

To my Friends and Neighbors in Wilde Lake,

As we start 2023, I wanted to, as your Columbia Council Representative, provide an update on the Columbia Association. I begin by thanking so many residents that have reached out to me in 2022. I have spoken to so many Wilde Lake residents, but I recognize that I have not communicated to so many more. This note is a first step to begin regular communication with the broader community.

My term on the CA Board of Directors began in May 2022 and runs until the end of April 2023. As of this writing we are 8-months into this iteration of the CA Board. Although this year has not seen any keystone events, no new facility openings or master plan publications; there certainly has been a lot of commotion at CA Board meetings.

I want Wilde Lake residents to know that if you watch a CA Board meeting, there are actually two things going on: The first is the subject being discussed - usually a memo, an easement, or currently - the FY2024 budget proposal. Running parallel to these discussion points are items board members cannot speak about publicly. Broadly speaking, I am talking about Personnel Actions in the form of Complaints filed against members of CA Leadership.

As per corporate policy, I will not delve into any specifics. However, it is important for you to know that during this term complaint investigations against members of CA Leadership have been constant, with only a few weeks of the year in which no investigations have been conducted. I want to take a moment to clarify: it is not that dozens of complaints have been filed, but the few complaints filed are, in my opinion, serious in nature. The serious nature of the complaints has resulted in large investments of time and money to ensure the complaint is properly addressed. This unspoken aspect of the CA Board has certainly had an effect on the public interactions of CA Leadership. One last thought - as I share this information, I understand it is vague in nature and it may lead some to presuppose whom is filing and/or the subject of complaints. I would caution against any thinking along those lines. My advice would be to think of all of CA Leadership as equally potential complainants and subjects.

The CA President

Let me begin by stating, in my opinion, Lakey Boyd has done a very good job as CA President. She deserves praise for the financial management of CA, her community outreach on behalf of CA, and particularly the vast improvement of employee morale. Although Lakey and I don't agree on everything, there has never been a moment during my tenure on the board that I would consider asking Lakey to leave. I am proud of the Wilde Lake Village Board for sending a letter to CA in support of Lakey, and I agree with the text of the letter.

Since Lakey revealed in our late October meeting she had heard a rumor about her employment, I have been working hard to chase these accusations to ground. For about five weeks, the CA Board's public silence was mirrored in internal discussions. During this time, I implored board members to increase transparency and push the board to make a statement in support of Lakey.

And in December 2022, the temperature changed.

To the best of my recollection, the CA Board of directors had one open meeting and three closed meetings in December 2022. Of the three closed meetings, two were held on December

19, 2022. The first meeting was a meeting in Executive Session; that is, only the elected members of the CA Board of Directors were in attendance. No senior staff or the CA President were present. The second meeting was a closed meeting of the CA Board of directors. I will not provide details of either meeting, but what is important to know is that between meetings, when not in closed session, people in the room were free to witness CA Board members pointing fingers at each other, making accusations, and screaming at one another.

Last week, the CA Board held another closed meeting in Executive Session to follow up on the meeting held December 19, 2022. As many in the Village may know, the CA Board directed to the Columbia Association to send out a press release regarding President Lakey Boyd. In my opinion, the press release does not accurately reflect either the discussion or the outcomes of the meeting.

As I look back on the last eight months, I struggle to find a brighter path forward. I have worked hard to earn the respect and trust of Columbia residents, my fellow CA Board members, and the CA senior staff. I believe I have had only limited success, and certainly some failures. Columbia is a beautiful garden caught up in trying times. With a world beset with recovery from a pandemic, war, and a possible recession on the horizon, the intrigue and politics of a local homeowners association can easily get lost in the news of the day. What I ask of Wilde Lake residents is to pay more attention to CA for the next few months. The situation requires it.

I want to end by thanking the currently Wilde Lake Village Board, and all the former CA Board members in Wilde Lake for their continued encouragement and support. It has been a difficult journey made doable only through their council and advice.