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# Orland Park Library Porn update

Megan Fox

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# Orland Park Library Porn update

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Editor

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### Orland Park Library's Bridget Bittman fact-checked on dishonest GoFundMe solicitation

As reported the other day, Orland Park Public Library spokesman (and "crisis manager") Bridget Bittman has for the last four months been running a GoFundMe solicitation page to get other people to pay for her lawsuit against several critics of the OPPL.

These critics have been speaking out against the OPPL for allowing child porn to be accessed in the library without police being called and for, to this day, never taking the necessary measures to ensure child porn is never again accessed in the OPPL. I believe that Bittman's lawsuit is a frivolous SLAPP suit strategically designed to silence the OPPL's critics and that board members such as Diane Jennings (who is also an attorney) encouraged Bittman to file this suit for the OPPL's ultimate benefit. Read more about this SLAPP suit

here: <http://edgarcountywatchdogs.com/2015/04/oppls-bridget-bittmans-slapp-lawsuit-update/>



See Jennings encourage Bittman to file this frivolous lawsuit here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9\\_5v0Brrbc&list=PLILXCDHJg4yL-AIrgRxCYIIFANM-uSzlz&index=32&spfreload=10](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9_5v0Brrbc&list=PLILXCDHJg4yL-AIrgRxCYIIFANM-uSzlz&index=32&spfreload=10)

GoFundMe claims to have strict rules about its use as a fundraising platform, though it does not seem to have any mechanism of self-policing against fraud.

According to its terms of service, all GoFundMe (GFM) solicitations need to be truthful in what the money is being raised for and what it will be used for...but the people setting up GMF accounts are left on the honor system when it comes to this.

We reported on the fact that Bittman's recent spring break vacation to Ft. Meyers Beach, Florida raises questions about her honesty when it comes to the GFM page she has setup and the truth about her personal financial situation. Read that story HERE: <http://edgarcountywatchdogs.com/2015/04/orland-park-librarys-bridget-bittman-begs-on-gofundme-vacations-in-florida/>

We thought it would be an interesting and instructive exercise to fact-check the rest of Bittman's GFM page to see if what she's written violates the terms of service established by GFM for solicitations such as hers. You can make up your own mind about that, but before anyone considers donating to her page they should look at the following:

**No. 1 = Bittman states the** following on her GFM page: We are seeking financial support for *Bridget Bittman's personal legal fees. She has filed a personal lawsuit* alleging defamation by several "activists"

who are not focusing on the original complaint with the organization for which Bridget serves as Public Information Coordinator. Our fight is not about open internet access, public libraries, freedom of speech, or intellectual freedom: It is about Fighting Fair, #fightfair.

**ANALYSIS:** Megan Fox, Kevin DuJan, Dan Kleinman, Adam Andrzejewski, and the organization For the Good of Illinois were all sued by Bittman after they discovered that child pornography had been accessed at the OPPL and, since October 2013, the OPPL Board of Trustees has refused to change its policies and permanently block child porn from ever being accessed there again. The OPPL also refuses to provide the public with an explanation for why Library Director Mary Weimar did not call the police when child porn was accessed or why Weimar was never disciplined for not calling the police. Additionally, Fox & DuJan have uncovered reckless and wasteful spending at the OPPL and instances where the Equal Employment Opportunity Act has been violated by library management. These critics have demanded changes and accountability from the OPPL to address these matters, but the OPPL board stonewalls and ignores the criticism and refuses to provide answers to the many questions asked about Weimar's leadership at the OPPL.

Fox & DuJan have been documenting their activism on YouTube and Facebook and Kleinman has maintained an ongoing record of their efforts on his site, [www.SafeLibraries.org](http://www.SafeLibraries.org). Every month, they address the OPPL board and demand that library director Mary Weimar be held accountable for not calling the police when child porn was accessed, for signing off on the wasteful spending, and for making other poor decisions as the OPPL's highly paid big cheese (a position for which she's paid \$189,000/year).

