From: Jonathan Wainscott <jonwainscott@gmail.com>
Sent: 1/27/2019 9:43:56 PM
To: Esther Manheimer
Cc: Sandra J W Brown, councilgroup, jmatthews, Debra Campbell
Subject: Re: Help, please... Re: Jonathan Wainscott

Hi
The investigation is going well and things are moving along with excellent attention. I have no complaints and feel quite confident that we will be able to make significant headway in the coming days.

I would like to bring one thing to your attention. In my initial face-to-face conversation with the Detective he told me that the police department had two arson investigators on staff, but they both left and now arson is thrown out to all the Detectives working major cases. I realize that arson is very difficult to gain a conviction or even charge a person. Figuring out that a fire was intentional (what happened) is much easier than the whodunit part. Maybe it seems redundant to have the Fire Department working the "what" angle while the Police Department chase the futility of the "who" part, but taking a look at the frequency of undetermined fires in the last 5 months means an arson investigator's inbox looks like this:

August 16:
https://wlos.com/news/local/breaking-fire-breaks-out-at-metal-yard-in-asheville

October 19:
https://wlos.com/news/local/house-catches-fire-in-west-asheville

October 26:
https://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/local/2018/10/26/shad-higgins-weaverville-tire-shop-catches-fire-nc-sbi-investigating/1772357002/L

December 11:
https://wlos.com/news/local/crews-on-scene-of-fire-off-swannanoa-river-road-in-asheville

January 12:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqWGAdiKU48#action=share

January 16:
https://wlos.com/news/local/firefighters-battle-blaze-at-fairview-baptist-church

January 21:
https://wlos.com/news/local/fire-breaks-out-at-home-near-mission

January 24:
https://wlos.com/news/local/overnight-house-fire-destroys-home-no-injuries-reported

January 27:
https://www.foxcarolina.com/investigations/asheville-fire-investigation-underway-after-pritchard-road-apartment-fire-leaves/article_65f8f3b8-2247-11e9-86d5-a7116fc87039.html
The latest fire killed someone. I think it is imperative to make sure the Police Department is adequately staffed with appropriate levels of expertise. Again, the Detective on my case is doing a great job and I am glad he's the person on the task so I don't feel in the slightest way under served. I hope we can avoid our officers and detectives being over-burdened or stretched beyond their respective skill sets as a matter of public concern by way of some personal knowledge of current staffing challenges at APD.

Thanks again for attention to this more personal matter in light of my persistence challenging Council on public matters during public discussion at Council meetings.

See you soon-

On Wed, Jan 23, 2019 at 9:48 AM Esther Manheimer <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com> wrote:
> Good to hear.Â

On Jan 23, 2019, at 8:58 AM, Sandra J W Brown <sandorajwbrown@gmail.com> wrote:

Ms. Manheimer, Ms. Mayfield, et all,Â
I wanted to say thank you for your attention to this investigation and your patience with these emails. We went and spoke with Detective Dennis yesterday and I am now feeling confident that he is handling this as diligently as he is able.Â
I am pretty sure you won't need me for anything else here, but if you find you do for any reason, please don't hesitate to contact me.
Sincerely,
Sandra JW Brown
828.279.5707

Â Â

On Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 1:45 PM <esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com> wrote:

Ms. Brown â€" thank you for your email.Â I am copying the city manager so she is aware of this situation.Â Council is not involved in particular investigations but we certainly want to be aware if constituents are having problems (or successes) with APD investigations.Â I am sorry that Jonathan had this experience and I commend you for being a good friend and writing to me on his behalf.Â He should let us (or the manager or interim Chief Wade Wood) know if he has any concerns about the investigation either as it progresses or at its conclusion.

Â

Thank you,

Esther

Â

Â

Â

Â

<image001.jpg>

Â

A

A

Esther Manheimer

Mayor, City of Asheville

P.O. Box 7148

Asheville, NC 28802

Cell 828.231.8016

esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com

Â

Â

Â

Â

From: Sandra J W Brown <sandorajwbrown@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2019 10:02 AM
To: esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com
Subject: Help, please... Re: Jonathan Wainscott

Â

Good morning,Â

Â

Jonathan's car was set on fire at his home over the weekend. I do not know where else to turn. I understand this is a bizarrely unique situation but I feel a pretty strong urge to reach out to you, so I am.Â

Â

This is serious as Jonathan's life was put in danger. Along with the gun shooting death, the assault at the mall, the various larcenies the police talked about Saturday, he could have been killed this past weekend from a fire that was set on his property. We do not know who to talk to other than the police. I was able to get Officer Rice to return on Sunday afternoon and she interviewed him again and a neighbour (the person who called 911).Â

