
From: Myrtle Beach Minute <david@myrtlebeachsc.com>
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2016 11:06 AM
To: David Hucks
Subject: Myrtle Beach City Correspondence

To our friends in government,

Having a day to process the below, I do wish to share with you my concerns about emails like the below from the Myrtle Beach Chief of Police Gall and the City Administrator.

Should anything happen to me in the boundaries of the city limits, I do believe having a public record is wise.

As each of you know, the city arrested me in 2011 with no evidence and no witnesses beyond that of a questionable accuser. (I was arrested 5 days after the supposed event occurred. {and despite my having a cell phone tower ping showing I was not at the location my accuser said I was}) **The charges were later dropped by the city and my record expunged.**

I am just now being made aware of the meeting this past week held by the Chamber of Commerce Board on how to stop my reporting.

Our Mayor attends meetings where he encourages business leaders to find a way to shut us down?

The 9 attacks [DDOS and other] cyber attacks on MyrtleBeachSC.com are well known. The recent hacking of my business email accounts and social accounts are recorded as well. On Friday, August 19, someone using a YAHOO email account sent an email to John Pedersen (with my account intentionally attached). I researched how this is done and it is easier than I could imagine. Hackers simply add a second pointing account in the set up in Yahoo. That email was not sent from my registered business account, nor sent by me.

And then there is the far below correspondences of late last night.

With all that said, I did choose this career path. Please note however, despite the above, I fully intend to go into the city of Myrtle Beach regularly.

Below is my correspondence with Jennifer Janisch. She is currently working on a story that relates to Myrtle Beach. As such, I felt her team should be made aware of the below correspondences which I found troubling.

I certainly respect the type of journalism her team does. Whether the MBACC, City Hall, or the Police Department respect the work I do, I can assure you her team does.

Based on my past history and recent history with Myrtle Beach, a town that my family has invested greatly in, I felt it best to document the below.

Our reporting is a permanent part of the fabric of Myrtle Beach. I look forward to a day when we can discuss how we can work together to report (us) and solve (you) some major issues this city does have. I believe this future day will be soon.

FYI - Mark Kruea likely knows who Jennifer is by the time this email is sent. If she has not reached out to him yet, she will soon.

Jennifer is no threat to any honest servant in government. She is simply a reporter doing her job. Current city leaders should choose to fully support her efforts. A transparent government is the best form of government.

Like Jennifer, we aren't against anyone. We simply report news. Our brand of news is popular with over 1 million readers every week in the Summer and as few as 400,000 weekly in the off season.

SEE MY EMAIL TO JENNIFER BELOW

P.S. We are migrating to a new, more secure platform. I ask that any and all cyber attacks end. I have contacted Bill Rosenthal about this matter personally. His name was pointed out to us. He denies any knowledge of the source of these attacks.

Sincerely,

David Hucks



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

From: **Myrtle Beach Minute** <david@myrtlebeachsc.com>

Date: Fri, Aug 19, 2016 at 4:10 AM

Subject: Re: 5th Ave North

To: Jennifer Janisch <janisch.jennifer@>

Good Morning Jennifer,

I am up early as I have a packed day.

We did post this story concerning the Mayor and China today. Some of the past trail with Yiqian exists in links: <http://www.myrtlebeachsc.com/mayor-rhodes-headed-back-to-china/>

Not sure if you have FOIA'd Mark yet, but please know that things on my end are becoming concerning.

The following email trail [**start at the bottom and work up**] concerns a Heroin Epidemic within the city that I have been covering. The below communications occurred last night and late into the night.

My family has lived in this area for 14 generations, and I suddenly do not feel safe in my own hometown.

Warren Gall and John Pedersen yield great power in our city. As a journalist, I find the posts below very troubling. Those threats will in no way keep me from my work, however.

I am sending you the below correspondence in case I should suddenly get shot on a street covering a Heroin Story or arrested for suspicious reasons. Please remember this email.

The tone and tenor of the below emails do not reflect well on the top administrators of our city. The responses from the Chief of Police critiquing our news coverage about articles generally not involving police matters are also out of bounds. We rarely cover police issues. We did so this week because the city highlighted our current Heroin Issue. The Mayor and Councilman Wayne Gray called it an Epidemic. They even held a public forum on the issue. When we actually covered a well known trouble spot, they responded with the below.

