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September 9, 2023

Dear Ward C Residents,

Yes, Ward C residents, I am running again with the full knowledge that this is the MOST important race that I will ever run. This race is far more important than my race for Mayor. Our City is in a financial crisis despite the influx of millions of Federal dollars; the increase in commercial taxes from Camp Creek and McDonald Properties; as well as increased property assessments and taxes. Yet you, the residents have not shared in the financial windfall. That stops NOW!

Even when I SIGNED up to run and did NOT campaign, I never STOPPED being YOUR VOICE. After every election, I continued to be YOUR VOICE. I never stopped emailing, posting on my website, attending Council Meetings, and meeting with many of you individually and in small groups sharing documented information about what was happening in our City. I answered and returned every call and email regardless of where you lived. I HEARD YOU!

In addition to this being the most important race of my political career, it occurred during the biggest financial crisis in the City since I moved here in 1973. Two events occurred at about the same time in late July and early August of this year that made me decide to SERIOUSLY run as a Candidate for Ward C again. Beginning in late January to late July of this year, I had been having daily conversations at least three times a day seven days a week with a young man whom I believed to be as dedicated and passionate about the City as I am. Plus, he stated his intent to run for Ward C Council seat. He wanted to know about the City Charter and Related Laws; Mayor and Council Members' and the City Manager's numerous violations of the City Charter, Georgia Gratuity Statute, City Ordinances and Policy Procedures documented by Open Records Requests.

During the more than three months of conversations, I decided to tell him about the three- year long documentation of violations and wrong doings by the Mayor, Council Members, and some City employees that I had accumulated through Open Records Requests (ORR). In late January, resident Napoleon Black joined me in accumulating ORR documentation. I stated that I intended to compile a REPORT to take to the US Attorney's Office. On April 12, 2023, the three of us agreed that this young man would make a copy of the original 240- page REPORT and take it to the US Attorney's Office as a Walk-In Intake REPORT. The young man stated that the REPORT was indeed filed on April 13, 2023, and that he was given an ACCOUNT NUMBER.

THAT YOUNG MAN IS TREMAYNE MITCHELL.

In June, I asked him to check on the progress of the REPORT. Mr. Mitchell stated that "they are still investigating". After the East Point Audit Report was made public, Mr. Mitchell and I had a terrible disagreement. I had been trying for months to get him to go to Council Meetings and speak out on issues that resonated with the people. I could not understand why he refused since he was going to run for office. Nor did I understand his fierce championing of CM Gordon for not supporting the Auditor's request. I wanted the Mayor and Council Members to immediately fire the City Manager and refer the matter to the GBI and Georgia Attorney General Office. I stated my strong opposition to the positions taken by the Mayor and all of the Council Members for not contacting either entity individually.

As an elected official, neither the Mayor nor any Council Member would have had any problem getting an appointment. When I talked about my disappointment with Council Member Stephanie Gordon, **Mr. Mitchell** went ballistic and made several insulting remarks about how some residents felt about me, and my outdated way of governing. That ended any communications between the two of us until I called to get the REPORT File Account Number. I wanted to add the East Point Audit to that REPORT.

After repeated calls to **Mr. Mitchell**, I finally emailed him on August 5, 2023, stating; “I have asked you several times for the Federal Account Number that was assigned to our Report. I don't understand your hesitancy in providing it to me or Napoleon if he should ask for it. The Report belongs to the three of us and nothing can change that. Again, I am asking you to email me the account number. Thank you in advance for your cooperation”.

After the intervention of a common acquaintance, **Mr. Mitchell** replied “Unfortunately, I have (seriously) misplaced that number that you asking for. I took a picture of it but since my phone was misplaced/ stolen I have not been able to recover the photo yet! I would encourage you to refile our findings with the audit report, since it proves the documentations .”

Mr. Mitchell did not contribute one sheet of ORR documentation. He did not pay one cent for any ORR documentation. Yet, **Mr. Black** and I included him as if he had and his lackadaisical attitude was just too much. I could not believe that I could have been so wrong about him. However, it was the second Event that broke the camel's back. I learned that **Mr. Mitchell** had overcharged Mr. Black \$20 for the printing of the Report. **Mr. Mitchell** also made a scanned copy that he shared with one or more persons without Mr. Black's or my knowledge and permission. **Mr. Mitchell's** deceitful, disloyal, and dishonest conduct paled only in comparison to his betrayal of our trust. Ward C residents deserve so much better than **Mr. Mitchell**.

