

Hoodwinked or Transparent

the choice is Yours!

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What a race!

What a one-eighty in how the two candidates present themselves!

I received my copy of Lt. Mike Hernandez's letter in the mail just now, much later than most others. My reaction to the letter was the word "hoodwinked." It presents itself as being full of ideas that will make a world of difference in our community. While it is simply reporting what is already in operation as being "new," it hoodwinks the reader into believing they are reading something which would be implemented if he is elected.

I want to look at this journey we've been on (recap) and address a few things from this letter Hernandez has sent out to the voters in our city. I believe this is a critical election for San Angelo. The man who takes over the reins in a few weeks as the Chief of Police will either continue the downward spiral that is happening within the department, or bring a breath of fresh air for the officers and to the place we call home.

A bit of a recap:

I have had two men I respected both lie to my face – Chief Frank Carter and Lt. Mike Hernandez. Hernandez appears to be the chosen one to carry-on the good ole boy system that has been in place forever. As we all know, Carter has endorsed Hernandez for Chief. Based on text messages dating all the way back to January, Hernandez has been the favored one and possibly a deal was made to keep one of the Assistant Chiefs onboard. This is evidenced by a text message I documented Chief sent to a friend. Carter strongly encouraged me not to write any additional articles on this topic.

Oops! Hernandez reports he has not made any deals on who his Assistant Chiefs will be. Carter's text with a friend stated he had agreed to keep at least one. Someone is fibbing again.

The PIAs (Public Information Act requests - all three) I submitted to the SAPD records department proved a point about today's world. They used words to split hairs in a word volley in order to not address my request. While I still want to believe Hernandez was shot "at," at least once, based on the records, it's only hearsay without evidence. Due to the lack of official documentation, Hernandez appears to have fabricated the number (eleven) of times he has been shot at while on duty.

Hernandez himself has repeatedly demonstrated he has a very low regard for city policy and Texas Election Code laws. He campaigned on multiple dates using his official vehicle which is taxpayer supplied and appeared at several fundraising events for himself wearing his uniform which includes badge and gun. It is intimidating to have someone with a badge and gun asking for money. That's probably why it is against department policy! Someone of his rank knows this is policy, as the other candidates made sure they were in their private vehicles and clothing.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE

TITLE 5. MATTERS AFFECTING PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

SUBTITLE A. MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

CHAPTER 150. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS AFFECTING MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

SUBCHAPTER A. INVOLVEMENT OF FIRE FIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Sec. 150.001. APPLICATION OF SUBCHAPTER TO CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES WITH POPULATION OF 10,000 OR MORE. This subchapter applies only to a municipality with a population of 10,000 or more, but does not apply to a municipality in which Chapter [143](#) applies.

Added by Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 1, Sec. 34(a), eff. Aug. 28, 1989.

Sec. 150.002. POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. (a) While in uniform or on active duty, an employee of the fire or police department of the municipality may not engage in a political activity relating to a campaign for an elective office.

(b) For the purposes of this section, a person engages in a political activity if the person:

- (1) makes a public political speech supporting or opposing a candidate;
- (2) distributes a card or other political literature relating to the campaign of a candidate;
- (3) wears a campaign button;
- (4) circulates or signs a petition for a candidate;
- (5) solicits votes for a candidate; or
- (6) solicits campaign contributions for a candidate.

One of the comments I hear over and over is the difference in the number of years Hernandez has over Griffith. That may be very true. He may beat Griffith in receiving a gold watch at retirement time, but that has nothing to do with being a leader.

Hernandez's campaign team has been trying to put Griffith down because he is "only" a Sergeant. Let's keep in mind, Chief Carter is the first person in decades to be elected Chief who was a lieutenant. They have all been Sergeants. That has never been an issue, until someone needed for it to be.

I've heard and read posts by various officers as they expose things that are being said by Hernandez to garner votes which are very misleading. This was on my mind as I read the letter his campaign sent to my home.

Interesting - out of all the private emails, notes, texts, and phone calls I have received, not one of them was trying to give me detrimental information on Cimino or Griffith. Every one of them was

about Hernandez. Do note, I never asked anyone through any means to contact me and share the information they did. Some things were very disturbing.

