

## Manager Interview

Yahoo/Inbox

**Whitaker, Mark** <whitakerm@portsmouthva.gov>

**To:** Glover, Shannon, Barnes, DeAndre, LucasBurke, Lisa, Battle, Paul, Moody, William and 1 more...

**Cc:** White, Debra - City Clerk

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Fri, Feb 19 at 3:51 PM

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Dear Colleagues:

This message is to inform you that I will not be involved in interviewing Mr. Danny Meeks as a candidate for City Manager, for it is a violation of the criteria established and publicized by the Portsmouth City Council. Based on your knowledge both actual and constructive, Mr. Meeks does not possess nor meet the minimum requirements publicized to all potential applicants. Persons made decisions to apply or not to apply based on the public notice given by the Portsmouth City Council. To my knowledge, this public body never rescinded the public notice. Therefore, the search criteria, for City Manager, established by the Portsmouth City Council is still effective.

As we proceeded through this process, it was my hope that the majority of Council would abandon any notion of proceeding in a manner that abridges due process, fairness, and equity. However, it is disappointing to see that such consciousness is not a consensus in this matter. Consequently, I will not participate in something which requires me to lower my standards and ignore my values.

By interviewing Mr. Meeks in my capacity as a publicly elected official, I would have to ignore the centuries of past discriminatory practices. Persons were discriminated against based on their race, color, religion, national origin, or sex because rules were purposely changed to abort a rightful process in order to accommodate others. Particularly, our history is replete with testimonies of people being denied opportunities for advancement because someone with less qualifications or in some instances no qualifications was selected. I will not close my eyes to this past injustice nor cooperate with this present inequity.

Therefore, it is with great regret, but with a content spirit, that I refuse to participate in the interviewing of Mr. Danny Meeks as a Candidate for Portsmouth City Manager. I hope my fellow Colleagues will rise to the same consciousness.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Mark M. Whitaker, Councilman  
Portsmouth City Council

Sent from my iPhone

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