

## City Clerk Staff

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**From:** Gwen Jones  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 4, 2022 1:25 PM  
**To:** J. Kevin Hunt; Grp. City Council and City Web Site  
**Subject:** Re: [corrected] Alderwoman Savage Must Repent or Resign

Dear Mr. Hunt, I wanted to respond to your email.

Per the City Attorney's office, the situation you refer to regarding a city councilor owning a Short Term Rental is not a conflict of interest; additionally, we had no action item in front of us to vote on.

Further, the contract with Granicus to gather data on local Short Term Rentals was for 22K, not 50K.

I would add that the Missoula City Council has had a long standing practice of limiting public comment to three minutes, out of respect for everyone's time. When running a committee meeting it is not uncommon for the Chair to ask a participant to please conclude their remarks, so that all are treated equally and we keep the meeting on time.

Thank you for communicating your concerns to us. Take care, -Gwen

Gwen Jones  
Ward 3 City Councilwoman  
606 Woodford St., Missoula, MT 59801  
406 549-3295

Note: All emails to and from this address are in the public domain.

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**From:** J. Kevin Hunt <jkhesq23@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 4, 2022 9:47 AM  
**To:** Grp. City Council and City Web Site <Council@ci.missoula.mt.us>  
**Subject:** [corrected] Alderwoman Savage Must Repent or Resign

OPEN LETTER TO ALDERWOMAN SAVAGE, MISSOULA CITY COUNCIL AND PEOPLE OF MISSOULA: WARD 1  
ALDERWOMAN SAVAGE MUST REPENT OR RESIGN

[Note: a previously transmitted version of this email erroneously referred to one airbnb operated by Ms. Savage, rather than the correct number of two; additionally, the referenced ads were not attached. Subjoined to this corrected version are links to the nationwide ads listing each of Ms. Savage's airbnbs. Additional minor edits have been made for clarity].

August 4, 2022

Dear Councilor Savage & Council, and People of Missoula:

Before one calls upon another to resign from a position of power and trust for which the position holder was hired by voters, decency and respect for dignity demand that one provide cogent, compelling and objectively proper reasons for doing so. Prior to fulfilling that responsibility, I am first compelled by my conscience to preface my case with brief examination of the struggle within that presaged my call for Ward 1 Alderwoman Jennifer Savage's resignation.

The past several months, I've endeavored to adopt a reformed personal outlook in which notwithstanding history, I would presume the integrity of elected city officials and extend them a cooperative hand, couching criticisms in policy terms and assuming that there are not really, among our City electeds and appointees, corrupt officials who pursue their own interests for personal gain and protection of their, and their cronies' interests, including via exploitation of a community crisis.

That sincere effort to vitiate my learned cynicism suffered a grave wounding during the Thursday, August 3, 1:10 pm meeting of the City Council's Housing, Redevelopment & Community Programs Committee (HRPC).

That mortal wound to my intentions was inflicted by Ward 1 Alderwoman Jennifer Savage. It was preceded by warning shots over the bow fired by her Ward 1 colleague, HRPC Chair Heidi West, who attempted to first silence citizen virtual attendee & public commenter Whitney Bergmann (whom I do not know and with whom I've never spoken), then me. Those attempts occurred at points in our respective critiques of the short-term rental (STR) study at which we dared to explain why following Housing Policy Specialist Emily Shears-Harris' recommendation to not crunch the study data now regarding three unanswered questions raised by community members and Alderman Carlino (not a HRPC member and not present) --- would lead to public fomentation of hypothesized ulterior motives behind City housing and zoning policies, the cloaking of which would be surmised to be reflected in Ms. Harris-Shears' reluctance.

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We're not dealing here with Elena Ceausescu.

Accordingly, it is with no small amount of reflection that I call upon Councilwoman Savage to resign.

Councilwoman Savage should step down because of her inexcusable and unethical failure to disclose the extent of her personal pecuniary stake and interest in an industry the appropriate degree of regulation of which was before the Council Committee on which she serves, at the August 3 meeting where she advocated for a policy concerning regulation of that industry favorable to her own personal profit-making interests and unfavorable to the public interest. The agenda item then before the committee was presentation and discussion of the Draft study of Short-Term Rentals (STRs) commissioned by the City Council and completed at a cost of approximately \$50K by mega-vendor Granicus.

