

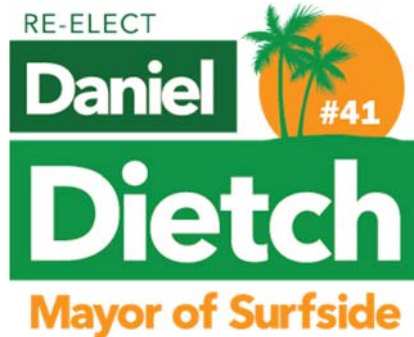
Charles Burkett

Subject: FW: I Signed the Ethics Pledge...Guess Who Didn't?

From: Mayor Daniel Dietch <info@danieldietch.com>

Date: February 27, 2020 at 7:50:14 AM EST

Subject: I Signed the Ethics Pledge...Guess Who Didn't?



Surfsiders –

During election season, it is difficult to know what to believe when candidates, including me, share information about our Town, our vision, and our priorities. **That is why each candidate has the opportunity to sign a [Voluntary Statement of Fair Campaign Practices](#), which includes a commitment to not use campaign materials that falsifies, distorts, or misrepresent facts.** My opponents chose not to make this fundamental commitment and we have seen the result in their falsified, negative campaign mailers, social media posts, and in face-to-face interactions.

Sadly, I expected such conduct given their past behavior. Their misleading personal attacks are sickening. Surfside deserves better. Since **Mr. Burkett has chosen to misrepresent facts to challenge my character and distort my environmental record and commitment**, I feel compelled to correct the record:

1. **FALSE CLAIM** - “DADE ETHICS BOARD WRITES UP MAYOR DIETCH.”

FACT - An elected official has a duty to vote on every matter. However, if there is a conflict of interest, there is a process to follow to be excused from voting, which is detailed in Florida Statutes.

As your Mayor, I have recused myself from voting on several occasions. For each occasion I inquired with our Town Attorney and/or the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust to verify the conflict, followed the opinion, and filed the required reporting form. As a former mayor, **Mr. Burkett knows the process and knows I was the one who submitted the subject**

inquiry.

CONCLUSION - Contrary to his false headline, I was not *written up*, yet Mr. Burkett chose instead to misrepresent the facts in his campaign literature.

2. FALSE CLAIM - “MAYOR DIETCH CITED – AGAIN – FOR ETHICS VIOLATIONS.”

FACT - The Town Administration manages our public access cable channel and its content, including informational segments on matters of public interest such as hurricane preparedness, beach renourishment, and various other subjects. When an inquiry was submitted to the Town about the appropriateness of airing segments featuring elected officials during elections, our Town Attorney contacted the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust to seek guidance, which was provided. I was featured in an unaired segment on community resilience that was produced last Fall prior to and unrelated to my decision to see re-election. Consistent with the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust opinion, the segment was never broadcast on Channel 663.

CONCLUSION - I was *not cited*, but again Mr. Burkett chose to misrepresent the facts.

The bottom line is I have supported strengthening our ethics requirements since 2010 and have asked for review and adhered to all decisions made by the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust when any action could be considered to represent even an appearance of a conflict.

3. FALSE CLAIM - “Mayor’s report says flooding is fixed.”

FACT - The Commission takes collective action; there is no specific “Mayor’s report” and certainly no statement that “flooding is fixed.” Furthermore, Mr. Burkett uses an outdated photograph from several years ago to amplify his point that Surfside experiences flooding and that nothing has been done to solve it. Not only is this false and misleading, my opponent fails to acknowledge the drainage improvements made in 2015 along Biscaya Drive, where his house is located!

CONCLUSION - Throughout my tenure, I have been a leading voice on the need to continue adapting to the changing climate and building resiliency in the face of environmental distress and I have not been shy in my commitment to combating the climate crisis, which is and must continue to be a priority. To this end, I encourage all residents to review the [Climate Crisis Report and Action Plan](#) that was unanimously approved by the Town Commission last December to learn more about the challenges we face, collective actions taken, and priorities for the future. Key initiatives underway include a flood vulnerability study funded by a competitive grant from the American Flood Coalition and a

stormwater master plan to identify and evaluate options to further address flooding, which will be paid from our stormwater fees, not property taxes

These are just three instances among the countless examples of Mr. Burkett's use of campaign materials that falsifies, distorts, or misrepresent the facts.

Let's put a stop to the negative appeals that serve only to divide our community. **Please join me in demanding that Mr. Burkett and Mr. May sign the Voluntary Statement of Fair Campaign Practices and responsibly end their many false, distorted, and misrepresented facts in their campaign materials.**

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly with any questions, ideas, or suggestions you may have. I hope to earn your continued trust and support.

Sincerely,

Daniel

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