



# RPEEC

Republican Parish Executive Committee for St. Tammany Parish

Doug Tate, Chairman, District 4 ~ Pamela Ferguson, Vice Chairman, At Large  
Larry Gillio, Treasurer, District 13 ~ Susan Willie, Recording Secretary, District 3  
Casey Kendrick, Corresponding Secretary, District 5

Josh Allison, District 1  
Kenneth Weaver, District 2  
Denise Frieman, District 6  
Gary Cook, District 7  
Donald Bryan, District 8

Wyatt Williams, District 9  
Kristie Thomas, District 10  
John Scurich, District 11  
Tommy Abney, District 12  
EJ Walls, District 14

Kevin Alarin, At-Large  
Maureen O'Brien, At-Large  
Patrick Burke, At-Large  
Barbara Doyle, At-Large

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## RESOLUTION

*Whereas*, the Republican Parish Executive Committee for St. Tammany Parish convened its monthly meeting on May 28, 2024 and a quorum was present;

*Whereas*, presentation was made to the Committee by Noble Bates, Dr. Robert Sigillito, and Dr. Charles Preston regarding Office of the St. Tammany Parish Coroner and, specifically, the conduct of St. Tammany Parish Coroner Christopher Tape, M.D.

*Whereas*, the Committee makes the following findings:

1. The St. Tammany Parish Coroner's Office provides essential services to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish, including Death investigation and certification, Examination of survivors of sexual assault, Emergent mental and behavioral health interventions, Forensic DNA laboratory services, Public Health and Life Safety Initiatives;
2. The Coroner of St. Tammany Parish holds a special position in the community and must be trusted to guard all private and confidential information under his or her control.

3. Christopher Tape, M.D., a physician licensed in the State of Louisiana, is subject to the Louisiana laws governing him as such;
4. Christopher Tape, M.D. was elected without opposition to the office of Coroner of St. Tammany Parish in 2023;
5. Christopher Tape, M.D. was arrested on July 5, 2001 and later indicted on August 20, 2002 for six counts of Criminal Sexual Contact of a Minor in the Third Degree in Albuquerque New Mexico;
6. Criminal charges against Christopher Tape, M.D. were dismissed without prejudice for violation of his right to a speedy trial;
7. Christopher Tape, M.D. never publicly disclosed the allegations and issues enumerated above to the citizens of St. Tammany Parish;
8. Christopher Tape, M.D. was employed by the St. Tammany Parish Coroner's Office as a Forensic Pathologist from March through October 2023. His employment was terminated after he disclosed confidential information contained in a Coroner's homicide investigation file for the purpose of making false inflammatory accusations against a subordinate employee, to the detriment of a grieving family;
9. Christopher Tape, M.D. later assumed office as Coroner of St. Tammany Parish on March 25, 2024;
10. Christopher Tape, M.D., as his first official act as Coroner, ended the St. Tammany Parish Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program, adversely affecting the Sexual Assault Response Team for LDH Region 8;

11. Several organizations have called for Christopher Tape, M.D. to not assume office or resign, including the St. Tammany Parish Council, the Slidell City Council, the Covington City Council, the Northshore Legislative Delegation, the St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce, the St. Tammany Parish Democratic Parish Executive Committee;

12. A Recall effort led by Family First St. Tammany is well underway, and is supported by the members of the Northshore Legislative Delegation;

On the Motion of Doug Tate, RPEC Chairman and District 4 Representative; and seconded by Kristie Thomas, District 10 Representative, being unanimously approved by the Republican Parish Executive Committee for St. Tammany Parish, **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Republican Parish Executive Committee for St. Tammany Parish as follows:

1. The Republican Party of St. Tammany Parish calls for the immediate resignation of Christopher Tape, M.D. from the office of Coroner;
2. The Republican Party requests that all citizens of St. Tammany Parish, regardless of party affiliation, actively support, circulate and sign the petition for the recall of Christopher Tape, M.D.;
3. Reconstitution of the Region 8 Sexual Assault Response Team and the St. Tammany Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program should be given a very high priority.

Mandeville, Louisiana this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024

  
Pamela Ferguson  
RPEC Vice Chairman