

**TOWNSHIP OF MANSFIELD
BURLINGTON COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. 2022-12-29**

CENSURE OF TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER DANIEL GOLEND

WHEREAS, by adoption of Mansfield Township Ordinance 2022 – 2, the Township Committee established "Rules and Regulations of the Township Committee"; and

WHEREAS, the express purpose of the Ordinance is to “enact regulations in a manner which ensures the orderly and efficient conduct of Township Committee meetings for the benefit safety, health and welfare of residents of the Township and the public at large”; and

WHEREAS, Section D (4) of said Ordinance provides that, "all persons, including members of the Township Committee, attending any Township Committee meeting shall observe order and decorum during the meeting."; and

WHEREAS, Section D (3) of Ordinance 2022-2 provides that public meetings of the Township Committee shall be conducted pursuant to the latest edition of Roberts Rules of Order; and

WHEREAS, under Roberts Rules of Order, 12th Ed., Chapter XX Discipline of Members and Guests, every organization has the “ultimate right to make and enforce its own rules and to require that its members refrain from conduct injurious to the organization or its purposes.” (§61.1), and

WHEREAS, punishments that can be imposed generally fall under the headings of censure, fine (if authorized by the bylaws), suspension or expulsion (§61.2); and

WHEREAS, it is possible to adopt a motion to censure without formal disciplinary procedures (§61.2, fn. 1); and

WHEREAS, Committeeman Daniel Golenda has consistently and repeatedly violated the provisions of the Ordinance 2022-2, as follows:

Engaging in threatening and unwelcome physical contact including physically obstructing the exit way of several individuals while leaving the dais after a meeting was adjourned

Interrupting members of the Township Committee during debate

Addressing members of the Township Committee in a loud and threatening manner

Engaging in verbal attacks and other unprofessional behavior against Township employees as well as members of the Township Committee

Uttering profane language, making threatening comments in the presence of the Administrator, Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Chief Financial Officer and members of the

Township Committee during executive session. During said executive session Committeeman Golenda exhibited physically threatening actions and gestures prompting Township personnel to summon the Sergeant at Arms; and

WHEREAS, Committeeman Golenda has repeatedly exhibited conduct unbecoming of an elected official, at times exhibiting childish like tantrums and other immature behavior; and

WHEREAS, Township Committee executive sessions are closed meetings of the governing body requiring participants to work in close proximity, and as a direct result of Committeeman Golenda's unprofessional, erratic and threatening conduct, the Township Committee was compelled to forgo in person executive meetings in order ensure the safety of meeting participants; and

WHEREAS, said accounts and behaviors have been witnessed and attested to by multiple individuals including Township Employees, Township Professionals and members of the Township Committee, and members of the public; and

WHEREAS, Committeeman Daniel Golenda has made numerous false accusations against Township employees, members of the Township Committee and vendors/professionals serving the Township; and

WHEREAS, Committeeman Daniel Golenda has repeatedly used social media to harass, insult and attack members of the community as well as current and past members of the Township Committee. As a sitting member of the Committee Mr. Golenda has used social media to make defamatory and inflammatory statements as well as false and baseless accusations including but not limited to;

Being rude, condescending and disrespectful on a consistent basis to Township residents, Township vendors and professionals as well as current and past members of the Township Committee.

Being indignant and intolerant to opposing points of view, and sarcastic to resident questions, comments.

Making baseless and false accusations against members of the public and current & past members of the Township Committee.

Using social media on August 20, 2021, to harass and insult a member of the community including making lewd and suggestive jokes and comments. Also being demeaning, disrespectful, dismissive and rude to said Township resident.

Using social media to harass, insult and make false/baseless accusations against members of the community, current and past members of the Township Committee Township, professionals including ***but not limited*** to on the following dates;

August 20, 2021

August 27, 2021

September 7, 2021

September 20, 2021
September 24, 2021
September 25, 2021
January 4, 2022
April 7, 2022
June 6, 2022
July 7, 2022
July 7, 2022
July 11, 2022
July 17, 2022
July 28, 2022
August 1, 2022
August 3, 2022
September 29, 2022
October 9, 2022
December 8, 2022
December 13, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Committeeman Daniel Golenda via his conduct and use of social media has repeatedly propagated rancor, division, hostilities withing the community; and

WHEREAS, Committeeman Golenda has consistently and repeatedly violated his duties and responsibilities as an elected member of the Mansfield Township Committee, as follows:

By abstaining from votes of the Township Committee on matters of public importance, without legal justification or cause.

By interfering with the Township Administrator and Township Clerk and preventing them from performing their statutory duties and responsibilities through harassing and challenging emails, telephone calls and unscheduled appearances at the municipal building in the presence of other employees; and

WHEREAS, Committeeman Golenda by virtue of his conduct has created an intimidating, toxic and unsafe working environment for Township employees and members of the Township Committee; and

WHEREAS, Committeeman Daniel Golenda has consistently engaged in making false and baseless claims, allegations and defamatory accusations against a wide range of individuals including Township employees, Township professionals and current & past members of the Township Committee; and

WHEREAS, Committeeman Daniel Golenda's behavior has required the expenditure of significant time by the Township Solicitor as well as Township Labor Attorney resulting in additional costs for legal and professional services. Said additional legal costs were not planned or accounted for in the Township budget and must now be borne by the tax payers of Mansfield Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Mansfield, County of Burlington and State of New Jersey that Township Committee member Daniel Golenda is hereby censured by the Township Committee, hereby advised that his conduct as a member of the Township Committee is utterly unacceptable and hereby admonished; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Committee will take all necessary measures to preserve the integrity and professionalism of public meetings for the Township Committee and for the public attending said meetings; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Committee will take all necessary measures to insure a safe, fulfilling and rewarding working environment for Township employees and professionals; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Committee will take all necessary measures to ensure the privacy and confidentiality of individuals affected by Committeeman Golenda's conduct. The Township Committee will also take all necessary steps to protect said individuals from unjust scrutiny, retaliation or reprisal; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Committeeman Golenda will not be permitted to participate in Township meetings in person. Committeeman Golenda will be restricted to attend Township Committee meetings strictly via remote access. Participation in events other than Township meetings will be determined by the Township Committee on a case-by-case basis as required; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Committeeman Golenda is henceforth restricted from appearing at the municipal building without prior notification, approval and with an appointment made in advance. Committeeman Golenda will relinquish keys to the municipal building that are in his possession and return said keys to the Township immediately; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any further rude, unprofessional or disruptive behavior from Committeeman Golenda may result in muting during meetings and or additional restrictions as required to maintain the integrity of public meetings and provide a safe and constructive working environment in the best interest of the public attending said meetings.

MOTION: OCELLO SECOND: SISZ
ROLL CALL VOTE:
AYES: OCELLO, SISZ, MOJENA
NAYS: TALLON, GOLEND, ABSTAIN: NONE ABSENT: NONE

CERTIFICATION

I, **LINDA SEMUS, RMC, CMR** Municipal Clerk of the Township of Mansfield, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, do hereby CERTIFY the foregoing to be a true and accurate copy of the resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Mansfield, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey at a meeting held on December 21, 2022 at 7:00 PM

LINDA SEMUS, RMC, CMR, Municipal Clerk