So, it's my turn to question parts of the letter I received in the mail. *[I have posted the bulk of the verbiage from the letter as a postscript to this article, as I want to be sure no one thinks I pulled any information out of context.]*

Operation Spotlight – questioning suspicious people during the night

- Is this not the definition of policing? If you see something suspicious, you check it out. Working from home, I see lots of suspicious activity all throughout the day. Why are you just targeting the deep night shift?
- Former candidate for Chief, Lt. Chris Cimino commented, “**The principle of "Operation Spotlight" is already going on. Police officers have been doing this on a daily basis since the inception of modern policing by Sir Robert Peel back in the 1800's. It's called Patrol.**”

Security Video Initiative – people reporting people on their video

- I am all for working smarter and using technology where it can be advantageous, but I don't think citizens are ready for San Angelo to become BIG BROTHER. China and other foreign countries use all these cameras to control their citizens. That is not what America is all about.
- As it is now, do we not have a means to submit video footage to the SAPD if the need arises? I do believe we do. So, are you just creating a new department, and where are you going to go to find people to man this new department who will be watching and categorizing all this footage? Manpower seems to be a shortage.

Uninsured Motorist Ordinance

- While this might sound like a possible solution, my first reaction is Big Brother is seizing property on the spot without a trial or jury of my peers hearing the case. Driving without insurance is a misdemeanor, I believe. You could be taking something of greater value than the actual fine they would receive. Is that the

right thing to do? I'm all for fighting against uninsured drivers, but this doesn't seem like the right solution.

- Would the City be prepared to take on the lawsuits that might ensue?

School Safety

- SAPD has been actively involved on campuses all the way back to when I was in school in the 60's and 70's.
- There is nothing new being mentioned here.

Mom and Pop Businesses

- I'm not seeing anything new being mentioned here either.

Next Administration – what it does internally

- Gut reaction – I see red flags all over this. [Our manpower shortage is very real and the aftermath of these chiefs' elections could easily make it worse.](#) Aftermath – are you suggesting that you might terminate your rivals, adding to the shortage in manpower that already exist? I understand you cannot directly fire your opponents, but you can reassign them and downgrade their pay, causing them to choose to leave.
- Livelihoods are in the balance – that sounds like a loss of income to me, as in being fired. See actual verbiage at end of article.

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/DocViewer.aspx?DocKey=EL%2fEL.276&Phrases=276.001&HighlightType=1&ExactPhrase=False&QueryText=276.001>

Sec. **276.001** . RETALIATION AGAINST VOTER. (a) A person commits an offense if, in retaliation against a voter who has voted for or against a candidate or measure or a voter who has refused to reveal how the voter voted, the person knowingly:

(1) harms or threatens to harm the voter by an unlawful act; or

(2) with respect to a voter over whom the person has authority in the scope of employment, subjects or threatens to subject the voter to a loss or reduction of wages or another benefit of employment.

(b) An offense under this section is a felony of the third degree.

In every way I can, I will demonstrate to my opponents and their supporters that they remain honored and integral members of the SAPD family. Rather than a resentful heart, I will keep an open mind, with an ear to the ideas, concerns and frustrations that motivated them to get involved.

- In every way you can? What if you can't? What if you aren't already? Cimino reported on his Facebook page, "I tried to say "hi" to the candidate the other day and was rebuffed by a mumbled reply and a quick egress from my presence. That's not indicative of a friendly relationship."

As Chief, I will be:

Many of you know me. If we didn't grow up together, we could have met in your neighborhood, at an event, a ball game, at your kids' school, at your school...the list goes on. That's because I believe police officers are more effective when they are visible and familiar to the people they serve. That goes double for your Police Chief. So, I will attend and make myself available at school board and city council meetings whenever possible. I will be available to the press. I will certainly remain available to you. That personal interaction is the part of my career I love the most. I'll be no different if you entrust me to be your next Chief of Police.

...that goes double for you as Police Chief?

...I will be available to the press?

...I'll be no different if you entrust me to be your next Chief of Police!

- So, you'll be twice as hard to get a response from as Chief.
- You will not make yourself available for the press, as I have personally experienced once I began to question things about what you have been saying.
- Plus, you're stating I can trust this will be true. [smile]

By the way, Burrito, your sign at A&M and Sherwood Way is too close to the street and is seriously blocking view of oncoming cars when you add the utility box that is there also. I'd encourage you to move it back or somewhere else, so it does not cause a wreck. I'd text that to you (like I have before), but you no longer respond to my texts. I guess the press and/or citizens can be cut off if you don't like what they are saying. Here's some photos to document what I'm saying:



See car
approaching
light on
Sherwood
Way at
A&M.



