

## Wisdom, Debbie

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**From:** Carpenter, Tom  
**Sent:** Friday, July 26, 2019 2:35 PM  
**To:** Scott Jr., Frank; Vice Mayor Wyrick; Director Hendrix; Richardson, Ken; Director Webb; Director Peck; Director Hines; Wright, Doris J.; Director Fortson; Director Kumpuris; Director Adcock  
**Cc:** Betton, Alex; Hogan, Rick; Wisdom, Debbie; Blake, Charles; Pruitt, Kendra; Jackson, Stephanie B.; Moore, Bruce; Witherell, Stacey; Cox, Emily; Williams, L. Amor; Humphrey, Keith; Bewley, Wayne; Finks, Hayward; Fulk, Alice  
**Subject:** INFORMATION ALERT| Request for Comments on CSC hearing on Mr. Starks

Dear Mayor Scott and Members of the Board of Directors,

I have received phone calls that two different television stations are seeking comment from members of the Board of Directors about the ongoing Starks hearing before the Little Rock Civil Service Commission. Specifically, they would like a reaction to comments about the testimony of Assistant Chief Finks and Assistant Chief Fulk. *In the strongest possible terms*, please DO NOT make any comments about this ongoing hearing.

The City, the LRPD, and Mr. Starks have a right to a full and fair appellate trial on the action by Chief Humphrey. Comments by elected members of the Board of Directors only serve to challenge such fairness. More to the point, and using a military analogy, it is improper “command influence” that cannot be tolerated.

Command influence occurs when someone in a leadership position over a fact finder attempts to influence the decision of the fact finder. It is so serious, that charges and specifications against an individual can be dismissed. The forum in the military for factual decisions is a courts-martial. Generally, in Arkansas it is in judicial bodies – District Court, Circuit Court, the Arkansas Court of Appeals, or the Arkansas Supreme Court – as well as quasi-judicial bodies such as the Commission in this case. As the elected government officials for the City, who have a say in the appointment of the members of the Civil Service Commission, there is a risk of such undue influence when comments are made about evidentiary decisions, the reliability of testimony, the credibility of witnesses, or the appropriateness of a decision. Even how a hearing is being run is a taboo subject.

Please do not make any comments. If you are contacted by the news media, even in response to comments by another member of the Board of Directors, please do not respond. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Tom

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