



July 11, 2024

Town of Bluffton's statement regarding legal action initiated
by Councilmember Bridgette Frazier

Timeline of events:

- The Town received a settlement proposal on Thursday, June 27, from an attorney representing Bridgette Frazier and Warren Patterson. This letter was regarding Ms. Frazier's arrest by the Bluffton Police Department on March 9, 2024, for driving under suspension, after being pulled over for speeding.
- Upon receipt, the Town immediately provided the letter and the settlement proposal to the Insurance Reserve Fund (IRF), a division of the South Carolina State Fiscal Accountability Authority. The IRF provides property and liability coverage to more than 1,000 state and local government organizations throughout South Carolina. The settlement proposal and any future litigation will be handled by the Insurance Reserve Fund in accordance with their standard policies and procedures.
- The Bluffton Police Department dismissed the charges against Ms. Frazier after receiving written confirmation from the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) that Ms. Frazier's driving privileges were mistakenly listed as suspended at the time of her arrest. The goal of law enforcement is compliance with the law; due to Ms. Frazier proving she complied; the charges were dismissed.
- In this letter dated March 14, 2024, the DMV apologized "to Ms. Frazier and the court for this error and for any inconvenience this matter has caused."
- Following the dismissal of the charges, Beaufort County Magistrate LaShonda G. Scott ordered all "records, including any outstanding bench warrants, related to this offense [be] expunged and destroyed."
- Ms. Frazier is a Councilmember for the Town of Bluffton and was reelected to another four-year term in November of 2023.

Quote from Mayor Larry Toomer:

“We respect the legal process. This circumstance is rare from every angle. The Bluffton police officer acted based on the data provided to the Bluffton Police Department. The Department of Motor Vehicles apologized for its error and a judge has ordered all records related to this matter expunged.

“As a community, we must continue to respect the legal process until this matter is resolved. We are committed to navigating this situation with transparency while ensuring we do not interfere with the ongoing legal proceedings.”

