

TO THE GRAND SECRETARY AND GRAND TRUSTEES OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS, A.F. & A.M.:

PETITION TO CALL SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 3(b) of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Texas permits the Grand Master to call a Special Communication when “the interests of the Craft require”; and

WHEREAS, Article 166 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas prohibits new business from being discussed at the Annual Communication once the Installation has commenced; and

WHEREAS, Masonic Disciplinary Charges against a Grand Lodge Officer are a private, business matter for which the Grand Lodge has exclusive original jurisdiction pursuant to Article 641; and

WHEREAS, M.:W.: G. Clay Smith, immediately upon being installed as Grand Master, publicly announced in Open Session of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas Masonic Disciplinary Charges against R.:W.: Jim Rumsey, such session being open to the public and attended by members of the public and which was contemporaneously broadcast and made available for later public viewing on the Grand Lodge’s YouTube channel; and

WHEREAS, M.:W.: G. Clay Smith’s actions were calculated, preplanned, and scripted as evidenced by the script he read announcing his acceptance of the charges; and

WHEREAS, M.:W.: G. Clay Smith’s actions in the Open Session Installation appear to have brought discredit upon Texas Masonry, constituting a potential violation of Article 508.2; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2023, M.:W.: G. Clay Smith caused to be published to all Texas Masons a letter asserting that R.:W.: Jim Rumsey had been accused of “violations involving moral turpitude,” when said statement was patently false, constituting a potential violation of Article 507; and

WHEREAS, the January 30, 2023 letter has also been published on the publicly accessible portion of the Grand Lodge website under the Grand Master’s Blog section, constituting another potential violation; and

WHEREAS, Article 36 of the Laws of Grand Lodge of Texas provides that the Grand Master may be suspended from office for sufficient cause; and

WHEREAS, sufficient cause may exist to suspend M.:W.: G. Clay Smith from the office of Grand Master because he may have disregarded the Grand Lodge’s Order of Business, discussed private business in Open Session, and other sufficient reasons as discussed herein;

NOW, THEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED the undersigned representatives of this lodge demand that a Special Communication of the Grand Lodge of Texas be called as soon as possible, and upon not less than thirty (30) days’ official notice to the constituent lodges, for the business of considering the suspension of M.:W.: G. Clay Smith from the office of Grand Master pursuant to Article 36 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

DULY ADOPTED at a STATED MEETING of _____ Lodge No. _____ held on the _____ day of _____(month), 2023, by a majority vote of the members present.

ATTEST:

(Lodge Seal goes here)

Lodge Secretary