Specifically, Ms. Savage urged housing staff, and fellow Councilors on the committee, respectively, to not propose or ordain an increase in STR registration fees to twice or thrice the monthly rate of an STR, an option under consideration by housing staff. In support of her position, Ms. Savage said that the many fees incurred by STR owners/operators other than the current registration fee already substantially burden STR operators to the degree that the registration fee increase under staff consideration for recommendation to the Council, would cause many STR operators, especially bnb

operators, to have to cease operation.

Ms. Savage did not disclose that she personally owns, operates and nationally advertises a 6-guest, 2 bedroom airbnb at \$225/night and a 4 guest, 1 bedroom "tiny house" airbnb at \$109/night. Subjoined hereto are links to Ms. Savage's nationwide ads promoting each of her airbnbs, one of which garnered 809 reviews. The ads feature Ms. Savage's name and photograph.

In her citizen comment, Whitney Bergmann called upon all councilors who own STRs to disclose the conflict of interest and recuse themselves from consideration of matters pertaining to STR regulation. Ms. Savage still did not do so.

Because no actual proposed regulation was formally before the committee or full Council for consideration and vote, it was likely not technically legally required of Ms. Savage to recuse herself from commenting on the STR study and staff recommendations. But when a person is entrusted by voters with addressing the most critical issue facing Missoulians (as voter surveys affirmed), during a housing emergency and concomitant public health emergency, it was highly inappropriate for Ms. Savage to advocate (referring to bnb owners in the third person) against a regulatory measure under consideration by housing staff for its referral to code enforcement staff and then presentation to the Council as an ordinance for formal consideration.

Ms. Savage's disclosure of her personal stake in the potential promulgation and ordination of an STR registration fee increase at this juncture would be superfluous, because whether or not The Missoulian continues to not report on Ms. Savage's airbnb business and her failure to disclose that business when advocating against a fee increase to pay for heightened STR code compliance enforcement and continuous monitoring of STR trends in Missoula, it's a certainty that other news outlets will do so, as well as reporting on the plethora of calls for her resignation or recall that are certain to henceforth highlight City Council meeting citizen comments.

Most Missoula voters are forgiving of even very egregious misconduct, including criminal behavior, by elected City officials, that arises from addictions afflicting the official, as evidenced by a repentant Mayor Engen's re-election following revelation of his alcohol intoxication-induced behaviors in office while on the job, some of which reportedly posed an imminent threat to the lives and safety of others.

It therefore is possible that a sincere apology by Ms. Savage (who is afflicted with no known addiction) made on the record at the next Council meeting, and pledge to recuse herself from future participation in consideration of STR-related matters, with written copies of the apology and pledge distributed to local news media, would mollify most Missoulians.

Unless and until Ms. Savage takes those steps, however, there is no reasonable citizen alternative to calling upon her to resign.

Sincerely,

/s/ J. Kevin Hunt -- Ward 1

308 Parkside Ln.  
Missoula, MT 59802-3130

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[https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/7615171?source\\_impression\\_id=p3\\_1659565047\\_k9tdwwxeyTTPoqhl&guests=1&adults=1&check\\_in=2022-08-28&check\\_out=2022-08-30&cancellation\\_policy\\_id=51&fbclid=IwAR19\\_hhnyrDN9b7W58IRpXkjifssEcbcqFEoR1ciOdkuicCbLkW3kYJ\\_mKA](https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/7615171?source_impression_id=p3_1659565047_k9tdwwxeyTTPoqhl&guests=1&adults=1&check_in=2022-08-28&check_out=2022-08-30&cancellation_policy_id=51&fbclid=IwAR19_hhnyrDN9b7W58IRpXkjifssEcbcqFEoR1ciOdkuicCbLkW3kYJ_mKA)

## City Clerk Staff

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**From:** Gwen Jones  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 4, 2022 12:26 PM  
**To:** Susan Stubblefield; Grp. City Council and City Web Site  
**Subject:** Re: Authorized Camping Site for homeless people in Missoula

Hi Susan - I had previously sent this email to you privately, but thought I would also put it on the response to this email:

First I want to address the water situation. There is no running water at the ACS, because there is no infrastructure there. However Culligan delivers bottled water on a regular basis, and when more is needed, more is brought in. There was a period of 6 hours a couple of weeks ago when the bottled water had run out, prior to more being brought in. Otherwise there is always drinking water there. But there is not a tap for running water.

