

Kathi Cornelius

From: Kevin Lucas
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 2:55 PM
To: Kathi Cornelius
Subject: FW: Letter
Attachments: Mayor Dan Letter to the ResidentsLL.doc

Kevin G. Lucas

Town Administrator
Jupiter Inlet Colony



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From: Ivelisse Chico-Randazzo <RandazzoI@jupiterinletcolony.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 10:32 AM
To: Dan Comerford <comerfordd@jupiterinletcolony.org>; Kevin Lucas <lucask@jupiterinletcolony.org>; Samuel J. Pruitt <PruittJ@jicpolice.org>
Subject: Letter

This is the letter that went out on Alert Media.

Kindest regards,

Ivelisse Chico-Randazzo
Town Clerk
Town of Jupiter Inlet Colony
50 Colony Road
Jupiter, FL 33469
561-746-3787
RandazzoI@jupiterinletcolony.org
Building@jupiterinletcolony.org

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Dr. Daniel J. Comerford III
Mayor



Town of
Jupiter Inlet Colony
50 Colony Road
Jupiter, FL 33469
(561) 746-3787
www.jupiterinletcolony.org

April 7, 2023

Dear JIC Neighbor,

This important update has four purposes.

One, I personally thank all the residents who wrote to me in support of the candidacy of Captain Jim Matthews for the position of Chief of Police.

Captain Jim Matthews has withdrawn his application as a candidate for the position of Chief of Police. For those of you who supported his candidacy, please take the time to thank him personally.

Two, many have asked: what is the process for selecting the JIC Chief of Police?

Normally, as the Mayor and Police Commissioner, it is within my discretion to unilaterally select the Chief of Police. However, to attract the best candidates to build the strongest Police Department, the position will be advertised both publicly and internally. Candidates will be interviewed in a public forum by a committee composed of Jupiter Inlet Colony Commissioners (excluding me), Colony residents, and Police Chiefs from neighboring Towns. The committee will select the next Jupiter Inlet Colony Chief of Police.

Three, this letter is an effort to set the record straight as to what has and has not happened in that process. There is much false information circulating in the Colony.

Here are the facts: After discussing his desire to retire on the 34th anniversary of his swearing in as a police officer, Chief S. John Pruitt sent me a letter of retirement on March 21, 2023. He stated that the effective date would be May 5, 2023, and that he intended to announce it at the Town Commission meeting on April 10, 2023.

On Monday April 3, 2023, Chief Pruitt notified the entire staff internally via email that he would retire effective May 5, 2023. On Wednesday, April 5, 2023, Chief Pruitt notified residents of his retirement via Alert Media because of misinformation and rumor circulating in the Colony regarding the firing of Captain Jim Matthews and the hiring of Alex Freeman as Chief of Police.

It is a fact that to make Jupiter Inlet Police stronger, Chief John Pruitt hired two former Majors — Jim Cummings, MSW, retired from PBC School Police and Alex Freeman, retired from Riviera Beach and Midway where he was Chief of Police. Officer Cummings was hired in December 2022 and Officer Freeman was hired in February 2023.

To further strengthen our Police Department, the entire department is being restructured as to staffing, shift hours, workdays, full/part-time officer ratio. Toward that end, the new command structure will consist of a Chief and a Deputy Chief who will work overlapping 40/45-hour weeks, a Captain, Lieutenant, Detective Sergeant, and more full-time than part-time officers. Alex Freeman was appointed JIC Deputy Chief on April 3, 2023, to fit the new organizational structure.

Finally, there is a rumor that our Town Administrator Kevin Lucas is an "old friend" of Alex Freeman. Chief Pruitt, Lt. Schultz, Kevin Lucas, former Tequesta Mayor Abby Brennan, and I met Alex Freeman for the first time at the September 2022 Blue Unity Dinner in Davie, Florida. He was introduced to us by Riviera Beach Chief of Police Michael Coleman.

Dr. Daniel J. Comerford III
Mayor



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I hope that this explanation adds clarity to the recent events within the Colony.

Fourth, I extend an invitation to all of you to attend our Town Commission Meeting on Monday, April 10, 2023, at 3:00 pm both live and zoom here at Town Hall.

I value your input and opinions, both publicly or privately. I am usually at Town Hall or can be reached at Comerfordd@jupiterinletcolony.org or 561-676-4532.

I hope to see you in person or via zoom at the Commission Meeting at 3:00 pm on Monday. Here is the zoom link and password. <https://zoom.us/join> Meeting ID: 585 628 8134; Password: 3787.

Sincerely,

Dr. Daniel J. Comerford, III
Mayor / Police Commissioner