

# Foundation board member: Donations didn't cover total cost of Catanese's car

## Friedkin said some of \$42K came from FAU Foundation funds

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The entire \$42,000 the Florida Atlantic University Foundation's head Carla Coleman gave to outgoing FAU President Anthony Catanese for a red Corvette didn't come from dollars donated for a going-away gift, according to a foundation board member.

The donations Coleman collected from several board members weren't enough to cover the cost of the car, so additional money was pulled from the foundation account to make up the difference, Foundation Board Member Monte Friedkin said.

"If they didn't have \$42,000 they shouldn't have spent \$42,000," Friedkin said. "Maybe they should have bought a Volkswagen instead of a Corvette."

Friedkin acknowledged that he donated \$1,000 to the Foundation after Coleman called him seeking a gift for the departing Catanese. He said he had no idea it was for something as expensive as a car, noting the foundation usually buys small parting gifts like watches and clocks. Friedkin said he wanted to write the check directly to Catanese but Coleman insisted

that he make it out to the Foundation.

Friedkin hasn't filed his taxes yet, but he believes his donation will be tax deductible because Catanese gave the money back to the Foundation.

A document found on the computer of Susan Peirce, FAU associate VP for Advancement, showed that Howard Guggenheim, who was chairman of the FAU foundation at that time, was also making calls to solicit donations for a "gift" to Catanese. A May 22, 2002 note, addressed from Peirce to Coleman, cited a total of \$16,500 in contributions from foundation board members: \$3,000 from Dick Davimos, \$2,500 from Chris Wheeler, \$1,000 from Bill French, \$5,000 from Bill Morris and \$5,000 from "Howard."

An additional side note, which Peirce said was written by Coleman, listed a \$5,000 donation from Herb "G," a \$1,000 donation from "Friedkin" and a \$5,000 donation from "Gunnell". Herb Gimelstob is the current chairman of the foundation and Casey Gunnell is a board member.

Guggenheim refused Tuesday to comment on the letter but told investigators that he knew nothing about Coleman's plan to buy Catanese a Corvette with foundation funds. Gimelstob said he never gave money for Catanese's gift and didn't know of it.

Coleman's attorney, Kenneth Lipman, said the Foundation and the Cataneses were well aware of what his client was doing.

"Carla didn't keep it a secret. Many people knew exactly what was being done and they were participating," Lipman said. "The evidence is crystal clear that Carla never intended to commit a crime and never intended to benefit from this - that is evident in that she told a lot of people about it."

Coleman and Catanese, who had been good friends, haven't spoken since the investigation became public, Friedkin said.

The Cataneses eventually returned the \$42,000 to the FAU Foundation last month and weren't charged, although investigators were originally exploring organized scheme to defraud charges against them. The state attorney charged Coleman with official misconduct, which could bring as much as five years in jail and a \$5,000 fine. Lipman will mail in her plea of not guilty.

The owners of the design firm that actually received the Foundation money for "consulting" by Mrs. Catanese, Stephen

and Rita Lloyd, were given deferred prosecution in exchange for their cooperation and community service.

FAU is wrapping up an audit into the Foundation's capital campaign, which Coleman used to justify raises for her and her staff. However, Foundation board member Friedkin said such continued scrutiny would only serve to damage the university's repu-

tation further.

"What's the difference if the capital campaign raised \$200 million or \$180 million? In the fund-raising world they usually exaggerate to be optimistic," said Friedkin, who raises funds for Stand Among Friends. "The longer [Chairman George] Zoley and [President Frank] Brogan let this go on all they're doing is hurting this university."