

## Arizona official apologizes for Facebook comments

by **Mary K. Reinhart** - Aug. 3, 2012 02:13 PM  
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A state racing commissioner whose derogatory [online](#) comments about the president of a greyhound-protection group brought calls for his removal has apologized on his Facebook page.

Rory Goree's statement, issued late Thursday, followed a conversation with top staff in Gov. Jan Brewer's office.

Goree said "numerous person attacks" have "riled up my Russian temper, causing me (on occasion) to go off the rails and express myself in ways that were probably not appropriate or thoughtfully considered."

"To those whom I may have offended in the past, I offer my sincere apologies," he wrote. "While my opinions are unlikely to change, you will see a change in the tone of my public statements."

Earlier this week, a greyhound protection organization urged Gov. Jan Brewer to remove Goree due to offensive and suggestive statements the group said he'd made last month on Facebook.

Carey Theil, executive director of the Massachusetts-based GREY2K USA, wrote in a letter to Brewer that Goree made "reprehensible" comments about board president Christine Dorchak and has said he wants to make it more difficult for people to get public records about the racing industry.

On Friday, Theil called Goree's apology "odd." Theil said he believes Goree's comments still warrant his removal from the state Racing Commission. But he said his group is willing to work with Goree and other regulators to protect the dogs and ensure that the racing industry is properly regulated.

"It's good that he's acknowledged that his comments were inappropriate," Theil said. "We're skeptical about his sincerity."

Brewer appointed Goree to the commission March 16 and the Senate confirmed his five-year appointment in May.

Benson said the governor's office doesn't believe Goree's remarks are grounds for removal from the commission, which is essentially a volunteer position.

Goree is a volunteer director of welfare and advocacy for United Greyhound Raicing, according to his application to the racing commission. United Greyhound Racing supports the industry and is at odds with GREY2K USA's mission to protect the animals. Since GREY2K USA was formed in 2001, Theil said, the greyhound racing industry has been cut in half.