

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
EXECUTIVE BRANCH ETHICS COMMITTEE



33 Capitol Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-6397

Joseph DiBrigida, Jr., Chairman
Alan W. Johnson

Dale S. Kuehne
Gregory L. Silverman

May 3, 2017

Raymond Buckley, Chair
New Hampshire Democratic Party
105 North State Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Ethics Complaint

Dear Mr. Buckley:

At its April 24th meeting, the Executive Branch Ethics Committee considered the ethics complaint you filed against Governor Chris Sununu regarding the tweet he sent on March 18th. The Committee concluded, by unanimous vote, that the complaint is within its jurisdiction and may have merit, but any violation was "inadvertent, technical, or of a *de minimis* nature" and was "addressed by informal methods." RSA 21-G:31, II(b).

Please note, RSA 21-G:31, I requires that any complaint filed with the Committee must be filed confidentially. If the Committee determines that the complaint is within its jurisdiction and may have merit, the complaint will become public, but the statute allows for an initial confidential screening process to weed out complaints that are "frivolous, scurrilous, retaliatory in nature," or clearly without merit. The purpose of that screening process is clear--to ensure that the Committee does not become a vehicle for unfounded public denigration.

We are aware that your complaint against Governor Sununu was provided to the media. We hope that in the future, should you file another complaint with the Committee, you would respect and follow that statutory process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph DiBrigida, Jr.", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Joseph DiBrigida, Jr., Chair

cc: John Formella, Esq.