From: Gwen Wisler AVL City Council <gwenwisler@avlcouncil.com>
Sent: 6/19/2019 10:36:25 AM
To: Jonathan Wainscott
Cc:
Bcc: gwenwisler@avlcouncil.com
Subject: Re: white southern towns

Thanks for the email. Iâ€™m hoping our July 2nd meeting will shed more light on this issue and informing the public.
Best,
Gwen

On Jun 19, 2019, at 10:03 AM, Jonathan Wainscott <jonwainscott@gmail.com> wrote:

I hope you can appreciate how it looks to people outside Asheville, like the good folk at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, when the see a predominately white town in the south (as in 80% white and 12% black) holding a referendum that would legitimize its racist practices because "The Will of the People" trumps the force of higher authority. Wasn't that the same argument made when the South told the federal government to bugger off and secede from the Union? Topeka, Kansas and Little Rock, Arkansas also claimed The Will of the People.

After all the hoopla that Sheneika and Keith created, and you stood by not refuting, you can't just turn away from the claim of "racial gerrymandering" like it never happened once the data shows otherwise. Ya'll bear some responsibility on pushing this falsehood by letting ride hoping it would carry the day.

Gwen, per our private conversation back when I was running for Mayor, you are acutely aware of voter data because you told me the reason Republicans can't make it onto council is because they don't vote. I can't wait to compare voter turnout by Republicans to black voters. Obviously racial gerrymandering is a myth when you see how much support our black candidates have received from white voters.

Julie, it is clear that you will be the next Senator. You don't strike anyone as a risk-taker and it's hard to imagine that you would give up a sure bet to be re-elected to Council for a far greater challenge to be on the super-racist NC Senate unless you knew that seat was yours to be had, and you have benefited greatly from the election year change that was provide by the uncompromising NCGA at the request of the Mayor, because you don't have to abandon your seat on Council in the middle of your term (***coughcoughKeithYoungcough***). since you won't be running for Council, you don't have to worry about how Council voter will respond (overlap with voting for Senator notwithstanding) and you have plenty of time to smooth over the backlash since that election is still a year and half away.

I have contacted the NAACPLDF to review what is going on in Asheville and they aren't gonna buy your falsehoods, they've seen this type of excuse making in plenty of white southern towns. It's obvious there is no real racial attack at the hands of the NCGA concerning this particular issue because if this really was an egregious racial attack on our town, Keith and Sheneika, or anyone on Council, should have called in the cavalry at the NAACPLDF, but no one ever did.

Remember, this is a Mother-May-I state and when mama aint happy aint nobody happy and y'all can pitch a fit, but tomorrow you still have to wake up in mama's house and if you don't do what mama say, mama gone make ya'll pick your own switch. Dig?

Please don't drag this city into an embarrassing law suit and continue this tit-for-tat nonsense. Please. though I have to say, I'd love to be a testifying witness in a lawsuit except for I've really had my fill of sitting on the inside of courtrooms. Chuckle as you may about Crazypants Wainscott, but a lawsuit is a different forum than Asheville, David Blade, and the cartoonists at the Xpress. Ask a lawyer, if you know any, how unpredictable and ugly court can be.

If you do have any evidence of racial gerrymandering, as the Buncombe County Board of elections has informed me that you (The City) has the data in hand but you are delaying signing off on it. If you have the data, and you know racial gerrymandering is not happening, and you don't do anything to dispel Keith and Sheineika's claim, you could be setting yourself up for a class-action claim of slander by the NCGA. Sound outlandish? Well, not considering how much Raleigh hates Asheville and how ya'll are begging for a fight. I'm sure the NCGA will be happy to oblige.

In the meantime, you can pitch your case to keep Asheville's antiquated at-large system to the NAACPLDF by contacting Leah Aden at

laden@naacpldf.org. She's already looking into all this.

Have a good'n. See you on July 2.
--

Jonathan Wainscott

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