

Community Comment
May 19, 2017
Sam Pennisi

Enough is Enough

I haven't mentioned Donald Trump for some time. Frankly, I've been waiting for the final straw. By final straw, I mean the act or behavior of this President when it becomes clear to me, personally, that he is unfit for the job. And not just unfit but dangerous to our republic. We have reached that point.

There is history that puts this in Context. He lost the popular vote and won the electoral college vote by the smallest of margins in a few swing states. He continues to dispute the reality of the popular vote and makes things up about voter fraud. In reality, the supreme court and other courts are rejecting the rise of voter suppression in some states.

The election was influenced by the Russians. All our intelligence agencies confirm this and arguably cost Mrs. Clinton the election. Mr. Trump refers to this interference as a hoax. The FBI intervened at the last minute of the campaign and reignited her email issue even though she was cleared. The director then commented on her behavior which is something prosecutors normally don't do after clearing someone. Mr. Trump added to this mess by asking Russia to hack her server and find the evidence of wrong doing. In public!

Once President, Mr. Trump appointed fellow billionaires to cabinet positions. Most had no public service experience, like himself, and no management experience. Many were selected to manage agencies that they don't think should exist. This was part of the White House agenda to dismantle the administrative state. The administrative state is our government. I repeat; the administrative state is our government. This is a big deal. This is our culture!

Throughout the campaign and after he was sworn in, Mr. Trump calls the free press the enemy and fake news. The free press is not only protected in the constitution but is a critical partner in any form of democracy. This alone should be alarming. Most recently, he talks of jailing reporters who publish leaks. This is the road to tyranny.

Part of Mr. Trump's appeal was that he is not a politician. What that really means is he has no experience and has not shown a willingness to learn and place people around him who can guide him. He has said he had no idea how hard this job is. Think about that. The leader of the free world didn't think this would be hard?

Now he has fired the FBI director in the middle of the Russia investigation. It doesn't pass the smell test. He admits to telling Russian officials in the Oval office top secret information given to us by another country. Russia is not our friend. The President can

declassify any information he wants. Normally this is done as a strategy with our intelligence agencies. This is not normal.

Tyranny begins slowly when we get complacent; when we get comfortable with behavior that is not normal. We must stop him as the constitution allows. We must follow the normal rules that have served us well for more than two hundred years. And we must act now. I've talked to my representative, have you?

This has been Sam Pennisi for community comment.