

Cathy Miller Corrects DA Fisher's Story About Stealing Signs and Kidnapping (Written Version)

At a Town Hall Forum/Debate organized by Shawna M. Myers on May 30th, featured speaker District Attorney Mike Fisher referenced a 2018 criminal case which involved me, Cathy Miller, a 26-year resident of Osage County. I have stayed silent about the incident for 6 years, waiting for justice to be served. During that time the Sheriff attempted to get the case heard. The first time it was assigned by the Attorney General to a prosecutor who swept it under the rug. Subsequent attempts in conjunction with other offenses have resulted in multiple recusals and stalls by judges.

During the May 30th Town Hall Forum/Debate, DA Fisher spoke for over 4 minutes regarding this case, # 2018-0733. As his talk contained gross omissions and inaccuracies, I believe that it is time the full story is told.

In the primary election of 2018, I supported incumbent Rex Duncan for DA over opponent Mike Fisher. For Rex's campaign, I organized a Meet & Greet, knocked doors in my precinct and put-up signs. In the spring of 2018, my buddy of 20 years in a subdivision of my precinct moved into assisted living. He gave me full and exclusive permission to put political signs in his yard. I did so a couple of days ahead of the election but did not finish knocking doors in the neighborhood. The following day, June 25th, 2018, I returned to finish and found that the Rex Duncan signs had been removed and Mike Fisher signs put in their place. I replaced Mr. Fisher's signs with Rex's and put his signs in full view in my car because his house was in a separate part of the subdivision where I would soon be heading. First, though, I drove one street over to knock on three doors. After visiting with the resident of the last one, I turned towards my car to leave.

I saw a small-framed normal weight man hopping around my car peering in the windows. I recognized him as Mike Fisher because I had first met him the previous election at his house when he told me that even though he was a Republican he was going to vote for the two democrat opponents of the candidates I was campaigning for. Upon seeing me walk towards him, Mr. Fisher, waving his arms, said that I was under citizen's arrest. As I approached, he asked for my name and seeing a crazed look in his eyes, I said that I was not going to tell him my name. He told me again that I was under citizen's arrest for stealing his signs. He told me that the homeowner gave him permission to put his signs up. I asked him who the homeowner was, and he said that he didn't know. I moved toward my car and again he said that he was making a citizen's arrest. I said, "No, you are not!". He then told the woman who had been taking photos of my license plate to make a phone call. I dialed the Osage County DA to tell him what was happening. He told me to leave the area. My heart was pounding, and I was breathing hard. Juggling my clipboard, keys and phone, I unsuccessfully attempted to turn on the camera to try to video whatever might happen next.

I approached my car and Mr. Fisher stood in front of the driver's side door, telling me that I was not going anywhere. And again, he said that I was under citizen's arrest. I said that I was leaving and unlocked the door with the FOB. I tried to reach for the handle, but he moved in front of it (I later found out that preventing someone from getting into their vehicle is considered kidnapping). I ran over to the passenger side of the car, got in, crawled over the console to the driver's seat and locked the door. He was still standing outside the driver's door. I started the car and looking down the street remembered that it was a dead end and my heart sunk as I said, "Oh No!!" I drove straight and turned around to drive out of the cul-de-sac, but Mr. Fisher and the woman were in the middle of the road preventing me from driving by. Being next to the home of another friend of mine, I decided that she would understand if I drove on her lawn to get away and so I did. Not seeing any vehicle around, I paused at the stop sign to catch my breath and collect my thoughts. A red car with an "I Like Mike" sign sped up the hill from the left and stopped close to my car. The driver got out and Mr. Fisher ran over and got in the driver's seat. I started driving and Mr. Fisher pulled so close behind me I thought that he would hit me. He followed me closely for several miles. I did not want him to know where I lived so I continued past my house. A couple of miles later, there was a sheriff pickup parked perpendicular to the road with lights on and less than 1/4th of a mile later another one also parked perpendicular to the road. Mr. Fisher finally slowed down with his arm out of the window, moving back and forth with his finger pointing at me. I was pulled over and was questioned.

After an hour, I drove off with Mr. Fisher driving behind me. When I got home, I was still pretty shaken up and asked my husband for a beer. I had completely lost any desire to campaign which made me angry. And I felt guilty about not completing the 5 1/2 hours of door-knocking that I had committed to doing that day. I could not even imagine ever driving into that neighborhood to visit my friend whose lawn I had driven on.

The next day, as requested, I went to the Sheriff's office in Pawhuska for questioning by the investigator. It was determined that my buddy had given me full authority to put up whatever signs I wanted and he was indeed the owner of the house. In fact, the sale did not close the same day as stated by DA Fisher in the May 30th Forum/Debate but instead over three weeks later, on July 20th, 2018. It was DA Fisher whose signs were not legal in the yard and I had every right to remove them.

I have tried to forget that this case ever happened but each time I go out to campaign, I think about it. This year the case has been at the top of my mind given the recent Town Hall Forum/Debate and numerous social media posts by DA Fisher endorsing and campaigning for candidates including the contender for Sheriff. It is frightening to me that any sheriff would be beholden in any way to a DA. It is terrifying to think of the kind of power abuses that are possible with an alliance of a DA and Sheriff that may not be 100% above board. And add in the AG being the one to assign the case to an out-of-county prosecutor who

then has the right to decline to prosecute combined with judges' duty/ability to recuse and/or stall and the likelihood of justice being served becomes slim if not none.

Thank you for listening to my story, which I documented the day it occurred, June 25th, 2018.