

4/24/25 – Executive committee

Good morning. It's been two weeks since one of the legislators started the day by threatening the Legislative Chair with a formal complaint if she wasn't appointed to the Commission on Human Rights. I had been informed that each of the positions on that board was supposed to be filled by each legislator with one of their constituents, so I was quite surprised that the legislator from my district had picked Legislator Ward, who is not even from his district and who is supposed to have oversight of the Commission, as is her role as a legislator. I was also surprised by her complaint that she has been discriminated against by not being placed on any boards, as are the other legislators, and was frankly surprised by her behavior in general, which I would characterize as a hissy fit which does not deserve to be rewarded by changing a local law for her pleasure.

Legislators are paid 34,600 dollars annually for what is for some of them a very part time job, while the median individual income in Sullivan County is only three thousand dollars more than that. For the past two months, I've watched as Legislators Ward and Blosser-Bernardo attended Thursday morning meetings but were absent for the Health and Human Services Committee, for which they are appointed voting members, on the same days. I would like to hear what was more important to them than attending that committee, or whether their absences were intended as disrespect to legislative colleagues, to the hundreds of employees over whom they are tasked to provide oversight in that committee, or to the thousands of people in this county who depend on the services provided through that committee for their health and safety.

If you can't spare the time to do your job as a legislator, don't ask to be appointed to an additional position on a board. I suggest that if Legislators Blosser-Bernardo and Ward have no intention of attending the Health and Human Services Committee, they should be replaced by the Chair with legislators who have a better work ethic and professionalism.

To place Legislator Ward and her campaign manager, Bill Liblick, on the Human Rights Commission is to taint that board before it even gets started. These are not supposed to be patronage appointments or cronyism. Bill is the most powerful local social media influencer I know and is fluent in hate speech if you don't agree with him. He has helped to run the campaigns of three of the present legislators and is the cruise buddy of another. He publishes comments on these meetings as they evolve and is embedded in Sullivan County politics.

Legislator Alvarez says that Bill did a great job on the last Human Rights Commission, and I'm sure you're all aware that Bill is campaigning now for our current Sheriff. What I remember about the last Human Rights Commission is that the last Director stated that she was resigning because nobody supported her to do her job. So, appointing Bill to the Human Rights Commission again makes this legislature smell a lot like the last legislature did.

Thank you.