

The following remarks have been difficult for me to write. I am saddened to find that the Republican Party of Fort Bend County has suffered so much in the past years. This was not a job I had sought. People asked if I would do this, so the county chair could move on to bigger and better things. In making my decision to do so, it was in part because I knew it would be possible to make a difference due to my get-out-the vote efforts and project management experience.

Although I have a heavy heart about what I am about to share, and am reluctant to make this public, it is the only way I feel to heal the Fort Bend Republican Party. Over the past few months, I've spoken with many, many people in the county who have been unhappy with the Republican Party for years. I have no choice but to find the courage to share the truth about what has happened over the past months, in an effort to find solutions and once and for all put an end to the secrets and innuendo. It is not up to me to control the EC. The EC needs to hear all of this, and determine what actions should be taken as we go forward.

This is not about me, so I will not go into details about the verbal abuse I've experienced. It is about a much larger problem we have in the county party. For that reason, I will read you the exact report of what has occurred and continues to occur, on a daily basis. Please listen to the end of the report, before making conclusions and judgments. Recently, we had attempted to talk about serious matters in a closed session. It was very disappointing to see the number of people that breeched the regulations on

closed sessions by speaking openly of the meeting from their perspective without listening to the full facts. None of that meeting was to be discussed outside of the Executive Session. This will be the final attempt to get everyone up to speed on serious matters.

During the two weeks of the campaigning for the special election, there were a lot of rumors flying around the county. The most prominent rumor stated I would simply be a puppet for Rick Miller. I didn't believe it. You were right. I was wrong. In taking this job, I assumed it was like any other job with responsibilities and accountabilities. It was never my intention to be a "puppet" for the former chair, nor was it ever indicated to me that I had to be his or his chosen officer's puppet. In all business situations and I have been assured, in military situations, once the "flag" is passed so to speak, the former chair, commander, or boss is only a consultant - when asked! But a "puppet" must have been exactly what they expected, or we would not be having this conversation now.

A few days into the job, Mr. Miller approved a purchase of shirts for the county fair and offered the vendor details to an EC member without any consultation with me. I overlooked it, and thought he being helpful, and this would dissipate in time. Instead, he began to take over more and more control. A few days later he had a lengthy conversation with someone who wanted to be a precinct chair on the party phone without any consultation with me. I had asked for the party phone on August 22, to be forwarded to me, which is how the EC has managed the party phone in the past. This

was when I realized that Mr. Miller was still on the GOP email and being copied on everything the EC chair was doing including emails sent and received. I called the webmaster on August 28 and requested that he be taken off the GOP email to make the transition easier. She said he had told her not to take him off email until the transition was complete. I said the transition was complete, she said she would ask HIM for further instructions. On September 19<sup>th</sup>, the webmaster finally agreed to stop Mr. Miller's email. Within minutes, he wrote an email saying, did you cut my email off? He had resigned officially August 4<sup>th</sup> and did not see why he wouldn't get GOP email.

In mid-September Mr. Miller had a private lunch meeting with a committee chair and co-chair without my knowledge and to discuss party business. The committee chair told me about the meeting. This was one of many private meetings I learned the former chair had with the committees.

The GOP phone was finally forwarded on September 5<sup>th</sup>. This was not before the state published my personal phone number, because they had to have a number on the state website. I published my first blog as chairman shortly thereafter. Because my election was in the middle of our annual budget efforts, I asked John Miller to ghost write it for me. We've known each other a while and think very much alike. Two days after it was published, Mr. Rick Miller spoke with me. He said he and his wife felt degraded and demeaned by my blog. This blog was about my vision for the year, and he thought it reflected negatively on his time as chair. About

that time, I was copied on an email from John Miller to the Rick Millers. He apologized in a lengthy note to them. He had been on the receiving end of people upset about the article. This was the first of multiple times when there were complaints and apologies from committee people and committee chairs. To this day each time I write an article or have a meeting, it is analyzed, and people take great objection to it. I don't think it is hard to understand my angst since I was officially elected to this position in August when Mr. Rick Miller quite abruptly left this position.

