

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 24

A RESOLUTION ISSUING A CENSURE FOR BREACH OF DECORUM

WHEREAS, City Charter § 3-50 vests City Council with the authority to make and publish its own rules of procedure and to punish Councilmembers for disorderly conduct; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution 152-22, effective October 25, 2022, City Council adopted the City of Colorado Springs Rules and Procedures of City Council (the "Rules and Procedures"); and

WHEREAS, Rule 7-3 of the Rules and Procedures prohibits Councilmembers from making personal attacks and impugning the motives of any other Councilmember's argument or vote; and

WHEREAS, Rule 7-8 of the Rules and Procedures states that Councilmembers should develop an atmosphere of civility, should act with decency toward one another, should not impugn or demean another Councilmember, and should not make personal comments about the actions of other Councilmembers that may be perceived as derogatory or defamatory; and

WHEREAS, Rules 1-2(A)(3), 3-3, and 7-7(G) of the Rules and Procedures vest the Council President with the authority to maintain decorum and resolve violations of decorum or conduct by Councilmembers; and

WHEREAS, City Code § 1.3.111(B)(1) permits, without violation of the City's Code of Ethics, Councilmembers to accept campaign contributions as defined by law; and

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2024, at a Regular Meeting of the City Council, Councilmember David Donelson falsely implied that fellow Councilmembers behaved in an unethical manner; and

WHEREAS, at the same meeting, the City Council President asked Councilmember Donelson to cease making accusations against his fellow Councilmembers; and

WHEREAS, Councilmember Donelson continued to make false accusations of unethical behavior and impugn the motives and actions of his fellow Councilmembers after being instructed by the Council President to cease making accusations; and

WHEREAS, City Council recognizes the importance of maintaining decorum and orderliness pursuant to its Rules and Procedures, thus ensuring public confidence in the conduct of the business of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, a censure is a formal reprimand and expression of disapproval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS:

Section 1. That the City Council hereby censures Councilmember David Donelson for disorderly conduct, including the violation of the Rules and Procedures, and disobeying the lawful directions of the Council President to cease his conduct in violation of the Rules and Procedures.

Dated at Colorado Springs, Colorado this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Randy Helms, Council President

ATTEST:

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk