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January 13, 2011 By Clarence Mckee

SCOTT APPOINTS LONG TIME CARROLL AND SCOTT ALLY JOHN COLON TO POWERFUL REPUBLICAN PARTY OF FLORIDA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

John Colon, Senior Vice President of Wells Fargo Advisors in Sarasota, Chairman of the Sarasota Housing Authority, Member of the Board of the Florida Black Business Investment Board, Co-Chairman of United Negro College Fund-Sarasota-Manatee Counties, Member of the Sarasota County Republican Executive Committee, Republican Party of Florida's African-American Leadership Council, has been appointed by Governor Rick Scott to the powerful Republican Party of Florida Executive Committee. It was **Colon** who received much public attention when he told those who would attack then Lt. Governor Candidate Jennifer Carroll at a September 11 news conference commending Scott's appointment of Carroll—"Go Ahead, make our day."

Joining Colon as new appointees are former Scot-Carroll Campaign Manager **Susie Wiles**, and former Broward Health/North Broward Hospital CEO, Agency for Health Care Administration Secretary and Head of the Scott-Carroll Health Care Transition Team **Alan Levine**. See below story by renown St. Petersburg Times journalists Marc Caputo. Note that John is described as a "FOR"-Friend of Rick. Not many Black Floridians in that category—YET!!. But we will get there! Thank you Governor— **A SPECIAL THANKS TO LT. GOVERNOR JENNIFER CARROLL!!!!**

John's and the other appointees are listed below in Marc's blog.

JANUARY 12, 2011

Rick Scott names Fla GOP appointees for chair election

Gov. Rick Scott has made his long-awaited appointees to the Republican Executive Committee, and it's quite a hodge-podge. Heavy on healthcare types, North Florida folks and FORs (Friends of Rick), the appointees have the unenviable task of voting in the increasingly nasty Republican Party of Florida chairman's race. The appointees are in alphabetical order:

- 1) John Colon, longtime Sarasota party activist and FOR, as well as Jennifer Carroll supporter.
- 2) Tom Grady, former Naples state Rep.
- 3) Mike Hightower, major Republican money man and Blue Cross lobbyist

4) Adam Hollingsworth, Scott campaign/transition hand and Jacksonville Mayor John Peyton aide.

5) Scott Hopes, 25-year FOR and healthcare lobbyist

6) Alan Levine, healthcare wiz/consultant and former HCA employee/Jeb Bush appointee/Bobby Jindal appointee

7) Manny Morono, Sweetwater mayor and early Scott supporter

🤪 Bo Rivard, lawyer-lobbyist from the Panhandle and FOR

9) John Rood, Republican party elder statesman and former ambassador

10) Susie Wiles, Scott campaign manager.

In a few not-for-attribution interviews with the Scott appointees, they've said Scott has given them no direction. He has met with all the candidates. He likes some more than others. The Scott appointees also say it's clear what we've said before: The race right now looks like a struggle between Hillsborough County Chair Debbie Cox-Roush and Jefferson State Committeeman Dave Bitner

...On the first round of voting Saturday (and there could be multiple rounds), Cox-Roush seems likely to come in first, with Bitner in second. Note the "seems" here. Anything can happen. Still, if the likely scenario plays out, then the big question is where do the supporters of Sarasota Chairman Joe Gruters, Pinellas Committeeman Tony DiMatteo and Palm Beach Chairman Sid Dinerstein go? And what about the House appointees of Speaker Cannon? A few say they're undecided.

That makes Friday and Saturday all the more crucial for the five candidates before the Saturday vote.

Marc Caputo