During the budget preparation, chair rules made it necessary to contact the events chairman. He was not responding to phone calls or emails. When I mentioned this to Mr. Miller, he said, "No problem. I will call him, and then he will return your call. This is exactly what happened. The events committee chair, Richard Whitmore returned that phone call but has not participated in the Christmas party, nor the LRD. He had a conversation with me during filing, indicating he is just too busy at the moment.

However, he wanted me to support him as the chairman for the Senatorial Convention.

The website went down in October. Several days later, it wasn't up and I spoke with Frank Hester about it. I asked for his opinion on whether I should file a report. He said it was my obligation as a representative of the EC to report it. I filed the report. For several months, there have been accusations in email that I had implicated Mr. Miller and Mr. Mixon in the report given to the Sheriff's department. This is categorically not true.

There have been questions about why the Sheriff's department questioned Mr. Miller and Mr. Mixon. The Sheriff's department needed to know about the webmaster and I was not involved with the selection of the webmaster nor did I know her. The Sheriff's Department needed to know about the domain and who owned it. The Republican Party did not own the domain, and Mr. Miller was listed as the owner of the domain. The Sheriff's department interviewed and investigated several people. The records at the Sheriff's department will verify I did nothing to implicate anyone. Unfortunately, they successfully played the "victims" on this to result in a number of people calling me from across the county and in other parts of the state to inquire why I would do such a thing.

Early on, I determined to keep my distance from Mr. Miller in the hopes the conflicts would die down. Two weeks into the job, he invited the majority of my campaign team to come help him with his campaign for State Representative District 26. He shifted into the role of candidate which was another reason to remain neutral with no sense of impropriety as chair of the party. For months, he has continued to have "secret meetings" with various EC members and committee chairs. For months, he has talked adversely about me in the community. At times he felt the need to tell complete strangers of the mistake he made when nominating me for the job. I have emails that were forwarded to me by many EC members. He has maligned my name and worked actively against every positive effort I've made in the party. On January 30<sup>th</sup>, at 6:05, almost 6 months after I was elected Fort Bend County GOP Chairman, he finally relinquished

control of the Republican Party Website. This was 55 minutes before we had a closed EC session. Still the negativity does not end, it only gets worse. He has misstated items in emails that I have which simply are not true.

There were 4 incidents early on, that made it crystal clear Mr. Miller and I had different standards. The only way to avoid the pitfalls was to distance myself from the man who wanted the control of the Party.

“The issue should never have been about Rick Miller, but unfortunately it has become so.

Let’s move on to the people who have actively worked against the Republican Party’s efforts.

Recently I called for an executive session to address our serious issues. I, at that time tried to shed light without mentioning names just trying to keep the EC aware of our problems. And instead, it was said throughout the community in a negative way that I had a “secret meeting”. Mr. Miller scheduled a private meeting to be held the morning after our executive session. The meeting was to be held at this home. On the agenda was the topic of the EC meeting from the night before. He openly encouraged people to breach the rules pertaining to the confidentiality of Executive Sessions. Through the past several months, it came to my attention that

many private meetings were conducted by Mr. Miller and Mr. Mixon in a coordinated and active effort to disrupt any and all of our efforts in the Republican Party.

### **Meetings I've had with the Vice Chairman and other officers**

Contrary to rumors that I wouldn't meet with the Vice Chairman and other officers, the list below verifies the allegation/rumor is completely false.

September 8 - Meeting with officers to review the budget

September 9 - The vice Chair helped with the first campaign meeting.

September 16 - Coffee meeting with Vice Chair

September 30 - Invited Officers to attend training with me for the county chairs and their officers; received no takers

October 26 - Invited Officers to attend election law review with me; received no takers

October 27 - Met with Vice Chair at Minuti Coffee; He didn't bring a pen or paper, sat with arms folded and never asked me anything.

October 28 - Long VM to Vice Chair at the behest of EC member, Terese Raia who indicated there may be a misunderstanding between the Mixons and myself. They never returned the call.

November 15 – Meeting with all officers for planning session; everyone attended

December 1 and 2 – Two invitations back to back on my emails to ensure I knew the Vice Chair was calling a meeting. The topic to be discussed was: confusion of the officers with regard to my lack of communication. The meeting was scheduled for December 12.

