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April 27, 2020

Laurel M. Lee  
Secretary of State  
Florida Department of State  
R.A. Gray Building  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Secretary Lee:

We are deeply troubled by the clearly documented irregularities in the conduct of one of the proposals considered under the June 28, 2018 Florida Statue Location Selection Committee Ad Hoc Selection process to determine the placement of General Edmund Kirby Smith Statue once it was removed from the National Gallery in Washington, D.C. As part of your statutory duty as Secretary of State, I know you and your staff are committed to investigate facts concerning any improprieties regarding the process no matter when they are revealed.

The procedures established to enact the provisions for replacing the Kirby Smith statue pursuant to Chapter 2018-019, Laws of Florida were all designed for a properly cautious, transparent and open process with the expectation of avoiding public controversy. The process included (1) a Notice of Meeting in the Florida Administrative Register Volume 44, Number 121, June 21, 2018 (encl) (2) a Presentation/Proposal Review decision form(enc) and (3) a fair and unbiased Scoring Rubric and (4) an oral presentation before a five-person Ad Hoc Selection Panel.

This letter serves as notification that the presentation/proposal the Statue Location Selection Committee evaluated and voted on June 28, 2018 to place the Edmund Kirby Smith Statue on public display in the Lake County Historical Museum was irreversibly flawed and should be voided. The information provided on June 28, 2018 by Mr. Grenier was either factually misleading or in some cases outright falsehoods and had been presented nearly verbatim to the Acting Secretary of State prior to the actual Statue Location Selection Committee convened. The following facts are presented in support of this notification:

(1) The Presentation/Proposal Review Form score sheet includes rating criteria for “Applicant Qualifications. Mr. Grenier’s response regarding **“Has the applicant demonstrated the ability to cover the expenses for transporting the statue and installation in its new location?”** during the June 28, 2018 oral presentation was false. Mr. Grenier stated, “We are prepared and committed to...whatever it costs...whatever you tell us it costs, we are prepared and committed to bring General Edmund Kirby Smith to Florida”. The Lake County Historical Society and Museum did not have funds to cover the expenses at the time he made the above statement as proven by the following facts:

(a) On November 15, 2019, Mr. Grenier initiated an email, subject: Statue fund officially started, to over 30 individuals asking for donations to “reimburse the statue’s delivery, as well as to design and create a professional exhibit for the Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith statue in the museum.” A copy of the email, obtained through official public records request, is enclosed. Not only did Mr. Grenier solicit funds in the email directly contradicting his June 28, 2018 statement that he was already financially prepared, he was also dishonest by saying he told the Statue Relocation Committee in Tallahassee that no tax-payer money only donations would be used to fund the delivery and create the exhibit.

(b) On December 11, 2019, the Lake County Board of County Commissioners developed a Historic Artifact Agreement between Lake County, Florida and the Lake County Historical Society outlining the responsibilities of each as it pertains to the placement of the Smith statue in the Museum in the Courthouse. The document states, “Upon being notified by the Architect of the Capitol that the Smith statue is ready to be relocated, the Society shall deposit with the Count \$50,000.00. The County shall not procure a contractor to place the Smith Statue in the Courthouse until such time as the deposit has been received”

(c) Mr. Grenier initiated and organized a GoFundMe site on January 7, 2020 with the stated purpose, “The Lake County Historical Society is raising funds to reimburse the transportation and delivery cost of the General Edmund Kirby Smith Statue from Washington, D.C., as well as paying for the installation of the statue into the building into the museum and building of the exhibit.” Soliciting contributions through this vehicle directly contradicts Mr. Grenier’s June 28, 2018 statement that he was already financially prepared to pay costs associated with relocating the statue. Mr. Grenier’s GoFundMe page is located at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/euwvb5-gen-edmund-kirby-smith-statue>. As of the date of this letter, Mr. Grenier had donations of \$900 towards a \$25,000 goal.

(2) The Presentation/Proposal Review Form score sheet includes rating criteria for “Appropriateness to Site”. Mr. Grenier’s response regarding **relation to architecture and space** during the June 28, 2018 oral presentation was false. The first structural/engineering site visit to determine if the weight of the statue would damage existing finishes or irreplaceable tiles (impacting the building's current placement on the

National Registry) was not conducted until January 2019 (encl). Further ongoing studies continued during late 2019 to determine if structural capacity of the existing elevated concrete slab could support the statue and base. As late as Sep 2019, the County was required to contact proposal for structural engineering services installation of the statue. (See encl proposal from Rhodes + Brito Architects, Inc)

