

Taxpayers foot the bill for Council President Wooldredge’s political activity

New public records show broader and more recent potential policy violations

HUDSON, OH – Newly-released public records paint an even more vivid picture of how Hudson City Council President Bill Wooldredge routinely engages in political activity and campaigning using taxpayer-funded resources to recruit and offer assistance to Council candidates who support his views.

The latest public records released today by Hudson Community Coalition on [The Hudson Files](#) indicate that Wooldredge has continued to use his taxpayer-funded email for political purposes as recently as May 22nd of this year, when he wrote to political consultant Nicole Kowalski, “Nikki, you are a wonder. I’ll happily sign your petition and send you \$200 for your campaign.” Wooldredge, a 10-year veteran of City Council, persists in this behavior despite warnings provided by the city’s Communications Director that such actions go against city policy.

This latest round of public records obtained by community members from May 2019 through May 2020 show multiple conversations between Wooldredge, political consultant Kowalski, pro-Phase II Political Action Committee head Joe Creehan, and others discussing council candidates, helping them gather signatures, meet filing deadlines, and more. In August, 2019, Wooldredge advised how candidates could generate press coverage, and in one wrote, “Looks like we will have four good candidates. Good work, Nikki!”

All these communications were on Wooldredge’s taxpayer-funded city email account, which suggest that the Council President’s violation of city policy, and the American Society for Public Administration’s (ASPA) [Code of Ethics](#), is far more extensive than initially thought.

City policy, also available on [The Hudson Files](#) website, clearly prohibits such activity. The ASPA [Code of Ethics](#) calls on public officials to be “open and transparent” and to “adhere to the highest standards of conduct to inspire public confidence and trust.” Wooldredge’s pattern of routinely engaging in political activity using these taxpayer-funded resources appears to run counter to the recommended behavior for an ethical public servant.

The Hudson Files website was developed by a coalition of community groups in Hudson to increase public awareness of (a) the manner in which long-serving city officials are operating, and (b) whether city policies and procedures are being adhered to, and to allow citizens to determine whether City officials’ actions and decisions on city matters are in the best interests of the city and its citizens. Residents should check [The Hudson Files website](#) regularly for updates as they become available.

The Hudson Files is a joint project of the Hudson Community Coalition, a partnership of organizations seeking to advance civic engagement in Hudson on a variety of issues. The Coalition’s founding members include:

About Hudson Environmental Council LLC: The purpose of the Hudson Environmental Council LLC is to promote and advocate for healthy land, air, and water for all who call Hudson their home. Our mission is to monitor and secure healthy and safe land use through research and advocacy for a clean and beautiful natural environment. Our belief is that any land use should be carefully considered with respect to its direct and indirect impact on the environment, both for the short term, and for the long term.

About Hudson’s Voice: The purpose of Hudson’s Voice, LLC is to promote and advance the common good and general welfare of the Hudson, Ohio Community through a social community movement designed to be

an effective resource to the City and its City Council, by elevating and encouraging discourse regarding legislation, ballot initiatives, property development and/or other civic issues that affect the greater good of the citizens of Hudson.

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