



HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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TIM BOYD
COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT EIGHT

June 30, 2015

Chairman, Fellow Commissioners, and the Citizens of Hamilton County,

Last Wednesday morning directly after the Commission Agenda Session of June 24, 2015, in these very chambers, many of us here today witnessed the most disrespectful and unprofessional display of anger ever directed toward an elected official or perhaps anyone in the history of this room. The Mayor's Chief of Staff, who works directly for the Mayor, actions were inexcusable. The use of profanity and the disrespect expressed toward me or anyone within these chambers must not be tolerated.

Upon entering these public Chambers, everyone is expected to conduct themselves in a civil and professional manner showing a high level of mutual respect. We all understand there will be times of differing opinions and heated debate, but we debate issues with fairness and a high level of decorum deserving of these, the People's Chambers.

The fact we live under a form of government allowing such a place of freedom of conscience, freedom of speech, and open discussion are some of the most cherished freedoms we have in these United States. I trust everyone who enters this room will never feel they will be personally attacked, intimidated or threatened for their views or stance on any issue.

With that said, I am expecting a sincere public apology from both Mayor Coppinger and his Chief of Staff, Mike Compton, not only to me personally, but also to my fellow Commissioners and the citizens of this great County.

Thank you Mr. Chairman

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Boyd".

Tim Boyd, Commissioner
District Eight



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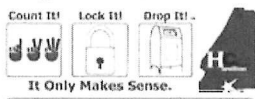
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Wednesday, July 1, 2015

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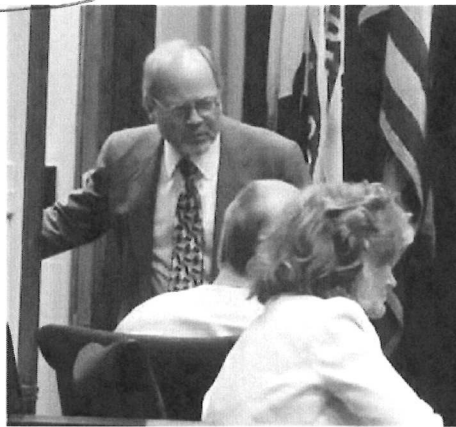
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Breaking News



Boyd Asks Coppinger, Compton To Apologize For Chief Of Staff's Outburst; Says Handbook Calls For Termination

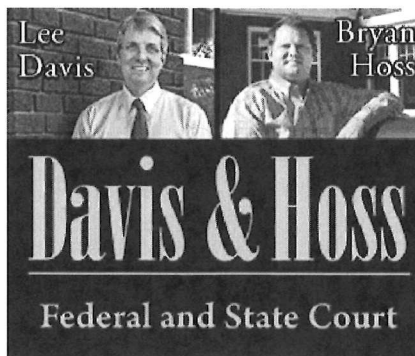
Tuesday, June 30, 2015



Commissioner Tim Boyd (standing) and County Mayor Chief of Staff Mike Compton (seated) during confrontation

County Commissioner Tim Boyd has written a letter to fellow commissioners and the county mayor's office asking an apology from County Mayor Jim Coppinger and his chief of staff, Mike Compton, for remarks after last week's commission meeting.

Mr. Compton took strong exception to comments by County Commissioner Tim Boyd about discretionary funds. In a clash between the two just after the close of the commission meeting, Mr. Compton told Commissioner Boyd, "You're full of s---. Get the h--- out of here."



Commissioner Boyd said he will read the letter at the commission meeting on Wednesday morning.

He also confirmed that he asked Sheriff Jim Hammond if criminal charges could be brought against Mr. Compton over the incident.

Commissioner Boyd said, "I asked the sheriff's advice on whether charges should be considered on public profanity and disorderly conduct."

He said Sheriff Hammond advised it was "not worth pursuing."

Sheriff Hammond said he told Commissioner Boyd he was free to seek a warrant from a magistrate, but he said he believed it was unlikely that a magistrate would issue one.

Commissioner Boyd said, "If that had been a citizen saying that, instead of the chief of staff, I would have been calling for the sheriff's officer to escort him out."

He said he researched the county handbook and said the Compton actions "were in violation of several county policies."

He stated, "Is the county mayor going to enforce the handbook against some lower-level employee and not his chief of staff? I just wonder."

Commissioner Boyd said he wrote the letter "because a lot of my constituents read about the incident and they asked me, 'What was I going to do about it?'"

He said, "We can't tolerate this kind of behavior - especially in these chambers.

"I ask for a public apology - not just to me, but to the commission and to the citizens of this county."