THAT IS WHEN I DECIDED TO BECOME A SERIOUS CANDIDATE FOR WARD C!

I realized that I could not count on **TREMAYNE MITCHELL**, the current Mayor, nor any of the Council Members to be YOUR VOICE when it comes to standing up for YOU, especially if it made them uncomfortable and put them at odds with each other. For almost thirty-nine years, I have been HEARING YOU and I have been YOUR VOICE, and with your support we made great things happen together. I am asking YOU for the opportunity to do it ONE MORE TIME.

Many new Residents have moved to the City since I left office as Mayor in 2013. Much of my personal history in East Point and East Point politics can be found in my autobiographical section on my website at www.earnestinedpittman.com

All of Ward C residents should be asking what I will be able to do about the current problems in East Point? As a former Council Member and Mayor, and a forever Community Activist, I am uniquely qualified for the job. I served on the Council during Mayor Patsy Jo Hilliard's last two years and Mayor Joseph “Joe” Macon's four-years administration as a Council Member. During those six years 2004 to 2010, East Point experienced phenomenal Growth and Development. Much of it during Mayor Macon's administration.

- ❖ Seven new residential housing subdivisions; four new hotels; five new multi-family townhouses/apartments complexes
- ❖ Expansion of Duke's Camp Creek Business Center from five to seventeen buildings
- ❖ Extremely successful buildout of the Camp Creek Commercial Corridor
- ❖ Annexation of more than 200 new residents
- ❖ Added Connally Nature Park
- ❖ Implemented a \$52 million Capital improvement Plan (CIP) for water and sewer, and stormwater infrastructure.
- ❖ Rebuilt Brookdale Park with an open channel
- ❖ Created and setup the MCT Account that would provide the City with \$40 million beginning in 2008 and ending in 2018
- ❖ Bought land to build Commerce Park in Ward D
- ❖ Revised the City Charter in 2006
- ❖ Used BIDA to lease-purchase the Customer Care Building
- ❖ Installed the first KABOOM playground at Sumner Park

- ❖ Created the Downtown TAD
- ❖ A new senior citizen residential facility on Norman Berry
- ❖ Updated John Milner Sports Facility
- ❖ New streets resurfacing and installation of sidewalks.

During my administration as Mayor from 2010 to 2013, the Council were able to:

- Provided the selling of Revenue Bonds for the Downtown Tad that paved the way for the building of Wal Mart
- Provided BIDA the funds to buy up land Downtown for the build out on the Commons.
- Renovated the tennis court at Sykes Park
- Built pocket parks in all the Wards except Ward D; Provided funding for the completion of the buildout of Commerce Park
- Provided restrooms for all the parks; Built the new Fire Station at Camp Creek.
- Created a Reserve Fund of \$600,000 yearly in 2013 to renovate/build a new Auditorium.
- Expansion and building in South Meadows Industrial Park (McDonalds 24-hours refrigerator facility that serves six States)
- Added another senior citizen residential facility at Cleveland and Norman Berry
- Added a medical office building on Norman Berry
- Implemented a street resurfacing and sidewalks repair/installation program.
- Created the Stormwater Utility that made the City responsible for solving all Stormwater problems on private property
- As Mayor, I negotiated LOST funding that would generate an additional \$11 million over 10 years despite the City's loss of more than 6,000 in population in the 2010 Census.
- Passed legislation that would pay off the City's \$54 million Unfunded Pension Plan that had no employees with 203 beneficiaries in ten years. (It took me ten years on the Council to do it.)
- Passed legislation creating the Hotel/Motel Tax
- Purchased new fire trucks, street sweepers, vacuum leaf pickup trucks, and sanitation trucks.
- Hired the first Management Firm to oversee the duties of the City Manager and Department Heads after the firing of the City Manager and the resignation of several Department Heads following the results of the Forensic Audit of the Purchasing Department

This Mayor and Council and many employees have refused to learn from the mistakes of previous elected officials and employees. This is the greatest financial crisis that our City has faced in more than sixty years. Mayor and Council cannot with any clear data whether the City's finances are solvent. The City has had three Finance Department Heads in less than two years and we don't have one now! We also do not have a Procurement Department Head. The City is a revolving door for employees who have had enough of the Mayor's and individual Council Members' interference and bullying. No one on the Council is holding the Council or the City Manager accountable. The residents' needs have been overlooked to please and provide free concerts for non-residents using taxpayers' money.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO START CHANGING THINGS AFTER THE ELECTION IF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL CONTINUE TO REFUSE TO CHANGE?

