

From: David Hucks  
Sent: 12/18/2015 1:56:47 PM  
To: Haley, Nikki; Webb, Beth  
Cc:  
Subject: Fwd: Comment from long time MB Local

Beth,

FYI - We have taken 25 of just these types of messages in back channels today. The community is coming together.

See below,

Thanks,

<http://www.myrtle-beach.com/static/mb-logo.png>

**David Hucks**  
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*Myrtle Beach's Healthy Senior Living Magazine*

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **David Hucks** <[david@myrtle-beach.com](mailto:david@myrtle-beach.com) <<mailto:david@myrtle-beach.com>>>  
Date: Fri, Dec 18, 2015 at 1:53 PM  
Subject: Comment from long time MB Local  
To: Billy Huggins <[wlhuggins@wpde.com](mailto:wlhuggins@wpde.com) <<mailto:wlhuggins@wpde.com>>>, [wcbell@sbgvtv.com](mailto:wcbell@sbgvtv.com) <<mailto:wcbell@sbgvtv.com>>, Victoria Spechko <[vspechko@wpde.com](mailto:vspechko@wpde.com) <<mailto:vspechko@wpde.com>>>  
Cc: "[mchestnut@cityofmyrtlebeach.com](mailto:mchestnut@cityofmyrtlebeach.com) <<mailto:mchestnut@cityofmyrtlebeach.com>>" <[mchestnut@cityofmyrtlebeach.com](mailto:mchestnut@cityofmyrtlebeach.com) <<mailto:mchestnut@cityofmyrtlebeach.com>>>, Philip Render <[prender@cityofmyrtlebeach.com](mailto:prender@cityofmyrtlebeach.com) <<mailto:prender@cityofmyrtlebeach.com>>>

Mark Kruea <[MKruea@cityofmyrtlebeach.com](mailto:MKruea@cityofmyrtlebeach.com)  
<<mailto:MKruea@cityofmyrtlebeach.com>>>

FYI - just one of over 25 comments we received today from locals who emailed, messaged or posted in back channels. Apparently, for some reason, most are afraid to speak on the record.

Hey there, I have been following your stories lately and to say the least, I'm not surprised. My husband works for the city and has for the past seven years. The amount of corruption was so worrisome that my entire family and I had enough of living there and moved outside to [WITH HELD]. There is something sticking out to me about all of this.... Two bike weeks ago my family and I were religiously listening to the scanner, mostly because my husband was working and I needed to know he was safe. My younger brother also works for the [HOTEL WITH HELD] and we were concerned about him as well. We were listening to every armed robbery call, the shots fired at hotel blue, subsequently leading to the murder of two people. Funny thing though, you turn on WMBF and there is not one story about what is really going on. I couldn't believe that riots in the streets were an acceptable occurrence in downtown. I took to Facebook and got in touch with one of my old friends who was a producer for WMBF. I asked her why nothing was being reported and why the media and the city seemed to be turning a blind eye. Her answer was simple. Under the guise of Ted Fortenberry, they were told to NEVER report on what might be considered gang activity. I was disheartened to think that myrtle beach was so completely desperate to continue promoting this wonderful family environment, when in reality things are bad. Really bad and not reporting was putting the citizens (and my family) in danger. I knew that Ted had a vested interest in the chamber and was in tight with Brad Deen and the rest of them. I always thought there was something terribly fishy about it all and always felt there was more to it. Thanks for reporting, it's in a way nice to know that someone is brave enough to stand up to them even if it's fighting uphill.

Thankfully Myrtle Beach locals do want a news service that has no dog in the fight, nor hands in the pockets of tax payers.

OUR REPLY:

{NAME WITH HELD} - We launch an equal local voice starting in 2016. We take no Chamber of Commerce monies and we take no tax monies from the city. Serving our readership first is what matters most.

Sincerely,

David Hucks  
Partner  
MyrtleBeachSC.com

<http://www.myrtle-beach.com/static/mb-logo.png>

**David Hucks**

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On Fri, Dec 18, 2015 at 5:22 AM, David Hucks <[david@myrtle-beach.com](mailto:david@myrtle-beach.com)> wrote:

Billy,

This story was posted early a.m. and will go live to our local and national reach by 8 a.m. today.

<http://www.myrtlebeachsc.com/city-promotes-then-abandons-fictitious-tourist-numbers/>

I did reach out to William Bell, of your legal team, as we discussed. Should we hear from him, we will make sure to include his comments in this story.

Whether WPDE ABC considers receiving funds from the Myrtle Beach Chamber an ethical conflict for reporting on the city is truly between you and your conscience. Balancing the needs of serving the local viewership, the City and the Chamber can be a challenge I am sure, as, at times, these