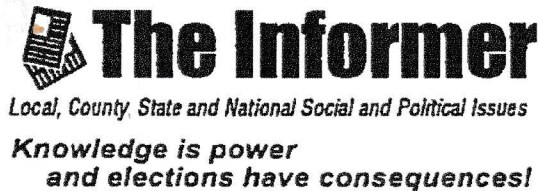


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Irresponsible Free Speech Or Racism In East Point: Part 2

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Irresponsible Free Speech or Racism in East Point is Part 2 of **Do "Black Lives Matter" in East Point?** East Point City Charter gives the power to Mayor and Council to create Boards and Authorities and to appoint residents and City business owners to serve on them. The lone exception to the Council appointment powers is the East Point Housing Authority. The East Point Housing Authority members are appointed solely by the Mayor and their operations are regulated by the State and Federal Governments. All of the other Boards and Authorities are regulated by the City Council-that means that the Mayor and Council can abolish or suspend their

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operations at will. These Boards and Authorities derive their powers from the City Council and are answerable to Mayor and Council and not the other way around.

Boards and Authorities are an extension of the City Council and the appointees' actions should reflect the will of the Mayor and Council. Board and Authority appointees are not puppets of Mayor and Council, however they are subservient to the City Council and cannot operate in conflict or in violation of policies, agreements or directions adopted by Mayor and Council. Their subservient position does not allow Board and Authority appointees to act in a manner that reflects negatively on the Mayor and Council, the residents, City employees, the image of the City or place the City in legal jeopardy under the guise of free speech.

Free speech is one of the cornerstones of a free society and is guaranteed in the United States Constitution. Free speech is the most important tool that residents have to voice their concerns about their government, elected officials and their appointees. However, free speech has some legal and costly consequences for elected officials, appointed Board and Authority members, and employees. Elected officials, appointed Board and Authority members, and employees represent a special category of people who represent a government or a business that impacts the public. Many private businesses have had to pay large sums of money due to "free speech statements that were deemed racist or constituted sexual harassment" by their employees or board members. Recently, Ms. Paula Dean lost her television spot and millions of dollars in contracts because of racist remarks. A former member of the Fulton County Library Authority caused the County to pay out seventeen million dollars to a group of white female employees/Board Members because of a statement about "old white women" that jurors found to be racist. Several elected officials have lost their elected positions or had to apologize for making racist statements. The United States Senate has failed to confirm many would be appointees including judges to the Supreme Court because of racist statements and or affiliations with racist organizations. Fulton County Board of Commissioners just fired their County Manager for making negative statements about some of them personally and the Board of Commissions as a whole. DeKalb County CEO Lee May has called for the resignation of the Chairman of their Development Authority citing a loss of faith in the appointee over a zoning matter.

Why is this special category of people denied free speech for making racist statements? I believe it is because these people are extensions of the faces and voices of the governments and businesses that they represent to the public and their words whether written or spoken reflect the values of those governments and businesses. Not only that, elected officials, Board and Authority members are presented as leaders of the community and role models for youths. They are perceived as caretakers and symbols of the government. Hence, most residents would not support elected officials, Board and Authority members, and employees who engaged in public written or spoken communications where racist or derogatory remarks are made and/or supported against members in the public sector, other elected officials, Board and Authority members, and employees. In fact, employees have used public /private racially documented statements outside of the workplace by elected officials, Board and Authority members, and other employees in lawsuits and won. It would be wise for all elected officials, Board and Authority members, and employees not to participate in these public media discussions unless they are denouncing the racist remarks regardless who are making them. Likewise, it is very unwise and foolhardy for employees to try and use free speech to make personal negative and derogatory statements about their employers or Board and Authority appointees about the Mayor and Council Members and residents because their statements could very well lead to some level of discipline including suspension or termination.

As previously stated in **Do "Black Lives Matter" in East Point? Part 1**, African Americans compose more than ninety-two percent of the City's population and all but one elected official is African American. One would think that the African American population would not tolerate openly spoken or written negative characterizations or racist stereotypical and derogatory statements referencing any residents especially other African American residents by appointed Board and Authority members, and employees. Yet, this is exactly what is happening in East Point.

