

5118 Hinchey Road  
Howell, MI 48843  
June 4, 2021

Livingston County Board of Commissioners  
304 E. Grand River Avenue  
Suite 201  
Howell, MI 48843

Dear Livingston County Board of Commissioners,

This is my notification to you that after consulting with attorneys and doing my own research I have concluded that the Livingston County Board of Commissioners (LC BOC) led by Chair Wes Nakagiri has committed at least three violations of Michigan and federal law against me during the ongoing Huron Clinton Metroparks Commissioner appointment process.

1. The LC BOC totally ignored Michigan Compiled Law 35.401, the Preference in Employment Act 205, shown below. This legal requirement has been recognized and included in multiple editions of the Livingston County Personnel Manual.

**PREFERENCE IN EMPLOYMENT (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 205 of 1897**

**35.401 Veteran; preference for appointment and public employment; effect of physical impairment; vacancy in elective office; qualifications; conflict with MCL 38.401 to 38.428; "veteran" defined.**

Sec. 1. (1) In every public department and upon the public works of the state and of every county and municipal corporation of this state, a veteran shall be preferred for appointment and employment. Age, loss of limb, or other physical impairment that does not, in fact, incapacitate, does not disqualify them. If it is necessary to fill by appointment a vacancy occurring in an elective office, the appointment is subject to this act. The applicant shall be of good moral character and shall have been a resident of the state for at least 2 years and possess other requisite qualifications, after credit allowed by any civil service laws. If there is a conflict between this act and 1941 PA 370, MCL 38.401 to 38.428, 1941 PA 370, MCL 38.401 to 38.428, shall prevail.

(2) As used in this section, "veteran" means an individual who meets both of the following:

- (a) Is a veteran as defined in section 1 of 1965 PA 190, MCL 35.61.
- (b) Was honorably discharged.

**History:** 1897, Act 205, Eff. Aug. 30, 1897;—CL 1897, 1690;—Am. 1899, Act 85, Imd. Eff. May 25, 1899;—Am. 1907, Act 329, Eff. Sept. 28, 1907;—CL 1915, 1041;—Am. 1919, Act 224, Eff. Aug. 14, 1919;—Am. 1923, Act 88, Eff. Aug. 30, 1923;—CL 1929, 900;—Am. 1931, Act 66, Imd. Eff. May 4, 1931;—Am. 1939, Act 298, Eff. Sept. 29, 1939;—Am. 1944, 1st Ex. Sess., Act 22, Imd. Eff. Feb. 29, 1944;—CL 1948, 35.401;—Am. 1959, Act 179, Eff. Mar. 19, 1960;—Am. 1976, Act 121, Imd. Eff. May 14, 1976;—Am. 2008, Act 28, Imd. Eff. Mar. 13, 2008;—Am. 2016, Act 211, Eff. Sept. 20, 2016.

2. The LC BOC has violated employment protection laws by discriminating against me as a United States military veteran. Of the over 500 votes I have cast as Livingston County's HCMA Commissioner, you have attacked me for only three votes, all having to do with the fair and equal treatment of Michigan residents. The Army Values were ingrained in me during my 28 years of U.S. Army service and now you are denying me continued employment because I am practicing those values. This by itself demonstrates a clear anti-veteran bias.

In addition, the only veteran on the LC BOC, Commissioner Doug Helzerman, is one of my strongest supports. The other three commissioners who voted in support of my reappointment as HCMA Commissioner, Carol Griffith, Kate Lawrence and Carol Sue Reader, were all married to Viet Nam War era veterans. This pattern establishes a clear anti-veteran voting bias on the part of the other five commissioners who do not have the same close connection with military service.

3. The LC BOC, led by Chair Nakagiri, has repeatedly violated the Michigan Open Meetings Act of 1976, MCL-267, by conducting deliberations outside of posted, recorded meetings open to the public. Examples are shown below. This contention is reinforced by your efforts to change the existing process for filling appointed vacancies after the opening had been publicly posted and given preferential treatment to a candidate who was recruited by Chair Nakagiri and applied after the deadline had passed. A copy of the Open Meeting Act is attached with my email to you and I know from my 12 years of experience as a Livingston County Commissioner our legal counsel repeatedly informed the Board that this is illegal behavior.

As I mentioned, I have consulted with attorneys but I have not retained an attorney for the purpose of suing Livingston County to remedy these violations. I prefer to avoid formal legal action, though I retain the right to do so. I am providing notice to you well within the specified period of time for this reason. Because Michigan county prosecutors are authorized to commence a civil action to compel compliance or to enjoin further noncompliance with MCL-267, I am copying Livingston County Prosecutor David Reader on this email. I also submitted a Freedom of Information Act request through the county website requesting copies of all documentation related to this matter, including email correspondence.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Steve Williams

Cc: Livingston County Prosecutor David Reader

**From:** Wes Nakagiri <[WNakagiri@livgov.com](mailto:WNakagiri@livgov.com)>

**Date:** April 23, 2021 at 10:06:21 PM EDT

**To:** Brenda Plank <[BPlank@livgov.com](mailto:BPlank@livgov.com)>, "Brenda Plank ([bkplank@comcast.net](mailto:bkplank@comcast.net))" <[bkplank@comcast.net](mailto:bkplank@comcast.net)>, Carol Reader <[CReader@livgov.com](mailto:CReader@livgov.com)>, "Carol Sue Reader ([judgecsr@gmail.com](mailto:judgecsr@gmail.com))" <[judgecsr@gmail.com](mailto:judgecsr@gmail.com)>, Doug Helzerman ([helzdoug@yahoo.com](mailto:helzdoug@yahoo.com))" <[helzdoug@yahoo.com](mailto:helzdoug@yahoo.com)>, Jay Drick <[JDrick@livgov.com](mailto:JDrick@livgov.com)>, Jay Drick <[jaygross38@gmail.com](mailto:jaygross38@gmail.com)>, Kate Lawrence <[KLawrence@livgov.com](mailto:KLawrence@livgov.com)>, Kate Lawrence <[katelawrence2000@gmail.com](mailto:katelawrence2000@gmail.com)>, Steve Williams <[SteveWilliams@livgov.com](mailto:SteveWilliams@livgov.com)>, Wes Nakagiri <[WNakagiri@livgov.com](mailto:WNakagiri@livgov.com)>

