



**Al Riley**  
*for Supervisor*  
**Audrey Brunson**  
*for Clerk*  
**Art Byrd**

*for Highway Commissioner*

**John T. Laliotes**  
*for Trustee*

**John V. Moore**  
*for Trustee*

**Anthony Richard**  
*for Trustee*

**Michael C. Williams**  
*for Trustee*

To: Township Residents and Interested Parties

From: The Integrity Party of Rich Township

Date: March 27, 2021

RE: Pattern of abusive behavior by Highway Commissioner Calvin Jordan  
Trustee Nick Bobis

Thank you to the positive feedback we received on our last memo. It is important that we raise issues regarding matters that are in the public record. We will not make unfounded and defamatory accusations as has been done towards our slate.

Attached please find documents that lead to questions of a pattern of abusive behavior towards Township employees, contractors and representatives of organizations that have relationships with the Township. These documents concern the behavior of Highway Commissioner Calvin Jordan and Trustee Nick Bobis. As with the documents presented in the last memo, an outside individual requested, via a Freedom of Information Act request for "Any and all documents, notes, files, electronic recordings regarding any elected official of the Township that has been accused of or committed or was involved in any types of harassment of staff or anyone associated with the Township entities during his or her conduct as an elected official."

**Synopsis of documents outlining abusive behavior by Highway Commissioner Jordan**

Earlier this year, a Township consultant wrote a memo to Supervisor Riley to express her "utter dismay" in regards to a series of encounters with Commissioner Jordan. The encounters came to a head with a phone call she received on February 11 from a political staffer or agent of Jordan. The memo reveals that Jordan directed the political staffer to contact the consultant regarding public Township business and in doing so violated her confidentiality. The memo ended with the consultant noting that she did not "care to be the recipient of another verbal attack from Mr. Jordan." Attached please find three documents related to this incident.

**Synopsis of documents outlining abusive behavior by Trustee Bobis**

In 2017, an employee of a community based organization reached out to Supervisor Riley via text to express concern about her interactions with Trustee Bobis that led to the organization removing him from the organization's volunteer list. In 2018 another Trustee wrote a memo to Bobis stating that his conduct during a Township board meeting was "hostile, personal and unprofessional." Lastly, in 2019, an employee sent a written complaint to Supervisor Riley that outlined an incident with Bobis that left the employee "feeling very uncomfortable and confused." Additionally, the employee wrote that she "did not understand the origins of the hostility towards me." Attached please find three documents related to these incidents.

The public officials elected to represent Rich Township have an obligation to treat employees, contractors, consultants, their colleagues, and community partners with respect. Failure to do so creates a hostile environment, damages the Township's reputation, and could be costly to taxpayers in that the Township will be a less attractive place to work and do business. . Please read the following documents as you evaluate the candidates for office in Rich Township.

In solidarity for Rich Township,

**The Integrity Party of Rich Township**



Al Riley &lt;ariley@richtownship.org&gt;

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## Complaint by Mary Ann Thornton

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Al Riley &lt;ariley@richtownship.org&gt;

Fri, Feb 12, 2021 at 9:55 AM

To: Constitutional Officers &lt;constitutional@richtownship.org&gt;, Trustees &lt;trustees@richtownship.org&gt;

Cc: Neal Smith &lt;nsmith@robbins-schwartz.com&gt;

Please see the attached letter from Mary Ann Thornton, our Communications Consultant. Not only is the letter troubling, it continues to point to admonitions given by me over the years about conduct with staff and outside contractors. That communication should come from the Township Supervisor; the point of contact for compliance, payment and conduct of the project. That is just administrative common sense, in business or government. A person or entity deserves to know who they are reporting to. The alleged conduct by Calvin Jordan is wrong and harassing. Thornton deserves an apology. Just as contractors come under our harassment policies, so do the staff and elected officials of the Township. That's why the entire staff and elected officials went through harassment training recently. We have the issue that we've gone through numerous times in meetings about non-response to inquiries about articles in the newsletter. Not reading one's Township email is problematic on numerous levels. Whether the Highway Commissioner can write his own memos is a personal issue, but Thornton's confidentiality was clearly breached by a non-Township person reaching out to her and admonishing her. Not to mention the person doing it through, clearly, a political email address. The newsletter is not an organ to communicate anyone's political views or concerns; something I have also mentioned. At a time when Townships are already being scrutinized, these actions show a lack common sense, and cannot happen again. That is why internal scrutiny is necessary in any organization for it to work properly. I will continue to make sure that it happens; the reason for this communication.

