

4395 Sandalwood Court  
Winston-Salem, N C 27106  
April 26, 2014

REGISTERED MAIL -  
RETURN RECEIPT

GRNC-PVF  
P O Box 10665  
Raleigh, N C 27605-0665

Re: Dave Griffith Endorsement

Gentlemen:

I received your post card endorsing Dave Griffith for Sheriff of Forsyth County. This letter is written to express my disappointment with your organization for making false statements to support your endorsement.

For background, I have sent contributions to your organization. I am an NRA life member and a Golden Eagles supporter. I have been politically active for forty years, including serving as Chairman of the Forsyth County Republican Party. I am a committed Conservative. That means that we are on the same side of the Gun Rights issue, but as I will demonstrate below, this does not give you the right to lie.

I am a member of the Sheriff's Citizens Patrol. This is a volunteer segment of the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office whereby volunteers can perform certain tasks and functions within the Sheriff's office that allows sworn officers to remain on duty and on the streets. Last year I contributed over 600 hours to this community service, and over half of those hours were in the Pistol Permit department. Therefore, your false statements are a direct affront to me and my efforts, and to the other active Citizens Patrol volunteers.

Your postcard stated that "...William T. Schatzman has obstructed concealed handgun applications by lawful citizens..." I have worked one or more days per week in Pistol Permits for the past three years. I have never seen any act of obstruction. When other counties went to "by appointment only" (requiring 30, 45 or more days just to get an appointment), the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) continued to welcome applicants on a first come-first served basis. The volume of applications has surged approximately 10-fold over the years that I have participated in the process, and the Pistol Permit office has continued to operate at the same level of staffing.

The office adopted a procedure whereby applications are taken from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM each day of the week. This procedure was adopted after an analysis of the work load indicated that increased efficiency was required to serve the public needs. Receiving an application is the proverbial "tip of the iceberg". Sworn officers must then perform the required background checks (such as NICS), request mental health reviews by several state agencies, receive responses from the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) based on fingerprint submissions sent electronically, and collate all responses prior to a final file review and ordering of the permit. If the Deputies had to serve counter duty all day, they would be able to receive applications, but

would not have time to perform the necessary investigations in order to move the process along. As a conservative organization, I must assume that you are in favor of efficiency and not in favor of throwing money at the problem by adding more Deputies in-house instead of having more Deputies on the street.

The Sheriff's Office is aware that some people may have work restrictions that make it impossible to apply during the designated morning hours. I have observed numerous incidents where Deputies inquired as to the limitations of an applicant, and have made adjustments to accommodate their application time to meet their schedule. Overall I estimate that 99.5% or more of the Applicants are able to comply with the stated hours.

To process applications, the Pistol Permit department is dependent on 2 (sometimes 3) different agencies to return reports to us. With the flood of applications being received, that means 100 counties are sending in requests for review to these agencies. We used to see turn-around times of 30-45 days when reports from outside agencies were promptly returned to Pistol Permits; now it is taking 60 days or more to receive these reports. Fingerprint reports from the SBI were typically returned within one working day; now they require from 5 to 7 days to process and return. I certainly hope that you agree that persons with mental issues should not have concealed carry permits, and that you support the process to have mental health records checked.

For the reasons stated above, the FCSO has not obstructed any processing but has moved to overcome the limitations with which it is required to work.

Your post card then continued by stating "...and illegally demanded employment information from applicants." This is a flat-out falsehood! There used to be a form included in the Application Package, clearly labeled at the top as "Voluntary", that allowed for a person to indicate their place of employment. I never, ever heard any request, much less a demand, being made for people to include employment information. That form has been discontinued from the Application Package - I know because I pulled that form myself.

In addition to regular counter duty to receive, notarize and fingerprint applicants, I have on numerous occasions worked nights and weekends to accelerate the process. Recently we made a pending applicants file review and found that one state agency had failed to respond to a single request that contained 50-60 applicants forms. We are thorough in our attempts to monitor progress in processing of applications.

Last Monday, April 21, 2014, we received 265 Concealed Carry Permits. These Permits were matched to applications, and all persons were notified by telephone that evening that their Permits were available for pick-up. I believe that is working in an efficient and responsive manner.

I believe in a fair and open political process. I see the innuendo and vague statements of campaigning that I can tolerate but still find offensive. But your endorsement included absolutely false statements, and, as you can tell, I take these personally as an offense against my attempts to serve the community at large and to serve the interests of your particular constituency.

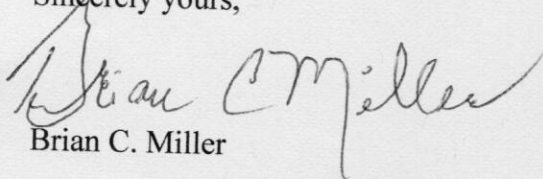
This letter is written by my own free will. I was not asked to write this letter by anyone. I just want to see our Conservative political message based on the truth.

I request that you issue a public retraction of your false statements promptly as the voting process has begun.

By copy of this letter to Dave Griffith, I ask him to repudiate and denounce your false statements. I know these statements did not come from his campaign, and he did not control your wording. I have found Dave Griffith to be of good character, and I do not believe that he would want to ascend to office based on lies.

I copy others on this letter who have an interest in the fairness of the Political process, and are striving to raise the level of political discourse to a level that does not offend the sensibilities of the general public.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian C. Miller". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Brian C. Miller

cc: Sheriff William T. Schatzman  
Sgt. S. Shepherd, Records and Permits  
Cpl. A. Gaylor, Pistol Permits  
Dave Griffith, Candidate for Sheriff  
Scott Cumbie, Chairman, Forsyth County Republican Party  
Dave Regnery, GRNC