

Ronald F. Avery
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September 29, 2015

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CERTIFIED MAIL
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Mr. Dylan G. Baddour,
Houston Chronicle
via email: Dylan.Baddour@chron.com

RE: RETRACTION STATEMENT REQUEST BY RONALD AVERY

Dear Mr. Baddour,

This is my request for a Retraction Statement containing Corrections and Clarifications and a full Retraction from the Houston Chronicle to be printed on the front page of the paper where the original article appeared containing the following and on a Sunday with the same circulation as the Sunday it first appeared.

Beginning of Retraction Statement:

Corrections, Clarifications and Retraction of a story titled " Ever hopeful and determined, Texas secessionist face long, long odds"

The Houston Chronicle apologizes to Ronald Avery and makes the following corrections and clarifications to, and retraction of, a story written by Dylan Baddour and published herein at this location on Sunday September 15, 2015 entitled "*Ever hopeful and determined, Texas secessionist face long, long odds.*" This correction, clarification and retraction statement applies to both the article printed in the paper and the on-line version by the same title and shall appear with identical content and form.

Corrections & Clarifications:

1. The building known as "The Silver Eagle Taphouse" is not now, and never has been, "shuttered," as incorrectly reported in the body of the article and captioned under

photograph 3, but rather, the doors and windows were open on the day Dylan Baddour visited and anyone could have come into the building.

2. The building known as "The Silver Eagle Taphouse" is not "wooden" any more than any other wood frame modern restaurant or motel. It is clad in corrugated metal and has a metal roof as clearly shown in the photograph 4.
3. The person shown in the photograph wearing a blue jacket with a gold star in the center with the words in gold letters around it saying; "Republic of Texas, Texian National," was not "Ronald Avery," as was incorrectly reported in the caption under photograph 1.
4. The jacket shown in the photograph described above with the gold star and letters did not, does not, and never has belonged to "Ronald Avery," as was incorrectly reported in the caption under photograph 1.
5. "Ronald Avery" has never "informally renounced their U.S. citizenship," as was incorrectly reported, implied and captioned under photograph 1.
6. "Ronald Avery" has never "formally renounced U.S. citizenship," as was incorrectly reported, implied and captioned under photograph 1.
7. "Ronald Avery" has never "landed briefly in jail for explaining to law enforcement officers that they don't have a Texas drivers' license because they are citizens of the Republic," as was incorrectly reported, implied and captioned under photograph 1.
8. Ronald Avery is not now, and never has been, a member, of the so-called "Republic of Texas," as incorrectly reported, implied and captioned under photograph 1.
9. Ronald Avery is not now, and never has been, a *member* of "The Republic of Texas," as incorrectly reported and incorrectly captioned in photograph 3, but rather was, a *guest speaker* before the group calling themselves "The Republic of Texas."
10. "Ronald Avery" is not now, and never has been a "secessionist," as was incorrectly implied by the whole article and captions under photographs 1 and 3.
11. "Ronald Avery" was not reciting a "list" of "grievances" in his speech, as incorrectly reported and captioned under photograph 3, but rather, was reciting what he considered to be *alterations and violations* of the US Constitution made without the required amendments.
12. The alterations and violations of the U.S. Constitution listed in the speech made before the "Republic of Texas" by "Ronald Avery" were not presented in support of *secession*, as incorrectly implied by the whole article and the caption under photograph 3, but rather, as evidence in support of the natural law doctrine proving the *dissolution* of any and all governments according to John Locke's Second Treatise of Government, published in 1689.
13. "Ronald Avery" has never advocated "secession" of the so-called "State of Texas" from the so-called "United States of America," as incorrectly implied by the whole article and the captions under photographs 1 and 3.
14. "Ronald Avery" has never advocated "secession" of any other state or number of states, as incorrectly implied in the whole article and the captions under photographs 1 and 3.
15. Ronald Avery is a strong opponent of secession of any of the states from the so-called "United States of America," and has argued extensively against secession with many leaders and members of groups who do advocate secession including the Texas Nationalist Movement, spoken of in Mr. Baddour's article.