\*\*The meeting was scheduled. We worked hard to get a venue that was neutral and to get a day where everyone could attend. I had to cancel the day before due to the court decision that impacted our precinct boundaries. The same day as the lunch, commissioners' court was going to approve the boundary lines for the precinct chairs. It was necessary that I attend to hear of any further plans or deadlines on our precinct boundaries. Also, there might have been questions.

Weekly conversations with the Secretary (Mrs. Ross) and regular meetings with the treasurer (Mr. Hester) were occurring into late December.

December 20 – Another meeting was called by the Vice Chair. We went through the same process as before. Finally, I asked again what we were going to discuss. His answer in a letter to me and the other officers:

“There are things that are just confusing to me and to the other officers. Things that we just don't understand why they happened or how they happened. The only way I know to help us all understand these is to go back to the beginning, when you first came into the FBGOP, through your election as chairman, and then to the current time. This is when I decided



to decline the invite. “ I was not going to be interrogated by people who were willing to blindly follow Mr. Miller.

From: Mickey Mixon [mailto:mmixon99@earthlink.net]

Sent: Friday, January 06, 2012 1:09 PM

To: 'David Savage'

Cc: Dana Miller

Subject: RE: FBGOP Website

Hi David,

This is what I know about the domain name.

I am not sure if Rick or Alicia registered the website, I suspect it was Alicia because the admin contact email address is arobertson@houmedia.com ,but I do know that Rick paid the registration fee, and I believe it was a 5 year registration. Frank said he checked his treasurer records and said that he had no record of the website fees being reimbursed to Rick, so either Rick never submitted a request for reimbursement or Frank lost it.

Rick Miller’s point 2 nights ago was that the communication has broken down across many lines. Sharon no longer will meet with the officers of the party. The posts on the FBGOP Facebook page are restricted, emails and eblasts from the party are being selectively manipulated, etc. The domain name issue was one that could have been easily resolved with a phone call

from Sharon to Alicia or to Rick, but a call by someone to the Party Attorney and a demand letter was chosen instead. This set a confrontational and adversarial tone to a former Chairman of the Party that worked for several years to build the party, and is now being accused of being an obstructionist.

The former chair was fully aware that the domain was under his control, as seen in many emails that he wrote to others in the EC. The domain was under his control even after numerous requests to turn it over to the party. And knowing that he had not paid for the domain, but Chris Elam had, he was still asking to be reimbursed. He consciously created the problem.

**NOTE: THIS WAS ADDED AS A CLARIFICATION AFTER THE MEETING WHEN PEOPLE ASKED FURTHER QUESTIONS:** What actually happened is Chris Elam bought a 5 year license. In 2010 it was turned over to Alysia Robertson, the new webmaster as a part of her web management duties. When Alysia took over, she repaid Chris the outstanding balance. The party paid Alysia. All those years, Rick Miller remained as owner of the website. Although he had not paid for it, he was the legal registered owner and the one who eventually relinquished control of the website to the party on January 30. Also, Mr. Mixon was copied on all of the findings from Debra Ross and Frank Hester. Yet Mr. Mixon sent this letter later that was in direct contradiction with the findings.

Since Mr. Mixon's email above on January 6<sup>th</sup>, we have a receipt that has surfaced from Chris Elam. It was verified that he paid for the 5 year registration. Everything Chris and Alisha stated corroborates the domain registration information.

On communication issues, there were many rumors begun by Mr. Mixon and others prior to this event. Finally on October 31<sup>st</sup>, a complaint letter was forwarded to me. Mr. Mixon complained he, the former chair, and the former chair's wife did not get the eblast. I checked it on Constant Contact. Not only did they all receive it, but Mrs. Miller had read it 5 times. There were many, many complaints since September about the communications. Each time, I would look it up to see what was going on. That is, I would look it up when an official complaint was lodged. The rumor mill about me discriminating against people with communications was ongoing. In addition to the written complaints, there were a lot of comments out in Fort Bend suggesting specific people such as the former chair, his wife, and his friends were being "victimized" by the new chair. There were only 2 valid technical issues to date that were a result of the complaints brought to my attention. Most of the complaints simply consumed my time, only to find when researched that the eblasts had been received, and in most cases had been opened multiple times and forwarded to others. All of this was when we should have been doing party efforts to GOTV.

