

Concerned Roselle Democrats

November 8, 2019

Chairman Scutari,

As duly elected members of the Union County Democratic Committee from Roselle, we have taken an oath to uphold our bylaws by supporting the Roselle Democratic Party and all Democratic candidates up and down the ballot. We have pledged to work to get Democrats elected, support their service, and grow our Party. Anything short of that is a dereliction of our duty. That is why we are calling on you to join us in demanding the resignation or removal of Roselle Democratic Municipal Chairman Reginald Atkins as a member and Chairman of the Roselle Democratic Committee.

Chairman Atkins has committed the most egregious act by publicly urging residents of Roselle to not vote for our Democratic municipal slate AND publicly bemoaning that the Republicans did not run a slate against our Democratic candidates. In a Facebook post on November 4, the day before the General Election, he said, "I do not support our local municipal candidates..." He goes on to further state that he is "disappointed that we have no choice [in this election] that will provide a voice for our people tomorrow and for that I apologize."

The Chairman's Facebook post elicited a comment from the former Roselle Republican Chairman "accepting his apology for the crap campaign that was run," even saying "I told you so." In response, Chairman Atkins, made no defense of our Democratic team, and in fact, implicitly agreed with the former Republican Chair. That directly goes against our bylaws and the duties of our officers.

Our local bylaws clearly state as purpose of the Committee "...to foster and advance the ideals and aims of the Democratic Party; **to work and organize for the success of the Democratic candidates of the Borough**" (Bylaws of the Roselle Democratic Committee; Article II: PURPOSES). The County Committee's bylaws go even further, obligating all members to support "those Democratic candidates...duly nominated in a Primary Election," with the failure to do so being "grounds for referral to the Executive Committee" (Bylaws of the Union County Democratic Committee; Article III, Section 3). Chairman Atkin's public stance of NOT supporting and urging others NOT to support our local slate is clearly grounds for referral to the Executive Committee and calling for his immediate resignation.

However, there are many more instances of Chairman Atkins not abiding by our municipal committee's bylaws. He calls no regular meetings, spends committee funds without an approved budget or approval from the Committee, and consistently fails to submit required reports to ELEC on a timely basis – all required by the bylaws (Article XVIII: MEETINGS, Article X: TRESURER, and Article XVII: ORDER OF BUSINESS).

While the bylaws do not specifically address causes for dismissal of officers, they do have a procedure for replacing them – “[I]n the event of death, resignation or the permanent removal from the Committee of any of the above named officers, their places shall be declared vacant and be filled by majority vote of all members present at the next regular meeting of the Committee” (Article IV: OFFICERS). This directly implies that officers can be removed, and state statute further supports this when it considers that a vacancy on the County Committee may exist due to “removal for cause” (NJSA 19:5-3).

We have taken this step only after serious deliberations. It is never easy to ask for the resignation or removal of an officer in our Party. However, we believe that Chairman Atkins does not have the best interests of our Party or its duly elected officials at heart. It is also evident that he has no regard or respect for the democratic will of Roselle residents who made their choice clear in the Primary Election. We have no qualms with Mr. Atkins not supporting a local Democratic slate of candidates in the Primary Election, and even working against that slate. That is his right as a citizen of this country. What we cannot tolerate, nor can the Union County Democratic Committee tolerate, is an official, especially a Municipal Chair, working AGAINST their local Party and advocating for loss of local Democratic candidates in the General Election. Therefore, we are calling on you to join us in calling for the resignation or removal of Reginald Atkins as Chairman of the Roselle Democratic Committee and as a member of the Union County Democratic Committee.

Sincerely,



Anthony Esposito, Committee Member (District 2- 1)

Cc:

Christine Dansereau, Mayor and Committee Member (District 5-3)
Denise Wilkerson, Councilwoman and Committee Member (District 1-3)
Brandon Bernier, Councilman and Committee Member (District 2-2)
John Fortuna, Councilman and Committee Member (District 5-2)
Cindy Thomas, Councilwoman-elect and Committee Member (District 4-2)
Reginald Atkins, Chairman Roselle Democratic Committee