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CERTIFIED

December 15, 2025

Attorney General William Tong
Office of the Attorney General
State of Connecticut
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Subject: Request for Investigation and Prosecution: False LoCIP Claim and State OPM Oversight Failure

I. Introduction and Purpose

This memorandum requests that the Office of the Attorney General investigate and, where appropriate, prosecute the submission of a false claim for State reimbursement under the Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP) by the **Town of Ridgefield**, and the **possible complicity or gross negligence** by officials within the **Office of Policy and Management (OPM)**.

The improper claim centers on a \$230,000 reimbursement request for roof repairs on a town-owned building leased to a private theater company—**A Contemporary Theatre of Connecticut, Inc. (ACT)**—despite lease language stating that ACT, not the Town, is responsible for those repairs. This request implicates not only the Town but also OPM, which has thus far failed to deny or to publicly disclose any final disposition of the claim, while also issuing statements attempting to obscure statutory limitations on such reimbursements.

These facts have been brought to the attention of the Auditors of Public Accounts, who may have already referred this to the attention of the Connecticut Attorney General. The matter has also been referred to APA field auditors. Such referrals are confidential and exempt from Freedom of Information Act requests.

The memorandum outlines the factual background, legal basis for investigation and prosecution, a request for action, a partial list of supporting documentation, and closing.

II. Factual Background

- In August 2024, the Town of Ridgefield funded a \$230,000 roof replacement for a building leased for \$1/year to ACT.
- The lease explicitly assigns maintenance responsibilities to the tenant, “including for the roof.”
- The First Selectperson of Ridgefield, **Rudy Marconi**, falsely asserted to the Board of Selectpersons and Town Meeting that ACT’s lease was unique in including a roof maintenance clause—when in fact **The Workshop for Performing Arts** (aka Theater Barn) has an almost identical lease provision... a lease that bears First Selectperson Rudy Marconi’s signature.
- First Selectperson Marconi failed to disclose that his wife serves on the ACT Board as required by Town Charter, which prompted a conflict-of-interest probable cause finding by Ridgefield’s Board of Ethics.
- Despite ACT’s financial ability to pay (ACT’s IRS Form 990 for FY 2024 reflects over **\$1.8 million in liquid assets**), the Board of Selectpersons and Town Meeting were deceptively told that the ACT Theater lacked the financial wherewithal to repair the roof.
- This capital expenditure was never presented to Ridgefield’s Board of Finance, was never submitted to a referendum as required by the Ridgefield Charter Section 10-1(c), and was never included in the Ridgefield Capital Improvement Plan, as required for LoCIP authorization by CGS § 7-536.
- To date, the reimbursement has been publicly concealed and not recorded on OPM’s Local Capital Improvement Program Project Authorization List (latest: December 8, 2025).
- Having been submitted to OPM on August 27, 2025, the disposition of this application was due to be reported within 45 days or by October 11, 2025.
- Communications with OPM officials reveal an apparent effort to retroactively reframe the claim as a “grant” rather than a statutory entitlement, to avoid application of CGS § 7-536 restrictions by misinterpreting subsection (i) of the statute.

III. Legal Basis for Investigation

A. Connecticut False Claims Act (CGS § 4-274 et seq.)

Under CGS § 4-276, liability attaches to any person who:

“Knowingly presents, or causes to be presented, a false or fraudulent claim for payment or approval...”

- The Town’s reimbursement submission violates this standard.
- Any **OPM official who knowingly approved or concealed** the nature of this claim may have **caused a false claim to be condoned**.
- The law further prohibits **deliberate ignorance or reckless disregard** of material facts—standards disregarded by OPM’s actions or omissions.

B. General Fraud / Larceny Statutes (CGS §§ 53a-119, 53a-122)

The claim and attempt to recover funds may also meet the definition of **larceny by false pretenses**, under CGS § 53a-119, if:

“A person obtains property by false representation with intent to defraud...”

If the value of the property involved exceeds \$20,000, as in this case: It constitutes **Larceny in the First Degree**, a **Class B Felony** under CGS § 53a-122.

C. Misuse of Public Office and Aiding/Abetting

Additionally, CGS § 53a-8 (criminal liability for aiding and abetting) and basic principles of **public trust and fiduciary duty** may apply to OPM officials who knew or should have known that the claim was fraudulent but acted to process or obscure it.

IV. Request for Action

I respectfully request that the Office of the Attorney General:

1. **Investigate** the Town of Ridgefield's submission of a false claim for LoCIP reimbursement.
2. **Determine whether OPM's conduct**—including attempts to reclassify the claim and dismiss statutory limits under CGS § 7-536—constitutes complicity, reckless disregard, or concealment.
3. **Refer for prosecution** any parties who knowingly participated in or abetted this fraud.
4. **Consider civil penalties and restitution** under the False Claims Act, in addition to criminal prosecution under applicable larceny and fraud statutes.

V. Supporting Documentation

The following documents are linked in this memorandum emailed separately:

- [Probable Cause Finding of Conflict of Interest by Ridgefield's Ethics Board](#);
- [Affidavit to OPM and Auditor of Public Accounts](#);
- [Ridgefield ACT Roof LoCIP Application](#);
- Ridgefield Capital Improvement Plans FYs [2024](#), [2025](#), and [2026](#);
- Lease agreements for [ACT](#) and [Theater Barn](#);
- [Town meeting minutes](#);
- [ACT's IRS 990 Form \(2024\)](#);
- [OPM correspondence and conflicting public statements](#);
- [Response to OPM](#);
- [LoCIP Authorization List December 8, 2025](#)

Additional documents and video-recorded statements by the First Selectperson are available online here: <https://www.ridgefieldrecord.com/page-7/>.

VI. Closing

This case, while involving a single \$230,000 claim, raises **serious systemic concerns** about the integrity of municipal-state financial interactions and the transparency of oversight by OPM. I urge your office to treat this as both a specific legal violation and a **bellwether** of broader risks to public funds.

Respectfully,

