The following statement was delivered to The Daily Standard by Celina City Councilman Steve Schulte on November 12, 2026.

A statement from Bob Hibner, Chair of the Mercer County Republican Party follows

- First, I would like to start by saying, officially, and publicly I am in fact sorry for my comments made during my alleged OVI arrest. I embarrassed myself, my constituents, the City of Celina, the Republican party and the residents that voted for me. To my wife, my family, my extended family, relative's friends and neighbors. I made a bad decision, some poor comments in haste and I'm not defending it.
- With that said, let me start out by indicating that first and foremost this is not a City Council problem. As a Statutory City this isn't their issue. This isn't a reflection on the City of Celina's administration, the Republican party, the Mayor, or any other City Councilman or Statutory Body. The right place for this discussion is not at a City Council Meeting! City Council meetings are designed for City Business. City Council meetings are designed for "Formal gatherings of a city's elected legislative body designed to make policy decisions, enact local laws, and manage community governance. Not have discussions of personal comments made during a councilman's arrest.
- Mr Anderson, outside of City Council, here are my comments. First of all, how do you know that I haven't apologized already to my Fellow City Councilman, the President of City Council, the Chief of Police and his administration, Officer Heindel, my constituents or any other legislative body up to and including the republican party or the Chairman thereof. How do you know that I haven't apologized to The Prosecuting Attorney for having to recuse him from my case or Judge Spielman also for having to recuse herself from my case. How do you know that I haven't already apologized to my wife, my family, my extended family, my neighbors, my friends, or even any of the constituents and voters that made the attempt to vote for me in the past November election. How do you know? Was it because it wasn't made public? How do you know what the level of humiliation is for me and mine for my actions. Quite frankly, it's not public. Because I haven't commented yet. So you don't!!
- Is it possible that these comments that were made during my OVI arrest were taken out of context? Does it really matter? It's done. I can't take it back. My question to my constituents and the community that voted for me is this? Do my comments to Officer Heindel affect me having the ability to do my elected job? I get that there is some debate if it makes me more electable. But is that the real question? Isn't the real question "If I have the ability to conduct City Business at City Council meetings that are designed for "Formal gatherings of a city's elected legislative body designed to make policy decisions, enact local laws, and manage community governance." Do my comments hinder me from having the ability to perform my responsibilities as a City Councilman? I was voted into this position because of my past performance. Because of my 30 years of financial experience, because of my education, because of my service organization donations, quite frankly because of my 63 years of trying to be part of this community. I'm a humble man Mr Anderson! I'm not to arrogant to know that a mistake was made here. I get that I owe my constituents, in my Ward that voted for me an apology. Officially or unofficially, public or non-public, in time they will get it. They will get it because they recognize, like everybody else in this community along with myself, that it is, as I have campaigned all along, a diamond in the

rough and diamonds in the rough deserve 2nd chances. 2nd chances that I have seen in this community firsthand! I've seen it with the community at large, I've seen it with my family, my neighbors and my friends, and in many of those cases they rise to the call. They learn, they take their knocks, they apologize, they suffer, they develop, they grow and they learn from it, and in even many cases they are a better person for it.

- But this criticism of the current City administration has nothing to do with this case. Sure, Officer Heindl & The Celina Chief of Police and his staff deserve an apology as well. And in my defense, I didn't tell Mr Heindle at any point to "To not do his job!" My constituents, the voters that voted for me and all others mentioned in my opening statement today also do as well. And they will get it. Not on your terms Mr Anderson. But they will get it. Some already have. Just not publicly. And the next time you address council, out of respect for them, feel free to use my name. Because once again, let me reiterate this IS NOT A REFLECTION OF THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CITY OF CELINA AND IS CURRENT ADMINISTRATION! THIS IS NOT THEIR ISSUE. IT IS MINE AND MINE ALONE!! This is out of their control. This is not an issue to be handled at a City Council meeting while we are making policy decisions, enacting local laws, and managing community governance. If you want to discuss that I am available 24 7 365. We will debate that. Furthermore, in my opinion, The City of Celina has never been in better hands than the current administration. And we will let the voters decide that. I will see you at the poles.

The following statement was Received by The Daily Standard.

There recently has been some questions raised about the Mercer County Republican Party's response to the allegations against Celina City Council Member Steve Schulte who was reportedly arrested for OVI by Celina City Police Department on September 27, 2026. Mr. Schulte allegedly made comments that potentially threatened, pressured or intimidated arresting officers. If true, the alleged comments Mr. Schulte made at the time of the arrest were completely inappropriate and unacceptable!

It is my understanding that neither the city of Celina nor the Mercer County Republican Party can force Mr. Schulte to resign from his elected office as city councilman. In regards to the city of Celina's response, I have had several discussions with Mayor Jeff Hazel beginning within several days of the arrest and the mayor has consistently voiced serious concerns about the allegations. Mayor Hazel, among others, to ensure the public's trust, have encouraged Mr. Schulte to resign from the Celina City Council.

As far as the Mercer County Republican Party's response, I personally contacted Mr. Schulte by phone several days after his arrest and I voiced the party's concerns over not only his arrest, but more importantly the comments that he allegedly had made. He was encouraged to make a timely public response in regards to his alleged offenses. Our party leadership and I as Chair, question his ability to continue to effectively serve as a city councilman for the city of Celina and feel that his resignation at this time would be appropriate.

Bob Hibner
Chair
Mercer County Republican Party

