

March 10, 2016

To: Governor Nikki Haley

From: Mr. Mel Bobo
P.O Box 1023
Johnsonville, S.C. 29555
Email Address: melvin_bobo@yahoo.com

Subject: Race Relations Articles

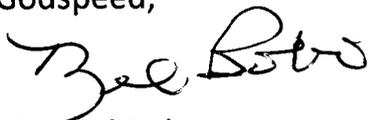
Dear Honorable Governor Haley,

During the month of February I wrote to our local newspaper The Weekly Observer an editorial regarding race relations in Johnsonville, South Carolina to raise awareness of concerns after speaking collectively with the African American Community. Unfortunately, I found the review shocking from our police department. The citizens here and beyond in the African American community feels the same way.

For your convenience, I have enclosed my article and the editorial from the Johnsonville Police Department. There has not been a response from the Johnsonville City Council or the Johnsonville School District Five as of yet. I have also enclosed a copy of my resume to let you my background.

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to review these articles and the major steps you have taken to improve race relations in the State of South Carolina.

Godspeed,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mel Bobo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mr. Mel Bobo
Johnsonville

Letter to the Editor

Resident laments race relations

Dear Editor,

As we celebrate African American History Month, I found it fitting to share with your readers collective information from the African American community of Johnsonville, in order to raise awareness of community concerns:

1) Unjust employment practices of employing African American professional certified teachers exists in School District Five. It's less than four, if any, in the entire school district (which includes high, middle, and elementary) coupled with treatment of African American students.

2) Racial profiling of African American people is done by the Johnsonville Police Department.

3) The City of Johnsonville City Council rejects improving infrastructure and revitalization to low moder-

ate income areas of the city and improving the hiring practices of African Americans. There is only one African American city employee.

For those who say this is not true, simple call and ask your school district, attend a Johnsonville City Council meeting and ask. As for the Johnsonville Police Department, just ask people of color in the city of Johnsonville.

Now here is a helpful hint: 1) Break down your Johnsonville City Council into single-member districts. This will allow all areas of the city to have a voice and help community needs to be met.

2) School District Five can attend College Career Fairs which would allow them to recruit African American Teachers.

3) As for the Johnsonville Police Department, if you are racially

profiling African Americans, the answer is a simple one: "Stop!"

In conclusion, with all that has happened in 2015, such as the killing of African Americans while they were in church and the continued killing of countless black men by the police nationwide, and the list goes on, we

should agree that the time has come (after all the City of Johnsonville is 100 years old) to begin practicing inclusion and the act of diversity. I also want to thank our young adult people and teenagers of all races and walks of life red, yellow, black, and white, for leading by example and living out the true meaning that it is OK to "Love thy neighbor as thyself." At the end of the day, "It Is What It Is."

BRO. MEL BOBO
Johnsonville

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Letters will be printed as space permits if they are in good taste, nonlibelous and of general interest. We reserve the right to edit letters for clarity and brevity, but the meaning will not be altered. Printed submissions are limited to two letters a month per person. Some items may be better suited to run as guest editorials.

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Lake City News & Post
P.O. Box 429
Lake City, SC 29560

The Weekly Observer
P.O. Box 309
Hemingway, SC 29554

Letter to the Editor

Police Chief responds to 'profiling'

Dear Editor,

In response to Mel Bobo's recent editorial statement that "Racial Profiling of African American people is done by the Johnsonville Police Department," first let me say that I am disappointed that Mr. Bobo didn't come to me, as I take responsibility for every action taken by JPD Officers and have always advertised an open door policy to all citizens. I am also confused that he expressed his opinion and stated no facts to support whatever he is talking about. Unfortunately, this paper is not large enough for me to express my total response of the issue with all the facts so I'll be brief.

The City of Johnsonville has one of the lowest crime rates per capita of any town, city or county due to our outstanding, mature, well-trained officers, along with the unwavering support of the law abiding citizens who support us.

We have never, and could never arrest someone for "being African American." We only arrest people, usually as a last resort, for committing criminal violations. Every case made by this department is reviewed by me, as well as by Judge John Kirven (who is an attorney),

and the most fair Judge of any I have ever known. I welcome a review by anyone of our cases as everything we do is audio and video recorded so I can prove what I am saying unlike Mr. Bobo who admits to speaking for "the people of color."

I often have people of all colors call or return to personally thank me for helping them with problems, especially when we are able to negotiate a plea that allows them to maintain a clean criminal record. That is the most rewarding aspect of my job as your public servant, and I get no satisfaction by arresting or incarcerating anyone. I will never apologize for arresting criminal violators of any color and plan to continue enforcing the law fairly as long as I am allowed to serve this community.

