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Newly Unsealed Documents Expose Plaskett's Email Soliciting Epstein's Contributions and Extending Fundraiser Invitation

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Janeka Simon **June 17, 2023**

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Delegate to Congress Stacey Plaskett. By. ERNICE GILBERT, V.I. CONSORTIUM

"Epstein was a reprehensible person and I'm truly disgusted by his actions," Congressional Delegate Stacey Plaskett [said](#) earlier this month, speaking out after filings in the ongoing [lawsuit](#) between the Government of the Virgin Islands and JPMorgan brought her acceptance of Jeffrey Epstein's donations to her political campaigns to the fore once again.

Ms. Plaskett said that she was unaware of Epstein's campaign contributions until after it was reported in the press subsequent to her campaign's federal filing. However, newly unsealed evidence submitted by JPMorgan's legal team show that Delegate Plaskett in 2018, had personally

requested that an invitation to her Bloomberg fundraiser be sent to Epstein. "I would be grateful for his support and the support of those that he may direct to assist me," she wrote.

From: Lesley Groff [REDACTED]@gmail.com]
Sent: 7/12/2018 3:32:46 PM
To: Jeffrey Epstein [jeevacation@gmail.com]
Subject: Re: Bloomberg Invite for Plaskett for Congress fundraiser

Importance: High

Sure thanks Lesley

The short answer is that because there will be a primary and a general election campaign can receive \$5,400 from each individual contributor. The general election can receive \$2,700 for each race - and because there will be a primary and a general election check for \$5,400 and designate on the note line \$2.7k for primary;

On Jul 12, 2018, at 10:57 AM, jeffrey E. <jeevacation@gmail.com>

get maximum amounts allowed

On Thu, Jul 12, 2018 at 10:57 AM, Lesley Groff <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Begin forwarded message:

From: Stacey Plaskett <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Subject: Bloomberg Invite for Plaskett for Congress fundraiser
Date: July 12, 2018 at 10:55:05 AM EDT
To: [REDACTED]@gmail.com, Erika Kellerhals <[REDACTED]@kellerhals.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]@detailsconsultingllc.com

Good morning Lesley,

If you would share this invitation with Jeffrey I'd be much appreciated

Email from Delegate to Congress Stacey Plaskett seeking support from Jeffrey Epstein and his circle of wealthy and powerful friends. (JPMorgan court filing)

The email was reportedly sent in July of 2018, just about a year before Epstein was arrested on sex trafficking charges. However, he was being investigated since March 2005 in Florida after the family of a 14-year-old girl reported that she was molested at his mansion. And in 2008, he pleaded guilty to one count of soliciting prostitution and one count of soliciting prostitution from someone under the age of 18. Additionally, at this point, multiple women had spent approximately a decade claiming that they had been groomed, trafficked and abused by the owner of Little St. James and his network of powerful friends.

It was a “bad fundraising decision” said Delegate Plaskett, when she appeared on WTJX FM talkshow “Analyze This” on June 8.

The unsealed documents add detail to JPMorgan’s claims that Epstein deliberately and methodically cultivated an influential network of politically powerful Virgin Islanders who he thought would help cushion him from the worst effects of his sex offender status. Plaskett denies ever leveraging her position to aid Epstein's business or illegal activities, and no such claims are being made by JPMorgan’s attorneys, or suggested in the documentary evidence they have submitted before the court.

However, one woman believed that the then-aspiring delegate would be helpful to her boss – Cecile DeJongh, who served dual roles as the office manager for Epstein’s local companies and the First Lady of the U.S. Virgin Islands, during her husband John P. de Jongh's term as governor.

At the center of the network

While it has already been argued that Mrs. DeJongh played a key role in identifying local political players who would be useful in service of Epstein’s agenda, the recently unsealed filings underscore just how enthusiastically she took up the task.

The idea of supporting Ms. Plaskett’s Congressional run seems to have initially come from Mrs. DeJongh. When former Senate President Sean Malone reportedly “came after” Epstein in a legislative hearing in June 2014, Mrs. DeJongh wrote to her employer, Epstein, “Your help is needed. We are trying to get Stacey Plaskett elected to Congress...we would have a friend in Stacey.”

