

Joe Blystone, Candidate
Friends of Joe Blystone

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**BLYSTONE CATEGORICALLY DENIES ACCUSATIONS
FROM DISGRUNTLED EX-STAFFER**

CANAL WINCHESTER, Ohio – The Blystone Campaign categorically denies all allegations made in the frivolous Complaint filed with the Ohio Elections Commission on October 28, 2021 by disgruntled Ex-Campaign Staffer Sarah Chambers and unnamed sources such as “Volunteer #1.” **The Complainants and the allegations both suffer from a tremendous lack of credibility.**

The allegations in the Complaint contain allegations from a small group of disgruntled individuals who were unpaid volunteers with the Campaign. Each were on the Campaign for a very short time. None were granted high-level or inside access to the Campaign. Each left, on bad terms with the Campaign, at approximately the same time, then conspired to create a Complaint full of vague, ambiguous, and unverifiable accusations.

ACCUSERS LACK CREDIBILITY

Complainant Sarah Chambers was a regional Campaign Staffer from about April 2021 to approximately August 2021. Mrs. Chambers left on bad terms with the campaign because she was drastically mis-managing the few responsibilities that she was given. Dozens of Campaign volunteers in Auglaize County and Harding County threaten to quit volunteering for the campaign, specifically because of Chambers’ mis-management. Mrs. Chamber set up two events and wanted to cancel them for no reason, despite the large amount of work that dozens of volunteers put in. Many of the volunteers made their feelings about Mrs. Chambers known to her, in no uncertain terms. Mrs. Chambers left the campaign shortly after that incident, after she and Mr. Blystone spoke about it together.

Also, Chambers was responsible for handling donations for the Campaign at several events, so she is likely liable for any mishandling donations that she alleges occurred.

Stephanie Foucher also alleges donations were taken improperly. Foucher works for a campaign that competes with this campaign. Foucher was in charge of an estimated three events for the Blystone Campaign. If campaign donations were taken improperly, that

would be because Foucher and her husband took them improperly, as they were the one taking the donations at their events.

Jeff Seibert also signed on to the allegations. Seibert was demoted, from his low-level position with the Campaign, and replaced by someone he did not like. Seibert sent a long email to all volunteers in his area, degrading the Campaign and Joe Blystone on very personal terms. It comes as no surprise that he now makes more serious, yet ambiguous and vague allegations, simply going along with Chambers's direction.

Tracey Sparks also signed on. Sparks works for a campaign competing with this Campaign. We barely remember Tracey Sparks, as she had little-to-no role with the Campaign.

Jacob Noventy is someone we only met one time on the campaign trail. Noventy sent a number communications criticizing Mr. Blystone to the Campaign. The communications centered around Mr. Blystone's relationship Bernadine Kent (a Democrat friend of Mr. Blystone). Noventy also contributed materials to a campaign competing with this Campaign.

Amanda Helmick repeats allegations made in the Complaint. Helmick was only a volunteer for the Campaign for a few days at most. She refused to follow instructions from the Campaign and left.

ACCUSATIONS LACK CREDIBILITY

The Complaint alleges that the Campaign's "Pop Up Kits" call for deliberate concealment of actual donors and violate Ohio finance laws. There is no basis for this whatsoever. These kits merely include campaign materials such as signs, t-shirts, and flags. The volunteers who used these kits took responsibility for passing these materials out. This is a very typical campaign activity.

The Complaint alleges that Joe Blystone personally accepted \$200.00 cash. Blystone categorically denies this allegation.

The Complaint alleges that "Pickaway County Leaders" does not exist and that it is listed as a campaign contributor. The Campaign asserts that this entry does not violate any campaign finance rules or laws and Sarah Chambers would not know one way or the other.

The Complaint alleges that Douglas Frank gave an unreported \$100.00 to the Campaign and that it is on video. That \$100.00 bill that was handed to Mr. Blystone at the

event was a prop, intended to illustrate and motivate the crowd at the event. It was not a real donation and the \$100.00 bill was given back to Mr. Frank.

The Complaint alleges that cash donations were not properly tracked. The Complaint lacks any basis and merely takes an un-educated guess. This is pure slander, it is false, and the Campaign will prove that.

The Blystone Campaign will likely take any and all legal action appropriate to hold the people who made these frivolous claims to account.

This Press Release attempts to respond to the allegations in the Complaint within minutes of its release, on November 1, 2021. More information supporting the Campaigns outright denials will follow. Stay tuned as we work to make Ohio a better place and defeat those who use dishonest attempts to win a campaign.

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