

I too have some very uncomfortable feelings about the letter to the editor in reference to New School Board appointee, published in the Record Gazette on July 19. The writer suggests that their justification for making a personal attack on my character was motivated by my use of Carol's Kitchen as a reference on my "resume" for the School Board appointment. I did not use Carol's Kitchen as a reference on my application. I have delivered a copy of my application date stamped by the superintendent's office on July 21, 2013 for inspection to the Record Gazette. What did happen was the reporter for the newspaper chose to include Carol's Kitchen in his story for reasons only he can explain.

The Board of Directors of Carol's Kitchen, entrusted me to search for a box van with a refrigeration unit back in 2008, 09 for use in daily operations for Carol's Kitchen. My assumption is that they did this because I had sold them 2 vehicles previously, and had saved them 1000's of dollars on the purchase and subsequent maintenance. One of the vehicles was traded in for a Dodge Caravan that is still in use by the organization some 5 years later.

Carol's Kitchen did write a check (not cash) to Jim Smith Automotive Enterprises, Inc. for \$15,000 to buy a van. During the lengthy search, the economy took a dramatic turn for the worse and my business suffered a 50% reduction in revenue as a result of the worst economic conditions in recent times. Consequently the Corporation ran into financial difficulties and was incapable of returning the money. As stated in the letter I did apologize to the Board and resigned. Not mentioned is the fact that I continued to volunteer for the organization all the way up until May of 2011 when several Board members separated from Carol's Kitchen. I volunteered hundreds of hours, working on daily operations and fundraising efforts. In addition, during that time Jim Smith Automotive wrote checks totaling close to \$3,000 dollars to begin to repay the debt... Wondering why that was never mentioned?

Well before the Board separation I was informed that the Board had elected to write off the debt and I was instructed to cease payments. Was this unfortunate? Absolutely! Was it intentional? Absolutely not!! Why did Carol's Kitchen choose to make this personal? Only they would know the answer, however this is the same group who sought out the Press Enterprise over 2 years ago to attack Jim McConnell, suggesting that a Forensic Audit that had already been performed would substantiate their claims of improper behavior. To this date, to my knowledge no one has seen this "Phantom Audit."

What I do know is that I will continue to serve the community as I have since I moved here over 20 years ago, and have pulled papers to seek the office that I was appointed to. I will not solicit, nor will I accept contributions for this campaign. And, I will suggest to anyone who would like to support my candidacy that their campaign contribution would be their vote. If they feel compelled to write a check, it would be my recommendation that they identify a favorite "local" charity and donate money to their cause.

While I am uncomfortable allowing a handful of individuals with a personal agenda to influence my decisions, I am completely comfortable putting the fate of my candidacy in the hands of the informed voters who reside in the Banning Unified School District. I will entrust them to decide if I am worthy of a seat on the Board.