



Censure Resolution of Sen. Larry Liston

WHEREAS, an assault allegedly occurred on December 6, 2021, after a meeting of the El Paso County Republican Executive Committee in which angry words were exchanged and alleged contact was made in the form a chest bump; and

WHEREAS, Senator Larry Liston submitted a criminal complaint against Mr. Rex Tonkins to the police, and bragged that “the DA knows me well” during the initial police interview; and

WHEREAS, after their initial investigation, the police determined that no further action was to be taken for lack of probable cause; and

WHEREAS, an additional investigation was later commenced by the police because Sen. Liston admitted in a police interview to using his political influence with Police Chief Adrian Vasquez to have investigators revisit the matter; and

WHEREAS, the case was referred by the 4th Judicial District to the Colorado Springs City Attorney’s Office for prosecution, which was subsequently tried in court where Mr. Tonkins was acquitted (found not guilty) by a jury of his peers; and

WHEREAS, the case also caused Mr. Tonkins significant financial harm costing several thousands of dollars to defend himself while Sen. Liston benefited by not having any out-of-pocket legal expenses because taxpayers paid for this unjust prosecution; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Colorado Republican Party, that Sen. Liston’s push for an unwarranted criminal complaint was inappropriate and that he used his position to further influence law enforcement and the prosecution of this case; and

RESOLVED, that Senator Liston is censured and rebuked for his actions; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our apologies to Mr. Tonkins for the harm that occurred to him personally and financially because of the actions taken by Sen. Liston.

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