

In light of the news conference earlier today I feel it is important as Mayor to make this brief comment. Due to the impending litigation I will not be taking questions or commenting on this case publicly again until the matter is resolved.

I place high value on the integrity of the position of being the Mayor of Peoria, on my name and reputation and for that of my family. Mischaracterizations of the basic facts in this situation have caused harm to our great City and serious threats against me and my family.

First and foremost, it is important for people to know that the media has distorted the facts of this situation from day one. When originally created, the information posted on the internet made no mention of "parody". The person used my official picture, the City logo in the background, my address and my contact information. There is no way for someone to know that what was being said under my name, picture and contact information was not coming from me. My identity as Mayor was stolen. Anyone reading the content would assume they were reading my comments as the Mayor.

Media statements that the sight had a limited number of followers doesn't address that there were likely many more who visited and read the postings before knowing it was not really me as portrayed.

The media's continued claim that the content on the website amounted to harmless parody was as disgraceful as the comments themselves. Many people have asked me that if the content was in fact harmless parody, why did the harmless comments never find their way into print or broadcast media? Why is that?

Let's see if it does now. Here are just a couple excerpts from the site: (I apologize in advance for the language.....I assure you it's not mine)

- "I'm up all night woke up with pussy on my breath and blood shot eyes and we got people talking about live tweeting"

- "I'm thinking it's a tequila and stripper night"

- "Gonna be up at "a local bar" wolfing down some wings. Come check me out I'll be signing titty's?"

- "2 fucking things to get off my chest. 1. If you don't like Peoria and U wanna sit here and bitch den leave. 2. Who stole my crackpipe?

Harmless parody? Everyone can decide that for themselves.

I agree with the foundation of the constitution granting us all freedom of speech. I don't believe that freedom allows me to say anything I want to say about anyone at any time about anything and attribute those things to another person as their thoughts under their picture. That's taking away my freedoms.

If this filthy attack was labeled as parody at the beginning, I would not have been any less repulsed, but at least it would be known to those reading the information that the things being assigned to me were in fact coming from someone posing as me. Everyone condemning me has to know that at its inception, the sight was not labeled as parody.

I will protect my rights and the rights of my family at all costs. I am exploring false light and defamation as well as other actions against those responsible for the placing and hosting of the libelous comments.

I look forward to an accurate accounting of the content attributed to me along with acknowledgement that at its inception was not labeled parody.

The entire content of this message can be found in its entirety on the City's website.