It is my understanding that shade structures are being erected, and some are in place. People also have their tents which provide shade. When other structures are erected, however, Fire personnel mandate that they be taken down because they encroach into the walkways and compromise Fire being able to access to provide either emergency care or to put out a fire. This has been told to all inhabitants from the beginning, and is not a change.

Porta Potties are being provided for all campers. I believe we only had one company that agreed to provide that service - no others would respond. The porta potties are cleaned on a regular basis, but it is not optimal.

Trash is being picked up by Republic Services on a weekly basis. We have had some issues with their pickup, which does not happen if the dumpster is not positioned in the correct place, if items have been placed on top of it, etc. I believe we have worked through those issues with Republic and the service should be better now.

Additionally, the City and County have had an incredibly hard time staffing the ACS, and for a period of weeks there was no staff there. Three new hires are starting on Monday for training and onboarding. In the meantime, Rogers Security has been onsite the entire time.

The camp is set up as a low barrier camp. As you can imagine, it is also challenging to hire people to staff it, but we seem to have turned the corner on that issue.

As I referenced earlier, I am happy to meet to discuss in more detail. Staff is working to make the ACS a viable situation for the residents staying there as well as the adjacent businesses. I welcome your thoughts on this program. Take care, -Gwen

Gwen Jones  
Ward 3 City Councilwoman  
606 Woodford St., Missoula, MT 59801  
406 549-3295

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**From:** Susan Stubblefield <[scsinmissoula@gmail.com](mailto:scsinmissoula@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 4, 2022 12:16 PM  
**To:** Grp. City Council and City Web Site <[Council@ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto:Council@ci.missoula.mt.us)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Authorized Camping Site for homeless people in Missoula

Dear Missoula City Council Members:

The forwarded email was originally sent to Ward 3 Missoula City Council Representatives Dan Carlino. The same email was sent to Representative Gwen Jones. Dan has suggested that I pass the email along to the entire City Council. Consequently, I am doing so.

I've talked with my neighbor, Connie Keough, about the email and its contents. She expressed similar concerns to ours and has promised to keep an eye on developments related to the Authorized Site.

Sincerely,

Susan Stubblefield  
951 Ronald Ave, #109  
Missoula, MT 59801

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Daniel Carlino <[carlinoformissoula@gmail.com](mailto:carlinoformissoula@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Thu, Aug 4, 2022 at 10:15 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Authorized Camping Site for homeless people in Missoula  
**To:** Susan Stubblefield <[scsinmissoula@gmail.com](mailto:scsinmissoula@gmail.com)>

Thank you to everyone for this email, would you like to share it with the rest of the council or do you want me to forward it? You can reach everyone on the council and the public record by emailing here: [council@ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto:council@ci.missoula.mt.us)

I completely agree with your concerns and have been advocating tirelessly with the city staff and other council members to get the proper resources to the authorized camp site. Without providing people with their basic needs like running water, electricity, shelter from the elements, etc. then we can't expect those folks to be able to find long-term stable housing. If we can get these basic needs met, then we will surely see more and more people being able to get out of the cycle of homelessness and poverty.

On the bright side, some changes are planned for this site: 3 new full time employees will be starting as site coordinators for the authorized campsite next week. I have also been working with the Public Works department to get running water and electricity to this site. They said that if the city says that we will continue to make this site long term, then they will get the running water and electricity set up next year. So I plan to continue to follow up on those requests for water and electricity as well to ensure it happens. I will also continue to push for warming and cooling areas there and the ability to create more durable shelters on site rather than just "bring your own tent".

I have mostly stood alone amongst my council colleagues in making these requests to the city, so I am asking that you please share this letter with the rest of council and the mayor's staff to try to push the city in the right direction.

-Daniel Carlino  
406-239-2240

On Thu, Aug 4, 2022 at 9:52 AM Susan Stubblefield <[scsinmissoula@gmail.com](mailto:scsinmissoula@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Ward 3 Missoula City Council Representative Dan Carlino:

We, the undersigned, live on Ronald and Eddy Avenues in Missoula. We recently read the Missoulian article about the conditions at the Authorized Camping Site for homeless people on Clark Fork Lane in Missoula (Thursday, July 28, 2022, A7).

We were shocked to learn that the folks living there have no source of water on site, are crammed into claustrophobic tent spaces, and are now forbidden sources of shade for their living areas in this extreme heat. It's no wonder that people are abandoning the sanctioned homeless site! It has become untenable to live there. In the beginning, the project held such promise. Are all the increasing restrictions truly necessary for safety reasons? Although they may not be intended as such, the restrictions seem to have a punitive effect on site inhabitants.