From: Cecile de Jongh [REDACTED]@yahoo.com]
Sent: 6/19/2014 5:05:35 PM
To: jeffrey E. [jeevacation@gmail.com]
Subject: Re: Confidential
Importance: High

Ok, should I ask them?

With warm regards,
Cecile

On Thursday, June 19, 2014 12:44 PM, jeffrey E. <jeevacation@gmail.com>

im sure darren rich bella ana wiould

On Thu, Jun 19, 2014 at 11:55 AM, Cecile de Jongh <[REDACTED]>
Jeffrey,

Your help is needed. We are trying to get Stacey P
Congress. Shawn Malone (current senate president
Democratic primary in August. Shawn is the one w
hearing last week. He is nasty and needs to be def
in Stacey. Since this is a federal election, only pers
\$2,600/person) can be given. She needs to raise a
August. Do you think any of your friends would give

With warm regards,
Cecile

Email from Former First Lady Cecile de Jongh to Jeffrey Epstein seeking support for Stacey Plaskett in the Delegate to Congress race, while calling for the defeat of then-Senate President Shawn-Michael Malone. (JP Morgan court filing)

By August of that year, Ms. Plaskett had beaten Malone in the Democratic Primary, in what was then [reported](#) as “one of the biggest upsets in Virgin Islands politics.”

The documents unsealed this week also provide further detail about the lengths to which Mrs. DeJongh, as Epstein’s loyal employee, sought to influence the legislative process. When in 2011 the Senate was considering the reporting regime that would be applied to sex offenders residing in the territory, Mrs. DeJongh crafted language that would be more favorable to her employer’s interests, and edited it according to his feedback. When Epstein’s preferred language did not make it into the amended legislation, Mrs. DeJongh suggested that he could work around the “horrible week” by cultivating senators who she considered friendly to “get around these obstacles,” while approaching Vincent Frazer, then-Attorney General, for discretion for status quo. “That’s the least he can do,” she wrote to Epstein. Frazer was AG under the administration of her husband, John P. de Jongh.

For her work in managing the offices of Epstein’s local companies, Mrs. DeJongh was handsomely compensated. A table showing figures from 2000-2009, entered as evidence in court, indicates that Mrs. De Jongh started the period at just over \$58,000, however at the end of the 10-year period shown in the table, her compensation had jumped to over \$163,000, which included tuition for her children at the Antilles School and Skidmore College in New York.

Cecile de Jon				
Salary and Tuition				
Year	Annual	Salary	Bonus	Anti
2000	75,000	49,219	2,500	
2001	75,000	77,923	2,500	
2002	78,948	80,615	5,000	
2003	86,000	90,154	5,000	
2004	95,000	97,000	5,000	
2005	99,000	100,919	5,000	
2006	102,960	103,941	25,000	
2007	105,000	107,404	25,000	
2008	110,000	110,000	-	
2009	110,000	110,000	-	
Projected 2009	110,000	110,000	-	

Former First Lady Cecile de Jongh's compensation chart while working for Jeffrey Epstein (JPMorgan court filing).

The newly-public documents also show that institutions in the U.S. Virgin Islands accepted Epstein — and his money — without many questions about his past and the rumors swirling around him.

Scant Scrutiny

In 2014, while scrutiny was being re-ignited around Epstein's plea deal that allowed him to serve only 13 months in jail after being accused of pedophilia and major sex crimes, the V.I. Economic Development Authority, chaired by now-governor Albert Bryan Jr., approved the renewal of the South Trust Company's tax benefits.

In December of that year, Financial Strategy Group, another of Epstein's companies, received an International Banking Entity License from the Division of Banking and Insurance in the Lieutenant Governor's Office.

