

From: DAVID EPPIHIMER
To: Kuuleme T. Stephens <kuuleme_69@yahoo.com>
Cc:
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2019 07:32:42 AM MST
Subject: Re: Resignation from the Executive Committee

Dear Kuuleme,

I am sad it has come to this, but resignation accepted.

Respectfully,

David

David Eppihimer
Chairman
Pima County Republican Party
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On February 22, 2019 at 12:20 AM "Kuuleme T. Stephens" <kuuleme_69@yahoo.com> wrote:

Members of the Executive Committee,

It is with deep sadness that I write you all tonight. As of now I am resigning as a Member-At-Large on the Pima County GOP. I can not in good conscience remain on an Executive Committee where the Chairman runs the GOP as a one man GOP, continually oversteps his authority, does not consult with his committee members before taking drastic actions that affect us all as a whole, is not transparent and withholds information from the Executive Committee, and seems to have issues with minority women and control issues as well. I have tried to address my concerns with the Chairmen by having a meeting with him back on January 9, 2018 in which 1st Vice Chair Chris King was present as well. Chairman Eppihimer did state that he was going to try and work on these things, yet everything seems to have gone in one ear and out the other and he continues to do the same things. Now they are causing even bigger issues than before and are going to have a bigger and long lasting impact on the entire GOP and all Republicans in Arizona. The recent events with the Juneteenth Festival and Board have sealed the deal for me on my decision to resign from this Executive Committee. The fact that this Executive Committee was willing to demand an apology and even say that the President of another organization that we don't even have the power over, before even hearing their side was appalling to me. NO ONE has talked to the person accused about this matter except me and Ophelia. In fact, I spoke with the President on Monday, Ophelia hadn't contacted her. The first contact Ophelia had with the President was at the Juneteenth Board meeting on the 19th and she did NOT state the things she said at the Ex Com Meeting when this topic was talked about at the Juneteenth Board Meeting the day before. I do know that for a fact, because I was there! The idea that the ExCom would even entertain doing this to another person without evidence or hearing all parties and not call out their own Chairmen for his actions or make the same demand of him was just as atrocious to me. There are a lot of things that occurred when it came to this Juneteenth debacle that you all aren't aware of and I was not even given the chance

to say at the meeting. Chairman Eppihimer did speak with the President of the Juneteenth Board after the Drum Major Awards, and made NO MENTION of his concerns to her. He spoke with Ophelia in the car afterwards and Ophelia was supposed to address his concerns. NO ACTION was needed at that point by Chairman Eppihimer yet he took action without even telling Ophelia or myself, then attached Ophelia and my name to the email so that looked as if we knew about his actions and were in agreement with his actions when we had NO CLUE he was doing this. In fact I only found out about it when Anna Henderson who does NOT sit on this Ex Com messaged me and told me about David's issues. I had taken steps to research what exactly happened at this event. I immediately contacted Ophelia as she had know clue the email had been sent out, I emailed the Chairmen with Ophelia attached and requested a meeting as soon as possible, and I contacted our 1st Vice Chair as he had no knowledge of what had taken place either. We had an emergency meeting over this on Sunday in which Chris and I met with the Chairmen at Headquarters and Ophelia was present by phone because she was not feeling well. The Juneteenth Board reached out to discuss this matter in order to resolve this and asked Chairman Eppihimer to attend the next Board Meeting to discuss what was stated. I asked that our 1st Vice Chair be in attendance at that meeting as well. This isn't even everything on this particular incident, but everyone will be made aware soon enough. This could have been resolved easily, but now there is little I can do. No one wanted to hear from me anymore at the ex com meeting on the matter, and David made it very clear that he, Ophelia Parker, and Ray Ihly's opinion was enough to go on when it came to it. This whole debacle will end up discussed by the community and in the media. This is NOT what I wanted to happen, and I did my best to prevent it from happening. The entire Pima County GOP will be affected by this. Many have said that they do not want me to resign, but I am rendered ineffective by the Chairmen of this Executive Committee. Minority Outreach has been severely damaged by the actions of the Chairman. I will not go into the Minority Community and try to make excuses for this, because there are none to be made here. I get enough ridicule and threats from the Left as it is, I will not be put in a worse position over circumstances that I had nothing to do with and tried to resolve. FYI, I was also being groomed by my Uncle Burnice Starks who started the Juneteenth Festival here to become President of the Juneteenth Board. The current President was already not doing another term before this incident occurred that was stated last year so I was going to be having to step up. Now I have even been rendered ineffective there as well because no one is going to respect me as a Black Republican as President of the Juneteenth Festival after this mess. Both terms I have asked to be on other committees other than the Fair and have yet to be placed on one. I wasn't even asked if I wanted to be the Chairman of the Fair again I was basically told in the agenda of our first meeting. I understand that Chris King stated that I was on the Social Media Committee at this last meeting, yet I have not received one email or phone call on anything dealing with it; hence the reasons why I had to ask Mariano the questions that I did. If this is how things are going to go with this Executive Committee under this Leadership, then I need to move on and put my efforts in to someplace else where I am more useful and things actually get done that are a positive for the Republican Party here in Arizona. I work for the Republican Party at the National Level and I work with many other Republican Organizations. I did so even before becoming an Ex Com Member back in 2014 and I will continue to do so. I hope that at the end of the day everyone learns something from this whole ordeal that you are about to face and I wish you all well, but I can not continue with

this journey. I will be dropping off the Fair check to the Headquarters Friday afternoon. Someone will have to request new paperwork to be emailed or faxed over for the new Fair Chairman because I had already filed out the paperwork and my name will need to be removed as the point of contact for all Fair related communications.

Take Care and Goodnight.

Respectfully,

Kuuleme Stephens

kuuleme_69@yahoo.com

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