

January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

**EXPOSED!**

Addressed to the Following:

**Members of the City Council**

Terrill Trask | Council Member Seat 1  
Kurt Carson | Council Member Seat 2  
Samantha Elliott | Council Member Seat 3  
Jim Alworth | Council Member Seat 4  
Jerri-Lynn Williams-Harper | Council Member Seat 5

**City Mayor Nathan Robertson**  
**City Attorney Leo Cahoon**

**COUNTY PUBLIC OFFICIALS  
CONSPIRED EFFORTS TO RETALIATE  
AGAINST CONCERNED CITIZENS AND  
WHISTLEBLOWERS THAT DARE TO  
DEMONSTRATE THE COURAGE TO  
SPEAK OUT ABOUT THE PERVERSIVE  
CORRUPTION IN WHITE PINE  
COUNTY NEVADA**

**LETTER OF RESIGNATION**

*for January 25<sup>th</sup> 2024 City Council Meeting  
re: City Council Agenda Item # B -12*

*To All This May Concern:*

I really wanted to attend in person but have committed to a prior engagement during this hour. I'd like to make a specific request if I may, that this letter is read aloud during the meeting, and would also ask that this letter be filed as an addendum to be included with the meeting minutes on public record. I would respectfully ask that this agenda item remain open for discussion so that all of what I'm about to present is fairly published on record in its full context.

I want to extend my sincere offering of gratitude to every single member on this council for your trust in me to have voted unanimously to extend this opportunity to serve on the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) a 5th year. I've honorably served on this commission since its onset after having served a 1-year term on the City Planning Commission prior. It's truly been an honor and I can't begin to express how much it means to have had the support of all of you. However due a series of events that has unfolded, I've lost interest and don't feel my contribution to serve in this capacity is an effective use of my time and energy any longer.

If you are to vote this day January 25<sup>th</sup> 2024, regarding my termination of the RPC for not taking an oath and signing the document, I think it's important that you are provided the full context of events leading to this.

First off I feel this effort to have me removed from the the RPC to be very calculated and should be looked into further whether or not this is a act of retaliation by those involved (see attached letter dated January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024 sent to Nichole Stephey and cc to District Attorney James Beecher). I have served on the RPC for 5 years and evidently over the course of the last year without an official oath on record. I have taken the oath to serve on this commission without question in the past and have no issue with renewing this oath when the timing is appropriate and presented to me in a respectful and professional manner. I find it all too suspicious that we are only now talking about this, TWELVE MONTHS into my term with an apparent missing oath.

It was my understanding that the document I was asked to sign the beginning of 2023 by Building Department Manager Jennifer Drew-Lesher, was the official oath. But now I'm being told there are two oaths. As detailed in City Attorney Leo Cahoon's letter dated January 11<sup>th</sup> 2024, which I received upon my return from vacation (honeymoon), the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January, it's become my understanding that a good 4 months into this term had passed before elected public official White Pine County Clerk Nichole Baldwin was instructed in late April (2023), to reach out and advise a signed oath must be furnished to her office as well. Months into the 2023 year, I was informed that this administration accidentally overlooked the administrative process for a re-appointment term back in December 2022, thus my re-appointment was not scheduled to vote until April 2023. To be honest, I too somehow overlooked that my term expiration came and went, but It is the responsibility of this administration to keep atop of these administrative matters.

It has now been twelve months in total and seven months since County Clerk Nichole Stephey was informed of the needed oath and signed document but yet, Mr. Leo Cahoon allows me only a single weeks' time to provide a signed oath, the very week I happened to be out of the country enjoying my honeymoon vacation. There was No call/No email; only a certified letter. I think it's important to distinguish who dropped the ball in this matter, and likewise, give credit where credit is due. My latest term prior to this one, expired in December (2022). However, I continued to serve on the RPC as a courtesy and as you know without pay (I am a VOLUNTEER) until further guidance would be furnished. If any of you on this council were "confused" as to why you were being asked to vote on my re-appointment in April and not December (2022) as it should have been, it is strictly due to Nichole Stephey's failure to follow through with these things in a timely fashion, but somehow this failure has been diverted and aimed at me in a very personal manner.



In the above screenshot image, if you look closely, you can see my hand raised in the air. I'd like the opportunity to explain what this is about. This was me giving a supposed Oath for what we were led to believe pertained to our marriage. My (now) husband and I were told during the paperwork process for our marriage license, that this was "the last thing" we must complete in the marriage license process: an oath. A bit confused, as we had always understood a marriage oath was done before the Justice of the Peace, I continued anyway as I was directed by the attendee. The woman who was put up to this by her boss Nichole Stephey presented two documents before us and then proceeded to advise that I raise my hand and read the first document aloud first. As it became increasingly evident this had nothing to do with the process we came in for, I then asked her mid-way, "What does this have to do with our marriage?" I could hear Nichole Stephey laughing in her nearby office all the while. In a bantering manner, the woman hastily grabbed the two documents as fast as she could and placed them beneath the desk. She replied to say that she thought I wanted to do this for "the commission" while there was no mention or discussion about a commission at any time during the process. I had to ask at that point if we were done as we were left a little confused as to what we were expected to do next in the process. The woman responded "yes you're done," as she quickly shuffled away to hide in a preposterous fashion. I consider myself a light-hearted easy going individual with a well-rounded sense of humor myself. I know funny and by no means was this funny, for a group of ladies to desecrate such an important day for a couple in such a dishonorable manner. This is a group of women in my age bracket that are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner, that work as the front face representatives at our county courthouse, caught in action, acting like a bunch of bully teenagers. I WANT IT STATED ON RECORD, this is the real reason I refused to sign a document that day on December 28th 2023, when my to-be husband and I went into that courthouse to obtain a marriage license.

