



Chamber Issues Statement Following Arrest of Former President

The Wake Forest Area Chamber of Commerce acknowledges the recent arrest and charges filed against former Chamber President Liz Simpser. This development marks a significant moment in a difficult chapter for our organization and community.

The impact of this situation has been deeply felt, not only within the Chamber but throughout the Wake Forest community. We recognize the frustration, confusion, and concern that many have experienced over the past year. We are grateful for the unwavering support of our members, staff, board, and community partners, whose commitment has helped us navigate these challenging times.

While this remains an ongoing legal matter, Chamber leadership will not comment further on that matter. However, we want it to be clear: Ms. Simpser's actions caused harm to the Chamber and placed the organization in a precarious position.

In moving the organization forward, on April 1, the Chamber welcomed new President Jim Thompson, CAE, IOM, a seasoned nonprofit executive with over 25 years of experience. Within weeks, the Board adopted a comprehensive financial controls policy manual to safeguard against future misconduct and enhance transparency.

In addition to strengthening financial oversight, the Chamber is committed to improving governance practices and fostering greater engagement with our members and the broader community. We take seriously the trust our members place in us and remain dedicated to being responsible stewards of their investment.

"This Chamber and this community have always risen to meet adversity," said President Thompson. "From the departure of Wake Forest College to the Great Recession, we've weathered many storms. The Chamber has long been the glue that holds our business community together, and we are ready to close this chapter and begin writing a new one—focused on growth, service, and unity."

As we celebrate our 77th anniversary, we do so with renewed hope and confidence. The Wake Forest Area Chamber of Commerce is turning its full attention to representing our area businesses, serving our community, and enhancing the quality of life in Wake Forest. We remain steadfast in our commitment to transparency, accountability, and a prosperous future for all.