16. "Ronald Avery" has never "plotted legalistic escape from Uncle Sam," as incorrectly implied in the whole article and in the captions under photographs 1 and 3.
17. "Ronald Avery" has never been a part of "Putin's Plot to get Texas to Secede," as incorrectly implied in the whole article and in the captions under photographs 1 and 3.
18. "Ronald Avery" is not "*anti-government*," as incorrectly implied in the whole article and in the captions under photographs 1 and 3.
19. Ronald Avery is very *pro-government* and has argued in favor of lawful government with many anti-government leaders of anarchist movements, of several types, in America and Canada.
20. "Ronald Avery" is not "*anti-federalist*," as incorrectly implied in the whole article and in the captions under photographs 1 and 3.
21. Ronald Avery is *pro-federalist* arguing with many in favor of a lawful union of states.

Retraction:

The whole article that appeared on the front page of the Houston Chronicle on Sunday, September 15, 2015, entitled "*Ever hopeful and determined, Texas secessionist face long, long odds*," written by Dylan Baddour, is retracted in full, as the whole article leads to incorrect and false conclusions as clearly revealed by the following facts:

1. The meeting at the "Silver Eagle Taphouse" attended and reported on by Dylan Baddour was held by a group calling themselves "The Republic of Texas" or "The Texas Republic." This group has asserted for many years that the 1836 Republic of Texas was never lawfully annexed as a state of the Union and therefore is not now a state of the Union. As a result of that view, they do not advocate secession for the Republic because it was never a state to start with. That would be like divorcing a spouse you never married.
2. This same group also has asserted for many years that the so-called "State of Texas" is not the "Republic of Texas." It follows under this view that even if the "State of Texas" seceded it would not be the "Republic of Texas." Therefore, once again, they do not advocate secession of the "State of Texas" from the "United States of America."
3. Ronald Avery, part owner of the "Silver Eagle Taphouse" gave a speech to "The Texas Republic," as a guest speaker, at the meeting. He spoke on the doctrine of governmental dissolution from within resulting from the alteration of constitutional form without the required permission by the people through their states by amendment. This doctrine explained in the last chapter of the Second Treatise of Government published in 1689 by John Locke asserts that once a government dissolves itself by altering the constitutional will of the people without their permission, the government loses its authority and the people are free to form new lawful government for the protection of their property as they see fit.
4. Secession is the process by which a lawful state separates from a lawful union of states. If the union be dissolved, there is no need to secede from it as it does not lawfully exist and has lost its authority and all are free to make new lawful government.

5. Secession is an admission that the government from which separation is sought lawfully exists. Secession from a dissolved government is an absurd contradiction. This would be like seeking a divorce from a dead spouse.
6. Secession was not advocated nor was it a topic of conversation at the meeting held at the "Silver Eagle Taphouse" reported on by Dylan Baddour yet that is the main theme and thrust of his whole article about it, even in the headline to the article. The Dylan Baddour article leads all readers to an erroneous conclusion about the meeting and what was discussed.

Therefore, the entire article written by Dylan Baddour and published on the front page of the Houston Chronicle on September 15, 2015, entitled "*Ever hopeful and determined, Texas secessionist face long, long odds*" is hereby retracted in full with apologies to Ronald Avery and to all that attended the meeting at the "Silver Eagle Taphouse" on April 11, 2015.

End of Retraction Statement.

If you would like me to submit facts to support all I have said above, I would be happy to do so. And I further know that you will find no evidence to support what you have said about my political views and status in the newspaper article. So you can rely on what I have said herein and know that you will not be making further mistakes in your clarification and retraction.

Also you will find that no one in the group calling itself "The Republic of Texas" or "The Texas Republic" will deny what I have said about them showing the whole article to be erroneous. Feel free to send this to them if you like to get confirmation from them regarding that.

Please send me a copy of what you want to print if it is any different from what I have written above before you print it so that I may determine if it is sufficient or insufficient.

Also please let me know when the Retraction Statement containing Corrections, and Clarifications will appear and please send me a copy of the original paper with the original article and a copy of the printed paper containing the Retraction Statement.

Sincerely,

Ronald F. Avery