Amazingly Mr. Mixon and Mr. Bond have since embarked on a campaign to get the party to not use Constant Contact, but go to email. Could it be

because Constant Contact has a fairly in depth audit trail and the facts can be proven, that they don't want to use it?

If I cannot trust the veracity of statements by Mr. Miller or Mr. Mixon, why would I have discussions with them?

The former communications chair, Mr. Savage, was an innocent victim in all of this drama. Mr. Mixon and Mr. Miller had numerous meetings with him. The former communications chair, tried to make peace and gain control of the party assets. People left the executive session early on January 30 after hearing what they wanted to hear. Many in the audience were those who had preconceived agendas. There was zero communication from the treasurer, Mr. Hester notifying me of any issue with the LRD money. There were several communications from both the old webmaster, Alysia Robertson, and a new webmaster Don Dulin, when I first learned of the paypal issues. As the party chair, it was incumbent upon me in my fiduciary duties to make sure we did not exceed our budget in this area. The Paypal debacle was never reported to me by the treasurer, and he was not forthcoming on the website activities during that time. He promised a written report on everything that occurred on January 28<sup>th</sup>. No report has been received about exactly how all of this happened. If it is "nothing" why can't we get a report?

Had people at the executive session stayed for the entire executive session, and asked questions during the meeting for clarification, perhaps accurate

information would have been given to the former communications chair by those EC members that were in fact at the meeting. And for that matter, the former communications chair could have asked questions of me, himself, but chose not to do so.

On many occasions and with multiple people both inside and outside the EC, Mr. Mixon said I was not communicating with the officers. As seen in all my documentation, this is not true. Under the circumstances, I communicated when necessary; however, since I refused to be a part of a conspiracy against others in the county including myself, I refused to take part in petty meetings fabricating stories.

I must ask all of you a serious question. Who is not communicating when I find out the Secretary is going to McAllen just prior to the Lincoln Reagan Dinner with no advance notice to the chair? She was assigned the task of researching the precinct chairs to give them an award for service. It wasn't done. Two weeks before the LRD, I had to ask someone else to do this for us. There was a point in early January when I asked the secretary if what Mr. Mixon said in his letter was true. Mr. Mixon had stated in a letter to another committee chairman that she wanted the two meetings in December to clarify communications and what was going on with me and the former chair. She said yes, it is true. It was her wish that we all speak together. Since she and the other officers were appointed by Mr. Miller, it is no surprise that she would be loyal to him and probably might not believe that he and others would act in a negative way. I'd also like to point

out that all of the officers had a meeting on November 15. Two weeks later, Mickey Mixon is saying they must get me to meet with them and explain myself. What happened in the two weeks following our meeting on November 15, that made them all think I wasn't communicating? She may not have understood this has nothing to do with party business, but everything to do with a personal vendetta against me because I was not the "puppet" Mr. Miller expected. Mrs. Ross and I shared the belief that what was happening was harmful to the party as a whole; however, because I knew the whole story and couldn't share it with her, it again, is no surprise that her loyalties were to the wrong party.

Would you be concerned if there was a monetary problem not reported to the chair and then when made aware of it, was quickly reported that everything was fine when in fact it was not? Would you be concerned if the chair found out on her own in February that there are more bank accounts than were originally discussed? Information about the number of bank accounts and access to the bank statements was never offered by any of the officers. Would you be concerned that there is no explanation on who had the donation or paypal capability from August to January? Would you be concerned if you had heard 3 different stories about the Paypal that are not compatible? No one can tell me what email accounts were connected to the previous paypal and donation accounts and no one can tell me what bank accounts were connected to the previous paypal and donation accounts. Would it be a red flag, that it is difficult (requesting a meeting at least 3 times) to get the treasurer to sit and have a good working

session on the Lincoln Reagan Dinner? I have so many questions. In fact, it is unclear why Mr. Miller left this position in the first place. Do you wonder why he quit, but still wants to hold onto control? Why would he be willing to hurt the party in order to keep control of all the officers? Or is it something else? All the officers were friendly when I was elected, but one by one, like clockwork, they abruptly stopped communicating and became openly hostile. Why? I know I've made mistakes along the way; however, not so many as to get this type of treatment. WHY?

