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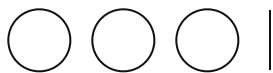


Police: Mercedes, \$8,000 taken during Bridgeport home

**NEWS**

Absentee ballot fraud has long history in Bridgeport

Updated: Oct. 22, 2011 11:05 p.m.



Oct. 20, 1988-- Former state Rep. Ernest Newton agrees to pay \$1,000 as a civil penalty after admitting he filled out Ada Crosby's absentee ballot for her, requested she sign the inner envelope and then mailed it for her with her consent. The action was taken during the Sept. 14, 1988 primary in which Newton was a candidate for state representative from the 124th district.

May 29, 1991 -- Curtis E. Mouning, a volunteer campaign worker for then state Rep. Mario Testa agrees to pay \$500 for signing the names of five people, including his parents, to request absentee ballot applications that allowed them to vote in the

Sept. 11, 1990 primary.

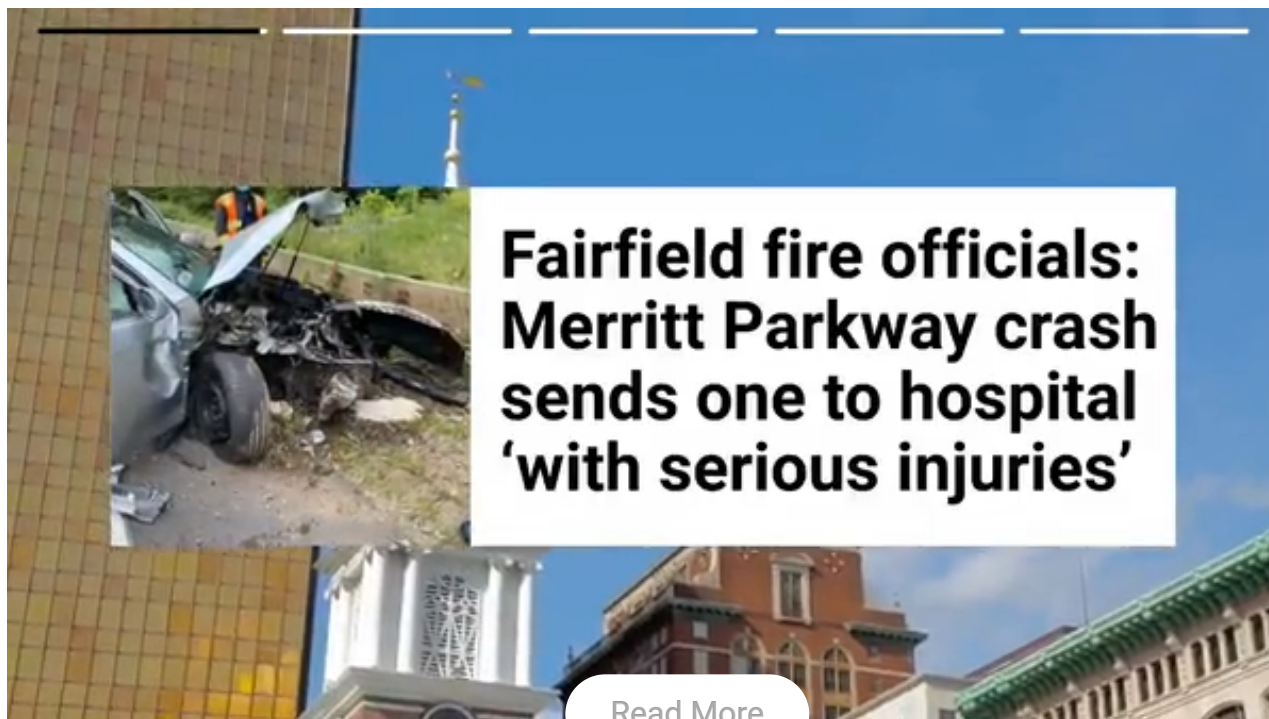
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March 18, 1994 -- Jacqueline Rogers, a campaign worker for James Holloway, a City Council candidate, was barred from participating in campaigns for five years. During the Sept. 14, 1993 primary, Rogers wore a nurse's uniform with a certified nurse's name tag, and solicited and collected seven "emergency" absentee ballot votes. She also instructed at least one of the voters to cast her ballot for Holloway. Additionally, the commission determined Rogers was paid \$150 for her service at the direction of Dr. Ralph Ford. Both Rogers and Ford claimed the payment was for office work but the commission did not find their statements credible. Holloway defeated incumbent Mary Brantley by just nine votes.

Nov. 28, 1994 -- Thirty nine absentee ballots cast in Sept. 13, 1994 Republican primary for governor, lieutenant governor and U.S. senator were found a day after the election and not counted because of possible human error. As a result Town Clerk Hector Diaz agreed to pay \$400 for inadequate controls and safeguards in storing, handling and processing these ballots.

April 5, 2001-- Warren Blunt, now a city councilman, agrees to pay \$2,500, resign from the Town Committee and not seek election for two years. He admitted being present while individuals voted by absentee ballot and then taking possession of their ballots cast in the March 7, 2000 Democratic Town Committee primary. In that primary, Blunt was a candidate for re-election.



April 6, 2001-- Sybil Allen agrees to pay \$5,000, resign from the Democratic Town Committee and not seek re-election to the Town Committee for two years. She was found to have completed absentee ballot applications for voters, persuaded one person to sign the application for a family member that no longer resided in the

home, forged the signatures of two other applicants and told one voter that a candidate was not on the ballot. She also was present when ballots were marked and took possession of them. Allen was a candidate for re-election in the March 7, 2000 Democratic Town Committee primary.

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April 9, 2001-- Paulette Park agrees to pay \$5,000 and was barred from participating in any future campaigns. Park admitted that she assisted people in completing absentee ballot applications, did not sign the application, instructed at least one person to make a false statement regarding the reason for voting by absentee ballot, was present when ballots were marked and received the completed ballots. The commission found Park was paid by Sybil Allen, a candidate in the March 7, 2000 Democratic Town Committee primary and took directions from Allen, Testa and Blunt.

April 11, 2001 -- Ronald Caveness agrees to pay \$4,000 (which was later reduced to

\$1,000), resign from the Democratic Town Committee and not seek reappointment for two years after he admitted distributing absentee ballot applications and being present while voters marked their ballots and then took possession of them. The action was part of his "get out the vote" effort for the March 7, 2000 Democratic Town Council primary in the 135th District.

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By Tara O'Neill



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