

Winston A. Burrows

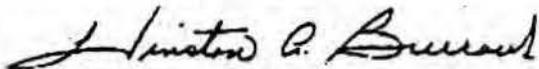
July 4, 1996

Dear

After 17 1/2 years of service at York College I decided to resign effective June 30, 1996. I did so because I could not let myself become a party to the illegal scheme put forth by City University Director of Public Safety Jose Elique and his Deputy Martin Rodinl. At our November/95 security directors meeting they announced a plan designed to deny students and others their constitution right of free speech.

Please take the few minutes required to read my letter of resignation to Chancellor W. Ann Reynolds in which I explain my reason for leaving. It is also my hope that after reading it you will use the resources of your office to prevent them from accomplishing their goal.

Sincerely yours,



Winston A. Burrows

WAB:lw



YORK COLLEGE
The City University of New York
Jamaica, New York 11451
718 262-2218

Campus Security Department
Room 1M02

June 30, 1996

*Chancellor W. A. Reynolds
City University of New York
535 East 80th Street
New York, New York 10021*

Resignation

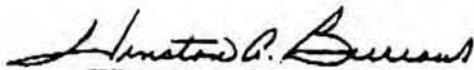
Dear Chancellor Reynolds:

This is to inform you that I have submitted my resignation as Director of Security at York College to Acting President Marcia V. Keizs - effective midnight June 30, 1996.

The attached memorandum list my reason for leaving after seventeen (17 1/2) years service.

I am also forwarding a copy of my resignation to persons listed below.

Respectfully,


Winston A. Burrows
Director of Campus Security

cc: *Dr. Thomas Minter
James Lawrence
Congressman Floyd H. Flake
State Senator Alton R. Waldon Jr.
State Senator Ada Smith*
** *State Assemblyman William Scarborough
State Assemblyman Gregory W. Meeks
State Assemblywoman Vivian E. Cook*

cont.....

MEMORANDUM

I have been employed at York College since January 1, 1979 (almost 17 1/2yrs) - serving first as Assistant Director of Security, and then Director of Security. I also served CUNY as Queens Borough Coordinator for almost three years from February 93 thru November 95. Although I feel that I still have much to offer both York College and CUNY I have decided to leave. My reason for leaving is my dissatisfaction with the leadership of Jose Elique, your choice for CUNY Public Safety Director as well as his Deputy Martin Rodini. Since his arrival Jose Elique has never displayed qualities I felt necessary for such an important position. His dictatorial, abrasive, confrontational style, and use of profanity at directors meetings - where he often used f--k, and f--king in the presence of females I found offensive and very unprofessional. It demonstrated a lack of moral and ethical character I felt the person holding the position of Director of University Public Safety should possess.

I decided to leave CUNY after attending the security directors meeting in November 95. At that meeting Jose Elique and Martin Rodini - apparently still upset and smarting because Acting President Thomas Minter had permitted Khalid Muhammad to speak at the college on November 6, 1995. They made the following proposal - which they indicated was intended to give you and them control of persons who would be permitted to speak on CUNY campuses. They were working on a proposal that would attach a fee between \$5,500.00 to \$7,500.00 whenever the SAFE Team was dispatched to a campus (In response to the request of a college President). That to me was censorship, a violation of the constitution of the U.S., and ran contrary to everything I believe in - justice, honesty, and fairness. While at that meeting I came to the conclusion that although, I may sometimes disagree with students I will never let myself be a part of any such evil and illegal action as was proposed by Jose Elique and Martin Rodini, and I have not attended any directors meetings since then.

