

October 12, 2020

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Democratic State Senate candidate JD Wooten put his neighbors at risk by renting two homes to the same drug dealer

Raleigh, NC – Last week, WXII investigative reporter Bill O’Neil uncovered Democratic state Senate candidate JD Wooten’s latest *shady deal*: Wooten rented two homes to a convicted drug dealer (<https://www.wxii12.com/article/senate-candidate-jd-wooten-doesn-t-offer-an-explanation-for-rental/34330273>).

Wooten purchased the two homes in downtown Greensboro using government-backed, “primary residence only” VA loans. The houses are 1.8 miles apart – one on Wilson Street, the other on Lindell Road – both in downtown Greensboro.

Wooten rented his home on Wilson Street to Aqib Khan Malik, a drug dealer with four prior convictions over the past five years, including a case involving 100 pounds of marijuana. There is evidence that Malik also trafficked cocaine, as reported in the *Port City Daily* in Wilmington in 2018 (<https://portcitydaily.com/local-news/2018/12/14/new-hanover-sheriffs-office-sting-seizes-100-pound-shipment-of-high-grade-marijuana/>).

Malik was arrested again in June 2020 – for selling drugs out of JD Wooten’s Wilson Street house. When he was arrested, Malik had over \$20,000 in cash on his person and in his car.

In July 2020, Malik moved to a new residence on Lindell Road in Greensboro – JD Wooten’s other house.

When Bill O’Neil reached out for an explanation, Wooten sent a statement that “attacks his opponent [Republican Amy Galey] for raising the issue and WXII 12 News for reporting on it.” O’Neil reported that Wooten’s statement, “...doesn’t mention any reason why he rented his home to a convicted drug dealer.” O’Neil reported that JD Wooten also did not explain why he rented his second home to Aqib Khan Malik after he was arrested for selling drugs out of the first.

Republican state Senate candidate Amy Galey responded, “JD Wooten doesn’t care about his neighbors, keeping our community safe, or supporting law enforcement. If he did, why did he rent his two houses to the same drug dealer? JD owes the voters a full account about his relationship with Aqib Khan Malik and an explanation of why he rented him both of his homes.”

State Senate District 24 encompasses Alamance County and eastern Guilford County. As the Chair of the Alamance County Commission, Amy is protecting the community from COVID-19 and helping small businesses and workers get back on their feet, championing hazard pay for public health workers and first responders, loans to local small businesses and nonprofits, and resources for safe and secure elections this fall. Amy has been married to Fred Galey, an Air Force veteran and pilot, for 26 years, and they have three children.

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