

POLITICS

Rollins deserves to be called out for DNC party attendance

Rachael Rollins, the local U.S. attorney, is no stranger to controversy. Recently, Rollins attended a Democratic National Convention fundraiser with first lady Jill Biden. Rollins drove a government-issued vehicle with official plates there. Rollins said “no” when asked if attending the DNC fundraising event would violate the Hatch Act. Does Rollins’ attendance at the DNC Committee fundraiser indicate her political inclinations toward Republicans, independents and anybody who doesn’t share her political views? Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., labeled it a “blatant violation” of federal law. Rollins followed up the Herald story on the fundraiser visit with a tweet: “I wasn’t asked for a comment before this ran.”

She was. Thankfully, her response was profanity-free.



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Columnist

Following an alleged road rage incident in Dorchester on Christmas Eve 2020, Rollins chose to berate a Fox 25 News reporter covering the story yelling “So as a Black woman, in this moment in this country, you’re going to put my (expletive) house on screen?” This interaction between Rollins and Fox 25 News perfectly illustrates how Democrat politicians of color exploit identity politics to avoid responsibility and poor behavior. It’s easy for an elected Democratic official of color to silence critics by calling them, or implying that they are racists. No one wants that label. Once impartial media sources now parrot this Democratic propaganda. As U.S. attorney for Massachusetts, Rachael Rollins is vital. She represents the U.S. government and the people it serves. She oversees all criminal and civil federal prosecutions. Every mem-



STUART CAHILL — HERALD STAFF

PARTISAN PARTY: U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts Rachael Rollins arrives at a private home in Andover for a Democratic National Committee finance event hosted by first lady Jill Biden.

ber of our legal system must maintain the Sixth Amendment’s provision of a fair trial before an impartial judge or jury. Unfortunately, Democratic prosecutors have plenty of practice in prosecutorial misconduct, as shown by the ham-handed investigation into Russian collusion in the 2016 election, and Black men in Boston

being sentenced to prison for crimes they did not commit, something U.S. Attorney Rollins examined during her term as Suffolk County DA. She recused herself from the Judge Shelley Joseph case, who is accused of conspiracy to obstruct justice and obstruction of a federal hearing after helping a Dominican Re-

public immigrant escape in 2018. During her tenure as Suffolk DA, Rollins took steps to prevent immigration agents from detaining illegal immigrants in courthouses and sued ICE to stop its officers from making courtroom arrests. Illegal immigration is illegal at the federal level, even in Democratic-controlled cities and states. How can the top federal law enforcement official in Massachusetts treat a statute so offhandedly? Is there more of this to come?

Monica Cannon-Grant, a Boston activist, and her husband Clark Grant are accused of defrauding contributors to their group Violence in Boston, falsely claiming pandemic-related unemployment benefits and misrepresenting to a mortgage lender. As Suffolk County DA, Rollins’ office contributed \$100,000 to 21 nonprofits. Rollins’ annual financing of youth-serving nonprofits in Boston, Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop was commended as a di-

rect infusion into communities to improve public safety. Cannon-Grant and (VIB) requested \$10,000 for a youth retreat in September and were awarded \$6,000. Prosecutors say the trip never happened. “Neither Cannon-Grant nor Clark Grant told VIB directors they utilized the \$6,000 grant for a July 2019 trip to Columbia, Md.,” the indictment reads.

Where will Rollins stand in the prosecution of this Black community advocate for Democrats? It’s early in Rollins’ tenure as U.S. attorney, but I hope she shows the same dedication as she has done in recent fentanyl convictions. Rollins should also remember that the law applies to everyone, and people who challenge her conduct aren’t the bad guys.

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