

Renina Fuller

From: Marsha Lidskin
Sent: Friday, February 5, 2021 2:59 PM
To: Renina Fuller
Subject: RE: Call

Hello Renina,

Regarding the discussion we had this morning, I will now relate to you the episode I experienced with Council Member Ed Danko in November, 2020. First, a little background about me: I've been working for the City of Palm Coast's communications department since 2005: full time for 6 years, part time for 15 years. One of my responsibilities during this time has been to write our City's newsletter – The Palm Coaster. It is distributed to the community 6 times per year, via our utility bills.

In November, 2020, I called Ed Danko to interview him as one of the candidates for our City Council's District #1. It has been standard procedure for me for 15 years to always introduce myself to new and potential City Council candidates. In every newsletter issue following a local election, we introduce the winners to the community with a brief biography and photo. This past November, I spoke with Council Member Danko and asked him a few standard questions regarding his past employment, goals for the City, etc. When I asked him about the organizations he has served, he told me that he was President of the Trump Republican Club of Palm Coast. I promptly told him that I would gladly include his position in the article, but I would be leaving out the name 'Trump' because we didn't want to make our newsletter political. He jumped on my response immediately: he specifically asked me, "who told me to say this?" and I answered him that it was my decision, as I've been the newsletter editor for 15 years. He then said this to me: "What are you – some kind of liberal?" I was astonished and got quiet for a moment. I tried to move on to ask him totally different question and he interrupted me and said the following: "You know what? I don't want to talk to you anymore. I don't ever want to talk to you again. Nor do I want to ever meet you or work with you." He then hung up on me.

No one whom I've ever worked with in the City of Palm Coast has ever spoken like this to me. I sat quietly for a moment, trying to keep myself from getting really upset and angry. I then called City Clerk Virginia Smith. Virginia often gives me information she has about various Council candidates so that I can use it for the newsletter. I asked her for whatever information she may have about Ed Danko, seeing as he wouldn't share anything with me or would never talk to me again. I also told her what had happened that day. She will attest to this experience.

It's shameful that this all had to happen, but I've moved on. Thank you for asking and for caring about precarious occurrences of this kind – things that could often truly affect the job function of our employees.

I look forward to meeting you soon,
Marsha

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