



August 2, 2023

CAMPAIGN EMAIL NEWSLETTER-1

Dear Residents,

Although I am a Candidate for Ward C, I will continue to provide any information that affects the residents of East Point outside of Ward C. December 31, 2023, will mark my tenth anniversary out of office. A lot has changed with residents that I know nothing about. Ward C boundaries have extended to include residents from Headland Drive to Camp Creek including the residents in:

- 1) Arlington Subdivision
- 2) Williamsburg
- 3) Grant Estates off Stone Road
- 4) All of Stone Road and accessory streets
- 5) Carriage Colony Community
- 6) Redwine Road and the accessory streets
- 7) Grant Estates off Washington Road

I am preparing a list of streets that were in Ward D that are now in Ward C. Only Ward C residents will be receiving my Campaign Newsletters, however I will post it on my website for any East Point resident to read. My **Campaign Email Newsletters** will be emailed to anyone who is on my email eblast list. If you want to join my email blast list, simply email me, and write "ADD". You don't have to live in Ward C to join.

Thus, I decided to have a Townhall Meeting where the residents can tell me what their concerns are, share information with each other; and question me about what I can and will do to help them.

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I called the City Clerk's Office to see if the Annex Auditorium was available Saturday, September 30, 2023, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. I also asked for a copy of the rental agreement. I almost immediately received the "[East Point City Annex Auditorium Facility Rental Policy](#)". After reading the "[Rental Policy](#)", I knew that this document had not been passed by the Mayor and Council at a Council Meeting. The first paragraph raised red flags. The first paragraph in the Policy states:

"AUTHORITY TO WAIVE OR CHANGE"

"The City Council or its authorized representative may make exception to any of the facility use rules and regulations, including rental rates".

First, per the City Charter the City Council cannot transfer any of its power to any person or entity, therefore there cannot be an "**authorized representative**" who can act as the City Council.

Secondly, per the City Charter only the City Council can set fees and that includes "**rental fees**".

Thirdly, Per the City Charter only the City Council can "**waive fees**", unless there is a policy in place voted on by Mayor and Council to waive fees as part of a Department's operational functions. This policy spells out strict conditions that must be met before a waiver is given.

Fourthly, the Mayor and Council have not passed any strict conditions by which a waiver could be given by the City Council. The statement as printed is rife with favoritism and abuse. See the reply to my Open Records Request, on July 13, 2023.

"Cathrene Hardy (East Point, GA) <eastpointga@justfoia.com>

To:edpittman26@bellsouth.net

Cc:legal@eastpointcity.org,kmccullough@eastpointcity.org

Tue, Jul 18 at 1:05 PM

Good Day Earnestine Pittman,

Our office is in receipt of your open records request received on 7/13/2023 at 11:48:59 am regarding the name of the person/organization/office/agency who reserved the City Annex for the Meeting with Presidents of Neighborhood Associations and HOAs on Saturday, July 15, 2023 as well as the amount of rent that is being paid for the use of the City Annex.

Councilwoman Josette Bailey reserved the City Annex Auditorium to meet with the Presidents of the Neighborhood Associations on July 15, 2023. There was no amount paid to the City for use of the Annex for this event.

Have a great day!

Cathrene Hardy, Deputy City Clerk"

Mayor and Council did not vote to waive the “rental fees, liability insurance requirement or the number of hours.” No name of any “authorized representative” was given approving CM Bailey’s “reservation”. No employee of the City can authorize any elected official to do anything. The meetings were with “Heads” of Community Organizations, and Private Homeowners’ Organizations (HOAs). The City has no authority to direct HOAs’ to do anything, so why were the Presidents meeting with a Council Member if not for political gain. The same can be said of Neighborhood Associations and CM Bailey is running for re-election. The Mayor and all Council Members have a City Ward Expense Account that provides money for them to communicate with their constituents. Why should they be given waivers when they are given money to accomplish the same thing?

This document has so many flaws and needs to be redone and brought back to the Mayor and Council for a vote at which time residents would have an opportunity to read it and make comments.

After two more emails, the Deputy City Clerk emailed me the following:

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: Open Records Request

From: Cathrene Hardy <chardy@eastpointcity.org>

Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023, 5:33 PM

To: Earnestine Pittman <edpittman2646@gmail.com>

CC: Keshia McCullough <kmccullough@eastpointcity.org>, Antavius Weems <aweems@eastpointcity.org>, Legal <Legal@eastpointcity.org>

Good Evening Mrs. Pittman,

Unfortunately, we are unable to rent the City Annex to you for a Town Hall Meeting, as you are a candidate in the upcoming election. We apologize for any inconvenience. If you have any questions, please contact the Legal Department.

Thank you,

Cathrene Hardy
Deputy City Clerk

The City of East Point
2757 East Point Street
East Point, GA 30344
Direct: 404-270-7087
Fax: 404-765-1014
chardy@eastpointcity.org

To make matters worse, someone advised Ms. Hardy to send me the above email reply which happens to violate:

- 1) The **“Rental Policy”** because there is no provision in the poorly written policy that says anything about a **“candidate in the upcoming election”**, or in any election period.
- 2) The City Charter clearly states in:

“ Sec. 2-504. Use of public property.

No elected official, appointed officer, or employee of the city or any agency or entity to which this charter applies shall use property owned by such governmental entity for personal benefit, convenience, or profit except in accordance with policies promulgated by the city council or the governing body of such agency or entity.” The City does not have any “POLICY” promulgated by the City Council.

- 3) The First Amendment Rights of free speech and the right to assembly.

Again, I will be asking the Mayor and Council to follow the above City Charter Policy and treat all residents accordingly.

PLEASE VISIT MY WEBSITE FOR THE OUTCOME OF THIS DISCRIMINATORY ACTION AGAINST ME.

THIS CAMPAIGN EMAIL NEWSLETTER WILL BE POSTED ON MY WEBSITE SO NEW WARD C RESIDENTS WILL KNOW HOW TO SIGN UP FOR MY EBLAST. ANY EAST POINT RESIDENT CAN SIGN UP!

REMEMBER, YOU CAN ALWAYS DONATE A SPOT IN YOUR YARD IF YOU DO NOT HAVE MONEY OR TIME TO DONATE.

I ONLY ASK THAT IF YOU WANT TO HELP ME:

- 1) **CALL AND ASK FOR A SIGN (UNTIL THEY GIVE OUT).**
- 2) **SPREAD THE WORD BY SHARING MY EBLASTS.**
- 3) **VISIT MY WEBSITE.**
- 4) **HELP MAKE TELEPHONE CALLS.**

THERE IS A LAW AGAINST PEOPLE MAKING ROBO CALLS WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE PERSON BEING CALLED.

THANK YOU!