



## Erik DeSean Barrett

Friday, August 16, 2024

### **Richard Allan Bull**

Council Clerk

### **Norfolk City Hall**

810 Union Street

Norfolk, Virginia 23510

Mr. Bull,

Yesterday, I arrived to city hall to attend my BPAT meeting. I was running down to the wire, about 5 minutes remained before I was late. In haste, I forgot to grab my ID from the car. Typically I do not carry my wallet. I am sure you can understand, seeing as I am the average millennial, relying more on my device, in a state that seems to not understand the importance of my identification being attached to my Apple Wallet.

That said, I got to the elevator, running into someone from the city Attorney's office. He did identify himself, but as I previously mentioned, my haste didn't really allow what he was saying to truly sink in. If you ask around the office this morning, see who remembers Erik Barrett calling them Pishko, as that was the only name I knew from the attorneys office.

May I state nothing offending, or out of character happened, except a lingering question, I have been calling for since I first started coming into the building. When someone in the city, in front of the public, questions my legitimacy, that weakens my, or anyone else's ability to wield the change, or reform desperately needed around here. I continue to wonder, just how hard it would be for all officials, elected, and or appointed to carry some sort of identification, declaring who they are, and what business they have in the building at any given time? Some would argue that someone like me, wields a tremendous amount of power, with equitable influence, but if those who someone like me should call a partner, is clueless of my existence, it makes the job, whether paid, or on good merit extremely difficult.

Let's think beyond the walls of 810 Union St. I have sat in the presence of some of the most noteworthy of minds, the biggest of them the mayor. I sat and watched, as the ordinary public just walked by folks, literally responsible for how we live our lives. Now I don't believe potentates should have God save the whomever blazing upon their entrance, but at the same time, doing more to close the gap between civic, and citizen, I dare say is a must. I take my responsibilities, my personal mission statement to mean [I am a translator/distributor of the vision of NFK](#). But if I, or any other is constantly bombarded with the infamous who are you? That as I am sure you would agree, makes my execution, drastically inefficient, not to mention, my statement ineffective.

I get the argument against: It was stated to me yesterday, by who in my mind to be Pishko. "We can't allow any ol person up to the tenth floor". I agree with him. But if the fear is, I will, or anyone else will abuse the credentials granted us, then remove them not just from the building, but from their post. If we can't be trusted with the tools to execute, then why entrust us to help influence the government.

I had a chat with the Mayor. One of the first chats upon my appointment. He said, and I quote. I believe in putting the best players in the game. Well how effective is Patty Mahomie without pads and a helmet? Could he do his job? If when arrived to the facility, some desk clerk, refused him entry, simply outta uninformed ignorance? Is the desk clerk wrong? Absolutely not, but does it create a problematic environment? You Bet it does.

I do not intend to ever engage in talks about people like me being compensated for their services. THE MERE thought of such talk would bankrupt the city, however the more one goes in the red, whether by emotional capital being dispensed to enter the facility, or once in, realizing the longer this meeting goes, the more the meter is running, because of the ever growing instance of not having someone to validate our parking, turns this from a job the simple citizen can do, to an elitist sport.

Mr. B. I see this as an open and shut case, however I realize to some my reality wouldn't mop a urinal! So I welcome the discourse, in hope we and others will find a suitable solution to this challenge. I realize this maybe an issue for Mr. Patrick, and welcome this being transferred to him. I also see this as a conversation amongst the principals of NFK, but your name is on my credentials, so here we are

Sincerely yours,  
*EDB*