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**Blurred Lines – Annetta Calls for Investigation into Gopal’s Civic Association**  
*Annetta files complaints with NJ ELEC, IRS, and New Jersey Attorney General*

FREEHOLD, NJ - The Republican candidate for Senate in Legislative District 11 is calling on various state and federal entities to investigate Senator Vin Gopal’s use of a charitable organization for political purposes and blurring lines between his reelection campaign and his civic association. Lori Annetta, candidate for Senate, has already filed complaints with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission and Internal Revenue Service and will be supplementing those complaints as well as notifying the New Jersey Attorney General’s Office of Gopal’s use of his “charity,” the Vin Gopal Civic Association, to advance his political interests and support his re-election campaign.

“Gopal has consistently utilized his so-called ‘civic association’ to support his political position and his re-election campaign, and it should not be tolerated,” said Annetta. “Senator Gopal specifically added his name and title as Senator to a bulk mailing sent by this ‘charity, that landed in voters mailboxes during the first week of October just days before the start of early voting in New Jersey on October 23 and during the mail-in voting period.” The mailing invites residents to attend a “family fun day” in his district to support local veteran groups. Annetta and her running mates will be making donations directly to these veteran groups.

“This event, as well as the bulk mailing that was done by the charitable organization with not just the organization’s name, but also ‘Senator Vin Gopal’ with top billing on the flier, in the days leading up to a hotly contested election for Senator Gopal’s legislative seat, is clear evidence that Senator Gopal is utilizing the Vin Gopal Civic Association to solicit and spend ‘charitable contributions’ for the purpose of promoting himself throughout his legislative district while simultaneously operating his political reelection campaign.”

“The use of a charitable entity in such a political way clearly steps over the lines of what is legal and puts the donors to the charitable entity at risk.” Gopal appears to be using the Vin Gopal Civic Association as a vehicle to publicly promote himself throughout his district “off the books” to escape the disclosure and contribution limits imposed by New Jersey law.

New Jersey State Senator Vin Gopal is listed as the “President” of the Vin Gopal Civic Association on the most recent publicly available Form 990. 501(c)(3) entities are prohibited from engaging in political activity.

“It’s clear that Gopal’s senate campaign is using his civic association to promote Gopal,” said Annetta. “Donors beware! Your charitable contributions to Gopal’s charity may be subject to tax liabilities and campaign reporting requirements.”

“This activity is similar to the behavior investigated by the New York Attorney general when the Trump Foundation sponsored an event for veterans during the 2016 presidential campaign. The New York Supreme Court found that the event was designed to promote then candidate Trump as much as helping former members of the armed forces and was not permitted under relevant tax exempt laws,” said Annetta. “It’s exactly the same conduct and the New Jersey attorney general should be investigating Gopal and his “charity” in the same manner.”

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