

To: <jforeman@columbiacountyfla.com>, <bucky_nash@columbiacountyfla.com>
From: StewLilker@columbiacountyobserver.com
Subject: The County 5 Plus
Cc: <ben_scott@columbiacountyfla.com>, <kevin_kirby@columbiacountyfla.com>
Bcc:
Attached:

Date: June 3, 2016
Subject: The County 5 Plus

Joel,

Commissioner Nash seemed to have some difficulty regarding my remarks at the end of the meeting (the 2 minute comment) last night.

You will recall that after the meeting Mr. Nash took exception my remarks that referenced the Lake City Reporter.

The remarks were clearly aimed at the connection (relationship) between the County 5, the daily paper, and the firing of two county employees, which were apparently in some measure based on the newspapers report.

My concern is Mr. Nash's remarks regarding my mentioning the connection between the newspaper and the County and his threat of retaliation and retribution.

Mr. Nash's direct remark was, "From now on I'm not going to let you attack the paper... I can make it a lot tougher if you want to."

The totality of my 2 minute remarks is below. In context, I doubt that any Judge or jury would consider them as an attack on the Lake City Reporter.

However, if Mr. Nash, or any other commissioner wants to single me out, I advise you that the County will be doing this at its own risk.

I am neither your attorney, nor the Board's attorney, nor anybody's attorney. However, one does not have to be an attorney to know the law or as you well know, to win in the DCA.

There is and has been a systemic and cultural disconnect in Columbia County for decades and generations. These things don't change easily. We have discussed this.

I think my friend Mr. Nash may have been a little tired after the lengthy meeting.

I am hoping this will not be an issue moving forward.

Please find my two minute remarks below and **take note of the public record request**. Stew

"Sunlight is the best disinfectant" - Louis Brandeis, Sup Ct Justice

StewLilker

Pub/ed

[Columbia County Observer](#)

(386-454-4500)

Good government is everybody's business.

-

16_0602_bcc-reg-pub-comment-ssl

Mr. Lilker: Thank you. (unintelligible)

Some of you may recall, the past County manager, I got calls all the time about it, the County took care of his father's property. I think Mr. Kirby was the public works director at the time. Nobody got fired for mowing Dale's father's lawn. Nobody should have got fired. It's just one of them things. Sometimes this stuff happens.

I don't know how much information the paper got right and how much they left out. It seemed to me they might have put the address where it was that the property was mowed and [who] found out who was mowing it. Another incomplete report by the paper.

I'm asking publicly now for e-mail tomorrow of all the records that you have and what property that was; where it was located and who owns it. I don't know if any of you guys know, but I sure would like to know who owns it. I sure would like to know if the paper knows who owned it when they wrote the article. It seems that the newspaper now is like [Izvestia](#), the mouthpiece for the Columbia County Board of commissioners.

Kevin Kirby was chauffeured around by a County engineer who made 92 or \$95,000 a year, after an unfortunate incident. I'm sure if he had to do it over again, he wouldn't. Never got fired. Never got suspended. Never got anything. But you've got some guy -- I got the records today -- from personnel -- that are making nine dollars an hour and their life gets turned upside down for five minutes worth of -- who knows? Who knows if they even had permission to do it? Or if there was a deal that they didn't know about.

Kevin Kirby on his resume put that he made either 140 or \$150,000 a year. I know this is the good old boy club. He dreamt that he had a college degree and he didn't. His transcript, from what he got, never made it into the file. It's nice to have friends that work at the County.

I am asking that the County check and see if his statement that he was making -- it was 140 or \$150,000 a year, be verified.

If that's not the case, I am asking that Mr. Kirby either be terminated or have the option to resign. Everybody should be treated fairly.

Thank you