

**UNION COUNTY  
WATCHDOG ASSOCIATION**

*Shining a Light  
on Government*

908-709-0530

Fax: 908-709-9209

Website: [unioncountywatchdog.org](http://unioncountywatchdog.org)

Email: [tinarena@unioncountywatchdog.org](mailto:tinarena@unioncountywatchdog.org)

202 Walnut Avenue • Cranford, New Jersey 07016

# UNION COUNTY MUSICFEST 2010

## MISSING MONEY

Followup to the  
**Union County Prosecutor's Report**

Released October 11, 2011

### **Our Mission**

*The Union County Watchdog Association, Inc. is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization working on behalf of residents and taxpayers to monitor Union County government and advocate for the elimination of waste, corruption and incompetence. We believe that good government can only be achieved through a system of checks and balance - a system that includes the watchful eye of the people.*

**Report on the  
2010  
Union County Musicfest  
MISSING MONEY**

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## **Section A**

### **Introduction**

On August 13, 2011 the Union County Prosecutor released a scathing report on the management of the 2010 Union County Musicfest with 28 recommendations but concluding that “there is insufficient evidence which warrants the filing of criminal charges in this matter.”

We believe there is indeed insufficient evidence as the management of the county has covered up obvious thefts, including money intended to ease the suffering of cancer patients. Based on circumstantial evidence, it appears that hundreds of thousands of dollars raised on behalf of a cancer charity, Union County Love Hope Strength Foundation (UCLHS), was unaccounted for and likely misappropriated by former county manager George Devanney and/or his underlings.

Yet, not one county employee has been held responsible for MusicFest 2010. Not even the freeholders have apologized for their gross lack of oversight. George Devanney retired effective August 1, 2011 to spend more time with his family and to work for his wife’s business, Keyword Strategies. Still, the freeholders allowed Devanney to be very much involved with running Musicfest 2011. County employees were still handling money for his LHSF. The County Prosecutor was still publicly socializing with the Devanney family.

The UCWA asked the State Attorney General’s office to investigate the missing cash from Musicfest 2010. The State AG then allowed the county to conduct the investigation. We do not believe the Union County Prosecutor can conduct an independent criminal investigation involving the Lesniak family. Theodore Romankow’s ties to the freeholder board and Senator Raymond Lesniak, County Manager George Devanney’s uncle, show that he was clearly conflicted.

## **Section A**

### **Introduction (continued)**

The Prosecutor's Report cited negligence when it concluded that "the use of public monies demands much more than it received" yet no one was held accountable. There is enough that is not cited in the Union County Prosecutor's report that calls for an independent criminal investigation. The county courts are filled with defendants having to answer for much less.

"Every society gets the kind of criminal it deserves. What is equally true is that every community gets the kind of law enforcement it insists on."

Robert F. Kennedy (1925–1968), U.S. attorney general, Democratic politician. The Pursuit of Justice, pt. 3, "Eradicating Free Enterprise in Organized Crime," (1964).

