

Via Email

March 17, 2024

To the City Council of the City of Davenport, Iowa:

On March 13th, at the podium in the Council Chambers, Judith Lee stated:

And [Mr. Heyer] has been operating as the interim corporate counsel since the previous one was told by Lane & Waterman to pack up his stuff and go home before January 2nd.

Later when talking about the demand letter lawsuit she continues:

Does this explain why [Tiffany Thorndike's and Samantha Torres's] original demand letters were not on attorney letterhead. Did our legal department solicit and manage the entire process on all sides? Is it then really surprising the city is attempting to withhold Spiegel's demand letter. It's no wonder that Lane & Waterman on behalf of Davenport has sued the auditor's office to avoid releasing the recordings of the executive sessions that are under the subpoena. That's what they're looking for.

This morning's Quad City Times editorial poses an interesting question: "Did the council members, mayor or city attorney say something about any of those city employees in closed session that they don't want revealed?" I wasn't in the room in early December, but many of you were so you already know the answer. And let's face it, so do I. People are predictable.

The fact that myself, Tiffany Thorndike, Samatha Torres and Corri Spiegel continue to be victimized is the responsibility of an alderman that decided to pursue a false narrative. To be sure this alderman had assistance, complicity or apathy from other elected officials and high ranking staff members. Nonetheless, it was this alderman who struck the match and has exposed the city to attack and liability.

For those of you who attended an early December executive session, you'll recognize Judith Lee's statements as a reflection of the false narrative that was likely promoted in that session. She has some nerve providing that information to the public right in front of your faces.

From the minutes it appears Judith Lee was not an attendee of the following week's clean up executive session and the false narrative's abandonment.

This false narrative resulted in me being placed on administrative leave in late November by Brett Marshall of Lane & Waterman. Please explain how an outside attorney can do that under the Davenport Municipal Code. Who told Brett Marshall to send the letter? He would not have

done it on his own initiative. Under the Davenport Municipal Code, the City Council was solely empowered to make decisions regarding my employment status. Not the Mayor¹. Not an individual alderman or two for that matter. Not the City Administrator. Certainly not an attorney at Lane & Waterman. There was no executive session to discuss my performance prior to the action being taken, and I did not voluntarily agree to be on administrative leave.

I was informed that the confidential personnel communication regarding me being placed on administrative leave was leaked to the public/media likely by an elected official.

Since that time my administrative leave has been referred to at the council meetings, in the traditional media and in social media with the implication that it is evidence of wrongdoing on my part. Nobody from the city has done anything to correct this ongoing negative implication.

So, I get put on administrative leave contrary to the city code, and thereafter I get the pleasure of the wrongful administrative leave being used to imply that I did something wrong.

Worse yet, a false narrative about myself is promoted by an alderman and gets leaked.

Yet nobody has the decency or integrity to stand up, admit it's false, apologize and take responsibility for being the catalyst for these ongoing attacks.

I continue to see a lack of leadership which has resulted in the misinformation/disinformation chaos. I warned a few of you back in June that this was the direction things were headed. Congratulations on failing to step up and prove me wrong.

You need to put your collective heads together and begin to figure out how certain current elected officials, staff members and attorneys take responsibility, take remedial measures and make things right with me before I lose what's left of my patience.

Thanks.

¹ If you care to look at Chapter 2.06 of the Davenport Municipal Code, the Mayor's "supervision" is limited to asking for and being provided with information and records, and if he believes there is an issue he is to inform the City Council.