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From: Michael Bannek [REDACTED]
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To: COB_mail
Subject: Pima County Treasurer Replacement

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Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

After following the Treasurer's Office news in the media and viewing the first half of last evening's LWVGT forum for the Pima County Treasurer vacancy, I feel compelled to comment about Mr. Jake Martin, one of the candidates being considered.

As the replacement process moves forward, it is my sincere hope that the Pima County Board of Supervisors selects and appoints a well-qualified Treasurer to restore the trust, integrity and calm that has been eroded over the past 18 months.

With that said, a well-known idiom comes to mind about not judging a book by its cover as outward appearances can be highly deceptive.

While some may perceive Mr. Martin as confident, competent, and capable, in my opinion he appears to be self-serving, highly pretentious, arrogant, inauthentic, patronizing, and unqualified to lead the Treasurer's Office. His previous alliance, collaboration, personal relationship and loyalty to Brian Johnson should be a serious concern.

While serving in top-level management in Pima County, and claiming to be the founder of Survivor Shield – an organization supposedly dedicated to destigmatizing sexual assault, supporting survivors, and raising awareness -- Mr. Martin failed to promptly report the alleged sexual harassment of an employee in the Treasurer's Office as required by Pima County's Policy D 21.2, Prevention of Sexual Harassment.

Mr. Martin maintains he was honoring the affected employee's request that the alleged misconduct not be reported. By not reporting the incidents in a timely manner, it seems he may have been more concerned about protecting his own appointed job and that of the unclassified employee than the possibility there could be other employees in the office being subjected to the same or similar harassment.

As the Chief Deputy Treasurer, he clearly was obligated ethically, morally and mandatorily to report any and all such misconduct **promptly**. Two months after he became aware of the alleged sexual misconduct and before reporting it, he willingly and knowingly attended a non-work-related concert with the Treasurer, the complainant, and others. This raises the question of whether the concert was a one-time social interaction with the Treasurer, and whether there were other outside social get-togethers.

Instead of being disciplined, dismissed, or asked to resign for blatantly violating Pima County policy, it appears Mr. Martin instead has been "rewarded" with appointment to the interim Treasurer position with the possibility for appointment for the remainder of the Treasurer's term of office.

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It was inconceivable that Mr. Martin was appointed to the Chief Deputy Treasurer position in the first place... and with an annual salary of approximately \$100,00. This is in addition to employee benefits, which have included tuition reimbursement for his pursuit of an MBA and more. At the time of his appointment 18 months ago, Mr. Martin was 21 years old, still attending university classes towards a Bachelor's Degree in Human Development and Family Studies -- totally unrelated to his role in the Treasurer's Office -- and his only "employment" or work experience was as the founder of a campus sexual assault organization. Not only does being the founder of an organization for sexual abuse victims seem ironic in light of the harassment allegations, but Mr. Martin's appointment exemplifies a pattern of poor judgment from a Treasurer who filed personal bankruptcy twice yet was elected to manage and safeguard billions of our public dollars.

Mr. Martin said he submitted letters of support from County and other political leaders as well as from staff in the Treasurer's Department. The letters from office staff seem questionable given the possibility that he may have encouraged it. If he is appointed, will those staff now be given favoritism? The letters will be public so if someone else is appointed, will those staff members be treated fairly or differently by the new Treasurer? Certainly, there may be other staff members who have remained neutral through the upheaval or who don't support his appointment to Treasurer.

In reference to the "unclassified" complainant, she now has job and legal protections despite being in an "unclassified" position appointed by Brian Johnson. When someone says "No" to sexual advances, it definitely means "No", and this must be respected regardless of whether the victim is in a current or a previous relationship with the perpetrator.

If the "unclassified" complainant was indeed in a consensual, personal relationship with Mr. Johnson at some point as he alleges, there is a question of whether she was hired due to the nature of that relationship and for other possible ongoing "favors". Mr. Johnson also has said with her consent, they spent nights together in the same room while on an out-of-town business trip in December 2025. While I am definitely not defending Mr. Johnson or his behavior in any way, this certainly was inappropriate, reckless, and reeks of impropriety *on both of their parts*.

This seemingly presents a quandary for Pima County, given that her "unclassified" employment status is now protected and safe from any action that could give the appearance of retribution. It also may present a conundrum with regard to Mr. Martin's "unclassified" position as Deputy should he not be appointed to Treasurer. It's my understanding that both of these "unclassified" employees "were appointed by and served at the pleasure of the elected Treasurer". In light of the circumstances, I sincerely believe it would be in the best interest of Pima County and the other employees in the Treasurer's Office if both of them resigned or were reassigned to another department.

Respectfully,

Michael Banek