

Following is a copy of my “letter to the editor” to “The City Beat” free weekly tabloid publication in response to a recent column by Kevin Osborne. As neither Mr. Osborne nor the newspaper’s editor, John Fox, have replied to my e-mails, and the publication has apparently chosen not to print my letter correcting the errors in the original column, I post it here to set the record straight.

---Dusty Rhodes----

August 19, 2009

Letters to the Editor
City Beat
811 Race Street, 5th Floor
Cincinnati, OH 45202

To the editor:

The transition from daily newspaper reporter to weekly columnist seems easy. You no longer have to concern yourself with accuracy and fact gathering and opinion is the currency of the trade.

So it goes with Kevin Osborne's "City Beat" column regarding recent inquiries I made of Hamilton County's Administration related to the use of the "County suite" at each of the County owned stadiums.

Mr. Osborne did not call me before writing his piece nor apparently did he check our website, hamiltoncountyauditor.org to see the actual documents and my open letter to our website users on this topic. That would have put to rest many of his overwrought concerns which typically mirror that of the political motivation school of analysis and response.

This shows Mr. Osborne is in error on the very points he uses to arrive at his opinion. **First, the contract with the Bengals says the County is to "pay" for the tickets to each game.** They are not "free" - although we have found no evidence of payment. **Second, I did not release the "taxable event" communication until after Jessica Brown of "The Enquirer" called and requested it.** I did not consider her call to be a "confrontation". If the Commissioners had not read it someone else surely did and immediately called her because she asked for it within two hours of it being hand-delivered to the three Commissioners and the County Prosecutor.

Contrary to the implication that this was a sudden interest of mine the issue was discussed at length by my staff and those of the Commissioners' Human Resources Department right after the first of the year at a meeting in the Prosecutor's office. So it is not surprising that Mr. Osborne did not find any "documents" to substantiate my long time concern. It is surprising that the Commissioners' staff apparently did not inform them of it.

Had Mr. Osborne taken time to call me he could have learned all of this before he got it wrong. Then again, that would be reporting and not being a "columnist".

Sincerely,

/s/ Dusty Rhodes