

From: David Hucks  
Sent: 9/29/2015 12:37:38 PM  
To: John Pedersen  
Cc: Mark Kruea; opinions@thesunnews.com; Ruth Sherlock (Ben Carson Campaign); Mande Wilkes; Robert Palmer; Sea Dip; Mark McBride; Rick Sarver; Rick Sarver; Katie Haas; John Krajc; Philip Render; Mike Chestnut; Billy Huggins; Tom Ellenburg; Senator Gerald Malloy; Haley, Nikki; Senator Gilda Cobb-Hunter; Senator Vincent Shaheen; Congressman Jim Clyburn; smiles@wmbfnews.com; Myrtle Beach NAACP; John Rhodes; Jim Hyman; Marleny Hucks; John Rhodes - Outside; Wayne Gray Outside; Mike Lowder - Outside; Susan Means-Outside; Randal Wallace; Ron Andrews; Fox Simons; Mike Shelton  
Subject: Re: In Defense of Mande Wilkes (Free Public Discourse)

John,

Mark went on a local T.V. Station where he accused my firm of impersonating the city of Myrtle Beach and claimed I was sent a cease and desist letter by the city.

He lied. I asked him, Tom, Tom Leath, and WMBFnews to make this right. We only heard crickets.

Neither I nor my team were ever sent a cease and desist letter.

Mark told an intentional lie to defame my local business.

If you would like to clear this up, John, by producing this letter or having Mark publicly make amends, let me know.

And, also, more to come on this made up 17.2 million tourist lie that someone manufactured and Mark eagerly propagated. I expect all of this to be public record promptly.

Sincerely,

David Hucks  
[Myrtle-Beach.com <http://myrtle-beach.com>](http://myrtle-beach.com)

On Sep 29, 2015, at 10:01 AM, John Pedersen  
<[JPedersen@cityofmyrtlebeach.com](mailto:JPedersen@cityofmyrtlebeach.com)  
<<mailto:JPedersen@cityofmyrtlebeach.com>>> wrote:

David –

We too, support the right of free public discourse, including the right to correct or refute material which we believe to be misrepresented or factually incorrect. This is what Mark Kruea's letter to the editor did, in response to Ms. Wilkes' original column. Not only is it Mark's job to do so, but it is also his right to do so, just as it was Ms. Wilkes' right to author the original letter to which Mark responded. For you to respond by referring to him as a "serial liar" is both baffling and inappropriate. I find your allegation and characterization highly offensive.

This scurrilous assertion as to the character of my longtime colleague and friend is entirely baseless and unnecessarily demeaning. As to your "evidence" of Mark's untruthfulness, I attach both a scan of your Facebook page described as "Myrtle Beach's Official Site" and the letter from our City Attorney chronicling his attempts to return your calls and to clarify other factually incorrect information provided on your website. I will let readers of this e-mail draw their own conclusions about truthfulness in this matter.

I support your right to take exception to any City policy or City action. I will, however, expect you to respect our corresponding right to refute what we believe to be misleading and inaccurate information without resorting to personal attacks on the reputation and honesty of City employees. It's beneath you.

John Pedersen

City Manager

**From:** David Hucks [[<mailto:david@myrtle-beach.com>](mailto:david@myrtle-beach.com)]

**Sent:** Sunday, September 27, 2015 5:13 PM

**To:** Mark Kruea; [opinions@thesunnews.com](mailto:opinions@thesunnews.com)  
[<mailto:opinions@thesunnews.com>](mailto:opinions@thesunnews.com)

**Cc:** Ruth Sherlock (Ben Carson Campaign); Mande Wilkes; Robert Palmer; Sea Dip; Mark McBride; Rick Sarver; Rick Sarver; Katie Haas; John Krajc; Philip Render; Mike Chestnut; Billy Huggins; Tom Ellenburg; Senator Gerald

Malloy; Nikki Haley; Senator Gilda Cobb-Hunter; Senator Vincent Shaheen;  
Congressman Jim Clyburn; [smiles@wmbfnews.com](mailto:smiles@wmbfnews.com)  
<<mailto:smiles@wmbfnews.com>>; Myrtle Beach NAACP; John Rhodes; John  
Pedersen; Jim Hyman; Marleny Hucks  
**Subject:** Re: In Defense of Mande Wilkes (Free Public Discourse)

FYI - We meet next Saturday at 10 a.m.

[<http://www.myrtle-beach.com/static/mb-logo.png>](http://www.myrtle-beach.com/static/mb-logo.png)

**David Hucks**

**[Myrtle Beach Facebook Page](http://www.facebook.com/myrtlebeachpage)**

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**[Myrtle-Beach.com](http://myrtle-beach.com) <<http://myrtle-beach.com>>**

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to whom they are addressed.

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On Sun, Sep 27, 2015 at 5:04 PM, David Hucks <[david@myrtle-beach.com](mailto:david@myrtle-beach.com)  
<<mailto:david@myrtle-beach.com>>> wrote:

This letter is a reply to Mark Kruea (City Spokesperson's) in response to  
his letter to the editor to Sun News columnist's Mande Wilkes remarks  
concerning the current Myrtle Beach Business Climate, Chinese  
Investors, Chinese Tourism, and the overall treatment of local business  
owners by the city.

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Dear Mark,

I have just read your reply on behalf of the city to columnist Mande Wilkes' article of the Sun News. It would appear from your remarks that the multiple trips taken by Brad Dean (Myrtle Beach Area Chamber President) and Mayor John Rhodes were, in fact, largely to attract a new audience of Myrtle Beach tourists to our area.

The facts tell another story entirely, however. While the Mayor and Brad Dean were able to encourage several Chinese Nationals to purchase a bevy of failing Myrtle Beach golf courses previously owned by the Myrtle Beach National Company and Burroughs and Chapin, the citizens of Myrtle Beach have yet to see any large influx of new Chinese tourists and it is doubtful we ever will.

What we did see were some behind the scenes financial transactions promoted by the Mayor and Mr. Dean. These activities lacked any true form of transparency. The Mayor, working with the most powerful non elected official in our city, (Brad Dean), was able to help his largest campaign contributors, {as well as city council's largest campaign contributors}, unload multiple failing golf courses to non citizen Chinese investors. While these non U.S. citizens are in fact Chinese Nationals, our own **non elected** official, Brad Dean, was publicly quoted in the news last May that {when it comes to local government, local laws, boards, chamber boards} ***these investors will certainly have a "place at the table."*** I ask you, "Is that what Myrtle Beach needs?" Chinese Nationals - Non U.S. citizens writing our local laws and serving on our local boards?

Mark, as we now have an election coming up in just over 4 weeks, with no public debates scheduled, it is imperative that we openly discuss the way you have personally treated local businesses. We can start with mine. On March 8, 2011 <<http://www.myrtle-beach.com/2013/06/18/nbc->