

Thom Tillis

19209 Hidden Cove Lane
Cornelius, NC 28031

Phone: (704) 895-1769 / office
(704) 728-9239 / cell

June 3, 2005

Kenneth Cooke
17828 Jim Cooke Road
Cornelius, NC 28031

Mr. Cooke:

On Monday, April 4, 2005, I received a hand written invoice from your brother (See attached invoice copy: Bill for Cleaning Farms). This letter is being sent to inform you that I do not work delineated in the invoice.

Your basis for invoicing me related to a comment I made in discussions about the annexation of the Stratford Forest which your family owns. In the process of hearing citizen comments and discussing the issue, I made an off-handed comment that "I may have played paintball there a time or two." I do play paintball on a regular basis, but I have never played paintball on your property. I owe you an explanation and apology.

My comment was made shortly after one of your family members spoke out against the annexation. Their comments suggested that you were a detached entity disinterested in the well being of the Town. To "humanize" the Board by my off handed comment, I thought my comment was not intended to harm anyone. My intent was to let you and your meeting think of us as people/neighbors trying to do this right rather than insensitive bureaucrats intent on harming our citizens. I made an error in my judgment, and I apologize for having misjudged.

You may wonder how I would know that people played paintball on McDowell Creek, and this also warrants an explanation. My brother died, and I buried him on the County-owned property adjacent to the creek. I took him for walks on the property, and I worked on the training.

From time to time over the past year and a half, I have taken several walks on the County property, and I have visited his gravesite, which is still marked and not too far from McDowell Creek. This past winter, I was walking along McDowell Creek, and I heard the sound of paintball markers, so I walked over to see what was going on. Although I never actually saw who was playing, it sounded like young kids. I am not sure if they were playing on your property or the small part of the woods that are actually part of the County property just on the other side of the creek. In any event, it would stand to reason that the people who did this were young kids. In my experience with playing paintball with adults, respect for property and safety are of paramount importance, and I know the group I play with would never condone such behavior.

John Rhodes
- This is Thom Tillis' response to the vandalism he committed.
- We have the town tape where he says that he paint balled on property.
- Tillis should not be in public office.
Joe Cooke
5-21-05

However I
- This letter will amuse you.
- Use it as you see fit.
704-875-5324
Joe Cooke
704-875-6062
14226 Stump Run Rd
Huntersville 28078