

COPS STEALING CASH, TELEVISIONS, JEWELRY, CAMERAS AND MORE FROM ARRESTED CITIZENS

JORDAN BLASTS SPOTTS FOR LETTING COPS STEAL

Crooked civil service police chief fails to provide council with monthly reports of property confiscated under federal and state asset forfeiture laws; and has refused council's demand to turnover an inventory of property taken from arrested citizens

By **CLYDE CLODHOOPER**

Council President Joy Jordan continued her demand for mayor and safety director Gary Norton and civil service police chief Ralph Spotts to turnover public records that gives the public an inventory of cash and property that civil service cops have taken from arrested suspects that has consistently turned up missing.

"Federal and state laws, and East Cleveland's codified ordinances, require the safety director and police chief to provide council and the public with a monthly report of cash and property that's been confiscated from individuals who've been prosecuted, and whose property has been confiscated under asset forfeiture laws," Jordan said. "Council not only wants the asset forfeiture records, we want an inventory of all property that's been taken from people they've housed in our jails that has not been returned to them."

Federal and state laws prevent cops from taking property from arrested suspects and those prosecuted and convicted without due process because it violates the civil rights provisions of both the 5th and 14th amendments of the U.S. Constitution. Unless the property has been seized under federal and state asset forfeiture laws because it was used to commit a crime, it must be returned to the American citizen.

Norton and Spotts are required by federal and state laws to maintain an inventory of



Resident Gerald Strothers was told by Spotts that he couldn't find his camera equipment

property, but Jordan and council man Nathaniel Martin have complained that the two law enforcement officials are failing to follow the law and appear to be covering-up for thieving cops.

Earlier this year Spotts conducted a "commanders hearing" for detectives James Naylor, Scott Gardner and ex-cop Randy Hicks when they each stole big screen televisions that had been confiscated by a drug dealer. The three were reported by detective Kyle Cunningham.

The commanders hearing was banned by ex-mayor Eric Brewer as a violation of a council ordinance requiring employees to be disciplined in accordance with section 123.04



Council president Joy Jordan has considered asking U.S. Attorney Steve Dettelbach to investigate the police department for corruption and civil rights violations. Dettelbach successfully prosecuted ex-mayor Emmanuel Onunwor and got a federal restitution order that requires him to make payments to East Cleveland for his crimes against the city. Onunwor was released from prison earlier this year and made a recent visit to a local democratic club to apologize.

and 123.05 of the administrative code. Council has never approved the "cop on cop"

Flip it over

FEDERAL INTERVENTION DESPERATELY NEEDED

Norton and Spotts have let civil service cops turn the police department into a "kleptocracy."



"ROBO-CALL" NORTON IS "SAFETY DIRECTOR" IN PAY ONLY. Norton will be asking voters to let him keep the safety director's wages this November, but they should remember the civil service cops he and "justice obstructing" police chief Ralph Spotts let steal property without prosecution; and those like ex-detective Randy Hicks, who they cut a deal with to resign so he could avoid prosecution after the drunk and armed cop punched a handcuffed Arnold Black and violated his civil rights under the color of law. Civil service detectives James Naylor and Randy Hicks are still on the job and investigating citizens after getting caught stealing big screen televisions from a drug offender.

SPECIAL GUEST EDITORIAL

ECL has reached out to Mayor Gary Norton repeatedly for comment. He said no, the ex-mayor said yes.

Where is East Cleveland's "Talented 10th?"

By ERIC JONATHAN BREWER

I asked a prominent attorney who lives in East Cleveland why no one obtained and evaluated a copy of the closed-door agreement Gary Norton signed with Cleveland Clinic CEO Delos Cosgrove last June. He answered that contracts were difficult to understand.

But, I said, you're an attorney and a resident, and I can name another dozen attorneys who live in East Cleveland, so why didn't you or the others get the contract, read it and sound the alarm about language stating that city council was in agreement with the secret deal when public records showed it wasn't true. Maybe, I said, you might have exposed the deceptive language, demanded an investigation and thwarted the hospital's closing. At the very least, I said, you might have saved the building for a joint governmental complex that housed city and school administration employees.

His response was very telling. "People have other things to do with their time."

"And so you get what you get" was my response.

No hospital. A city with a nearly \$7 million deficit that's headed back to fiscal emergency. A mayor who wants to give away the city's assets and get paid for doing nothing. Abusive high-paid school administrators with poor academic results working out of trailers behind a brand new elementary school after \$100 million was spent to build new buildings. Police so thugged out they routinely violate citizen civil rights without accountability from a Negro police chief who turns his back on and covers-up cop misconduct, including his own, and I dare Ralph Spotts to meet me in court for what I've just written.

