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(404) 344-3710

October 20, 2019

To: Tommy Gardner, East Point City Police Chief
Re: Law and Code Enforcement Violations

Dear Chief Gardner:

I am very concerned by the lack of enforcement by the East Point Police Department when it comes to the laws and code enforcement within the City limits of East Point. Since no one should be treated as if he/she is above the law neither should anyone be treated beneath the law. I do believe that all residents and visitors should be treated equally under the laws addressed in our City Charter. Therefore, I am filing an official complaint against the East Point City Police Department concerning the lack of enforcement in the following areas:

- 1) **Signs in the City's rights-of-way:** The only signs allowed in the rights-of way are campaign signs during an election under specific guidelines. However, code enforcement has allowed signs that do not contain any Candidates' names or contact information associated with any Candidate in the past and is continuing to do so NOW. These are not campaign signs. This is a code enforcement violation that needs to be addressed NOW. No resident who removes any of these signs are in violation of any City code, State or Federal law. Displaying any sign on private property is another matter. Residents on Headland Drive could not display their signs concerning MARTA in the rights-of way. **Enforce the City's code. You do not have the right to pick and choose!**
- 2) **Known Airbnb housing operating in residential areas zoned RL/R1:** The City does not have any Ordinances creating short-term rentals of any kind. The City cannot legally create any Ordinance that conflicts with any State or Federal laws. The existence of Airbnb ,short-term rentals, is a violation of both the City's Codes and State law. There is a **registered** Airbnb house on my street that has been reported to code enforcement along with several code enforcement violations for which other residents have been cited. **Enforce the City's code. You do not have the right to pick and choose!**
- 3) **Use of public properties and permits:** All temporary and permanent vendors operating within the City limits of East Point are supposed to have a license/permit. That means all food trucks, vendors selling products, goods and food items at public events and the Farmers Market. Those permits are supposed to be prominently displayed for public view as well as any permits required by Fulton County Health Department. At the last Wednesday Wind Down event, there were thirty-seven police officers present, yet alcoholic shots were sold with no check of identification. How many citations were given for those violations? None were given to the food truck/alcohol vendors who did

- 4) not have permits; and according to City records not any of these vendors had a permit. **Enforce the City's code and State law. You do not have the right to pick and choose!** **Police Harassment/Intimidation:** I will address the citation given to me on Saturday, October 12, 2019 after the **Residents Protest Rally** in East Point Municipal Court on November 11, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. The citation states **"Did assemble on the city hall steps without a valid permit. Holding signs stating "Repeal June 2013 Ordinance" on sidewalk in front of City Hall. (Stated she was on sidewalk)** Since one of the police officers had a camera, I know that he should have pictures to support the charge, since the last statement on the citation reads, **"The undersigned has just and reasonable grounds to believe that the person named herein has committed the offense set forth, contrary to law"**. I am inviting residents to attend the proceedings to bear witness how an East Point police officer deliberately lied about a non-threatening event. I shudder to think what would have happened in a more serious situation, and therein lies the danger.

This letter is being sent via email.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Earneshine O. Pittman". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Cc: Fred Gardiner, East Point City Manager
East Point City Mayor and Council