My advice to all people is to obey the law of the land, and you will not be profiled, tased, arrested, incarcerated or shot by the police in your community, but will be allowed to live in peace with all.

For those who choose to do otherwise, I guess you and Mr. Bobo can plan to keep crying "foul" if you expect something less of a response.

With Kind Regards,

RON DOUGLAS
Chief of Police, Johnsonville

RESUME
OF
Mr. Mel(Melvin) L. Bobo
P.O. Box 1023
Johnsonville, S.C. 29555
(843) 373-4477
Email Address: melvin_bobo@yahoo.com

OBJECTIVE:

To work in an environment that allows opportunity for growth and advancement.

EDUCATION:

July 1984-Graduate of South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, S.C. Received B.S. Degree in Business Administration.

May 1981-Graduate of Columbia Junior College of Business, Columbia, S.C. Received A.S. Degree in Business Management.

May 1981-Received a Clerical Diploma from Columbia Junior College of Business, Columbia, South Carolina.

June 1979-Graduate of Johnsonville High School, Johnsonville, South Carolina. Received a high school diploma.

CONTINUED EDUCATION:

October 2010-Received certification as a Medication Technician. The training was sponsored by the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Need.

November 2009-Received certification as a Dementia Specialist. The training was sponsored by the Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina, Office for the Study of Aging.

April 2001-Completed training at the World Conference for "Dual Diagnosis" in Durham, North Carolina.

March 2000-Completed the Carolina Curriculum on positive Behavior Support from the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs and University of South Carolina Center for Disability Resources.

July 1998-Completed the Supervisor Training Institute sponsored by the South Carolina Disabilities Collaborative and the University of South Carolina Affiliated Program.

EMPLOYMENT

Cooper Landscape Maintenance-Employed as a business administrator for company. Keep records for company. Attend state meetings with the South Carolina Department of Transportation along with executive staff to assist in implementing state policy and procedures to employees. File and translate important documentation to team members. Mail important documentations upon request around the state. Do office work. This is volunteer employment.

Florence County Disabilities and Special Needs Board-Employed as a Qualified Mental Retardation Professional. Job duties included serving as an administrator over residential homes where consumers reside. Provide active treatment, implement training objectives for consumers, monitor and control allotted budget for units, supervised Human Service Supervisors who managed the homes. After hours, on call for Incidents and Critical Incidents, Act as Administrator on Duty(AOD) per Scheduled calendar, and operated buildings according to DHEC standards. Conducted medication reviews on consumers with psychiatrist. Conducted behavior team meetings with Behaviorist. Kept social contact with the families of the consumers.

Community Training Home II Manager-Under the supervision of Community Training Home II Coordinator at the Florence County Disabilities and Special Needs Board, supervised staff and consumers, completed staff work schedules, staff time sheets, transported consumers as needed, balanced accounts for consumer spending, advocated for personal outcomes, communicated with consumer's families, and made sure that the consumers needs were met.

Human Service Assistant-Under instructions of the Human Service Supervisor, cared for the consumers in a home setting which had lifelong disabilities. Bathing, cooking, cleaning.

STRENGTHS:

Team Player-Believe in teamwork. Everyone doing their part to obtain great work results.

Communication-Communicate well with people.

Self Starter-Once knowing the job, begin doing the job to the best of my ability with minimal supervision.

Motivator-Believe in motivating people to do their best work.

**PAGE 3-Mel Bobo
Resume Continued**

AFFILIATIONS:

Notary Republic for the State of South Carolina. Member of Alpha Kappa Psi Professional Business Fraternity. Honored by the community and the State of South Carolina for charitable contribution to senior citizens and disadvantaged children. South Carolina Volunteer Mentor. Disaster relief volunteer(Assisted American Red Cross during historic flood in passing out relief materials).

REFERENCES:

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Johnsonville, S.C. 29555
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Betty's Career College
311 South Hampton Avenue
Johnsonville, S.C. 29555
(843) 386-3346**

**Mr. Hume Gregory
Community Leader
359 Columbia Avenue
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(843) 386-3111**

**Mr. Calvin Parker
Retired College Professor
203 Ferrell Drive
Columbia, S.C. 29204
Cell#(843)-622-9778**

**Ann Johnson
Retired Mental Retardation Supervisor
310 East Sam Harrell Road
Florence, S.C. 29506
(843) 687-1932**

**Angelic Lupotsky
Johnsonville Public Library
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