

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF COBB COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

CHRISTOPHER CURRY,

Plaintiff,

v.

MCMASTER FOR COBB LLC et al.,

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION

FILE NO.: 22-1-08567

ORDER ON DEFENDANTS' ANTI-SLAPP MOTION TO STRIKE

The parties in the above-styled action came before this Court on February 15, 2023 for a hearing on *Defendants' Anti-SLAPP Motion To Strike* ("Motion"). After consideration of Defendants' Motion, arguments by both parties, relevant law and the applicable record, the Court **FINDS** as follows:

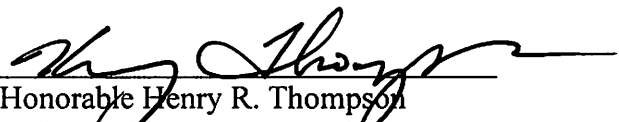
1. Plaintiff's claims arise from Defendants' publication of an online article entitled "*Why I'm Running*" (the "Article") which describes the reasons for Matthew D. McMaster's desire to run for Cobb County Superior Court in the May 24, 2022 election. Specifically, Plaintiff claims that Defendants accuse the Plaintiff of "statutory rape" and of being "dangerous" which, according to Plaintiff, are grounds for his claim for libel and libel per se.
2. The Article at minimum can *reasonably be construed* as arising from free speech in connection with a public issue or an issue of public concern and, therefore, is in the purview of O.C.G.A. 9-11-11.1(c)(3) and (c)(4) and properly subject to Defendants' anti-SLAPP motion.

The Court **FURTHER FINDS** that the Article does not impute the crime of statutory rape onto Plaintiff when interpreted by its plain language, and that an accusation of being “dangerous” in and of itself does not constitute libel per se. Plaintiff at no point in the action produced any evidence or proof of special damages and, therefore, Plaintiff’s claim for libel based on Defendants’ assertion that Plaintiff is “dangerous” fails as a matter of law even if otherwise shown to be defamatory.

CONCLUSION

Having considered the facts and the relevant law, the Court finds that the Defendants have met their burden under O.C.G.A. § 9-11-11.1(c); and that Plaintiff failed to establish that there is a probability he would prevail on his claims. The Court **HEREBY GRANTS** Defendants’ Motion and Plaintiff’s Complaint is hereby **stricken** in its entirety and Plaintiff’s claims are **dismissed with prejudice**. All other pending motions in the above-styled action are hereby deemed *moot*.

SO ORDERED, this 16th day of February, 2023.


Honorable Henry R. Thompson
Judge, Cobb County Superior Court