

THE LANE LAW FIRM, P.C.

SUITE 475

5105 DTC PARKWAY

GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80111

SEAN J. LANE, ESQ.

ALEX M. PASS, ESQ., ASSOC.

TELEPHONE 303-830-0500

FACSIMILE 303-860-7855

SLANE@LANELAWPC.COM

APASS@LANELAWPC.COM

March 27, 2018

Ms. Kirsten J. Crawford, Esq.
Legislative Counsel
Department of Law
1437 Bannock Street, Room 353
Denver, Colorado 80202

(Via email to: patti.thill@denvergov.org)

Dear Ms. Crawford:

Greetings. Please accept this correspondence in response to your letter of March 22, 2018.

On March 13, 2018, Denver City Council President Albus Brooks issued a written statement on behalf of the Denver City Council. In that statement, the City Council stated that transparency and accountability are of the utmost importance. However, the Council further stated that an investigation would be contrary to “best practice” and would risk “re-victimizing” Detective Branch-Wise. Detective Branch-Wise has previously advised that she encourages the City Council to investigate the conduct of the Mayor and is fully prepared to cooperate with such an investigation. Detective Branch-Wise advocates that conducting an open and transparent investigation on behalf of the citizens of Denver is the “best practice.”

You have asked Detective Branch-Wise to provide a “complaint”, setting forth all the facts and allegations against the Mayor. This seems to imply that there is no need for further investigation of the disputed facts now known to the City Council. Detective Branch-Wise has stated publicly that she believes that she has been the subject of sexual harassment at the hands of the Mayor. The Mayor has publicly denied this.

It appears that there is a fundamental dispute that could be resolved by using the City Council’s subpoena power to summon witnesses, question them under oath, conduct the investigation and issue a public report of its findings. On March 19, 2018, Mayor Hancock participated in an interview with Tony Kovaleski and stated that he knew his intent when he wrote the text messages that Detective Branch-Wise has already disclosed. Certainly, at the very least, the City Council could use its powers to ask the Mayor to state, under oath, his intent when he wrote the subject text messages to Detective Branch-Wise. The Council could also question Detective Branch-Wise under oath and then publish a public report of the investigation, pursuant to Denver Municipal Code, Chapter 13 §§ 13-31 and 13-35.

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Detective Branch-Wise wishes to emphasize to the Denver City Council that she is still fully prepared to cooperate with an investigation of all of the events regarding the reported behavior of Mayor Hancock while she served on his protective detail. It was the City Council that expressed an interest in conducting an investigation, but deferred out of concern for “re-victimizing” her. If Council truly wishes to investigate this situation on behalf of the citizens of Denver they should do so, with the full cooperation of Detective Branch-Wise.

My client, Detective Branch-Wise, would again like me to thank you for your time in this matter.

Very truly yours,

THE LANE LAW FIRM, P.C.

s/ Sean J. Lane

Sean J. Lane

SJL/ld

cc: Ms. Leslie Branch-Wise, Denver Police Department (Via Email Transmission)
Mr. Tony Kovaleski, KMGH TV (Via Email Transmission)
Ms. Anusha Roy, KUSA TV (Via Email Transmission)
Mr. Jeremy Jojola, KUSA TV (Via Email Transmission)
Mr. Rick Sallinger, CBS4 TV (Via Email Transmission)
Mr. Jon Murray, Denver Post (Via Email Transmission)
Mr. Craig Silverman, 710 KNUS (Via Email Transmission)
Ms. Carisa Scott, KDVR TV (Via Email Transmission)
Ms. Julie Hayden, Glendale Cherry Creek Chronicle (Via Email Transmission)