



June 11, 2018

Statement Re: Jackson matter

City of Hot Springs
City Manager's Office
David Frasher, City Manager
Post Office Box 700
Hot Springs National Park,
Arkansas 71902

To whom it may concern:

Our house is next to a swimming pool that is supposed to be for the residents in our subdivision. After moving there we realized that it was a popular party spot for teens and non-residents. There was little security and it was up to us to monitor our own neighborhood. Over the past year we've experienced vandalism, trespassing, loud parties late at night, trash dumping and gunfire. We walk the area daily and, due to our proximity to the pool, we experience things others may not.

Recently, I was walking into the pool driveway with my four year old daughter and my puppy when a string of cars sped out of the entrance. We had to dodge out of their path because there is no sidewalk and the cars were driving into the sun. I did not recognize any of the cars and as the last one passed, I said "you don't live here."

Several minutes later, the couple in the last car returned and confronted me at the pool. They were angry about my comment. I immediately apologized. The couple turned out to be Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Jackson and they lived in the subdivision. I apologized again. My daughter was terrified by the confrontation so I quietly asked the Jacksons to please not do this in front of her.

Finally, I tried to explain that my comment was prompted only by the history of incidents we had experienced and because I did not recognize any of the cars exiting the pool. Mr. Jackson said he recognized me as the City Manager.

Since this unfortunate incident, I've apologized to the Jacksons again by email and by telephone, and my wife has invited them to dinner. We have had no response other than Mr. Jackson writing to my employer. I feel terrible about the incident, especially after learning that another resident called to report possible trespassing right before my encounter with the Jackson. I hope that the Jacksons can forgive my mistake. We all could have handled things better.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Frasher".

David W. Frasher
City Manager

Lance Spicer

Subject: FW: [EXT MAIL] Insensitive City Manager

From: David Frasher <DFrasher@cityhs.net>

Date: June 8, 2018 at 11:42:32 AM CDT

To: Lloyd Jackson <lloydj02@hotmail.com>

Cc: Pat McCabe <pmccabe@levihospital.com>, Suzanne Davidson <suzdavidsoncitydirector@gmail.com>, Becca Clark <belarkcitydirector@gmail.com>, Larry Williams <dlarrywilliams@gmail.com>, Karen Garcia <karensealygarcia@gmail.com>, Randy Fale <rjfale@gmail.com>, Veronica Jackson <vjackson@uacurrents.org>, Minnie Lenox <MLenox@cityhs.net>, Elaine Jones <elainejones612@yahoo.com>

Subject: Re: [EXT MAIL] Insensitive City Manager

Dear Mr. Jackson: Thank you for your note and for bringing this to the Boards attention. ASI conveyed to you yesterday at the pool, I sincerely apologize. In the heat of the moment my emotions got the best of me. I can fully understand how you could interpret my comment as you did. I hope you can accept my apology.

Respectfully,
David Frasher

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 7, 2018, at 10:03 PM, Lloyd Jackson <lloydj02@hotmail.com> wrote:

*****EXTERNAL EMAIL*****

Dear Mayor and Board of Directors,

"You don't live here." Seems like a very simple and harmless phrase and it is, unless it is surrounded by circumstances which make it otherwise. "You don't live here," is the phrase I heard as my wife and I left the neighborhood pool in Red Oak Ridge. It is a phrase that left a mark with me because it was stated with aggression and anger. This aggression and anger was from an individual that we had never had the privilege of getting to know, that we had never seen in our community, and someone we could have easily have said the same thing to being that we have owned a home in this community since December of 2014 and have never seen him in our neighborhood. So we paused for a moment and put our 2016 GMC Yukon in reverse to address the comment. To my surprise and dismay, on the other side of such a misguided statement was our very own city manager. He didn't stop to introduce himself after making such a comment and we sharing that in fact we do live here. He did not apologize or anything of the like, he simply kept walking and did not acknowledge our desire to engage in a conversation about the matter at all.

I am not sure what the city manager used to determine that we were not residents. Was it that he had not ever seen me in the neighborhood before? I am sure there are many people that he has not had the pleasure of meeting that

live here. What does a resident of Red Oak Ridge look like? These were all conversations my wife and I had as we pulled back up to our home. The only conclusion we could arrive at was it was because we are black. If being a resident requires us to drive a nice car, we do. If it requires us to have a six figure income, we do. If it requires that we are kind to those around us and considerate, we are. We could find no other reason why we would be subjected to the phrase "You don't live here." I wanted to host the conversation with my neighbor in order to get an understanding. So, we backed out of our garage and went back down to the pool to host the conversation.

