

From: [Schlademan, Kate](#)
To: [Aparna Wheeler](#)
Subject: Fwd: Concerns about the direction and tenor of the City Council
Date: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 7:13:38 PM

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Danielle Coombs <sarver.coombs@gmail.com>
Date: December 20, 2022 at 2:54:48 PM EST
To: kschlademan@hudson.oh.us
Subject: **Concerns about the direction and tenor of the City Council**

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Dear Councilperson Schlademan,

I write today because I am very concerned with the tenor and direction of Hudson's City Council. I was shocked to watch footage from the last council meeting where Councilperson Nicole Kowalski was attacked and maligned by other members of the council, including the president, Mr. Foster. This stunningly unprofessional conduct is a poor reflection on our community and is unbecoming those sitting in our chambers who are elected to represent us, the citizens of Hudson.

While I do not expect all council representatives to agree on everything--and in fact, healthy dissent and discussion is imperative for successful governance--this entire debacle reads as the worst form of partisan politics. In fact, Councilperson Foster acknowledged this when he "liked" a comment on Facebook noting that this censure would be good fodder for future election material. Not only is this shameful--it actually hurts our city and our people.

I write today because I cannot attend tonight's meeting due to the rapid changes in scheduling, so I hope you can read this statement on my behalf. I implore our council to act like adults and stop playing politics. We did not elect you to engage in childlike behavior nor play petty partisan games. Be better. Please.

Best,
Danielle Sarver Coombs, Ph.D.

From: Don Reed <doncollinsreed@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 8:34 PM
To: Mayor & Council <Council@hudson.oh.us>
Subject: Public Statement at Hudson City Council Mtg., Oct. 20, 2022

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

This statement was prepared for the regular meeting of the City Council that was to have been held tonight. No members of the current majority on Council attended the meeting, so the meeting was adjourned immediately after the roll call, and I was unable to deliver the statement.

Councilwoman Schlademan, would you please read the six paragraphs prior to the “Supporting Details” for me at the next meeting of Council?

Thank you,

Don Reed
1542 Groton Drive
Hudson

Public Statement at Hudson City Council Mtg., Oct. 20, 2022

I am Don Reed and I reside at 1542 Groton Drive in Hudson. An email I sent to the City Prosecutor and members of Council on October 23, 2021, was mentioned and copied in documents reviewed at the recent City Council meeting on December 6. My 2021 email detailed the evidence that Sarah Norman deliberately violated Hudson’s campaign finance ordinance. During her 2021 campaign for an At-Large seat on City Council, Norman received about \$1,850 in excess of what was allowed by Hudson’s campaign finance law.

I am not interested in the prosecution of Norman, and my 2021 email was not about that. Instead, having reviewed a redacted version of the documents used in the meeting on December 6, I am concerned about the odor of corruption coming from the current Council majority. The Council majority appears to have turned a blind eye to a political crony’s campaign misconduct on account of her personal and political party relationships with them. But the appearance that illicit favors have been done is especially strong with Chris Foster.

According to the documents used at the last Council meeting, the consistent legal advice Council received was that Hudson’s campaign finance contribution limit is constitutional. However, rather than even a metaphorical slap on the wrist, Norman was appointed to one of the most consequential Commissions in Hudson within two-and-a-half months of the exposure of her misconduct.

I say the appearance that improper favors have been done is especially strong with Chris Foster, because of the specific relationship he has had with Sarah Norman over the past several years. After running unsuccessfully for the Hudson City Schools Board of Education in 2013, finally closing her campaign committee late in 2017, Norman was appointed as Foster’s campaign treasurer on April 24, 2019. Foster was elected that November to represent Ward 2 on the Hudson City Council. Norman served as Foster’s treasurer until May 7, 2021, when Foster became his own campaign treasurer.

