

May 15, 2024

Dear Chris,

I was going to call and discuss this with you but I thought it would be better to have it in writing.

As you know, I was watching the livestream of the Meet the Candidates meeting last week. I thought I heard you say to Debbie Harris, "People like you are a cancer to our community." When I private messaged you about it for clarification, you said to "give you a call so you can explain how that context relates to her question."

I have been thinking on your answer and it still doesn't sit right with me. It implies that anyone who simply wanted to know if you and the others were associated with FHSTOP are a cancer to the community.

I joined the livestream not even knowing much about the incumbent's and I came to the virtual meeting with an open mind. When you said that, I shut down and no longer felt like I wanted to know more about you. You lost credibility with me and others at that moment. This was heard by over 100 people and many more online. You mentioned in the meeting that you wanted to be a Unifier and that you had experience in diffusing tense situations. How did your comment help that? It didn't. People like us who were on the fence on their votes see you as aggressive and they said they would not vote for you now because of this insulting and hurtful statement.

In Leadership we need to rise above and take responsibility for our actions. I have been to your Facebook page and have seen you post about your Christian faith. We also share in that faith. That statement was not a reflection of the love of God. As Christians we need to do better.

Your lack of response to what transpired later on Facebook groups with others who continued to use the "you are a cancer" comments directed at Debbie are unacceptable. You said it and others used it too. It's not appropriate. As a potential board member, your response and accountability to these comments matter.

We want the young people in our community to want to be involved but when they see all of the bickering and bullying, I don't blame them for not wanting to be involved.

I would like to encourage you to take a look at the kind of character you want to be known for. Do you truly want to be a Unifier? Can you take a step back and consider how that comment not only hurt Debbie but others in our community? Can you see how it caused even more division? Can you see that it was not a good reflection of someone who loves Jesus? If any of this resonates with you, I want to encourage you to make a public apology to Debbie and those of us who felt it as inappropriate. And maybe mention to others that made comments that it needs to stop. Let's try to bridge the gap and bring unity back in our community. Like I said, your response matters.

Sincerely,

Glenn and Tamara Carroll