It is not factually correct for Bittman to claim that Fox & DuJan and the others were "not focusing on the original complaint with the organization". That's all they have been doing, as reported on Illinois Leaks here: <http://edgarcountywatchdogs.com/category/orland-park-public-library/>

Any and all criticism of Bittman has been related to her behavior and activity as the OPPL's spokesman. In this position, Bittman has made dishonest and misleading statements to the media about Fox & DuJan and she has been caught on video behaving unprofessionally in public while representing a public body. In my opinion all criticism of Bittman has been warranted and justified and as a public employee collecting \$80,000/year in compensation Bittman should have a tougher skin and accept criticism where it is due.

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**No. 2 = Bittman states that** *"In October 2013, two individuals began protesting the public Internet access policy of the Orland Park Public Library (OPPL) in Illinois."*

**ANALYSIS:** This is intentionally deceptive and misleading. The complaint about the OPPL from the beginning has been that the library's own internal incident reports show that child pornography was accessed in this building and that police were not called as they should have been. Bittman does not want donors to her GFM page to know that she works at the library that allowed child porn to be accessed and then chose not to call the police.

Someone who was engaged in the activity of accessing child porn in a public library was allowed to escape (and is still loose to this day as a direct result of the inaction of the OPPL staff). It is dishonest to pretend that the criticism aimed at the OPPL does not involve child porn and the ongoing poor decisions made by OPPL staff and board members. People donating to this GFM solicitation should be informed that this is not about "Internet access" but instead actual crimes happening in a public building and being covered up or ignored by a public body.

People who contribute to Bittman should know that they are chipping in to fund a lawsuit against people who discovered that child porn went unreported to police when it was accessed in a public library and that such a SLAPP lawsuit has the chilling effect of discouraging others out there from going public with

discoveries of other heinous crimes happening in public libraries.

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**No. 3 = Bittman states that** *“In spite of the onslaught of disparagement on social media outlets, Bridget has never fought back, never engaged in the vicious tactics employed by the people who seek to harm her reputation.”*

**ANALYSIS:** This video shows Bittman engaging in vicious tactics of herself in contradiction to what she says on GFM: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=idu0lur4OCc&list=PLILXCDHJg4yL-AIrgRxCYIIFANM-uSzIz&index=40&spfreload=10>

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**No. 4 = Bittman states that** she *“is a lifelong public servant dedicated to professionalism. She has defended the principles set forth by her employers, the library and OPPL Board of Trustees, regardless of what her personal views may be.”*

**ANALYSIS:** Again, the video filmed on 7/8/14 shows just how unprofessional Bittman behaves herself at times while representing her employer, the OPPL. Not mentioned here is also the fact that Bittman has repeatedly made statements she knew at the time were untrue when speaking to reporters. She purposefully gave false information to the press, knowing that reporters would print it without fact-checking, that damaged the reputations of Fox & DuJan as part of the OPPL’s running strategy to discredit them and alienate them from supporters.

One example of this was Bittman telling Southtown Star reporter Donna Vickroy on 11/04/13 that Megan Fox did not have her children with her on the day she complained about illegal activity occurring in the OPPL. Vickroy printed that lie without fact-checking Bittman and it irreparably damaged Fox’s reputation, since Bittman represented the library and claimed that Fox lied about her children being present. When the Southtown Star was presented with evidence that Fox indeed had her children with her, the newspaper was forced to change the online version of the news story to reflect that truth. Vickroy’s editor told Fox & DuJan that she was disciplined for her poor reporting and lack of fact-checking Bittman. This was no consolation, as Bittman’s lie made it into the print edition and to this day people who read that will repeat Bittman’s lie that Fox did not have her kids with her as she said.

It is beyond unprofessional for the spokesman for a public body to knowingly pass false information onto reporters, especially when that public employee knows that reporters rarely fact-check entities like a public library (assuming — **WRONGLY** — that these public bodies won’t tell lies to the media to deliberately hurt their critics).

