

From: james@jameshartman.net <james@jameshartman.net>
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2024 9:33 PM
To: Clay Madden <cmadden@cityofmandeville.com>; Rick Danielson <rdanielson@cityofmandeville.com>; Skelly Kreller <skreller@cityofmandeville.com>; Jason Zuckerman <jzuckerman@cityofmandeville.com>; Jill McGuire <jmcguire@cityofmandeville.com>; Rebecca Bush <rbush@cityofmandeville.com>
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Subject: Pants on fire

Dear Mayor Madden:

As I write this at 8:45 p.m. on Jan. 22, I do not yet know the outcome of the Alliance for Good Government forum held earlier this evening. I'm relatively confident, however, that you received the endorsement. I'm also relatively confident that you will prevail against your two opponents in the March 23 election.

I will commend your performance at tonight's forum – although, to be fair, that's rather like damning you with faint praise, since **your opponent was so weak**. My favorite part of your presentation was when you spoke about respecting and listening to ALL citizens of Mandeville, and responding to ALL emails and calls. Having penned four published novels myself, and having been a citizen of Mandeville for 10 years, I do love good fiction.

As you know, I'm a super-chronic voter and **am** engaged in government and politics at all levels. In recent years, I've sent you several emails – some with questions, some with praise – and you've ignored all of them. Even when members of the City Council joined the thread to say they were interested in the answers to my questions, as well, you didn't respond. Most recently, I emailed you and members of your staff with a message of gratitude for a Public Works issue affecting my neighborhood that was quickly resolved. Crickets.

Although one might give you the benefit of the doubt and think you're simply too busy to answer every constituent email, that you snub me at every public event where we encounter each other – including tonight – leads me to believe that your iciness is personal. That you've blocked me from your mayoral Facebook page, and have refused to explain why, adds insult to injury.

I've asked before and I'll ask again: Why? I have never been disrespectful to you. In fact, I voted for you for Council eight years ago. I did not vote for you when you ran for mayor, as literally any of the other candidates were smarter, nicer, and more accessible. I won't vote for you this year, either, because you blatantly lie, as you did tonight. **I suspect, however, that we'll be stuck with you for at least another four years**, and I'm not working for either of your opponents.

Astonishingly, I could be among your best allies, singing your praises far and wide and discouraging your opposition. Still, you persist in ignoring me – simple questions, and even expressions of appreciation.

Again, **I congratulate you in advance on your likely endorsement tonight and on your likely victory in March**. I doubt you'll reply to this email, either, as you've ignored all the other ones, too – although I'd be happy to provide them to anyone seeking to know how unresponsive and utterly childish you are. Any man would appreciate the invitations I've offered to discuss and resolve our differences. Any boy, however, would dismiss them. You've made yourself clear on that front.

I sincerely have no ill will towards you personally, nor do I wish you prosperity. Your personhood inspires my indifference; your mayoralty makes me crave adult leadership. Should you wish to have an actual, adult conversation, you know how to reach me.

Very sincerely,

James Hartman