During that time — April 2019 to May 2021 — Sarah Norman filed three campaign finance reports for Chris Foster with the Summit County Board of Elections. One of those reports was filed during Norman’s unsuccessful 2020 run for the one-year At-Large position on City Council. That is, Norman served as Foster’s campaign treasurer during the entire time she was running in a City-wide election to become one of Foster’s colleagues on Council. In fact, the \$100 contributions to Norman’s 2021 campaign from Chris Foster and other members of his household were made while Norman was still Foster’s campaign treasurer.

The conclusion is clear. There is at the very least an appearance of impropriety in Council’s appointment of Norman to Planning Commission in light of her known very recent campaign misconduct. That misconduct seems to have been overlooked on account of Norman’s relationship with members of the current Council majority, especially her relationship with Council President Chris Foster.

Supporting Details

Sara G. Norman’s Campaign Finance Reports

<https://lookup.boe.ohio.gov/vtrapp/summit/webcfs/cfcommdtl.aspx?ID=735>

Christopher Ward Foster’s Campaign Finance Reports

<https://lookup.boe.ohio.gov/vtrapp/summit/webcfs/cfcommdtl.aspx?ID=184>

SGN / CWF timeline

Norman for Hudson BOE — 2013

1. 15July13: **Norman opened committee** / designated Tres for Hudson BOE for Nov’13 General.
2. 5Nov13 General for Hudson BOE — **Norman not elected.**
3. 28Jan17: Norman terminated Hudson BOE committee.
4. 9Nov17: Final CFR amendments were signed, and the committee was terminated.

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Foster for Hudson Council Ward 2 — 2019

5. 24Apr19 **Foster opened committee** / designating **Norman as Tres**, for Hudson Council Ward 2.
6. 29Oct19: **Norman filed** pre-General Campaign Finance Report (CFR) for Foster.
7. 5Nov19: **Foster elected**, Hudson Council Ward 2.
8. 11Dec19: **Norman filed** post-General CFR for Foster.

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Norman for Hudson Council At-Large 1-Yr — 2020

9. 23May20 **Norman opened committee** / designated self as Tres for Hudson Council At-Large 1-Yr. (This Committee has not closed but was used again in the 2021 election.)
10. 7July20 Norman designated a new Tres.
11. 2Nov20 General election for Hudson Council At-Large 1-Yr — **Norman not elected**.

12. 1Feb21: **Norman filed** annual CFR for Foster.

Norman for Hudson Council At-Large full term — 2021

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13. 4Feb21: Norman began receiving contributions for her run for Hudson Council At-Large.
14. 20Mar21: Foster and others from his household contributed to Norman's campaign.

During the entire cycle for the 1-Yr Council At-Large seat, Norman was Foster's campaign Tres and a candidate to join him on Council.

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15. 7May21 Foster became his own Tres, **releasing Norman**.

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16. 19Oct21: Norman filed her own pre-General CFR, reporting no contributions from herself, but reporting loans made and owed to herself by the committee of over \$750.
17. 23Oct21: Reed sent email to City Prosecutor cc: Council, Mayor, City Mgr, Reporter at ABJ, detailing Norman's violation of the campaign finance ordinance and asking whether her claim that the ordinance is unconstitutional and unenforceable is in fact true. No reply was made to his inquiry.
18. 2Nov21: General election for Hudson Council At-Large 4-Yr — **Norman not elected**.
19. 13Dec21: Norman filed own post-General CFR, listing no contribution to own campaign but debts owed to her from committee of over \$580, having paid over \$200 to herself to reimburse expenses during this reporting period.

20. 4Jan22 **Norman appointed** by Council to Planning Commission.

For the 2021 Hudson Council At-Large campaign, after soliciting illegal campaign contributions, Norman received about \$10,720. Approximately \$1,850 was in excess of Hudson campaign finance limits (about 17% of her contributions). Norman's committee spent about \$8,460, listing in her post-General CFR about \$580 still owed to her as an individual for a loan to the committee — making the total expenses of her campaign about \$9,040. The difference between total contributions and total expenses is thus about \$1,680. This means that her campaign relied upon the illegal campaign contributions.

