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NMB senior resident that was booted out of NMB building, STATEMENT.

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Friday 24th June, 2022

I, Mubarak Kazan a resident of North Miami Beach (NMB) attended the Tuesday, June 21st, 2022, NMB Commissioner's meeting held in the Julius Littman Performing Arts Theater. During Public Comment session, I chose to mention, on February 22nd, 2021, the former city manager (Esmond Scott) told us we had \$29.5 million dollars in reserves. Tonight, we are hearing in the (Annual Financial Comprehensive Report) AFCR/CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) report we are down to \$15.6 million dollars in unassigned reserves. A difference of almost \$15 million dollars. (In just over one year) what happened to this money? Another comment was City NMB paying a part time City Attorney law firm consisting of one man and maybe two other people, \$60K PER month. \$720K a year. It could even be 100 people; the number of hours probably don't amount to more than 20 hours a week. Any city or county doing such, becomes vulnerable to corruption with kickbacks that could happen. We used to hire at least six (full time) "lawyers" for that amount of money, and we need to have back our full-time attorney staff.

At about 7:47 pm when the Public Comments were over and the Public Affairs announcements began, I approached the edge of the stage closer to the City Clerk and gently placed my digital audio recorder there as I had been doing for decades with my recording devices whenever there were meetings of such nature, close to the elected body. The City Clerk's assistant, Stephanie who was sitting at a table close to where I placed my recorder was not there for me to tell her I was leaving my recorder there. Wanted to use the rest room and knew my recorder would be safe there in the presence of the elected body and all eyes on the stage.

Made my way into the lobby area, spoke with a few residents. A short while later, Interim Police Chief, Harvette Smith approached me in the lobby area of the theater and told me she would like to have a word with me, if I can step outside the building. I said sure. She had three police officers followed us. While outside the building, she stated, The City Manager (Arthur Sorey) said he saw Mr. Kazan placed a device on the stage, and he did not know what it was. "He now has my recorder", and I cannot return into the building. Told her immediately I would like to have my recorder now. While talking she beckoned one officer to return into the building for the recorder.

While waiting she acknowledged the city manager knew me by name, and they "all knew me", establishing I was not a stranger. Told her I am being profiled for who I am and is being kicked out the building which she claimed I am already outside. I asked if he was so much afraid of this recorder, why keep it?

Why not have the building vacated?

The recorder was returned to me. I stood there and told her at least two of these officers can go do some

patrolling on the roads instead of harassing a senior resident. Told me she already has enough on the roads. At NO TIME DID SHE TELL ME I CAN COME BACK INTO THE MEETING. She reiterated I am NOT allowed to come back into the building for this meeting.

Mubarak Kazan

P.S. Did my public comments trigger this reaction? It would not surprise me, this city with this type of management practices, will implement signs to be placed all over the city not to have unattended belongings around city property, including recording devices such as audio and video recorders or it will be confiscated. (cars, bicycles?) In my opinion, NOT for ANY SAFETY reasons, only to prevent the City's "Watchdogs" from attending meetings and having "total" recordings done, and just to harass residents. First time in my 20 years attending city meetings, anything for me was ever confiscated. We have had 9/11, zillions of mass shootings, not once have any of my recording devices ever been confiscated.