

Thomas Westgård

June 1 at 2:03 PM ·

June 1, 2019

To the Nashville Indiana Farmers Market Board:

I wish to file a complaint against Board President Sarah Dye for committing fraud during the April 30, 2019 Board meeting. As you are aware, at that meeting I raised concerns that rumors of her white supremacist activities could damage the reputation of the Market and of the individual vendors including me. In response to my inquiry, Sarah stated definitively that there are no such problems, she denies being a white supremacist, and that the Market and the vendors are not in danger of damage to our sales and reputations as a result. Sarah's statements were made during a Board meeting in her capacity as Board President, and were intended for us all to rely on them in our decisions of how to engage with the Market. As I state in detail below, Sarah's statements are now clearly false, and this raises certain obligations not only on the part of Sarah, but also obligations of the Board insofar as her representations were an official act by a legally authorized agent of the Board.

As you are also aware, the Board unanimously decided to handle my inquiry by creating a process for filing complaints. That process, whatever it may be, is needed at this time.

The brief factual background is the following: Many months ago, a group called Unicorn Riot obtained and published a trove of racist conversations on a website known as Discord. The participants in these racist comments hid behind pseudonyms, and among other topics specifically discussed the fact that their conversations were edited and coded to hide most of the overt racism. Among the many participants was a person known only as "Volkmom." As detailed below, we now know this person to be Sarah Dye. Sarah's comments in Discord directly contradict her representations to the board, and the discrepancy between these is precisely the fraud and damage to reputation that I brought to the Board's attention on April 30th.

Subsequent to the Unicorn Riot/Discord disclosures, a 21 year old man named Nolan Brewer was convicted and sentenced for painting swastikas on a synagogue in Carmel, Indiana. In the course of that investigation, FBI agents interviewed the defendant Mr. Nolan about how he came to hold the political views that led to his decision to paint swastikas on a synagogue. Mr. Nolan stated, among other things, that he had met in person with some people from the racist Discord chats, specifically naming a couple named "Sarah and Doug." Mr. Nolan stated to the FBI agent that Sarah's account on Discord was under the pseudonym "Volkmom."

Analyzing the Volkmom chats on Discord could occupy a lengthy book, and I will not bother to do that here. There are really only two relevant points: 1. Verification that the Volkmom chats are indeed Sarah Dye, and 2. Identifying at least some comments that are inconsistent with her representations to me and the Board on April 30.

Aside from Mr. Nolan's statements to the FBI, which include accurately identifying the name of Sarah's husband, the Volkmom Discord chats include extensive personal identifying data in text and photographs. A photo of Sarah's hand sufficiently clear to pull partial fingerprints, scars, and folds. Photos of her sheep and farm land. A photograph of her youngest child (yes, she posted

photos of her infant in a white supremacist chat room). Descriptions of her customary clothing habits, her child rearing practices, and the ages and appropriate birth dates and genders of her children. There is additional identifying data in the logs but this is sufficient to establish the identity, that Volkmom is indeed Sarah Dye.

The second of two issues is the question of in what manner the Volkmom Discord chat logs are racist. Here again, a full dissertation on the manner in which these (by their own admission) coded conversations are objectionable would be much longer than most people are interested in reading, though to the extent any person reading this questions the issue, the matter is available for research. Just be aware that it requires attention and study to fully understand the coded messages.

In many comments, Sarah talks about the “superiority” of whites and complains that whites suffer from unfair treatment. She advocates teaching white supremacy to family members and discusses among others her mother-in-law, who apparently is not receptive.

Probably the most dramatic comment comes after Charlottesville. Most of us remember the racist Charlottesville riots in which hundreds of white men carrying flaming torches marched while chanting “Jews will not replace us” and “Blood and soil,” which is the English translation of a Nazi slogan from the Hitler era. Other notable events in Charlottesville were a Klansman illegally firing a gun at a Black man, and an overtly racist young man drove his car into a crowd of people, killing one and injuring many others.

Sarah’s reaction to this was to congratulate the organizers of the racist events on having done a good job.

I know that several people have raised the issue of freedom of speech and beliefs. I’m sure we all agree that these are important values we all share. The First Amendment that permits us to hold views that others find objectionable also empowers us to choose with whom we wish to be associated. None of us holds any special right to be a part of a farmers market, nor is any of us obligated to retain in a farmers market persons who hold views we dislike. Any suggestion that the Board cannot expel a vendor due to a difference of opinion is an inaccurate understanding of the First Amendment.

