

**CITY OF LEBANON**

# Local resident addresses council on racial injustice

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Racial injustice and police brutality have been recurring topics of discussion at recent Lebanon City Council meetings and across the nation, from city halls, to city streets, to everywhere in between.

The topics came back up again at the council's meeting on Sept. 8.

Kendra Furmon and Corion Moffitt attended the meeting to continue the discussions.

"Systemic racism is the greatest long-term threat our city and nation are facing," said Furmon. "The last several months have made the reality painful. Lebanon must acknowledge we have a problem, see the problem and then tackle the problem, which is what brings me here today."

Furmon asked the council to recognize the impact racism has on the well-being of Lebanon residents.

"Systematic change doesn't come from one policy or budget investment," Furmon said.

Furmon expressed her appreciation for a proclamation signed that declared June 19 as Juneteenth in the City of Lebanon. Juneteenth is a holiday that celebrates Union Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger's announcement on June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, that all slaves were free after the Civil War. The holiday also celebrates the end of slavery in the United States.

"But, that's not enough," Furmon said to Mayor Crenshaw and the council. "We must collectively build a process and change into our government and our society overall. Everyone must do their part, but as someone leading our community, we must have something started from the top as well. As for you and the city council members, you guys should actively engage in racial equality in order to reverse and repair the harm done to people of color, and when I mention people of color, I'm not just talking about blacks. I'm talking about Hispanics or any other

race other than Caucasian."

Furmon said the council could provide support to a committee that would conduct an internal evaluation on city policies and procedures to prioritize racial equality and address issues with racial profiling and the resulting harm to people of color.

Furmon also suggested

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Kendra Furmon  
City of Lebanon resident

the city consider activities or programs to help the city's youth.

"We've had so much crime among our youth, but there's nowhere for them to go," Furmon said. "We need somewhere for our youth to go, to educate them. What else do they have to do?"

Furmon said she has become involved in initiatives to help the community's youth, as well.

"I've joined other committees," Furmon said. "We're getting involved with the

Board of Education, as well. We're getting intimate with programs with them in the school system."

The public must understand the severity of racial injustice, according to Furmon.

"For Lebanon to be a place where everyone can live and thrive, we must recognize the crisis for what

it is and approach the policymaking with the urgency it deserves," Furmon said.

"With this being said, Mr. Crenshaw, I hope you take into consideration and look into other means of police deescalating instead of using chokeholds that you once stated were banned."

Furmon said she and other individuals who have been speaking out against racial injustice will continue on with their mission.

"We might not know all the answers or all the right

paths, but we're not going to give up," she said. "We will continue to do our best to make things better for everyone in the community, in order to dismantle the system."

Furmon also said she and her fellow activists are not against law enforcement.

"They do a great job," Furmon said. "But, there's always room for improvement. There are policies that need to be changed. We need you guys to be on board, and we need support from our community."

The problem of racism is growing worse, Furmon said.

"...The racism here in Marion County is getting worse," she said. "The violence is real. What's happening in Louisville, and what's been happening in Lebanon, it's only going to get worse. If we don't do something, the murders are only going to get worse. We need something done, and we need something done now."

During her remarks, Furmon discussed how the community could involve its

youth more.

Councilman John R. Mattingly said a youth center had been operated in Lebanon in the past, but it closed down due to a lack of participation.

"So, my thing is, how are the young kids going to participate if the parents don't participate?" Mattingly said.

Furmon said she has joined the local NAACP chapter, which she said is working to restart the youth center.

"We're going to do our part to engage the community," Furmon said. "But, I'm talking about an actual youth center. When I went there as a kid, there wasn't much there to offer."

After a lengthy discussion, Lebanon Mayor Gary Crenshaw ended the discussion and thanked Furmon for her comments.

"We've had some good discussion, and I think we understand there's an issue," Crenshaw said. "Ms. Furmon, I appreciate you coming. You've spoken very well. We appreciate you very much."

## Motives

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ments, Councilman Darin Spalding interjected to ask Strong a question.

"What's your address?" Spalding asked.

