



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 13th, 2022

Monmouth County Democrats file challenge to Councilwomans' independent petition for Mayor of Red Bank

RED BANK, NJ - The Monmouth County Democrats have officially filed a challenge with the Monmouth County Clerk in objection to Councilwoman Jacqueline Sturdivant's petition for Mayor of Red Bank. The Red Bank Democrats and outgoing municipal chair Ed Zipprich had Sturdivant file to run as an independent candidate on primary election day after it was clear that their original candidate for Mayor Michael Ballard would lose the primary to off the line candidate Democratic Billy Portman.

Zipprich, [who claims to have not signed the petition](#), was actually the notary to who signed off on the petition before its filing on Tuesday. Never before has the Monmouth County Democrats seen a sitting Municipal Democratic Chairperson notarize the petitions of an Independent Candidate for Mayor while outwardly rejecting the choice of 61% of Red Bank Democratic Primary voters.

In a shocking move, also signing the last minute petition was Democratic candidate for Mayor Michael Ballard, along with 28 other individuals who signed Michael Ballard's petition. Democratic nominees for Council, Angela Mirandi and John Jackson, were also signers of this petition and the Monmouth County Democrats will be evaluating their support of other Monmouth County Democrats endorsed candidates. Voters cannot sign two petitions for one position in the same election. In this case, the signatures on the second petition would be thrown out, taking Sturdivant's signature count under the required number of signatures needed to get on the ballot.

The Democrats have a candidate for Mayor - and that individual is Billy Portman.

This move is the latest in a series of egregious behavior by the Democratic Municipal Chair Ed Zipprich. “Ed didn’t support the Democratic ticket in 2021 after Kate Triggiano won the primary and it is clear he is not supporting the Democratic ticket again in 2022, rejecting the will of 61% of the Democratic primary voters - simply over personality conflicts and personal feelings. He is and has not put the Democratic Party first - he continues to put his personal agenda first,” says Chairman David Brown. “The time for petty politics has passed. It is imperative that the Red Bank Democrats come together to do what is best for the residents of Red Bank who have spoken clearly on their rejection of this divisive behavior.”

This year, Zipprich and the Red Bank Democrats selected to run Ballard for Mayor and, in an effort to bring the party together, received the endorsement of the Monmouth County Democrats along with the party line. Yet, the voters have made it clear that they wish to bring change to the Red Bank Democratic Organization by overwhelmingly selecting Portman for Mayor along with a new slate of democratic county committee members. The Monmouth County Democrats are proud to support the democratically elected nominee for Mayor Billy Portman and will throw our full enthusiasm and efforts behind his campaign to get him elected in November.

The new slate of democratic county committee members will select their Municipal Chair and Vice-Chair at their reorganization meeting once election results have been certified. In the meantime, the Monmouth County Democrats are in the process of organizing a “Red Bank Unity” event on June 22nd at 6:00pm. More details to follow.

###