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Dear Chairmen McEnery & Graziano:

I am greatly disappointed in the letter you made public this morning questioning my personal integrity, in a clear act of desperation to malign my reputation in gross violation of Ronald Reagan's 11th Amendment. Friends and supporters have suggested that I respond in kind by attacking my opponent, but I will not stoop to the same level you have. Instead, I will directly address your false and malicious personal attack.

Had you consulted me or a reputable attorney prior to sending your ill advised missive, you would know that our State's courts have directly addressed the issue of County Sheriffs serving in political party offices, a right which is also protected by the United States Constitution that I am sworn to uphold and take very seriously. See Lanza v. DeMarino, 160 NJ Super. 71 (App. Div. 1978).

Based on this and other legal precedents, it is widely known that there is no conflict created by elected officials, including sheriffs, holding the position of county chairman, as evidenced, for example, by the service of outstanding Republican elected officials such as Senator Sam Thompson, Senator Kevin O'Toole, and Assemblyman Scott Rumana.

My opponent pledged to run a positive campaign for chairman. Accordingly, I hope that he will call upon his supporters, as I have with mine, to keep it positive and publicly disavow this personal negative and incorrect attack.

I look forward to continuing my positive message about building a bright future for our party and I will continue to be there to support all Monmouth Republicans, as I have done for many years.

Respectfully,

Shaun Golden