

Collins, Charlotte

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2015 10:02 AM
To: Collins, Charlotte
Subject: FW: AJC request

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2015 3:27 PM
To: 'Boone, Christian (CMG-Atlanta)'
Subject: RE: AJC request

Christian

Answers to your questions below. Enjoy the weekend.

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From: Boone, Christian (CMG-Atlanta) [<mailto:CBoone@ajc.com>]
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2015 12:56 PM
To: Brownlow, Kellie
Subject: AJC request

Hi Kellie,

I'm filling in for Dan Klepal, working on a story about last night's commission meeting. Had a few questions for Chairman Lee, was told you prefer receiving the questions in writing so here they are:

1. What is the chairman's response to criticisms from NAACP and SCLC heads – specifically the charge that rogue cops need not worry, that the chairman "has their back."

Chairman Lee has repeatedly put on the record that there is no place for discrimination in Cobb County and he will not tolerate it. He released a statement that called for Officer Lawson to be put on unpaid leave last week and has publicly stated his disappointment in the slow response of the internal investigation.

2. Does the chairman think his comments were misconstrued or misunderstood? Or does he regret making them at all?

Yes Chairman Lee believes his position was misunderstood. His position on this matter is clearly communicated in the agenda item that was adopted by the board last night. The Chairman was expressing frustration with how one of the commissioners has refused to seek a constructive solution. The comments speak for themselves.

Let's not conflate 2 different issues here. One is about a review of the police department which Chairman Lee showed leadership in putting forth last night.

The other is about a pending internal investigation of Officer Lawson. Chairman Lee released a statement last week that called for Officer Lawson to be put on unpaid leave and has publicly stated his growing frustration with the slow response of the internal investigation.

3. Does he believe he needs to meet with local civil rights leaders to repair the rift both the NAACP and SCLC claim exists?

Nobody is at war with anybody in Cobb County. Last night the Board of Commissioners approved moving forward with a review of police policies and procedures and I would encourage anyone with questions to review the agenda item. In it you will see that Cobb is moving forward with exactly the kind of review that commissioner Cupid and some in the community are requesting.

4. Does he stand by his remarks that Lisa Cupid has failed to seek constructive solutions in examining the police complaint process?

Yes

Thanks. My contact info is below if you need to reach me.

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