CITY OF BENSON
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: **May 16, 2013**

TO: **Interim City Manager-Jim Cox**
Clerk's Office- Vicki Vivian, Danna Judd
Building Official-Luis Garcia

FROM: **Michelle Johnson, Planning Tech**

cc:

SUBJECT: **Board of Adjustment Applicant Jason Miller**

Yesterday, May 15, 2013, I had a conversation with Board of Adjustment applicant Jason Miller. He confirmed that Ron Brooks called him on Monday, May 13, during the work day, at approximately 2pm. According to Jason, Ron introduced himself as both a Councilmember and the Chair of the Board of Adjustment. Jason said Ron asked Jason to meet with him so Ron could get to know him. Jason agreed to meet Ron on Monday May 20. Jason did not disclose to me where or when on Monday, May 20. Jason states Ron was polite on the phone and the conversation lasted no more than a few minutes. As of yesterday, Jason has no intention of keeping his Monday, May 20th meeting with Ron Brooks.

When I talked to Jason yesterday to let him know his appointment was tabled by Ron Brooks at the council meeting on Ron's statements that he (Ron) wants to meet Jason and know what Jason's qualifications are, Jason became rather irate and wanted to know what authority Ron had to question his qualifications.

I am under the impression Jason thinks Ron will not only question his "qualifications" to be a volunteer, but also his professional qualifications. Jason asked me who Ron Brooks was, why he was calling and what he does for a living so I did tell Jason that Ron is a Councilmember and on the Board of Adjustment, that he was a licensed contractor in Arizona and that he currently works as a handyman. Jason's immediate assumption was that Ron Brooks had asked others in the construction trade about him (Jason was formerly an electrician and now works in communications) and received a negative response, from one local electrician in particular with whom Jason had a falling out several years ago. I told Jason I was not aware of any connection like that.

Jason is aware of Ron's recall and complaints that drove it. Jason, quite bluntly, told me that he "doesn't want the drama of City Hall" in his life and he would prefer to be left alone. Jason states, and I concur, that he agreed to volunteer as a board member because he knew I was looking to fill positions. However, he does not want to be brought into the issues created by Ron Brooks and the divisiveness of staff and Council. I agree with him, that a citizen VOLUNTEER, should not be placed in the middle in any of these internal conflicts.

Jason does not feel comfortable being placed on a board with Ron Brooks, particularly if there is a significant change in staff, as is being rumored. Jason does not feel the need to place himself in a position where he might be challenged by or have to raise a challenge to Ron Brooks when their professions are in the same field and assumingly they have similar contacts.

Jason requested, and I agree, that his application be withdrawn because he does not want to be "interviewed" nor does he want to be involved, even tangentially, with City Hall politics. Jason does not want to be contacted by anyone regarding City business, myself and Ron Brooks included.

As staff, I need to know if Ron Brooks as a Councilmember or Board of Adjustment member, or if any other Councilmember or any other Board/Commission member will now be calling board volunteers, 5 hours before their appointment is to be discussed, to asked these citizen volunteers about their qualifications. I have several other individuals that are considering positions with the city's boards (Board of Adjustment, Board of Appeals and Planning and Zoning Commission) and quite frankly, if they will be getting calls to be discuss themselves, introduce themselves or justify their qualifications, these potential volunteers deserve to know that up front, from me, as the staff member who is trying to fill the positions to better serve the City of Benson.

Please remove Jason's appointment from the June 10, 2013 City Council agenda.