

Folks,

Ordinarily, a person's private or out-of-work public communications, in person or on social media, should not affect their employability, unless those communications negatively impact work performance or result. Today's Agenda Item 5h, concerns contract renewal for Elizabeth Barney for "Social Media, Web Design and Training Services". Unfortunately, Ms. Barney's case illustrates an exception to that rule.

When a person is responsible for the public face of an agency or organization, their personal public positions critically impact their credibility with the public. Ms. Barney's alleged participation in a social media platform, Parler, which aggressively played host to racist polemic and was arguably the platform where the groundwork was laid for the treasonous January 6 insurrection on the Nation's Capital, calls into question her allegiance to the bedrock principals of our Nation, one, and two, threatens to taint the County's social media presence with the stink of racism and treason.

For these reasons, I urge the Board of Supervisors to put a hold on Ms. Barney's contract until the County has established a written code of social media conduct for County employees. Conduct that violates the law, or advocates violating the law, along with conduct that creates or appears designed to create a hostile environment for any class of persons by reason of race, creed, gender or orientation, by County employees using the name under which they are employed, needs to be prohibited.

In short, the impression that the public social media face of Mendocino County is being managed by an apparent or avowed racist is a bad look that lends the impression that Mendocino County Government is officially hostile to people of color. This is not how we want our county represented.

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Jade Tippett