W. E. B. DuBois - for the benefit of those

Jordan says council wants confiscated property records

From the other side

investigations and disciplinary process that Spotts and other police chiefs have used to cover-up for bad civil service cops. Brewer warned Spotts that police chiefs didn't have the authority to create disciplinary rules that went around ordinances approved by council, and that all disciplinary actions must follow council's administrative code. During Brewer's administration, all disciplinary actions were directed through the personnel department under Frances Paster and guided by law director Almeta Johnson, a former Cleveland prosecuting attorney.

Martin thinks council may need to launch its own investigation and gather evidence to turn over to federal authorities.

"What they're doing sends up a red flag," Martin has said. "Gerald Srothers had to go to court to get back his cameras, and it still hasn't been returned."



Photo courtesy of Inside Edition
Eric Jonathan Brewer served as EC's mayor from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2009.

reading what I've written who are under 50 or unaware of past leaders - was a progressive Negro leader who co-founded the NAACP in 1909.

An intellectual, DuBois theorized that the Negro race should invest in educating its brightest minds to lead the struggle for equal political, economic and civil rights.

He - along with a man I consider to be a legend, Paul Robeson - believed that a black professional class would one day ascend to the ranks of political and economic power, right wrongs and lift the rest of Negro America.

DuBois didn't see East Cleveland coming.

One of the things I told the prominent East Cleveland resident and attorney was that the city's residents don't fight for themselves. It's why Norton could negotiate a secret agreement to close Huron Hospital in a state where open government isn't an option but a mandate.

East Cleveland is not a city full of dummies as

those outside may try to characterize its residents. It contains thoughtful, intelligent and accomplished individuals who, for some reason, have sat back while dummies, incompetents, liars and criminals have hijacked their tax dollars for their own benefit.

Why they don't attend council, school board and library board meetings or run for office is a mystery. Why they allow their tax dollars to be misspent and continue to accept excuses and lies from their public officials and employees is an embarrassment to their education, skills and accomplishments. More importantly, since the city is majority African American, it is a disgrace to every aspiration fought for by their ancestors who laid down their lives for equal access to political and economic power. As a "first black" in some of the jobs I've held, I'm embarrassed at the level of abuse Negroes are heaping on other Negroes. I'm disgusted by black cops who participate in abusing the civil rights of their brothers and sisters, and set them up at a rate worse than that committed by racists.

W.E.B. DuBois and Robeson, I guarantee, didn't envision Negroes like those who have allowed East Cleveland to be misled coming.

It's one thing to get paid to fight for East Cleveland: it's something else to fight for the city you live in because it's not only right, it's your fucking responsibility to the race, to your family and to the lives lost and the sacrifices of those who were less selfish and more selfless so you could even go to law school.

With all the lawyers and professionals living in East Cleveland, you have a duty as citizens to put favoritism aside, and to evaluate and expose flawed deals, and to support those fighting to do what's right.

Public employees will face prosecution, termination for violating council ordinances

By JULINDA MI'ADOLLA

Once council passes legislation that better defines and strengthens the city's "dereliction of duty" law, Mayor Gary Norton won't be able to protect city employees for violating an ordinance or resolution of council, even if he orders them not to follow it.

Council president Joy Jordan said the new ordinance the city's legislators plan to approve at its next meeting will make it a first degree misdemeanor for elected officials or public employees to violate an ordinance or resolution of council. It will also be a first degree misdemeanor for an employee to fail to report a public official who tells them to violate an ordinance or resolution of council. Jordan said the ordinance will allow council to order the city prosecutor to conduct an initial investigation, report back to council, and then prosecute the violator. It also orders the mayor to terminate the employee. The city prosecutor's failure to investigate will be a first degree misdemeanor under the new ordinance and lets council hire a special prosecutor to investigate

and prosecute them.

"This sends a strong message that we will not tolerate employees and officials who violate open records laws, drive vehicles home when council says no, or who do anything prohibited by law," she said. "We're removing all the excuses employees make for not following the ordinances and resolutions passed by this council."

Another proposed ordinance will require the law director to investigate a public official's conduct when they get the city involved in a lawsuit. He'll have to first tell council if the public official's conduct was lawfully consistent with the duties associated with their public positions. If they are then the city pays legal expenses and damages. If not, the legislation forces the law director to defend the city against the public official's misconduct and for them to pay their own legal expenses.

A writ of mandamus to force Norton to enforce council's ordinances and resolutions is being prepared by council attorney Darryl Pittman. Once filed Norton won't be able to use city lawyers or public funds to defend himself.



Martin