

From Residents

## Request for Accountability and Governance Standards

Dear Mayor Johnson,

We write to you as residents of Libertyville to formally raise concerns regarding the conduct of Economic Development Commission Commissioner Steve Martin and the Village's response to this matter.

On January 16, Commissioner Martin posted a public Facebook comment stating: "This area (Libertyville) has become more corrupted by AWFUL people: Affluent, White, Female, Urban, Liberal." This statement has been widely circulated and documented. Regardless of intent or political context, such language is inconsistent with the expectations placed on individuals serving in appointed roles within Village government. Commissioners are entrusted to represent and serve the entire community, and public statements that disparage women or broad segments of residents undermine that responsibility.

Libertyville has changed significantly over the past decade and now reflects a wide range of perspectives, identities, and lived experiences. When conduct that diminishes or dismisses members of the community is not meaningfully addressed, it raises serious questions about accountability and the standards applied to Village leadership and appointees.

This situation also points to a broader structural concern: the apparent absence of a clearly articulated, comprehensive **code of conduct applicable to all elected and appointed Village officials**, including guidance regarding **social media use**. In practice, public-facing online statements are viewed by residents as extensions of official conduct. Without clear policies, expectations and consequences remain unclear to both officials and the public.

For many residents, this incident represents a **tipping point**. It has brought renewed attention to longstanding concerns about representation, transparency, and culture within Village commissions and boards. Addressing these issues requires more than a response to a single incident; it requires systemic improvements.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that the Village consider the following actions:

1. **Appropriate accountability measures** in response to Commissioner Martin's conduct.
2. The development and adoption of a **formal code of conduct** for all elected officials, appointed officials, and commissioners, including standards governing public communications and social media activity.
3. The adoption of a **policy or ordinance establishing minimum gender representation requirements** for Village boards and commissions, to ensure women are consistently and meaningfully included in civic decision-making.

These steps would help restore public trust, encourage civic participation, and provide clear standards for those serving the Village of Libertyville. We submit this letter in the interest of constructive dialogue and improved governance, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,  
The Residents of Libertyville