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May 6, 2024

**SENT VIA EMAIL &  
CERTIFIED U.S. MAIL**

Ms. April Culbreath  
[wethepeopleofmanatee@gmail.com](mailto:wethepeopleofmanatee@gmail.com)

**Re: Grievance *In Re*: April Culbreath**

Dear Chairman Culbreath:

This letter is to inform you that after careful consideration and pursuant to Republican Party of Florida ("RPOF") Rule 22, I have accepted the unanimous recommendation of the Grievance Committee ("Committee"), attached hereto, regarding a grievance filed against you. RPOF Rule 22E. states, "If the Chairman approves the recommendations, they are adopted and become final."

Therefore, effective immediately:

1. The January 22, 2024, special meeting of the Manatee County REC and all actions taken at the meeting are declared null and void;
2. You are directed to call a regular meeting of the Manatee County REC within the next thirty (30) days to hold an election to fill the vacancies in the offices of Treasurer and Secretary and to consider a proposal of financial controls. These two items must be placed on the agenda along with any other regular business of the REC.

Sincerely,



Evan J. Power  
Chairman

Enc: Grievance Committee Recommendation

Cc: Jacqueline Heisse, [jacqueline.heisse5@gmail.com](mailto:jacqueline.heisse5@gmail.com);  
Sandra Freas, [sandrafreas@hotmail.com](mailto:sandrafreas@hotmail.com);  
Michelle Martin,  
Mark Cross, Chair, RPOF Grievance Committee;  
RPOF Grievance Committee;  
Bill Helmich, RPOF Executive Director;  
Benjamin J. Gibson, RPOF Chief Legal Counsel

May 4, 2024

Evan Power  
Chairman  
Republican Party of Florida  
420 E. Jefferson Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

**Re: Recommendation of the Grievance Committee; *In re: April Culbreath***

Dear Chairman Power:

On Friday, May 3, 2024, the Republican Party of Florida (“RPOF”) Grievance Committee met concerning the Manatee County grievances known generally as, *In re: April Culbreath*, GR 24-2 and GR 24-10. The grievances considered were filed by Michelle Martin and Jacqueline Heisse and Sandra Freas against Respondent, April Culbreath, Chairman of the Manatee County Republican Executive Committee. Pursuant to RPOF Rule 22, the grievances were referred to the Grievance Committee from the RPOF Executive Director who determined along with RPOF legal counsel that the grievances raised issues subject to the rules and regulations of the RPOF. After reviewing the grievances and engaging in lengthy discussion regarding their contents, the Grievance Committee voted to consider the grievances and make a narrow recommendation that it hopes will resolve many of the outstanding issues.

Rule B-9 of the RPOF Grievance Committee Rules of Procedure provides as follows: “If the Chair of the Committee determines that a hearing is not necessary, the grievance may be dismissed or considered by the Committee without a hearing.”

After reviewing the Grievances, and having several discussions with Manatee County REC leaders, I determined that a formal hearing on the matter was not necessary. The crux of the complaints involved whether a Special Meeting of the Manatee County Republican Executive Committee held on January 22, 2024 met the requirements for a Special Meeting under County Model Constitution Article VII. There are significant questions remaining regarding the legitimacy of the January 22, 2024, special meeting including the elections of the Treasurer and Secretary and the passing of new financial controls. In order to resolve the issues, the Grievance Committee believes the Manatee County REC would be best served by you 1) declaring the January 22, 2024 special meeting null and void; and 2) directing Chairman April Culbreath to call a regular meeting of the Manatee County REC within the next thirty (30) days to fill the vacancies in the offices of Treasurer and Secretary and to consider a proposal of internal financial controls. These items should be on the agenda, along with any other regular REC business.

All other issues raised in the Grievances have been determined to be best handled locally and are hereby dismissed.

Therefore, it was determined by unanimous vote of a quorum of the Grievance Committee that in **accordance with RPOF Rule 22, the Grievance Committee hereby recommends the following actions be taken by you, as RPOF Chairman:**

1. The January 22, 2024, special meeting of the Manatee County REC and all actions taken at that meeting are declared null and void;
2. Chairman April Culbreath is directed to call a regular meeting of the Manatee County REC within the next thirty (30) days to fill the vacancies in the offices of Treasurer and Secretary and to consider a proposal of internal financial controls. These items must be placed on the agenda, along with any other regular REC business.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Cross', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Mark Cross, Grievance Committee Chairman  
On behalf of the RPOF Grievance Committee