Strong replied he lives on Hundley Lane, which is outside the city limits of Lebanon, but is within the jurisdiction of the Lebanon Fire Department, which recently merged with the Marion County Fire Department. The Marion County Fire Department previously had jurisdiction on areas in the county that immediately surrounded the City of Lebanon.

Both departments operated out of the same building, had the same fire chief and had almost identical rosters before the merger.

"You know this is the Lebanon City Council?" Spalding asked.

"Yes, but they took over Marion County Fire Department..." Strong said.

"You know why I don't have a problem with them taking over the Marion County Fire Department? My father-in-law was the first resident on St. Rose Road outside the city limits. And, if the Marion County Fire Department went out there, they could not bring the ladder truck. Why? Because it was Lebanon."

"They could do that," Strong said. "It's called mutual aid."

"If they were called in," Spalding said.

"With all due respect, this is pertaining to the Mayor and Mr. Mattingly," Strong said.

Councilman Larry Mattingly spoke up and commended Coyle for his work as fire chief.

"I was under Ricky Mattingly for 30 years," said Councilman Mattingly. "And, the fire department fell behind. When Mr. Coyle took over, the fire department has progressed so much within the last few months, you can't believe it. The morale is so much better than what it used to be. You know, this is behind us. We're moving forward."

"I understand that, but it's meeting your own personal agenda," Strong said.

"Wait a minute..." Mattingly said.

"You attended both a city council meeting and a fire meeting and got paid," Strong said. "I got documentation right here..."

Strong referenced a city council meeting Mattingly was listed in attendance for on Oct. 7. That meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. and adjourned at 8:57 p.m. Mattingly was also listed in

attendance for a fire training on Oct. 7. The training was listed as occurring from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

"You know what, Joe?" Mattingly said.

Mayor Crenshaw interjected.

"Mr. Strong, please go ahead, ask your questions..." Crenshaw said.

"Do what you want to do," Mattingly said.

"And, we'll either answer them..." Crenshaw said.

"That's behind us, Joe, what Ricky Mattingly did, it's behind us," Mattingly said.

"But, what you did is you got your own brother-in-law as fire chief, and the public don't know..." Strong said.

"Look, I had nothing to do with that," Mattingly said.

"Is this not a conflict of interest?" Strong asked. "At any point..."

"How do you figure..." Mattingly said.

A member of the audience then interjected and addressed Strong.

"Listen to that man right there, and listen to him and shut up," said John "Moe" Coyle, brother of Chris Coyle.

"You ain't going to hit the gavel?" asked Councilman John R. Mattingly.

"The Mayor has the prerogative to hire whoever he wants," said Larry Mattingly. "He chose Mr. Coyle because, at the time, he was the best choice for that position."

"But, did he have an interview process?" asked Strong.

"That's the end of the story," Mattingly said.

"We, the taxpayers, deserve the truth," Strong said.

Strong then asked Councilman Jerry Abell if he was allowed to serve on the fire department and the city council at the same time.

"Yes," replied Abell.

"For how long?" asked Strong.

"For several years," Abell said.

"And, there's documentation proving it?" Strong asked.

"Yes," Abell said. "It was back when Kathy Blandford was Mayor."

"So, how can you make a fair decision?" asked Strong. "For example. Mr. [Larry] Mattingly here has family on the fire department, the sewer plant and public works. So, does he exclude himself? You all laugh, but does he exclude himself?"

"Mr. Strong, I've got family everywhere," said Councilman Darin Spalding. "I've got 60 first cousins. How are you going

to remove yourself from family?"

Crenshaw used his gavel to restore order to the meeting.

"Chief Brady, we will have order in this room," Crenshaw said to Police Chief Wally Brady. "I don't want any more outbursts from out in the audience. If they are, they will be removed. Second thing is, is that, when Mr. Strong is talking, we will listen to him. After he asks his questions, anybody up here that wants to answer will answer, but we are going to have order in this meeting, or else we'll dismiss it and adjourn. Now, I don't agree with what Mr. Strong is saying. That's obvious. But, he's allowed to say it."

