



Natalie Vawter <nvawter@bexley.org>

"Submit Comment to City Council" from Jonathan Gullett

Bexley Website <emcguinness@bexley.org>

Wed, Oct 5, 2022 at 11:06 PM

To: nvawter@bexley.org

Someone submitted this comment to City Council:

Would you
like to
submit a
comment
to City
Council?: Yes

Your
Name:: Jonathan Gullett

Your Email
Address:: jwgullett@gmail.com

Your
Home
Address:: [520 S Parkview](#)

Your
comment
to the
Bexley
City
Council:: I've read through many of the comments made to city council about bike lanes etc. I'm disappointed to see that none of the things that affected my life in Bexley made it into these comments. I'll take a few moments to share on the record things that happened in my life.

We moved to Columbus so that I could pursue a PharmD after my nine years as a combat veteran in the USAF. I served in Afghanistan and Iraq. I had previously earned bachelors of science in Finance and Economics and Biochemistry, and MBA, and was pursuing a PharmD at Ohio State. I bought a humble home on Livingston Ave while I earned my degree. My wife taught at CSG and we were mostly happy. The summer of COVID and BLM brought bullets and multiple car accidents on our front lawn. I had never called the police to any location in my entire life until I lived in Bexley that year. We had people almost break into my home. I chased a man off my back porch with my Beretta 92 FS as he attempted to enter our home. My father was struck by a BLM gang and neither the city of Bexley or Columbus police gave chase. I helped many people on Livingston as they had many wrecks. I talked to Trudy a black woman who was upset that nothing was being done, the issue on Livingston supersedes race. My son ducked into his bed as people committed drive-bys in our front yard. I talked to the mayor and the police to find out why policing had decreased. The police had mentioned to me on many times, "what do you want us to do?" In short, they mentioned they were ham-stringed by the mayor and political forces. On New Year this past year they essentially abdicated their duty as they blamed the shots fired around me on the city of Columbus--as if they could do nothing about shots fired across the street. They challenged me to identify fireworks vs gunfire, as a veteran, I can do that all day long. They also said I should run for Mayor, as if a conservative could do this in Bexley.

A few months later I engaged in political speech lambasting President Biden. I called him a traitor and posted multiple signs saying, "fuck Biden." This was not because he was a democrat, but because I identified as a democrat and a veteran. I was upset over the disgrace happening in Afghanistan. Simultaneously, my neighbors were exercising their first amendment right to harass me and call me a traitor by writing me notes on my signs, and leaving me letters. The most egregious examples were that my neighbors were shouting it over my fence to me and calling the police on my contractors. They even had the audacity to chase us from court and post exactly what they believed in their windows and record

my backyard with no less than four cameras. The police offered no solution.

I called the city and tried to find out what needed to happen to prevent the closure of a mural I designed to illustrate the beauty of Bexley. The beauty I thought I saw was that left and right could coexist and a black and white mural could counterpose a psychedelic mural painted by them. After suffering many accusations of "traitor," I decided to let everyone know they were harassing me. Just as if they had been yelling the n-word across their back yard at me. I saw how Bexley voted to protect people like myself, a veteran, and then my neighbors decided to press charges against me for revealing their bigotry in snow.

I could never imagine that a note written in snow would be considered a criminal offense, yet the prosecuting attorney decided to challenge my son, and defame him writing obscene message on my car. He also claimed falsely to my lawyers that I "charged them," pretending that I was the aggressor. In court he tried to make the case about their sexuality. My neighbors affirmed that I was a good neighbor for seven years and that I prevented further damage to their car that was broken into, yet they pursued me due to their bias against veterans, and what I assume was a vindictiveness against people who didn't like Biden. They posted signs after the case was dismissed challenging if I was a real veteran because I was stationed in Qatar and not in Afghanistan.

Previous to the incident, I sent letters to you all stating that Bexley and its charter should not be reframed as it is not a racist and bigoted community. After being prosecuted for something no worse than a "wash me," sign in snow makes me reconsider my position and this makes me sad. As a veteran who sacrificed so much for all of you it makes me mad that the city hides behinds Marc's judgment. A judgment that was recently challenged as being, "illegal, arbitrary, capricious, unreasonable, and unsupported by the preponderance of substantial, reliable, and probative evidence on the whole record." I wonder how many arbitrary and capricious legal opinions are rendered in this city based on fallacious legal opinion. How many times should the charter be rewritten to understand that the officials in charge have a significant bias against conservatives? No crimes by my son or myself were ever committed, yet I as a veteran have protected status and was merely speaking against things I suffered.

After leaving Bexley, I have not contacted the police a single time, just in the same way I had never contacted them prior to living in this city. Yet, I have neighbors calling the police on a dumpster in my backyard at 520 Parkview. What is wrong with this city?

Why does a doctor, a masters recipient, a combat veteran, a person previously holding a top secret clearance have to point out disgusting aspects of this community? Why do I have to hear from the city attorney who claims that the matter was investigate and that no impropriety was found? I think the thing most injurious to me was that the prosecutor claimed things about my child and never provided evidence to my attorney.

At some point Bexley is going to have to deal with the fact that the legal arm of Bexley is woefully inadequate and is actually biased against normal people like myself. Can you imagine a city official claiming you are an alcoholic and suffering from mental problems from your service to this county and simultaneously making false claims about your child? Such accusations could remove your license to practice and hurt your child for years to come. How disgusting is this?

I am thankful the judge found in my favor, but I will tell you this, your lawyers are probably not acting in the favor of this community. They are weaponizing political speech and inferring actions where no evidence exists. It's disappointing that no one on council condescended to approach me (especially Lori Ann). On one hand you have a lawyer that has a judgment against him (counsel) that his decisions were "illegal," on the other had you have someone vindicated by an independent judge. You have a real opportunity to understand what is happening in your community, yet no conversation. My wife taught your children. I helped find Osama bin Laden with my work. I provide life saving drugs to your family members, yet I am apparently the things a prosecutor says that I am, even though my neighbors testified against themselves. The simple fact of the matter is that they harassed me with the pictures they put in their windows and the statements they made in and outside of court; they harassed my father by invoking the memory of my dead mother. Furthermore, the folks living on Livingston live in a war zone, yet city council pretends as if none of this is relevant. What are you going to do? I ask sincerely that you fire Garrison

Carr, and your city attorney. They have provided you with advice that was overturned at the lowest of levels.

On a personal level, if this was not enough, I remember the day that my neighbors chased us out of court as the police officer watched closely. They made disparaging statements to my dad, to me, yet nothing was done. It's as if liberals get a free pass in this city. What is wrong with this city?

Do you
wish to be
contacted
regarding
your
comment?: Yes