For each of these leaders, I feel our writing should never color their judgement in how they do their job. (nor how they communicate) The below communications do not rise to the level of power we have trusted in either of these men.

I no longer feel safe going downtown. However, should something become of me, my God will sustain me in life, death or arrest. He has been very faithful.

He has called me to this assignment. I will continue to put light in dark places.

Sincerely,

David Hucks



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On Thu, Aug 18, 2016 at 11:07 PM, David Hucks <david@myrtlebeachsc.com> wrote:

The city putting in long hours tonight.

FYI on below

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Warren Gall <WGall@cityofmyrtlebeach.com>

Date: August 18, 2016 at 10:21:46 PM EDT

To: Myrtle Beach Minute <david@myrtlebeachsc.com>, John Pedersen <JPedersen@cityofmyrtlebeach.com>

Subject: Fwd: 5th Ave North

Mr Hucks,

I don't need to defend my "regards" for the heroin issue affecting our community and the entire

Grand Strand. I think our community awareness event designed to educate our community and try and urge them to partner with law enforcement, fire/rescue, and our substance abuse providers to address this problem is ample proof of our commitment. Our community partners need to understand the problem from all sides, I believe we have planted the seed, and by no means are we done. Who else is doing this?

Obviously my comment was not intended for you, and it does not reflect any official statement. It was my personal opinion based upon my ongoing frustration with the persistent attacks against the City of Myrtle Beach. The City of Myrtle Beach, my team-mates, the residents, and visitors have been a part of my life for 35+ years. We take being "FIRST IN SERVICE" very seriously. While I fully support your absolute right to publish what you want, you fail to recognize any positive attributes of the City of Myrtle Beach. I apologize if my comment offended you. That is not in my nature. I am more about cooperation and "taking the high road". I don't know you, and I have no right to judge you. On the same token, you don't know me.

We have been very responsive to the situation on 5th Ave N. We're in this for the long haul. Like many issues that affect our community (all communities for that matter), it requires collaboration by many players to make a difference. A little positive commentary when we deserve it would go a long way in building a community of doers instead of talkers.

Sent from my Galaxy Tab® S2

----- Original message -----

From: John Pedersen <JPedersen@cityofmyrtlebeach.com>

Date: 8/18/16 7:20 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: Myrtle Beach Minute <david@myrtlebeachsc.com>

Cc: Mark Kruea <MKruea@cityofmyrtlebeach.com>, Wayne Gray <wgray@cityofmyrtlebeach.com>, John Rhodes <jrhodes@cityofmyrtlebeach.com>, Mary Jeffcoat <mjeffcoat@cityofmyrtlebeach.com>, Mike Lowder <mlowder@cityofmyrtlebeach.com>, Philip Render <PRender@cityofmyrtlebeach.com>, Randal Wallace <RWallace@cityofmyrtlebeach.com>, Mike Chestnut <mchestnut@cityofmyrtlebeach.com>

Subject: RE: 5th Ave North

David –

The City has been very clear that it regards the heroin problem seriously. While your story cited the Blossom Inn as the biggest manufacturing and distribution location in South Carolina, we have no evidence to support that contention. Your own readers indicated today that your report is erroneous.

Ms. Lautmann called me today because she wanted to reassure the City that the Blossom Inn was not as you described it. By the time I got her message I had already received the data from the Chief on this location which supports her position. When I returned her call I reassured her that we do not view her establishment as part of the problem. She told me that she was scheduled to meet with you. I did not suggest, comment, or hint that she should not do so. If you report that to be the case your story will once again be in error.

The Chief's comment below does not "show a certain regard to this issue". It very plainly shows a high level of skepticism regarding the "unbiased" nature of your reporting, which I share as well.

John

From: Myrtle Beach Minute [<mailto:david@myrtlebeachsc.com>]
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2016 6:05 PM
To: John Pedersen
Cc: Mark Kruea; Wayne Gray; John Rhodes; Mary Jeffcoat; Mike Lowder; Philip Render; Randal Wallace; Mike Chestnut
Subject: Fwd: 5th Ave North

John,

Last night I did get an email from Chief Gall stating that he would respond to our report of yesterday this afternoon. You can note his response below.

