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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wernick: Public Vote Centers Are Already Open Down the Street. Why Is Dallas County Renting Private Facilities?

Sommerman answered the mosque videos by adding a temple, a church and SMU. He moved no mosque site, and he has never said what any of it costs the county

Dallas, Texas - Dallas County District 2 candidate Barry Wernick said today that Commissioner Andy Sommerman's September 1 polling location amendment (Item 16) added three more private facilities and moved none of the mosque vote centers he took credit for opening.

Sommerman used official power to help establish those mosque vote centers, then bragged on camera that the sites delivered partisan results, down to the margin that elected Judge Tina Yoo Clinton. After Wernick's August 26 release put the videos in front of newsrooms, both recordings disappeared from Facebook. The campaign had already saved them.

His answer was more private facilities. Temple Shalom as a first-time Jewish vote center. Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church. SMU. He did not move Ministerios Charisma to a public building. He did not recuse. IANT stays exactly where it was.

Sommerman then floated RISD's Arzell Ball Center, the public facility Wernick had already proposed as the replacement for IANT. He called it a "ballroom" and credited a Richardson city councilmember with the idea. Then he added it as an additional potential early voting site only, subject to further review and evaluation by the Dallas County Election Department. IANT stays exactly where it is.

"That is not leadership. That is an exit ramp," Wernick said. "He wants the political benefit of the mosques he bragged about. If there is backlash, he wants it to land on a city councilmember who suggested what he thinks is a 'ballroom.' District 2 can see the handoff."

The question nobody on the Court has answered

West Garland Library is already an early voting and Election Day site near Makkah Masjid IDEA. Carrollton already has Josey Ranch Lake Library and Crosby Recreation Center. Irving already has City Hall, the Arts Center and West Irving Library. Richardson already has public sites. Every one of them is a public building the county can use.

"If the library is already a vote center down the street, why is Dallas County renting a private building at all?" Wernick said. "He admitted on camera that those rooms vote as a bloc. Renting them after saying that is not access. That is a return. Using the office to pick sites that benefit his own campaign violates his oath, and District 2 should not pay extra so an incumbent can harvest a bloc."

Texas Election Code Section 43.031 requires a public building where practicable, and allows a private one only when no suitable public building is available. Section 43.033 says a public building costs the county nothing on a day it is normally open. Sommerman has not published what Dallas County is paying for the mosque sites, Temple Shalom, Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, SMU, or Ministerios Charisma.

He offered a temple because a Jew is running against him

“Everybody in this community knows I am a conservative, observant Orthodox Jew,” Wernick said. “He put a temple on the list because of who is running against him, and he is counting on District 2 not noticing. A Star of David or mezuzah on the door does not deliver Jewish votes. Jews do not vote as a bloc. He knows that. The stereotype is the pander.”

Temple Shalom is a legitimate house of worship and naming it is not an attack on the congregation. It is another private religious campus, with a public civic advocacy profile that closely aligns with Sommerman's beliefs, added by an official who has already admitted on camera his criteria for selecting vote centers. Partisanship.

“This is not about a building's faith. It is about his conduct,” Wernick said. “Church, synagogue, mosque or any other private facility used like Tammany Hall — if he is picking it as a political weapon to help him win, it is wrong.

Wernick’s suggested public replacement

- Makkah Masjid IDEA to Hollabaugh Recreation Center, 3925 W Walnut St, 1.8 miles. Fallback: Jackson Technology Center, 1.0 mile.
- Madinah Masjid to Carrollton Senior Center, 1720 Keller Springs Rd, 1.3 miles.
- IANT to the RISD Arzell Ball Center, plus Richardson Gymnastics Center, 300 E Arapaho Rd. Fallback: Christa McAuliffe Learning Center, 0.5 mile.
- Islamic Center of Irving to Northwest Recreation Center, 2800 Cheyenne St, 0.9 mile.

“If the principle is right, it is right everywhere,” Wernick said. “Moving only one category of a private site is the religious act. Moving a private site to the public building down the street is the neutral one. Asking why we are renting the private room at all is the fiscal one. He has done none of the three.”

Videos of the September 1 amendment: sadandblueindistrict2.com/election-integrity-1 . Videos Sommerman took down after the August 26 release: sadandblueindistrict2.com/radical-associations Full record: AndySommerman.com

Barry Wernick is the Republican nominee for Dallas County Commissioner, District 2, a lifelong Dallas resident, attorney, and TMCA Credentialed Distinguished Mediator running to bring transparency, accountability, and affordability to the Commissioners Court. WernickForTexas.com

WHAT DISTRICT 2 IS OWED	
1	Recuse. Sommerman recuses himself from every polling location decision.
2	Apply the law in writing. The Court applies Texas Election Code Section 43.031 on the record.
3	Stop renting where public rooms are open. No paid private site where a public vote center already operates nearby. If a private site must move, use the public rooms Wernick has already offered.
4	Publish the rent, line by line. What Dallas County pays for each private facility, against public buildings that cost nothing under Section 43.033.
5	Produce the methodology. The Section 43.007(f) methodology and the itemized private versus public cost.
6	Restore the deleted videos. If there is nothing wrong with what he said, there is nothing to hide.