

2103 Summer Hill Lane
Augusta, Georgia 30904
April 1, 2022

The Honorable Daniel J. Craig,
Chief Judge, Augusta Judicial Circuit
735 James Brown Blvd, Suite 4206
Augusta, Georgia 30901

Dear Judge Craig:

I write to you today as a former chief elected official of the Augusta-Richmond County government and as a concerned citizen to request you empanel a special grand jury to examine the operations of the office of the Mayor of Augusta-Richmond County.

You will recall twenty years ago while we were both serving in elected capacity, I requested of the Superior Court that a special grand jury be empaneled to examine the operations of the Augusta-Richmond County Fire Department and the stewardship of then-chief Ronnie Few. The jury did a commendable job using the tools available to only a grand jury to compel records and testimony that resulted in a series of revealing civil presentments. That guided policymakers in correcting deficiencies.

I believe a similar situation has developed in the current mayor's office – records are being withheld or their release (if they ever existed) stonewalled, unchecked spending has occurred in violation of county policies, and a state investigation is underway concerning the use of public resources for political purposes. The fact that the office will be vacated by the incumbent in nine months does not diminish the need for a full accounting of his stewardship. This is not to imply that the mayor's office is the center of a criminal enterprise, but neither at the time did we think the fire department was.

Government functions best when its leaders exhibit the highest adherence to trust, truth and transparency. An independent search for the facts is imperative. A Richmond County grand jury can just as easily reassure the citizens that the rumors and inuendoes concerning their mayor are not of whole cloth.

With warm, personal regards, I remain

Sincerely,

Bob Young