This question has been truly worrisome: Would you be concerned that language was added in September 2010 to make it more difficult for the EC to request an audit? Why? Anyone in business knows you must be accountable and conduct audits on a timely basis. Why would wording be changed to make the audits more difficult to obtain?

Have I mentioned the word "set up"? A good example is what occurred on December 19. Remember at this time, Mr. Miller still owned the domain and the email accounts that went with it. Repeatedly I had asked Alysia Robertson to also shut down the Rick Miller email inbox. She wouldn't do it, and simply forwarded all the mail to me. This was in case someone didn't know there was a new chair and wrote to us.

Just prior to our December 19<sup>th</sup> filing at the Annex in Rosenberg, I saw an email from Lynda Mixon. It was in my inbox and the subject was meeting. There was a list of names. I didn't know what it meant, so I sent an email

to her asking if I was supposed to do something with it. She responded that it was a mistake and she had sent it to Rick's old email. I was in a hurry to get to the annex, turned off the computer and left. The treasurer, Frank Hester, arrived late to the filing. No candidates were there. Debra Ross, the party secretary was there. Mr. Hester closed the door and said he needed to speak with me. He was agitated and angry. Mr. Hester asked why I would read Mr. Miller's email and not forward it to him. It was at that moment, I realized this was a setup. Mr. Miller had called him less than an hour after my communication with Mrs. Mixon. What was so outrageous is that our treasurer really believed I have an obligation to the former chair and his email! Mr. Miller owned the domain and associated emails. The webmaster responded throughout the fall to any phone calls and requests from Mr. Miller. Mr. Miller resigned officially on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Why were we having this conversation? There are dozens of examples where emails and conversations were orchestrated in such a way that it could be discussed with others in Fort Bend County in an effort to make the party chairman lose credibility.

In January of this year, Mr. Miller asked the treasurer for a breakdown of the money he had brought into the party at the Lincoln Reagan Dinners. He also wanted to know why the year end treasurers' report had not been covered in the last meeting. His final request was to know the status of the current Lincoln Reagan Dinner with regard to money. Mr. Hester quickly wrote him back with all of the requested information with the exception of the current Lincoln Reagan Dinner. The treasurer never consulted with me



about filling this request from a non-ec member. Mr. Hester forwarded his report to Mr. Miller to me, after the fact. Why are we behaving as if the former chair is still the chairman?

Would you be concerned if not one officer asked about the failed website in October, but chose to stack complaints on your desk about communications?

In closing, I want to give everyone a realistic idea of what impact the shadow party behavior has had on the last few months. For the 31 days of January, I had 11,000 minutes of calls. This averages 5.9 hours per day. One hour and 14 minutes was to my husband and family. The time was caused by the endless effort to “defend” myself from the outrageous disruptive behavior of the officers, committee chairs, and Mr. Miller.

It is little wonder no one wants to work with our party. New people are not welcomed. New ideas are not welcome. If a person ventures into the EC, they are faced with judgment and very little support.

Any of these items taken in isolation, could easily have an innocent explanation. However, as time goes and you see a pattern emerge it becomes harder and harder to attribute an innocent motivation.

“The issue should never have been about Rick Miller or the others I have mentioned, but unfortunately it has become so. This was the choice of the

former chair and his “ask no question” friends. Chair persons come and go, but if we want our party and country to remain free and unencumbered by the sort of thing that has happened these past few months, we must make sure we elect people who have the interests of “all” at heart--not just the few that blindly follow a destructive course of action. This is not the first time these people have tried to control people in the party. This group has tried to control the chair and others in the party for years. It is time to put a stop to it.

I suggest the following- that you use Lincoln's words- "A House Divided Against itself cannot stand" and as we seek the election of candidates vital to the survival of our country we must go forward together. We cannot just throw away our opportunity to save our country. After months of rumors, accusations, media attention, injurious statements, vast expenditures of time we must stand up as ladies and gentleman.

It is for this reason, that I humbly request each of you become a part of the solution for the Republican party of Fort Bend County. To do that you need to be made fully aware of what has been taking place so that you can now take whatever action or actions that you deem necessary to change this and take an active role in moving the Republican Party of Fort Bend County forward in positive directions for success.

