

## False Allegations Leading to Threats of Violence & A Hostile Work Environment

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**Date:** Tue, Jan 25, 2022, 6:58 AM

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Sharon Council, President  
Yeadon Borough Council  
600 Church Lane Yeadon PA

Dear Madame President,

I am writing to document the unusual events that took place at the last Borough Meeting on Thursday, January 20, 2022 and leading up to events of yesterday when I was informed that there was a current threat on my life and that of another Council Member, Councilor Liana Roadcloud.

Near the end of last Thursday's Legislative Council Meeting on January 20, you made a blatant allegation in public while sitting in Council Chambers while presiding over the Monthly Meeting, that Councilor Roadcloud was recently seen by one of your neighbors placing signs up in houses around the borough, and that you believe the Mayor was with her also, while doing so. I immediately protested that false allegation and told you right there and then, as I was sitting next to you on Council Chambers – that this is a false allegation and that I have never placed signs up around the Borough and that I don't go around the Borough with any Councilor, for that matter. This is preposterous, and for the life of me, I cannot understand why you would bring that false allegation up in a public setting. You never conferred with me at any time prior, if this was true. And even if you felt that something unscrupulous took place by me – going public as if it is true – smears my integrity and impugns my character. This is not true, and I don't know why you said this (and in public). It disturbed me...and totally blindsided me. I did see that after the meeting had ended, when I was in the hallway, Councilor Roadcloud was speaking to a constituent, and I did hear her say in general (to her audience), that she was going back into Chambers to address the false allegations you made on the floor with you. It was something impromptu it appeared, and I only saw her go in and come back out in less than a minute it appeared.

But let me say that my concern is that “Bearing False Witness” is something that can lead to character assassination, which can lead to affected parties meting out their own vigilante justice which may be based upon false information that revs up anger based upon false premises, while justifying the tearing that person down in the other party’s mind(s). Hence, it can lead to actual violence.

So then, as if that was not enough, I received a call from our new Borough manager, Mr. Isaac Dotson at 8:35 pm last night, apprising me that one of your sons (I was not given his name), had called the borough earlier that day (Monday, January 24, 2022) and spoke to our receptionist, Ms. Bonita Barnwell, and that he threatened the Mayor and Councilor Roadcloud for messing with his mother (namely, you). Mr. Dotson also informed me that he demanded to speak to me and there was an attempt to transfer to my borough voicemail, I was told, but it had either failed or didn’t connect. However, the matter is alarming...as we go from one unsubstantiated allegation given to the world as fact, it then allegedly further ties two (2) people working together as a team – Hepkins & Roadcloud (and perhaps that’s your objective here). And it then paints this false narrative, that these two people – who you lump together as going around the neighborhood as an elected official tandem (which is untrue) – are now both named in tandem by your son for deserving payback for so upsetting his mother (you). This is a threat that seems to have emanated from your false and contrived narrative. It is also a threat based upon false information. I have never been disrespectful to you. I have never called you out. I have never had any altercations with you in any way. Yes, we’ve disagreed politically over the years (and sometime strenuously), but it has always been respectful and I have just disagreed with you and your management style which I find among other things, to be blatantly autocratic and tyrannical. But I’ve always been respectful to you nevertheless, notwithstanding my private misgivings. Mr. Dotson also tried to reassure me by stating that your son is not a threat as he’s handicapped and wheelchair bound, and not to take the threat seriously, as it isn’t something he can possibly perpetrate, given his disability. That cannot be assumed. I don’t think anyone can determine what someone is capable of doing if they have a capable strong mindset to do the same, notwithstanding someone’s disability (and let me add for the record, that I don’t know if I’ve ever met your son – so I don’t know him).

