

May 3, 2018

The Honorable Mitch Colvin  
Mayor, City of Fayetteville  
433 Hay Street  
Fayetteville, NC 28301

Re: Letter of Resignation

Dear Mayor Colvin,

I am writing this letter to directly address you, my fellow Council Members, the City Staff, and the citizens of Fayetteville.

I know that my meeting with Mr. Jordan Jones of Prince Charles Holdings. LLC on December 21, 2017 has caused turmoil for the City. I want to get out the facts so that everyone can understand what I did and why based on truth, not speculation.

On December 18, 2017, I received a call from a local attorney who I had done business with in the past. He told me that while doing a title search on the Prince Charles Hotel property, he discovered that there was a cloud on title related to a deed of trust I had from 450 Hay LLC., a previous owner of the property. A little later that day, I was talking with Mr. T.J. Jenkins at his office about another matter and told him about the cloud on title of the Prince Charles Hotel property. He said he knew Mr. Jones and recommended that we set up a meeting to discuss the matter. I agreed, and Mr. Jenkins called Mr. Jones. Mr. Jenkins explained that there was a cloud on title for the Prince Charles property and suggested that we meet soon after to discuss. Mr. Jones agreed, and the meeting was set for December 21<sup>st</sup>.

On that day, I arrived about a half hour late due to another commitment. It was the first time I had ever met Mr. Jones. I didn't know what Mr. Jones and Mr. Jenkins had been talking about before I arrived. I remember being surprised when Mr. Jones said he had not done anything to investigate the cloud on title before the meeting. I had expected, as someone representing the current owner of the property, that he he would have checked out the source of the cloud on title, but he said he had not. In my experience, there is often an exchange of something of value for removal of a cloud on title. I explained to Mr. Jones that I had done work on the Prince Charles Hotel project for the 450 Hay LLC and not been paid for much of that work and that I was still owed approximately \$15,000.

When Mr. Jones requested to know what my "ask" was (a phrase I had never heard used before), I responded with the number that had just been talked about. Mr. Jordan said he needed to go back to his team to review the matter and get back with me. That seemed a very reasonable way to resolve the matter. When Mr. Jordan asked how I should be paid if we came to an agreement, I told him that he should run it through the attorneys for both of us.

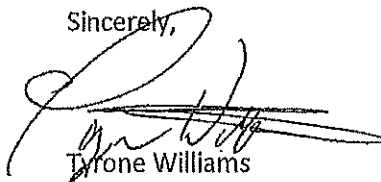
I knew that any release or removal of a cloud on title would have to be in the form of a legal document that would be filed at the courthouse and available to the public. As such, I expected that any agreement would be publicly known and had to comply with the law.

After December 21, I did not contact Mr. Jones by any means. I next heard from him when he called me on February 13, 2018 and said that he had "\$15,000 cash in a brief case" for me. I was shocked and don't remember exactly what I said but that was not at all what I was wanting to happen. On February 14<sup>th</sup>, I sent Mr. Jones a letter stating:

Dear Mr. Jones:

Thank you for your telephone call to me yesterday regarding your proposal to resolve claims that may be asserted on my behalf against the real property commonly referred to as the Prince Charles Hotel and the related adjacent lots. Please send me a formal settlement proposal which I will have reviewed by my legal counsel. Of course, I will also need to have any settlement proposal reviewed by the Fayetteville City Attorney. We will respond to you promptly thereafter.

Sincerely,



Tyrone Williams

I didn't hear back from Mr. Jones and thought that he and the Prince Charles Holdings, LLC were going to prepare a formal written proposal for me to take my attorney and the City Attorney for review. That didn't happen, and I didn't hear anything else until I was called by the City Attorney and asked to meet with her. I did so meeting on March 16, 2018 with Karen McDonald and Mr. Calloway, an attorney I didn't know and didn't really understand who he was or why he was there.

From that meeting, I understood that my December 21<sup>st</sup> conversation with Mr. Jones had raised a concern that I had a conflict of interest in voting on matters before the City Council involving the PCH, LLC. I said I understood and left. The following Monday I told the council about the potential conflict of interest and a week later I submitted a written request to recuse myself from voting on PCH, LLC matters.

In early April, I retained an attorney, Mr. Kris Poppe. He reviewed the documents related to my interest in the Prince Charles property and advised me that any financial interest I had for unpaid interest on a promissory note from Johnny Chen, or for unpaid compensation for work provided, had been extinguished by the bankruptcy court. I didn't know this. I learned that I had no current financial interest in the PCH property and there was no conflict of interest in voting on related matters before the Council. Knowing that, I withdrew my recusal. North Carolina state law says that a Council Member has a duty to vote on all matters before the council unless there is a conflict of interest.

I am supporter of the baseball stadium and have held that position since before I was elected. I believe it is a vital development for the downtown and District 2. However, I believe that City Council Members

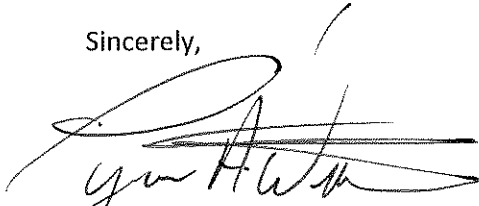
must also be vigilant stewards of taxpayer money and that includes public funds going to the baseball stadium, the Prince Charles Hotel and related projects. It must be done the right way. Questions should be asked, and I know I asked some hard questions about those projects. In doing so, it may have made me a desirable target.

It is now clear to me that the facts of what happen don't matter as much as perception. The facts are that I did not violate any law, or ordinance, or other legal authority. But the inaccurate perception of wrongdoing has been fueled by false and misleading accusations in the local media. There appears to be an agenda to obscure the actual facts of what happened between me and Mr. Jones through media attacks on my character. I don't understand their motivation, but it is certainly impacting the good governance of the City of Fayetteville.

I have decided to resign from my position as City Council Member for District 2 and do so effective immediately. I don't do this lightly as I have been committed to providing a voice for those who often get shut out of the conversation in City government. But the people of District 2 deserve someone who can speak without being obscured by negative perceptions.

The debate over this matter has created a great conflict that has affected our spirit. I hope that this resignation can help us go forward to build our future with love, understanding, and clear purpose.

Sincerely,



Tyrone A. Williams

cc:

City Council Members

City Attorney

City Manager