

Briskman Calls for Resignation of County Treasurer, Roger Zurn

Algonkian Supervisor Cites Multiple Inappropriate Statements

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Sterling, VA, June 18, 2020 – Algonkian District Supervisor, Juli Briskman, called for the immediate resignation of County Treasurer Roger Zurn over the racist and sexist content he has posted on social media. It is incumbent on county leaders and residents to hold elected officials accountable for racist actions that deeply offend and embarrass our county.

“The residents of Loudoun County deserve better representation from our leaders and should be able to trust that the officer who collects and invests county tax dollars is meting out his or her duties with integrity and without racial bias,” Briskman said.

This is not the first, the second or even the third time Mr. Zurn has engaged in harmful, disrespectful and racially discriminatory conversation publicly on social media and it calls into question whether he can carry out his constitutional duties in a fair and just manner.

Yesterday, Mr. Zurn posted a question on his Facebook Page against a bright yellow background with laughing emojis: *“Wondering if Aunt Jemima will change to Uncle Tom’s?”*

He was referring to Quaker Oats’ long overdue decision to rebrand Aunt Jemima’s maple syrup. His statement questions the responsible act of removing the hurtful and racist imagery of the “mammy” in a kerchief from Quaker products and then uses an offensive and derogatory nickname “Uncle Tom.” Both of these terms harken back to the days of slavery and shouldn’t be used by anyone, much less a county-wide elected official.

On March 27, Mr. Zurn posted on Facebook: *“China has released the names of the first two people to contract Coronavirus. Sum Ting Wong, Ho Lee Fuk,”* making fun of the Mandarin language and clearly dismissing the gravity of a virus that has now killed more than 120,000 U.S. citizens.

Also, on social media, Mr. Zurn has called Minnesota Congresswoman Ilhan Abdullahi Omar a ‘bimbo’ and has posted clearly sexist content with an image woman yelling at a man through a megaphone, saying he was in *“deep doo doo,”* while mocking the outrage of Loudoun women over his social media content.

Enough is enough.

Today County Supervisors’ email is flooded with demands for Mr. Zurn’s resignation. The community called for the resignation of Gov. Ralph Northam in February 2019 over a 30-year-old photograph of someone in blackface on his medical yearbook pages.

Mr. Zurn should have learned from this and his many other blunders that brought community backlash. It is clear Mr. Zurn is not taking to heart the lessons from our past nor the atmosphere in our country today where thousands upon thousands are calling for racial justice in the face of systemic racism in all levels of government and society. If he cannot learn from his past mistakes and the loud and angry protesters who have been in the streets for the past three weeks, it is time for him to step down.

If he does not resign immediately, Briskman said she will support community efforts to recall this constitutional officer from his post.

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