

**Brian Wilkins <brian@brianwilkins.org>**

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Tom Ryff

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Hello,

My name is Brian Wilkins. I was a full-time Tempe resident from 1996-98 and from 2004-2012. I am an Arizona State University alum. I still own land in the outskirts of Maricopa County. I am a small business owner who does content marketing, SEO and legal writing. I own over 20 websites, mostly blogs and a few e-commerce sites. Today I live full-time in my RV and live in various parts of the country depending on season. I'm currently in San Diego. In a matter of full disclosure, I once sued the City of Tempe, Tempe Police, Tom Ryff and several officers in federal court in 2009.

I am writing today because of the forthcoming City Council meeting on Thursday, December 12. One of the agenda items is a vote on approving a \$150,000 settlement in a lawsuit filed by former Tempe Police Chief Tom Ryff (Maricopa County Superior Court No. CV2017-011151). I am writing to urge council members to reject this settlement offer and take the case to trial.

I am a practical person who is also a paralegal and legal writer. I understand the costs of prolonged litigation. But if you approve this settlement, you are essentially facilitating and approving official malfeasance and arguably criminal behavior by the former chief.

Tom Ryff has a documented history of extramarital affairs, encouraging lower-level officer to lie to their supervisors for nefarious reason, and using police power to terrorize anyone who dared to question his authority. I have personally reported on all of this since 2008. In fact the City of Tempe's own attorneys cited my work in their answer to Ryff's complaint. They did so because a simple search of Tom Ryff's name in Google, Bing, or any other search engine shows my work and all the documented issues with the former chief in the first 2-3 results.

I don't know anything about current Tempe Chief of Police Sylvia Moir and never heard of her until 2015. That's a good thing considering two of my websites have specifically covered police corruption, particularly cops killing Americans, since 2007. What I do know is that a U.S. District Court judge in Arizona denied summary judgment in a similar case of a Plaintiff accusing a Defendant of violating a non-disparagement agreement. The judge ruled that disparagement is subjective and that a jury must decide if there was malice or harm as a result of the alleged disparagement. I recently wrote about this precedent on the same website (Operation-Nation) your attorneys cited in the answer to Ryff's complaint.

<https://operation-nation.com/tom-ryff-tempe-cowers-offers-settlement-in-lawsuit-150000/>

Chief Moir, from what I understand, simply told Tempe Union High School District officials that bringing Ryff in as some sort of consultant would make a lot of her officers uncomfortable and lower morale overall within City Hall. There is nothing disparaging about that. It's simply the truth. Tempe police officers and other city employees published a website called TempePoliceCloset.com sometime in 2007. They aired their grievances publicly about Ryff because they knew there was no recourse through city channels. Much of my reporting on Ryff was a result of that website. I preserved the site in its entirety when it went offline sometime in 2015 after Ryff retired.

Tempe city leaders have never held Ryff accountable for anything. Meanwhile, Tempe taxpayers have paid this man well over \$4 million in his career. If you approve this settlement, you are dignifying Ryff's belief that he was King of Tempe for at least two decades. You are also telling the public that you approve of Tempe Police officers lying and terrorizing people.

I urge council members to reject this settlement offer and take the matter to trial. I would also like this email submitted as an official part of the record for this hearing. Thank you.

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