

September 28, 2008

The Honorable W. Wilson Goode Jr.
City Councilman-At-Large
316 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107

RE: Letter of Apology

Dear Councilman Goode:

I sincerely apologize to you, to City Council President Anna C. Verna, to all other City Council members and staffers, to those among Fox 29 personnel who have acted professionally, and **especially** to all residents and taxpayers in Philadelphia for my silent but public display of handwritten signs in City Council chambers on September 18, 2008.

The viewers who watched "Fox 29 Investigates" last week actually saw the type of privacy-invading, personal life-intruding, and bush-league ambushing that was so biased and so incomplete that if it were aired about the viewers themselves, they would find it to be unfair- regardless of whether they were the president, the governor, the mayor, a public employee, or a private individual. It was unfair because, although it was supposed to have been only about questionable time sheets, it denigrated into totally irrelevant speculation and conjecture about every detail of my private and personal life throughout almost the entire summer during the City Council recess (from June 19 through September 18, 2008). And this was a period in which I was not even contractually required to come to work. But I did.

Contrary to what Fox 29 has consistently implied, I am not opposed to answering questions that the residents and taxpayers in Philadelphia might have. But I refuse to be fodder for Fox 29's sex-based ratings drive.

I apologize for my public, albeit silent, display of the handwritten signs. What I did was inappropriate and inexcusable. In my frustration after personally calling Fox 29 many times (as well as numerous others constantly calling Fox 29 on my behalf) to ask the supervisors and management there to get their employees to stop harassing me in person, stop harassing me by phone and e-mail, stop harassing me by repeatedly calling every single City Council member asking about me and my work habits, and stop stalking me at home and at work. When my (and other persons') pleas to Fox 29 were ignored, I lashed out in frustration with those signs. My reaction was inappropriate and for that I truly apologize. But, at that time, it seemed to be the only thing I could do to stop the harassment, especially when the viewers take into account what they did **not** see. And what they did not see was two white men physically corner me at work and then force a camera mere inches from my nose while trying to goad me into a confrontation, which is apparently why you, as a Black man and a public servant, were compelled to intervene and stop what appeared to be two-on-one assaultive behavior. I apologize for

my action regarding the signs. I realize that it was inappropriate. I have learned from my mistake, and I will never repeat it.

But I remain steadfast in my justified opposition to Fox 29 stating or implying that I have defrauded the City and the taxpayers. I know, and Fox 29 should know, that throughout my nearly 15 years as a City employee, I have worked and continue to work many hours at City Hall and at official functions **over and above** the hours indicated on my time sheets, including as early as 7:00 a.m. and as late as 1:00 a.m.

And I remain just as steadfastly opposed to Fox 29's implications that an educated 36 year old African-American woman with nearly 15 years of City work experience should not earn a decent salary consistent with what white males (who do less work) commonly earn. By the way, as you know, I serve as the Chief Legislative Aide and the Deputy Chief of Staff, as well as the Director of Community Development. In other words, I do the job of three employees, not just one or two. And, by the way, I am proud to say that I am the **only** African American female Chief Legislative Aide and the **first** in the entire history of City Council.

In conclusion, I once again repeat my sincere apology, especially to the residents and taxpayers of Philadelphia.

Respectfully,

Latrice Y. Bryant

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cc: Michael Coard, Esquire