

Jan. 15, 2010

Trisha O'Connor
The Sun News
Sent Via Email: toconnor@thesunnews.com
CC: opinions@thesunnews.com

Dear Ms. O'Connor,

It has been reported by the local media that former Public Safety Officer Randy Fisher recorded numerous conversations with his fellow officers, superiors and other City officials over a two-year period. According to published reports, some of those conversations touch on matters which could affect operations and morale within the City of North Myrtle Beach.

The City does not have a copy of the tapes. We have repeatedly asked The Sun News for copies of the tapes so that we can review them and determine whether, based on their contents, the City needs to take any action. Not only has The Sun News failed to produce copies of the tapes or transcripts of their contents, they have failed to even respond to our requests.

We respect the right and duty of the media to investigate issues that affect our citizens. However, no matter how much the City would like to address those issues, and possibly others that may arise from a review of the tapes, we cannot do so until we are provided with complete, unedited copies or transcripts.

If Mr. Fisher seeks to right what he perceived to be wrongs in City government, he could certainly have provided us with copies of the tapes or transcripts instead of waiting until his employment ended and presenting them to the local media. Mr. Fisher certainly did not present the tapes for action while he was employed, despite his responsibilities as a government employee and, specifically, as a public safety officer.

The City asks that if Mr. Fisher or The Sun News has any interest in actually helping improve the functioning of City government, they produce a complete copy of the tapes or their transcripts for the City's review.

Sincerely,

John Smithson
City Manager
City of North Myrtle Beach