

OFFICIAL

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Carlton, the document said, responded, "You son of a bitch; what are you people harassing me for?"

Anderson escorted Carlton into the building, the documents said, and Carlton was later asked to leave by Publisher Jeff Vanderbeck.

The Pikeville Police Department responded to the incident after being contacted by News-Express staff.

According to court documents, Anderson said the incident occurred shortly after he had sent an open records request to Pike Judge-Executive Wayne T.

Rutherford's office which would have been forwarded to Carlton for fulfillment.

Pike Judge-Executive Wayne T. Rutherford refused to comment on the incident on Tuesday, instead referring comment to Carlton.

Tuesday afternoon, Carlton issued a statement that blamed the News-Express for "intervening" in economic development projects.

"I regret what transpired and it is unfortunate," Carlton said. "It was a reaction through frustration because it seems every time I spend considerable amounts of time and energy negotiating with large national and interna-

tional companies the newspaper intervenes at critical moments and makes it very difficult for me to get anything accomplished."

Carlton also repeated his denial on Tuesday that he hit Anderson.

Carlton has been employed by the county as the director of the Office of Energy and Community Development since 2009, but has been at the center of controversy since late last month, when the News-Express released the results of an investigation of a pair of coal-to-liquid fuel plants proposed for Pike County.

Carlton, in his capacity as director of energy and community development, figured heavily in both the

projects and in the News-Express investigation, which found that the county may have illegally provided equipment and labor to a private company working on private property.

Also, documents found in the News-Express investigation indicated Carlton was aware that he was potentially trespassing on private property adjacent to the proposed development site.

The project regarding which the News-Express issued the open records request Monday was one on which Carlton had directly worked.

Anderson said he is disappointed by Carlton's actions.

"The safety of reporters

and members of the media is something I take very seriously and the actions of Mr. Carlton reflect a serious and potentially dangerous situation for those who choose to help inform taxpayers how their tax dollars are spent," Anderson said in a statement. "That any public official feels they have the right to physically attack anyone, whether they are a member of the media or any other citizen, is very alarming and I am extremely disappointed in Mr. Carlton that, although he admits assailing me outside the office of the Appalachian News-Express, he continues to deny physically striking me."

No charges have been filed against Carlton related to Monday's alleged altercation.

This incident is the second in less than two years in which a News-Express staffer was involved in an altercation regarding a news story.

In June 2010, an altercation occurred at Champs Sports Bar and Grill between former Editor Jerry Boggs and Pikeville Mayor Frank Justice.

Court documents in that incident said that Justice had come into the bar and asked Boggs if a particular piece of information would appear in a story which was scheduled to appear in the following day's edition.

Justice then struck Boggs in the left eye and cheekbone when Boggs confirmed the information would be in the story.

A 911 call was placed and, according to the complaint, Champs employees pulled Justice away from Boggs and Justice left on a bicycle before Pikeville Police arrived.

Boggs did not press charges and Justice issued a formal public apology.

"I, Frank Justice, based on my own actions which lead to the confrontation that occurred on the evening of June 29th would like to issue a public apology to the editor of the News-Express, Jerry Boggs, for the aggravation and duress that I have caused him," the mayor's statement said. "My hope is that Mr. Boggs will accept this heartfelt apology."

CRASH

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by his stepdad, Johnny Smith.

Besides his parents, he is survived by one brother, Robert Stewart of Russellville; three sisters, Sarah Musick of Virgie, Bessie Maynor and Vanessa Miller, both of Floyd County; and five nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at noon Wednesday, Nov. 23, in the Roberts Funeral Home Chapel with Robert Smith officiating. Burial will follow in the Little Cemetery, Virgie. Arrangements are under direction of Roberts Funeral Home of Robinson Creek.

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