



# **Batt Means Blight**



# BATT MEANS BARS! BATT MEANS BOOKIES! AND NOW, BATT MEANS BLIGHT!

**BATT MEANS BARS!** We've previously reported Jay's arrests for DWI, trespassing, disturbing the peace, and for public drunkenness near the **notorious college bar** Audubon Tavern II, and that one police report found him "**down and out.**" (TP 4/8/00) During his last term, Jay pushed through the **largest college bar** ever built uptown for his old friend, David Melius. Jay's campaigns are funded by Bourbon Street's **Funky Pirate** and **Tropical Isle**, and by college bars such as Jimmy's, **The Boot**, Phillips' and **Bruno's**. He's taken thousands of dollars from the owners of the former **Lyric Bar** on Orleans, **Friar Tuck's** uptown, and other bars.

**BATT MEANS BOOKIES!** Jay gambled recklessly on sporting events. In FBI wiretaps, Jay's bookie, who was attempting to collect **gambling debts**, told Batt "you is betting **very, very serious numbers** ... these numbers are **astronomical** ... there ain't too many people in Louisiana or in the United States can **afford to bet this kind of numbers.**" (TP, 3/17/00) Batt and longtime friend Bill Kearney were **subpoenaed** to testify at the bookie's trial. The **bookie** identified Batt and others as **aiders and abettors** in an illegal gambling operation. Of five others "fingered" by the Bookie, two pled guilty and one was convicted. Batt testified for the government, and was never charged.

**Despite his brush with the law**, Jay admits he still gambles. (TP, 4/6/00) He accepts contributions from **Churchill Downs** and law firms representing gaming interests. While the Council was negotiating over **slot machines** at the Fair Grounds, Jay's pal Kearney got a "**consulting contract**" from Churchill Downs. The TP commented: "Churchill does appear to have some idea of **how the (consultant) game is played** hereabouts." (TP, 5/18/05) Kearney replaced **Edwin Edwards'** buddy, Bill Broadhurst, on the Churchill Downs contract.

**BATT MEANS BLIGHT!** Batt is supported by the owners of dilapidated

properties on Jeff Davis near Canal and by **Vincent Marcello, Jr.**, whose **blighted houses** are covered with **Batt's campaign** signs. (The buildings on the reverse all had Batt signs on Jan. 4-5, 2010.)

Marcello contributed \$6,500 to Batt in 2006 and \$1,000 in 2009. The support Batt gets from these landlords **raises questions** about his commitment to fight blight. Jay apparently doesn't see that **blight and bars** affect economic development, property values, and neighborhood stability. To Jay, it's economic development if these guys make money on these properties.

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*This report approved by Keith Hardie, Chair, AnyBodyButBatt, PAC*



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