

LEHIGH ACRES JAYCEE FOUNDATION, Inc.
P. O. BOX 111 LEHIGH ACRES, FLORIDA 33970-0111

Sent by certified mail (7000 0520 0016 6033 5998) on 6/19/15 to:

Chairman Larry Becker 636 Thomas Sherwin Ave S. Lehigh Acres, FL 33974

Sent via e-mail on 6/19/15 to: Commissioners: Adams, Becker, Carter, and Kruse

Please accept this letter as a formal complaint filed against Fire Chief John Wayne.

As the chief of the department, he acted inappropriately by demeaning, berating, and embarrassing the speakers including myself at the recent "PUBLIC" hearing regarding the fire assessment held on May 26, 2015.

He clearly overstepped his authority by getting involved in each speaker's comments which **were directed to the board** and owes at the very least a public apology to those citizens who spoke at the meeting.

As chairman, you and your attorneys seemingly have forgotten the purpose of holding a "PUBLIC" hearing. Simply defined, the purpose provides an opportunity for the **PUBLIC** to express their comments and opinions directly to the commissioners. It is not the place for you or your employees to express anything about each speaker's comments.

I've attended hundreds of "PUBLIC" hearings and **NEVER** have staff, employees (Wayne) or the commissioners themselves commented after every speaker. **After** the public has expressed **their** opinions and concerns, staff, employees and commissioners often will discuss what was said, but this is usually led by the commissioners asking for clarifications from staff and employees on items that came up at the "PUBLIC" hearing.

Your inability to control a room filled with hooting, jeering, discourteous employees, and your total disregard for the opinions and comments from the public along with their comfort is also inexcusable. Suffice to say that by holding the hearing in an un-air conditioned truck parking garage, during the hottest time of the day, while subjecting the elderly residents to sit on metal folding chairs, after being made to walk as far as four blocks from the building without provisions for handicapped parking, all while trying to hear what was being said over the unruly fireman and using a sound system that was totally inadequate, **may** have accomplished what you intended. But you should know it sent a very clear **different** message to those who did attend.

You sir, should be ashamed as chairman to have allowed such a fiasco to take place at taxpayer expense and to allow Chief Wayne to address the public and myself in the manner in which he did. This blatant disregard of the purpose and intent of a "PUBLIC" hearing is further proof of the disrespect shown to the citizen taxpayers who braved coming out to this meeting. Certainly Chief Wayne's actions have diminished his credibility in the community as a trusted leader of the fire department

It was evident to all, that his obvious attack against me and the Jaycee organization was carefully planned in advance. It was meant to embarrass, discredit, and belittle me. His use of the **2014 tax data**, which he quickly displayed on this overhead screen, was vindictive and misleading. He certainly should have known, and if he didn't you need to find a Fire Chief that does, that **the 2015 tax rolls are in the process of being recertified as they are each year!**

Not-for-profit exemptions like the Jaycees enjoyed must be **certified each year** by mid-June so the tax appraiser can make the necessary corrections. Building use often changes. **And it did** for the Jaycees for the 2015 tax roll. No longer is building used for a church and school, but rather on January 1, it was used as a business office and club meeting room. The use in 2014 was very different than the use in 2015! However, that's not what Chief Wayne implied to the public. He inferred that I and the Jaycee organization were committing tax fraud. And that brought out the loudest jeers, and hollers from the "well behaved" firemen. His attack on my character is deserving of a personal apology to me and a written apology to the Jaycee organization. Perhaps a better course of action would be to require him to attend a sensitive training program at his own expense where he could learn to be courteous, and how to deal with the public.

For your information, I personally received many apologies from selected employees and people who attended the meeting including ONE of your own commissioners over the way I was treated and spoken to during the meeting. Many were upset about the implications made against the Jaycee organization that does so much in our community. Many of the apologies expressed embarrassment over the way the firemen in attendance behaved. Officers of the department told me that if they said to me what the chief did, that their conduct would be considered unbecoming and they would be terminated from the department. Most certainly, his conduct was uncalled for, and should have been stopped by you, the attorneys, or one of the other board members.

I not only expect a full apology, but look forward to the way this entire matter and embarrassment to the community, me and the Jaycee organization will be handled.

Sincerely,

LEHIGH ACRES JAYCEE FOUNDATION, Inc.

R. A. Anglickis

Richard A. Anglickis
President

Past President Lehigh Acres Chamber of Commerce
Past President Community Council of Lehigh Acres
Chairman Citizens Advisory Committee

Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Cc: each District Commissioner