These people are human beings. For a myriad of reasons, they are currently unhoused. We would hope that the city could do better by those who "but for the grace of God" could be any of us. In the photograph accompanying the article, a resident was removing his possessions from his campsite. He carried a potted plant in one hand. Maybe that plant was his attempt to bring some solace/some gentleness to the harsh reality of his circumstances. He had hoped that the Authorized Camping Site would provide him with a safe, humane living space, if temporary, when he moved in in April of 2022. Now, he's going back to living on the street due to the inhospitable conditions at the site.

If residents are given no say in changes imposed on them, feel disrespected and not heard, they will take matters into their own hands one way or the other. That's human nature. For this site to meet the needs of everyone involved (the city, the residents, and the coordinators), there must be cooperative communication between all parties.

The project still has potential to be a win-win for the homeless in our community and for the city itself. Missoulians pride themselves on being compassionate neighbors. Let's do what it takes to follow through for those unhoused among us.

Please share this email with other City Council members and see that constructive action is taken on this important issue.

Thank you,

Susan Stubblefield

Catriona Janet Simms

Nancy Kinsey

Lane Coulston

Linda Coulston

Barbara Hand

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Glenn (Woody) Wood

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Sharon Horner

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[https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/7615171?source\\_impression\\_id=p3\\_1659565047\\_k9tdwwxeyTtpOqhl&guests=1&adults=1&check\\_in=2022-08-28&check\\_out=2022-08-30&cancellation\\_policy\\_id=51&fbclid=IwAR19\\_hhnyrDN9b7W58IRpXkjifssEcbcqFEoR1ciOdkuicCbLkW3kYJ\\_mKA](https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/7615171?source_impression_id=p3_1659565047_k9tdwwxeyTtpOqhl&guests=1&adults=1&check_in=2022-08-28&check_out=2022-08-30&cancellation_policy_id=51&fbclid=IwAR19_hhnyrDN9b7W58IRpXkjifssEcbcqFEoR1ciOdkuicCbLkW3kYJ_mKA)

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**From:** J. Kevin Hunt <jkhesq23@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 4, 2022 6:58 AM  
**To:** Grp. City Council and City Web Site  
**Subject:** Alderwoman Savage Must Repent or Resign

August 4, 2022

Dear Councilor Savage & Council, and People of Missoula:

Before one calls upon another to resign from a position of power and trust for which the position holder was hired by voters, decency and respect for dignity demand that one provide cogent, compelling and objectively proper reasons for doing so. Prior to fulfilling that responsibility, I am first compelled by my conscience to preface my case with brief examination of the struggle within that presaged my call for Ward 1 Alderwoman Jennifer Savage's resignation.

The past several months, I've endeavored to adopt a reformed personal outlook in which notwithstanding history, I would presume the integrity of elected city officials and extend them a cooperative hand, couching criticisms in policy terms and assuming that there are not really, among our City electeds and appointees, corrupt officials who pursue their own interests for personal gain and protection of their, and their cronies' interests, including via exploitation of a community crisis.

That sincere effort to vitiate my learned cynicism suffered a grave wounding during the Thursday, August 3, 1:10 pm meeting of the City Council's Housing, Redevelopment & Community Programs Committee (HRPC).

That mortal wound to my intentions was inflicted by Ward 1 Alderwoman Jennifer Savage. It was preceded by warning shots over the bow fired by her Ward 1 colleague, HRPC Chair Heidi West, who attempted to first silence citizen virtual attendee & public commenter Whitney Bergmann (whom I do not know and with whom I've never spoken), then me. Those attempts occurred at points in our respective critiques of the short-term rental (STR) study at which we dared to explain why following Housing Policy Specialist Emily Shears-Harris' recommendation to not crunch the study data now regarding three unanswered questions raised by community members and Alderman Carlino (not a HRPC member and not present) --- would lead to public fomentation of hypothesized ulterior motives behind City housing and zoning policies, the cloaking of which would be surmised to be reflected in Ms. Harris-Shears' reluctance.

