

# The Delray Democrat

## For the Record, the DCDB Censures Dave Kerner<sup>1</sup>

*Michael K. Cantwell*

Last September, Dave Kerner betrayed both the voters who elected him and the Democratic Party by endorsing Ron DeSantis. Unlike like those of us who toil in the trenches for the Party, he was not bound by any loyalty oath because he is an elected official.

At the time, I was told by Party officials that Charlie Crist and others wanted to avoid calling attention to this betrayal. Unfortunately, I was not told this until after the Sun-Sentinel published my letter attacking Kerner for the endorsement and pledging to bring a motion to censure him at the next meeting of the Democratic Club of Delray Beach.

That made for an awkward situation. Our Board had approved a censure motion for consideration by our members. It was approved almost unanimously and would have been approved unanimously except that the motion included a provision—in accordance with the wishes of Crist and others—that we would not publicize the censure.

Some members asked, “If no one knows about what we did, what’s the point of doing it?” It was hard to argue with that, other than to say I thought it was still the right thing to do. A tree falling in the forest creates a sound even though no one hears it.

DeSantis’s subsequent sweeping victory in the race for governor cemented Flori-duh’s status as home of Free-Dumb and made clear that Kerner’s betrayal had little impact statewide. But its toxic impact on the residents of Palm Beach County was made clear this past week when DeSantis nominated Kerner to head up the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

It’s irrelevant whether DeSantis believes that Dave Kerner is the best candidate for “Transport Supremo” or whether the appointment represents Kerner’s 30 pieces of silver. His resignation from the Palm Beach County Commission opened the door for DeSantis to nominate the Chair of the PBC Republican Party, Michael Barnett, to fill the vacancy.

Republicans now have a majority on the Commission for the first time. Switch parties and move to Tallahassee, Dave; you’re no longer welcome here.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Delray Democrat*, January 2023, page 5.