

Public Comment # 22

Item 22 of the July 18th Consent Calendar is a Fraudulent Cut and Paste Political Party Declaration - Vote NO

Joseph Connolly <retqmcs@gmail.com>

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To: BOS-District I <bosone@edcgov.us>; BOS-District II <bostwo@edcgov.us>; BOS-District III <bosthree@edcgov.us>; BOS-District IV <bosfour@edcgov.us>; BOS-District V <bosfive@edcgov.us>

Cc: BOS-Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>; David A Livingston <david.livingston@edcgov.us>; Tiffany Schmid <Tiffany.Schmid@edcgov.us>

Dear Supervisors:

Please do not consent to Supervisor Hidahl's proposed proclamation to perpetually declare July "American Christian History Month" for the reasons listed below. In short, Supervisor Hidahl copied - verbatim - 9 "WHEREAS" portions and the entire "RESOLVED" portion of a political declaration adopted in 2021 by the Constitutional Party of Pennsylvania. The Constitutional Party was described in 2009 as a "Patriot Group," meaning a category of parties that "advocate or adhere to extreme anti-government doctrines."

Yesterday's "Patriot Groups" now include anti-governmental groups including the Proud Boys, Oath Keepers, Three Percenters and Patriot Front. Leaders of the Proud Boys and Three Percenters were tried and found guilty of seditious conspiracy against the United States. Oath Keepers sentenced thus far have received enhancements for terrorism; they are literally domestic terrorists in the U.S. legal system.

Supervisor Hidahl's proposed declaration is a sham, and government overreach of the highest order. He copied a political statement without any legitimate legal foundation or factual documentation, and now asks for it to be voted upon by "consent," without divulging its source or his affiliation with it. That is, Supervisor Hidahl should be questioned and asked to answer whether he is a member of the Constitutional Party whose political document he copied verbatim, and/or why he proposes to have a political party's ideology become the public statement of El Dorado County.

Supervisor Hidahl seeks to subordinate all other faiths, including those with no religious affiliation or belief, to personally impose his cut and paste affirmation of Christian domination by way of a political party whose entire 2021 membership was only 137,367. You should not allow this to happen, and further question why this item is on the agenda to begin with. The citizens of El Dorado County, like me, should not have to do basic homework to discover the reality behind political schemes like this proposal. That's supposed to be the role of the Board Chair, CAO, and County Counsel as they formalize Board agendas - to weed out items that are uninformed, purely political, and outside the scope of the County's Strategic Plan and the Board's Unity of Purpose. Item 22 has all those characteristics and is a poor reflection of the Board's role to be strategic leaders for El Dorado County.

Vote to remove Item 22 from the July 18th consent calendar, and condemn this blatant individual act of political overreach by voting NO on the item in the clearest terms.....Sincerely, Joseph Connolly

BASES TO VOTE "NO" ON ITEM 22 OF THE JULY 18TH CONSENT CALENDAR.

LATE DISTRIBUTION

DATE 7/18/23

1. The proposed proclamation is a virtual cut and paste copy of a 2021 declaration by the Constitution Party of Pennsylvania State Committee ("CPPA"), which was adopted on October 6, 2021.

- You can view the CPPA declaration at this link: <https://www.constitutionpartypa.com/declaration-of-american-christian-heritage-month.html>

2. Supervisor Hidahl's draft proclamation includes verbatim copies of portions of the CPPA declaration.

- The CPPA declaration includes 28 "WHEREAS" statements and a "RESOLVED" summary.
- Supervisor Hidahl's draft proclamation copied, verbatim, 9 "WHEREAS" statements from the CPPA declaration.
- Supervisor Hidahl's draft proclamation copied, verbatim, the entire "RESOLVED" portion of the CPPA declaration.

3. The Constitutional Party was founded in 1992 as the U.S. Taxpayers Party, and has been known as the Constitutional Party since 1999.

- See [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_Party_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_Party_(United_States)); See also <https://constitutionparty.com/about-us/history/>

4. The Constitutional Party is characterized as having a "Far Right" political position, with ideology including "Christian Right" and "Christian Reconstructionism."

- "Christian Reconstructionism" is described by the Southern Poverty Law Center as "introduc[ing] the idea of dominionism – the rule of society and politics by Christians and Christian institutions – which some white Christian nationalists have adopted, as well as others in patriot and antigovernment groups."
- See "Antigovernment General" review at <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/ideology/antigovernment-general#state-by-state>

5. In 2009, the Southern Poverty Law Center described the party as a "Patriot Group," a category of parties that "[g]enerally ... define themselves as opposed to the "New World Order" or advocate or adhere to extreme antigovernment doctrines."

- See <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/intelligence-report/2009/patriot-groups>

6. Today, previous "Patriot Groups" are identified as "antigovernment groups" which includes extremist groups such as the Proud Boys, Three Percenters, Patriot Front and Oath Keepers.

- See <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/ideology/antigovernment-general#state-by-state>

7. The Constitutional Party and CPPA remain listed on the current SPLC list of anti government groups.