Â

At any rate, this is what we know: In the early hours of Saturday morning around 3:00 am, someone set fire to his yellow car parked in the driveway of his home in the small neighbourhood he's lived for almost 20 years. The alarm woke him as well as the neighbour, Mary, when she immediately called 911. She then began taking video while Jonathan scrambled around in his bare-feet and pajamas with a garden hose trying to extinguish the rapidly growing fire. She and her husband were concerned for their own safety as this is an intimate corner of the rapidly developing area behind New Belgium.Â

Â

The fire ignited his truck as well as set stuff on his porch ablaze. This could have burned his home down. He could have been killed just by the explosions coming from his car. This is serious. What is even more puzzling is the message that was carved into the paint, down to the metal, that the fire marshal saw when they were getting ready to leave. It said, "Leave her alone".Â

Â

I have known Jonathan personally for a few years and we have been dating for over a year now. I am a WNC native and semi active in local matters so I know his history very well... better than almost anyone else. He has been working hard to get his life back in order over the past few years. He has a full time job at a local small business as well as his diligent data analysis concerning 'All Things Asheville'.Â

Â

He works hard, takes care of his children, eats, sleeps and researches local matters as its his passion. I'm sure you are aware his initial degree path was Political Science. It is just in him. He is good at it. I spend about half of the week in his home along with my children at times (I have two daughters aged 11 & 13) as well as spending a lot of time with him and his children when they're here. He is an exceptional man and Father and I wish more folks knew him in that way. Personally, I think it is one of the reasons he presses on with community involvement so he can show people he really does care and how and why it matters for us to be a well informed city, especially with the Medfords and Greenes of the world... it makes it necessary, doesn't it?Â Â

Â

At any rate, there is no "Her" that makes any sense. His ex moved over three years ago to Raleigh. He has no contact with her outside of the pick up and return of their beautiful children. When he counter fought for joint custody when she sought sole custody of their children, it was granted by the courts after their fairly public and ugly divorce. I was in court to testify on his behalf as a friend, before we ever began dating, so I know the situation intimately. Its bad enough that he has suffered the losses he has already, but any fear he experiences has only been amplified by the act of arson this weekend.Â

Â

So, why am I writing you? Well, since I work an office job these days and unable to be as active as I'd like to/should be in political discourse, he keeps me informed on things he is working on. We have had many conversations about the districts as well as other stuff he researches. One reason I've been paying closer attention with the supposed gerrymandering is that my ex is black and therefore our children are multiracial. Racial disparities affect my personal family, so it matters. Jonathan Bcc'd me on the emails you two exchanged last week. He said the last communication was from you in regards to Senator Van Duyn and the request/favour to change the election year schedule (which he agrees to and feels it is the right thing to prevent voter fatigue, etc...). That was Thursday I believe.Â Â

Â

As we are all well aware, he is very passionate about Asheville. He is also acutely aware that many institutions are not fond of him because he has raised some serious concerns and questions about what doesn't 'sit right' in local politics. He loves Asheville. He loves his family. He especially loves his children. He loves engaging in the community which he considers his Home even though he isn't a "native". It is understood he has garnered negative reaction from some folks in our community by being so vocal on important matters. We know he is dubbed a political 'gadfly' and has been considered "the thorn" in Asheville's side. He isn't interested in running for any

political positions anymore, but he is an intelligent man who researches everything he ever brings to the table. In my eyes, he wants to be involved in the betterment of Asheville, not watch the decline of what brings thousands of people to visit or even relocate to our area for.Â

Â

I digress.

Â

I know that a former retired APD officer reached out to him on Sunday. They had a good enough discussion but that this investigation will have to be thorough and especially detailed because as that officer said, arson is almost impossible to prove. This needs serious attention. It is a highly unusual but extremely violent event against an individual. It is nothing less than terrorist act as per definition and not just my personal opinion. Please tell me and let him know that this will be as thorough an investigation as it can possibly be. Above arson on the assault scale? I cannot even imagine... but I can't even believe this happened to him in the first place. I also can't believe that a few years back he received a letter from the Mayor of Woodfin requesting Jonathan to shut up (Yes, in writing) either, but that happened. I saw the letter.

Â

I know Officer Rice said the report should be available and as of yet, we haven't heard anything from a detective and this worries me. It does. A lot.Â

Â

I look forward to your expedient reply.

Â

Thank you,

Sandra JW Brown

828.279.5707

Â

Â

Â

Â Â

--

Jonathan Wainscott

18 Reynolds Road
28806

828.367.8165