

**Fearless Advocates. Fierce Challengers.**

November 3, 2025

Dr. Roy Hollingsworth  
Chairman | Hampton County Council  
[rhllngs@yahoo.com](mailto:rhllngs@yahoo.com)

**Re: David W. Steinmeyer – Grievance Request, Defamation Notice, and Litigation Hold**

Dear Chairman Dr. Hollingworth:

I represent David W. Steinmeyer, former Director of Public Works for Hampton County, South Carolina.

This letter serves to formally request the initiation of a grievance proceeding before County Council to reverse Mr. Steinmeyer's termination.

Mr. Steinmeyer was not notified of any grievance rights in his termination letter, but I have carbon-copied the County Administrator, Mr. Steinmeyer's direct supervisor, who terminated him, so that all involved personnel are apprised of this request to Council.

This letter also serves to notify Hampton County of potential legal claims arising from Mr. Steinmeyer's recent termination and public statements made by the County.

On October 16, 2025, Mr. Steinmeyer was terminated due to the County's failure to timely pay for certain public works equipment leased by John Deere, which had fallen substantially in arrears. Mr. Steinmeyer was not responsible for payment. His sole duty was to notify the County Finance Department of the invoices—which he did, as documented.

County Administrator Youmans was well aware of the unpaid invoices. He regularly met with Finance officials to determine, based on budget constraints, which bills to pay and which to defer.

In short, the County Administrator knew the lease payments were in arrears because he chose not to pay them.

Nevertheless, on October 16, 2025, Hampton County issued a public statement—via social media and press outlets—that implied Mr. Steinmeyer was at fault. These statements mischaracterized the circumstances and have unjustly harmed his professional reputation in the community he served for decades.

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 Tania Peebles · Admin · October 16 at 2:29 PM · 🌐

Hampton County, SC Government updated their status.  
 October 16 at 1:46 PM · 🌐

### HAMPTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

#### Official Statement Regarding Equipment Lease Issue

Hampton County is aware of public discussion regarding leased equipment in the Public Works Department.

Earlier this week, a leasing vendor repossessed several pieces of equipment due to a payment posting error—not missed or delinquent payments. The County immediately investigated, identified that funds totaling approximately \$53,000 had not been properly applied to individual lease accounts, and took corrective action.

All accounts are now current through November 2025, and the equipment is being returned to County facilities immediately.

To prevent this from occurring again, the County Administrator has implemented new internal controls to strengthen financial tracking, communication, and accountability.

The County appreciates the community's patience and understanding as we continue to modernize financial systems and maintain transparency in County operations.

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Accordingly, this letter serves as:

1. **Formal Request for Grievance:** Mr. Steinmeyer demands the opportunity to present his grievance to Council to reverse his termination and clear his name.
2. **Notice of Defamation:** The County's public comments constitute actionable defamation. By asserting that Mr. Steinmeyer was terminated for fiscal mismanagement—while omitting critical facts exonerating him—the County has communicated false and misleading information to third parties with no qualified privilege.
3. **Demand for Cease and Desist:** Hampton County must immediately cease further dissemination of defamatory statements concerning Mr. Steinmeyer and issue no further public commentary suggesting personal fault or misconduct in connection with the equipment repossession or County finances.
4. **Litigation Hold and Preservation Demand:** You are instructed to implement a litigation hold and preserve all potentially relevant evidence, including but not limited to:

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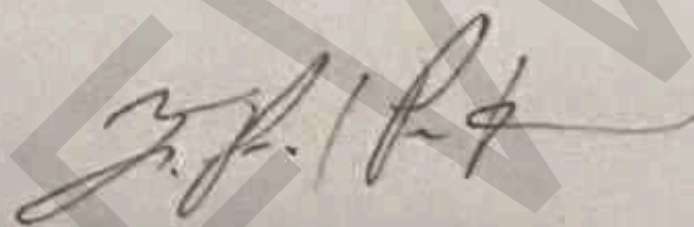
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- Emails, text messages, and other communications regarding Mr. Steinmeyer's job performance, equipment leasing, and termination;
- Financial records and correspondence between Hampton County and John Deere or related vendors;
- Internal discussions and drafts of the October 16 public statement;
- All Communications relating to that public statement.

Please coordinate with my office via email ([paul@cromerbabb.com](mailto:paul@cromerbabb.com)) in response to this letter.

Thank you for your time. Mr. Steinmeyer looks forward to an opportunity to vindicate his reputation before Council and the community.

Sincerely,



J. Paul Porter

Darin Williams  
Council Vice Chair  
[dwilliams@hamptoncountysc.org](mailto:dwilliams@hamptoncountysc.org)

Lavar Youmans  
County Administrator  
[lyoumans@hamptoncountysc.org](mailto:lyoumans@hamptoncountysc.org)