

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE FOLLOWING IS A STATEMENT FROM GREEN BAY MAYOR JIM SCHMITT

To the Green Bay Community:

GREEN BAY, WI (9/7/16) - I have worked hard as your Mayor since first being elected in 2003. My focus has been on building community, creating a strong economy, and promoting the growth and development of our neighborhoods. While I feel I've been successful in obtaining those goals as your Mayor, I want all of you to know that I have made mistakes in the handling of campaign finances.

As a candidate, I have raised funds for my election campaigns. I have always been most appreciative of the strong support provided to me by many diverse members of our community. My campaign account, "Friends of Jim Schmitt" was the vehicle through which I raised campaign funds and recorded campaign expenses. For over a year, the transactions and the reporting of my campaign account have been thoroughly scrutinized by Milwaukee Assistant District Attorney Bruce Landgraf, an expert in campaign finance law. With the assistance of my counsel, I have fully cooperated with this review by voluntarily producing all relevant records for examination.

Mr. Landgraf has concluded that my handling and reporting of my campaign account was contrary to law. As a result, he has issued three misdemeanor charges for violating the requirements of Wisconsin election laws. While I may disagree with some of his conclusions, I do not dispute his factual findings nor his belief that all responsibility for accuracy and compliance rests with me.

Mr. Landgraf's review identified a number of inaccuracies in reporting areas that should not have occurred. These fall into two broad areas of failings on my part:

1. My failure to know and comply with the acceptable limits of election law and the circumstances under which family contributions can be accepted. As a result, individual contributions over the legal limit were accepted and portions were wrongfully attributed to non-contributing relatives, and;
2. My failure to accurately record and verify the financial data reported in my regularly filed reports for my campaign account activity.

Two things should be made very clear: First, this detailed review confirmed that no donated campaign funds were ever diverted or used for any inappropriate purpose. The errors relate solely to the wrongful acceptance of contributions and the inaccuracies in recording and reporting financial data. Second, while many volunteers worked with the "Friends of Jim Schmitt" campaign, they bear no responsibility for this situation. The acceptance and attribution of contributions and the accuracy of campaign reports is my

sole responsibility. I should have done much better and for that I offer my heartfelt apologies to you and to everyone in the City.

While these errors will soon be addressed and resolved in the courts, my commitment and responsibility to the City of Green Bay remains unchanged. I assure you that throughout this process, my continued vision, effort, and passion for the City of Green Bay will be steadfast.

Please understand that I cannot comment on the specifics of the matter during the pendency of the court process. Once this matter is resolved, in the very near future, I will be happy to answer any questions from the media and community. I can also assure you that, going forward, I will exercise much greater care and diligence with any campaign filings to ensure that they meet every letter, intent and requirement of Wisconsin election law. I will do what I should have done in the past and enlist the services of financial and election experts to assist with the acceptance of contributions and the preparation and filing of these reports.

Finally, I want to say thank you to everyone who has supported me and my family, as well as everyone who continues to support the people and City of Green Bay.

Mayor Jim Schmitt