

Lathrup Village 2021 Election Timeline and Violations

July 20, 2021 @ 4:00 p.m. – Lathrup Village City Council Filing Deadline. Kelda London collected all paperwork and provided receipts.

July 20, 2021 – Oakland County Elections Office posts Unofficial Candidate List

Candidates for Regular Term – Mark Dizik, Jalen Jennings, Bruce Kantor, Karen Miller, Marvin Moore, Saleem Siddiqi

Candidates for Partial Term – Bruce Kantor, Barbara Kenez

City submitted Greg Ruvolo's name for partial term on Petition Filing Verification Form

July 22, 2021 – Oakland County Elections Office notified the City via e-mail that Greg Ruvolo's paperwork was incomplete.

July 22, 2021 – 2 Days after Filing Deadline - Affidavit of Intent Created by Greg Ruvolo, signed and submitted to City.

July 23, 2021 – 3 Days after Filing Deadline - Affidavit of Intent Created for Greg Ruvolo by City Attorney Scott Baker, signed, notarized by city staff and submitted to county, declaring Greg Ruvolo a qualified candidate.

July 23, 2021 – Oakland County Elections Office posts Official Candidate List

Candidates for Regular Term – Mark Dizik, Jalen Jennings, Bruce Kantor, Karen Miller, Marvin Moore, Saleem Siddiqi

Candidates for Partial Term – Barbara Kenez, Greg Ruvolo, Bruce Kantor's name is crossed out

July 23, 2021 – Barb asked the City why Greg Ruvolo's name suddenly appeared on the candidate list and why Bruce Kantor's name was crossed off.

July 29, 2021 - The City Attorney communicated to Barb what had happened in an e-mail titled "It was missed" and included a copy of the Affidavit of Intent he had created. He stated that city staff had missed that Greg's paperwork was incomplete; Greg had been contacted; an Affidavit of Intent had been created and submitted to the County; and that everything was good.

August 3, 2021 – Barb reiterated her questions regarding the timely filing of complete paperwork.

August 5, 2021 – Since the explanation wasn't in line with State requirements prohibiting changes after the filing deadline, I e-mailed Scott Baker asking for proof that any changes made to Greg's paperwork were made prior to 4:00 p.m. on July 20. I provided the instructions and requirements for Affidavit of Identity and Nominating Petitions as well as documents from the Michigan Bureau of Elections.

August 11, 2021 – E-mail sent to County, SOS, & AG from Barbara Kenez, Marvin Moore and Karen Miller asking for help.

August 16, 2021 – Regular City Council meeting – City Clerk/Elections Report

August 17, 2021 – Received response from SOS saying e-mail had been referred to staff for review

August 18, 2021 - FOIA Filed by Barb Kenez even though per the Election Officials manual, “all filings for public office are public records, therefore, election officials are required to cooperate with all reasonable requests to inspect the filings...”

August 23, 2021 – Special Council meeting – review all nominating petitions and affidavits; appoint Election Commission – city clerk, city attorney and Dawn Medley; hire Butzel Long because the mayor claimed that she had received “lots of e-mails, texts, calls...” regarding candidate paperwork.

When pushed on this after the election, the mayor gave the names of two people that questioned candidate filing paperwork – new resident and neighbor of mayor pro tem – Rick Williams*** - and DDA member and sponsor of city events – Mark Watts****. When asked what their concerns were, mayor told Barb that she didn't know and that Barb should ask them.

August 25, 2021 – E-mail – Barb asked for copies of the challenges against her. How can info be turned over to Butzel Long but not be available to respond to Barb's FOIA? City said they needed 10 more days.

August 27, 2021 – Karen Miller meeting with Scott Baker – 3 hours – Scott showed Karen the e-mail from the mayor that shared the e-mail she said was from Rick Williams. Scott said he didn't know who Rick Williams was. He heard that “he may have been a new resident that Bruce pissed off and he may have something to do with the UAW.” Scott Baker also said that he believed that Kelda London had lied about Greg Ruvolo and the nominating petitions.

September 3, 2021 – Election Commission Meeting @ 3:00 p.m. - Barb Kenez, Marvin Moore and Karen Miller were notified about the meeting at 2:49 p.m. They were unable to access the Zoom meeting with the code given to them. It took some time before they had access. Butzel Long's initial opinion was that Barb, Greg Ruvolo and Karen should be disqualified. Barb and Karen should be disqualified because they didn't turn in 2 copies of the Affidavit of Identity and Greg because his paperwork was incomplete and because he didn't turn in 2 copies of his Affidavit of Identity. Proof was submitted that we all had submitted 2 copies of our Affidavits of Identity. Ignoring Greg's incomplete paperwork, Greg, Barb and Karen were deemed to be qualified by the Election Commission. City Council members – including candidate and mayor pro tem, Bruce Kantor - questioned Marvin Moore's Affidavit of Identity because he didn't fill in a circle declaring that he is a US citizen. It was then determined by the LV Election Commission that only Marvin should be disqualified.

September 7, 2021 – Butzel Long issued a revised opinion because they had not been given all of the documents and information prior to their first opinion. Based on the additional information they received, Butzel Long determined that Marvin Moore and Greg Ruvolo should be disqualified.

