



## *Moving Texas Forward* Texas Democratic Party

Boyd L. Richie, Chair

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### **TDP CALLS ON JOE STRAUS TO REMOVE LINDA HARPER-BROWN FROM TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

#### *Reports Suggest Conflict of Interest, Possible Bribery and other Criminal Violations*

(Austin, TX) – Today, Texas Democratic Party Chairman Boyd Richie called on Speaker Joe Straus to remove Republican Rep. Linda Harper-Brown from the House Transportation Committee. Richie cited reports from the [Dallas Morning News](#) and [WFAA](#)'s Brad Watson that document extremely serious charges indicating Harper-Brown, a member of the House Transportation Committee, has spearheaded legislation that benefited a traffic system company that is providing her and her husband with a 2010 Mercedes E550 and a Chevy Tahoe.

**“It appears Linda Harper-Brown has profited by securing luxury vehicles in return for doing legislative favors for an industry with business before her committee,”** said Richie. **“Speaker Straus should remove her from the Transportation Committee until a time when these charges have been addressed.”**

**“If this information proves true, Linda Harper-Brown ran a legal and ethical red light, and she could no longer properly represent hardworking Texans who pay for their own cars and trucks with an honest day’s work,”** Richie concluded.

#### News reports indicate:

- After taking office in 2003, Harper-Brown submitted an amendment to allow cities to use red light cameras.
- Paradigm Traffic Systems and Durable Enterprises LLC, owned by the same individual, benefited from this change in law, as they install and manage red light cameras.
- Harper-Brown drives the Mercedes, which bears State Official plates, and her husband drives the Tahoe, though both are owned by Durable Enterprises. Since 2003, Harper-Brown has driven cars owned by the company.
- Harper-Brown has not reported the cars as gifts on any financial disclosure form, as is required

by law.

These are serious allegations, brought forward by Texas Values in Action Coalition (TEXVAC) that could point to violation of the Texas Penal Code bribery statute. If convicted, Harper-Brown could face a 2 to 20 year prison term and up to a \$10,000 fine. TEXVAC has submitted its findings to state prosecutors in Austin and the U.S. Attorney in Dallas.

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