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Webster Barnaby Peddles Dangerous Propaganda, Targets Haitian Community

DeLand, FL — In a disturbing display of misinformation and fearmongering, Rep. Webster Barnaby has been using his Facebook to amplify unsubstantiated propaganda seen from former President Donald Trump, falsely claiming that Haitians are involved in killing cats and dogs. These harmful statements are not only baseless but also target and demonize the Haitian community in Florida, contributing to dangerous racial and cultural divides.

“This kind of action is not only irresponsible but deeply concerning of an elected official,” said Rosemarie Latham, Democratic candidate for Florida House District 29. “Barnaby’s reliance on conspiracy theories and hateful narratives is an attempt to distract from the real issues facing Floridians, such as affordable healthcare, economic stability, and disaster preparedness.” Latham continued, “I don’t think people understand how fragile democracy really is. Democracy is a people-led government, and people like Webster Barnaby want to dismantle American Democracy. We can’t let someone who peddles conspiracy theories represent District 29.”

The allegations being spread by Barnaby are eerily similar to a long history of xenophobic and racially charged misinformation circulated in times of political desperation. These false narratives not only harm the targeted groups but also foster an environment of fear and division. Florida is home to a large and vibrant Haitian community of 500,000+ people that contributes significantly to the state's economy and cultural landscape. Misleading accusations against this community are divisive and detrimental to the fabric of Florida's society.

"Florida deserves leaders who will unite us, and respect the office they represent," Latham continued. "I stand with the Haitian community and all communities who are subject to this kind of targeted disinformation. There’s a valuable lesson from the 20th century that needs to be thought about more often during these difficult times, a saying coined by Martin Niemoller:

‘First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out - because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out - because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out - because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me - and there was no one left to speak for me.’ Well, I’m speaking out and it’s time to stop Rep. Barnaby.”

Latham's campaign is rooted in principles of inclusivity, unity, and truth. She is committed to representing all Floridians and addressing the critical issues that matter, such as healthcare, infrastructure, and climate resilience.

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