Crenshaw once again defended his decision to choose Coyle as the fire chief.

"I'm glad I did it," Crenshaw said. "I would do it again. At the very time he was temporary, Mr. [John] Thomas and I discussed an interview process, and we had several candidates we wanted to look at. But, in the interim, he did such a good job, and I'm still impressed with him and continue to support him. I chose him for the job, and that is according to our policies and procedures, and it's according to law. I'm sorry if the dates did not line up, but the intent was that we would do interviews, and I'm taking a liberty here, Mr. Coyle."

"Yes, sir," replied Chief Coyle.

"He refused the first time I asked him," Crenshaw said, "and I went back and asked him again to reconsider. So, Joe, you may not like it, the public may not like it, but that's what I did. I did it to the best of my ability, and you're going to have to be satisfied with that answer."

"I spoke on behalf of the taxpaying citizens," Strong said.

"I don't know who you're speaking on behalf of," Crenshaw said, "and I hope the taxpaying citizens understand, but if they don't, they're just not going to have to understand, because I've done the best I could. I'm going to continue to do it, so move on to your next question."

Strong then talked about the fire training tower.

"What's going on with the training tower?" Strong asked.

"That is public information," Crenshaw said. "It's been well-publicized."

"That's been a sensitive subject," Strong said. "I do know, for a fact, when it was brought up, it upset a few of you all, which

I think interfered with the interview process severely. I feel like personal agendas have been met. I feel like it's the good ole boy system. We got a training tower that just vanished. I got questioned on it. I got pulled to Lexington and questioned on it."

Crenshaw replied. "The fire commission knows all of that," Crenshaw said. "They have audited us. We have requested audits, and all of that..."

"Are we paying that, Mr. Mayor?" Strong asked. "Are we paying the difference? We should be told that. Is it an expense to the taxpayers again?"

"Not again, in addition to," Crenshaw said.

"So, we're paying for you all's mistakes and bad planning?" Strong asked.

"You're not paying for our bad planning or mistakes," Crenshaw said.

"I mean, it was built in the middle of an industrial park," Strong said.

"I had nothing to do with that," Crenshaw said. "... Mr. Strong, you're making accusations..."

"I'm bringing up valid points, and it seems to be upsetting you all," Strong said. "I mean, I've done been lashed out, retaliated against."

"Joe, listen," Crenshaw said. "It's public record about the fire tower. It is at the fire commission. They approved it all."

"But, why are we paying for one there when we had what we had?" Strong said.

"Because, in my opinion, it was located in the wrong place," Crenshaw said. "It shouldn't have been in the industrial park."

"Which, whose planning was that?" Strong asked.

"You'll have to ask somebody else, not me," Crenshaw said. "I didn't vote to put it there."

Councilman Larry Mattingly chimed in.

"You can go back to the past fire chief," Mattingly said. "He was the one in charge of all of that. I had nothing to do with that."

The former fire training center was located on property at the intersection of Highway 208 and the Bypass, which is where Diageo is building its distillery. The new fire training center in Lebanon will be located behind the city barn on Woodlawn Avenue.

The exchange between Strong and Mayor Crenshaw continued.

"It's pretty troubling," Strong said. "It don't seem like you all want to answer them. You all get in an uproar..."

Crenshaw raised his voice in a forceful response to Strong.

"I get in an uproar when you tell me I've deceived the public," Crenshaw said. "I will get in an uproar..."

"It was your words, in this paper, not mine..." Strong said.

"Joe, move on," Crenshaw said.

"...I'll be honest, I think we deserve answers," Strong said.

"I've given you all the answers I'm going to give you," Crenshaw said.

"So, you can hire and fire whenever you deem necessary?" Strong asked.

Crenshaw referred that question to City Attorney Kandice Engle-Gray.

"It's his executive authority as Mayor," Engle-Gray

told Strong.

"Does he make the right decisions, Kandice?" Strong said.

"As long as I know about them, yes," Engle-Gray said.

"Did you do the last investigation on Mr. Mattingly, like you did on mine?" Strong asked Engle-Gray.

"Last investigation on who?" Engle-Gray said.