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**No. 5 = Bittman states** that *“The **lawsuit** is not a frivolous filing. She is not dipping into a personal store of cash to pay for the defamation lawsuit— the situation is so desperate that she is drawing from her home equity line of credit to seek relief from the harassment she has endured.”*

**ANALYSIS:** Here, Bittman fails to mention that she is the granddaughter of Dorothy Comiskey Rigney, the former owner of the Chicago White Sox baseball team. People who contribute money to her solicitation are not informed that Bittman’s maternal grandmother owned a major league baseball team. They also are not informed that while simultaneously begging for donations for her lawsuit, Bittman takes vacations to Florida that make it seem unlikely she is desperate for cash: <http://edgarcountywatchdogs.com/2015/04/orland-park-libraris-bridget-bittman-begs-on-gofundme-vacations-in-florida/>

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**No. 6 = Bittman states that** *“Regardless of your political views or your opinion on the issues raised by the activists targeting Bridget, consider Fighting with her for Fairness, #fightfair. If you do care about intellectual freedom, public libraries, open internet access, or scientific facts, donating money to Fight Fair by properly using the legal system will forward those causes and hopefully deter future harassment on outlets like Facebook, Twitter, blogs, and websites.”*

**ANALYSIS:** Again, Bittman is employed as the public spokesman for a public body that is being criticized

for allowing child porn to be accessed in a public building. In the course of her work duties, Bittman seems to have knowingly made false statements to the media in a coordinated effort to hide the fact that child porn had been accessed at the OPPL and to also silence and drive away the library's critics. Here, she appeals to people who "care about" public libraries to fund her lawsuit with the implication that by doing so they will help all public libraries in some way. That's really not the case, because by allowing child porn to be accessed in their library, the OPPL proved itself to be a bad apple worthy of criticism. By failing to properly detail what the criticism directed at the OPPL is about, Bittman deceives people donating to this GFM.

Also, what does "scientific facts" have to do with her lawsuit? That seems thrown in there just to dupe more people into hitting the donate button.

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**No. 7 = Bittman states that** *"Photos were taken of Bittman's house, then posted on Facebook in an attempt to intimidate her. (p. 6)"*

**ANALYSIS:** Bittman never produced any photos in her lawsuit and did not ever provide any evidence of an "attempt to intimidate her". She provided no link to any photos either. She also failed to mention that it is not illegal to take photos of any house, if anyone really did that. If it was illegal to take a picture of a house, then Zillow would have been sued out of existence years ago. Bittman is also dishonest here because taking a photo of her house is not even one of the counts she alleged in her complaint. This allegation is just thrown in here to get the attention of donors.

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**No. 8 = Bittman states that** *"Defendants implied that Bittman was drunk at work, featuring a photo taken years earlier of a play performance. (p. 6)"*

**ANALYSIS:** This statement is also false and in her lawsuit Bittman produced no screen grabs or other evidence to support this claim. She attached no exhibits at all in her complaint, actually, which leaves us to guess what photos she is in fact talking about.

If there were photos as bad and damaging to her as she claims, then why didn't she attach them as exhibits to show a judge or provide links to where they were so the judge could see them?

The answer is that if she actually posted the photos in question and provided a link to the Facebook posts they were in, then people could see how dishonest she is in her complaint.

This is a link to the Facebook posting that Bittman claims was defamatory regarding her being "drunk at work", as she claimed: <https://www.facebook.com/MeganFoxWriter/photos/pb.679212808757274.-2207520000.1428918209.826153947396492/?type=3&theater>

And here is the comment that she complained about: She would have to be drunk to claim the ridiculous things she does about the library in the media...like no sex crimes have ever occurred there. Uh...wait, isn't public masturbation a sex crime? Isn't accessing child porn a SEX CRIME!?? why, YES...it is!!! Sober up Bridget! The truth will set you free!

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This Facebook comment was made after Bittman repeatedly denied in the media (and on the radio!) that sex crimes had occurred in the OPPL, despite the library's own incident reports documenting that child porn had been accessed in the OPPL, that men were caught masturbating at computers with their penises exposed, that female library employees were sexually harassed and then told they should quit if they didn't like it, and that children were accosted sexually in the building.

