

**From the Office of Mayor Josiah Martin**

**Village of Shreve, Ohio**

**Subject: Clarifying Community Concerns and Acknowledging Service**

To the residents of Shreve,

Over the past several months, there has been a steady stream of commentary—both online and in the community—that has misrepresented the actions and character of Joan Zimmerly. As Mayor of the Village of Shreve, I believe it is necessary to publicly clarify the record and recognize the meaningful contributions she made to this community.

Joan Zimmerly served as the Village's Grant Writer and, per annum, was the lowest-paid employee on staff. Despite this, she worked tirelessly to secure more than \$2.5 million in grant funding within a single year—resources that directly benefited our residents, infrastructure, and long-term planning.

Throughout her time with the Village, every action Joan took was done in alignment with my office. She consistently sought my input and direction before proceeding on matters related to her role. If anyone had concerns about her work, the proper course would have been to bring those directly to me—not assume she was acting unilaterally or manipulating the operations of the Village. Those assumptions are unfounded.

After Joan had already resigned from her position, the Village's Fiscal Officer and Billing Clerk each left their posts without allowing time for a professional handoff. In response to this unexpected situation, Joan stepped up—again—to help the Village during a time of need. She returned voluntarily to take on those duties, providing stability and continuity when it was most needed. She was appropriately compensated, but her willingness to serve again, even after public criticism, is a clear reflection of her character and her heart for Shreve.

There has also been public commentary implying tension between Joan and other Village employees. Specifically, the previous billing clerk, who worked limited afternoon hours—from approximately noon to 4 p.m.—had little to no professional interaction with Joan. They did not work in the same department, and their schedules rarely overlapped. To suggest otherwise is simply inaccurate.


Unfortunately, what has taken root appears to be a manufactured narrative aimed at discrediting one of the highest-performing employees the Village has ever had. It is deeply concerning that such a narrative—fueled by misinformation and personal grievances—has been allowed to take hold.

It's also important to address recent council changes. While three council members have resigned in recent months, only two were long-term members. Each made their own decision to step down, and none were forced out. Similarly, Chief Ron Kiner chose to resign; he was not asked or encouraged to do so.

Finally, allegations that Joan created a hostile work environment are not supported by the facts. Like anyone who finds themselves the target of repeated criticism, Joan at times needed to defend herself—but she did so respectfully and with restraint. Disagreements do not constitute misconduct, and discomfort does not equate to hostility.

Joan Zimmerly gave her time, skill, and energy to serve this Village. I stand by the work we did together and remain proud of her accomplishments and commitment. As a community, we must hold ourselves to a higher standard—one that values truth over rumor, professionalism over politics, and respect over division.

Sincerely,  
**Mayor Josiah Martin**  
Village of Shreve

Josiah Martin, Mayor: 

Joshua Bevington, President of Council: 

Jeff Edington, Council member: 