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meeting

04-16-09

4/16/2009

Billy Long

Madam Mayor and Commissioners,

I am submitting this letter of apology to you on behalf of myself and Joshua Hinson. We are two of the police officers with the Gainesville Police Department that were involved in the recent egg throwing incident in the Porters neighborhood.


We stand before you today ashamed of the embarrassment we have caused ourselves, our family, our fellow officers, this Commission and most importantly the residents of the City of Gainesville, whose trust we violated.

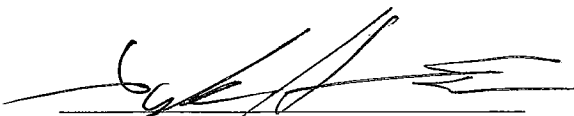
We want to make it very clear that our involvement in this incident was wrong and that we accept full and complete responsibility for our actions. Our actions were immature and stupid, and are not a true reflection of the conduct of the overwhelming majority of the men and women of the Gainesville Police Department. Although we now understand why some may believe that race may have been a factor in our behavior, we give our word that race never was a factor. We would like to make it clear that neither race nor gender ever had any influence on our actions. The nature of our actions should not be diminished in any way and simply put; our conduct was the reflection of a night of poor decisions made by us.

Madam Mayor and Commissioner, we know that an apology is just a start of the long healing process for the hurt, disappointment and frustration we have caused. We pledge to each of you, and the citizens of Gainesville that we will take an active role in improving the relationship between the Gainesville Police Department and the citizens we serve. We will begin with the citizens in the Porters community who we would like to extend a heartfelt apology to, and will be meeting with members of the Porter's neighborhood in the near future.

Again we deeply apologize and ask for your forgiveness.

Sincerely


Billy Long


Joshua Hinson

