



**Michael Talley**

June 12 at 8:04 AM · 33

Two months ago I submitted a letter to the Board of [Green Top Grocery](#). In it I explained a pattern of operations interference, conflicts of interest, corruption, and emotional abuse from the former President of the Board and current Board Member. I detailed instances of email tampering, efforts to direct store funds unethically, directing staff to report to the Board President instead of the General Manager, and name calling and harassment. This complaint was filed after several reports to Human Resources, and in response to valuable members of the Green Top family feeling like leaving the Co-op was the only course of action that did not result in retaliation. The evidence of abuse of power was overwhelming, and barely scraped the surface of what has been going on behind the scenes. This Board Member instructed Team Members to order product that lost the co-op money. This Board Member created a racist advertisement for the store that went unapproved by staff. This Board Member stated how thankful they were for the pandemic and the money received because of it. This Board Member often calls and texts Team Members on their days off, demanding tasks be completed and orders carried out. This Board Member asked a member of staff if it was ok if they stabbed the General Manager.

Last week, the Green Top Board of Directors decided to do nothing. The new President of the Board, elected recently by the ownership, resigned immediately following this announcement. No response was given to me upon receiving this letter, no notice of their decision was given to me. A full investigation was promised, but not carried out.

This inaction is absurd and harmful to the staff, the Co-op, and every single owner of Green Top Grocery. Team Members, Managers, and Farmers have all spoken to me about issues they have with this Board Member, expressing strongly that they be removed. Multiple Green Top staff have spoke to me, with tears in their eyes, hoping somebody, anybody would stick up for them. Last week the Board failed this Co-op, sending a signal that it condones a member of its body to act as they wish, with no regard to the bylaws or actual law.

I write this knowing full well of the influence this Board Member has in the community, and that the possibility of retaliation outside of Green Top exists for me and others. But I firmly believe that action must take place if Green Top is to survive. I ask that we come together and work to remove this Board Member and insure they are no longer a part of this Co-op or its future.

Michael Talley  
Former Marketing Coordinator  
Green Top Grocery