

1/15/2018

Steven L. Rhodes

Honorable Marcello Banes, Chairman
Newton County Board of Commissioners
1124 Clark Street
Covington, Georgia 30014

RE: Proposed Removal from Newton County Recreation Commission Board

Dear Chairman Banes:

I am writing in response to the correspondence received as notification of your consideration for my removal as an appointed member of the Newton County Recreation Commission Board, due to the action taken in regards to the termination of Director Anthony Avery. I am requesting that you withdraw your consideration, and ask that you allow me to continue serving the citizens of Newton County based upon a lack of knowledge of the County's notice and hearing procedures as well as, instruction from the County's Legal and Human Resource staff.

I had no prior knowledge of the County's notice and hearing procedure, nor any prior knowledge of instruction given from the County's Legal and Human Resource staff. Due to the lack of information, my decision was made without realizing the ramifications. The information regarding these procedures and advice, came to light only after meeting with yourself, the County Attorney and the Human Resource Director at the meeting held on December 4th, 2017. If this information would have been available at that time, I would have voted against termination; and instead, been in favor of due process.

I am a lifelong resident of Newton County, and have dedicated the majority of my adult life to working with our kids. Currently, I am employed with the Newton County School System, and serve as a football coach at Veterans Memorial Middle School. I have been actively serving as a member of the Recreation Commission Board for five months. In the few months that I have been a member of the Recreation Commission, I have come to learn that the department is lacking oversight and accountability. The staff is hardworking and puts forth good effort in making sure the citizens of Newton are provided with quality service. However; there was a tremendous disconnect between the Board, Director, and staff. Oversight from the Board and

the Director was also an issue. I am asking for the opportunity to help drive change and a new direction, by providing the oversight needed to ensure success of the department. I am also asking for the opportunity of being a part of bringing new innovative recreational programs and vision to the department. I believe that the citizens of Newton County deserve a Recreation Commission that they can trust and be proud of.

Respectfully,

Steven L. Rhodes
404-808-3954