

Good Evening,

It is with great regret that I come before my colleagues tonight and ask you to support my decision to censure Commissioner Joseph for what I consider to be reckless and malicious behavior by spreading pure propaganda inside and outside these city chambers.

It was at last Tuesday evenings meeting, September 17th that we all sat at our seats on this dais and found a copy of an email from former Mayor Beth Speigel which had been previously sent to our city emails on September 2nd. Worse than that, is that these same printed copies were found stacked at the visitors table in the chamber lobby. This is the same table where attendees pick up the agendas for our meetings as well as other important citywide notices. These copies were not provided by city staff which is the usual protocol, in-fact for a time they were just known to have mysteriously appeared until requests for our city security cameras to be investigated revealed that the culprit was our very own colleague, Commissioner Joseph.

I hope no one is wondering why I feel his act was so offensive, but just in case you are, let me tell you why...In our city's Citizens Bill of Rights it specifically mentions truth in government, and it states that no municipal official or employee shall knowingly furnish false information on a public matter, nor knowingly omit significant facts when giving requested information to members of the public. The email and opinions of former Mayor Speigel were her opinions and were based on a very one sided article in the Miami New Times regarding a late night discussion about our city's legal department. Former Mayor Speigel formed her opinion without ever contacting me or anyone that I know of at city hall. I was quite shocked by her email to us and so angered by it that I shot back an email to her letting her know that she had no depth of detail to what was happening in our city as it relates to the ongoing discussion about our legal department and basically that I was appalled that she would rely on an article that was based mainly on assumptions. In fact the author of that article didn't even contact me and I was very vocal on this subject matter and if he had reached out to me, he would have heard another perspective along with the facts.

What Commissioner Joseph is trying to do by sneakily putting out this email is to persuade uninformed citizens with information that is false, and to boot, he attempts to bring disgrace and harm to our city as well as someone's reputation, specifically our city attorney, Sarah Johnson. It is declared to be the policy of the state that public officers and employees, state and local, are agents of the people and hold their positions for the benefit of the public. They are bound to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the State Constitution and to perform efficiently and faithfully their duties under the laws of the federal, state and local governments. Such officers and employees are bound to observe, in their official acts, the highest standards of ethics consistent with the code and the advisory opinions rendered with respect hereto regardless of personal considerations, recognizing that promoting the public interest and maintaining the respect of the people in their government must be of foremost concern. I cite this from the Florida Code of Ethics to remind everyone what our duties are here. If Commissioner Joseph wants to openly discuss his opinions about what is happening in this city as it relates to ongoing business, issues and concerns, he should do it from the dais and if he wants to fill the air with his propaganda, so be it, but delivering it with an invisible cloak, which as we now know, is not invisible, he stains our city with negativity that shouldn't be accepted from any of us.

Let's not forget that it was just four months ago that Commissioner Joseph brought before this commission a discussion item to censure our Mayor over comments he made on his private facebook page that were provoking and unacceptable and you voted to censure him. Now I bring the same discussion item to you. Commissioner Joseph covertly used city resources to secretly put out a message that he supports and used City Hall to do it. That message spreads allegations and paints our City, this Commission and our City Attorney in a very negative way. Hopefully this will be the last censure to come across this dais. We must act and govern in our great city with the highest ethical standards because "hashtag" **WE ARE NMB** and we are one vision, one mission, one city!

Censure is a formal, and public, group condemnation of an individual, often a group member, whose actions run counter to the group's acceptable standards for individual behavior....Congress adopted a resolution allowing **censure**, which is "stronger than a simple rebuke, but not as strong as expulsion."