

Tammany on the Hudson

Tuesday, August 02, 2005

Contributions from Slave Master to Mayor

From the [Jersey Journal](#):

Indicted bar owner gave to pol
Friday, July 29, 2005
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GUTTENBERG - The Bergenline Avenue tavern owner who has been indicted in an immigrant smuggling ring contributed thousands of dollars to the political organization of Mayor David Delle Donna, state records show.

Delle Donna confirmed receiving political contributions from Luisa Medrano through her corporation, Luisa Enterprises, but said he was still "researching" how much his organization, the Guttenberg Dems, received, and that he would donate that amount to unnamed charities.

According to the state Division of Elections Web site, the bar's owner - Luisa Medrano - donated at least \$3,000 to Delle Donna's organization between 2001 and 2004 through her corporation, Luisa Enterprises.

Medrano, a resident of Cliffside Park, was indicted July 21 along with nine other people on charges of operating a ring that smuggled illegal immigrants from Honduras to New Jersey, then forced them to work as dancers at El Puerto de la Union, at 68th Street and Bergenline Avenue, and at El Paisano Bar and Nightclub, 509 22nd St., and El Puerto de la Union Restaurant II, 3806 Bergenline Ave., in Union City.

Medrano last month received a license to open a second bar in Guttenberg.

Both Union City bars were closed by police the day after her indictment; El Puerto de la Union was closed by Guttenberg police on Saturday.

Delle Donna said El Puerto de la Union didn't receive special treatment.

"We treat (violations at) this bar no different than any other place," he said, citing the standard procedure used for every complaint presented before the ABC Board.

Delle Donna said the bar had "a few minor ABC violations" over the years that resulted in at least one temporary liquor license suspension, but that no serious problems had been reported there.