The events that led up to Dr. Minter granting Mr. Muhammad permission to speak at York College is well documented - via communications and conversations between Dr. Minter and you. However, I am restating them here to inform persons who will be receiving a copy of my resignation letter, and who may not be familiar with them. A flyer announcing Black Solidarity Day was brought to the attention of Dr. Minter listing Khalid Muhammad as one of the scheduled speakers. After becoming aware of proposed activities for Black Solidarity Day Dr. Minter met with me and other college staff members to discuss the matter. Extensive discussions took place - Whether students had submitted required documents and the matter of safety of speakers and persons who would be attending activities. Dr. Minter decided to permit Black Solidarity Day Activities to proceed, and informed the group that he would call your office and let you know of his decision. After speaking with you on the phone he told the group that you were very upset because Mr. Muhammad would be allowed to speak at the college. He stated that you gave him instructions to "keep him off campus," and insisted that you find a reason to do so. Your closing remarks to him were "remember what happened to the President at Keane College when he went against the wishes of his chancellor." Dr. Minter then informed the group that he was reversing his decision and would not permit Black Solidarity Day activities to take place. He announced that he would request the SAFE Team be activated, to insure Mr. Muhammad would not be permitted onto York College on Monday,

November 6, 1995. Only students, staff, and faculty would be permitted onto the campus with valid ID Cards). A meeting took place at York College on Friday, November 3, 1995 - Present were Dr. Minter, Jose Elique, Martin Rodini, and myself, at which time the following agreement was outlined:

- 1. SAFE Team would be assigned to York College on Monday, November 6, 1995 and would arrive at 5:00AM.*
- 2. I would conduct a sweep of all buildings prior to the arrival of the SAFE Team. The sweep would begin 12 midnight Sunday - using college security officers, and should be completed prior to the arrival of the SAFE Team.*
- 3. On Friday signs would be posted at all entrances informing members of the college that ID cards would be checked at outer perimeter gates on Monday. No visitors would be permitted onto campus.*
- 4. I was to assign one (1) sergeant (from York College) to each gate (Academic Core) to assist SAFE Team members in identifying persons without ID cards. Each sergeant would have a roster containing names of students to assist in the process.*
- 5. Either myself or my assistant William Joseph would be present at the main gate on Guy R. Brewer Boulevard.*
- 6. I would contact the 103rd precinct commanding officer (Deputy Inspector F. Britton), and informed him about activities for Monday.*

Acting President Thomas Minter informed you that all of the above items were complied with except #3. Signs placed throughout the campus on Friday were removed, but not replaced. However, he did inform you that the electronic message board located in the atrium did contain the message.

Although the Administration at York College did adhere to the agreement, the same cannot be said for Jose Elique and Martin Rodini. If they had no SAFE Team member would have brought a weapon to the campus on Monday 11/06/95. On Friday, 11/03/95 (at our meeting) Dr. Minter informed both Jose Elique and Martin Rodini that he did not want any SAFE team member to bring their weapon onto the campus on Monday 11/06/95. As they were leaving the building, I heard Jose Elique comment to Martin Rodini that "He is in for a surprise, and he better get used to guns on campus." The rest is history, two safe team members did bring weapons with them on Monday, 11/06/95.

For obvious reasons, I will not attempt to list all events that took place on Monday, November 6th - listing only those that will enable readers to get a feel of what occurred during the day.

1. *SAFE Team arrived just prior to SAM, and officers given their assignments - main gate on Guy R. Brewer Boulevard.*
2. *I arrived at approximately 4:45AM, my assistant William Joseph approximately five minutes after me. Jose Elique and Martin Rodini arrived shortly after our arrival. We informed them that the sweep of the building had taken place, the commanding officers of 103rd precinct had been notified, and additional officers had been assigned (all days off had been canceled). Myself and Williams Joseph conducted roll call of officers at 7:00AM, and he went to Guy Boulevard (main gate). I conferred with Dr. Minter (in his office) and informed him about conditions.*
3. *At approximately 7:15AM students began arriving - those involved in the planned activities remained at the gate (inside on campus grounds), chanted slogans denouncing actions of President Minter, Vice President Ronald Brown, and the presence of the SAFE Team.*
4. *One student was arrested when he failed to show his ID card, blocked the entrance, and attempted to push his way past SAFE Team officers.*
5. *Students assembled at the main gate became very upset when they learned - on instructions from Jose Elique and Martin Rodini that the person arrested would not be given DAT (Desk Appearance Ticket), and would be required to go through the system - a much longer process.*
6. *Students went to President Minter's office to protest the action. I was present, and fortunately for everyone, so were State Assemblyman William Scarborough, and Councilman Thomas White. It took all that we could do to keep things under control.*
7. *Later that afternoon a sizeable number of students marched off campus (followed by NYCPD who had been assembled). They marched around the campus, and when they returned to the main gate (Guy Brewer Boulevard) their numbers had increased significantly, and Khalid Muhammad was with the group. Dr. Minter met with Mr. Muhammad and another person from the group. After several tense minutes of conversation - crowd increasing in numbers (non-students and onlookers) Dr. Minter made the decision to*

