

From: Christian Ziegler <gop@christianziegler.com>

Date: December 2, 2023 at 12:31:22 PM EST

To: undisclosed-recipients;

Subject: Ziegler: Update/Explanation

Team FloridaGOP -

First - I want to share an update on the most important thing at this moment - My family is rock solid. My wife is behind me 150% and we have methods in place to protect our children, just as we have with all previous attacks that we have faced in the past.

Now onto the issue at hand... The accusations I am sure you all have probably read about by now.

As Chairman, I have always attempted to be as transparent and open as possible on every issue possible. Unfortunately at this point, I am a bit limited as to what I can share, but I will share what I can below.

To start, it's important to understand the overview of how the legal process works (all new to me, as I have never been targeted like this):

1. Complaint (anyone can file one)
2. Investigation
3. Police Report is completed and one of three actions are taken:
 - o Recommend charges
 - o Recommend no charges
 - o Refer to the State Attorney to make a decision on charges or not

In normal cases, steps #1 and #2 are protected with confidentiality until the conclusion of the investigation. Unfortunately in my case, and most likely due to my wife and I being such loud political voices, I have been informed directly by a reporter that there are leaks in this process who are feeding the press selective information to generate narratives with, knowing that I cannot publicly counter them or share my side of the story at this point in the process.

The distribution of information is being led by Michael Barfield, a former Board Member of Florida ACLU and 68-time convicted felon who has been involved in legal efforts against Governor DeSantis, Rick Scott, and other prominent Republicans in the past.

The information is then being amplified by leftist online activist Ron Filipkowski, who is also the Editor-in-Chief of a liberal media outlet.

With all of that said - To protect the integrity of the investigation at this moment in the process, there is not much more outside of what I just shared and my lawyer's statement at the bottom of this email that I can publicly share about this situation until the investigation is complete. When we reach that point, I will have a lot more to share about the facts, how this transpired, the motive and who was behind it.

Timeline:

To my knowledge, my role in the investigation is complete and I now wait for law enforcement to finish the police report. Hopefully that takes place shortly.

Going Forward:

We have a country to save and I am not going to let false allegations of a crime put that mission on the bench as I wait for this process to wrap up.

Thank you to all who have reached out in support. It's humbling and frankly surprising to have so many people reach out in support by email, text and phone calls. From Congressmen, state elected leaders, prominent social conservative leaders and county party leaders, I have been overwhelmed by the amount of support that has been sent my way. It is impossible to fully understand how appreciative I am of those conversations.

Lastly - I welcome any continued prayers and as always, and you can call or text me directly if you have any questions or would like to have a conversation 24/7.

-Christian Ziegler

Response from Derek Byrd, Attorney for Christian Ziegler:

We acknowledge the reports that there is an investigation being conducted by the Sarasota Police Department regarding Mr. Ziegler.

Mr. Ziegler has been fully cooperative with every request made by the Sarasota Police Department.

We are confident that once the police investigation is concluded that no charges will be filed and Mr. Ziegler will be completely exonerated.

Unfortunately, public figures are often accused of acts that they did not commit whether it be for political purposes or financial gain. I would caution anyone to rush to judgment until the investigation is concluded.

Out of respect for the investigation, this is all Mr. Ziegler or myself can say at this time.