

**Index of Documents, Comments and Questions
as Prepared by Bobbie Coleman in response to
December 5, 2022, letter of Complaint by Cheryl Benitez**

Page 1 - July 1, 2022

Email exchange between Bobbie Coleman and Cheryl Benitez:

It is clear from this exchange, that Cheryl Benitez, was well aware of the desire to Censure Mitch McConnell for his support for the "Bipartisan Safer Communities Act" as of July 1, 2022.

Cheryl Benitez says:

"I will put this matter on the agenda for that second Monday of August. I believe this is a discussion that should be voted on by our voting members. I hope you understand too."

Questions and comments arising from this document:

- Has Cheryl Benitez produced this document in support of her complaint?

Page 2- August 8, 2022

August GOP Agenda

Cheryl Benitez did not put the censure on agenda.

Page 3-4 – August 9, 2022

Facebook posting of Bobbie Coleman on her Facebook page.

Note showing that the posting was made on August 9, 2022, the day after the meeting.

Posting made on August 9th at 9:29am.

Page 5-9 – August 11, 2022

Text message from Cheryl Benitez to Bobbie Coleman requesting removal of Posting made on August 9th at 9:29am.

Cheryl Benitez states:

"Rob Reynolds sent me this to me this morning." And "The democrats are having a field day with this, and this is hurting our candidates."

Questions and comments arising from this document:

- Does Cheryl Benitez have a copy of the communication from Rob Reynolds?

- Did Mr. Reynolds make reference to the Democrats in his communication, or is this Cheryl Benitez’s claim?
- Does Cheryl Benitez have any evidence to support this statement she made on August 11th? What candidate were being hurt?

Cheryl Benitez states:

“It isn’t hurting McConnell the person it is directed at.”

Questions and comments arising from this document:

- Does it remain Cheryl Benitez’s view that the censure is not hurting Mitch McConnell?
- If it is now hurting Senator McConnell, what changed between August 11, 2022, and the present?
- If it is still not hurting Mitch McConnell, why this fierce opposition to the censure and why the appeal of the Hardin County decision to censure?

Further text message from Cheryl Benitez to Bobbie Coleman:

Cheryl Benitez states:

“I’m sure he will be reaching out to you personally.”

- Did Cheryl Benitez contact Rob Reynolds to let him know Bobbie Coleman wanted to speak with him?
- Has Cheryl Benitez produced the communications that she has had with Rob Reynolds on this subject?

Page 10- August 19, 2022

Statement about Cheryl Benitez calling the County Committee “Extremists”.

Page 11 – September 1, 2022

Censure resolution produced by the committee

Questions and comments arising from this document:

- When did Cheryl Benitez first receive a copy of this document?
- Did she have any email communications about this document?
- Has Cheryl Benitez produced all her communications relevant to this document?

Email from Donnie Thomas to Cheryl Benitez

Ms. Thomas wrote:

“The committee to write the Censure has met and it has been finalized. We are prepared to present the Censure at the September 12 Hardin GOP meeting”

“Donnie Thomas, Committee Chair”

Questions and comments arising from this document:

- Did Cheryl Benitez receive this email?
- Did she respond?
- Was the censure resolution attached to the email?
- If not, did she respond and request a copy?
- Has she produced copies of these documents?
- Was a meeting of the Hardin County GOP scheduled for September 12, 2022?
- Was that meeting cancelled after September 1, 2022?
- Why was it cancelled?

Page 12-16- September 5, 2022

Cheryl Benitez emails cancelation of the GOP Meeting scheduled for September 12, 2022.

Page 17-19 – September 6, 2022

Email from Donnie Thomas to Cheryl Benitez:

Ms. Thomas wrote:

“Please find attached the Petition for calling a Special meeting to finalize the censorship of Senator Mitch McConnell.”

Questions and comments arising from this document:

- Did Cheryl Benitez receive this petition?
- Did she respond?
- Has she produced these documents?

The petition states:

“An e-mail from Mike Phillips, Hardin County GOP, the Monthly Business Meeting for September, dated September 5, 2022, cancelled the September 12 regularly scheduled meeting”

Questions and comments arising from this document:

- Is it accurate that the Hardin County GOP was holding regularly scheduled monthly meetings?
- If yes, why was this meeting cancelled.
- For how long had it been the practice of Harding County to hold monthly meeting?
- Was the October meeting also cancelled?
- Why?
- Did Cheryl Benitez receive this petition?
- Did she have any communications with anyone about the petition?
- Has she produced the document related to those communications?

Donnie Thomas and Bobbie Coleman hand deliver signed original petition September 7, 2022, at 0800, to the Hardin County Headquarters, due to no confirmation that Cheryl Benitez received petition via email.

Questions and comments arising from this day:

- Why did Cheryl Benitez not reply that she received the petition via email?
- Why were Donnie Thomas and Bobbie Coleman locked out of Headquarters when they delivered the original signed petition on September 7, 2022?
- Who was Cheryl Benitez on the phone with at the time of the arrival of Donnie Thomas and Bobbie Coleman?
- Who told Cheryl to lock them out?
- Did Cheryl realize she was being recorded by Bobbie Coleman?

