

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:GARCO Democratic Party/Acha for Commissioner**

**Garfield County Commissioner Candidate John Acha Releases  
Proposed Whistleblower Protection Resolution**

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, COLO. – AUGUST 31, 2016 – Garfield County’s employees have had to keep quiet about fraud, waste, and abuse they observe in the course of their duties because they are afraid of retaliation. This fear is unfortunately very well founded because Garfield County employees serve at the pleasure of the Board of County Commissioners and the current Board wants to maintain their ability to punish whistleblowers that stand in the way of their empire building and favoritism. This situation is absolutely unacceptable and Garfield County Commissioner Candidate John Acha has published a proposed whistleblower protection resolution that he will introduce on day one of his term.

“I’ve talked with many county employees, both current and former, who are simply unwilling to go on the record with their stories of waste, fraud, and abuse because they fear retaliation. As a Federal Government whistleblower who is still in the courts seeking justice, I know that our government employees are first line of defense against government waste, fraud, and abuse. Thankfully, both Republicans and Democrats in the U.S. Congress cooperated to extend whistleblower protection to me and I will work to extend similar protections to Garfield County employees as well.” Acha said in a statement accompanying the publication of his proposed whistleblower protection resolution.

You can see the text of the proposed resolution on the whistleblower protection page at [www.acha2016.com](http://www.acha2016.com). The resolution will provide, for the first time, contractual protection for county employees that disclose any of the following: a violation of any law, rule, ordinance, or regulation; a gross mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, or an abuse of authority; or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety. County employees who make such disclosures shall not suffer adverse employment action of any kind because of their disclosures and they will have the ability to seek justice for any retaliation in front of a court of law if necessary.

Acha’s perspective on this important issue stands in stark contract to his opponent John Martin who proudly declared his satisfaction that county employees enjoy no contractual protections during the BOCC work session on August 9, 2016 when the BOCC considered amendments to the Garfield County Employee Handbook. Our civil servants deserve real protection when they step up and blow the whistle on wrongdoing.

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