

STATE OF NEW YORK
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

In the Matter of the Investigation of Complaints
Pursuant to Section 44, subdivisions 1 and 2,
of the Judiciary Law in Relation to

KENNETH C. KNUTSEN,

STIPULATION

a Justice of the Schoharie Town Court and an
Associate Justice of the Schoharie Village Court,
Schoharie County.

THE FOLLOWING IS HEREBY STIPULATED by and between Robert H. Tembeckjian, Administrator and Counsel to the Commission on Judicial Conduct (“Commission”), and the Honorable Kenneth C. Knutsen and his attorney, John R. Seebold, Esq., of Law Offices of John R. Seebold, PLLC.

1. Kenneth C. Knutsen has been a Justice of the Schoharie Town Court and an Associate Justice of the Schoharie Village Court, Schoharie County, since 2002. His current term as Schoharie Town Justice expires on December 31, 2022. His current term as Associate Schoharie Village Justice expires on December 31, 2021. Judge Knutsen is not an attorney.

2. In April 2021, the Commission informed Judge Knutsen that it was investigating a complaint alleging that he conveyed the impression of bias against LGBTQ individuals and publicly posted anti-LGBTQ content on his personal Facebook page. A review of the Facebook page revealed numerous other posts containing: partisan political content; expressions of bias in favor of law enforcement and against criminal

defendants; expressions of anti-Muslim bias; and prohibited commentary on pending cases, including the murder trial of former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin.

3. Judge Knutsen was scheduled to give testimony concerning those allegations before a Commission referee on May 26, 2021. Instead, Judge Knutsen has tendered his resignation by letter dated May 26, 2021, a copy of which is annexed as Exhibit 1. Judge Knutsen affirms that he will vacate both of his judicial offices effective July 1, 2021.

4. Pursuant to Section 47 of the Judiciary Law, the Commission has 120 days from a judge's resignation to complete proceedings and, if it so determines, render and file a determination that the judge should be removed from office.

5. Judge Knutsen affirms that, once he vacates his judicial offices, he will neither seek nor accept any judicial office at any time in the future.

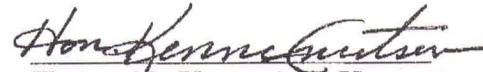
6. Judge Knutsen understands that, should he abrogate the terms of this Stipulation and hold any judicial position at any time in the future, the Commission's investigation of the complaint would be revived, he could be served with a Formal Written Complaint on authorization of the Commission, and the matter could proceed to a hearing before a referee.

7. Upon execution of this Stipulation by the signatories below, this Stipulation will be presented to the Commission with the joint recommendation that the matter be concluded, by the terms of this Stipulation, without further proceedings.

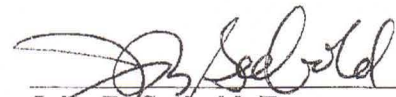
8. Judge Knutsen waives confidentiality as provided by Section 45 of the Judiciary Law, to the extent that (A) this Stipulation will become public upon being

signed by the signatories below, and (B) the Commission's Decision and Order regarding this Stipulation will become public.

Dated: 5/26/21


Honorable Kenneth C. Knutsen

Dated: 5/26/2021


John R. Seebold, Esq.
Law Offices of John R. Seebold, PLLC
Attorney for Judge Kenneth C. Knutsen

Dated: May 26, 2021



Robert H. Tembeckjian
Administrator and Counsel to the Commission
(Cathleen S. Cenci and Kathleen E. Klein,
Of Counsel)

EXHIBIT 1

May 26, 2021

Alan Tavenner
Town Supervisor, Town of Schoharie
300 Main Street
P.O. Box 544
Schoharie, New York 12157

Lawrence Caza
Village Mayor, Village of Schoharie
300 Main Street
P.O. Box 219
Schoharie, New York 12157

Dear Supervisor Tavenner and Mayor Caza:

I am writing to inform you that I am resigning from the positions of Schoharie Town Justice and Schoharie Village Justice effective July 1, 2021.

It has been my privilege to serve as Justice in your respective jurisdictions. Thank you for the opportunity to serve my community.

Sincerely,



Hon. Kenneth C. Knutsen

KCK:las

cc: Hon. Lawrence K. Marks
Chief Administrative Judge
New York State Unified Court System
25 Beaver Street
New York, New York 10004