Page 20-21 – September 12, 2022

"Draft" minutes of the August 8, 2022, meeting of the Hardin County Republican Party that was requested by Debbie Webb.

The minutes say on page 2,

"Bobbie Coleman made a motion to amend the agenda to add and talk about censuring Senator Mitch McConnell. Motion seconded and passed. This item was added."

Questions and comments arising from this document:

- Cheryl Benitez in her email exchange on page 1 said this would be put on the agenda. Why was it not put on the agenda?
- Has she produced a copy of the agenda or these minutes of the meeting?

The minutes say on page 3,

Marsha Jewell made the following motion, "That the Hardin County Republican Party censure Mitch McConnell, that we have a committee assigned to write the censorship up and have it done by the next meeting"

Questions and comments arising from this document:

- It is clear that Cheryl Benitez knew there was a committee developing a censure resolution. Why was she not involved in that committee? As chair she had every right to be involved.
- Who was on the committee?
- Why was this a "draft" over 30 days after the August 8th, 2022, GOP meeting?
- Why didn't Cheryl Benitez know that the new members who were voted in for County Committee could not vote on same day they were elected?
- Why didn't Cheryl Benitez know that she couldn't vote?
- When were the new members reported to state?

Page 22 – September 13, 2022

Email from Donnie Thomas to Cheryl Benitez:

The email states:

“COB today (13 September 2022) was the deadline to respond to the special meeting to censure senator Mitch McConnell.”

Questions and comments arising from this document:

- What was Cheryl Benitez’s understanding of the 5-business day rule?
- Did Cheryl Benitez have any communications with anyone about the 5-day rule?
- Have those documents been produced?
- Did she respond to Donnie Thomas to explain the 5-day rule?
- Why not?
- When did Cheryl Benitez decide to call that Special Meeting?

Page 23-24 – September 16, 2022

Email from Cheryl Benitez to “All”

The email states:

“Attached is a special meeting called for September 26th”

Questions and comments arising from this document:

- Was Cheryl Benitez petitioned to call this particular Special Meeting?
- Did Cheryl Benitez give any consideration to adding the censure resolution to that same Special Meeting?
- Were there minutes of this Special Meeting produced?

The notice states:

“The purpose of this meeting is called to determine if a financial contribution and amount, with be awarded to Keith Taul, Republican nominee for County Judge Executive.”

Questions and comments arising from this document:

- When did Cheryl Benitez determine that this Special Meeting needed to be called?
- Was Cheryl Benitez aware, at the time she determined that there was a need for this Special Meeting, that there was a petition sent to her for calling a Special Meeting?
- Why did she ignore the petition and proceed with a different Special Meeting before the petitioned meeting?
- Did she consider a charge of malfeasance might be brought for ignoring the petition?

Page 25-27 – September 22, 2022

Email from Bobbie Coleman to Hunter Whitaker (RPK) with notes of Hunter Whitaker response.

Hunter Whitaker wrote:

“The Chair is the only member with the authority to call and set meetings, so that will be at his or her discretion.

There is no express limit or a minimum or maximum so long as the Chair gives 5 days’ notice (outside of emergencies).

A petition is that:

A group of members petitioning or asking the Chair to call a meeting regarding a certain topic. However, the authority to call the meeting still rests with the Chair.”

Questions and comments arising from this document:

Rule 4.03(a) says:

Special meetings of the County Committee may be called by the County Chairman or on petition in writing signed by five (5) members of the County Committee and transmitted to the County Chairman.

- Will Hunter Whitaker be asked to explain what she told Bobbie Coleman about Special Meetings?
- The rule plainly says Special Meeting “may be called” by the chair “or on petition”. What is the point of a petition with 5 signatures if the chair is able to ignore it?
- Was this Cheryl Benitez’s understanding of the rule?
- Where did she get her understanding of the rule?
- Was she concerned that ignoring the petition might lead to a charge of malfeasance?
- Has Cheryl Benitez produced all documents related to the petition for a Special Meeting?

Page 28-29 – September 26, 2022

Special Meeting for Keith Taul

Statement from Bobbie Coleman who overheard and participated in a conversation between Parliamentarian Laura Larue and Marsha Jewell.

Statement from Marsha Jewell who had a conversation between Parliamentarian Laura Larue and Marsha Jewell.

Marsha Jewell says that Laura Larue told her:

“Because the censure had already been voted and approved, we really didn’t need to do anything else but present the committee report.”

Questions and comments arising from this document:

- Is that what the Parliamentarian Laura Larue told Marsh Jewell?
- Does Cheryl Benitez dispute this recollection of events?

Page 30-36- October 5, 2022

Cheryl Benitez cancels October GOP meeting

Email between Cheryl Benitez and Bobbie Coleman discussing the frustrations of another meeting canceled.

Page 37- November 2, 2022

Rand Paul's Event at Addington Field .

Cheryl Benitez informed a few County Committee members that she will be holding a November GOP meeting and we will get to finalize the censure for Mitch McConnell.