Not only have African American communities throughout this country but people of all races have rallied against and denounced the use of the word "bitches/bitch" in popular musical lyrics as not only demeaning to females but encouraging violence against females. "Bitch" refers to a female dog and usually one that is in heat and in no way can be considered flattering to a human female. Organizations working to help young people have long campaigned

against the use of "bitch" when referring to a human female. This is why I was so dismayed to see a face book posting that contained the word "ghetto bitch" and "black ghetto bitch" by an African American male resident referring to two East Point Council Members and responses from a member of East Point Board of Ethics (Ms. Deb Aziz), and East Point Building and Industrial Development Authority Chairperson, (Ms. Tina Dharman) that did not denounce his use of the words or the sentiment in which they were used.

In the third face book post forwarded to me, Mr. Jarrett 'Jarr' Bell stated" 13 hrs · Edited

Team JP - As you all know I moved to East Point at the end of September. I've been going to the city council meetings and tonight is just the tip of the iceberg. I am coming back home and I am beyond utterly mortified at what I am seeing. I am BEYOND appalled at the conduct, lack of professionalism, lack of knowledge, the level of ignorance, disrespect, and lack of fiscal responsibility that the two bitches on council are exhibiting. I am sickened to my stomach at how some of these people got elected into office. I IMPLORÉ anyone who is capable of going to these meetings to show up. Yes, I'm the new kid on the block and don't have all of the context or the background that many of you have. But seeing it first hand from the last two council meetings I've been to and now the work session, I'm to a point that I'm furious that those ghetto bitches are making any decisions regarding our taxpayer dollars. We truly need to get the word out to people in all of East Point to get to these meetings and DEMAND better from the representatives of their wards. It's grossly unacceptable at what I've seen and heard tonight and we should not tolerate any of it from those two black ghetto bitches! (The highlights and underlining is mine.)

Tina Dharman Hey...i think you were sitting 2 rows up from me.

Deb Aziz Unfortunately those two council members act worse at work sessions because they are not streamed live (and recorded to be shown later on our cable access channel) so less people will see them act fool.

Jarrett 'Jarr' Bell Deb, that is my problem. I chastised them ghetto bitches at the last council meeting for being on camera and acting unprofessional and unbecoming of public servants.

Deb Azizjarrett, thanks for taking the time to attend the meetings and for speaking up. Unfortunately you have some personality types who are convinced their way is the

1000% right way and if you disagree, they will ignore you. People need to take more consideration into a candidate's personality when they vote. We need people who will step back and really look at the facts without a filter. We also need folks who will work with those who they disagree with on matters they do. When it comes to politics at this level, voting for the person who happens to share your views on issues isn't enough. IMHO. I myself have spoken before council in the past saying that you can disagree with someone with out being disagreeable. And even if they have "shown their ass.

The above face book posting and two others were sent to me from May 2, 2014 thru November 15, 2014 and I have no idea to how many other people. Anyone reading these posts should be outraged that any City Council appointee would participate in a conversation and condone the negative and racist view by a sick minded African American male concerning any Council member. This kind of public media rhetoric is why some people have a negative opinion of East Point City Council. The first face book posts contained the following:

Tina Dharman Their brand of social order has eroded this City. To the point where they (blacks) don't have a pot to piss in. If they are satisfied with that, good for them. I personally, am not.

The third face book post contain the post by Ms. Aziz concerning former City Attorney Corliss Lawson.

Deb Aziz Well, she needs to update that crap...we fired her black a** shortly after the new Mayor and other new council members got on board.

I must state that some of the posters on some of these posts chastised others for making their comments on social media and suggested that they take their comments to a private setting. At this point, I am requesting that Ms. Deb Aziz and Ms. Tina Dharman resign their positions immediately and if they fail to do , then the Council Member who appointed them should request their resignation at the next Council meeting. Their negative and derogatory comments are disrespectful to African American residents and they tarnish the image of the City.