(3) The Presentation/Proposal Review Form score sheet includes rating criteria for "Appropriateness to Site". Mr. Grenier's response regarding **relation to viewer, community, public and private sectors** during the June 28, 2018 oral presentation was false. On June 28, 2018, no one in the Lake County General community had knowledge of the effort to acquire the statue. The Lake County Historical Museum Board of Directors did not vote on the proposal to bring the statue into the Lake County Historical Museum until July 26, 2018, more than a month after the proposal was submitted and subsequently selected as the relocation site. The Lake County Board of County Commissioners did not officially vote to support bringing the statue into the Lake County Historical Museum until July 30, 2019 and that vote appears to have been a necessity after Mr. Grenier misrepresented facts that a vote had already occurred in a September 12, 2018 email to the Director of Cultural Affairs at the Department of State.

(4) The Presentation/Proposal Review Form score sheet includes rating criteria for "Appropriateness to Site". Mr. Grenier's response regarding relation to **form and design** during the June 28, 2018 oral presentation was false. Mr. David Clevinger, a noted Disney associate was not working for the Lake County Historical Museum so the nexus between the quality of Mr. Clevinger's artistic work at Disney and the presentation/display of the Kirby Smith statue is nonexistent.

(5) The Presentation/Proposal Review Form score sheet includes rating criteria for "Appropriateness to Site". Mr. Grenier's response regarding **relation to space** during the June 28, 2018 oral presentation was false. The Kirby Smith statue and pedestal, a combined height/weight approximately 12 feet and 9,000 pounds, will not fit into the Military display room and must be displayed separately.

(6) The Presentation/Proposal Review Form score sheet includes rating criteria for "Appropriateness to Site". Mr. Grenier's response regarding **relation to architecture** during the June 28, 2018 oral presentation was false as proven by the following facts:

(a) Lake County officials reached out to three separate contractors about the feasibility of removing and replacing the ceramic tiles at the Lake County Historic Court House to facilitate the placement of the statue. All three declined with serious concerns regarding damage to existing architecture. (See encl emails)

(b) Due to the historical nature of the Courthouse, which is listed on the National Registry, Lake County has determined that the Smith statue cannot be taken through the main entryway, as it may damage irreplaceable ceramic tile. Therefore, the Smith statue must be moved through an exterior window. The estimated cost of moving the statue through a window (to include removing and replacing a window in the Historic Courthouse) is \$22,250.00 (See encl Historic Artifact Agreement, p2)

Further, On March 21, 2018, Mr. Grenier met with the Asst Secretary of State/Chief of Staff Jennifer Kennedy and Senator Dennis Baxley where he made the same presentation he ultimately made to the Ad Hoc Statue Location Selection Committee on June 28, 2018. Mr. Grenier's email to the Lake County Commissioners following this meeting stated that Secretary of State Kennedy was excited about the presentation and he hoped he had the lead in receiving the statue. A copy of the email he sent to one of the commissioners is enclosed. While we hope it is not true, it is entirely reasonable to believe there is a nexus between this high-level presentation, the truncated administrative proposal announcement period and the non-validation of key facts/statements Mr. Grenier made during the June 28, 2018 presentation of the Lake County Historical Museum proposal.

The misrepresentations Mr. Grenier made concerning the appropriateness to architecture and site are particularly egregious since (1) he sent a representative from the Museum to the National gallery to assess and evaluate the statue prior to submitting his proposal to the Ad Hoc Statue Location Selection Committee; (2) he informed the Statue Location Selection Committee he had done so, and (3) therefore knowingly misled the five-member panel in his responses. (see 2, 5, and 6 above).

We believe these documented irregularities constitute intentional malfeasance and outright fraud in order to obtain approval of the Lake County Historical Museum's proposal to relocate the General Edmund Kirby Smith statue to Lake County.

Based on the foregoing, we are formally requesting a review of the above information and we would appreciate your initiating requests for new proposals under the Statue Location Selection Committee guidelines and deleting the Mr. Grenier's proposal void ab initio.

For additional information or questions, please contact Mae Hazelton at [lcvorpres@gmail.com](mailto:lcvorpres@gmail.com) or 352-636-0911.

Lake County Voices of Reason

Encl

1. Notice of Meeting in the FI Admin Reg Vol 44, No121, June 21, 2018
2. Presentation/Proposal Review Form
3. Scoring Rubric
4. Email Requesting Donations
5. Jan 2019 Engineering Site Visit
6. Sep 2019 Rhodes+Brito Architects, Inc Proposal
7. Contractor Declination Emails
8. Historic Artifact Agreement
9. Email – Re: Mtg with J. Kennedy