

Board Resignation Memorandum

Arkansas Revolution Football Club

Date: April 26, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Arkansas Revolution players, parents, coaches, and supporters

From: The Arkansas Revolution Board of Directors

Subject: Board Resignation & Call to Action

Statement of Resignation

As a Board of volunteers, we have collectively worked to provide the youth of our community a quality soccer program where they can grow and develop as people and players individually and with their team. We recognize the sacrifices that each family makes, in time and money, to allow their player the opportunity to participate. In recognition of these sacrifices, we have made the centerpiece of our mission the "Player Experience."

Our volunteer board is comprised of parents and professionals from several professional specialties, across nearly every city school district, and with an excellent diversity of opinion on how to manage effectively. Working together, we have committed our time, energy and our money to the ARFC program, rendering measurable results in program (more about this below). Our board volunteers have asked for nothing in return other than for a productive partnership from City officials which would empower continued improvements within our program and within our community.

To this end, we also are acutely aware of the potential positive economic impact that sports tourism can have on our community. As we worked to continue to improve the quality of our programming for our families, we have also worked to activate Joe Mack Park with tournaments and events which provide a tremendous economic impact to our community.

Unfortunately, under the current circumstances, which we will brief below, we are no longer in a position to achieve our goals. **Accordingly, effective immediately and with heavy hearts, every member of the Arkansas Revolution Board of Directors is stepping down.** We do so only after exhausting every reasonable avenue to correct ethical and governance failures that threaten the long-term health of the club.

Background

1. As best as we understand, ARFC falls under the umbrella of a non-profit organization named "City Stars Booster Club." City Parks & Rec. Director, Danny Kapales serves on this Board, as well as Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation, Brandon Shrader.
2. ARFC has a separate Board and has been presented with separate "financial statements" from the Parks Director who has served as Treasurer for ARFC longer than any member of the current board.
3. As we understand it, the City of Jonesboro has City employees run various programs under the City Stars umbrella and uses City facilities and resources to operate these programs.
4. The Board was informed by the Mayor's office that this structure has existed for many years. City Administration has also stated that City Stars is not an entity they control, despite the use of City facilities, employees, and resources to run the programming.
5. Joe Mack Campbell Park is a City owned park, maintained by the City for the use and benefit of the citizens.

Why we are resigning

1. **Club Expense Mislabeled as "Field Usage"**
 - For several years, **\$15,000 – \$30,000 of club money** was reported to the ARFC Board as being used for *"field usage."*
 - A line-by-line review of the City of Jonesboro's budget confirmed **no such field usage charges exist.** Stated another way, there does not appear to be any record of where this money went, as it was not paid to the city.
 - These transactions were inserted into club financial statements by our treasurer, who is also the City's Parks & Recreation Director.
 - When pressed on what this charge was used for the Parks & Rec. Director stated this was a discretionary fund to be used for City Stars programs. However, the financial statements provided to the ARFC Board continued to list field usage.

- Further research revealed that this line item has appeared on financial statements through several iterations of the board, bringing the total into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- In 2024, ARFC Board Members documented the transactions and presented it to the Mayor's Office with a specific request for account separation and clarity. **To our knowledge**, Mayor Copenhaver's Office declined to take any action.

2. Preferential Treatment & Facility Access

- Parks & Recreation leadership gives favored programs first choice of fields, while imposing last-minute schedule changes and restrictions on Arkansas Revolution teams. Programs such as City Stars soccer and Red Wolf Football are identified as “preferred programs” and given priority access to facilities with no definition of how a program becomes preferred.

Active Counter-Programming

- City personnel—while representing both municipal interests and City Stars—have attempted to create competing leagues and events that directly overlap with Arkansas Revolution training and match schedules.

Solution Proposal by ARFC Board

To prevent any potential conflicts with City officials providing programming using City facilities for a non-city organization, and to provide transparency into the club in all aspects, the Board proposed to the City that ARFC become a separate non-profit entity. This would have enabled clarity of financial responsibility through the separation of accounts, would have enabled ARFC to execute a field use agreement with the City with clear rules of engagement around scheduling for practices and tournaments, and would have allowed ARFC to explore relationships throughout the soccer to accelerate the advancement of our program.

After initially expressing support, Mayor Copenhaver and his office simply stopped engaging and refused to move the plan forward. There have been chronic delays in responding to requests lasting for months on end. To date, we have received no explanation as to why the plans could or could not move forward, effectively locking the ARFC Board into a stalemate of indecision.

After being pressed again for a decision around any of these ideas after months of indecision this past week, Mayor Copenhaver inadvertently texted an ARFC board member **threatening that he was “about to cancel revolution soccer”**—a message that speaks volumes about the administration’s

regard for our volunteers, coaches, our parents, and - most importantly - our more than 350 players.

Gratitude & Closing

Over the past three years Arkansas Revolution has made measurable, player-focused progress. From day one, this Board set three clear objectives—transparent communication, stronger community, and a higher-quality playing experience. We delivered on those goals by **hiring the club's first full-time Executive Director and Technical Director, creating our first comprehensive player-development curriculum**, introducing TeamSnap, launching the Board Liaison program, funding USSF-license courses for our coaches, and building new initiatives such as the Development Academy and the 3v3 Strikers League, and leading the advocacy which resulted in two best-in-class turf fields being constructed at Joe Mack.

Our recent success has drawn interest from outside organizations, including the Germantown Legends—an ECNL/ECRL club that hopes to bring Arkansas Revolution under its umbrella. As our last act as the Board, and strictly out of due diligence, we facilitated an introduction and forwarded the Legends' proposal to Mayor Copenhaver's office for review. Although the partnership could open national-level pathways for our players, our preliminary analysis indicates it would significantly raise travel requirements and overall fees for ARFC families.

Watching our players grow—both on and off the pitch—has been an honor. We step away only because we cannot, in good conscience, serve under conditions that violate the trust placed in us by every Arkansas Revolution family.

Thank you for your passion, your countless volunteer hours, and the memories we share. Together, let's demand the transparency and fairness our players deserve and ensure Arkansas Revolution's mission continues stronger than ever.

What This Means for Members

- **Finish the Season:** Coaches and team managers are encouraged to complete the current season's schedule. Player development and enjoyment remain our highest priority.
- **Financial Records:** All club books are currently held by the Parks and Rec Director. Any questions or comments about the club's finances should be directed to their office at (870)933-4604.

- **Take Action:** We urge every parent, coach, and supporter to contact Mayor Copenhaver and demand transparency, accountability, and fair treatment for Arkansas Revolution. This can be done by calling (870)932-1052.
- **Moving Forward:** For information regarding the future of soccer in the City of Jonesboro, we encourage you to contact the City Parks and Rec department.

Respectfully,

The Outgoing Arkansas Revolution Board of Directors