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Al Riley, AICP  
Rich Township Supervisor

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Letter to Supervisor Riley thornton re jordan.pdf  
137K



Al Riley <[ariley@richtownship.org](mailto:ariley@richtownship.org)>

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## Fwd: Re: Rich Township Road District Essential Workers Recognition

3 messages

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MARY ANN THORNTON <[REDACTED]>  
To: "ariley@richtownship.org" <[ariley@richtownship.org](mailto:ariley@richtownship.org)>

Thu, Feb 11, 2021 at 12:27 PM

Hi,

So apparently, this is the person who sent the article for Calvin Jordan on December 28, but to the wrong email. Do you know this guy?

Mary Ann

----- Original Message -----

From: Christopher Cole <[citizensforchriscole@gmail.com](mailto:citizensforchriscole@gmail.com)>

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Calvin Jordan <[cjordanpcm@yahoo.com](mailto:cjordanpcm@yahoo.com)>

Date: 02/10/2021 10:58 PM

Subject: Re: Rich Township Road District Essential Workers Recognition

Hey good evening Mary Ann,

I did not see the article we submitted included in the latest newsletter. Could you please let me know why it was not published?

Thank you,

- Christopher Cole

On Mon, Dec 28, 2020 at 18:11 Christopher Cole <[citizensforchriscole@gmail.com](mailto:citizensforchriscole@gmail.com)> wrote:

Good evening Mary Ann,

Attached is the article for the report regarding the Rich Township essential workers being recognized.

Thanks a lot!

--

Christopher A Cole

Phone: (708) 738-2448

Email: [citizensforchriscole@gmail.com](mailto:citizensforchriscole@gmail.com)

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Christopher A. Cole

Citizens For Chris Cole

Phone: (708) 738-2448

Email: [citizensforchriscole@gmail.com](mailto:citizensforchriscole@gmail.com)

February 11, 2021

Supervisor Al Riley, AICP  
Rich Township  
22013 Governors Highway  
Richton Park, IL 60471

Dear Supervisor Riley,

I am writing this letter to express my utter dismay with a phone conversation held at 9:35 a.m. Thursday, February 11, 2021, with Calvin Jordan, Rich Township Highway Commissioner. I felt my integrity and quality of work were under attack by Mr. Jordan. He was displeased that an article he believed I received via email was not included in the Winter edition of The Report. I felt like I was being accused of something. When I tried to explain that I did not receive an email from him, he immediately ordered me to "let him finish."

Mr. Jordan was accusatory and demanding in his words, suggesting that "I should have called if I didn't receive anything from him." When I finally was allowed to speak, I informed Mr. Jordan that I sent several emails regarding the township newspaper (as provided below). He received emails at [cjordan@richtownship.org](mailto:cjordan@richtownship.org) on November 20, 2020, December 28, 2020, January 4, 2021, and again January 8, 2021. To this, Mr. Jordan replied, "I don't use that email often," and he followed by rattling off what I can only assume is a personal email. I explained to Mr. Jordan that I use Rich Township emails for township business.

Either way, Mr. Jordan insisted he provided an article for the Highway Department. I assured him that at no time did I receive a piece from him. I asked Mr. Jordan to provide the email address for which he sent his article. He said [mthornton39@](mailto:mthornton39@). I immediately explained this is not my email address and never has been. I am not sure where this came from, and he positively would never have received a single email from me using [mthornton39](mailto:mthornton39@). THE emails I send to staff and constitutional officers are from [REDACTED]. I do not use any other email address when corresponding with Rich Township.

I also spoke on the phone with Mr. Jordan twice in December. The first time Mr. Jordan called me in early December was to say that he planned to submit an article. I told him that was great and to "please send your article and pictures via email as soon as possible." Mr. Jordan called again on December 18, 2020. I was picking up my mother-in-law from chemotherapy at that time, so I did not answer my phone. He left the following voice message: "Mary Ann, this is Calvin Jordan. I know we talked before. Just trying to make sure that I get this information over to you. I think we said next week, but I want to make sure that I get it to you early. So if you can, if not this week, at your earliest convenience, give me a call or check back with me Monday. Whatever is convenient for you."

