



Ken Stone <kens@timesofsandiego.com>

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William Rodriguez <[REDACTED]>
To: Ken Stone <kens@timesofsandiego.com>

Fri, Feb 9, 2018 at 10:37 AM

Dear Ken,

I was just called by two leaders in our party who were furious at your approach in this.

Yesterday, I spoke with you at length about various expenditures and gave you various explanations from the charges granted I was not prepared to answer the questions yet so I was relying on memory.

Each of these expenditures were approved by the board, were relevant to either our staff, our political program or our Young Democrat empowerment program and the movie tickets thing happened before my presidency (and it has taken time for me to figure out what happened).

The way you are pitching these questions without context is irresponsible at best. I have already presented various reasons these expenditures are justified, reasonable and lawful and am tracking down the people who can also provide secondary verification.

Now, I have to track down like five people each of whom have their own jobs in order to get verification of this: Emily Bonner our former Operations Manager, Kelvin Barrios our former Finance Consultant, Jennifer Sosa our CYD Regional Director, David Warmoth our immediate past president and Craig Roberts our treasurer who is flying back to San Diego today.

You are also presenting this information without context. These few dozen expenditures are part of hundreds and likely thousands of operational expenditures that the club has made since 2015 and the way you have presented them without context is extremely unfair and hostile. We are actively working to get you the answers you have requested and we remind you that when we are not in the middle of a campaign or a outreach program we have to rely on volunteers to get those answers.

We would ask that before you ambush individuals with information that has been driven out of context that you give them the explanations we have provided so that the "reactions" you are receiving are informed and honest. We have been informed that you have already ambushed at least one elected official about these expenditures and that means that you are providing one sided, out of context information to people who are critical to our work. That approach is not journalistic and is damaging to an organization with a tremendous record of good work and to people who give their lives and time in support of our community, our party and our movement. Once the expenditures are explained the individuals could see our reasoning and our approach.

It is important to note that the San Diego Democrats for Equality has registered 4,000 (verified estimate)-5,000 voters (unverified estimated 2015/early 2016 because we didn't start counting until our grant in late 2016) in the period of the reports that you are questioning (we didn't start tracking until late 2016 due to our grant), the half year period alone our team and volunteers knocked over 15,000 doors, had 5,895 conversations, had over 1,625 sign ups or activist actions and increased our membership by nearly 33%. If we, like you, are including 2015 in our period the numbers grow and more than doubled our membership. We hired a seasonal political staff of 8 employees and a handful of consultants. We have sponsored more than 50 Young Democrats to get up to Sacramento CDP / CYD Convention in May, Anaheim CDP / CYD E Board in August, South Lake Tahoe CYD Retreat in November and the CDP Eboard in Millbrae (San Francisco) in November. In 2016 we conducted our largest political operation (not connected to Steyer money) ever by tripling our mail universe and expanding outside of the city to target races in San Diego, Carlsbad and Chula Vista. In 2017 we registered voters and built capacity for our Young Democrat region which includes 28 Young/College/High School Democratic Clubs.

You are presenting cherry picked, out of context and politically constructed (by your own admission) data points and asking for "reactions" when we are telling you an amazing and true story about how our club has resurrected from the brink of collapse in 2014. How we became the most visible, financially successful and effective political clubs in the county. Surely, you objectively see why that your approach is a problem.

As President, I have (as a volunteer), constructed the largest political operation in our clubs history. I have invested in Young Democrats and the LGBT community and in our political capacity as part of a board approved annual budget. All of these expenditures are completely within the lawful authority of our officers to execute and you are doing damage to my

personal reputation based on cherry picked, out of context and politically constructed data points. It is important to note the Democrats for Equality is a membership organization and that I am not a candidate for public office (meaning I am a private citizen) and therefore this could be libelous. I, respectfully, humbly appeal to your sense of journalistic integrity that you stop presenting cherry picked, out of context information and allow for us to respond to these seemingly libelous charges. We have only just known about this information for 24 hours and right now we are volunteers who work and have other obligations. Please reconsider this approach because the damage you are doing by asking cherry picked, out of context and politically constructed "gotcha" questions will require me to actually go back around and fix in spite of the fact that we have done nothing wrong. This club represents a marginalized community and has invested in our party's future. We ask that you reconsider your approach and allow us the time to respond and put this non-story to bed.

Very Respectfully,

Will Rodriguez-Kennedy
President,
San Diego Democrats for Equality

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