Commissioner Boyd had stated during the agenda session last week that he was "very, very disappointed" by some of the comments of the county mayor regarding discretionary funds

He cited some of the uses of discretionary funds made by Mr. Coppinger, when he was the commissioner for District 3.

And he pledged to working more closely with the county mayor and his staff.

County Mayor Coppinger said that comments by Commissioner Boyd that he has \$4.4 million in discretionary funds of his own "are untrue and misleading."

The Boyd comments last Wednesday came after he and five other commissioners voted to override a Coppinger veto of the budget because the commission put the \$900,000 in discretionary funds back in and took the money from county savings.

County Mayor Coppinger had already left to go to another meeting when Commissioner Boyd made his comments.

As soon as Commissioner Boyd finished his statement, Mr. Compton asked for recognition. He said, "Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, please."

However, Chairman Jim Fields let other commissioners speak before recognizing Mr. Compton.

The top Coppinger aide said concerning the Boyd statement, "There's about 15 things he said that are incorrect. It's just ridiculous what you said. I challenge you to say that when the county mayor is here."

As soon as the meeting was over, Commissioner Boyd walked over to Mr. Compton and said, "Mike, everything I said was absolutely true."

They had several exchanges before Commissioner Boyd left.

During the meeting, Commissioner Boyd said of the Coppinger statement at a Monday press conference, "Not only was it misinformation given to the public, it showed a lack of communication between the commission and the mayor's office."

He said that communication "has got to improve."

Commissioner Boyd said there was no prior discussion with the commission that their discretionary funds had been cut. He said he found out by reading it on Chattanooga.com.

He stated, "It wasn't discussed at all."

Commissioner Boyd said the commissioners are able to have \$100,000 each because the county is so fiscally strong.

He said the commissioners are able to use the funds "for tangible real items that can touch the community and provide results." He said that is not "shameful or a slush fund."

Commissioner Boyd cited uses of discretionary funds for such items as helping schools, for Loftis Middle School cheerleaders, and for helping a volunteer fire company. He said all were laudatory. He said those were by Jim Coppinger in 2006.

He said County Mayor Coppinger has \$4.4 million for his own discretionary money. He said, "We respect that and don't call it reprehensible."

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Wednesday, July 1, 2015

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Commissioner Boyd, Coppinger Chief Of Staff Clash Over Discretionary Funds

Wednesday, June 24, 2015



County Commissioner Tim Boyd, standing, and County Chief of Staff Mike Compton, seated, have a confrontation

County Mayor Jim Coppinger's chief of staff on Wednesday took strong exception to comments by County Commissioner Tim Boyd about discretionary funds.

In a clash between the two just after the close of the commission meeting, Mike Compton told the commissioner, "You're full of s---. Get the h--- out of here."

Commissioner Boyd had stated during the agenda session that he was "very, very disappointed" by some of the comments of the county mayor regarding discretionary funds.

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The comments came after Commissioner Boyd and five other commissioners voted to override a Coppinger veto of the budget because the commission put the \$900,000 in discretionary funds back in and took the money from county savings.

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Commissioner Randy Fairbanks said when he explains the use of discretionary funds to constituents, they understand the need for it. He said the funds helped build a new road for Daisy Elementary that likely would not have happened otherwise.

Commissioner Chester Bankston said after the Sandy Hook school shooting, it caused great concern at the rural Bakewell School. He said he provided funds that put locks on doors and a camera system so the secretary could see who was at the door.

Commissioner Sabrena Turner said, "It's hard to hear charges that we are 'buying votes.' This money is there for when there is a real need." She said she has a list from District 7 principals on dire needs at their schools.

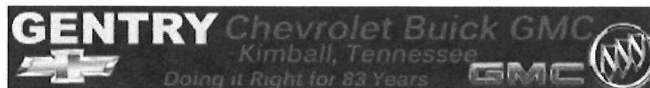
She said, "In no way at all is it used to buy votes."

For his own part, County Mayor Coppinger told reporters he was "disappointed but not surprised" by the veto overrule.

He said, "It's played out. It's time to get back to work. The decision has been made. We'll move forward."

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July 1, 2015

Tighter Procedures Readied For Tax Increment Financing Projects

New tighter procedures for tax increment financing (TIF) projects were presented to the City Council on

July 1, 2015

Latest Hamilton County Jail Booking Report

Here is the latest jail booking report from Hamilton County: ABERNATHY, COREY CORTEZ 2422 SHADY LN

June 30, 2015

Demetrius Buchanan, 20, Shot Tuesday Evening

The Chattanooga Police Department is investigating a shooting near 2101 McCallie Ave. Demetrius Buchanan, 20,

