



# **CHUCK TURNER**

Boston City Councillor - District 7

**CITY HALL OFFICE**

One City Hall Square

Boston, MA 02201

(617) 635-3510

(617) 635-3734/2343 FAX

E-mail: [CHUCK.TURNER@CITYOFBOSTON.GOV](mailto:CHUCK.TURNER@CITYOFBOSTON.GOV)

**DISTRICT OFFICE**

51 Roxbury Street

Roxbury, MA 02119

(617) 427-8100

(617) 442-9404 FAX

E-mail: [CHUCKTURNEROFFICE@YAHOO.COM](mailto:CHUCKTURNEROFFICE@YAHOO.COM)

February 27, 2008

City Attorney David R. Fine  
Office of the City Attorney  
1437 Bannock Street Room 353  
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Attorney Fine,

I have recently become aware of a case of the most serious injustice taking place in Denver. On November 30, 2007, Mr. Larry Hales, a well-known political activist leader, was the victim of unprovoked and illegal police brutality, and gross government misconduct. In the worst of "blame the victim" tactics, your office is now prosecuting Mr. Hales on groundless and false charges. This prosecution can only be seen as a politically motivated and illegal "abuse of process" and a cynical effort to cover-up the criminal actions of Denver police and parole officials.

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, under the guise of a "routine parole visit", Denver police and parole officials perpetrated a coordinated, calculated and unlawful invasion of the home of Mr. Hales and his domestic partner, Melissa Kleinman committing cruel and criminal acts of police brutality. Their actions constituted a flagrant violation of fundamental legal rights of Mr. Hales and Ms. Kleinman. In the interest of justice, I call on you to immediately drop all the charges against Mr. Hales and initiate charges against those Denver police and parole officials responsible for illegal misconduct in this matter.

At the time of the police attack, Mr. Hales and his partner Ms. Kleinman were housing a survivor of police brutality who was on parole. The man had been shot in the back by police and had filed a civil case against the Aurora police department. At 10:30 pm on November 30<sup>th</sup>, a "joint operation" of Denver police and parole officials, loudly banged on the Hales home door in a most threatening manner. When Mr. Hales opened the door the police claimed to be conducting a routine parole visit. Their actions proved otherwise. Mr. Hales told the officers that the parolee wasn't home. As was his right pursuant to Denver city ordinance, he requested the

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*District Includes: Roxbury, Parts of Dorchester, The Fenway And The South End*

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police identify themselves by producing their business cards. The police flatly refused. Mr. Hales told them that they didn't have permission to come in, and reiterated that the parolee was not home and that he wanted their cards. The police then violently forced their way in, pushing Mr. Hales out of the way.

At one point when Mr. Hales expressed concern that his cats would escape, he was shoved and told to shut up in response to verbally asserting his rights. The police violently attacked him, twisting his arm, grabbing him by the back of the neck, ripping out several of his dreadlocks, throwing him against the wall, and tearing off his shirt. He was pushed down the stairs of his apartment building, against the wall and railings and out into the cold night with a half-ripped shirt, socks and thin sweat pants in the freezing night. Meanwhile Ms. Kleinman was hand cuffed to a chair while the police ransacked their home. In a violent show of illegal and unnecessary force, one officer squeezed Mr. Hales cuffs in a manner to inflict pain; while another threatened that more could be done stating that Mr. Hales could end up face down on the ground. Mr. Hales was then hit in the stomach and thrown into the car.

The officers rolled the front windows down, left Mr. Hales in the car, telling him that he looked like he might hurt himself and that he would be booked as a "John Doe" and have to spend 72 hours in jail before anyone could find him. Several officers refused repeated request to loosen or remove his handcuffs or allow him to obtain clothing and shoes. He spent the night in a freezing jail cell

Throughout the country racist police brutality and politically motivated denial of civil rights and liberties is on the rise. Mr. Hales is a well-known and highly respected activist in the Denver area, and a leader against police brutality and for people's rights. He is also a principal organizer in the "Recreate 68 Committee", which is planning protests to counter the Democratic National Convention to be held in Denver in August. We remember that the eyes of the nation were focused on Boston when it hosted the Democratic National Convention. The spotlight will now be on Denver. The time is now to stop this racist frame up and drop all the charges. We in Boston believe that an injustice anywhere is injustice everywhere and we are prepared to stand with Mr. Hales until he receives justice.

Sincerely,  
  
Chuck Turner

CC: Judge Larry Bohning  
Mayor John Hickenlooper