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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 920 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY WEBSTER, BRIGGS, HILL-EVANS, HANBIDGE, NEILSON,  
KINSEY, KENYATTA, ULLMAN, SANCHEZ, DALEY, LEE, FIEDLER,  
CIRESI, SCHWEYER AND RABB, JUNE 23, 2020

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JUNE 23, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Impeaching Joseph C. Gale, Montgomery County Commissioner, for  
2 misbehavior in office.

3 BE IT RESOLVED, That Joseph C. Gale, Montgomery County  
4 Commissioner, be impeached for misbehavior in office and that  
5 the following be exhibited to the Senate:

6 On June 1, 2020, Joseph C. Gale issued a press statement  
7 under the Seal of the County of Montgomery in which he, without  
8 evidence or cause, disparaged and defamed the Black Lives Matter  
9 movement by declaring them "terrorists" seeking to "justify the  
10 lawless destruction of our cities and surrounding communities,"  
11 despite the fact that they represent peaceful and civil  
12 protestors seeking redress for four centuries of grievances,  
13 including racially-motivated oppression, rape, exploitation and  
14 murder.

15 Joseph C. Gale did make these inflammatory and derisive  
16 statements despite the overwhelmingly peaceful and civil nature  
17 of protests throughout this Commonwealth, the United States and

1 at least 17 countries around the world in support of the civil  
2 rights of people of color.

3 Joseph C. Gale has demonstrated by this and subsequent  
4 statements his contempt for the people of Montgomery County and  
5 his deliberate unwillingness to uphold its values of decency,  
6 morality, respectability, civility, equality and unity.

7 Joseph C. Gale engaged in a potentially unlawful and  
8 distinctly shameful use of a public office and public resources  
9 for no legitimate governmental purpose, utilizing his office to  
10 engage in and promote libelous and unsupported hate speech for  
11 his own political gain, as evidenced by the prominent display of  
12 his statement of June 1, 2020, on his personal campaign website.

13 Joseph C. Gale used the County Seal and masthead bearing the  
14 words "Board of Commissioners, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania"  
15 to legitimize racist rhetoric, thereby deliberately and falsely  
16 implying that his statements were an official statement of the  
17 Montgomery County government.

18 Joseph C. Gale was formally censured by the County of  
19 Montgomery on June 4, 2020, for his "hateful, divisive and  
20 false" statements.

21 Joseph C. Gale is the subject of a petition calling for his  
22 immediate resignation which has, as of June 9, 2020, more than  
23 80,000 signatures; and has been the subject of numerous peaceful  
24 public protests calling for his immediate resignation.

25 Joseph C. Gale expressed views which law enforcement  
26 officials in Montgomery County have described as increasing  
27 danger for law enforcement officers, undermining their authority  
28 by disrespecting a large proportion of his constituents  
29 and unilaterally declaring that those seeking justice are  
30 "terrorists."

1 Joseph C. Gale has failed in his duty to provide words of  
2 unity, calm and compassion during this difficult time following  
3 the killing of George Floyd by a police officer, and has instead  
4 deliberately endangered his constituents through the use  
5 of language that incites violence and division.

6 Joseph C. Gale has abused his position to promulgate and  
7 promote racist and ignorant comments that have legitimized and  
8 increased fear and hatred of people of color within Montgomery  
9 County.

10 Joseph C. Gale abused his position via an unwarranted  
11 assumption of authority to attack and undermine elected  
12 officials in Philadelphia County, a county over which he has no  
13 jurisdiction or oversight.

14 Wherefore, Commissioner Joseph C. Gale is guilty  
15 of impeachable offenses warranting removal from office and  
16 disqualification to hold any office or trust in  
17 this Commonwealth.

18 The House of Representatives hereby reserves the right and  
19 ability to exhibit at any time hereafter further Articles of  
20 Impeachment against Commissioner Gale, to reply to any answers  
21 that Commissioner Gale may make to any Articles of Impeachment  
22 which are exhibited and to offer proof at trial in the Senate in  
23 support of each and every Article of Impeachment which shall be  
24 exhibited by them.