



Entire North Carolina Police Department Resigns In Protest Over Progressive Town Manager

Description

USA: The entire North Carolina police department resigned Friday after a new town manager was hired.

Police officers and other officials in the small town of Kenly submitted mass-resignation letters citing stress, a hostile work environment and an inability to continue the department's long-term betterment projects, Fox News reports.

In a letter to Town Manager Justine Jones, Police Chief Josh Gibson expressed regret toward the negative changes he felt were occurring in the department.

"In my 21 years at the Kenly Police Department, we have seen ups and downs. But, especially in the last 3 years, we have made substantial progress that we had hoped to continue. However, due to the hostile work environment now present in the Town of Kenly, I do not believe progress is possible," Gibson wrote.



Kenly Police Chief Josh Gibson posted about how he “put in my 2 weeks notice along with the whole police dept.” over the “hostile work environment.”

Gibson made the [shocking announcement in a Facebook post on Thursday](#), saying the assistant town manager and a key clerk had joined him and his five officers in quitting in protest.

"I have put in my 2 weeks notice along with the whole police dept.," he wrote of the force he has served with for 21 years.

"The new manager has created an environment I do not feel we can perform our duties and services to the community," he wrote of Justine Jones, who took up the [position early last month](#).



New Kenly town manager Justine Jones.

Local outlets report that neither the police department nor Jones has been willing to speak to the media on the nature of these complaints.

Gibson's letter was only one of several resignations that were made publicly available after the mass exodus.

"It is with a heavy heart that I take this action. I have been with the town since 2004 and fully expected to finish my law enforcement career with the Town of Kenly. Unfortunately, there are decisions being made that jeopardize my safety and make me question what the future will hold for a Kenly Police Officer," wrote officer G.W. Strong.

While all others addressed their resignations to Gibson, the police chief himself submitted his to Jones.

Jones was just hired as town manager last month after serving in various local government positions in other states. Her new position was celebrated by the Town of Kenly in a June press release.

She had started on June 2 after "a nationwide search," according to a statement which said that "Jones has dedicated her career to public service over the last 16 years during which she worked in **progressively responsible positions with local governments in Minnesota, Virginia, South Carolina and North Carolina**," the town wrote in the statement. "She began her municipal career as the Executive Assistant to the City Manager and National Urban Fellow in the City of Norfolk, Virginia."

The release did not mention, however, **how she had sued a previous employer in neighboring South Carolina for racial discrimination after she was fired in March 2015, according to WRAL.**

She accused Richland County leaders of “hostile” treatment and for not paying her fairly because she was black and had a disability, court docs show. She also accused the county of discriminating against her because she was a “whistleblower” who “reported serious fraud, wrongdoing, and violations of the law.”

The lawsuit was voluntarily dismissed in April 2017, court records show, without elaborating on why. Before getting hired by Kenly, she listed herself as “Principal CEO” of her own consulting company, Word of Mouth Realtime, her LinkedIn shows.

Police leadership and active duty officers were joined in their resignation by other officials.

“I have truly enjoyed working for The Town the last four years. Due to the current situations and the stress in the work area lately, my main concern is my health, and right now I need to focus on my wellbeing. **The work area is very hostile and I will not let myself be around that kind of atmosphere,**” [wrote](#) Christy Thomas, utility clerk for the town of Kenly.

Some outgoing government employees kept their messages curt and to the point — including Town Clerk Sharon Evans.

“I will be retiring sooner than I had planned. This is my two weeks notice as of today. I can no longer work under the stress,” wrote Evans.

Meanwhile, Johnston County Sheriff Steve Bizzell assured WRAL that his deputies would be “stepping up” to cover for the missing Kenly cops.

“I will be there for the people of Kenly, and they can rest assured they will have deputies patrolling the streets,” he insisted. If not, they can just get the progressive new town manager to contain what is soon sure to be rampant, uncontrolled crime.

by Tyler Durden

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