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CERETTO QUESTIONS INACTION ON GRANTO ALLEGATIONS

Six weeks after a Buffalo News exposé detailed allegations of misuse of taxpayer funds by former Niagara Falls School District Carmen Grant, New York State Assembly candidate John Ceretto is questioning the lack of response from state officials.

According to the account, a private investigator's report and the district's attendance records indicate that a Niagara Falls School District maintenance worker did private contracting work on the home of the then-superintendent Grant.

"First of all, it's a shame that a private investigator had to be hired to track the use of public funds," said Ceretto. "Where is the accountability? What are the people that have been entrusted with the oversight of our money doing with their time if not looking out for the interests of the taxpayers?"

The News report goes on to detail multiple instances of a district employee doing work at the private residences of district employees, including Grant, during school hours.

"Nobody is above the law, including Carmen Grant. These allegations are serious and demand further investigation," stated Ceretto. "The fact that State Assemblywoman Francine DelMonte has refused to insist on an additional inquiry of these allegations is very disconcerting and further indication of her willingness to take care of the people that have taken care of her."

Ceretto vowed to keep the spotlight on this issue, despite the unwillingness of some to pursue the matter.

"Enough time has elapsed for additional action to be taken on these allegations," said Ceretto. "If substantive action is not taken to further investigate these claims of misappropriation of taxpayer funds, it is my intention to bring a resolution before the county legislature asking Governor David Paterson to appoint a special prosecutor, something Francine DelMonte obviously doesn't have the stomach for."

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