

ATTACHED TO 02/05/2024 CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

My name is Shawna Lundry. I live at 37788 Coralburst Street here in Sandy. I know that I am given three minutes to speak and if I exceed this, I have others in attendance who are willing to give me their time if I go over. I have a lot to say and I wanted all of you to be aware of this should I exceed my initial time allotment.

I want to make it clear that this is my statement as a City of Sandy business owner, city resident, taxpayer, and community volunteer. As a 16-year veteran in law enforcement I am a strong supporter of our police and feel compelled to speak publicly to advocate for those who cannot safely do so for fear of reprisal by their employer.

When awarding the city manager contract to Jensen Strategies, Councilor Walker made certain that the language "**Clear and transparent process**" was included as a condition of employment for the next city manager referencing that an outside police chief search be conducted. All of you were in favor of this language.

At the completion of the police reception city manager Deems and HR Manager Welty received a complaint from the Sandy Police Association related to Mr. Jensen's perceived misogynistic and culturally insensitive comments directed towards a sergeant of Hispanic descent and a female officer. I am told there is no record of this highly concerning complaint being acted on by either Deems or Welty. I believe the release of the police reception comment cards will contain information supporting this complaint as voiced by our Sandy officers.

I attended the community reception on January 3rd made up of many representative stakeholders to include Oregon Trail School District, Sandy Helping Hands, D31 Foundation, Mt Hood Hospice, Sandy Chamber, Ant Farm, Sandy Police Association, Clackamas County Peace Officers Association, and Councilors Exner, Walker, and Sheldon were also in attendance,

As a community member at the reception, I prepared a question that I asked each candidate. No candidate was aware of what I was going to ask as I wanted to make an informed decision. As I approached Mr. Jensen, he looked me in the eyes sternly, grabbed my right hand and squeezed it, and said in a condescending tone, "**I've been looking forward to meeting you, Shawna. I really appreciate the way you've been working the room for Sean.**" As Mr. Jensen said this, he squeezed my right hand so hard that it hurt and remained hurting as I documented the negative interaction on my comment card approximately 45 minutes later. My hand continued to hurt for the next two days.

Mr. Jensen provided no knowledge about the Sandy community or gave any other reason for wanting to be the chief of police except he was tired of shoveling snow at his current residence in Utah and wanted a more "**temperate climate**". Are those who attended really supposed to believe the City of Sandy's official statement that Jensen is the leader our community needs "**to continue its commitment to excellence in public safety?**" My direct knowledge gained from attending this reception is that the community does not feel this way.

According to a public statement made by Councilor Hokanson using a Facebook account that identified himself as a city councilor stated that he was involved with the selection process for police chief. Councilor Hokanson publicly supported Mr. Jensen as standing out from the rest of the candidates and that Deems made a solid decision for our community. Did Councilor Hokanson get to see the comment cards from the police and community receptions? He wasn't there in person so I am curious how he can make this definitive statement unless he has seen all the information available. Councilor Hokanson himself said he would need to "**consider all input**" and investigate any "**areas of concern.**" If Councilor Hokanson got to see everything, why can't we? If he didn't see everything and was speaking from his limited involvement in the process that is poor leadership from a publicly elected official and deceptive behavior.

Many community members, police officers, and staff members were highly surprised by Deem's decision as it was so inconsistent with their perceptions and provided feedback. So many in fact comments on social media led to the print media getting involved. A quick google or youtube search of Gary Jensen shows the same negative perceptions by Utah residents as were observed by police staff and myself in a short period of time. I agree that anyone can say anything online, however these same issues brought up by residents of Logan, Utah were the same things we confirmed independently and without fore knowledge. Does this not matter to Deems and this council?

Several members made public records requests for the city to release the comment cards with all identifying information being redacted to ensure privacy. The city's official response has been to deny each request under "**internal advisory communications**" and "**confidential.**" Deputy City Manager Jeff Aprati said, "**the public interest would suffer by the disclosure.**" How would the public interest suffer by the release? Is this how the city council who oversees all policy and oversight wants their city to respond to public requests of this magnitude with such substantial interest? The lack of transparency and accountability is atrocious.

Look at all of us here. We all have better things to do but we are all here because nothing about this decision makes sense. This decision demonstrates that City Manager Tyler Deems does not care about the well-being or desires of our police officers or community in who leads our police department. He made a choice not supported by the process but by his own ego. How do you expect our officers to work for Mr. Jensen when they don't support this decision? How do you expect the community to accept it when they were clear about who they wanted?

All of you speak often to wanting more engagement and public involvement from your constituents. We as taxpayers are frustrated with appointed city leaders who continually don't represent our best interests. We continue to pay higher fees and higher property/business taxes to pay salaries, PERS, and other fringe benefits without any consideration. These same leaders who don't live in our city whose decisions don't impact their families, their safety, or their overall quality of life. The utter lack of

accountability for this decision must be challenged when it is so inconsistent with what we as residents who took part in the process know to be the truth. Hiding behind exemptions may be lawful but delivers an awful message to our community and police officers who want this information public.

Councilor Hokanson added in his public statement that **"police chief is not an elected position"** and that most residents had not attended the town hall to **"offer an opinion"** nor was a vote taken. Using that same logic, does every single resident eligible to vote come out for a city council election? Does that make the election, or the voices represented in the votes any less valid?

The police chief was not elected nor did every community member attend the community reception. Those who did took the opportunity provided to have their voices heard believing that their opinions mattered. Police officers and other staff took time out of their lives to attend a staff reception because they knew how important it was for their voices to be represented in maintaining the stability they currently enjoy. This decision does not represent most of our voices as evidenced by the outpouring of emails, social media posts, in person meetings, and all of us here tonight.

You all were elected by the people, for the people to advocate for the will of your constituents, not your own agendas, biases (implicit or explicit), or subjective opinions formed by sitting on a single panel and proclaiming publicly who rose above the rest. The fact that we are all here should be a clear and convincing testament to this decision needing further scrutiny. You controlled the requirements of the process, and you all were involved in influencing that decision. You hired City Manager Deems and you are his direct supervisor. You gave him the authority to make this incredibly important decision. Hold him accountable to those he serves by making all the records public. In policing we had a saying, "Trust but Verify." I encourage you to do that very thing.

As Sandy residents yourselves, please stand with me in demanding full transparency so the community can be informed. Let us see for ourselves that Deems' decision and Councilor Hokanson's support are truly representative of a fair and transparent process. I urge you to order the full release of all records as there is substantial public interest in doing so.

For the proper functioning of government, the public must trust the process and that their best interests are being represented. Transparency requires a public that can access, understand, and use the information it receives from the local government. I am asking for information used in a public process, freely given in a public setting, for the hiring of one of the most important public official positions within our city to be shared with all of us. We who took part gave it freely, never believing it would be some big secret. Thank you for your time. I have copies of this for each of you and I will be providing one to the media, so my words are captured as stated.

Shawna M. Lundry