

July 30, 2021

The Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce Issues a Public Censure of Tallahassee City Commissioner Jeremy Matlow

Today, the Executive Committee of the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce has voted to formally and publicly censure Tallahassee City Commissioner Jeremy Matlow. This serious, critical and unprecedented action is a direct response to Mr. Matlow's outrageous pattern of egregious comments and irresponsible behavior that consistently disserve the community and represent a betrayal of the sacred public trust expected of elected officials.

The most recent example of this virulent path is an opinion piece published in The Tallahassee Democrat today. This attempts to slice up good local citizens, businesses, and leaders but causes indigestion by being heavily seasoned with bald-faced distortions of the facts and the truth. Even worse, Mr. Matlow engages in such incorrigible behavior merely to score undeserved political points by attempting to tarnish the reputations and integrity of good citizens and of The Chamber itself.

This action to censure Mr. Matlow is historic in the nearly 100-year history of The Chamber – but it is wholly appropriate to call attention to his misdeeds in front of the very public he is supposed to serve. Working with and sometimes disagreeing with public officials, respectfully, define and govern the culture and history of our Chamber, its staff, leadership, and vast membership. But Mr. Matlow's brazen, unacceptable attack points against our broad-based business community require this strong and appropriate response.

Though Mr. Matlow swore in his oath of office to "...well and faithfully perform the duties of the Office of City Commissioner...so help me God" – he has broken the public trust by a reckless pattern of attack on business and community leaders, including the Chamber's respected veteran President & CEO, Sue Dick.

As justice continues to unfold at the Federal Courthouse in Tallahassee about the corruption scandal that is at trial, Mr. Matlow abused his position of authority in an ill-fated and shallow effort to broad-brush, bruise and taint upstanding local people who are not on trial.

The Chamber is united in all our efforts with local citizens, businesses, governments, and other institutions to evolve into an even better community for our beloved Tallahassee – and to improve the quality of life of all as the best place to live, learn, work, visit or retire.

As we continue that consistent and positive path, we urge Mr. Matlow to take an honest look at the low caliber of character he is presenting to the community under the guise of providing leadership and live up to the oath of office he swore to our community.

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