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DIVISION OF BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
CERTIFICATE OF TAX INCENTIVE

This is to certify that in accordance with Title 9, Chapter 1, Section 742 of the Virgin Islands Code, which provides for the granting of tax incentive benefits to companies in the Virgin Islands,

FINANCIAL STRATEGY GROUP
JEFFREY EPSTEIN
#9100 PORT OF SALMON
SUITE. 15, ST. THOMAS

has filed its Articles of Incorporation and Residency Certificate with the Registrar of Corporations and Trademarks on April 4, 2014 and, has made a substantial financial investment, and has furnished satisfactory evidence of its intent to actively conduct business as a:

INTERNATIONAL BANK
(Money Services Act)

In accordance with 9V.I.C. §742, Financial Strategy Group is eligible for a tax incentive benefit on taxes on real property, gross receipt, excise, corporate income, and other taxes specifically provided otherwise by this section or federal laws.

*Now, Therefore, I, **John D. McDonald**, Director, in pursuance of the law, hereby grant this tax incentive benefit certificate.*

In accordance with 9V.I.C. 747(b), this certificate is subject to the observance of those conditions in this certificate and upon the determination of the Treasury of the United States or the Secretary's delegate under Internal Revenue Code section 934.

The application, made in 2013, included a section for biographical details of the company's principals - Jeffrey Epstein, Darren Indyke and Richard Khan. The write-up for Epstein noted that he had been investigated for "legal difficulties relating to matters alleged to have taken place...exclusively within Palm Beach, Florida." The write-up notes that a federal investigation started in 2007 was discontinued the following year with no charges. The passage discloses Epstein's guilty plea in 2008, and his 18-month sentence. It alleges that "no similar allegations or charges of any misconduct by Epstein since that period of time seven years ago" have been leveled, and lists both James E. Staley and JPMorgan as personal and banking references respectively. It is unclear based on the documents examined by the Consortium what kind of fit-and-proper persons requirement exists for holders of such licenses, nor is it understood whether any such investigation had been conducted with respect to this application.

Newly-nominated Attorney General candidate Ariel Smith says that these filings are an attempt by JPMorgan to cloud the issue and deflect blame away from their complicit actions in shielding Epstein from scrutiny. In a statement released on Friday, Ms. Smith said that "as Congress recognized, banks like JPMorgan are the first line of defense against human trafficking. They have access to real-time information about how bank customers use their accounts."

This unprecedented access to information about how money flows through client accounts, argued Ms. Smith, means that banks "have a legal obligation to report suspected unlawful activity including signs of human trafficking."

The bank's lead lawyer, Ms. Smith said, wrote to his colleagues in 2011. According to her, he informed them that "Jeffrey Epstein is not an honorable person in any way and should not be a client." The bank's failure to act on that information, Ms. Smith argues, meant that authorities were not alerted to the magnitude of Epstein's crimes."

The attorney general nominee has characterized the release of information about Ms. Plasket, Mrs. DeJongh and other high-profile local politicians and officials as an attempt to "smear the great people of the virgin Islands for daring to hold the nation's bank accountable."

However, she stopped short of declaring the allegations and accusations, backed up by documentary evidence, untrue.

Ms. Smith vowed to continue "standing up for Jeffrey Epstein's victims, for the people of this community and for the rule of law."

While the government may be able to prove its case that JPMorgan facilitated Mr. Epstein's continued sex trafficking operations by negligently failing to report suspicious transactions, the documents unearthed in the ongoing lawsuit raise serious questions about the character, integrity, and judgment of some of the highest-ranking members of the territory's political class. Could Ms. Smith's vow to "hold accountable those who violate all laws, pursuing justice for the people of the Virgin Islands" lead to, after the JPMorgan case is over, investigations into the conduct of the current and former public officials in the territory who were named in the documents filed by the bank's attorneys?

That might depend on how strong Ms. Smith's promise of "following the facts of every situation to wherever they lead" ultimately turns out to be.

At the beginning of the week, JPMorgan settled a separate [lawsuit](#) for almost \$300 million. The suit, brought by an anonymous woman, claimed that the bank facilitated Mr. Epstein's crimes by failing to flag his suspicious transactions.

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