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Official Statement From The Desk Of Monroe County Clerk Nicole Browne

I attended Monday's work group meeting, between the Board of Commissioners and the Monroe County Election Board, in good faith to discuss a plan for election space in 2022 and what I hoped was the beginning of a planned path to secure the entirety of the Johnson Hardware building for Election Central.

I was unaware of the incident in question in real time and only made aware of what transpired following the close of the meeting. Later in the evening, I had an opportunity to view footage of the incident and was disheartened with what I saw. I ascribe to the late Dr. Maya Angelou's adage that, "When people show you who they are, believe them, **the first time.**" People cannot stop being who they truly are. Sadly, this is evidenced by the footage from the work group meeting. Equally as sad to admit, this was not my first glimpse of a tone deaf response when it comes to the needs of the Monroe County Clerk's Office. This is who the Commissioner truly is.

I would like to thank the many people who reached out to me, on Monday evening following the meeting, to make sure that I was okay. I am humbled and honored by this incredible show of support. It strengthens my resolve to continue fighting for all things related to elections to be housed under one roof. This incident only cements my belief that this is the right fight at the right time when it comes to establishing best practices for Monroe County as it relates to election integrity and security.