Minutes passed before I returned to the clerks window myself to inquire about how I may obtain the video footage of what just occurred. After waiting for some time at the clerks window, I had to sound the bell to get an attendees' attention because all of the girls were too busy discussing and laughing in Nichole Stephey's office about what they just did. They thought this was funny. I must profess, I don't believe it could be any more synchronistic than this, that this would happen when this just so happens to be exact kind of unprofessional misconduct I've been exposing, within what should be revered as a top-tier professional position within our government. It is crucial that we start holding these officials accountable. Nichole Stephey should have been reprimanded for not only participating but even instructing her employees, to engage in this level of misconduct. The responsibility to enforce professional conduct of this office would be befall upon the duty of DA Mr. James Beecher. Interestingly however, even after having been informed about the occurrence, he seems more interested in grasping at any straw to have me removed the first chance he thought is permissible. On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, my newly-wed husband sent an email to Nichole Stephey and DA Beecher. DA Beecher was indeed informed about what occurred, but to date, my husband has received no apologies; not even the decency of a reply. It seems the only reaction to the email is to quickly remove me from the RPC in retaliation for calling out the unprofessional conduct at the clerks office on December 28<sup>th</sup>.

I have also learned that while I was out of country for the January 17<sup>th</sup> RPC meeting of which I did in fact inform Jennifer in advance I would not be able to attend, I was removed as Vice Chairman. I find this again a calculated act at which those involved knew I would not be in attendance for.

I surely didn't expect or wish to announce our marriage in this manner and frankly, our preference would have been to keep it a little more low-key than this. But since it is professed on record, I'd like to say that in spite of the atrocious manner in which we were treated at the clerks office during the marriage licensing process, the day couldn't have ended better, with all else considered. From this day forward, the initiative to tackle these issues of questionable governmental ethics, accountability, and transparency is where I will devote the large part of my time and energy. We must preserve and protect the rights of the people, The Constitution, and restore public trust in these important leadership roles. It's time to pull in the reins of this government over-reach and the abuses that all of us have become witness to. I don't see anything of greater importance than this, if I may be of service at this critical point in time. Please consider this my official Letter of Resignation from the Regional Planning Commission.



I wish all of you the very best and a sincere thank you for your service as members of The City Council.

Respectfully,

**NWC WHISTLEBLOWER Information**

Leah **Brown**

**Whistleblower and Author of  
GovernmentEthicsandAccountability.com, initiative for change**

**How we will End Retaliation against our courageous Whistleblowers in the community, so that we may begin modeling this kind of bravery for our younger generations watching all this, our next generation of true leaders. We will simply have these corrupted public officials removed from their offices. More Information about Retaliation Awareness may be found here at the following link: <https://www.whistleblowers.org/how-to-stop-retaliation/>**

Letter to City Council for January 25<sup>th</sup> 2024 Meeting | Page 4 of 5

EMAIL RECEIVED BY BOTH PARTIES

Neither DA James Beecher or County Clerk Nichole Stephey has had the decency to respond.

From: **Blake C** <[BC](mailto:BC)>  
Date: Tue, Jan 2, 2024, 9:57 AM  
Subject: Professional conduct  
To: [wpclerk@whitepinecountynv.gov](mailto:wpclerk@whitepinecountynv.gov) <[wpclerk@whitepinecountynv.gov](mailto:wpclerk@whitepinecountynv.gov)>, <[nicholestephey@whitepinecountynv.gov](mailto:nicholestephey@whitepinecountynv.gov)> <[nicholestephey@whitepinecountynv.gov](mailto:nicholestephey@whitepinecountynv.gov)>  
Cc: [jbeecher@whitepinecountynv.gov](mailto:jbeecher@whitepinecountynv.gov) <[jbeecher@whitepinecountynv.gov](mailto:jbeecher@whitepinecountynv.gov)>

Dear Nichole,

I would like to express my dissatisfaction regarding mine and Leah's visit at the County clerks office on Dec 28th. First off I'd like to thank the representative for her courteous attention she provided with helping to fill out the marriage license for both I and Leah.

Now regarding your professional conduct. At the end of filling and paying for the marriage license Leah was presented with another form in conjunction with our visit. During that process we both became quite confused and ultimately quite frustrated that Leah was being presented with another form and oath completely unrelated to our visit with absolutely no explanations to its content before hand!

This may seem to you as a matter of fact but in my eyes this tainted an otherwise joyous occasion. I've had to endure the last few days listening to Leah complain about our visit and why as a matter of professionalism you simply could have come over and asked if this would be a good time for Leah to sign and take the oath regarding the RPC. This simple courteous gesture on your part would have been the appropriate action and would have save my time responding to our visit and frustration over the last few days.

With all due respect,

Blake C.

**Remember these Public Officials at the polls if they are not removed before then. This kind of bullying of our citizenry is very revealing about what kind of culture we've allowed to proliferate within the inner circles of our local government, due to our continued silence in the face of these boldfaced abuses. It is never acceptable to bully any citizen in this manner, simply for his/her courage to stand out from the crowd and speak up about the pervasive misconduct that's become so "normalized" in White Pine County Nevada.**