

I have lived in South Barrington for over 22 years. My family has been involved in the park district in one way or another for the last 15 years. I have been on the Park District Board since 2019.

I initially volunteered for the elected board position because I felt that families with broad and diverse interests needed better representation on the board.

I could have never imagined that my volunteering for the betterment of my community could have led to the current ongoings. I have been personally attacked in emails and in public forums and I refuse to continue to be subjected to people's misplaced anger and unfounded allegations.

In defense of the unsubstantiated accusations made against me, I want to be crystal clear and state publicly, that I have not been involved in any illegal meetings and/or prearranged secret sales. Furthermore, I have no personal vested interest in the sale of Area N and have absolutely nothing to gain personally or professionally from the sale. Moreover, I have never had any discussions with anyone regarding representing any Plymouth Brethren Christian Church members as a potential property buyers' agent.

The fact that these ludicrous allegations, malicious threats on my reputation, and lies are being circulated, only to further the opposition of the sale to the church, is extremely disturbing and disheartening. My family and I have received emails stating I would "forever be known as unscrupulous trash". This is over the line and completely unacceptable. Those responsible should be ashamed of themselves for slandering without presenting factual evidence. Free speech can be an amazing right in our country but I expected more from my neighbors. I'd expect people to research the facts, find that my integrity is beyond reproach, and act within reason. Perhaps even reach out to me to obtain more information. My expectation was clearly too high.

It has been referenced over and over again that the SBPD board members are elected officials that should represent the community. I feel I did just that. The MAJORITY of the community voted to sell the property. This is fact. So, the board agreed to sell the property to the only interested buyer. I acted as a representative of the majority and am now being viscously targeted by those opposing the sale. Not exactly what I volunteered for.

I am thankful for my time as a board member and feel that I represented the citizens of South Barrington to the best of my ability. I can reiterate with absolute conviction, that I have always followed the rules governing my position and the board, I have nothing to hide, and zero to gain presently, or in the future, from this transaction. Anyone that knows me would vehemently agree. That anyone would claim otherwise, is beyond offensive and utter nonsense, and I will not waste further time or effort arguing with nonsense. I will not attempt to reason with those that would sooner bang their drum, by copying and pasting defaming emails, making threats, and propagating misinformation without checking facts.

I am sad that it has to come to this but rather than continue to be subjected to unfounded accusations, baseless attacks on my character, undeserving insults aimed at my integrity, and outright lies; I resign from the SBPD board, effective immediately.

-Shelby Elias