

**VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO
RESOLUTION 2021-49**

**CENSURING COUNCIL MEMBER LAURA CURLISS FOR VIOLATION OF
COUNCIL RULES AND PROCEDURES**

WHEREAS, Council Member Laura Curliss has continued to foster a toxic work environment through demeaning, disrespecting, intimidating, harassing and bullying Village Team members despite repeated requests, meetings and executive sessions devoted to encouraging her to stop this behavior, which has included snapping her fingers at our Public Works Director, calling our Village Solicitor “honey”, repeatedly referring to our local police department as the “f***ing police” and calling officers “criminals”, and threatening to remove the Village Manager and other employees from their positions “once I get two more votes”; and

WHEREAS, Council Member Laura Curliss repeatedly makes inflammatory remarks, assigns negative motives and knowingly repeats false & inaccurate statements, such as those made in her attacks on the YS Development Corporation and Yellow Springs Schools related to the preservation of greenspace at Mills Lawn School (e.g. “putting the greenspace on a trajectory that will end in bulldozers and chainsaws on our Village Green”) and misstating information from the housing studies done on the Glass Farm. Similarly, false and inflammatory remarks have been made during Council meetings and to the media towards community and Council members concerned about the impacts of COVID and regarding the safety of Villagers (e.g. claiming that there is “no rational basis” for wearing masks outdoors when distancing is not possible); and

WHEREAS, Council Member Laura Curliss consistently obstructs local government business by introducing or countering initiatives without following through on preparation and, subsequently, blaming Council or Staff for not taking action, thus absorbing significant amounts of Staff and Council time that could be dedicated to improving quality of life for our residents and often abandoning initiatives after much work has been done (e.g. the proposal to allow Council members to access Village health insurance) rather than collaborating with key stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, Council Member Laura Curliss’s words and actions have strained relations between Village Council and other elected bodies and citizen groups in our community, running counter to our active efforts to better collaborate and coordinate, ultimately creating negative impacts for Villagers; and

WHEREAS, Council Member Laura Curliss’s actions and demeanor generate significant risk of legal exposure, particularly as these actions relate to creating a toxic work environment, which equates to the waste of taxpayer dollars.

NOW, THEREFORE, COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO HEREBY RESOLVES THAT:

Section 1. Council formally asks Council Member Laura Curliss to stop using unethical advocacy tactics that harm Village government and our community members; and

Section 2. Council requests that Council Member Laura Curliss work with Council and Village Team members rather than obstruct ongoing work and decision making processes for the overall good of the community; and

Section 3. This Resolution shall go into effect immediately upon its adoption.

Brian Housh, President of Council

Passed: 10-4-2021

Attest: _____
Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council

ROLL CALL:

Brian Housh __Y__ Marianne MacQueen __Y__ Kevin Stokes __Y__

Lisa Kreeger _Y___ Laura Curliss __N__