September 8, 2021 – Meeting presenting Butzel Long's revised opinion – City Council members questioned notary date on Barb's paperwork and Butzel Long said it wasn't a “fatal error” so it shouldn't result in her disqualification. The LV Election Commission voted to disqualify Marvin & Greg.

September 9, 2021 – Barb received word that her FOIA request was ready. How convenient!

September 10, 2021 – Barb picked up her FOIA paperwork and was charged \$85.60. The information in the FOIA request proved that Greg's paperwork was incomplete and that city staff assisted with qualifying him.

September 9 to 14, 2021 – The Butzel Long bill shows that requests continued to come from the city administrator, Sheryl Mitchell, and candidate/mayor pro tem, Bruce Kantor, pursuing Barb Kenez's notary date after the LV Election Commission's ruling based on Butzel Long's second opinion.

September 13, 2021 – Cease and Desist Letter is sent to Karen Miller from Sheryl Mitchell's attorney demanding that Karen stop telling people that Sheryl was telling people that Karen was racist. This was in spite of the fact that Sheryl had told Karen's neighbor that Karen was “against everything Black.”

October 2, 2021 – APIA Forum – this was a candidate forum set up by city leaders. Flyers depicting Karen Miller as racist were circulated at the forum. The mayor was spreading stories about Karen at her church – a church that meets at the LV City Hall.

November 2 to November 22, 2021 – All kinds of nonsense regarding election; taking office; and swearing in. Sheryl Mitchell submitted her letter of resignation November 18, effective December 18.

December 6, 2021 – Karen Miller asked that the city attorney, city clerk and city administrator provide an explanation of what had occurred during the election process. At the study session, Karen was yelled at by the city administrator and city attorney and gavelled by the mayor. City leadership wouldn't admit that they had done anything wrong.

December 7, 2021 – City administrator, Sheryl Mitchell, goes on FMLA leave blaming Karen Miller for her high blood pressure and potential stroke.

December, 2021 – City Council is presented with the \$28,339.50 Butzel Long bill for approval of payment. Butzel Long sent the bill in October.

January 27, 2022 – Butzel Long bill was reduced to \$20,000. Did Scott Baker give up his referral fee?

March 9, 2022 – Karen was told by an insider that there was a lot of talk about Barb and Karen. There was a conspiracy against them; the mayor, mayor pro tem, city administrator, and Ian Ferguson were trying their best to keep Barb and Karen off of City Council. They were supporting Jalen because they believed "they could get him on their team."

Red type indicates information that was received through Barb's F.O.I.A. request.

*** Rick Williams lives on Meadowbrook Way – the dirt road at the end of Bruce Kantor's block. He moved there in April of 2021. In July and August of 2021, the DDA co-sponsored events with the Road Masters Vette Club – an organization created and run by Rick Williams. On August 15, 2021 – the day after a DDA co-sponsored car show, Rick Williams sent an e-mail to the mayor challenging the nominating petitions of Barb Kenez, Marvin Moore, Greg Ruvolo and me. I believe Greg was included so it didn't look too suspicious. The mayor pro tem, who is also the chair of the Infrastructure Committee/Study Group, who is also a voting member of the Planning Commission, has been pushing to have Meadowbrook Way paved since 2019. The mayor pro tem's wife – Cora Morgan - has publicly expressed her disdain for the dirt road because she doesn't want her car to get dirty. Rick Williams e-mailed Bruce November 8, 2021 requesting that the City pave his road. Based on Bruce's manipulation of the process, City Council just approved paving Meadowbrook Way. The City has not previously used tax dollars to pave the City's dirt roads. Residents living on dirt roads that want them paved must share the paving costs among themselves. Was the election challenge in exchange for the road paving project that will benefit Rick Williams and Bruce Kantor and his wife, Cora Morgan, and cost residents \$166,000?

****Mark Watts is a member of the DDA Board. Kelly Garrett, Pam Bratschi and Susie Stec are all part of DDA, as was Sheryl Mitchell. DDA sponsored multiple events with Mark Watts' non-profit Boys2Men including mental health awareness programs. These programs had no mental health professionals involved. Brittany Dorsey – now employed by the City and the DDA – is Mark Watts' niece. She also runs a non-profit – In the Know (ITK) – that has co-sponsored the mental health programs with Boys2Men and the City. No communication from Mark Watts regarding the nominating petitions has ever been presented.

The mayor has been highlighted at all of the DDA-sponsored events with Road Masters Vette Club and Boys2Men.

When I was unable to get answers regarding Meadowbrook Way, I filed a case with the Oakland County Circuit Court. I hoped that would encourage the City to give me the information I had asked for. It did not. Instead, the e-mail I sent to Scott Baker informing him of the case ended up on the Villagers Facebook page. Rick Williams attended a meeting to intimidate me and tell me to "keep his name out my mouth." Prior to Mr. Williams approaching the microphone, the mayor told him he didn't have to give his address. Residents also blasted me for suing the City and wasting the time of the overworked staff. To date, I have paid \$248 for a F.O.I.A. requesting the Infrastructure info and have received a CD and a flashdrive with e-mails – both created by Bruce Kantor.