



## **GUILTY**

Melissa DeRosa, Secretary to the Governor, is no ordinary public official. She is appointed directly by the Governor and is the highest ranking non-Judicial appointee in the state. In their May 20<sup>th</sup> edition, the New York Times did a profile piece on DeRosa. This is how they described her and the position she holds. “As secretary to the governor, she is the most powerful appointed official in the state, the first woman to hold that position, and one of the youngest, her robust command of facts and arcana only hinting at her sway.”

“If you’re an Albany lawmaker and you get a call from Melissa DeRosa, you’re essentially getting a call from the Governor,” said Liz Smith, the former spokeswoman for Cuomo’s re-election”.

There is no sunlight between Cuomo and DeRosa when it comes to running NYS government. When she discussed the apparent illegal actions in an audio/visual call with the Democrats in the State Legislature of covering up nursing home data, she was implicating the Governor as the one giving the orders. Far from blameless in a government run by a Governor who trusts an inner circle of no more than five or six people, she will soon be faced with the prospect of protecting him from potential prosecution by taking most of the blame. It will be a case study worthy of Machiavelli.

Normally I would say the cover up is what mostly trips up public officials. The very concept of a cover up lends itself to a conclusion that an improper/illegal act took place. Sadly, in this case the cover up was an integral part in the state waiting an extra couple of weeks to reverse its deadly order to return convalescing COVID patients to nursing and assisted living homes. The cover up can be linked to the loss of life.

Everyone from Congressmembers (locally Nicole Malliotakis) to State Legislators (Michael Tannousis, Simcha Eichenstein, Simcha Felder, Andrew Gounardes), County Executives, Mayors, advocates for seniors, nursing home residents and the disabled, editorial boards and high ranking officials from other states have called on the Governor to resign, be impeached or be further investigated as part of a criminal conspiracy.

Currently 14 Democratic members of the State Senate are advocating for the removal of his emergency powers. I would say better late than never, if it was not for the fact that since last fall the members of the GOP in the Senate had been asking for the same. This year alone those 20 members have put on the floor of the Senate more than six times a resolution to do. Add the 14 Democratic members to the 20 GOP members and it passes. Unfortunately, none of these Democrats will support the removal unless it is passed by a majority of Democrats. If this makes you cynical it should. Swamp land exists in Albany as well as DC.

President Biden is not exempt from criticism. He placed the face of the cover up, acting on a request from Governor Cuomo, Melissa DeRosa in several continuing roles advising the Administration on the transition and COVID policy. Congresswoman Malliotakis has formally asked the President to address this issue. Her words in a letter to Ron Klein, the President’s Chief of Staff, were “each day Ms. DeRosa serves as an advisor to the Biden administration is another day the public’s trust in the President’s judgement an COVID 19 response erodes.”

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The Conservative Party Facebook Live with Newsmax Senior political columnist and White House correspondent John Gizzi has received many positive reviews. If you would like to view the 45 minute show, you can locate it on the NY State Conservative Party Facebook page or on our website at [www.cpnys.org](http://www.cpnys.org).

*(as submitted to The Brooklyn Reporter)*