Bittman was criticized for being a public spokesman for a public body who repeatedly gave false information to the public, even when the public body's own reports directly contradicted her.

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**No. 9 = Bittman states that** *"Defendants falsely stated that Bittman was cited for Disorderly Conduct. (p. 7)"*

**ANALYSIS:** On 7/8/14, Officer Jodi Schmidt of the Orland Park Police Department stated to four witnesses that Bridget Bittman was being cited for disorderly conduct for her behavior outside the Orland Park Civic Center, as recorded in this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=idu0lur4OCc&list=PLILXCDHJg4yL->

[A1rgRxCYIIFANM-uSzIz&index=40&spfreload=10](#)

Schmidt repeatedly said to four witnesses that he saw Bittman committing disorderly conduct on this video, for being a public official who barreled towards Kevin DuJan on the sidewalk and deliberately engaged in a confrontation with him instead of taking a direct route to her vehicle. The Orland Park Police at a later date let Bittman off the hook and voided the citation that Schmidt told four witnesses that he was writing Bittman. It is an ongoing civil rights matter as to why higher-ups got involved and overruled Schmidt here. There is much more to the story than Bittman informs her potential donors in her solicitation.

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No. 10 = Bittman states that *“Defendants created a fake Facebook page, using real photos of the plaintiff, purporting to be Bittman’s private, part-time floral business (p. 11)”*

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ANALYSIS: This is Bittman’s wildest and most ridiculous claim of all. And that is really saying something. Kevin DuJan is an openly gay writer who as a hobby runs a humorous Facebook page called SassyPlants, which can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/SassyPlantsIllinois?fref=ts>

On SassyPlans, DuJan collects jokes, posts photos he takes of gardens around Chicago, parodies the ridiculous things public bodies post in social media, and lampoons public officials and pop culture. SassyPlants in no way, shape, or form purports to be Bittman’s “private, part-time floral business”, as Bittman claims on GFM.

While you might not find DuJan’s humor funny and you might not like gay people or understand their jokes, no reasonable person could believe that SassyPlants is anything but humor.

DuJan asserts that on several occasions Bittman referred to him as a “fruit” while acting in her capacity as an OPPL employee and that Diane Jennings, a Trustee of the Orland Park Public Library, called him a “fag” and stated on video that she “doesn’t like gay people”. These assertions were witnessed by others who are willing to testify in court that both Bittman and Jennings used homophobic slurs against or in the presence of DuJan.

On SassyPlants, DuJan has lampooned both Bittman and Jennings for their use of homophobic slurs. DuJan maintains that as a gay man who feels victimized by these slurs made by public officials that he has the right to ridicule them for their bad behavior, bigotry, and unprofessionalism under protected first amendment speech. This is a longstanding American tradition dating back to the days of Benjamin Franklin where a member of the public ridicules public officials for their bad behavior. If you ever read some of the things that Ben Franklin said about public officials in his day, you’d see that SassyPlants pales in comparison.

There is no record with the Illinois Secretary of State of any business license ever registered to Bridget Bittman for any “private, part-time floral business” and there is nothing on SassyPlants written anywhere that purports to be Bittman’s nonexistent side business. In her complaint, Bittman does not present any evidence that SassyPlants damaged her flower-arranging in any way.

Bittman’s LinkedIn page states that she doesn’t even do flower-arranging anymore and her complaint never explains why exactly a gay man’s humorous Facebook page about plants upsets her so much. Not liking something and not understanding a gay man’s sense of humor are not legitimate reasons to sue a bunch of people.