**Cc:** Nathan Burd <[NBurd@livgov.com](mailto:NBurd@livgov.com)>

**Subject:** Huron-Clinton Metroparks Analysis

In preparation for Monday presentation by the Director of Huron-Clinton Metropark Authority (HCMA) I reviewed

- The HCMA presentation
- The proposed 2021 HCMA Budget
- The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) program in place at HCMA

I summarized my findings in the attached PowerPoint document.

It is troubling to see the unfavorable financial trends in place at HCMA. These trends are exacerbated by

In addition to consuming precious taxpayer resources, DEI will only serve to further divide our society along

PS: I surfed around looking at Meeting Minutes for the HCMA. I wanted to gain an understanding of what it costs to be spending \$6 million on the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy. Surprising given HCMA's unfavorable financial

Regards,

Wes Nakagiri

Commissioner – District 3

Livingston County Board of Commissioners

304 E Grand River – Suite 201

Howell, MI 48843

[wnakagiri@livgov.com](mailto:wnakagiri@livgov.com)

517-540-8796

On Sat, May 22, 2021 at 8:18 AM Wes Nakagiri <[contactwes@commissionerwes.com](mailto:contactwes@commissionerwes.com)> wrote:

[View this email in your browser](#)

## **Metroparks Say America is a Racist Country**

Voice your opposition to racist ideology being promoted at Metroparks

**Using your tax dollars, the Board of the Huron-Clinton Metroparks has been financially supporting an ideology based on the misguided premise that America is a racist country.**

Using hostile phrases such as “white privilege,” the Metroparks Board promotes the concept that all Americans with lighter skin pigmentation are “systemically racist.”

A review of written documentation shows many instances where **the Metroparks Board has supported this racist ideology, including giving \$6 million of taxpayer funds to a private entity.** Meeting minutes clearly show the Metroparks Board made this expenditure to show additional support for “social justice.”

**Regrettably, for Livingston County citizens, our representative on the Metroparks Board voted in favor of giving away 6 million of your hard-earned taxpayer dollars to a private entity in order to show more support for “woke policies” that divide our nation by race.**

Fortunately, we have an opportunity to appoint a new representative to the Huron Clinton Metroparks Board. This timing couldn't be better. If you believe people should be judged by the content of their character and not the color of their skin, then **please speak out at our upcoming Livingston County Board of Commissioners Meeting.**

You can participate in-person or virtually via Zoom. I suggest you participate virtually if possible. Participation instructions are shown below. Every citizen will

be given up to 3 minutes to speak during the Call to the Public segment of the meeting. **I urge you to speak in support of appointing a new representative to the Huron Clinton Metroparks Board. The candidate I am supporting is Tami Carlone.** Ms. Carlone strongly opposes the race-based politics being promoted by the Metroparks. Further, she is a CPA and thus well qualified to oversee the Metroparks budget.

**Can't make it to the meeting?** Send an email to [commissioners@livgov.com](mailto:commissioners@livgov.com) and express your opposition to the racist ideology being promoted by the Metroparks Board, and express your support for appointing Tami Carlone to the Metroparks Board.

**Want to do more? Forward this email to one of your friends and ask them to take action.**

Want more information? Go to <https://commissionerwes.com/index.php/district-3/67-help-me-get-a-proven-conservative-appointed-to-represent-you>

Thank you for your help.

Wes Nakagiri  
Livingston County Board of Commissioners

Livingston County Board of Commissioners Meeting  
May 24, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. (The Call to the Public will likely start somewhere around 5:40 pm)

Zoom Virtual Meeting ID: 399-700-0062 / Password: LCBOC

<https://zoom.us/j/3997000062?pwd=SUdLYVFFcmozWnFxbm0vcHRjWkVIZz09>

304 E. Grand River Ave, Howell, Michigan 48843

(link to Google Map <https://goo.gl/maps/vrGqSZy95QPEZRS07>)

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## Get Involved - Be Part of the Solution

Stand Up Michigan (SUM) is holding a Stand Up Counties | Livingston County chapter kickoff event at Floodgate Church in Brighton on Wednesday, May 26, 6-8 pm. The address for Floodgate Church is 1623 South Old US Highway 23, Brighton, MI 48114.

The goals of Stand Up Michigan's "Stand Up Counties" initiative is to commission, empower and equip citizens with the resources to "be the solution" in their own communities for reclaiming and retaining their freedoms and liberties as well as to serve their community in practical ways.

Besides the keynote address from Floodgate's pastor, Bill Bollin, Livingston County Commissioner **Wes Nakagiri** and State Senator **Lana Theis** will be speaking, as well as taking questions. Tammy Clark, executive director of SUM, will be presenting what Stand Up Counties is all about, including free resources from Leadership Institute to the citizens interested in running against local officials who are not listening to or working for their constituents.

The evening will close with Breakout Discussion groups by township in order to provide an opportunity for attendees to connect with like-minded neighbors.

Please direct questions regarding this Stand UP Michigan event to Janine Iyer ([janine4freedom@gmail.com](mailto:janine4freedom@gmail.com), 248-650-6379).

*Paid for by Friends of Wes Nakagiri, PO Box 126, Hartland, MI 48353*

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**Our mailing address is:**

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