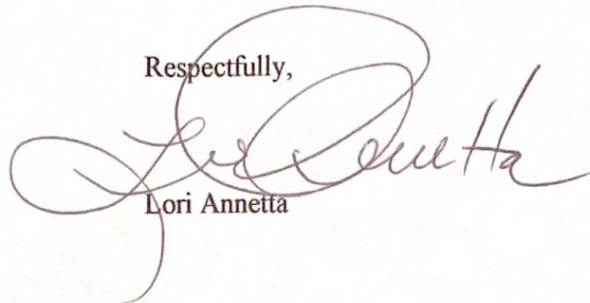
Event Graphic Displayed on social media.

In addition to the Civic Association, Senator Gopal maintains political campaign accounts that are subject to the requirements of the New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act. Specifically, Senator Gopal has a joint candidate committee account that is subject to the reporting requirements with his running mates, Assembly members Houghtaling and Downey and his own single candidate committee account. Gopal appears to be using the Civic Association as a vehicle to publicly promote himself throughout his district “off the books” days before the election. None of the materials promoting Gopal as a “Senator” contain any of the “paid for by” language required by the New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act and it is unclear who donated money to the Civic Association to pay for these expenses or in what amount.

Senator Gopal’s use of the Civic Association as a “shadow” campaign account to fund communications and events designed to promote his name and candidacy to voters in his district immediately prior to an election clearly presents issues under the New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act. His solicitation of funds belonging to an entity that is subject to the Charitable Registration and Investigation Act for political purposes, which is not a charitable purpose and not what the funds were solicited for, presents other legal issues.

I respectfully request that the Attorney General conduct a formal investigation of the Civic Association for the possible violations of New Jersey law described in this letter. Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lori Annetta", is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.

Lori Annetta

Enclosures