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By Carl Golden | May 5, 2019, 12:43 pm | in

In a classic deflect and distract strategy, Norcross and Camden City and County officials attacked the task force findings as an assault on the city and its people and contended the tax breaks granted by the EDA produced an economic resurgence in what is arguably the most fiscally-distressed community in the state.

Leaving no doubt as to the stakes involved, the local officials tore into Murphy, accusing him of unfounded and politically-driven attacks on the city and comparing him to President Trump.

The record developed thus far by the task force, however, is a graphic portrayal of a state agency engaging in political favoritism, giving in to private interest pressures and bending its own rules and regulations to justify its decisions. It has already made a referral of possible criminal activity to the Attorney General.

The involvement of an attorney in drafting the legislation is particularly troublesome, a case of placing the public interest aside while advancing the financial interest of private clients.

Murphy has dealt skillfully with the issue, allowing the task force and the audit to drive the debate while he expresses his concern and his intention to seek to reform the agency and bring it under much more intense supervision and scrutiny.

He has positioned himself on the side of open and honest governberetnd thrmto fuls. Iashe c toim/Ntd tro we, stf mesteb) id while the co trovSey ts Mten Úbby trod tttl eg bn/t sy isautingc, tey. n hMuuta

Since the outset of the Administration, Murphy and Swee	eney have been at odds over the