"I'm going to leave that," Strong said. "I'm going to save that. I'm done."

After that, Strong left the meeting and walked out into the foyer area outside the council chambers. Chief Coyle and his brothers, Steve and Moe, also went out into the foyer to confront Strong. Police Chief Wally Brady and Assistant Chief Greg Young then walked out into the foyer area to defuse the situation.

Before the meeting adjourned, Crenshaw revisited the topic of maintaining order in the meeting.

"There are times when I must admit I get a little heated," Crenshaw said.

"I want to remind myself, the council and the public that we have to have order in our meetings, because if we don't, they devolve into chaos... Sometimes,

I let it get too far down the road, because I want to make sure everyone gets heard, but it is very, very difficult to operate that way when not everybody is on board. I want to apologize if I have offended anybody by my actions or my manner tonight."

### 300 Public Notice 300 Public Notice 300 Public Notice 300 Public Notice

**LEGAL NOTICE REGARDING THE MARION COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**

Notice is hereby given that because of an increase in the cost of water purchased from the Lebanon Water Works Company, the Marion County Water District will increase its rates for services effective September 15, 2020. An application requesting the proposed rates was filed with the Kentucky Public Service Commission on September 9, 2020 to increase rates as follows:

	Existing Rates	Proposed Rates	Increase (\$)	Increase (%)
<b>Customer Charge (Minimum Bill)</b>				
5/8 Inch x 3/4 Inch Meter	\$7.45	\$7.45	NC	NC
1 Inch Meter	\$16.20	\$16.20	NC	NC
2 Inch Meter	\$25.68	\$25.68	NC	NC
3 Inch Meter	\$40.73	\$40.73	NC	NC
4 Inch Meter	\$64.60	\$64.60	NC	NC
6 Inch Meter	\$162.59	\$162.59	NC	NC
<b>Water Charge</b>				
All Usage, per 1000 gallons:	\$6.57	\$6.87	\$0.30	4.57%

As noted above, based on the increased cost of water from the Lebanon Water Works Company all rates will increase \$0.30 per 1,000 gallons. The monthly bill for an average residential customer using 5,278 gallons of water each month will increase from \$42.13 to \$43.71. This is an increase of \$1.58 or 3.75%.

The charges/rates contained in this notice are the charges/rates proposed by the Marion County Water District. However, the Public Service Commission may order charges/rates to be charged that differ from these proposed charges/rates. Such action may result in charges/rates for consumers other than the charges/rates detailed in this notice.

Any person may examine this application at the offices of the Marion County Water District office located at 1835 Campbellsville Road, Lebanon, KY 40033. In addition, any person may also examine the application at the Public Service Commission's offices located at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or through the Public Service Commission's website at <http://psc.ky.gov>. Any comments regarding the application may be submitted to the Public Service Commission through its website or by mail to Public Service Commission, Post Office Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602. The Public Service Commission can also be contacted at 502-564-3940.

This notice is published pursuant to 807 KAR 5:068 - Purchased Water Adjustment for Water Districts and Water Associations.

**MARION COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**  
s/ Jeff Preston, Chairman

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## AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

The following affidavit is to be executed by an officer of the newspaper attesting publication of legal advertisements as required under an Act of Kentucky Legislature of 1958.

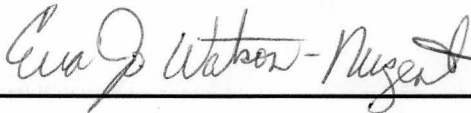
*Stevie Lowery of Lebanon, Kentucky, being first duly sworn, says that she is Publisher of The Lebanon Enterprise, a newspaper published in the State of Kentucky, County of Marion, and having general circulation in the County of Marion, and that the advertisement of which the annexed is a true copy has been published in said newspaper on the following dates 9-16-2020.*



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Stevie Lowery

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public within and for the State and County aforesaid, by Stevie Lowery to me personally known, this 16th day of September 2020. My commission expires the 11th day of February, 2021.



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Eva Jo Watson-Nugent  
Notary Public, State At Large 570155