

OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM BENJAMIN HUNT
Candidate for Mayor of Bella Vista

To the residents and voters of Bella Vista:

Over the past several weeks, an organized campaign has been working aggressively to damage my reputation by circulating misleading information about my previous businesses and civil litigation. I believe you deserve a direct response from me so please give me this 3 minute read. It's Important!

First, Let's Correct the Biggest Number Being Circulated

One of the most misleading claims being made is: **"Ben personally owes \$653,721."** That is not an accurate description of what the records show.

Based on factual review of the judgments, approximately **\$45,000, including estimated accrued interest, is identified as my clearly individual obligation.**

The \$653,721 figure combines multiple judgments involving multiple defendants, businesses, and different forms of legal liability and presents them in a way that makes the entire amount appear to be a personal debt belonging exclusively to me, **It is not!**

There are other judgments involving joint-and-several liability, and I am not hiding them. The complete explanation, supporting calculations, court records, and related documents are available on the Legal Docs section of my campaign website for anyone who wants to examine them.

The Records Are Real. How it is Portrayed Is the Problem.

I want to make something very clear. I am not claiming that every public record being circulated about me is fake. Many of the underlying records are real.

My concern is what is being done with them.

A person can take a real court record, remove the surrounding circumstances, combine unrelated numbers, omit the involvement of other responsible parties, leave out what happened afterward, and present the resulting story in a way that creates a very different impression from the complete record and that is what our voters need to recognize.

My Business History Deserves Context

I spent many years in the construction industry and participated in businesses generating millions of dollars in revenue.

Over that length of time and volume of business, of course disputes occasionally occurred with customers, vendors, business partners, and others. How could it not over that length of time and across hundreds of projects. I have the scars and wisdom from years of successes and failures. I am definitely seasoned and all my combined experience cannot be overlooked. That's the kind of pressure that forms an individual and the residents and employees of Bella Vista will be the beneficiary of my experience.

I accept responsibility for my own decisions and my own mistakes however I do not take responsibility for the actions of others. Was I on an island by myself, of course not. There were many other people making decisions that are reflected in these public records.

I had business partners, employees, subcontractors, vendors, companies, and customers involved in these situations and we each played a role. There were circumstances created or influenced by other

people that I did not initiate or control, yet my name remained attached to the resulting business dispute or litigation. That does not mean I bear no responsibility.

It means the complete circumstances matter.

I can also tell you something about my own intentions: **I have never entered into a relationship with a customer intending to harm them, deceive them, or take advantage of them, to the contrary I made every attempt possible to avoid these types of situations and the records actually show that.**

Did every project go perfectly? No. Did I make business decisions I would handle differently today? Yes. Did business relationships fail? Yes. Did customers and I sometimes disagree? Absolutely. Did courts rule against me in some matters? Yes, and I acknowledge that. But those facts are very different from portraying me as someone who deliberately set out to victimize people.

Consider Who Is Delivering the Message

There is now an extraordinary effort devoted specifically to attacking me.

Dedicated websites have been created. Dedicated social-media accounts have appeared. Professionally produced graphics and images depicting me negatively are repeatedly circulated and a fishing campaign is underway searching for anyone willing to say things against me yet many of the people responsible for this shadow campaign have chosen not to publicly identify themselves.

Anonymity does not automatically make something false. But I believe voters have every right to ask: **Who is putting this much time, effort, and potentially money into destroying the reputation of one candidate for Mayor of Bella Vista—and why?** Also, if these individuals want you to trust their interpretation of my life and business history, why won't they publicly put their own names behind it?

I Will Put My Name Behind Mine

My response will not be another anonymous website or anonymous social-media account. **My name is Benjamin Hunt** and I am running for Mayor of Bella Vista. I am putting my name behind what I tell you, I am making supporting documents available to you. I will also acknowledge decisions that went against me, I will acknowledge mistakes I made, I will answer difficult questions. When something is being circulated about me materially distorts what the factual records show, I will defend myself with facts.

I don't expect you to simply believe me because I'm asking for your vote. I also ask that you don't automatically believe an anonymous campaign simply because it produces an alarming graphic or a large number.

Look at the documents I have posted at welovebellavista.com / Legal Docs - Consider the context - Ask the questions – Judge me on the complete record.

Then make up your own mind. That is all I ask of the voters of Bella Vista. I am ready to get to work on my action plans for this city and I am the only candidate to give you that effort. I will relentlessly work for you, I will defend you, and you will see firsthand why your Firefighters Union and my Air Force teammates hold me in such high regard. It's because I am a tireless leader, I am selfless, and I always make dramatic improvements while giving that credit to others! Thank You!

Benjamin Hunt

Candidate for Mayor

Bella Vista, Arkansas