

Good Evening Board of Directors,

I am standing here tonight because there have been actions taken in your name that I know you have not been informed about. For the most part, there are actions that are required to be brought before you, to be voted on and authorized by the whole board of District 4 Coalition, before they are acted upon. There are also actions taken that this person did not have the authority to take. There is one particular action that was requested by this same person, against me. The person that I am talking about is Jesse Burke.

Jesse, while being the Chair or President of this board, has made unilateral decisions, She has also taken actions that she does not have the authority to take, by the D4C bylaws or the financial policies, which were voted on and approved by this board. She has signed a contract that is more than \$25,000. Not only is she not authorized to sign contracts, at all, but all contracts above \$25,000 require multiple bids as well as board authorization before they are executed. The action requested by Jesse to be taken against me, is to apologize for stating my opinion in reply to a comment that she made here, in this office.

Jesse Burke, since being elected to the position of Chair or President of this board, has overstepped the authority you have given her, on multiple occasions. In the realm of the nonprofit world, this is called board overreach. This board, District 4 Coalition, and how it is supposed to function is very different from how boards you all come from, the neighborhood association board, function.

In neighborhood boards, a working board, the board members are involved in the day to day operations as well as their duties to direct and oversee the function of your neighborhood. This is very different from the role you take as the board of District 4 Coalition. The D4C board is a governance board. That means that you provide strategic direction and financial oversight of District 4 Coalition; not get involved in the day to day operations of District 4 Coalition.

You have been introduced to Lisa Sloan, the interim director of District 4 Coalition. Her services were secured as a violation by Jesse Burke. Neither the Bylaws nor the financial policies give Jesse the authority to sign a contract. The only person that is authorized is the Executive Director. For contracts over \$25,000, the Executive Director has to get competitive bids and bring those before this board. Jesse has violated the Bylaws and financial policies of District 4 Coalition in her unilateral decision to procure the services of Lisa Sloan.

The action that Jesse Burke requested to be taken against me is to apologize for stating my opinion, on an issue that I did not bring up. Jesse demanded that apology because of religious reasons. She alluded that I did not know what I was talking about because I was not Jewish, nor did I have Jewish relations. 1. There is no way that Jesse can know what religion I am, because we have never discussed it. Nor can she know if my relations are Jewish, because we have never had that discussion. 2. Having knowledge about this issue has nothing to do with religious affiliation. 3. My opinion never alluded to any religion.

Because of this action, by Jesse Burke, I am in the process of filing a claim with the Bureau of Labor and Industry. The action requested is a violation of my rights as an employee of District 4 Coalition. By Oregon state law, Jesse violated my religious freedom and also subjected me to religious discrimination. Not only am I going to file the BOLI claim, but I am also seeking advice from an employment lawyer as to whether I will be filing a lawsuit for religious discrimination against Jesse and District 4 Coalition.

While the board of directors is not allowed to get involved in the day to day operations, which include directing staff and signing contracts; this board does have the authority to remove a board member. The bylaws have a provision to remove board members for non specific reasons.

If you do not remove Jesse Burke for her violations of the Bylaws and financial policies, it will have consequences. 1. Jesse will continue with her board overreach. A. She had a meeting on September 8th with the other officers of the board, Darlene and the lawyer for District 4 Coalition where she was informed about board overreach. B. Jesse has ignored that legal advice and procured the services of Lisa Sloan. 2. Her signing of contracts will bankrupt District 4 Coalition. 3. More lawsuits will be filed against the District 4 Coalition. So, I implore you, please take an action that you have the authority to take before Jesse further damages District 4 Coalition.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to me.

Marie Gerke
Bookkeeper/Office Manager
District 4 Coalition