

YOUNGSVILLE MUNICIPAL POLICE CIVIL SERVICE BOARD

CITY OF YOUNGSVILLE

PARISH OF LAFAYETTE

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PETITION FOR INVESTIGATION

NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

FILED: July 10, 2024

BEFORE THE BOARD, comes Matthew Thomassee, a qualified elector domiciled in Youngsville, Louisiana, in his capacity as Executive Director for the Professional Association of Law Enforcement Officers, a non-profit corporation<sup>1</sup> and juridical entity<sup>2</sup> registered and operating in the Parish of Lafayette, Louisiana, who respectfully submit the following allegations to the Youngsville Municipal Civil Service Board (the Board), which are based on information and belief:

1.

Pursuant to LSA-R.S. 33:2477, the Board is vested with broad duties and powers, including without limitation:

- Taking any action which, it determines to be desirable or necessary in the public interest, or to carry out effectively the provisions and purposes of this Part;
- Representing the public interest in matters of personnel administration for the City of Youngsville;

<sup>1</sup> The United States Supreme Court has long held that a corporation is considered a citizen of its State of incorporation and the State where it has its principal place of business. *Americold Reality Tr. V. Conagra Foods, Inc.*, 577 U.S. 378, 381, 136 S. Ct. 1012, 1015, 194 L. Ed. 2d 71 (2016).

<sup>2</sup> There are two kinds of persons: natural persons and juridical persons. A natural person is a human being. A juridical person is an entity to which the law attributes personality, such as a corporation or a partnership. The personality of a juridical person is distinct from that of its members. LSA-C.C. 24. Furthermore, LAS-C.C.P. art 5251(12), defines "person" as a corporation.

- Advising and assisting the City Council, Mayor and Chief of Police for the City of Youngsville, with reference to the maintenance and improvement of personnel standards and administration in police services, and the classified system;
- Making reports to the governing body, either upon its own motion or upon the official request of the governing body, regarding general or special matters of personnel administration in and for the Youngsville Police Department (YPD); and
- Upon the written petition of any citizen for just cause, or upon its own motion, making an investigation concerning the administration of personnel or the compliance with the provisions of this Part in the said municipal police services.

2.

LSA-R.S. 33:2504 provides: "Political activities by and extending to employees of the classified service are hereby prohibited as follows:

(4) No employee in the classified service shall (a) be a member of any national, state, or local committee of a political party, (b) be an officer or member of a committee of any factional, political club or organization, (c) be a candidate for nomination or election to public office, (d) make any political speech or public political statement in behalf of any candidate seeking to be elected to public office, or (e) take any part in the management or affairs of any political party or in the political campaign of any candidate for public office, except to privately express his opinion and to cast his vote."

3.

In August of 2023 Cody Louviere was appointed to fill the unexpired term following the retirement and resignation of Rickey Boudreux from the position of Chief of Police for the City of Youngsville, Louisiana.

4.

Between August of 2023 through present Tracy Girard would frequent various establishments, including but not limited to: Geaux Fresh Convenience Store in Youngsville, Louisiana.

5.

Based on information and belief, on multiple occasions during these visits Girard made unsolicited statements to visitors at the establishments with regards to supporting Cody Louviere for Chief of Police for the City of Youngsville.

6.

Based on information and belief, Girard made statements in support of the election of Cody Louviere for Chief of Police for the City of Youngsville to former Mayor Wilson Viator.

7.

At all times relevant, Girard was a member of the classified service for the City of Youngsville.

8.

This Board recently voted to investigate alleged prohibited political activities with regards to other members of the classified service for the City of Youngsville.

WHEREFORE, premises considered, Petitioner, Matthew Thomassee, in his capacity as Executive Director for the Professional Association of Law Enforcement Officers pray that this Board receive this Petition, grant the request for an investigation, conduct said investigation, make a report to the governing body and appointing authority, render a judgment and order action to be taken by the appointing authority and/or take any other action which it determines to be desirable

or necessary in the public interest or to carry out effectively the provisions and purposes of LSA-R.S. 33:2477 and LSA-R.S. 33:2500.

Submitted By:

Matthew Thomassee, Executive Director

Professional Association of Law Enforcement  
Officers

CITIZENS FOR A  
*NewLouisiana*