What we received was a disingenuous apology followed with excuses of why he responded to us in such a way. He shared that his past experiences with individuals with tattoos on their arms who were white trespassing at the pool and leaving condoms and other items in the area caused him to react in such a way. I shared with him that just like past experiences caused him to respond in a particular way, our past experiences cause us to question his motive and reasoning for being ugly to us as neighbors. I shared my disappointment in him as a neighbor and certainly as a representative of our city. He was quick to share with me that he was off duty and not representing the city. My personal opinion is that our city manager represents our city at all times, especially when interacting with citizens of the community.

I may be only one voice, but I wanted to share my experiences and to share them in writing to document this behavior in case others may have experienced such insensitive and bigoted behavior.

Thanks for listening,

Proud Citizen of Hot Springs, disappointed neighbor of the city manager...

The "Joy" of life is in each new day!

Lloyd D. Jackson

870.403.2661

Lance Spicer

Subject: FW: Red Oak Incident

From: David Frasher <DFrasher@cityhs.net>

Date: June 8, 2018 at 5:50:05 AM CDT

To: Board of Directors Dist <BoardOfDirectors@cityhs.net>

Cc: Minnie Lenox <MLenox@cityhs.net>

Subject: Red Oak Incident

Board members:

When we moved here we chose Red Oak because it was a gated community that we believed would provide peace and security. Over the past year, we've had to call police about loud parties, often late at night. There have also been frequent episodes of loud gunfire, poaching fish, and dumping trash. Most of the time, we try to ignore it. Recently, someone used a pry bar to break the lock open at the pool and we had to call the vet after our puppy ingested one of the several condoms left in the pool parking area. Many of these matters have been documented with HSPD and via e-mail with photos to our POA.

This evening, like I do most evenings, I was walking to the pool holding my daughter's hand with one hand and my puppy (on leash) with the other, when several cars that I did not recognize sped out of the entrance. I quickly nudged my daughter and puppy to the edge of the pavement. As the last car passed by I said "you don't live here." The car stopped and one of the occupants said "we live in Garden's Gate." I replied "I'm so sorry; there has been a lot of trespassing here lately and I didn't recognize your cars." My daughter and I went on to the pool and the car left.

About 10 minutes later I heard a car pull up. Mr. Jackson got out with his wife and immediately confronted me. I apologized again. Mr. Jackson then said he worked for the school district. Mr. Jackson's wife was very angry and after several minutes I could tell my daughter was getting scared. I told Mrs. Jackson that my daughter was scared and I asked her to please calm down. This seemed to upset her more. Then, Mr. Jackson said he recognized me as the City Manager and he asked "do I look like I live here?" I said "sure."

I tried further to calm Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, and assured them that I did not mean the comment the way they were taking it. I remained calm, listened, and when they finished I tried to explain that because my house is closest to the pool, that we have experienced many disturbances, trespassing and other issues, which were a constant source of frustration. I said this was what prompted my comment and nothing more.

Finally, I asked the Jacksons if there was anything I could say or do to make them feel better. Mrs. Jackson had already walked away while I tried to talk to her and Mr. Jackson replied "no." My efforts to apologize were sincere. When the Jacksons returned to confront me, they were clearly angry and I felt threatened but I did not react. I listened to their perspectives and said that I understood. I should not have said anything as the string of cars passed by and I'm sorry that I did. Mr. Jackson may want to make this something that it is not. We both could have handled it better.

David



Memo To: Hot Springs Board of Directors

From: Pat McCabe, Mayor

Re: David Frasher

Date: June 11, 2018

Like you, I received an email from Lloyd Jackson regarding events that took place Thursday evening, June 7, 2018. On Friday morning, I reached out to Mr. Jackson to see if he had time to meet with me to discuss the events of the previous evening. He agreed and we established a time to meet in his office later that morning. We had a very professional meeting.

We have a special called meeting tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. The notice includes an additional executive session to review the City Manager's performance, at which time I will share my discussion with Mr. Jackson with you as a Board.

Should you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please hold them for executive session.

Thank you