

Response to Ms. Daubenmier

Re: My violation of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act

I would like to thank Ms. Daubenmier for bringing this to my attention as well as the attention of the Secretary of State. Never a good day when the Sheriff does something contrary to the law, and I respect the fact that she was not afraid to step up and file a complaint.

By way of background; In August of 2018 I was in a commercial with then Candidate for Governor Bill Schuette. In that commercial, I was in uniform and had a marked Sheriff Car staged in the background. Once the commercial started to air, Ms. Daubenmier filed a complaint with the State of Michigan alleging that I was in violation of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA). At that time, my response to the media was; "I did not believe I was in violation of the act, but once the investigation is completed, if I was in fact found in violation, I would make it right."

In February of 2019 I was found in violation of the MCFA, and entered into a conciliation agreement. As a result of the agreement, I had to pay \$100 to the State of Michigan. I also had to pay \$100 to the County of Livingston to reimburse one hour of my wage, and the use of a county vehicle. Although I could have used my campaign dollars to satisfy this fine, I choose to pay this fine out of my personal account.

As I mentioned when the complaint was filed, if I was found in violation, "I would make it right." This is exactly what I did. Not only did I pay the \$200 to satisfy the conciliation agreement. I also reimbursed the County of Livingston \$585 (again personal money, not campaign dollars) to pay for the attorney fees associated with answering the complaint. The county was made whole, so no tax dollars were expended. I take full responsibility for my actions and it will not happen again.

In closing I would like to point out that Ms. Daubenmier says in her release that the \$100 civil fine to the state was for appearing in uniform. That is not true. The fine was for using a patrol vehicle. There is plenty of law supporting the Sheriff's ability to wear his / her uniform during public, private or political events, and I will continue to do so.


Sheriff Mike Murphy