I did not speak with Mr. Jordan after receiving this voicemail. I anticipated receiving his article as he noted he wanted to get it in early. On December 24, 2020, while I was preparing Christmas Eve dinner with my children, Mr. Jordan called me to say he was expecting a call from me regarding his article. His tone was terse, and I felt like I was receiving verbal assault because I didn't return his call. I asked Mr. Jordan if he sent his article, thinking I must have missed his email or forgot to send a reply. Mr. Jordan said, "No, I did not send it. I was waiting to hear back from you." I replied, "Please do not wait to hear back from me. Please email your article and picture, and I will respond."

From this point on, I did not receive another phone call and never received a single reply to emails sent to [cjordan@richtownship.org](mailto:cjordan@richtownship.org). The following are emails sent to [cjordan@richtownship.org](mailto:cjordan@richtownship.org).

**November 20, 2020**

Good afternoon,

*I hope this email finds everyone staying very well and having a good day. I am currently planning out the winter edition of The Report. As such, it would be helpful to receive your department news. The edition is expected for release in January 2021. Please send department news, along with any photos you want included, no later than Monday, December 7.*

*Also, I would again like to include human interest stories in the paper. If you have a recommendation, such as a volunteer to profile, please share.*

*Many thanks, and do not hesitate to contact me.*  
Mary Ann

**December 28, 2020**

Good morning,

*I trust this email finds you feeling very well and enjoying the holiday season. This week I am finalizing content for the Winter edition of The Report, as it is scheduled for release mid-January. Please send your article as soon as possible.*

*Also, if you try to reach me by phone and I do not get back to you right away, please accept my apology in advance. I am helping my husband care for his ailing mother who is undergoing cancer treatments and dialysis. Our schedule is highly demanding, so I am not always available via phone.*

*If you have a question concerning your content, please send it via email and I will get back to you as soon as possible.*

*Best to you,*  
Mary Ann

**January 4, 2021**

Good afternoon and Happy New Year,

*I hope you are very well and enjoyed the holiday season. This week, I am working on layout of the Winter edition of The Report. If you still intend to have an article in the edition for the Highway Department, please send to me by Wednesday afternoon, January 6, 2021.*

*Many thanks,*  
Mary Ann

**January 8, 2021**

Good afternoon,

*I hope you are staying very well and enjoying the day. As noted in my previous email, I am in the process of wrapping up the winter edition of The Report. If you have an article for the report, please send no later than Monday, January 11. I can still get it in.*

*Many thanks,*  
Mary Ann

Subsequent to the phone call with Mr. Jordan, I reviewed my email inbox again to see if I missed an email from cjordan@richtownship. There is no such email received at any time. However, on February 10, 2021, there was an email from a Christopher Cole. I have no idea why this guy is apparently doing things on Mr. Jordan's behalf and I was never advised in advance to expect something from someone other than Mr. Jordan. The email sent from Mr. Cole was not to my correct email. Also, because I was not aware to expect an email from Christopher Cole and because I don't know who he is, I would likely disregard it since it is coming from an unknown person unaffiliated with the Township. I am very much on alert of scam emails and virus threats. Finally, I am not aware how an unknown person contacted my private email, for which Mr. Jordan violated my confidentiality.

What you've just read has been my consistent experience with Mr. Jordan, whether it was related to the Township Report newspaper or regarding the Township Day virtual event. The Fall 2020 edition was precisely the same experience. I released an initial email to constitutional officers and staff to request their article for the Fall edition. Following my email, Mr. Jordan called to say he would send his article for the newspaper. After several reminders, including a phone call from Supervisor Riley to Mr. Jordan (which I was present for the call), Mr. Jordan did not submit an article.

I take my work and commitment to Rich Township very seriously, and I would never blatantly ignore an email from any Rich Township official. There is no benefit for me to leave out an article from the Township's newspaper, and I don't make these decisions anyway. *The Report* is a publication to benefit residents of the Township. My job is to produce the best possible literature using the content provided by township staff and constitutional officers.