From Elena's comments to me today it appears something is amiss.

As such, Mr. Gall's comment below reflect the city's regard for this matter and should be a part of our follow up article.

The Heroin issue is one you highlighted. 5th Avenue and the Blossom Inn was highlighted to us by nearby merchants.

Every indication that we received today from Elena, as well as, Chief Gall below indicates that the city feels there are no issues.

While you have not responded directly to our requests, comments like below do show a certain regard to this issue.

If you, John, or a spokesman wishes to comment on the Heroin issues on 5th Avenue or the Blossom Inn in particular, I can be reached at [843-455-3108](tel:843-455-3108).

You are free to email me here as well.

Sincerely,

David Hucks

[<https://docs.google.com/uc?export=download&id=0B271Xa1oMr3cVE9yVXVONW9rQTQ&revid=0B271Xa1oMr3cQU5pRWZhrzRXXBYWUVtK3RrSHFELy9BcIRJPQ>]

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

From: Warren Gall

<WGall@cityofmyrtlebeach.com<<mailto:WGall@cityofmyrtlebeach.com>>>

Date: Thu, Aug 18, 2016 at 5:13 PM

Subject: RE: 5th Ave North

To: Myrtle Beach Minute <david@myrtlebeachsc.com<<mailto:david@myrtlebeachsc.com>>>

Wow.....unbiased reporting? Holy crap Batman!

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Myrtle Beach Minute <david@myrtlebeachsc.com<<mailto:david@myrtlebeachsc.com>>>

Date: 8/18/16 4:25 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: John Pedersen

<JPedersen@cityofmyrtlebeach.com<<mailto:JPedersen@cityofmyrtlebeach.com>>>, Warren Gall <WGall@cityofmyrtlebeach.com<<mailto:WGall@cityofmyrtlebeach.com>>>, John Rhodes <jrhodes@cityofmyrtlebeach.com<<mailto:jrhodes@cityofmyrtlebeach.com>>>, Wayne Gray <wgray@cityofmyrtlebeach.com<<mailto:wgray@cityofmyrtlebeach.com>>>

Cc: Elena Lautman <eltm4@aol.com<<mailto:eltm4@aol.com>>>

Subject: 5th Ave North

John,

I just got a last minute cancellation of our news shoot with Elena Lautman today. She informed me that the rain made it not possible to meet.

I did inform her that we would be happy to do the report indoors. She prefers to meet next Monday. While I believe her input is news worthy, we have to honor her wishes as to her own timeline.

We certainly plan to give her full airtime on perspective on this.

ONE NOTE OF CONCERN: Mrs. Lautman did report to us about a conversation she had with you today. TO BE CLEAR: Our news team reports news. We do not get paid by the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce to report news.

While we do ask hard questions of this city government, that is not an unusual role for the media in other areas. We are not anti anything.

The neighborhood, including Mrs. Lautman, says there is a Heroin issue in the 5th ave north area. Mrs. Lautman says the city gave Blossom Inn a clean bill of health in regards to that issue today.

You certainly did not respond to our request for such a comment when we requested such yesterday.

Your team has yet to respond to us in regards to this issue. This is an issue that the city chose to highlight themselves on Tuesday night.

Many governmental organizations are not overly fond of an unbiased press. While we do not expect you, John, to be overly joyous of our coverage, we would hope you choose to respect our readership.

To make little of our efforts is to disregard the impact our readers have on the future of this city.

We do plan to work with Elena and the Blossom Inn to get to the bottom of exactly what is going on in Myrtle Beach.

We intend to get others on the "record" here as well.

We are giving Mrs. Lautman the time she has asked for to go on the record, but we will be doing a followup here even if she should be influenced not to give us that time.

Sincerely,

David Hucks

[<https://docs.google.com/uc?export=download&id=0B271Xa1oMr3cVE9yVXVONW9rQTQ&revid=0B271Xa1oMr3cQU5pRWZhrzRXXBYWUVtK3RrSHFELy9BclRJPQ>]

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