

Frank R. Dillman
2273 County Road 54 W
Notasulga, AL 36866

HAND DELIVERED DURING PUBLIC COMMENT, MACON COUNTY
COMMISSION MEETING ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2021

STATEMENT OF FACTS of events during Macon County meetings of Monday,
July 12, 2021, and Friday, July 16, 2021

November 8, 2021

Louis Maxwell
Chairman, Macon County Commission
101 E. Rosa Parks Avenue
Tuskegee, AL 36083

Dear Chairman Maxwell,

Clean hands is the principle that always works best for all parties concerned.

Monday, July 12, 2021

1. I entered the Macon County Commission meeting chamber about 5:40 pm, sat down, and set up my camcorder and tripod for the 6 pm Macon County Commission meeting.
2. Commissioners Miles Robinson, Edward Huffman, Ernest Magruder, and Robert Berry and you were in attendance whereas Magruder and Huffman were sitting in front of the dais for social distancing.
3. Sheriff and Mrs. Brunson were in the audience along with Revenue Commissioner Iverson Gandy, Probate Judge James Cooper, County Attorney Bridgett Gray, and a couple of county employees.
4. You, as Chair, welcomed everyone and asked for public comment on or about 6 pm. A couple of citizens from the zoom connection spoke.
5. You recognized me to address the commission. I stood and introduced myself.
6. I stated the county is refusing to accept my Registered Return Receipt letters from the post office, which is returning my letters as “unclaimed” after being available to the county for 15 days.
7. I continued with someone in the county is filtering incoming mail and therefore I must hand-deliver copies of the “unclaimed” letters of July 12, 2021 where I offered to meet with you in the Sheriff office away from any

interruptions to resolve our differences concerning public documents and open public meetings.

8. You also received my hand-delivered 14th consecutive annual request to be exempt from the Macon County mandatory garbage collection policy for 2022.
9. I approached the dais and placed before Commissioner Robinson his returned “unclaimed” letters and an email notifying him of a letter addressed to him at the Tuskegee Post Office.
10. Upon turning to my right to deliver copies of your returned “unclaimed” letters Commissioner Robinson pushed the papers onto the floor by my feet.
11. I turned around, bent over, picked up the documents and sternly placed them back onto the dais. Commissioner Robinson immediately stood up with outreached arms, resembling an athlete guilty of an offense attempting to convince the referee of his innocence.
12. You immediately began berating me, stating “Mr. Dillman, (your comments on the recording are inaudible) you cannot come here and do that,” <https://www.facebook.com/100001174032610/videos/368624574692089>
13. I told you that Robinson threw the papers at me, of which your attitude cared less.
14. Upon leaving your “unclaimed” letters in front of you on the dais, I turned to give Commissioner Huffman copies of his “unclaimed” letters.
15. While returning to my seat Brunson approached the dais to restore order. You began directing him to remove me from the meeting, Robinson threw the letters about 10 feet in front of the dais striking Commissioner Magruder in the face and landing on his microphone.
16. You ordered the Sheriff “I want this gentleman removed” while pointing your finger at me, Robinson immediately added “and never come back.”
17. To Robinson’s comment I said “kiss off” of which he stated “That is why you are not coming back.”
18. You or any of the three other commissioners said not a word to the person who initiated the disturbance, Commissioner Miles Robinson.
19. I stepped outside with Brunson as he directed. We returned within a couple of minutes. I returned to my seat and Brunson addressed the commission of Sheriff departmental business.
20. Following the Sheriff’s report, I was escorted from the Chamber by the Sheriff accompanied by his wife approximately 6:10 pm.

Thursday, July 15, 2021

1. I received an email from you along with a letter from the County Attorney.
2. **In your email** your stated I was “barred” from further in-person meetings; however, the meetings would be available to me via the on-line streams. Within the email was an attachment of the Macon County Rules-Procedures manual.
3. Within the manual you highlighted text. Section IV. A, “The Chair’s Responsibilities”, subparagraph 4, “Preserve decorum and order, and in case of disturbance or disorderly conduct in the Commission chamber, may cause the same to be cleared or cause any disruptive individual to be removed.”
4. However, you chose to not highlight the following paragraph “Call to order any member of the Commission who violates any of these procedures.”
5. You also chose to ignore IV.A.7 “Remain Objective.”
6. Additionally, highlighting was made to Section V, C, for a reason unknown to me.
7. Paragraph D of Section V also contained a sentence in yellow highlight, “the Chair shall take whatever steps are necessary (including the removal of any citizen or other elected official) to preserve such decorum and order.”
8. Picking and choosing which articles of the Procedures manual to follow is reminiscent of the county’s policy in its selection of records to release to the public.
9. **The County Attorney’s letter** I was to pay the county \$60.00 for documents received over 4 years ago.

. Friday, July 16, 2021

1. I entered the Macon County Commission chamber about 1:35 pm, 5 minutes into the meeting, with my camcorder and tripod. Other than a couple elected public servants in the audience, there were a few citizens in attendance.
2. Commissioners Miles Robinson, Edward Huffman, Ernest Magruder, and Robert Berry and you were in attendance whereas Magruder and Huffman were sitting in front of the dais for social distancing.
3. Upon taking my seat, you asked a couple of times if I had received your letter and directed me to leave. I remained silent and ignored your request.
4. You directed civilian-clothed Tuskegee District 3 City Councilman Macon County Deputy Orlando Whitehead sitting in the back of the room to remove me. Following your direction, Whitehead approached me and

asked me to step outside. I refused, stating “call the sheriff.” Whitehead left me and had no other interactions with me.

5. After Whitehead left uniformed Deputy Chris Johnson arrived unannounced and sat in the back of the chamber.
6. Robinson unsuccessfully motioned twice for a recess.
7. Robinson approached Johnson resulting in both leaving the chamber for approximately 3 minutes. Robinson and Johnson returned to the chamber.
8. Neither Robinson or Johnson said anything to me.
9. The meeting terminated and I departed the chamber with my camera, tripod, and notepad.

Your immediate attention to this matter within 7 days is greatly appreciated mailed to Frank Dillman, 2273 County Road 54 West, Notasulga, AL 36866.

Respectfully requested, reserving all rights,

Frank Dillman

CC: Acting, United States Attorney, Middle District Alabama, Sandra J. Stewart
State of Alabama Attorney General, Steve Marshall
State of Alabama Secretary of State, John Merrill
Fifth Judicial Circuit District Attorney, D. Jeremy Duerr
Macon County Sheriff, Andre Brunson
Macon County Deputy Chris Johnson
Macon County Deputy Orlando Whitehead