

May 12, 2017

Dear David,

I received your email of 5-4-17 and I must clarify several of your statements.

At no time did I indicate to you, orally or in writing that I would rescind my application to Judge Thompson.

I filed my application for the Charter Commission in December 2016 as required by the Charter.

I received your email on January 9, 2017 stating you had more applicants than positions and asking the applicants if they were immediately available to serve and "if you are why you should be selected over other applicants or what particular issues you may find important for the Commission to consider." The charter does not require that information from the applicants. It's only requirement is "Any registered voter of the city may submit an application for appointment." And the charter states "The chairperson of the charter commission will oversee the process for receiving, verifying eligibility [being a registered voter] and forwarding applications of qualified applicants to the Chief Judge of the Third Judicial District Court who will make the appointment[s]." The Charter does not allow you to choose those who serve on the Charter Commission.

I told you I would withdraw my application. You then asked if I wanted to be considered if other applicants did not work out. I told you that would be OK. My understanding was I was still being considered for a position on the Charter Commission. I was assuming, as the Charter requires, all qualified person's applications were sent to the Chief Judge of the District, who would make the appointments.

On March 20, 2017, two and a half months later, I learned the Judge had received no applications for the Northfield Charter Commission. I emailed you to clarify the situation. And stated " I am still interested in serving on that commission". And "if appointed it would be my honor to serve on the Northfield Charter Commission. "

You responded on March 20, 2017 "My understanding is the same as yours. After speaking with you, I spoke to two other applicants who were both interested and qualified to serve. They both agreed to serve. If there is an opening in the future, you are welcome to apply, and will be given first consideration by me based upon your prior application. "

After receiving that email, I learned you still had not sent any applications to Judge Thompson. The Charter does not allow you to pick who is on the Charter Commission. Your role, as chair, is to send the applications of the qualified candidates to the Judge. The Minnesota Statue allows an applicant to apply directly to the Judge. I sent my applications directly to Judge Thompson. I informed you by email of my actions.

On April 13, 2017, you emailed me that if I did not withdraw my application, you would consider me "unfit " to serve on the commission. I did not withdraw my application and have been legally appointed by Judge Thompson to serve on the Northfield Charter Commission.

Your own actions and inactions have created this situation.

Unfortunately the one who is hurt the most is David Roberts.

My suggestion for rectifying this situation is for you to accept the appointments legally made by Judge Thompson. And then to ask David Roberts to sit at the table as he did at the last charter commission meeting. David Roberts could be included in the discussions as he was included at the last meeting.

I will be unable to attend the meeting on May 24 as I will be out of the state. I have a commitment made before the May meeting was scheduled.

I will attend the regular June 22, 2017 meeting of the Charter Commission that is set by the Charter.

Judith Schotzko