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## **SPECIAL MOTION NO. 1 – CALLING ON FULHAM’S MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, GREG HANDS, TO APOLOGISE FOR THE “JINGLE AND MINGLE” LOCKDOWN PARTY ON HIS WATCH**

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Standing in the names of:

- (i) Councillor Bora Kwon
- (ii) Councillor Omid Miri

This Council notes:

- The Covid-19 pandemic posed unprecedented challenges to Hammersmith and Fulham and the country more widely, requiring strict adherence to public health and lockdown guidelines to protect lives and mitigate the spread of the virus.
- Shaun Bailey was a candidate for Mayor in the elections held in 2021, which would have seen him have significant responsibility for policing, transport, planning and other important matters in Hammersmith in Fulham.
- On 14 December 2020, his campaign held a party at Conservative Central Office in violation of lockdown rules, demonstrating a concerning lack of judgment and disregard for public safety. At the time, London was under Tier-2 restrictions, meaning people were banned from socialising indoors.
- The BBC has reported that 30 people received a “jingle and mingle” invitation to the party.
- A video of the party showing Conservative campaign staff dancing and singing has been requested by the Metropolitan Police, who are considering an inquiry.
- Cabinet minister Michael Gove on 18 June 2023 called the party *“indefensible”* and said, *“I just want to apologise to everyone”*. Mr Gove also said, *“As I understand it, this was an event that was organised by the people who were running the mayoral campaign for Shaun Bailey.”*
- Greg Hands, one of the borough’s two MPs, was chair of the Bailey campaign. He has ignored questions from Hammersmith and Fulham Council’s Cabinet Member responsible for Public Health asking what he knew about the Bailey party and what action he took once he became aware of it.

This Council believes:

- Hammersmith and Fulham residents made huge sacrifices during the periods when London was under lockdown and other public health restrictions.

- Organising a campaign party during London's Tier-2 restrictions reveals a failure to prioritise public safety and displays a lack of respect for the sacrifices made by Hammersmith and Fulham residents.
- A campaign chair is expected to be fully aware of their campaign's activities, decisions and any potential violations of regulations, particularly during a critical time like a lockdown. They set the culture for a campaign and also take accountability for its actions.

This Council resolves:

- To call upon Greg Hands, as one of the borough's two MPs, to show integrity and accountability as chair of the Bailey campaign by issuing a public apology for the campaign's "jingle and mingle" party in violation of the government's lockdown rules.