My lifelong natural tendency has been to advocate for the accused, as well as to stand alongside and protect from vindictive retribution, those guilty of conduct ranging from petty theft to serial murder. I have been the unpopular advocate for publicly despised men and women unjustly accused of, who were wrongfully convicted of, or who in fact committed and were found guilty of horrific offenses. The mere recitation of details of many of those offenses is capable of triggering visceral reactions and mob mentality demanding death of the offender. I am both proud and exceedingly grateful that empathy, skill and fate enabled me, sometimes after 25 or more years of judicial battle, to permanently remove the sword of Damocles hanging over those persons' heads, providing them with opportunity for redemption and positive purpose in what remains of their imprisoned lives once the state's relentless efforts to lawfully kill them had finally ceased.

I believe that few, if any, people are as bad as their worst act.

For political figures who made errors of judgment or committed private, personal moral transgressions reflecting character flaws unrepresentative of their political lives as a whole, I have typically deemed remorse a sufficient basis for continuing to support them (or at least not for not seeking their abdication of office on the basis of such episodes). For oppressive, brutal dictators, egregious human rights violators and war-makers on their own rebelling people, I have a

different view, supporting and accepting revolutionary justice in such contexts.

We're not dealing here with Elena Ceausescu.

Accordingly, it is with no small amount of reflection that I call upon Councilwoman Savage to resign.

Councilwoman Savage should step down because of her inexcusable and unethical failure to disclose the extent of her personal pecuniary stake and interest in an industry the appropriate degree of regulation of which was before the Council Committee on which she serves, at the August 3 meeting where she advocated for a policy concerning regulation of that industry favorable to her own personal profit-making interests and unfavorable to the public interest. The agenda item then before the committee was presentation and discussion of the Draft study of Short-Term Rentals (STRs) commissioned by the City Council and completed at a cost of approximately \$50K by mega-vendor Granicus.

Specifically, Ms. Savage urged housing staff, and fellow Councilors on the committee, respectively, to not propose or ordain an increase in STR registration fees to twice or thrice the monthly rate of an STR, an option under consideration by housing staff. In support of her position, Ms. Savage said that the many fees incurred by STR owners/operators other than the current registration fee already substantially burden STR operators to the degree that the registration fee increase under staff consideration for recommendation to the Council, would cause many STR operators, especially bnb operators, to have to cease operation.

Ms. Savage did not disclose that she personally owns, operates and nationally advertises a \$109/night airbnb. Attached hereto are three ads run by Ms. Savage promoting her bnb, one of which garnered 809 reviews. The ad features Ms. Savage's name and photograph.

In her citizen comment, Whitney Bergmann called upon all councilors who own STRs to disclose the conflict of interest and recuse themselves from consideration of matters pertaining to STR regulation. Ms. Savage still did not do so.

Because no actual proposed regulation was formally before the committee or full Council for consideration and vote, it was likely not technically legally required of Ms. Savage to recuse herself from commenting on the STR study and staff recommendations. But when a person is entrusted by voters with addressing the most critical issue facing Missoulians (as voter surveys affirmed), during a housing emergency and concomitant public health emergency, it was highly inappropriate for Ms. Savage to advocate (referring to bnb owners in the third person) against a regulatory measure under consideration by housing staff for its referral to code enforcement staff and then presentation to the Council as an ordinance for formal consideration.

Ms. Savage's disclosure of her personal stake in the potential promulgation and ordination of an STR registration fee increase at this juncture would be superfluous, because whether or not The Missoulian continues to not report on Ms. Savage's airbnb business and her failure to disclose that business when advocating against a fee increase to pay for heightened STR code compliance enforcement and continuous monitoring of STR trends in Missoula, it's a certainty that other news outlets will do so, as well as reporting on the plethora of calls for her resignation or recall that are certain to henceforth highlight City Council meeting citizen comments.

Most Missoula voters are forgiving of even very egregious misconduct, including criminal behavior, by elected City officials, that arises from addictions afflicting the official, as evidenced by a repentant Mayor Engen's re-election following revelation of his alcohol intoxication-induced behaviors in office while on the job, some of which reportedly posed an imminent threat to the lives and safety of others.

It therefore is possible that a sincere apology by Ms. Savage made on the record at the next Council meeting, and pledge to recuse herself from future participation in consideration of STR-related matters, with written copies of the apology and pledge distributed to local news media, would mollify most Missoulians.

Unless and until Ms. Savage takes those steps, however, there is no reasonable citizen alternative to calling upon her to

resign.

Sincerely,

/s/ J. Kevin Hunt -- Ward 1

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