permit activities to take place. He stated to you, and the York College community that he did so because he felt to do otherwise would have risked students and police becoming involved in a confrontation which probably would have resulted in injuries and/or other more serious consequences.

8. *Mr. Muhammad entered the college and spoke for approximately one (1) hour and left the campus without incident.*

The next day Jose Elique and Martin Rodini informed me that I was being relieved of my duties as Queens Borough Coordinator - the post I held since 1993. The reason they gave for removing me had nothing to do with my performance as Borough Coordinator. Their statement to me was "You are not a team member, and you did not get involved as Timothy Hubbard did." His reference was to City College Security Director and Manhattan Borough Coordinator Timothy Hubbard who arrested a student who grabbed him by his collar during a demonstration that took place at City College. Apparently Jose Elique and Martin Rodini wanted a confrontation to take place.

When I assumed the position of Borough Coordinator in 1993, I took my assignment serious, and fulfilled all tasks assigned to me until the day I was relieved of my duties:

1. *I conducted regular visits to colleges within my borough (Queens, Queensborough, LaGuardia, and Law School). I even made visits to Queens College, Queensborough College, and LaGuardia) when you visited those campuses on various occasions.*
2. *I made contacts on a daily basis with directors within my borough - exchanging information.*
3. *Distributed PSTN training tapes and other materials. As you must know, training is an important component needed to maintain an efficient security operation. Because of my efforts York College officers are among best trained - the only officers who have completed course requirements and received certificates from PSTN.*
4. *I coordinated physical agility test for Level I security officers held at Queens College. In addition, I did what none of the other Borough Coordinators were doing - neither Timothy Hubbard (Manhattan), William Kochen (Brooklyn/Staten Island) or Luis A. Vega (Bronx), I conducted monthly meetings with directors within my borough. It is obvious to me that the action of Jose Elique and Martin Rodini in relieving me of my duties had nothing to do with my performance as Borough*

Coordinator. I am convinced that it was a reaction to their displeasure that Dr. Minter permitted Mr. Muhammad to speak at the college. It is my opinion that a decision was made for you as Chancellor take care Acting President Thomas Minter - who abruptly resigned in January 96 and for Jose Elique and Martin Rodini to deal with me. Jose Elique attempted to do just that in his memorandum to Dr. Minter immediately following Solidarity Day. He suggested that Dr. Minter remove me as Director of Security at York College - where I had been for over 17 years. What happened in one day to cause Jose Elique to change his opinion about me? I can only conclude that you, Jose Elique, and Martin Rodini was upset that Khalid Muhammad was permitted to speak at the college, and decided to punish Dr. Minter and myself.

When I assumed duties as Queens Borough Coordinator Jose Elique informed Vice President for Administrative Affairs Richard Dunfee and me that I would be compensated for my services as Borough Coordinator. I received \$2,500.00 for my services in 1993 and \$2,000.00 1994. However, when Jose Elique and Martin Rodini relieved me of my duties on November 7, 1995 they stated to me, AND IN HIS MEMORANDUM TO YOU they had no intention of compensating me for my services as Borough Coordinator for the year 1995. This decision was made even though I had performed all duties assigned to me for almost eleven months. Since they sent you a copy of the memorandum indicating their intention to withhold compensation due me I must assume that you were in agreement with the decision.

