

Dear Fellow Republicans:

At a Bogota, NJ Republican Club meeting Congressional Candidate Steve Lonegan called me a “fundamentalist faggot piece of shit” and asked me to go outside for a fight. Other Republicans had to step between us to prevent him from getting close enough to assault me. Children were in the same room when Steve Lonegan was yelling this at me.

At the time I was a Bogota Republican Councilman. I am a registered Republican now. My daughter volunteered in Republican Congressman Scott Garrett’s Washington, DC congressional office during the summer of 2016.

I have donated to Bogota Republican candidates for the past four years and every year since 2014 I have volunteered for Bogota Republican candidates, including twelve hours or more helping local Republican candidates as a Republican challenger on Election Day. For the past couple of years Bogota Republicans have used my front-yard and driveway for events where we give hot dogs and popcorn to marchers in our town’s annual parade. I never see Steve Lonegan helping out Bogota Republicans in these ways.

Within a week of this incident, via email I told several senior Bergen Republican Party officials about Steve Lonegan’s vulgar bigoted slur. Additionally, under oath the Bogota Republican Party Municipal Chairman, who was the Bogota Municipal Attorney at the time of the incident, confirmed that Steve Lonegan in a loud tone of voice called me a “fundamentalist faggot piece of shit” at a Bogota Republican Club meeting.

Two days prior to that Republican Club meeting a Bogota Police Officer filed a Complaint that essentially accused Steve Lonegan of trying to intimidate that Officer into performing political favors during a Republican primary election. The Complaint noted that the Police Officer told Mr. Lonegan that “he would not strong arm anyone into not running for elected office.” I expressed my support for the Police Officer and against Steve Lonegan regarding that Complaint, which is the reason why I believe Steve Lonegan was angry with me and used that vicious slur.

Subsequently a Bergen County, NJ jury voted 6-0 that Steve Lonegan retaliated against the Police Officer, violating the Officer’s constitutional rights to free speech and free association and awarded damages to the Police Officer.

My family and I have strong Christian convictions, and I believe Steve Lonegan was well aware of that – which is one reason why his “fundamentalist faggot piece of shit” angry slur was particularly hurtful. Republicans of all faiths in New Jersey Congressional District 5 have no room for religious bigots, and we have no room for those who use vicious slurs that denigrate people of other faiths, races or sexual orientations. While NJ Republicans should have healthy debates about political issues – we should draw a line when it comes to using vulgar language, especially in public in front of children.

What Steve Lonegan did is not out of character. Here is what Steve Lonegan said about his mayoral opponent, Dave Musikant, in 2003:

*He [Mr. Musikant] is like f--- you, you know, hm, Sal, eight years ago, this pr--, this guy, Steve, Dave Musikant, he had some sort of this little brain thing surgery that resulted in some damage to an optical nerve you know, something like that, and we’re all supposed to be motivated by it. I’m like who the [expletive deleted] take a hike, right, anyway.*

That candidate's sister described it as follows:

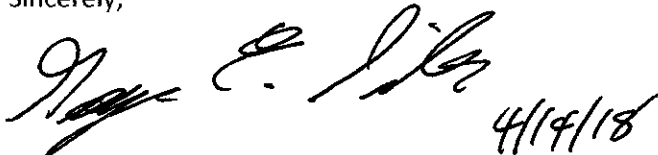
*There's a point about Steve Lonegan that all of you may have forgotten. The man, and I use the term loosely, has no soul, no thought or feeling for others. He thinks only of himself. How else could he have said the things he did in regard to "that little brain thing" (referring to my brother's brain tumor which eventually killed him)? ... Would a person with any compassion in him have poked fun at a man wearing diabetic support hose to prevent a blood clot from forming in his legs and killing him? No – no one that gave a damn about anyone but himself would ever say such hateful things – the things that spewed from his mouth.*

It is time for Steve Lonegan to get out of politics, do some self-reflection and make amends. He has hurt the Bogota Republican Party, and his campaigns have hurt other Republicans at the Municipal, State and Congressional levels. He should withdraw from the Republican Congressional District 5 race immediately.

Like other decent Republicans, including Bergen County Republican Chairman, Paul DiGaetano, I call upon well-meaning Republican candidates in CD-5 to disavow Steve Lonegan. As Republicans we can do better than this bigoted, vulgar, bullying, six-time political loser, Steve Lonegan.

Fortunately, CD-5 Republicans can support and vote for John McCann, a strong, conservative, fighting candidate and family man, who opposes Steve Lonegan. John McCann is a winner, who will honorably represent Republicans in CD-5 and put our district back in the Republican column.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George E. Silos", followed by the date "4/14/18". The signature is written in a cursive style.

George E. Silos

April 14, 2018