Image from social media, May 2021:



Jane Howington
7887 Valley View Road
Hudson, OH 44236

Mayor Anzevino and members of City Council
City of Hudson
1140 Terex Road
Hudson OH 44236

December 26, 2022

Mayor Anzevino and members of Hudson City Council,

While I was at the Council meeting last week to offer additional information on Hudson's local regulation regarding campaign finance, I am unable to be there in person at your special meeting on the 28th day of December. For this reason, I have provided my comments to Council member Schlademan who has graciously agreed to read them into the record.

In 2020, the Charter Review Committee discussed campaign finance regulations and it became apparent from the dialog this was going to evolve into a contentious issue. I therefore asked our City Solicitor to request an independent legal opinion on the current regulatory enforceability. Due to the evident differences of opinion on Council, it occasionally has been important to secure such independent legal advice. Mr. Hunt sent this legal opinion to all members of Council as well as the Solicitor and myself. In that opinion, it was stated that the regulation could be enforced but it was incumbent on City Council to direct that enforcement.

Very shortly after that opinion was received, Mayor Shubert presented a power point on the subject of our local campaign finance regulations in a Council meeting and concluded that what was in place was unconstitutional.

During my tenure as Hudson's City Manager, it was routine for members of Council to work with legal on researching and drafting legislation. This process was not generally itemized on a legal invoice as it usually fell within the in-house solicitors assigned work. Prior to in-house counsel, the City had a retainer for Walter Haverfield to provide this service. Once Walter Haverfield became special counsel, the retainer was removed, and all work became itemized on their invoices. To the best of my knowledge, when Mr. Hunt filled in as interim solicitor, he was not placed on a retainer for the conduct of routine legal work, thus his invoices itemized time spent on this type of routine legal work.

I hope this additional background provides you with a more comprehensive understanding of who (me) asked for a legal opinion and why it was important to have an independent opinion which was coordinated via Hudson's special counsel through the city prosecutor to an independent prosecutor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Howington

From: [Schlademan, Kate](#)
To: [Aparna Wheeler](#)
Subject: Fwd: Support for Nicole Kowalski
Date: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 7:13:21 PM

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Patricia Goetz <pl.goetz12@gmail.com>
Date: December 21, 2022 at 12:31:06 PM EST
To: kschlademan@hudson.oh.us
Subject: Fwd: Support for Nicole Kowalski

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For nest public comment

----- Forwarded message -----
From: Erin Poskocil <erinposkocil@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Dec 20, 2022 at 5:56 PM
Subject: Fwd: Support for Nicole Kowalski
To: <pl.goetz12@gmail.com>

Dear Patricia,

This is the letter we sent. My daughter, Manet, will be there tonight. She has long brown hair and is wearing a purple kilt. I hope it all goes well tonight.

Thank you for helping our town.

Erin

----- Forwarded message -----
From: Erin Poskocil <erinposkocil@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Dec 20, 2022 at 5:52 PM
Subject: Support for Nicole Kowalski
To: <KSchlademan@hudson.oh.us>, <Council@hudson.oh.us>

Dear City Council,

We heard that the City Council is considering censoring Nicole Kowalski. This would be a travesty of justice. Representative Kowalski's utilization of legal

expertise was in the domain of standard practice for City Council members, and she was acting for the benefit of our town. We implore you to not censure her or punish her for simply doing her job. Nicole is one of the finest representatives we have had in our more than 25 years as residents of Hudson. She consistently goes out of her way to respond to citizens' questions and requests, which is remarkable for an at-large Council representative.

The citizens of Hudson have paid dearly for partisan overreach in our City Council over the past few years. We lost a great City Manager and had to pay significant sums to remedy that debacle. Be careful not to cause another legal suit against our City because of partisan politics.

Sincerely,

Sid Nelson, Hudson resident and voter since 1990
Erin Poskocil, Hudson resident and voter since 1997
Manet Nelson, Hudson resident since 2000 and voter since 2018
52 Aurora Street
Hudson, OH 44236