

First of all, the video evidence from the Capitol and the meeting where he planned "Operation Backdoor" is pretty clear. Mike Nearman deliberately let violent protestors into the locked Capitol building and endangered the safety of his fellow legislators, building staff and Capitol police.

Secondly, and almost more importantly, he has shown NO REMORSE and taken NO RESPONSIBILITY, despite the clear evidence against him. At this point, it is inconsequential whether he knew his actions would or could result in violence or destruction. He can only be all too fully aware of what transpired as a result of his actions. Yet, he maintains his innocence and denies that he should suffer any consequences.

Some argue that his crimes were only misdemeanors and have yet to be decided in court. However, his fate in the legal system is a separate issue and will be decided in the appropriate venue. What needs to matter to this committee is holding a member of our state's governing body to the high moral and ethical standards that are to be expected of a person in his position.

Failure to expel him from the legislature for such an egregious act and the subsequent dishonesty will only set the legislature up for the next Mike Nearman (Republican, Democrat, Independent, etc.) to feel empowered to behave in a similar manner. Maybe next time, there will be a death or two.

How low do you want to set the bar?