From: Brenda Bethune
To: auburnkasey@gmail.com
Subject: Re: [External]Question on racial profiling
Date: Monday, June 8, 2020 12:55:59 PM

Hi Kasey-
The story being shared about Ernest does not tell all of the facts.
Our Police Department has only had one encounter with him, and that was for a traffic accident.
Thank you-
Brenda Bethune

Sent from my iPad

The
employees of the City of Myrtle Beach are a diverse group of individuals
who blend their unique talents to create the most effective, elite team of
public servants in South Carolina.

Brenda Bethune
Mayor
p:843-918-1001
m:
e:BBethune@cityofmyrtlebeach.com
PO Drawer 2468
Myrtle Beach, SC 29578-2468
www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com

*** WARNING *** All e-mail correspondence to and from this
address may be subject to public disclosure under the South Carolina
Freedom of Information Act(FOIA). 2007

> On Jun 7, 2020, at 6:33 PM, Kasey Long <auburnkasey@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or on clicking links from unknown senders.
>
>
>
>
> Hi,
>
> I wanted to contact you directly on a post I seen today on FB. With everything going on I wanted to do more than just share the post. I want to know if this is true. People are such social justice warriors on FB but never put anything into action which is why nothing ever changes.
>
>
>
> I would like a response about what I have read and would like to know if this is something your police force does. I have copied the post below for your review.
>
>

>
> Kind regards from a concerned citizen in Alabama.
>
>
>
> Kasey Riley
>
> Auburnkasey@gmail.com
>
> 256-604-0673
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
> Please everyone share this and ask your friends to share ...
>
>
>
> Borrowed: This is from Caroline Crockett Brock
>
> I am a 45 year old white woman living in the south, and today was the first time I spoke frankly about racism with a black man.
>
> When Ernest, my appliance repairman, came to the front door, I welcomed him in. As this was his second visit and we'd established a friendly rapport, I asked him how he was feeling in the current national climate. Naturally, he assumed I was talking about the coronavirus, because what white person actually addresses racism head on, in person, in their own home?
>
> When Ernest realized I wanted to know about his experience with racism, he began answering my questions.
>
> What's it like for you on a day-to-day basis as a black man? Do cops ever give you any trouble?
>
> The answers were illuminating.
>
> Ernest, a middle-aged, friendly, successful business owner, gets pulled over in Myrtle Beach at least 6 times a year. He doesn't get pulled over for traffic violations, but on the suspicion of him being a suspect in one crime or another. Mind you, he is in uniform, driving in a work van clearly marked with his business on the side. They ask him about the boxes in his car--parts and pieces of appliances. They ask to see his invoices and ask him why there is money and checks in his invoice clipboard. They ask if he's selling drugs. These cops get angry if he asks for a badge number or pushes back in any way. Everytime he is the one who has to explain himself, although they have no real cause to question him.
>
> Ernest used to help folks out after dark with emergencies. Not anymore. He does not work past dinnertime, not because he doesn't need the business, but because it isn't safe for him to be out after dark. He says "There's nothing out there in the world for me past dark".
>
> Let me say that again. Ernest, a middle aged black man in uniform cannot work past dark in Myrtle Beach in 2020 because it's not safe for him. He did not say this with any kind of agenda. It was a quiet, matter of fact truth.
>
> A truth that needs to be heard.
>
> When I asked Ernest what ethnic terms he gets offended at, he said that the most offensive term people use is

‘boy’. Ernest has a bachelors in electronics and an associates in HVAC. He is not a ‘boy’, and the term ‘boy’ in the south implies inferiority in station and status. He came to Myrtle Beach and got a job at Hobart. The supervisor repeatedly used the term ‘boy’. Ernest complained. After several complaints Ernest was fired.
>
> Ernest says most white people are a little scared of him, and he’s often put in a position where he has to prove himself, as though he’s not qualified to repair appliances.
>
> After getting a job for 2 years at Sears appliance, Ernest started his own company, one he’s been running for several years. He is the best repairman we’ve had, and has taught me about washer dryers and how to maintain them myself, even helping me with another washer/dryer set and a dishwasher without charging me. I highly recommend his company, Grand Strand Appliance.
>
> I asked Ernest what he thought of “black bike week” in Myrtle Beach, where thousands of black people come with bullet bikes and trash our town. He says it hurts black people in our city, and he disagrees with the NAACP coming in to sue businesses that close on black bike week. He hates working that week.
>
> Ernest doesn’t have hope that racism will change, no matter who the president is. His dad taught him “It’s a white man’s world”, and he’s done his best to live within it.
>
> When I asked him what I could do, he said, “everyone needs to pray and realize we’re all just one country and one people”.
>
> I am a 45 year old white woman living in the south. I can begin healing our country by talking frankly with African Americans in my world---by LISTENING to their lived experience and speaking up. I can help by actively promoting black owned businesses. That’s what I can do today. Let’s start by listening and lifting up. It’s that simple.
>
> #listenandlift
>
> =====
>
> Edit: I asked Ernest if I could take his picture and post our conversation on facebook. He thought it was a great idea. As he left my house an hour later, he looked me in the eye and said, "If you ever march, or have a meeting on this topic, or want to change things in Myrtle Beach, I'll stand with you."
>
> What a great idea. Let's begin standing together.
>
> ===
>
> Edit: 1pm EST on 6/1. Ernest just called me and we had one of the sweetest moments, both laughing and crying about the response to this post. He started the conversation by saying, "Caroline, I don't know if I should kill you or kiss you--my phone is ringing off the hook!"
>
> He doesn't have a FB profile, so he's coming over later so I can help him set one up. He's been absolutely overwhelmed, as have I, with the response. We're going to be sitting down together to read your comments. They mean so much. In addition, the Myrtle Beach city manager has contacted me and I'm getting all of us together to be sure this doesn't happen in our city any longer. THANK YOU WORLD.
>
> Edit 6/2 9am. Just got off the phone with Ernest and the local news. They will be interviewing us today, and it will be on the local news in Myrtle beach tonight. I'll post it on my page later.
>
> This is how we change our country. Normal folks. One town at a time.
>
>
>
> Sent from my iPhone