Judge this for yourself. Here are some typical examples of SassyPlants postings:

\* <https://www.facebook.com/SassyPlantsIllinois/photos/a.1434680023484242.1073741827.1434675516818026/1572445486374361/?type=1&theater>

\* <https://www.facebook.com/SassyPlantsIllinois/photos/a.1434680023484242.1073741827.1434675516818026/1555625881389655/?type=1&theater>

\* <https://www.facebook.com/SassyPlantsIllinois/photos/a.1434680023484242.1073741827.1434675516818026/1566143933671183/?type=1&theater>

\* <https://www.facebook.com/SassyPlantsIllinois/photos/a.1434680023484242.1073741827.1434675516818026/1572058403079736/?type=1&theater>

\* <https://www.facebook.com/SassyPlantsIllinois/photos/a.1434680023484242.1073741827.1434675516818026/1558399467778963/?type=1&theater>

Whether you get the jokes or not (and whether you think any of this posted on SassyPlants is funny or not) is irrelevant. Humor is protected free speech in this country and Bittman is wrong to state this is a “fake page”. This is a real page run by DuJan that posts humorous content daily and never claims to be anything other than a humorous page that he runs for fun.

SassyPlants is setup as a humor page, not a business page. There is no business contact information. Bridget Bittman’s name appears nowhere on the page. Bittman’s flower arranging side-business is never mentioned on SassyPlants.

Bittman purposefully does not state what Facebook page she is talking about in her GFM solicitation, because if people saw that she was talking about SassyPlants they would see how ridiculous her lawsuit truly is.

The fact that she does not disclose to people that she is referring to something as ridiculous as SassyPlants is intentionally misleading to people from whom she is soliciting donations. It is not credible for her to claim that something called SassyPlants has harmed her in any way besides giving her a bruised ego and a taste of well-earned ridicule.

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**No. 11 Bittman ends her GoFundMe appeal** by making some nebulous claim about science being criticized at the Field Museum. This appears to be an attempt by Bittman to broaden her pool of potential donors by surfing a wave of controversy that embroiled Megan Fox last year when a YouTube video she made went viral (and generated close to 2 million hits on YouTube).

**ANALYSIS:** This shows how shameless Bittman is, because Fox’s YouTube project with the Field Museum was for a book that Fox & DuJan are working on that exposes bias and propaganda in museums, schools, and other cultural institutions. Fox criticized the Field Museum for having outdated and broken exhibits and for posting signs that contained grammatical errors and contradictions within several paragraphs of signage. People on the ideological Left politically didn’t like that the Field Museum was criticized for having what Fox claimed were shoddy exhibits and they went nuts over it.

When this Field Museum YouTube video became popular and was being hotly debated in political circles, Bittman seems to have seen an opportunity to try to surf that wave for donations to herself by cramming into her GoFundMe solicitation some awkward references to “science”.

Does she really, as she claimed, need money from people who want to help fund a lawsuit filed by a public library employee against critics of a public body...or does she just want to raise as much money for herself as possible from people who hate Megan Fox for any reason under the sun?

How does posting an article about Fox’s Field Museum criticism relate to Bittman’s complaint or her lawsuit or justify soliciting donations from people to sue Fox & DuJan and the others?

It doesn’t. This seems to just be thrown in there to try to get as many people to donate to her GFM as she can (so that other people pay for her lawsuit and not her).

Bittman seems to have figured out that people really weren’t going to donate to her because they believed in her cause or thought that Fox & DuJan and the others did anything wrong...so she seems to have gotten the notion that she’d raise more money by just trying to find people in general who hated Megan Fox.

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GoFundMe solicitation efforts are supposed to abide by certain rules of truthfulness, transparency, and commitment to a worthwhile goal. When Bittman failed to make a clear case for that, she seems to have decided to just throw everything and the kitchen sink into this GFM page to try to grab as much cash from strangers as she could.

And then she went to Florida on vacation, while still claiming she needed more money from others.

See: <http://edgarcountywatchdogs.com/2015/04/orland-park-librarys-bridget-bittman-begs-on-gofundme-vacations-in-florida/>

I believe it is deplorable and pathetic that she has done this so dishonestly and with so many factual

omissions and outright lies. It is a shame that GoFundMe does not have a better means of vetting the truthfulness of its fundraising campaigns.

By Megan Fox 5/7/2015