Government Services & Administration

RESOLUTION NO. 2017145

RE: CENSURING OF DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATOR JOEL TYNER REPRESENTING DISTRICT 11

Legislators BORCHERT, MICCIO, BOLNER, PULVER, TRUITT and WASHBURN offer the following and move its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Dutchess County Legislature is the elected body representing the citizens of Dutchess County; and

WHEREAS, along with the responsibility of representing the citizens of Dutchess County there is an expectation that a legislator will conduct themselves in an honorable, dignified and professional manner; and

WHEREAS, during an open Democratic Caucus in the Dutchess County Office Building, where County employees and staff were present, along with members of the public, Legislator Joel Tyner made disparaging comments to a County Commissioner by invoking references to Nazi Germany; and

WHEREAS, such comments were later repeated to the press along with additional comments equating pending County action to fascism and that the comments were directed to the Commissioner with the intent to "rattle his cage" and "ring his bell"; and

WHEREAS, instead of apologizing for his inappropriate remarks Legislator Tyner has sought to defend his remarks when he repeated such remarks to the press and expanded the insulting and insensitive comments even beyond those as originally stated; and

WHEREAS, such inexplicable, indefensible and offensive comments are below the dignity of an elected official and demonstrate a lack of respect of County officials, employees and the public, a lack of judgment and professionalism, and a lack fitness for public office; and

WHEREAS, the comments made by Legislator Tyner have been universally condemned and have brought shame and embarrassment to the Dutchess County Legislature and the citizens of Dutchess County; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Dutchess County Legislature does hereby censure Legislator Joel Tyner for his extremely inappropriate, offensive and indefensible comments made during an open Caucus and repeated to the press; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this matter be referred to the Dutchess County Human Rights Commission for review in connection with existing County Policies on Equal Employment Opportunity workplace violence and Human Rights.

STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Dutchess have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 10th day of July 2017, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said original resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of said Legislature this 10th day of July 2017.

CAROLYN MORRIS, CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE