

November 29, 2021

Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

Pursuant to House Rule 4901, we are requesting censure procedures including consideration of expulsion of Representative Aaron Coleman for his actions while serving as a Representative of the 37th District. We believe that there is reasonable evidence of noncompliance with a previous warning and admonishment from the House Select Investigating Committee that was issued after a longstanding pattern of physically and emotionally abusive harassment, violence, bullying, and stalking was documented.

Representative Coleman has been banned from the Kansas Department of Labor premises for allegedly trying to access an area for employees and for "disruptive, intimidating, and berating" behavior. Weeks later, he was arrested on domestic battery charges. Officers placed Representative Aaron Coleman under arrest and stated in a signed affidavit that he was extremely erratic, uncooperative, and refused to identify himself. He was arrested again on November 27, 2021 for suspicion of Driving Under the Influence.

This behavior puts state employees, legislators, and visitors to the Capitol at risk and makes it unsafe for him to serve in the Kansas House of Representatives.

See attachments for further documentation of recent actions outlining his misconduct while serving as a member of the Kansas House.

We the undersigned hereby desire to lodge a formal complaint.

Lindsay W. #22

Jo Ellen Hays #17

Stephanie Byers #6

Cliff H. #10

Linda Latherton #16

Marilyn S. Poshin #20

CRIME

Embattled Rep. Aaron Coleman arrested for alleged driving under the influence Saturday morning

Andrew Bahl Topeka Capital-Journal

Published 5:57 p.m. CT Nov. 28, 2021 | Updated 8:11 p.m. CT Nov. 28, 2021

Rep. Aaron Coleman, D-Kansas City, Kan., was arrested for alleged driving under the influence Saturday morning in Douglas County, just weeks after the embattled lawmaker was arrested and charged with domestic battery.

Coleman was booked into the Douglas County jail at 1 a.m. Saturday, jail records show, and charged with one count of misdemeanor driving under the influence. The booking report shows Coleman was stopped by the Kansas Highway Patrol at mile marker 203 of Interstate 70, headed westbound.

Coleman was released on a \$250 bond, jail records show. He did not answer a phone call seeking comment Sunday evening.

The event comes after Coleman was arrested and charged with misdemeanor domestic battery stemming from an altercation with his brother, where police records show the 21-year-old lawmaker allegedly hit and spit on his brother and made threatening remarks to his grandfather.

More: Aaron Coleman 'extremely erratic' during arrest, allegedly hit brother, according to affidavits

Coleman pleaded not guilty to the charge during his initial appearance earlier this month via his attorney. His case was set to be considered for diversion at a hearing in December, meaning the charges could be dropped if Coleman met a series of conditions, though it is unclear how his DUI arrest will affect that.

A court ordered Coleman undergo a mental health evaluation as a condition of his release. Coleman's lawyer said during the initial appearance that his family "are going to seek help for

Mr. Coleman and some of the issues he is facing."

Coleman appeared to indicate in a series of social media posts Friday that he was participating in therapy but also launched into a tirade where he threatened to seek the expulsion of House Minority Leader Tom Sawyer and two other Democratic colleagues.

House Speaker Ron Ryckman, R-Olathe, said in a statement that Coleman should resign.

"Mr. Coleman's actions continue to be a detriment to himself and others, and most importantly to the people who elected him to represent them," Ryckman said. "I hope his constituents recognize this and that Mr. Coleman will step down to get the services he needs."

Sawyer has previously called on Coleman to resign, a sentiment he reiterated in a statement Sunday.

"For the sake of the state of Kansas, his constituents, and himself, he should resign and concentrate on getting the help he badly needs," Sawyer said. "The stress of the legislature is not a healthy environment for someone in this mental state."

And Gov. Laura Kelly echoed that sentiment in a statement, saying his behavior is further evidence that he "is not fit to serve in the Kansas House of Representatives," again calling on Coleman to resign and, if he does not, "the Legislature should use its process to remove him from office."

Coleman was reprimanded but not formally disciplined last session by a Kansas House committee for behavior prior to his election as a legislator, including allegations of harassment, bullying and stalking. The panel dismissed charges on the grounds that the actions took place before the first-term lawmaker assumed office.

In October, the Kansas Department of Labor advised Coleman he was banned from their Topeka headquarters after allegedly attempting to access an employee-only area of the building and speaking to building security in a "loud and demanding tone."

During the August partisan primary against former Rep. Stan Frownfelter last year, Coleman admitted to cyberbullying and revenge porn while in middle school, gaining national attention in the process.

After Coleman defeated Frownfelter in the primary, an ex-girlfriend later came forward alleging he abused her, both physically and verbally, while the pair dated in 2019 and that the

harassment, bullying and stalking. The panel dismissed charges on the grounds that the actions took place before the first-term lawmaker assumed office.

It is possible attempts will again be made to remove Coleman from office, though that is not a straightforward process. A legislator would need to file a formal complaint, with the speaker of the Kansas House then charged with convening a committee to investigate the matter at hand.

Andrew Bahl is a senior statehouse reporter for the Topeka Capital-Journal. He can be reached at abahl@gannett.com or by phone at 443-979-6100.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS
CRIMINAL DEPARTMENT

STATE OF KANSAS,

Plaintiff,

VS.

No.

DV

AARON BAILEY COLEMAN,

Defendant.

AFFIDAVIT

Comes now the affiant, of lawful age, in support of a probable cause finding for the detention of the defendant or the issuance of an arrest warrant, states as follows:

1. On 10/30/21, Overland Park Police were dispatched to a residence in regards to a domestic disturbance between brothers in Overland Park, Johnson County, Kansas. All of the below events took place in Johnson County, Kansas. The disturbance involved AARON COLEMAN and his adult brother A.I.C. COLEMAN and A.I.C. are both over the age of 18 and have resided together at the Overland Park residence.

2. Officers contacted A.I.C. who said that AARON COLEMAN had spit on him. A.I.C. and AARON had been arguing earlier in the day and continued to argue when they arrived at the Overland Park residence. AARON had tried to "shame" A.I.C. because A.I.C. was going to get baptized. During the argument, AARON pushed A.I.C. backward and hit him the chest before spitting on him.

3. Officers spoke to A.I.C. and AARON's grandfather who said he witnesses the above incident. His grandfather stated that AARON had threatened his grandfather stating he would "kick his ass." AARON then kicked over a box fan and flipped over a living room chair.

4. Officers placed AARON under arrest. AARON was uncooperative with officers and refused to identify himself. AARON complained of pain and had to be cleared at a local emergency room. Officers noted that AARON's behavior was extremely erratic and would fluctuate easily. AARON told officials he had not slept in 72 hours. AARON was eventually granted a medical clearance and was lodged in jail.

5. The above information was provided by the reports of the Overland Park Police Department.

DECLARATION

I declare under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed by and on this date:

/S/ Sgt. Matthew Bregel 743 11/1/2021__
Affiant Name

CRIME

Aaron Coleman 'extremely erratic' during arrest, allegedly hit brother, according to affidavits

Andrew Bahl Topeka Capital-Journal

Published 12:23 p.m. CT Nov. 16, 2021 | Updated 1:29 p.m. CT Nov. 16, 2021

State Rep. Aaron Coleman allegedly hit his brother in the chest and spit on him in a domestic dispute last month, according to police documents released Tuesday.

The Kansas City, Kan. Democrat was arrested last month and charged with misdemeanor domestic battery stemming from an apparent argument with his brother at his grandparents' Overland Park home.

Coleman pleaded not guilty to the charge during his initial appearance earlier this month via his attorney, David Bell, though Coleman didn't physically appear during the hearing. Bell didn't immediately return a request for comment Tuesday.

Sworn affidavits released Tuesday to media outlets, including The Capital-Journal, said officers believed Coleman's behavior to be "extremely erratic and would fluctuate easily," with the lawmaker telling police he hadn't slept in 72 hours.

A court ordered Coleman undergo a mental health evaluation as a condition of his release. Coleman's lawyer said during the initial appearance that his family "are going to seek help for Mr. Coleman and some of the issues he is facing."

More: Dispute between Rep. Aaron Coleman, brother led to arrest, grandmother says. Family will seek help.

Sgt. Matthew Bregel, of the Overland Park Police Department, said in the affidavit that officers were dispatched in response to a dispute between Coleman and his brother, which stemmed from an argument that began earlier in the day and continued into the afternoon in Overland Park.

"Aaron had tried to 'shame' Al.C (Coleman's brother) because Al.C was going to get baptized," the affidavit said. "During the argument, Aaron pushed Al.C backward and hit him (in) the chest before spitting on him."

Coleman's grandfather was also interviewed by officers after witnessing the incident, saying his grandson had threatened to "kick his ass" before kicking over furniture.

At that time, officers placed Coleman under arrest and said he was "uncooperative with officers" and "refused to identify himself."

Coleman said he complained of pain and had to be cleared at a local emergency room before being transported to the Johnson County Jail.

Previously: Kansas Rep. Aaron Coleman arrested on domestic violence allegations in Johnson County

Coleman set to appear in court next month

The matter could be handled via diversion or a set agreement between Coleman and prosecutors that would see charges dismissed after a year of the 21-year-old legislator meeting a series of specified conditions. That option will be discussed at Coleman's next hearing on Dec. 22.

Both Coleman's brother and his grandfather spoke during the hearing, saying they were comfortable having contact with Coleman. His grandmother told The Capital-Journal at the time that she believed the matter was being blown out of proportion.

But House Minority Leader Tom Sawyer, D-Wichita, called on Coleman to resign after news of his arrest broke.

"His constituents and the State of Kansas would be better served if he were to resign and get the help he badly needs," Sawyer said in a statement. "However, I want to reiterate again that the House Democratic Caucus does not condone this behavior in any way, shape, or form."

Previously: Rep. Aaron Coleman banned from KDOL premises after 'disruptive, intimidating and berating' behavior

Coleman was reprimanded but not formally disciplined last session by a Kansas House committee for behavior prior to his election as a legislator, including allegations of

harassment continued until his Kansas House bid in 2020. The Topeka woman said Coleman physically assaulted and threatened to kill her during their two-month relationship.

Coleman was the subject of a restraining order from a staffer who worked for a former political rival, although the matter was settled and dropped by mutual agreement earlier this year.

And legislators from both parties objected to Coleman saying a "hit" needed to be taken out on Gov. Laura Kelly for her reluctance to support progressive policies. Coleman said that he meant to say "political hit" and later admitted he should have used different wording.

It is possible attempts will again be made to remove Coleman from office, though that is not a straightforward process. A legislator would need to file a formal complaint, with the speaker of the Kansas House then charged with convening a committee to investigate the matter at hand.

A group of Democratic lawmakers have been weighing such a complaint, though it is unclear when it might be filed.

Andrew Bahl is a senior statehouse reporter for the Topeka Capital-Journal. He can be reached at abahl@gannett.com or by phone at 443-979-6100.

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Amber Shultz, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

October 12, 2021

Representative Aaron Coleman
1316 S. 52nd Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66106

Representative Coleman:

On the afternoon of September 30, 2021, at the Kansas Department of Labor's main office in Topeka, you were observed repeatedly hitting the handicap access button on an employee entrance to the building in an attempt to gain access to the employee-only area of the building. That button did not work because badge access is required at the employee entrances. There is a sign on the door to this entrance that clearly states the building is closed to the public. Our facilities are closed to the public at this time due to the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the directives of Governor Kelly.

Onsite KDOL law enforcement came outside and offered to provide you with assistance, blocking you from the employee entrance. You attempted to gain access to the building by going around the law enforcement officer, continuing to seek access to the employee entrance of the building. You were reminded that the building was closed to the public. You responded by speaking over the law enforcement officer in a loud and demanding tone. You were also observed acting in an agitated state. You insisted that the closure of the building to the public did not apply to you because you are a Representative in the Kansas Legislature, but you later acknowledged not having any identification on you to confirm this. KDOL is entrusted with individuals' personal information that we are required to protect from unauthorized access under state and federal law. The KDOL law enforcement officer directed you to the public entrance where you spoke with the agency's front desk representative, who obtained and later forwarded your information to KDOL Staff once you had calmed down.

As a result of your recent attempts to gain unauthorized access to the Department of Labor facilities and your disruptive, intimidating, and berating behavior toward Department of Labor employees, you are hereby notified and ordered that you are no longer to enter or remain in any KDOL facility or on any KDOL premises. This applies to you in both your personal and professional capacity. This written notification is intended to constitute an order under the Kansas criminal trespass statute, K.S.A. 21-5808 (a)(1)(A), and defiance of this order will result in a referral to law enforcement for appropriate action, including possible arrest and prosecution for violations of the criminal trespass statute.

To be clear, you are not allowed to return to any Department of Labor property or premises and doing so will be a violation of the criminal trespass statute.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amber Shultz".

Amber Shultz
Secretary
Kansas Department of Labor

Cc: Will Lawrence, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

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John E. Barker
Representative, 70th District

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR: LEGISLATIVE POST AUDIT
CHAIR: FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS
MEMBER: TAXATION
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ROBERT G. (BOB) BETHELL JOINT
COMMITTEE ON HOME AND
COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES
AND KAN CARE OVERSIGHT

SELECT INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE

February 16, 2021

Representative Aaron Coleman
Room 045-S, State Capitol Building
300 S.W. 10th Ave.
Topeka, Ks. 66612

Dear Representative Coleman,

On January 12, 2021, House Minority Leader Tom Sawyer and twelve other House members filed a complaint against you, pursuant to House Rule 4901, alleging that you have "a longstanding history of physically and emotionally abusive behavior" and that the alleged behavior makes you unfit to serve in the Kansas House of Representatives. In accordance with House Rule 4902, Speaker of the House Ron Ryckman, Jr., then appointed a Select Committee to consider the complaint.

The Select Committee met on January 22, 2021 to conduct an inquiry into the complaint. The committee members asked you a number of questions regarding the allegations in the complaint. The committee determined that there was sufficient evidence presented in the complaint establishing a prima facie case that the allegations in the complaint are true. A hearing on the complaint was opened pursuant to House Rule 4902(b), and the Committee heard testimony from House Minority Leader Tom Sawyer. As part of the hearing, the Select Committee also considered written testimony from Dustin Figge, Ciera Fuller, Rachel Fustini, Megan McQuinn, Taylor Passow, Faith Rivera, Representative Tom Sawyer and Heather Scanlon.

After conducting its hearing, the Select Committee finds your behavior to be unfitting for a member of the Kansas House of Representatives. However, because you were not sworn in as a member of the House of Representatives at the time the actions occurred, the Select Committee recommended the dismissal of the charges and that the dismissal include an informal letter of warning and admonishment. We offer you this letter as that warning and admonition. Additionally, the Select Committee directs you to accept a member of the House of Representatives to be your mentor. Such mentor shall be decided by you and House Minority Leader Tom Sawyer.

Be aware that noncompliance with the recommendations of the Select Committee may result in a complaint being filed against you pursuant to House Rules, which will likely result in a reprimand, censure or expulsion pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Yours,

HOUSE SELECT INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE

Representative John E. Barker, Chairman

Representative Susan Humphries

Representative Kristey Williams

Representative Dennis "Boog" Highberger

Representative Cindy Neighbor

Representative Susan Ruiz

Chairman Barker and members of the Committee:

Thank you for permitting me to appear before you today.

At 20 years old, I am humbled to be in this building representing my constituents. At 20 years old, I am also embarrassed to be standing before you. I have said things that were offensive and hurtful to others and then convinced myself that my own personal issues or my passion for a particular cause somehow absolved me. I was wrong. I apologize not only for what I said but the impact on the persons to whom these words were directed. In some cases, I have been able to offer the apologies directly and received forgiveness. For others, I am only able to offer these words today.

I am sorry.

As this Committee is aware, I recently settled a civil matter with my opponent's campaign manager by issuance of a joint statement. I believe that a portion of the statement – edited in a manner to remove the names – is relevant here:

“In service to our constituents, we have resolved the civil case by an agreed upon dismissal. There is no written agreement. Rather, there is this public promise to treat each other with dignity and respect. Both of us hope that the manner in

which we have sought to resolve this case will serve as a reminder to other persons in public service.”

Chairman Barker and members of this Committee, I know that prior to becoming a member of the House of Representative I have not always lived up to my own ideals of treating others with dignity and respect. And I know that being 20 years old, having my own personal issues and being passionate about various causes do not absolve me of the words I used just like they do not diminish the pain the words caused. With the same force of those words, I hope that the sincerity of my words today will give you confidence that I come to Topeka ready to do what needs to be done for my constituents, and further, that I understand that if my words and my actions do not match my own ideals that I have publicly set forth today that this Committee will call me back to account.

Thank you.