

## PRESS RELEASE

### Legal Action filed by WCSD Trustee Church demanding an Investigation

Date: March 2<sup>nd</sup>

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On March 1<sup>st</sup>, WCSD Trustee via his attorney, Luke Busby filed a motion with the court vs the Chief Auditor to compel an independent investigation into fabricated accusations of harassment and unsubstantiated claims by the Board President that he was a liar. The District has refused to investigate. In the matter, two female employees allegedly made what the District Legal Counsel called 'complaints of harassment.' Further false accusations followed that. After the District refused, Church was able to obtain video showing the two employees alone and Church in another room alone, 100% vindicating him.

Trustee Jeff Church was elected and has served since January 2020 and his term ends in 2024 but he has indicated plans to run for office again and would thus be harmed by having these false accusations out there to be used against him.

The WCSD Zoning Chair has announced her run for his District (A) and launched a website and Church claims she made false quotes and claims and Church has called on her to apologize and publicly recall those and he looks forward to calling her out on those as well. Likewise the District refused to investigate that matter instead canceling all future Zoning meetings until after the Primary!

Church has cited various WCSD policies and Regulations and cited that the responsibility rests with the Chief Auditor who is independent of the District and their Legal Counsel and the Superintendent.

- a. Complaints. Complaints alleging fraud, waste, or abuse by a Trustee, employee, or volunteer may be submitted to the Internal Audit Department
- 3. Retaliation Prohibited
  - a. The District will not retaliate against an employee who files a good faith Complaint.
  - b. An employee who is found to retaliate against a good faith Complainant shall be subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment.
  - i. The Department will investigate issues of fraud, waste, or abuse, but as necessary, matters will be referred to the appropriate Departments for investigation.

"Administrative Regulation 4425, Harassment, Sexual Harassment And Intimidation" In part:

#### 9. False Accusations:

- a. Persons knowingly bringing false accusations will be held responsible for their actions, and may be subject to disciplinary action ..."

WCSD Regulation 4425 that states:

#### 10. Remediation:

- a. Individuals found to be subjected to harassment or discrimination will be provided support services available from the District to help deal with the effects

IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA  
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASHOE

JEFFREY CHURCH,

Petitioner,

vs.

KIRK STARKEY, in his capacity as

Internal Auditor of the Washoe County School

District, a political subdivision of the State of Nevada,

Respondent.

Case No.

Dept. No. CV24-00489

(in part)

52. Per NRS 34.160, this Court should issue a writ of mandamus to compel Mr. Starkey to initiate a timely and independent investigation into the allegations against Church. The law requires the performance of an act that the law recognizes as a duty. In this case, an independent investigation into the allegations is such a duty, especially in light of WCSD's own policies and the precedent set by the investigation into Calvert's actions described above.

53. Church contends that Mr. Starkey, a CPA, lacks the necessary expertise to conduct such an investigation and that, ideally, it should be expeditiously conducted by an objective outside third party. Moreover, since Mr. Starkey reports to the board, Church believes this places him in an unsustainable position. Church believes the allegations by the two female employees may be part of a larger scheme to undermine him orchestrated by higher authorities within the District, possibly involving Board members and WCSD's General Counsel, Mr. Rombardo.

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