



**SUBODH  
CHANDRA**  
FOR  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY PROSECUTOR

December 20, 2011

James McDonnell  
Friends of James L. McDonnell  
75 Public Square, Suite 700  
Cleveland, OH 44113

Robert Triozzi  
Triozzi for Prosecutor  
P.O. Box 141176  
Cleveland, OH 44114

Tim McGinty  
Citizens for McGinty  
1900 Grove Court  
Cleveland, OH 44113

Kevin J. Kelley  
925 Euclid Ave., Suite 1700  
Cleveland, OH 44115-1483

Stephanie Hall  
584 Wilkes Lane  
Richmond Heights, OH 44143

Re: *Depoliticization challenge*

Dear Mssrs. Kelley, McDonnell, McGinty, Triozzi, and Ms. Hall:

A key challenge for the next county prosecutor will be to depoliticize the Prosecutor's Office in both fact and perception. I hope and expect that you agree.

I have prepared and am enclosing a draft Code of Conduct for the next county prosecutor to issue that will conform the County Prosecutor's Office substantially to the political-activity standards used by the U.S. Department of Justice. These are the standards for political involvement under which I lived as a federal prosecutor. Bringing such high standards of integrity to the County Prosecutor's Office would do a great deal to build public confidence that prosecution decisions are not political.

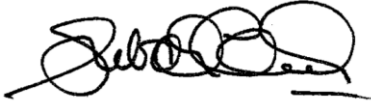
While one might quibble regarding certain details, there should be no disagreement that—just as County Executive Ed FitzGerald has ended the partisan-office holding among other county employees—the practice of having County Prosecutor's Office employees who are party officers, partisan elected officials, and candidates for partisan office must end. Indeed, it is even more important in the Prosecutor's Office, where employees hold such immense powers over their fellow citizens.

Please join me in signing the enclosed pledge that if you are elected Prosecutor, you will, on day one, issue a Code of Conduct substantially conforming with the substance of this proposal, bringing a new day to our county's justice system. There is no reason why the

County Prosecutor's Office should be governed under any lower standard than the U.S. Department of Justice.

Let's assure the public that day one under the new county prosecutor—whomever it is—will be a completely new day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Subodh Chandra', with a horizontal line underneath.

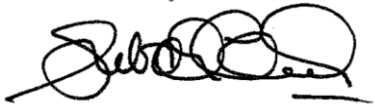
Subodh Chandra

cc: Stuart Garson, Democratic Party Chairman

enclosures

P.S. I still await your response to my December 8 challenge regarding weekly debates commencing the first week of January 2012.

If elected County Prosecutor, I pledge to issue a memo on my first day that substantially conforms to the substance of the attached proposed memorandum, bringing a new day to our county's justice system.



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Subodh Chandra

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Stephanie Hall

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Kevin J. Kelley

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James McDonnell

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Timothy McGinty

**MEMORANDUM FOR ALL CUYAHOGA PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S  
OFFICE EMPLOYEES**

**FROM:** \_\_\_\_\_, Prosecuting Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Code of Conduct regarding political activities

As employees of the Cuyahoga County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, we have been entrusted with the authority to enforce the laws of the State of Ohio, and with the responsibility to do so in a neutral and impartial manner. For the public to retain its confidence that we are adhering to our responsibility, we must ensure that politics—both in fact and appearance—does not compromise the integrity of our work.

All Prosecutor's Office employees must take care that their activities do not compromise the integrity of the Office in enforcing the law, or create conflict or apparent conflict of interest with the neutral and impartial administration of justice. Prosecutor's Office employees serving under the Prosecuting Attorney may *not*:

- A. use their official authority or influence to interfere with or affect the result of an election;
- B. solicit, accept or receive a political contribution; solicit, accept, or receive uncompensated volunteer services from an individual who is a subordinate; or allow their official titles to be used in connection with fund-raising activities;
- C. run for nomination or election to public office in a partisan election;
- D. solicit or discourage the political activity of any person who is a participant in any matter before the Prosecutor's Office;
- E. engage in political activity (to include wearing political buttons), while on duty, while in a government occupied office or building, while wearing an official uniform or insignia, or while using a government vehicle; an employee may, however, put a bumper sticker on a personal vehicle and park the vehicle in a government-owned or subsidized parking lot, but may not use the vehicle in the course of official business; and employees may display signs on their lawns and in their residences, and in similar personal circumstances.
- F. serve as an officer of a political party, a member of a national, state, or local committee of a political party, an officer or member of a committee of a partisan political group, or be a candidate for any of these positions;

- G. organize or reorganize a political-party organization or partisan political group;
- H. serve as a delegate, alternate, or proxy to a political-party convention;
- I. address a convention, caucus, rally, or similar gathering of a political party or partisan political group in support of or in opposition to a candidate for partisan political office or political party office, if such address is done in concert with such a candidate, political party, or partisan political group;
- J. organize, sell tickets to, promote, or actively participate in fund-raising activity of a candidate for partisan political office or of a political party or partisan political group; active participation includes making a speech at a party function, appearing on the program, on the dais or in the receiving line of an event, or allowing your name to be used in connection with the promotion of the event; passive participation, which is allowed, means merely attending a fund-raising or campaign event;
- K. canvass for votes in support of or in opposition to a candidate for partisan political office or a candidate for political party office, if such canvassing is done in concert with such a candidate, political party, or partisan political group;
- L. endorse or oppose a candidate for partisan political office or a candidate for political party office in a political advertisement, broadcast, campaign literature, or similar material if such endorsement or opposition is done in concert with such a candidate, political party, or partisan political group; initiate or circulate a partisan nominating petition;
- M. act as recorder, watcher, challenger, or similar officer at polling places in consultation or coordination with a political party, partisan political group, or a candidate for partisan political office;
- N. drive voters to polling places in consultation or coordination with a political party, partisan political group, or a candidate for partisan political office.

Employees may, however,

- Register and vote as they choose.
- Assist in voter-registration drives.
- Express opinions on candidates and issues.
- Be a candidate for public office in *non-partisan* elections, as long as they do not seek any party's endorsement.
- Contribute money to political organizations, in general.
- Attend and be active, subject to the restrictions above, at political rallies and meetings.
- Attend political fundraisers.

- Join and be an active member (not officer) of a political party or club.
- Sign nominating petitions.
- Campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments, and municipal ordinances.
- Distribute campaign literature in partisan elections.
- Make campaign speeches for candidates in partisan elections.
- Campaign for or against candidates in partisan elections, subject to the restrictions above.

If you are in doubt about activity that you are contemplating, please consult with the Prosecuting Attorney. Our goal, again, is to give the public confidence in the independence and impartiality of our decision-making in our work.