

CHUCK NEWTON LETTER TO SOUTH JORDAN CITY OFFICIALS, AUG. 13, 2015

Earlier today, around 6 p.m. while shopping at Costco, I had a phone call from Andrew Peterson, whom as you may recall was one of my primary election opponents, and he was returning my call from Tuesday, the primary election day, about the race.

He congratulated me, and we chatted for a moment. Then, I asked for his support. He demurred and said he wasn't in a position yet to talk about it, but said that he had been discussing the issues surrounding the general election with Paul Bateman. I offered to call him next week so that we could sit down and talk further. He said "absolutely," that would be fine.

Then about 7 p.m., he called back and said he'd really like to meet with me tonight. I demurred and he pressed me. I indicated that I could do it at 8 p.m. He said "that would be great," or words to that superlative effect.

After we sat in his living room, his wife came and said "hi," then left. After some chitchat about the race and questions as to why I ran, he then said that he had an offer to make for me.

He proceeded to offer me \$10,000 to run for mayor in two years, but drop out of the race for council now. He said that he had received a donation from a relative and that I would receive \$5,000 now and then \$5,000 in two years, when I ran for mayor.

I replied that it was illegal, as it was a bribe. He replied that he was offering me \$10,000 to run for mayor, not to drop out of the race. I said that the effect was the same since (he was) asking me to drop out of the race now. Why?

He indicated that he had discussed this earlier in the evening with the mayor and also Paul Bateman, another primary election candidate. Shocked – and still reeling with surprise – I don't remember his exact words, but his sentence construction seemed to imply that both were supportive of the concept.

He went on to indicate that I would drop out and Bateman would drop out, leaving him to face Marlor. I said that he had already lost. He replied that he's not off the ballot yet, but that we would have to act fast, and that he would beat Marlor.

I told him that while it was possible that I might run in two years, I was only worried about the current decision and that it was likely another person that I would support would run. I said that it was possible that Mark Seethaler might run and that I would be inclined to support him.

I also indicated that it was likely that Brad Marlor would run since he has already made known his desire for the mayor's office early on.

During the course of the conversation, Brad Marlor called as he showed me his cell so that I could see the incoming call. The thought occurred that it was a ruse and that Marlor might be behind the offer and be calling to see how the offer went. (Yes, I have a suspicious mind but that's due to experience in politics in D.C., not because I'm inherently suspicious.)

At the end of the conversation, he indicated that he was meeting with Marlor. Then we went outside for him to show me the retention pond area creating a problem for the homeowner's association, and to inquire as to when we might be able to tie in to the sewer lines.

The conversation ended roughly at 10 p.m.

The questions are:

- 1) Is this a bribe?
- 2) Does it rise to the level of conspiracy?
- 3) Is Paul Bateman and/or Mayor Alvord involved?
- 4) Given the supporting witnesses of the mayor and I, is this chargeable?
- 5) Is it worth pursuing?
- 6) Should I be insulted? I mean, only \$10,000. Really?

Chris Rogers contacted me last night after a text that I sent briefly outlining the bribe. He indicated that Petersen had shown up on the mayor's door with a proposal differing from what was proposed to me. I told him to have the mayor write up a contact memo outlining the substance of the conversation.

Best Regards,
Chuck Newton, Council Member
District 2
City of South Jordan