



Josh Shepherd <josh@lkldnow.com>

CareerSource Polk and LHA - Seeking statement

Lalonde Jr, Guy <Guy.LalondeJr@lakelandgov.net>

Tue, Oct 6, 2026 at 2:39 PM

To: Josh Shepherd <josh@lkldnow.com>

Josh,

Today's decision to permanently remove Stacy Campbell-Domineck as president and CEO of CareerSource Polk strengthens my concern about her continued service on the Lakeland Housing Authority Board. In my opinion, she should resign. If she does not, the City should promptly examine the evidence relevant to her LHA service and pursue the statutory removal process wherever grounds are established.

I also commend the Polk County Board of County Commissioners for taking action to reset CareerSource Polk's board. After attending numerous LHA meetings and listening to residents' concerns, I believe a reset of the Lakeland Housing Authority Board is needed as well, through the appropriate legal and appointment processes.

These concerns did not begin today. I requested an independent third-party forensic audit or investigation of LHA on August 28, 2025. I have also questioned the financial and operational relationships among CareerSource Polk, LHA, and YouthBuild while Ms. Campbell-Domineck held leadership responsibilities at CareerSource and a seat on the LHA Board.

The agencies' formal memorandum of understanding and infrastructure funding agreement warrant independent examination. The public deserves to know what financial obligations existed, who approved them, and how potential conflicts, disclosures, recusals, and independent oversight were handled. In my opinion, those relationships deserved thorough examination before her appointment and throughout her service.

My concerns extend beyond any one board member. At meetings I have attended, I have observed an executive director giving direction to the board, with insufficient questioning or independent examination of the information presented. I have also heard statements that, in my assessment, conflict with the documented record without receiving meaningful challenge from the board.

It is deeply concerning when an executive director responds to documented criticism by attempting to discredit the people raising it. A professional response should address the evidence, explain discrepancies, and correct inaccuracies. Attempts to undermine the credibility of residents or public officials raising concerns can discourage others from speaking and divert attention from the issues the board should be examining.

The discussion about removal must also recognize what Section 421.07 actually provides. It identifies inefficiency, neglect of duty, and misconduct in office as grounds for removal. Its reference to "charges" does not require a criminal charge or conviction. It requires specific grounds, supporting evidence, notice, and an opportunity to be heard.

In my opinion, a serious review of LHA board performance should examine whether individual members have:

- Failed to exercise meaningful oversight after receiving documented concerns about management, finances, or resident services.

- Failed to require explanations or corrections when management's statements conflict with records presented to the board.
- Failed to establish corrective actions, deadlines, and follow-up after being notified of recurring problems.
- Approved financial or contractual decisions without adequately examining the obligations, supporting information, or potential conflicts involved.
- Allowed the executive director to exercise authority reserved to the board without meaningful review or accountability.
- Failed to examine documented resident complaints or require management to report how those complaints were resolved.

These concerns must be investigated and substantiated against the responsibilities of each member. Where the evidence establishes a statutory ground for removal, the City should act through the required process. General assurances that a board is doing its job are insufficient when specific concerns remain unanswered.

A board's responsibility extends well beyond receiving an agenda, listening to reports, and approving recommendations. It must establish expectations, scrutinize financial decisions, evaluate performance, and hold its executive director accountable. Acknowledging that residents have been heard is only the beginning. Their concerns require documented follow-up, corrective action where warranted, and verification that problems have been resolved.

I believe most people accept board appointments because they care and want to make a difference. My sincere hope is that everyone serving puts their heart and effort into that responsibility. But good intentions must be accompanied by preparation, knowledge of their duties, independent judgment, and a willingness to ask difficult questions. Recognition and mutual encouragement cannot substitute for governance and oversight.

For that reason, I strongly commend Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley for taking the initiative to develop a formal interview process for new board appointees. Matching people to boards suited to their experience and helping them understand the responsibilities of service are important steps toward stronger governance. That preparation should include oversight duties, potential conflicts, and the questions members should be equipped to ask.

Recruiting qualified board members can be challenging. That challenge should motivate stronger recruitment and preparation. It should never become a justification for tolerating established failures of oversight or delaying necessary change.

My call for a reset reflects my concern about how this board functions and serves residents. The City should examine each member's performance and pursue changes supported by the evidence and the law. I continue to call for an independent forensic review of the relevant financial and operational relationships, active board oversight, and measurable improvements in resident services.

Residents deserve a board that listens closely, questions thoroughly, acts decisively, and follows through. In my opinion, a reset is necessary to restore that standard and rebuild public confidence.

Sincerely,

Guy LaLonde Jr.
City Commissioner

[228 S Massachusetts Avenue](#)

Lakeland, Florida 33801

863-834-6005 office

863-834-8402 fax

guy.lalondejr@lakelandgov.net

