

# Marable responds to mayoral campaign article in *Transcript*

## Point of View

By Edward Marable

A “riff” is a musical term that describes a repeated melodic phrase that serves as accompaniment for a soloist. A “riff” is a break in friendly relations. Thus, it speaks volumes when the *Orange Transcript*, in a Jan. 5, 2012 story, mentioned “negative rumors” and “allegations” about me that included “a supposed riff about not being nominated for a municipal judge position when it was vacant in 2011.” This disregard for accuracy in reporting suggests that the *Transcript* doesn’t place a high priority on its own business: words.

Printed words should be accurate. When they aren’t, we all suffer from misinformation and conflicting versions of reality. The Jan. 5 story was chock full of inaccuracies about me, and begs the question, just what is the *Transcript’s* agenda? For starters, the article suggested that “Marable was the first to proclaim his desire to run for mayor as far back as the end of 2010.” The reality is that I announced that I was running for mayor on April 25, 2011, and was interviewed by reporter Chris Sykes the following day.

The article also stated that, “Marable could not be reached for comment by press time.” The reality is that no one from the *Transcript* ever attempted to contact me. I have Chris Sykes’ phone number on speed dial, such that when he calls me his full name will pop up. It is unfortunate that he would leave readers with the impression that I could not be reached. If you read the entire story, he allegedly attempted to reach three different

subjected to the Chinese water torture that has been his mayoralty.

Having too many titles, taking too many salaries, unnecessarily laying off workers, demoralizing employee morale, working while claiming to be disabled, a lack of fiscal transparency ... I could go on and on. At some point, my behind-the-scenes efforts to change his behaviors led me to the inescapable conclusion that Hawkins’ managerial style is simply his personality. It is who he is. At that point, he lost my support.

Second, I’ve heard that I cut a deal to run for mayor in exchange for financial support in 2010. I call this the “I Wouldn’t Do Well In Jail” rumor. I am a lawyer with a license to protect. Taking money in exchange for anything of this sort is criminal fraud.

In early 2010, Hawkins came to my home, unsolicited, and praised me for being an independent thinker and professional member of the City Council. He claimed that he wanted to support me financially in my re-election bid because my presence was needed on the council. I agreed with all of that.

Thus, with that as the backdrop, and in exchange for nothing, I took his campaign contribution. I publicly reported every nickel to Trenton and fully complied with the law. I used the money for two mailings, which is also documented, and never thought much more about it until the *Orange Transcript* ran several stories about me receiving the donation. Exactly what is the concern?

Finally, and as the Jan. 5 article

insinuates, I’ve heard that I am running for mayor because Hawkins passed me over as a judge. I call this the “Just the Opposite” rumor. In August of 2010, with the anticipation of retiring by the end of the year, I reached out to one of Hawkins’ advisors and expressed interest in a judicial appointment if an opening developed. I submitted a resume and cover letter, but nothing happened.

In January of 2011, Judge Eric Pennington resigned and interested applicants were urged on the city’s website to schedule an interview and submit a plan for the municipal court. I did not respond. I then received a call from the mayor’s office asking me to come in for an interview. I responded with a letter indicating my lack of interest in Judge Pennington’s position and throwing my support behind then-Judge Theodore Stephens II. That letter is available for all to see. Nonetheless, I was strongly urged to come in for an interview and I acquiesced. Soon after, I was advised that I did not get the position.

I will admit that the whole process was a little confusing, but it certainly did not leave me bitter or disgruntled. Interestingly, Judge Stephens resigned soon after, thus leaving an opening on the bench before my announcement to run for mayor. If I wanted to pursue that position, I could have. I didn’t, primarily because I was privately just starting to consider a run for mayor and I did not want to be perceived as someone who was running for mayor simply because I was passed

over for a judgeship. Ironically, that’s the way the story has been spun anyway. In reality, it is “just the opposite.”

Frankly, I am somewhat encouraged by the glut of rumors about me that Orange residents are being bombarded with. I also have a very good idea who is starting them and why.

At the end of the day, those people realize that I am a qualified, competent and formidable candidate for mayor and accordingly, I am a threat. Rumors, “blind items,” fabricated stories, “set-ups” and the like, have been and will remain an unfortunate part of politics.

None of the false rumors about me serve as an impediment to my running for or holding the office of mayor. I value my reputation, family name and city too much to suc-

cumb to these alleged lapses of judgment and character flaws. People who already know me already know that. People who don’t know me should not buy into these salacious stories that are unfortunately, being inaccurately perpetuated by the *Orange Transcript*.

**Edward Marable is an Orange City Council member and candidate for mayor.**

**Editor’s note: The conversation between Councilman Elroy Corbitt and our reporter referred to by Councilman Marable in his letter was audio-recorded. In it, Corbitt addresses the issue of rumors, as the story states. Our reporter tried to reach the subjects of the article as stated, but was unsuccessful by his deadline.**

## IN MEMORIAM

ALLEN — Regina Cobbs, formerly of East Orange; Jan. 7.  
BOWEN — Derrick L., of Orange; Jan. 7.  
BROWN — Antoine M., of East Orange; Jan. 10.

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