

**Adam Hollingsworth  
1475 Rolling Links Drive  
Milton, GA 30004**

The Honorable Peyton Jamison  
The Honorable Carol Cookerly  
The Honorable Jan Jacobus  
The Honorable Juliette Johnson  
The Honorable Rick Mohrig  
The Honorable Paul Moore  
The Honorable Andrea Verhoff  
City of Milton  
2006 Heritage Walk  
Milton, GA 30004

Dear Mayor and City Council:

The integrity of Milton's election is at risk.

Despite the incredible work of Steve Krokoff, acting as elections superintendent, our local elections have become the fruit of a poisonous tree.

In other words, **even if our election is administered flawlessly, public faith and trust in the process has been lost.** And it will be hard to recover unless swift action is taken.

It is now abundantly clear that **one member of the Milton City Council has established a pattern and practice of attempting to meddle in and influence the outcome of his own election. And in doing so, violated the City's charter, inappropriately issued directives to City staff, improperly influenced a hiring decision and wasted city resources to run-down an asserted computer hack that did not exist.**

This behavior is so pervasive that it's simply **time for this City Council Member to step down,** preserve the integrity of our elections and allow his legacy to be all the good he has done since the City's inception.

Let's take a look at the facts:

**A committee was formed to examine the transition from county-run to city-run elections. That committee met in private multiple times and the public had no chance to participate in those meetings.** The September 12, 2022 *Milton Herald* said, "An Open Records request filed with the city August 31 turned up emails indicating that there were about a dozen meetings held before the committee was formalized at the April 18 City Council meeting. No announcement or advertisement of the informal meetings could be located."

Steve Krokoff, Milton's elections superintendent and city manager, has expressed several concerns about that committee, including as follows<sup>1</sup>:

- The committee's composition;
- What appeared to be pre-baked conclusions by the committee, rather than an open-minded process;
- An inability of city staff to be heard and respected during the process...an outcome that was, for your city staff, "distressing and demoralizing;"
- A reluctance by the committee to provide an unbiased assessment to the City Council; and
- Council members who, in Mr. Krokoff's estimation, harshly rebuffed efforts by City staff to offer differing points of view

Despite the best efforts of several on the Council, the elections committee prevailed in prohibiting a polling location in one of the three City Council districts; a decision that was reversed only after enormous public pressure.

Speaking of pressure, a member of this body put pressure on your city manager to hire an elections consultant despite not meeting the requirements of the job. About the hiring of that consultant, a Council Member said<sup>2</sup>:

"I think we need to stand firm & [sic] need more of Council with us."

"I'm having a trust issue with some staff at this point."

I don't think I have to tell you how inappropriate it is for a member of the City Council to pressure your city manager into making a staff hiring decision.

We've also learned that a member of the City Council used the force of his position to direct City staff to remove campaign signs of his political opponent.

About this, your city manager said that such communications are seen as "directives" and could be "misconstrued as an attempt to use governmental authority to suppress a political opponent."<sup>3</sup>

As you know, such communication with City staff, by a member of the City Council, also violates the City's charter.

Ironically, driving through Milton, one can see campaign signs from this same Council Member in the City's right-of-way, but it is unlikely he is directing staff to remove those.

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<sup>1</sup> August 31, 2023 email from Mr. Krokoff to Mayor Peyton Jamison

<sup>2</sup> April 23, 2023 electronic communication from Council Member Rick Mohrig

<sup>3</sup> August 29, 2023 email from Mr. Krokoff to Council Member Rick Mohrig

Most recently, we ‘ve learned of a **private meeting between a member of the City Council – running for re-election – and certain local election poll workers and tabulators.** We learned this because that Council Member sent an email meeting request to each of you.<sup>4</sup>

The Council Member **subsequently claimed that his email system had been hacked.** A notion that was **debunked by** your city manager after work was completed by the **City’s IT security team.** On September 13, Mr. **Krokoff said, “there is no evidence of a breach of our system.”<sup>5</sup>**

That same Council Member was **asked, repeatedly, by a fellow member of the City Council if such a meeting occurred.** Because if it did, a hack is highly unlikely, as it strains credibility to assert that a hacker broke into the City’s email system only to send an *accurate* email invitation.

I share all of this at some risk. But the risk I’m taking pales in comparison to the risks some of you have taken and are taking.

At your July 24 meeting, one of you said there have been “encumbrances” in the process to get to a fair election. And that Council Member instantly became a political target and drew an election opponent.

The **Mayor called the actions of one Council Member, “highly inappropriate.”<sup>6</sup>** His target was much more personal as **his life – and that of his family – was threatened.**

Thank you to those of you who have taken a courageous stand in defense of fair elections in Milton.

We have a problem and there is only one immediate solution:

**It’s time for the City Council Member responsible for such inappropriate actions to step aside and resign,** thus ensuring the integrity of Milton, the City Council and the upcoming election.

Should he choose not to do that, the voters of Milton and this City Council should take a very hard look at whether they want to perpetuate the tenure of an **elected official who continues to prioritize his own self-interests,** while ignoring the very principles of an ethical government; someone who **has put himself ahead of the citizens.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'R' followed by a horizontal line.

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<sup>4</sup> September 6, 2023 email from Council Member Rick Mohrig

<sup>5</sup> September 13, 2023 email from Mr. Krokoff to Council Member Rick Mohrig

<sup>6</sup> August 1, 2023, *Milton Herald*

cc: Steve Krokoff, Milton City Manager  
Ken Jarrard, Milton City Attorney