

From: Neal Pinkston neal.pinkston@hcdatn.org
Subject: Fwd: City Council Follow Up
Date: March 22, 2016 at 4:33 PM
To: Melydia Clewell melydia.clewell@hcdatn.org



Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Neal Pinkston <neal.pinkston@hcdatn.org>
Date: March 22, 2016 at 4:29:35 PM EDT
To: Fred Fletcher <ffletcher@chattanooga.gov>, Berke Andy <berke_a@chattanooga.gov>
Subject: **City Council Follow Up**

Greetings,

To intimate I have not been at the table to discuss ways to reduce gang violence is not only offensive but doesn't reflect the course of events throughout the inception of the VRI. I have been supportive of City Hall's initiative and the men and women of the Chattanooga Police Department every step of the way. We have actively attended every meeting we have been asked to attend in addition to consulting officers on ways to improve their cases. We have no control over the types of cases you are bringing us to prosecute. The concerns I delivered to the City Council at their request are not new. These are issues I have discussed with the law enforcement community as well as members of the Initiative even as the Initiative was being constructed. For any partnership to be effective and successful, all viewpoints must be considered and ongoing concerns must be addressed.

Its appalling that privately Chief Fletcher told me last night that if he were me he wouldn't appear at the City Council meeting either yet today he bashed me publicly for not attending. Thats not my idea of how partners support each other. Finally as to returning phone calls, I did not return a recent call from Mayor Berke but previous phone calls were returned yet the Mayor's staff would not indicate to my staff or myself what they wanted. In addition, they also told me the times I would need to be at City Hall. I would never call either of you with such a tone and expect to be treated in a respectful manner. I have no doubt the VRI can be successful but you can't pick and choose the parts to follow. Each part must be followed. As Chief Fletcher has said, its important to use each tool in the toolbox. That's what I would like US to be doing.

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