

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Burnet County Commissioners Court
November 12, 2024

Good morning, Claire Nybro, Burnet County taxpayer, voter, and interested person.

Regarding the Baker Tilly investigation, I will read into the record a statement written by Shirley Bullard, which she entitled "Short and Sweet". This document was an attachment to a chain of emails between Ms. Bullard, Judge Oakley, and County Attorney Arredondo, discussing the consequences of falsifying a government document. Mr. Arredondo indicates in one email that "there are different versions of the offense" and "the one I believe best fits is the felony version."

This chain of emails is dated June 12, 2024, two days after DA McAfee's investigative report was released on June 10, 2024, and one day before Judge Oakley's bombshell email to Paul Nash at Baker Tilly on June 13th.

(The Short and Sweet document is attached for the Minutes.)

Colleen Davis

From: James Oakley <judgejamesoakley@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 1:14 PM
To: Eddie Arredondo
Cc: Shirley Bullard; Shirley Bullard; Colleen Davis
Subject: Re: Short n sweet feedback

We received a draft that needs revisions and clarity of scope.

James Oakley
Burnet County Judge
512-744-5205 cell / text
judgejamesoakley@gmail.com

Sent from iPhone

On Jun 12, 2024, at 11:37 AM, Eddie Arredondo <earredondo@burnetcountytexas.org> wrote:

Judge,

There are different versions of the offense. The one I believe best fits is the felony version. I am out of the loop. Has the accounting report come out?

Eddie A.

From: Shirley Bullard <sbullard@burnetcountytexas.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 10:46 AM
To: James Oakley <judgejamesoakley@gmail.com>
Cc: Shirley Bullard <hrc@burnetcountytexas.org>; Eddie Arredondo <earredondo@burnetcountytexas.org>
Subject: Re: Short n sweet feedback

Chapter 37. just goes on & on. Takes a legal mind to decipher all the if's, and's or but's.

Shirley Bullard
Burnet County
Human Resources Director
512-756-5489



Colleen Davis

From: James Oakley <judgejamesoakley@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 11:34 AM
To: Shirley Bullard
Cc: Eddie Arredondo; Colleen Davis
Subject: Re: Short n sweet feedback
Attachments: Short and Sweet.docx; Untitled attachment 00145.txt

Colleen has answered my questions on this,, all good.

James Oakley
Burnet County Judge
512-744-5205 cell / text
judgejamesoakley@gmail.com

Sent from iPhone

> On Jun 12, 2024, at 10:34 AM, James Oakley <judgejamesoakley@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> Shirley -
>
> Thanks for your input. Ok, I'm curious, based on comments from the get go on this, I thought the consequence for falsifying a government document was a felony ? Is it a class A if it is the employee and maybe a felony if someone else tampers with the document ?
>
> Eddie -
>
> Your thoughts ?
>
>

On Wed, Jun 12, 2024 at 10:34 AM James Oakley <judgejamesoakley@gmail.com> wrote:

Shirley -

Thanks for your input. Ok, I'm curious, based on comments from the get go on this, I thought the consequence for falsifying a government document was a felony ? Is it a class A if it is the employee and maybe a felony if someone else tampers with the document ?

Eddie -

Your thoughts ?

James Oakley
Burnet County Judge
512-744-5205 cell / text
judgejamesoakley@gmail.com

Sent from iPhone

Baker Tilley was engaged to investigate an alleged charge of falsifying time sheet records of some employees within the Sheriff's Department. The false entries were entered by supervisors, not the employee who received extra compensation for the added time entered but not worked. The employee and the supervisor must sign the time sheets which include the statement as follows:

Burnet County time sheets are governmental documents

And as such require accurate and truthful information and are subject to Texas Penal Code 37.10.

Falsifying a time sheet, a government record, is a Class "A" Misdemeanor.

I CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A CORRECT AND A COMPLETE RECORD OF THE HOURS WORKED THIS PAY PERIOD.

Adding time for work that was not authorized as FTO and/or CTC, was not funded within the scope of annual budgeting and was falsely entered into the employee's time sheet (as time worked) by a supervisor was not legal.

The initial complaint came from an employee. The Sheriff's Office was informed of the issues (multiple employees records created to fund an unauthorized & unfunded program). Upper management gave assurance the activity would cease. That also was a false statement. The time sheets continued to include additional time.

The County Attorney passed on investigating the complaint, thereby sending the complaint on to the District Attorney. The District Attorney made one inquiry to the Sheriff and was told the activity was not happening. An employee in the District Attorney's office did an independent investigation and stated that, yes indeed there was sufficient documentation to open a formal investigation. The District told his employee to "stand down".

This is a short, concise overview of the situation we presented to Baker Tilly. All we need is a report that confirms the occurrences of falsifying time sheets for the purpose of funding unauthorized and unfunded work. We then will have confirmation that the charge is true and correct and does indeed require a full investigation by the District Attorney's office.