Consequently, whenever there is a threat of violence, whether the threat is physical or metaphysical, it must be taken seriously. And we’ve seen in our nation’s Capitol, that when people are allowed to perpetrate violence against government, where this can lead. It leads to murder and anarchy and a threat of insurrection/overthrow of government. It can lead to all the possible worse outcomes as we witnessed almost one year ago on the now infamous date of January 6, 2021. So no one can be allowed to call a government building, harass the employees (receptionist in this case) with a diatribe of threats, and place them as an unwitting catalyst for their worse instincts – helping to forward threatening violence against our

local public officials, which seems a continuation of behavior first manifested by his mother on the Council floor this past Thursday. This is unacceptable and beyond the pale. It also greatly concerns me, as to what he was told about me (and/or other Councilors) to raise the specter of threat to the level where he thinks you are somehow in grave danger that he somehow has to personally come up to intervene to protect his mother from the Mayor? Really? If there's a true threat, call the police – 911. If that is not appropriate, contact the District Attorney's office, and let the legal process take its course. That course of action wasn't followed to my knowledge....only a vigilante threat of justice that seems to have emanated from false information and intent.

If this was all, it would be bad enough. However, in only three weeks since taking office...we've seen a sudden and immediate hostile work environment ensue that is complete – from the office personnel – to the elected officials on the floor. As Mayor, I'm still dealing with the interjection of one of your Council Members on your team – Councilor Learin Johnson, who on January 3, 2022 (just before being sworn-in later that evening), called the Borough Police Department to offer the job of Police Chief to Detective Ferdie Ingram, one of the Chief's subordinates. When informed that this was inappropriate, she has repeatedly said publicly that this contact never, ever happened; that we're all making this up in one big lie and conspiracy. Others on your team has said, so what? Well, it has created division, suspicion, confusion and a bad morale in the police department, which heretofore, was a great department with high morale and noteworthy accomplishments. So what may have been seen as benign or innocuous, is not turning out that way. I'm now trying to clean up the mess and pick up the broken pieces of this blatant power grab-bag, which has left injury and dysfunction in its wake. In addition, I now have a Chief of Police as well as other officers, who are now walking on egg shells and afraid – as they feel intimidated and somewhat bullied. It hasn't helped that there is evidence of not only ridding ourselves of the Police Chief, but now, there's talk of decreasing the police budget as a form of retribution. And notwithstanding that crime has dropped precipitously in Yeadon over the past three years due to excellence in policing, structure and managerial strategy that have proven effective, and the envy of other neighboring municipalities, but now is being threatened to be upended and scrapped.

In addition, you recently asked the police to take a statement about some of these allegations you had made, and it is my understanding that in that report, you further threatened Chief Paparo with retribution (which is wrong and further conspires to divide and conquer, while making an obvious attempt to try to further isolate him from his officers). So there seems to be a common theme here that I see developing in such a short period of time in office. So as the Chief Public Safety Official of the Borough, it is my responsibility to be apprised and aware of any public safety threats or trends that may effect the safe operation of Yeadon Borough. And right now, in barely three weeks, there seems to be a clear pattern that

the paramount threat to public safety in Yeadon appears to be you, Madame President. Your tenure has already created a hostile work environment. The Chief cannot speak to you alone in person due to this environment that you have unfortunately created, where there is a lack of trust, with open hostilities. I myself also cannot trust or speak to you in person alone due these unprecedented open hostilities. It renders Borough Government untenable and inoperable as a normal entity. And in this environment, we are forced to invest time on protection, on reports, and on false allegations, where this forced expenditure of time, renders us useless, where we cannot get things done for the Residents of Yeadon. It is a shame, but is the state of current affairs that you have unprecedentedly created in barely three weeks.

Consequently, in light of this untenable and intractable situation, I am directing that all currently investigations, police reports and anything within that nature, now be handed over and conducted by the District Attorney (should he accept) Office. I'm requesting (via this email) that our County Criminal Investigative Division (CID) of the District Attorney's Office now take over all these pending and sundry investigations, as this would provide independence and take away any conflicts of interests that may be unfortunately developing due to the untenable foregoing dynamics now at work here.

Rohan Hepkins, Mayor  
Borough of Yeadon