



# QNotes

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## Anti-gay Cabarrus County Commissioner swept up in prostitution scandal

**'Christian' activist violates teachings of own 'worldview'**

by Jim Mahoney

KANNAPOLIS — Christian activist and former Republican state legislator turned Cabarrus County Commissioner Coy Privette, 74, was arrested and charged July 19 on misdemeanor prostitution charges. Privette was charged with six counts of aiding and abetting prostitution after he reportedly rented rooms at hotels in Salisbury, N.C., and paid Tiffany Summers, 32, for sex six times in May and June.

Privette is scheduled for a hearing in Rowan County Aug. 22.



Cabarrus County Commissioner Coy Privette.

Further changes related to check forgery against Privette and Summers have been dropped.

Gay and lesbian Cabarrus County residents should be familiar with Privette's widely-known anti-gay stance. In 2003, when two gay men were baptized together at McGill Baptist Church in Concord, Privette quickly jumped on the bandwagon to have the church kicked out of the Cabarrus Baptist Association.

Said the Rev. Randy Wadford, the association's missions director, during the controversy: "The homosexual lifestyle is contrary to God's will and plan for mankind. To allow individuals into the membership of a local church without evidence or testimony of true repentance is to condone the old lifestyle."

Privette echoed his sentiments in a *Charlotte Observer* interview. "[Becoming] a new creature

in Jesus Christ" means old things pass away. "Everybody is welcome," he said, "but you've got requirements for membership in churches."

He was a state representative from 1984 to 1992. During his political career he has emerged as one of the state's strongest foes of ordinances allowing liquor by the drink and has spoken against gay and lesbian equality and illegal immigration.

In 1992, when statewide activists were attempting to overturn N.C.'s now defunct sodomy statute, Privette insisted the law remain in place.

"In light of the AIDS epidemic, for health reasons, we should maintain that provision," he said.

Even further back, in 1988, Privette was towing the anti-gay line, when, as a conservative candidate for the legislature, he indicated that he felt the state should ban student funding of LGBT groups on University of North Carolina system campuses.

Privette was the president of the Christian Action League (he resigned following his arrest), a statewide organization that promotes legislation that is "consistent with a Christian worldview," according to the group's website. In years past he has served as president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and been a member of the board of directors and executive committee.

In 1998 he was voted a Cabarrus County Commissioner and has held that post since that time.

He captured the national media spotlight attention in January after he proposed a resolution that commissioners adopt English as the county's "official language."

Since his arrest and subsequent release on his own reconnaissance, Privette has not attended any follow-up commission meetings. In addition to his resignation from the Christian Action League, he has also resigned from the Baptist State Convention. ▀

## Pride organizers expect protestors

**Years past marred by verbal harassment; '06 protestors kept at bay**

by David Moore . Q-Notes staff

It's Pride time again and with all the fun and revelry comes an unpleasant reality: anti-gay protestors.

They've shown up at annual Pride events in Charlotte and other cities across the country throughout the history of the LGBT equality rights movement. They're nothing new — we've all encountered them before.

This year, however, might be a little different. There's a new enemy out there — and he's headed our way. Move over Bill James. Step to the rear Flip Benham. Make room for Rev. Billy Ball.

Ball's "ministry" is based in Primrose, Ga. That hasn't stopped him from taking to the highways to launch protests against LGBT Pride celebrations in places like



Billy Ball after his arrest in Hendersonville, N.C.

St. Petersburg and Jacksonville, Fla, and Atlanta, Ga.

One thing's for sure — Ball likes to get arrested and he loves to sue. In March in Hendersonville, N.C., he and an assistant pastor from Faith Baptist Church in Primrose were cited and later arrested for violating the city's public demonstrations ordinance when they took to local streets preaching a fundamentalist message without a permit.

According to a story in the *Blue Ridge Times News*, Ball remained in jail for several days because he said the city ordinance was a violation of his First Amendment rights.

On June 7, Hendersonville's town council caved in and rescinded the ordinance. Despite his apparent victory, Ball says he plans to file a civil lawsuit against the city and his arresting officer to attempt to recoup legal expenses and get his record expunged.

"I think he just wants to bring attention to himself," said Hendersonville Mayor Greg Newman, who is also an attorney.

Ball was also arrested last year for protesting Atlanta Gay Pride after he violated the city's free speech zone ordinance and advanced within 300 feet of the event's Dyke March. The charges against Ball were eventually dropped and his \$2 million lawsuit against the city of Atlanta is still pending.

On June 30 he challenged organizers of gay Pride in **see organizers on 9**

## Pride is burning!



Special event section inside. See pages 15-18.