

From the desk of...

Michael C. Muller

May 31, 2017

Dear Speaker Prieto,

I'm writing to personally inform you with profound sadness and a heavy heart, I am resigning as Executive Director of the Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee effective today, May 31, 2017.

For fifteen years, I've been so proud to have been entrusted with the autonomy to direct the Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee, and lead this organization into a historically golden era against the most daunting odds. We have been able to grow the majority to the largest point in forty years, and have secured the most Democratic gains of any chamber in America since President Obama won the White House. The amazing success during a time when Democrats have faced devastation nationally on the state legislative level will always make my tenure special upon reflection.

This weekend, I took some time to consider your position in our meeting on Friday. I've struggled to find merit in your move to seize financial control and restrict my authority spanning 15 years, especially since your political committee has not written a check to support the Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee since 2015. What has made it difficult to consider that this could be a genuine partnership moving forward were the orchestrated leaks to the media on Friday, which were disrespectful and underscored a failure to act in good faith. Even worse, I was shocked that your spokesman suggested a litmus test for Democratic state assembly candidates to pass for your support, rather than electing as many Democrats as possible.

The final straw for me was your decision to hold staff payroll violating basic labor law protections. When you demanded full financial control, I respectfully reminded you on the Friday before a holiday weekend that staff payroll needed to be run otherwise these individuals would miss their Tuesday paycheck. Despite that timeline, you refused and wanted to review this for consideration suggesting that this may only be a few days later. These hard-working men and women, are not making 6-figure salaries and I left disheartened to my core. The fact that you already had closed the bank account last week made our payroll discussion disturbingly disingenuous. Having a moral obligation to these individuals, I secured a contingency to protect them financially. The cavalier attitude about payroll this close to the first of the month as rent and other bills are due was extremely callous.

Under these circumstances, my resignation is joined by the resignation of every staff member and consultant effective immediately. Again, it is with great sadness to write this letter, but based on the sequence of events, my moral compass is guiding me to conclude my service as Executive Director of the Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Muller