



Better Business Bureau Being Probed For 'Pay-To-Play' Approach

Posted by **Peter Elliott**

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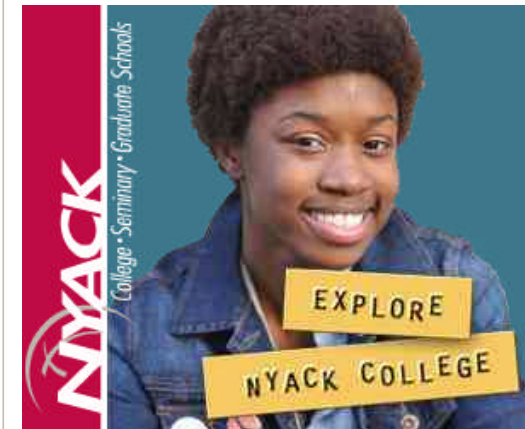
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For decades, the Better Business Bureau has been viewed as a neutral source for information on the professionalism of business large and small.

An ABC News investigation airing tonight on *20/20* paints a vastly different picture, accusing the organization of operating from a "pay-for-play" standpoint and rewarding members with higher ratings than non-members.

As case in point, a group of Los Angeles business owners paid \$425 to the Better Business Bureau and were able to obtain an A minus grade for a non-existent company called Hamas, named after the Middle Eastern terror group.

Today, Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal sent a letter to the BBB's national office in Virginia inquiring on its practices. Blumenthal, a Democrat, is Connecticut Senator-elect replacing retiring Sen. Christopher Dodd.



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The 20/20 segment on the fraudulent tactics used by the Better Business Bureau may be suprising for consumers, but as a 20 year small business owner, I've been victimized by their shake down tactics for years. Most people think the BBB is a government organization. They are anything but that. Last year they earned hundreds of millions of dollars strong arming small business owners and misleading American consumers. I hope the 20/20 segment is just the tip of the iceberg. Someone needs to serve time for the damage they have done to hard working businesses that choose not to be blackmailed into playing their game.

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