



**FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLIC RELEASE:**

**St. Joseph County Republican Party Condemns Intimidation Tactics by Local Democrats**

GRANGER, Ind. – The St. Joseph County Republican Party condemns recent actions taken by the St. Joseph County Democratic Party and its Vice Chair, Dr. Don Westerhausen, which resulted in a violent felon and alleged child molester being sent to the home of a political opponent, County Councilwoman and mother of 7, Amy Drake. This is an unacceptable form of intimidation that no one should have to endure, especially not a mother and her children.

The Republican Party believes that everyone deserves to feel safe and secure in their homes, and no one should have to experience the kind of harassment that was inflicted upon Amy Drake and her family. We demand the leadership of the Democratic Party to apologize to Amy Drake and her family for their involvement in this matter. We also call on her county council colleague's Diana Hess, Mark Catanzarite, Rafael Morton and Bryan Tanner to disavow the association of the St. Joseph County Democratic Party's vice chair, Don Westerhausen, with a violent felon.

The Republican Party recognizes that the individual in question, Vernado Malone, has a long criminal history that includes multiple arrests for child molestation, domestic battery, and other serious offenses. We believe that individuals with such a history should not be brought to the home of a mother with 7 children. It is disgraceful that Democrat vice chair Don Westerhausen would associate with this kind of an individual. This type of behavior is yet another reminder why voters rejected Westerhausen for three straight elections.

We stand with Amy and her family, and we are committed to doing everything in our power to ensure their safety and well-being. The St. Joseph County Republican Party urges all political parties to reject intimidation tactics and focus on constructive dialogue and engagement. If this were my vice chair, I would demand and receive his resignation and I call on chairwoman Diana Hess to do the same.

Tyler Gillean  
Chair

