

From: LaMarr Billups [<mailto:lqb2@georgetown.edu>]
Sent: Friday, October 05, 2007 2:09 PM
To: Mayor
Subject: Disapointment is not the right word...

Dave,

I'm not sure that I know the right words to say to you. I just couldn't come up with it when we spoke last. Understand that I appreciate you calling me before I got blindsided with it.

I've hung in there with you through some difficult times and decisions.

On at least two of those occasions you led me down one path and then changed your mind. I still held fast, and defended your position to all who would listen....at some measure of political cost to me I might add. I did it freely and because I trusted your judgment and instincts.

You make it hard on yourself. You're stubborn, not steadfast, and its a serious fault in leadership.

As you know politics has its share of quid pro quo. You are not living up to your part of the bargain. Do you know how hard it is for any Black person to back a white progressive, when a Black candidate is running?...especially if that white progressive is already perceived in most quarters as insulting an entire community. This is a visceral concern. It is at the root of our existence in this land whether it properly should be not. JW Jr. has been your political ally, as have I. I can only say in the softest of terms that you betrayed both of us. This man is a up and coming professional, an elected official, a student of politics and policy making. he wants to be the Mayor someday and he's from a "Legacy" family in Madison. His father if you don't know, was the 1st Black police officer in the city. What about this don't you get? I advised you to make the easy decision...competence, desire, eagerness and loyalty...what more do you want? You already gave one of the Governor's men a job. What more does he want? It is a plantation mentality that says what you said to me and probably him as well..."...if you want to be the Mayor, then this is not the job for you

because you'll be saddled with the baggage of guy you worked for..." He's grown man, and can determine what's good for him and his future on his own, and with greater accuracy that you. He knows himself and his community...ALL of Madison...better than you. You had an opportunity to do the right thing, and you simply refused. I'm done. Good luck.