Jose Elique and Martin Rodini not satisfied, and probably upset because I have not attended any security directors meetings since November 1995 decided to conduct a site inspection of York College. I believe it was an attempt to discredit me and my operation at York College (where I have been Director for almost 17 1/2 years). Martin Rodini visited the campus twice - spending between 2 1/2 to 3 hours. He then submitted a report to Jose Elique, and copied Deputy Chancellor Lawrence Mucciola. Martin Rodini report clearly demonstrated to me how morally bankrupt both he and Jose Elique are - His report lacked accuracy, honesty, and integrity. A copy of my rebuttal was submitted to Acting President Marcia V. Keizs, and can be obtained from her. I am convinced that Martin Rodini used statements from two (2) sergeants as the basis for his report. Sgt. Glen Crutch, who I recommended be terminated after six months at the college. However, Jose Elique with the help of University Personnel Director Sam Phillips had Sgt. Crutch transferred to Hunter College. I believe his other source was Sergeant John Lilley. He has been assigned to the college for approximately three years. He has never been comfortable working at York College - lives in Staten Island, and does not like the commute. Since his arrival, Sgt. Lilley has received poor evaluations, and has had several complaints lodged against him - most recently on April 30, 1996 by a staff member for abusive and insensitive behavior and on May 16, 1996 by another staff member alleging he used an ethnic slur when referring to a Haitian student.

Since we have never met, and probably never will (unless in court at a later date), I am taking this opportunity to inform you about myself. I am not about defending or upholding the cause of any group or individual. I attempt to do what is right at all times. I consider myself to be a fair and honorable person - a believer in christian principals and teachings. I am a member of, and attend on a regular basis the Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church, located in Jamaica Queens. The pastor is Dr. Floyd H. Flake, who also represents me in the United States Congress. I have lived in Jamaica Queens for thirty-four years. I am an honorably discharged veteran - United States Marine Corps. I have been married for 44 1/2 years, father of three fine men, and grandfather of four lovely grandchildren. I am indeed grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the college community at York College for the past 17 1/2 years. However, I must leave, to remain would require me to work with Jose Elique and Martin Rodini two of the most unprofessional, and morally bankrupt persons I have met in my 22 1/2 years with NYCPD and 17 1/2 years at York College.

My final comments to you Chancellor Reynolds, is that with the fiscal problems facing the university resulting in reduction of student services, retrenchment, and loss of jobs by tenured faculty members you established the position of Lieutenant (REQUIRING ONLY A GENERAL EDUCATION DIPLOMA) with the top salary of \$82,000.00 - more than a tenured professor with a Ph.d. earns. You also gave Jose Elique and Martin Rodini a rather large bonus as a reward for C.U.N.Y. obtaining the 1.3 million dollar award from the Justice Department - for the COPS Program. Unfortunately, the money went to the wrong persons. The bonus should have been given to the Security Director at Queensborough Community College, Mr. Joseph Cunningham. It was through his efforts - not Jose Elique and Martin Rodini that CUNY was able to obtain the award.

I made my decision to leave CUNY at the security directors meeting in November/95 after listening to Jose Elique and Martin Rodini outline their proposal to keep persons off CUNY campuses who held views unpopular to theirs and yours. I delayed submitting my letter of resignation until now to make certain that they carried out their threat to withhold compensation for my services as Queens Borough Coordinator.

I am certain that if you were able to find funds for the above mentioned - establishment lieutenant title, and bonus to Jose Elique and Martin Rodini, you can find the \$2,000.00 to compensate me for my services as Queens Borough Coordinator. If you elect not to, I am fully prepared to take the matter to court to have it resolved.