I believe that the Residents do not want any Candidate who will turn a blind eye to what is happening now. Ward C Residents and the City cannot continue with the lack of leadership and accountability by CM Myron Cook any longer; nor can we afford to replace him with a clone who believes that a Council Member's role is to maintain a cohesive Council without rocking the boat. I know that it is going to take a **tsunami** to address the many violations including criminal violations; and the hands-on bullying approach of the Mayor and Council Members who are either active participants or silently condone it.

Do YOU really want a Council Member who:

1. As Finance-Budget Committee Chairperson has not had a single Meeting in 2023 and only 8 in the last 22 months? No wonder he did not catch the \$1.2 million in four illegal wire transfer payments to "Romano the Know".

2. Voted for a \$200 million FY 24 Budget without seeing a single monthly financial statement from the City Manager? Did he not care how the money was being spent?
3. Has yet to question or make a motion to stop paying illegal bills for Council Members Pet Projects that are costing taxpayers millions of dollars and misusing the City's credit cards?
4. Voted to adopt the FY 24 Budget without a single Park Program for the City's youth?
5. Has failed to contact the Georgia Attorney General Office or the GBI concerning the findings of the Audit Report that included the illegal \$1.2 million wire transfers; cash disbursements to nonexistent vendors; and inflated fixed assets from \$19,000 to over \$565,000 for a 17-year-old car?
6. Failure to determine why the City can't keep key employees, especially Finance Directors, Procurement Directors and most of the other Department Directors' positions?
7. Will not vote to fire a City Manager who withheld financial fraud information for more than 2 years and other major infractions that have placed the City in a financial crisis?

On November 9, 2023, the day after the Election and as your newly Council Member Elect, I will:

1. Call the GBI, Georgia Attorney General Office, and the US Attorney Office for appointments.
2. With financial assistance from residents file a Writ of Mandamus in Court to hold the Mayor and Council Members accountable for their overwhelming disregard of the City Charter and Related Laws; Ordinances and Polices. **(Remember, I haven't asked for any financial Campaign donations.)**
3. Lay out the case to the Residents for the need of the Mayor and Council to do a Budget Amendment in January 2024 to address the following:
 - a) Limit all spending by the Mayor and Council Members to the remaining funds in their Council Ward Expense Account, travel, and training budget.
 - b) Pass an Ordinance that requires the Mayor and Council Members to turn in their credit cards to the City Clerk. When requested, the City Clerk will sign out the credit cards and they must be signed back in with RECEIPTS for each expenditure within a certain number of days after use. Failure to return the cards and RECEIPTS will result in corrective actions voted on by the Mayor and Council, and not the Ethics Board.
 - c) Reduce the City employees in the Mayor's Office to one Executive Assistant or two part-time Executive Assistants sharing the pay of one Executive Assistant.
 - d) Get rid of the illegally created "Department of Equity, Inclusion and Empowerment" within the City Manager's Office along with its four employees.

AT THE FIRST MEETING IN JANUARY 2023, I WILL:

1. Make a motion that the Mayor and Council have a Retreat with an outside Attorney to review the City Charter and Related Laws within 45 days.
2. Make a motion to REPEAL the combination of the Finance and Budget Committees that was done in violation of Home Rule.
3. Make a motion that the Mayor and Council have a Budget Workshop Meeting with the City Manager and all Department Directors to address my concerns above and those of the Mayor and other Council Members in order to Propose a Budget Amendment by February 14, 2024.

I will work with the Mayor and all of the Council Members to provide for the services and needs of the residents and businesses of the City within the scope of the laws stated in my Oath of Office. I will also keep Ward C residents informed and seek input from them at quarterly Townhall Meetings. As previous stated, a lot has changed in the City in the past ten years and I need to HEAR from YOU if I am to sufficiently Represent YOU. Therefore, I am requesting your attendance at my first:

TOWNHALL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 30, 2023, FROM 11:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

EAST POINT CITY ANNEX AUDITORIUM ON NORMAN BERRY DRIVE