In closing, I do not care to be the recipient of another verbal attack from Mr. Jordan. Furthermore, I understand that I take direction from the Supervisor relative to administrative-related work performed as a contractor of Rich Township. Moreover, I asked that if a staff member or constitutional officer has an issue with me in my role as a contractor, please speak directly with Supervisor Riley.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Thornton

Dear Trustee Bobis,

First let me start off by saying that you have always shown good leadership as a Rich Township Trustee and with your work within the TOCC Trustee's division. Your work as a public servant is commendable.

I wanted to bring to your attention that your behavior and actions towards me and The Township Supervisor at our last Rich Township board meeting was hostile, personal and unprofessional. I am extremely concerned about this as it has become a reoccurring pattern over the last several monthly regular board meetings. I feel that your language and demeanor continue to undermine Supervisor Riley's efforts to move Township business forward and the mutual respect we as elected officials should have for each other. We had a number of staff and constituents in attendance, and an elected official should not be acting in the way you did in a public meeting.

As you very well know it was brought to my attention by other Cook County Township Officials that on a number of occasions you have insulted and disrespected them with your language. We have discussed this and I want to reiterate that you must be mindful of your language, because it comes across as very offensive to others. Nick you should strive to treat everyone as your equal no matter what their gender or ethnic backgrounds may be.

Going forward, I would like for everyone on the board to try to have a good working relationship with respect, understanding and civility. If you're available I would like to meet with you and Supervisor Riley to try to work out any issues that is causing this abnormal behavior.

Regards

Rev. Dr Elliott H. Johnson Sr

President Township Officials Cook County

Treasurer Trustee Division Township Officials of Cook County

Rich Township Trustee

[REDACTED]  
Rich Township [REDACTED]

22013 Governors Highway

Richton Park, IL 60471

June 18, 2019

Dear Supervisor Riley

On June 7, 2019 [REDACTED] forward an email to me from TOCC for their 2019 conference. I called Trustee Bobis to ask if he would like to attend and that I am now the contact for any TOI & TOCC meetings. Trustee Bobis said that he was not aware of this change, and expressed his displeasure that the procedure has changed and was concerned that the payment would not reach the vendor in a timely fashion.

Trusted Bobis informed me that this is embarrassing to him as a Trustee that we are unable to pay for their admission to the event. Even more so for Elliot Johnson because he is the President of the Organization. He requested that the check is given to them, so they could hand deliver the check when they go to the event on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

I apologized to Trustee Bobis and explained to him that I did not receive the email until that day from [REDACTED] and the event had to be RSVP by the end of the day. Trustee Bobis proceeded to tell me he's glad that [REDACTED] took the bull by the horn and got the job done.

This conversation left me feeling very uncomfortable and confused. I apologized profusely yet my words went unheard because he continue to berate me while he spoke over me. Considering that we had little to no interaction in the past, I did not understand origins of the hostility towards me.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

Transcripts of text messages from an employee of a local community based organization regarding the behavior of Trustee Nick Bobis. Indented responses in italics are from Rich Township Supervisor Al Riley.

**May 5, 2017**

I met one of your trustees tonight although I heard about him nick bobis you must have your hands full

*Where at?*

At our housewares show this evening

*K*

He was one of the volunteers who went their on our behalf everything went wrong and he has let us all know it's my first go round but I knew he was the guy the ladies were complaining about

*Yes. He's a trip.*

To say the least

*Hey, are you ok? He didn't say anything crazy to you, did he?*

I'm fine I stepped in to make sure he wasn't harassing anyone but he gave me a piece of his mind and now we are bffs

*Not clear. He gave you a piece of his mind, but you're bffs?*

Not really

But I think he thinks that

*Oh yeah, now I know. It's the thing where you can get surplus stuff from the trade show.*

Yes.

**March 10, 2018**

We had an unpleasant meeting with nick bobis on Thursday I would not be

**surprised if you heard about how awful [REDACTED] is**  
**We removed him from our volunteer list**

*Thought you did that the last time*

**This time we made it official**

*With harassment being what it is, if he crossed the line, it should be reported*

**He's just a rude asshole and our volunteers had enough of him**

*Yeah, but it might be worth a letter to me.*

**Ok, I can do that**

**March 14, 2018**

**Hello I spent yesterday and night at McCormick place yesterday did not get a chance to respond**

*Again hon, Feel free to send me a letter on him if you'd like. The outside behavior of Township officials comes under scrutiny, as you very well know*