

From: County Supervisor Shawn Jackson

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Subject: Disrespect & Budget Talks

An open letter to my colleagues on the Warren County Board of Supervisors:

This is follow-up to the discussions regarding the budget talks, requests etc. There are a tremendous amount of organizations, interests and projects that are getting unfettered amounts of budget dollars, stemming primarily and seemingly inclined to be run by 2 supervisors (Jeff Holland and Kelle Barfield), however, the paltry request from myself, representing District 3 are met with no support.

This cannot continue in this fashion, particularly given that the requests are minor. We know during these budget talks:

1. We were reminded of the “extra” \$4MM-\$6MM Supervisors Barfield, Holland and Banks supposedly found after the board talks where concluded, and the decisions you made to tuck that money in various places, unbeknownst to myself and others
2. We were reminded that of those amounts, \$500K seems to be unaccounted for
3. There were decisions to give Hinds Community College an increase in money/millage that would increase the amount of money MCity (Supervisor Holland’s pet project for which he gets paid) receives, totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars
4. Yet the embarrassingly small request to increase the local/private for two churches in the community from a ridiculously low \$13K and \$18K to \$50K each has fallen on deaf ears
5. Let’s not discuss how money has flowed to this port project and how certain people have benefitted without any insight to public

6. Supervisor Banks, nor anyone else said one word about the millions plus dollars to fix the old courthouse wall that seems to be run exclusively by Supervisor Barfield with an open check book

7. The level of disrespect by Supervisor Banks toward me is increasing and getting more and more profane, resulting in his slandering me by saying I'm sleeping with the pastor of Traveler's Rest, yet the ignoring and turning of heads by other Supervisors who shrug it off as him "being stubborn"

This is where we are. Supervisor Banks says "I will not vote for anything for Traveler's Rest and did not vote to Triumph Church to get an increase, because it included an increase for Travelers Rest." He went on to say "She (referring to me) was able to walk in and get Travelers rest \$18K, while Triumph is only getting \$13K." My reply is, "That's your fought for sitting here for all these years and not advocating for your district and organizations in your district. When I advocate for both, you go on record to stop either from getting because you don't want one to get. Further, to do the bidding for others in shutting my requests down, when I'm asking for such small amounts of money to help people in District 2 and 3, is profane."

Supervisors, Herring, Holland, and Barfield, while you may be enjoying this and condoning the public opposition to my small requests and advocacy, business is business. The people, organizations, and parts of town you advocate for are not the ones paying all the tax dollars, and therefore, you should not continue to think that you are entitled to 100% of everything. You are held just as accountable by this community, even if you pit Supervisor William Banks against me. These are basic and fundamental tenants. Simply put "you can't take everything and close the door on me to get beat up and bullied by your designated hand." No one says a word about the tax payer dollars that go into Supervisor Barfield's walks and strolls across the bridge and her seemingly endless budgets for these little festivals she's allowed to hold in plan exclusively or this 200 year bicentennial she's secretly put herself in charge of with no input from huge segments of the community.

Further, I saw you, Supervisor Barfield, outside of the office eavesdropping as we discussed this disgusting notion of

denying these small dollar amounts. Going forward, I will be astute and vigilant about the inadequate distribution of resources across the board, in every category and the obvious and documented lack of information flow, suppression of information flow and overstepping powers on behalf of certain board members. Let's not talk about the conditions in certain departments and morale of workers met with certain supervisors telling employees not to talk to other supervisors.

Enough it enough. Why? To what gain? To what avail? Real business models and a correct approach to business could make Warren County and Vicksburg livable, loved, and abundantly sufficient in opportunities for far more people, than this failed approach of exclusion.

Supervisor Holland, you and a small group met with the Governor in the past to give a short list of projects you all determined, all by yourself, that needed money with total disregard for other Supervisors and what their districts needed.

Times are too hard for certain parts of our community to constantly be left out and beaten up on when they NEED a lifeline. In 8 days, we're about to seize hundreds of people's homes for not paying property taxes. Do you really believe the property taxes paid by every property owner should go, nearly exclusively, for the benefit of a small small few?

And on this notion of telling me, we only need three votes. I get it. It seems y'all have met and that's your storyline to me. I'm hearing it more and more. Yes, I know it only takes three votes to pass something. But when it's wrong, it's wrong. You can have 200 votes to my one. Segregation took three votes, slavery, and the suggestion by Supervisor Barfield last year to initiate a county chain gang if people owed the county money, did and would take just three votes. Her plan to bring in a county sales tax would only take three votes as well. I know how to count. I just don't believe it's right for certain board members to be made to fight like a dog to get three votes for scraps, while you line up your three to walk away with millions every single year. Fast tracking through sensible

conversation, negotiation, and compromise, seems not to be the order of the day. Who certain districts elect, seem not to matter to you. You seem to believe that your three votes elevate your district's leaders above others where unique experience and skillsets of everyone elected to serve, doesn't matter. I know what I'm up against on the best days. I know you can vote how you want, but the people of District 3 and certain parts of this community have a vote and a voice. And the voter's right act lays the foundation for a potential lawsuit based on 3 to 2 or 4 to 1 votes that have a tangible history of excluding certain parts of a community.

When it came to supporting the internship project, Dr. Holland, you said you would not support it unless you ran it, and all you needed were three votes to shut it down or make it happen. No other supervisor including Herring, Barfield or Banks voted to employ our children. There are people in the community ready to understand why.

This bully, take everything and hurt anyone who dare say anything against you, mentality has hit a disgusting low. I'm not here to appeal to a moral conscious that doesn't exist. I hope my advocacy for us to do better and handle county business and tax payer dollars in a more equitable and responsible way will resonate.

And Mr. Banks, I have not slept with Pastor Bryant. I don't know him past community business. Contrary to how you would like to paint black women, I didn't get the background, experience and education I possess through the channels and narrative you want to paint. So let's stop, because many don't want me to start talking. Perhaps the better question should be "who has blown you mind" to get you to sit quiet for 30 years and be so agitated by my trying to get small amounts? I know the good ole boy system you're used to, has programmed you to be as ugly and nasty as you think you can to the one black woman here, but remember this, "He that is in me is greater than he that is in the world." Your being nasty to me, is like being nasty the your offspring, nieces etc. And you might think you have leeway to keep offending, because others turn a blind eye. But, I guarantee you, I have back up that you can't

contend with. And you call yourself a man of faith? I know you know better than to be talking under a woman's dress.

When you called me a girl, I told you I would not stand for it. I don't call you out your name, and don't disrespect your family or marriage. Be reminded, I have children and a partner. You've never called the other woman on the board out her name. I expect nothing less.

Regards,

Supervisor Shawn Jackson
District 3
CC/Warren County Community