

From: Skip Hoagland

Sent: 5/19/2015 5:26:37 PM

To: Roberts Vaux; bill miles; David Bennett; Billy Keyserling; Terry Finger; Riley Steve; Hulbert Brian; John Buchanan; Joshua Gruber; Weston Newton

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Brad Marra

Subject: Re: The Bluffton Chamber

Roberts, I am responding to your e-mail point by point. As always, my goal is to take the high road and speak purely based on facts and truth, not politics or worry about hurting people's feelings . What others do with this is their choice. I find it hard to debate or have civil discussion if others aren't willing to discuss based on facts .

1. First, there are two "Bluffton Chambers," not just one as you stated ! It's the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber, not the Hilton Head Chamber, and I'm sure Bill Miles will not like you trying to say differently. In fact, I have CC'ed Bill Miles for his comment back. But based on his Chamber's name alone, I am certain he will confirm that he also represents Bluffton -- and now has many new Bluffton members as a result of the recent membership drive facilitated by the Town -- something you termed "a tragic mistake." Bill has lots of power in Beaufort County and cannot be challenged, it seems . FYI, I own the rights to the Hilton Head Island Chamber and Hilton Head CVB and will act on these once I win my SC FOIA lawsuit or after the independent audit is complete . I also own rights to Bluffton CVB and Bluffton Chamber, in case we ever need those . Also rights to Beaufort chamber / Cvb . One way or the other, we will end up with properly operated Chambers and CVBs in Beaufort County. Corruption , abuse and violations of ethics and/or the law will eventually come to an end, I promise. In that spirit, Roberts, I hope you and others will join me in this effort to do what's right. This entire issue is about Town of Bluffton selling memberships in the Hilton Head-Bluffton Chamber. They were certainly NOT selling memberships for the Greater Bluffton Chamber, but for a HHI-Bluffton Chamber that cleverly added Bluffton to its name as a way of extracting even more money from the

greed and ambitions of Bill Miles. I am positive you understand that, whether you acknowledge it or not. Again look at the sign at the main corner in Bluffton what does this tell you ?

2 What Chamber are you referring to? Read #1 .How can you or anyone take the position nothing illegal has been happen without a full and independent investigation? We should all be very concerned . Not one person I know agrees what happened was just a "mistake" and not planned to try and weaken and harm the competing Greater Bluffton Chamber that is trying to survive and grow its own membership . To think otherwise is naive at best and seems others have convinced you into backing down . I know you are way smarter than this .

3 Certainly you can't believe this point in good faith. If the Greater Bluffton Chamber's own lawyer believes this , then Bill Miles power and intimidation tactics , along with his corrupt friends is more widespread than I ever imagined .

4 Again, it's the Hilton Head-Bluffton Chamber -- and that means its reach and influence include Bluffton by name. I have no problem with the DMO being Hilton Head-Bluffton Chamber if it agrees to sign a contract with terms and conditions for funds , has a provision that requires it to abide by SC FOIA laws since it is receiving public funds and an audit provision . Certainly Roberts you and Terry as lawyers understand this. If this HHI-Bluffton Chamber is not Bluffton's "official" Chamber, then why in the heck did the Town of Bluffton scheme to sell memberships for Bill Miles and this Chamber versus the Greater Bluffton Chamber? Please provide a clear, simple answer to that question for all to see and evaluate. Anything less than a clear answer will not be accepted .

5 Perfect... Mayor Bennett , do you as mayor agree to this for HHI DMO? Billy, as mayor for Beaufort where do you stand for Beaufort DMO ?

6 I and others are very confused by the fact the Town of Bluffton conducted a membership drive for the HHI-Bluffton Chamber, instead of your own Greater Bluffton Chamber? WHY was it done that way and who authorized it? You yourself admitted it was wrong, even if you claim it was not illegal , which we do not know until an investigation has been completed . So if it was wrong, why is no one being held accountable?

Roberts what happen ? Who intimidated or asked you to back off? Something happen from your first email ?

7 Actions and facts speak louder than words . This, again, is about the Hilton Head-Bluffton Chamber. I simply do not understand what you are saying. What is your point?

8 Yes, I fully understand wanting to live in a perfect world and the notion some people think happiness and status quo is more important than justice and change. I just happen to disagree with that when public officials use that argument to conceal the truth from the public or represent their best personal interests. Corruption must end and be exposed as much as possible .

9 I wish the Greater Bluffton chamber much success . Again, it was the clear intention of Bill miles owner it seems of the HHI-Bluffton Chamber to harm the Great Bluffton Chamber by competing with it directly, with the help of the Town employees . Certainly we can't all believe that Marc Orlando and Lisa Sulka were used by Bill miles totally unknowing that there has been 2 Bluffton chambers at war/ competition for over a year???? Roberts, you need to really think this out . This is totally out of control. This can not be tolerate and now attempted to be swept under the rub . At minimum you should be demanding a settlement from Sulka and Orlando to make the Greater Bluffton chamber the official Chamber , call all businesses with town employees and police to explain this and mistake made . You should force Terry as town lawyer to get contract signed with the current DMO ? A good lawyer which you are should do no less . Roberts you have a chance to rise above all this corruption and clean it up and do what's right .

To be fair, I want to give you and Mayor Sulka every chance to reconsider and do the right thing. If that does not happen in my opinion Marc Orlando should be fired for approving and facilitating the campaign with Bills Miles -- who thanked him profusely and by name in his open letter yesterday I cced you on. That is outrageous, given the circumstances here, and you know it.

If you choose not to do that, then I will make this a public issue with newspaper ads and TV commercials and John Buchanan will appeal to all local and state media to call attention to and expose what I see as gross wrongdoing and a cover-up. My position is Mayor Sulka is involved and had full knowledge of this and seems has asked Marc Orlando to toss himself under the bus on this one. Perhaps if his job was at stake he or someone will come forward on the truth .

I look forward to your response.