Can you
easily see
the car now
hidden by
the
Hernandez
sign? NO



Now I can see it. If I had pulled out to legally turn right on red, I would have been hit.

It is with regret I look back over this campaign season. I wish Lt. Mike Hernandez had responded to my requests and second interview. I believe things would have been different. I wish the powers that be in the SAPD had allowed and worked with me to get the true information out there about our men and women who serve us and put their lives on the line every day - about the dangers they face. I think our citizens would have liked to have had that story.

As we continue to elect people for various positions, let's hold them accountable for not only the job they do, but they also show up for work fit and ready to put in a full day's work. I don't know about you, but my tax dollars are not appreciated when used for working from home, deep sea fishing, traveling all over the U.S., etc. If you no longer want to serve in a position, then resign and allow us to find someone who does. Running out the clock so you can get the highest retirement pay possible at our expense isn't the right thing to do. We will be watching more closely in the years to come.

San Angelo, we have been asleep at the wheel and played in various ways. It is time to wake up, get involved, and hold our elected officials accountable - and the employees of our great city, as well. If we want

to keep and maintain our awesome community, it will take some work to get it back into the hands of the citizens and out of the hands of the few who manipulate it for their benefit.

It starts by voting. Get out and vote and bring about ten registered voters with you. This is a non-partisan race. It's NOT the north against the south, or east versus west. Tuesday, June 11th, is the last date of early voting from 7am-7pm at the Judge Edd B. Keyes building downtown. Election Day is this Saturday, June 15th, from 7am to 7pm throughout the city. Go vote!

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This is article eight in the series Candidate for Chief of Police.

All eight articles can be found on www.ChristianReporterNews.com.

One such strategy is, "Operation Spotlight". We have individuals methodically prowling San Angelo neighborhoods at night, checking car doors and stealing any valuables they can get their hands on. In my initiative, late night patrol officers will be proactively looking for people on foot, wearing clothing that can conceal their identity and carrying packs with which to transport stolen items. We will not search or detain anyone unless there is legal cause. However, we will make contact, ask for their ID, and make note of them. We need these individuals to be painfully aware that we are watching them, and we know who they are. Intense scrutiny is the best deterrent to crime. It's a strategy I have worked with in the past for gang activity, and it works. Let's turn on the light and make them scatter.

This ties in to a security video initiative, in which we want to partner with you! I believe that the new prevalence of web based camera systems can be a great opportunity for Crime Analytics. While we can't currently afford to install city wide "CCTV" like they utilize in many parts of Europe, we can adapt their techniques and apply them to data provided by homeowners. I will have an online portal added to our website specifically for you to upload your videos of trespassers, suspicious activity, and especially of individuals attempting or committing a crime. Our crime analysts will take a more formal approach to cataloging and analyzing this footage. We can use it to find patterns for crime prevention and provide supporting materials for arrests and convictions.

I don't have to tell you that insurance costs are soaring. Law abiding drivers pay more and more while irresponsible drivers are just less likely to pay for coverage. We are not utilizing our legal ability to maximize the repercussions for ignoring this law. I want to work with the City Council to create, adopt, and implement an Uninsured Motorist Ordinance. Under this

Ordinance, uninsured drivers stopped or involved in an accident can have their vehicles towed and impounded at their expense. Many other Texas cities already have such an ordinance. Odessa adopted a UMO last year, in response to estimates that 40% of Permian Basin drivers were uninsured. Let's address this problem in our city right now— before the problem gets that bad.

School safety is a priority for my first 100 days, as it has been throughout my career. I spent 25 years as a Campus Resource Officer, and have taught countless readiness courses to educators. I have seen the importance of positive interaction between law enforcement, faculty and students, and how it benefits our school campuses and our streets. In my administration you will see a proactive cooperation between SAPD and San Angelo's public and private schools.

I also appreciate the absolute importance of our businesses. From "Mom and Pop" shops to the large scale construction sites, business relies on a secure community to thrive. Business owners can expect to have my attention as well.

What the next administration does internally is equally important for San Angelo's best interests. Our manpower shortage is very real and the aftermath of these chiefs' elections could easily make it worse. However, I understand that the zeal officers bring to these campaigns is the same zeal with which they care about the department and our community. I appreciate that their livelihoods are in the balance. In every way I can, I will demonstrate to my opponents and their supporters that they remain honored and integral members of the SAPD family. Rather than a resentful heart, I will keep an open mind, with an ear to the ideas, concerns and frustrations that motivated them to get involved.