

~~McHugh, Horace A.~~ To: MAJOR RAND

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**Subject:** FW: Statement Regarding Call on Good Friday

**From:** [Esmond.Scott@citynmb.com](mailto:Esmond.Scott@citynmb.com)

**Date:** April 20, 2020 at 12:18:49 PM EDT

**To:** [Richard.Rand@nmbpd.org](mailto:Richard.Rand@nmbpd.org)

**Subject:** Statement Regarding Call on Good Friday

**Major Rand, please see below regarding my call with Commissioner Joseph on Good Friday 2020.**

On Good Friday April 10, 2020 at approximately 4:35PM I received a call from Commissioner Michael Joseph. He wanted me to call Mayor Anthony Defillipo and ask him why he (the Mayor) was driving up and down his (Commissioner Joseph's) street.

I asked Commissioner Joseph if this was something he really wanted to do and he affirmed that this was very important and concerning to him as he had seen him on camera going by his home up and down the street on several occasions that day.

My hesitation to heed his directives and questioning if this was something he really wanted to do, led to Commissioner Joseph alleging that 'you' (plural) are beholden to the Mayor. I took exception to that by telling Commissioner Joseph that at times, as a City Manager, my role is to talk things out with commissioners and to arrive at some rationale and not make things bigger than they actually are. In fact, my words to him was to let us talk things through rather than "start World War III" about something that was being done on a public street. I also advised that I have done that with practically every other elected official sitting on the dais - not just following up on directives when rationale is in the course. He said this had to do with his family and his concern. I told the commissioner that I was not being dismissive but at the moment I was dealing with a police situation that concerned a stabbing and another possible homicide in the city and was mentally engaged with that.

We spent several minutes talking about his directive to me and it meandered around directives and me describing myself on many occasions when speaking to him with the self description of being "a grown ass man." I took exception to that classification and advised that such a phrase I would not have uttered to him. A grown man yes - without dispute. Grown ass is not in my spoken vocabulary. He apologized and things got calmer.

As we continued talking I asked him if I should still heed his directive and call the mayor. He said I should not do so as he would handle it his own way. I asked the question several times and he affirmed that I should not tell the mayor as he would take care of it himself. I asked him if we were "cool" with this resolve. He said yes. In coming off the phone I asked, "Did we just have this conversation?". Commissioner Joseph said yes because he was not going to lie about it. The call ended.

I called Mayor Defillipo. Mayor DeFillipo advised that he was seeking an address and a resident who lived in their neighborhood.

My decision to do so was based on the fact that Commissioner Joseph said he would handle it his own way and, also that he would take care of it. Parenthetically, in my opinion, since I would not hasten to do as I was asked by my 'boss,' he had to resolve it. Also, his affirming that we had the conversation meant, in my opinion, that this could surface again.

I called Commissioner Joseph to inform him that I had called the Mayor and also to explain my reason for doing so. He did not answer so I left a message. Shortly thereafter he called wanting to know why I did so and I advised why. He also wanted to know who started this and I advised:

The Mayor for driving up and down your street

Him for calling me

Me for telling the Mayor

Another discussion ensued and after several minutes, we ended the call.

Thereafter, Commissioner Joseph called again. He wanted to know why the Police was calling him. I told him that I didn't know why but that he should ask the police and that they had also called me. Our call ended amidst my getting dinner ready with my family and continued preparations for Good Friday evening worship.

I received two successive calls shortly thereafter from the commissioner. Seeing that no messages were left, I did not return them. I assumed they were "butt calls."

Sent from my iPad

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