More fundamentally, none of us has a right to make false statements in connection with a business transaction. In this regard, I redirect your attention to Sarah’s express denials at the April 30 Board meeting. Sarah could have stopped at refusing to answer the question. But as you know, by being in the meeting, Sarah went further in expressly denying that these rumors of her white supremacy were true. We now know that those statements, made by the Board President, during a Board meeting, were false.

Aside from the unpleasantness of racism, any organization needs to have a basic expectation that the statements made by its agents are true. Aside from interpersonal beliefs, a Board President is empowered to do important acts like sign contracts, hire and fire employees and contractors, obtain insurance, and so on. The discovery that the agent of the Board cannot be trusted to deal honestly undermines the integrity of the organization and creates a weakness in the organization’s ability to defend itself in any matter. A board that tolerates a lie will not be trusted in anything.

In closing, I again remind you that the Board as a whole committed to establishing a complaint process. I understand that you are probably also victims of Sarah’s lies, but it is time for the Board

to fulfill that commitment. With regard to Sarah, it is my opinion that a farmers market cannot tolerate fraud by a vendor, and the only appropriate response is that she be expelled. Customers and vendors must know that the Board requires honesty, and your response now will test that need.

Yours,
Thomas Westgard

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Scott Noroozi

Wow. Wtf

2

on Sat [Like](#) [Reply](#) [More](#)



Jane Baxter

Kick her off !!!

1

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Susan Searles

Great letter, Tom.

7

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Carol Birkemeier

Thank you!

1

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Christy Thrasher

Thanks for taking the time to write this!

2

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Robyn Gipson Lawlor

Thank you. Shared.

1

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Lindsey Martin

Dave Martin holy shit

on Sun Like Reply More

Linda Ebright

Thank you 1

on Sun Like Reply More

Gail Henry

Wow.

on Sun Like Reply More

Ashlie Kehrberg

Thank you for being transparent at our local market last week they were selling Goods but they were not having their sign up at all. Which is a obvious why

5

on Sun Like Reply More

Elizabeth Backler

Is this the same farm that was involved in the fight last year at the Bloomington Farmer's Market when a man started accusing a farmer of being a bigot?

1

on Sun Like Reply More

Elizabeth Backler replied · 2 replies

Michelle Moyd

Thank you for this work. 3

on Sun Like Reply More

Bonnie Gordon-Lucas

Photo would be helpful for those who want to avoid supporting them.

3

on Sun Like Reply More

Linda Ebright replied · 2 replies

Rick Nagy

Good work. 3

on Sun Like Reply More

Pamela Jones Davidson

Is their farm Schooner Creek Farm? Want to make sure, have heard they are at the Bloomington Farmers Market too, and do not want to buy from them. Want to make sure about their farm name.

10

on Mon Like Reply More

Denise Valkyrie replied · 3 replies

Tim Clark

Thank you so much for documenting all of this in such a straightforward and thorough manner. I first learned of Volkmom and her ties to Identity Evropa through a post on the FB page Brown County Matters. I was shocked, but skeptical and did my own research, read the court filings from the Brewer case, waded through the Discord chats, and listened to the Volkmom YouTube videos. Everything you say is true and verifiable. I would only add that doxing, or having an secret online identity revealed, is something that IE members often discuss and often treat as a sort of game. They are very aware of the consequences of exposure. There's nothing innocent in their secrecy, it's a deliberate strategy to hide their intentions and sow mistrust and fear.

13

on Mon Like Reply More

Tim Clark replied · 3 replies

Karol Hovis

Well done. Thank you. 4

on Mon Like Reply More

Amber Yocom-Vanmatre

Wow.

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A.b. Rudy

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1

on Mon Like Reply More

Lori Mendelson Schiffmiller

Thank you for sharing 1

on Mon Like Reply More

Kelly Jo Macy

Denise Valkyrie when you get a chance read up on this. Partly in your B-Town.

1

on Mon Like Reply More

Denise Valkyrie replied · 6 replies

Brittany Hughes

Christina L Tanier-Gesner

on Mon Like Reply More

Patty Slaughter

Excellent work Thomas! 1

on Mon Like Reply More

Lisa Smith

If she cares about the market, she should leave. I don't want to see this beautiful market fail over this

4

on Mon Like Reply More

Julie Bolejack

Wow!

on Mon Like Reply More

Patricia Krahnke

Maria Sanchez Steenberger

on Mon Like Reply More

Joe Goetz

Kayte Young you see this???

on Mon Like Reply More

Lindsey Martin

Priscilla Rocha

on Tue Like Reply More

Christine Zion

Wow...good for Thomas Westgate for standing up and calling out evil! 2

on Tue Like Reply More

Juliana Ramos Crespo

Oh my God, what insanity. 2

on Tue Like Reply More

6/6/2019

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