

After my arrest on March 9, 2024, I made a public statement, saying that I very much regretted what had happened and that I would defer to and respect the legal system set up to handle matters of this type. That process has now come to an end.

I have accepted full responsibility for my actions and have this morning entered a plea of guilty to Count I of the Information, Operating While Intoxicated as a Class A Misdemeanor. The terms of the sentence include a one-year sentence, with six days executed in the Kosciusko County, and 359 days suspended to probation and a 90-day driver's license suspension, substance abuse assessment and counseling, and payment of a fine and costs. But nothing contained in the Court's sentence has been, is or will be as difficult to endure as the dishonor I have brought upon myself and my family.

Throughout my life, particularly in my years as a Councilperson and through my church and other community involvements, my sole focus as a wife, mother, Councilperson and citizen has been to uphold the highest ethical and personal standards and to earn the trust of those around me. I remain committed to those standards of personal and professional behavior and the higher standard to which I am held by virtue of the honor and privilege of being a Councilperson - however, on March 9th, I failed to live by those standards.

It is a profound understatement to say that I am disappointed in myself. But more importantly, I am pained to the core at having disappointed my family, my community, and the people for whom I serve as a Councilperson. Being a Councilperson is a tremendous honor and privilege.

I offer no excuse for what I did. I have completed a substance abuse assessment and the recommended counseling and believe I have focused and learned from my poor decision. While my actions may be forgiven, they cannot be excused. I offer only the profoundest apology possible to my community, those citizens who have trusted me to serve as a Councilperson, and my colleagues on the County Council, for actions such as those in which I engaged certainly show a complete lack of respect and compliance with the law and a failure to uphold and promote the public's confidence as an elected official. For that, I owe the citizens of Kosciusko County an apology and a promise to re-earn your trust.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Cates