



THE HON. LILLIANA BELARDO O'NEAL

Statement from Virgin Islands GOP National Committeewoman

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD, Florida (April 20, 2016)—The Hon. Lilliana Belardo O'Neal, the Virgin Islands national committeewoman on the Republican National Committee, issues the following statement from the quarterly RNC meeting underway here:

I can no longer sit back and allow the names of good, honest Virgin Islanders to be slandered.

In my extensive career serving St. Croix, where I was born and raised, I have never seen what has transpired since shortly before the Virgin Islands Republican caucus on March 10. I've always thought our politics were better than what we often see and hear about on the mainland.

That's certainly how I have conducted myself as a senator in the Legislature for 16 years and now as our territory's committeewoman on the Republican National Committee.

Like so many Virgin Islanders, I have become disgusted at the tactics of John Yob, who has personally attacked every Republican who has raised legitimate questions or otherwise challenged whether Yob, his wife and his business partner's wife complied with the basic rules governing not only residency in the Virgin Islands, but the process used to elect six of our nine delegates to the Republican National Convention later this year.

They have maliciously accused me, in my capacity as a chairwoman of the St. Croix Board of Elections, of corruption to help my husband's campaign for delegate. This accusation is beyond defamatory. It's sickening. They even accused me of breaking the rules to help my daughter—the daughter I don't have.

The only ones who haven't been attacked are Yob's three stooges: Holland Redfield, Herb Schoenbohm and Warren Bruce Cole.

The Holland Redfield of the last two months is not the Holland Redfield I recognize from his many years of service. Not only has this once distinguished gentleman made thinly veiled

suggestions to the media that his vote at the convention is for sale, but now he wants to go to Washington as a lobbyist.

Cole and Schoenbohm are happy to be used by Yob in the hopes they'll regain control of the Republican Party. Cole and Schoenbohm are the last ones, however, to fire broadsides. As they say, those in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.

When Cole was executive director of the GOP under Schoenbohm and then John Canegata, who defeated Schoenbohm first in 2012 and then again in 2014, he provided legal counsel to the party. Now, Cole is using information he obtained as legal counsel to impugn the integrity of the Virgin Islands GOP as he seeks a federal judgeship. And if that wasn't bad enough, Cole, with no authority to do so, disenfranchised 39 Hispanic Virgin Islanders from casting ballots in last month's caucus.

Schoenbohm, meanwhile, is putting his old criminal ways to good use by disseminating falsehoods and character assassinations on law-abiding Virgin Islanders in the hopes of getting a pardon to erase his felony conviction for fraud.

I witnessed what happened Saturday during the much-covered Republican Territorial Committee meeting, which met in accordance with party rules for the purpose of ratifying those appointed to fill vacancies on the committee.

A motion was properly made and seconded. A vote was held and the 'ayes' won. As this was the only business to conduct, a motion was again properly made—this time to adjourn. I know because I seconded both motions. A motion to adjourn isn't debatable under the rules. A vote was then held and it passed.

Right away, Cole, Redfield and Schoenbohm orchestrated the chaos that Yob has spoke of causing at the Republican National Convention.

Encouraged by their unbecoming conduct, Gwendolyn Brady violently lashed out, first picking up the computer of Canegata and attempting to throw it at him before physically attacking the parliamentarian, who did nothing except to record what Cole, Redfield and Schoenbohm were doing post-adjournment. I was shocked that a dignified person like Brady would become so violent and attack the parliamentarian. The phone that she threw at him landed where I was sitting.

But you'd never know this happened by the defamatory statements put out by Cole, Redfield and Schoenbohm, who together with four others convened in Cole's law office for an illegal meeting in the name of the committee that had just adjourned.

They then passed some motions fraudulently using the name of the party to defame the Good Samaritan who got between Brady and the parliamentarian she attacked. His only crime? He was the committee member who introduced both motions. If this young man didn't try and stop Brady from her violent attack she would be in more hot water today.

Many would walk away in disgust at what Yob, Cole, Redfield, Schoenbohm and now Brady are doing.

Truthfully, I thought about it, but doing what's right—and truthful—is more important.

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Editor's note: No further statement will be issued at this time.