

Celebrity

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outreach to organizations that appreciate and value the WNBA in order to build an even more robust group of sponsors and partners.

KW: What do you hope will be your WNBA legacy?

LJR: I don't spend much time thinking about my legacy; my focus is on the legacy of the league and of the athletes who give their all on and off the court. We are, and will continue to be, the destination for the best women's basketball players in the world. Every day we strive to provide our

fans with an exciting and entertaining experience.

KW: Do you think there is a need to expand the participation of African-American females in the field of sports media?

LJR: I would love to see more African-American females engaged in all aspects of sports. All of the research tells us that participation in sports has a very positive impact in both the short and long term. Girls who participate in sports have a higher self-esteem and are more likely to graduate

from college, and 80 percent of female executives played team sports growing up.

KW: What advice do you have for anyone who wants to follow in your footsteps?

LJR: Dream big and stay true to yourself as you pursue your dreams.

KW: Thanks again for the interview, and best of luck with the WNBA and the Olympics.

LJR: Thanks.

MOCKERY OF JUSTICE THREATENS LEGACY OF CITY LEADERS AND THE SURVIVAL OF A LOCAL MINORITY BUSINESS

The disposition of the Ellis McCoy (former parking manager for the city) bribery case brought forth by the FBI, seems to validate the claims of local minority business owner, Bruce Feathers of FeatherLite. Earlier, Feathers had repeatedly claimed that McCoy was suspiciously favorable to bribery suspect, Cale, which led to McCoy usurping his authority by allowing Cale to weasel out of the sub-contract with FeatherLite. The contract was to provide services for the City's Pay and Display parking meters.

Feathers claimed that McCoy overreached his authority, and ignored a city policy already in place to mediate issues between any city prime contractor and their MWESB (minority, women and emerging small business) sub-contractor. Instead, McCoy may have inserted himself into the issue and approved a request by Cale to back out of the contract. Ironically enough, as a sought after diversity consultant to the city in prior years, Feathers was part of the team which helped institute the policy. Prior to the policy, the city had struggled to find ways to stop prime contractors from using MWESB firms to secure a contract, then later find ways to avoid using their services. The mediation policy required one or both of the firms to submit their issue to city MWESB program officials, and they would investigate and mediate what's called a "work out."

"Never again", the city proclaimed, would they allow a contract not to go forward.

Mr. McCoy was totally outside of this process, and had no right to usurp his authority to approve Cale's request to dump FeatherLite, according to Feathers, and former Director of City Procurement, Jeff Baer. Feathers contacted Baer soon after McCoy approved the letter.

The irony involves the Portland Development Commission, who loaned Feathers of FeatherLite, the capital to expand his firm into the parking industry in the first place. By most observers inside of the City's MWESB program, **the Feather-Lite expansion was a success and exactly what the Mayor had in mind, having touted for years that the cornerstone of his minority business development philosophy, was examples like this.** Adams was a self-proclaimed champion for minority business development, as a way for the city and PDC to assist MWESB firms to grow, develop, and expand and create jobs in our economy.

The new parking division at FeatherLite indeed hired, trained, and created two 1 family wage jobs for two meter technicians with annual salaries of \$65,000 per year.

A celebration occurred when Mayor Adams visited FeatherLite to view his warehouse with 60 of the city's meters being prepped for delivery into the Lloyd district. Unfortunately, things went awry. The possible interference of McCoy may have cost FeatherLite one of the contracts, and now, the PDC arm of the city, (who loaned FeatherLite the capital to expand into parking) is now demanding full payment with mounting interest, penalty and fees.

PDC maintains that (although part of the city) that they have nothing to do with the McCoy situation and that it is separate and distinct from their interest.

Feathers had asked them to wait until he could work something out with the parking side of the city which is waiting for the disposition of the case against McCoy.

Feathers is also under pressure from equity investors who provided additional financing for part of the parking initiative PDC didn't cover. Prior to the indictment of McCoy, Feathers sent a comprehensive binder to Adams, Sue Kiel (former head of the city's Parking Division) and the city's Risk Management department, the city attorney, and a host of other city employees explaining his concerns. Feathers was rebuffed citing that the city was waiting for the disposition of McCoy.

Over the past 5 Mayoral administrations, Feathers, a noted and skilled consultant for Minority business programs, have consulted on a volunteer basis with the city, and helped build their program and the Supplier Diversity Program, which the Mayor and the council approved. While Ellis McCoy was indicted by the FBI and awaits sentencing to a federal prison, Feathers company could be in peril.

**A mockery of justice, what do you think?
JOIN THE PROTEST, CALL 503-33-7110**

Signed,
*Friends of FeatherLite and
Minority, Women, & Emerging Small Business (MWESB)
In the entire U.S.*

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