

June 10, 2015

Ladies & Gentlemen –

I rode down in the elevator last night with several County employees, who expressed their feelings very clearly to me. They said working in the Justice Center used to be a pleasure, but it had now become very unpleasant because of all the turmoil. I found myself thinking, “Enough is enough!”

This whole thing is embarrassing to me, and I feel that we are not doing right by the taxpayers who pay our salaries. I am disappointed as someone who worked long and hard to get Republicans elected in this county, including many of you. All of this is simply giving our opponents a good laugh, but since they have no chance of winning any county-wide races for the foreseeable future, that is about all they get. Nevertheless, it is harmful to our party and could lead to splits which will weaken us at the polls. **Haven’t we had enough daily front page stories, as well as Greg Enos planning to send a mailing to our constituents?**

This battle, or war, or dispute or whatever we want to call it, needs to be solved. It is beneath the dignity of an elected County Judge to change locks in doors. It is beneath the dignity of an elected Judge to enjoin someone from filing a complaint against him with the appropriate authorities, as well as beneath the dignity of elected Commissioners to consider such an action.

The judges all know my feelings on Ms. Quiroga. For the benefit of the Commissioners, let me state it – I was not upset when I learned she had been fired, and I have from Day 1 made it clear I would not support any effort which would lead to her being permanently returned to her position. I was asked to “hold my nose” and go along with a proposal to bring her back for a short period to train a replacement, even though I knew that would be an incendiary step. I agreed to sign off on that in the interest of unity, but regret doing so, given the not unexpected response.

It seemed we were near an agreement to resolve this crisis, but it got hung up in salary issues. That is the kind of thing which calls for compromise. I for one am certainly willing to compromise on that, regardless of what the State says is an appropriate salary. I would hope the same could be said for the Commissioners, since the position being discussed and the “sweeper” are two very different jobs. Let’s separate that argument, find an appropriate salary and get this past us. I don’t know how we get there, but I am willing to work to reach that point. If we need a couple of judges to meet with a couple of commissioners, let’s get that done. If we need a mediator, let’s find one. I’m willing to consider any suggestions on getting a meeting of the minds. But whatever we do, let’s quit wasting our valuable time and the taxpayers’ money, and get back to governing this county and dispensing justice, the jobs to which we were all elected.

Kerry L. Neves  
Judge, 10th District Court