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Media Contact:

Valapplewhite4mayor@gmail.com
www.valapplewhite.com

Val Applewhite Campaign Responds to Fayetteville Observer Inquiry on EEOC Investigation

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C., October 27, 2013 – The Val Applewhite for Mayor Campaign today responded to an inquiry from the Fayetteville Observer involving incidents which occurred in 2007, resulting in an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Sherry Strickland made a formal complaint alleging that she received a negative performance review and was demoted by Kim Frahn, who supervised both she and Applewhite at the Fayetteville Office of the U.S. Census Bureau. While Applewhite was mentioned in the complaint, all of Strickland's substantive allegations were directed at Frahn, as he discriminated and retaliated against Strickland for making the complaint, resulting in \$210,995 in damages being paid to Strickland. The undisputed evidence and the decision of the court proved that Applewhite did not engage in any discriminatory activity.

The latest inquiry from the Fayetteville Observer continues to showcase the media outlet's lack of fair and balanced reporting of the Fayetteville Mayoral Election.

"We are very disappointed that the Fayetteville Observer continues to smear me and my campaign with baseless stories, as the court clearly found that I had no responsibility for any discriminatory acts," said Applewhite. "Even though there was no wrongdoing found on my part, the Fayetteville Observer continues to report on items designed to influence the election by scouring public records and finding any piece of information that could help distract voters from the real issues. By reporting on an issue where I was clearly found to have no wrongdoing, they have demonstrated bias in this election."

Applewhite did not supervise, evaluate or play any part in the demotion of Strickland.

Comments made by Applewhite were mentioned in the report, but were not directed at Strickland and related to an unsuccessful attempt to raise money for another female employee's going away party. Applewhite, disappointed in the amount raised, encouraged female counterparts to have a spirit of camaraderie, although she ultimately planned and paid for the employee's party out of her own pocket to encourage participation.

"No citizen should have the unacceptable experience of being discriminated against in the workplace," added Applewhite. "No form of discrimination should ever be tolerated, and I am a strong proponent of equal rights and equal treatment for everyone."

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