

## Supervisor: Letter stolen from county personnel files is 'false'

Lindsay Street Feb 22, 2016



A copy of the letter that was allegedly stolen has been deemed false.

A county investigation of a letter written more than 10 years ago has concluded that the document, which was allegedly stolen from county personnel files, is false and its release to the media more than a year ago was "intended to harm" the subject of that letter.

Supervisor Bill Peagler announced the investigation's findings during the Feb. 8 meeting of county council where he read a statement.

More than a year ago, media outlets received the letter concerning Marc Hehn, who was hired by the Peagler administration.

"A false document regarding Mr. Hehn was taken out of a county file and provided to the press in January of last year. The publication of this false document was intended to harm and embarrass Mr. Hehn," Peagler said in his statement. "The county regrets that this document containing false information was put in Mr. Hehn's personnel file without his knowledge and emailed to persons inferring it contained correct information."

But in an interview with the Independent, the man who signed the letter, Jim Rozier, said that if his signature is on it, then he wrote the letter.

The letter is dated July 8, 2005, and Rozier was county supervisor at the time. Hehn was the director of Water and Sanitation Authority.

In the letter, Rozier claims Hehn provided incorrect information that cost the county hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants.

"I cannot trust a director who would knowingly send me a false document to sign," the letter states. "For these reasons, I am terminating your employment with Berkeley County Water and Sanitation Authority effective immediately."

Hehn officially resigned from the position July 12, 2005. The Rozier letter then showed up in the inboxes of media outlets after Peagler hired him for a county position.

Hehn was originally hired as a deputy supervisor but now works as a special projects manager.

County politics blogger Don Bailey sent that document on to various media outlets in January 2015. Bailey told the Independent that an unknown person placed the letter on a seat in his car.

Bailey supported Supervisor Dan Davis in the 2014 election that brought then-Moncks Corner Mayor Peagler to the county's helm. Bailey did not post the letter on his blog but decided it was best to send on to the media, he said.

Bailey said he doubted the letter was a counterfeit or that the letter was "false."

"It's everything other than notarized. I'm not sure what's untrue about it," Bailey said.

Rozier said he didn't doubt the letter's validity either.