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 YARMUTH WILSDON PLLC

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**INVESTIGATIVE REPORT  
RE: BELLEVUE HIGH SCHOOL  
FOOTBALL PROGRAM**

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**Carl  
Blackstone**

**Robert  
Westinghouse**

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allowing him and his family to live with her for the past two years. Although we have no reason to doubt Ms. Spooner Le-Duff's claim, we note that it is inconsistent with constant rumors that Tracy Ford played an integral role in recruiting players to BHS. [REDACTED] has declined our request for an interview and Mr. Ford has refused to meet with us, thus giving rise to an adverse inference that he was involved in recruitment. We recommend that the District conduct further investigation into this matter.

3. [REDACTED]

Finally, there is reason to believe that [REDACTED] was recruited to play football at BHS. He played football during his freshman and sophomore years at Newport High School and was described by his Coach as a "collegiate prospect." After his sophomore season, [REDACTED] and his mother met with the then Newport High School head football coach, Mike Miller. [REDACTED]'s mother told Coach Miller that they were leaving Newport and moving to the Bellevue High School area. Because she had told Coach Miller during the previous summer that she was struggling to find affordable housing, he asked how she could afford housing in the BHS geographic area, which he believed to be more expensive. According to Coach Miller, [REDACTED]'s mother did not answer audibly, but just looked at him with a smirk. Again, we do not know the exact circumstances that led to this change in schools. This exchange, coupled with the false address apparently utilized by [REDACTED]'s mother to enroll him in Bellevue High School, does raise questions whether someone associated with the BHS football program encouraged him to transfer. [REDACTED] has declined our request for an interview. We recommend that the District conduct further investigation into this matter.

Aside from specific examples of recruiting, the sheer number of talented football players who have transferred to BHS from other high schools inside and outside the Bellevue School District over the last ten years certainly raises the specter of impermissible recruiting. As already noted, at least 42 players, most of whom have been starters on their respective BHS teams, have transferred into the school between 2008 and 2015. Additionally, Karin Cathey found in 2006 that 30 players lived outside the BHS attendance area. Although some of these transfers might be explained by the obvious interest of talented players in playing for a proven coach and system and, perhaps, in playing for a consistent winning team, it defies credulity to believe that all of these transfers were motivated by such unassailable interests. At the very least, this pattern of importing talent mandates a thorough investigation of past transferees and, possibly, enhanced scrutiny of the circumstances of any such player who seeks to register at BHS in the future.

## VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. BHS football players have been provided with money and other valuable consideration, consisting of free or reduced tuition during the academic year or in summer school at the Academic Institute, by a BHS coach, the Booster Club, and a member of the Booster Club in violation of WIAA Rule 27.1.0(A)(1).