



**FOR RELEASE Immediately
November 1, 2024**

The Spread of Misinformation

In recent weeks, as many of you may have seen, there have been several instances where false information has been circulating regarding the Town of Winterville and its treatment of individuals and/or groups of individuals. The Town of Winterville as an Organization works diligently to treat all people we serve in a fair and equitable manner. The individuals who are elected, hired, or choose to volunteer for Winterville are dedicated and work collaboratively to accomplish this goal.

Decisions are oftentimes made that may make people unhappy or may be deemed unfair, and the Town understands this. Please be reminded that there are Federal, State, and Local laws and policies that outline and oftentimes dictate the steps we must take in certain situations. There is also a well-established chain of command within the Organization – the Town operates under a Council-Manager form of government as outlined in North Carolina General Statute 160A-147.

The Town employs Legal Counsel for the purpose of guiding the Town through various matters and supplies a plethora of legal opinions. It is his job to keep the Town out of trouble and our job to listen to that advice. Statements or replies to some of the misinformation in question have been forwarded to our Attorney and he has replied accordingly. Any information that implies officials with the Town of Winterville have

taken actions towards individuals or groups of individuals which are illegal, unethical, or immoral is patently false. Please remember, just because it is said, does not make it true.

Specifically, regarding the recent events at Corbella's Event Center/Corbella's Family Center, the Winterville Police Chief could not execute the recent ***Application for Special One-Time Permit for Sale of Alcoholic Beverages*** as the above-referenced establishment has an ongoing case with the NC Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission (ABC) which is currently under appeal and the Chief has been subpoenaed by the State of North Carolina to be a witness in that appeal proceeding. However, it is important to understand that the ultimate approval authority of the ***Application for Special One-Time Permit for Sale of Alcoholic Beverages*** is the NC Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission (ABC) and not the Winterville Police Department.