

June 10, 2024

To:

Katrina Greer, Commissioner, katrinahgreer@icloud.com

Tom Costigan, Commissioner, dc2ox4d@verizon.net

Susan Delean-Botkin, Commissioner, sdel@hotmail.com

Lyndsey Ryan, Town Attorney, lryan@bbcmlaw.com

Bill Dial, Chair, Ethics Committee, wdial21654@gmail.com

David Ober, Ethics Committee, cederbrookfarm@me.com

Eva Smorzaniuk, Ethics Committee, evasmorz@gmail.com

Commissioners, Ms. Ryan, Ethics Committee Members,

This past Saturday (June 8th, 2024) I sent an email to all three Commissioners of Oxford requesting that Election Poll Watchers be allowed at our upcoming municipal election to be held on 18 June 2024. I believe that allowing Election Poll Watchers is in the best interests of the Town and is an important step in having a free and fair election.

Much to my surprise and dismay, I received a response back from Commissioner Susan Delean-Botkin that stated (entire text reproduced below, pdf of original included below):

“Do we have a political stunt category on the agenda?
Even if we thought this was a good idea, don’t we have to introduce a resolution and that can’t be voted on at the same meeting as intro?
I sure hope Mr. Calvert’s internet is not working this weekend.....”
Susan DB”

I find this response offensive, unethical, and even defamatory, as it characterizes my goal of ensuring a free and fair election (for both candidates) as a “political stunt”. Clearly, Ms. Delean-Botkin is against the idea of allowing Election Poll Watchers in our election, per her comment saying “even if we thought this was a good idea”. However, bias against incorporating Election Poll Watchers is no excuse for this sort of unprofessional behavior by any public official.

In addition, I am **extremely** concerned about who “Mr. Calvert” is and what connection this person has with our upcoming elections. We do not have anyone in the town management, administration, or Board of Elections of this name. What is his relevance to my request and why would his internet connectivity have any bearing on our elections?

In light of this inflammatory email I am requesting:

1. That this letter be read aloud and entered into the minutes at the June 11th, 2024, Commissioner’s meeting.
2. A formal, and public apology from Commissioner Delean-Botkin at the June 11th, 2024, Commissioner’s meeting.

3. A public explanation at our June 11th, 2024, Commissioner's meeting of who "Mr. Calvert" is and this person's relevance to, and influence on, our upcoming election.
4. A formal hearing by Oxford's Ethics Committee about Commissioner Delean-Botkin's response.

Regards,

Josh Coder
Candidate for Commissioner of Oxford 2024

Screenshot of Email from Commissioner Botkin:

Re: Poll Watchers

susan delean-botkin <sdel@hotmail.com>

Sun 6/9/2024 10:25 AM

To: Josh For Oxford <info@joshforoxford.com>; lryan@bbcmlaw.com <lryan@bbcmlaw.com>; oxfordmanager@goeaston.net <oxfordmanager@goeaston.net>

Do we have a political stunt category on the agenda?

Even if we thought this was a good idea, don't we have to introduce a resolution and that can't be voted on at the same meeting as intro?

I sure hope Mr. Calvert's internet is not working this weekend.....

Susan DB

From: Josh For Oxford <info@joshforoxford.com>

Sent: Saturday, June 8, 2024 9:37 PM

To: lryan@bbcmlaw.com <lryan@bbcmlaw.com>; pbkbaker@gmail.com <pbkbaker@gmail.com>; oxfordmanager@goeaston.net <oxfordmanager@goeaston.net>; oxfordclerktreasurer@goeaston.net <oxfordclerktreasurer@goeaston.net>; katrinahgreer@icloud.com <katrinahgreer@icloud.com>; dc2ox4d@verizon.net <dc2ox4d@verizon.net>; sdel@hotmail.com <sdel@hotmail.com>

Subject: Poll Watchers

All,

Please see attached requesting Poll Watchers for the upcoming Oxford Municipal election on 18 June 2024.

Josh Coder
Candidate for Commissioner of Oxford
email: info@joshforoxford.com
website: JoshForOxford.com