Cheryl Benitez stated she would do that following the GOP meeting and Bobbie Coleman recommended that it could be done during the meeting due to it being a committee

Page 38- November 14, 2022

Scheduled GOP meeting

The November 14, 2022, Agenda and statement from page 37.

The agenda did not list the finalization of the censure of Mitch McConnell.

Bobbie Coleman asked Cheryl Benitez why it wasn't on the agenda and Cheryl Benitez's reply was she didn't want all members there, only voting members. She also stated she would call a special meeting the end of November.

Cheryl Benitez also replied to a GOP member that they couldn't attend do to them not being a County Committee member. Bobbie Coleman states she saw a photo of this text and is trying to get a copy, but Cheryl should have it on her phone.

Marsha Jewell tried to make a Point of Order due to it not being on the agenda as a committee report, but Laura LaRue stated the agenda has already been accepted.

Questions and comments arising from this document:

- Who decided and why was it decided not to email an agenda prior to the meeting?
- Did Cheryl Benitez say she did NOT want non-voting members attending the Special Meeting?
- Why?
- Did Cheryl Benitez actually tell a non-voting member by text that it was not a meeting they would be allowed to attend?

Page 39 – November 18, 2022

Cheryl Benitez email with attached Notice of Special Meeting November 29, 2002.

Page 40-41 – November 29, 2022

Statement from Bobbie Coleman regarding Special Meeting.

Questions and comments arising from this document:

- Is it true that during the meeting Cheryl Benitez resigned and walked out of the meeting?
- Why did Ms. Benitez resign?
- Why did she walk out of the meeting?
- Did Jim Weiss state that a new Chair would be elected?

Bobbie Coleman states that the meeting was recorded (audio). Will that recording be admitted into evidence?

Resolution of Hardin County Republicans to Censure Mitch McConnell

Questions and comments arising from this document:

- Was this the resolution voted on by the majority as read?
- Was the majority read the date of August 8, 2022?
- Was there another vote on putting as in Newspaper at GOP expense or passing the hat?

Page 42-45 November 30, 2022

Bobbie Coleman emailed Jim Weiss, which at that time was acting Chair, giving him the budget guide from page 8 stating funds could be used for newspaper advertising.

Continued conversation via email with Bobbie Coleman, Jim Weiss and Hunter.

Jim stated GOP funds could not be used and suggested to pass the hat.

Page 46 – December 02, 2022

Cheryl Benitez email withdrawing her resignation as Chair.

Cheryl Benitez says:

“After careful consideration of what my abrupt departure would cause, I have withdrawn my resignation and hence I remain your Chair.”

“Our party funds cannot pay for any censure ad in the newspaper. Funds are used only to support GOP candidates or for opposition of their opponents.”

Questions and comments arising from this document:

- Did Cheryl Benitez have any conversations or communications with anyone after resigning and before sending out this email?
- Have those documents been produced?
- What does Cheryl Benitez rely upon to state what she says about use of funds?

Page 47-50 – December 5, 2022

Cheryl Benitez email providing a copy of the “appeal and documents”

Cheryl Benitez says:

“Attached is a copy of the appeal and documents submitted by email on December 5th to the 2nd District Chair in response to the approval of the motion to censure Mitch McConnell.”

Questions and comments arising from this document:

- Did Cheryl Benitez consult with anyone else in the drafting of this document?
- Were there emails or other such communications exchanged during the drafting of the document.
- When did Cheryl Benitez come to the conclusion that it was in violation of the rules of the party for the County to censure Mitch McConnell?
- Was it before the November 29, 2022, meeting?
- Was any attempt to communicate this in writing to the County Committee before that meeting?

Cheryl Benitez letter to Timothy Gilliam appealing the censure vote of the Hardin County Republican

Questions and comments arising from this document:

- Did Timothy Gilliam have any conversation or communication with Cheryl Benitez before receipt of this letter?
- Did Timothy Gilliam make any suggestion or comments to Cheryl Benitez about this letter before it was produced?
- Did any other member who is hearing this appeal have conversations or communication with Cheryl Benitez before receipt of this letter?

Attachment of page 13 of the rules of RPK

Attachment of page 37 of the rules of RPK

Page 51-55 – December 6, 2022

Email from Bobbie Coleman with letter dated November 3, 2022, to Mac Brown of the RPK and Timothy Gilliam of 2nd District, Jeffery Proffitt and Hunter Whitaker, asking for a copy of the appeal and a chance to respond to it, signed by 19 members of the County Committee of the Hardin County Republican Party.

Questions and comments arising from this document:

- What prompted Ms. Benitez to provide a copy of her letter of appeal to the County Committee?
- Did someone recommend doing this?
- Who?
- Has Mr. Gilliam made any attempt to discuss this matter with the State Party or Chairman Brown.
- If Mr. Gilliam aware that other counties outside the 2nd district have also passed censures of Mitch McConnell

Page 56-57- December 16, 2022

Email received from Timothy Gilliam on our options to be heard concerning the appeal