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Greimel, Ananich Should Release All Records Surrounding Legal Allegations Against Smith, Banks

Freedom Fund Invites Michigan Democratic Party Chairman Brandon Dillon to Join Us in Demand for Transparency

LANSING, MI, September 2, 2015 –Michigan Freedom Fund President Terri Reid today demanded that Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich and House Minority Leader Tim Greimel release all email, text, phone, and other records between their offices and others discussing alleged lawbreaking and rules violations by Senator Virgil Smith and Representative Brian Banks.

Smith, a Detroit Democrat, is standing trial for allegedly beating his ex-wife, shooting at her with an assault rifle, and riddling her car with bullets in May 2015. According to media reports and Smith's attorney, former Democratic Secretary of State Candidate Godfrey Dillard, Smith may enter a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity.

Banks, another Detroit Democrat, has been embroiled since 2013 in civil proceedings as a result of allegations he sexually harassed his House staffer and state employee, Tramaine Cotton, and fired Cotton after he rejected the lawmaker's unwanted sexual advances.

"It is unfathomable to think that a state Senator may be suffering bouts of insanity and that a state Representative be accused publicly and repeatedly of sexual harassment and wrongful termination without Tim Greimel and Jim Ananich's offices being made aware," said Reid. "What did Greimel, Ananich and their offices know, and when did they know it? Taxpayers have a right to know."

"As vocal as Greimel and Ananich have been about the importance of transparency when it comes to matters of the public trust and lawmakers' ability to adequately do their jobs, we look forward to the immediate release of all email, text messages, phone and other records related to these accusations."

The Freedom Fund invited Michigan Democratic Party Chairman Brandon Dillon to join them publicly in their demand for transparency surrounding accusations against Smith and Banks.

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