

# Buffalo News Exposes Corrupt Cattaraugus County DA Lori Rieman Again.

EDITORIALS



Robert Kirkham/Buffalo News

Protesters rallied last month in front of the Erie County Holding Center after a state agency concluded that the death of inmate India Cummings was a homicide caused by medical neglect.

# Unexplained deaths

## State attorney general should investigate what's happening in Erie County jails

Erie County District Attorney John J. Flynn Jr.'s statement that his office cannot investigate the death of Holding Center inmate India Cummings comes as no surprise, given the conflict of interest within his ranks.

The state Attorney General's Office should take the case, as Flynn suggested.

Flynn, whose office has a conflict of interest because one of his prosecutors is married to a Holding Center deputy, filed a motion before Erie County Court Judge Susan Eagan requesting she appoint a special prosecutor in the Cummings case if the Attorney General's Office declines.

Recent history tells us that it might be ill-advised to appoint special prosecutors in the form of neighboring district attorneys.

Cattaraugus County District Attorney Lori Pettit Rieman was appointed to investigate the death of Erie County jail inmate Richard Metcalf. The jail has become infamous for inmate suicides and inmate deaths caused by, or alleged as to have been caused by, deputies.

Metcalf's death became the example, as jail personnel tied a spit mask so tightly around his neck that he ended up dying. Personnel then misreported the death to the Commission of Correction. Sheriff Timothy Howard, who was deposed in a lawsuit, answered 68 questions with, "I don't know."

But Rieman, as special prosecutor, failed to investigate thoroughly. In addition, she decided in October not to lodge charges against any jail deputy, but waited weeks, until after the November election to make the announcement. That was convenient for Howard, who squeaked by his Democratic opponent Bernie Tolbert. Rieman also won. She had no opponent.

State Attorney General Barbara Underwood would do much better. Underwood, who has shown the same penchant as her predecessors in extending her prosecutorial reach as far as the White House, should focus that

laser beam on the Cummings case.

The state Commission of Correction's Medical Review Board examined Cummings' 17 days in the Holding Center and determined that her death in February 2016 should be classified as a homicide due to medical neglect while in the custody of county sheriff deputies.

Similar to the Metcalf case, the question of how jail personnel handled or mishandled the situation plays a key role.

The 27-year-old Cummings was believed to be high on the drug K2, a synthetic substance similar to marijuana. It was then, authorities say, that she carjacked a vehicle, got into a chase with police and crashed the car into four vehicles, including a school bus. She suffered a broken arm that may have occurred during the crash, during her arrest or in clashes with jail personnel. Still, the broken arm went untreated and is believed to have contributed to her death in Erie County Medical Center.

The actions or inaction by personnel have been documented. Cummings' physical and mental state deteriorated while in jail. Hers became another tragic and avoidable incident in the county's two jails, which are fraught with problems and marked by an inmate death toll of 24 under Howard's watch.

Underwood, who is investigating President Trump's business practices in New York and who has joined other state attorneys general in suing over a range of national issues, would be well suited to focus that energy in this case.

Going forward, the governor's 2015 Executive Order requiring the attorney general "to investigate, and if warranted, prosecute certain matters involving the death of an unarmed civilian ... caused by a law enforcement officer," should be considered. Democratic attorney general candidate Tish James has unveiled a major criminal justice reform plan, which includes expanding the attorney general's role as special prosecutor and codifying that role into state law.

Being an inmate in Erie County may be a product of bad decisions, but it should not be a death sentence. Underwood should take this case.

Soon to be filed Appeal with determine just how bad the corruption is and if it extends into the judicial branch in Western New York and how far. Below is an editorial that appeared in the Buffalo News concerning the Metcalf murder cover up by Cattaraugus County District Attorney Lori Rieman. See the links to the Buffalo News articles below the image for more proof that Cattaraugus County New York's District Attorney is the real criminal...

## What Ever Happened to the 'Investigations' into these alleged 'Suicides' & Murders in Catt County?

### Wayne Street suspect reportedly commits suicide in Cattaraugus County Jail.

Sheriff won't confirm identity, says death investigation underway - [Click here for article.](#)

**Another 'Suicide' While in Custody in Catt County.** We have a fellow citizen, Stephen Schindlbeck, who lost his life at the hands of our public servants. He was going to be charged with a two felonies yet he had harmed no one, unlike Catherine Ensell who is a very violent individual and her daddy John always covers up for her. This alleged suicide occurred in the Olean Jail. Do we remember the three suicides in the Cattaraugus County Jail that took place in a period of six months in 2014 and not a word about what became of it? And what about the Metcalf murder investigation that 'DA' Lori Rieman is in 'charge' of? There are some very concerning twists in the recent 'suicide' in the Olean Jail. [Click here for article.](#)

**Cattaraugus County jail reports third suicide in 6 months.** LITTLE VALLEY, N.Y. — For the third time since October, an inmate at the Cattaraugus County Jail has apparently committed suicide. Sheriff Timothy S. Whitcomb said it is believed that an inmate committed suicide at the jail late last Wednesday morning. He said the inmate was found unresponsive in his cell. The sheriff said he couldn't offer any other information about the deceased prisoner until an investigation into the death is completed. [Click here for article.](#)

**Murder in Cattaraugus County:** A True Crime in Search of Justice. The ongoing investigation and discoveries by award winning author Barbara Pavlock concerning the murder of her brother. [Click here for article.](#)

## Buffalo News Articles....

Clock runs out on two possible charges in death of Holding Center inmate. [Click here for article.](#)

Holding Center victim's uncle appeals for action; DA calls it 'threat'. [Click here for article.](#)

Prosecutor delayed release of Metcalf decision until after Election Day. [Click here for article.](#)

"After sitting on the case until the statute of limitations expired on the most likely charges, and after Election Day passed in 2017, Rieman said she would not prosecute anyone for Metcalf's death." [Click here for article.](#)