

Carrion's Background

2009-Present. White House
Director of Urban Affairs

2007-2009. President of the
National Association Latino
Elected and Appointed Officials
(NAELEO)

2001-2009. Borough President
Bronx, New York

1997-2001. Member, New York
City Council

Vice President for Human Ser-
vices and Community Outreach,
Promesa

Public School Teacher, Bronx, NY

Protestant Minister

EDUCATION

B.S. Kings College
M.A. Hunter College



this issue:

Adolfo Carrion, White House
Director of Urban Affairs

Who is Adolfo Carrion?

On March February 19, 2009 the White House announced that President Obama had appointed Adolfo Carrion as Director of Urban Affairs. This position also widely referred to as a "Czar" does not require confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

The practice of appointing Czars to oversee areas under the control of Cabinet

Secretaries has been strongly criticized by none other than Sen. Robert Byrd (D-WV). Sen. Byrd recently complained that creating such positions "can threaten the Constitutional system of checks and balances. At the worst, White House staff have taken direction and control of programmatic areas that are the statutory responsibility of Senate-confirmed officials." Fn.1.

A look at Czar Carrion's recent past may shed light on why the Administration is circumventing the confirmation process. The first thing the new Czar did after his

Pay to play lives...

appointment was throw himself a big party with his political contributor's money. As reported by the New York Post:

“If the era of pay-to-play politics is over, Adolfo Carrión did not get the message, said Melanie Sloan, executive director of the Democrat-leaning CREW.”

“Former Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion spent more than \$50,000 in campaign contributions on a party for supporters and to enrich the Bronx Democratic Party soon after he was named President Obama's urban-affairs chief six weeks

ago, according to filings at the Campaign Finance Board.” Fn.2.

Another reason Carrion may have been appointed to a position in the White House not requiring Senate confirmation is his personal dealings with entities that needed his help to obtain approval of a taxpayer subsidized development. Carrion used the services of an architect to do work on his house. That architect needed Carrions help to obtain zoning changes. The zoning changes occurred. Carrion didn't pay the architect for the work. Fn.3.

Sources for further reading:

Fn.1.

John Bresnahan, *Byrd: Obama in Power Grab*, POLITICO.COM, February 25, 2009. Available online at: [http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0209/19303.html?.](http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0209/19303.html?) (Accessed April 9, 2009.)

Fn.2. David Seifman, *Carrión Spent Campaign \$\$ for 'Parting' Party*, NEW YORK POST, April 5, 2009, at 2. Available online at: http://www.nypost.com/seven/04052009/news/regionalnews/car-rión_spent_campaign_for_parting_part_162971.htm. (Accessed April 9, 2009.)

Fn.3. Robert Gearty and Greg B. Smith, *Possible Conflict of Interest Surfaces for President Obama's New Urban Czar Adolfo Carrion*, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS, March 10, 2009. Available online at: http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/2009/03/09/2009-03-09_possible_conflict_of_interest_surfaces_f.html. (Accessed April 9, 2009.)

Fn.4. Russ, Buetter, *Bronx Prosecutors Checking on Work Done for Ex-Borough President*, NEW YORK TIMES, March 12, 2009, at A23. Available online at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/12/nyregion/12deck.html?ref=nyregion>. (Accessed April 9, 2009.)

Fn.5. Greg B. Smith, *Watchdog Group Calls for Investigation of Adolfo Carrion, Bronx Pres. Tapped as Obama's Urban Czar*, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS, March 12, 2009. Available online at: http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/2009/03/12/2009-03-12_watchdog_group_calls_for_investigation_o-2.html. (Accessed April 9, 2009.)

More information you really need to know about Adolfo Carrion.

- “President Obama's new urban czar, Adolfo Carrión, admitted Tuesday he has not paid an architect who designed a renovation of his Bronx home two years ago.” Fn.3.
- “Bronx prosecutors have decided to review the circumstances under which the former borough president, Adolfo Carrión Jr., hired an architect to design a porch and second-floor deck for his home overlooking the water on City Island, a spokesman for District Attorney Robert T. Johnson said Wednesday.” Fn.4.
- “If the era of pay-to-play politics is over, Adolfo Carrión did not get the message, said Melanie Sloan, executive director of the Democrat-leaning CREW.” Fn.5.
- “[S]pokesman Robert Gibbs said the White House expects Carrión to pay the \$3,627.50 bill.”

“I think the quote says that when the work is complete, that the bill will be paid. And certainly that would be the expectation,” Gibbs said.”

“Gibbs did not mention that the addition of a porch and balcony to Carrión's home took place in late 2006 and early 2007.” Fn.6.

- “The probe of White House urban czar Adolfo Carrión has widened to explore whether he received a significant discount on the renovation of his home, the Daily News has learned.

The former Bronx borough president, who started last month as President Obama's director of urban policy, has acknowledged that he has not paid the architect, even though the work was done two years ago.

Now a law enforcement agency has obtained documents from the contractor who built a new porch and installed a balcony on Carrión's Victorian home on City Island, sources familiar with the investigation told The News.

The documents show the project's estimated cost was \$50,000. Carrión wound up paying less than half the estimate - \$24,000.” Fn.7.

Fn.6. Greg B. Smith, *White House Tells President Obama's Urban Czar Adolfo Carrion to Pay Up*, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS, March 12, 2009. Available online at: http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/2009/03/11/2009-03-11_white_house_tells_president_obamas_urban.html. (Accessed April 9, 2009.)

Fn.7. Robert Gearty and Robert B. Smith, *Probers Looking at Whether Adolfo Carrion Got a Steep Discount on Home Renovations*, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS, March 23, 2009. Available online at: http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2009/03/23/2009-03-23_probers_looking_at_whether_adolfo_carrin.html. (Accessed April 9, 2009.)

AppointeeAlert

THIS ALERT IS A SERVICE OF
AMERICANS FOR LIMITED GOVERNMENT
9900 MAIN STREET
SUITE 303
FAIRFAX, VA 22031
703.383.0880
WWW.GETLIBERTY.ORG