

**BEN TOLSON APOLOGIZES TO COMMUNITY  
FOR COMMENT ON MESSAGE BOARD  
(posted on [ittakesgrit.org](http://ittakesgrit.org) Oct. 4, 2007)**

On Sept. 26, 2007, Mayor Tolson apologized to the users of a Sultan online forum/message board run and administrated by Sultan Resident and former Sultan Planning Commissioner Jeff Kirkman:  
<http://www.freepowerboards.com/sultandude/>

Mayor Tolson also made a public apology after the public comment period of Sultan's Council Meeting September 27, 2007. Below are the associated string of postings.

- Visit the *Monroe Monitor & Valley News* (<http://www.monroemonitor.com> Oct. 2, 2007 issue) for the complete news story.
- Audio and a transcription of Mayor Tolson's apology:  
[http://www.ittakesgrit.org/AUDIO-MP3/Council\\_070927\\_D\\_Tolson-Apology\\_CM-cmts.mp3](http://www.ittakesgrit.org/AUDIO-MP3/Council_070927_D_Tolson-Apology_CM-cmts.mp3)

**POSTED: TUE SEP 25, 2007:**

**Anonymous poster #1:** *"I wonder whose turn it is to do janitorial work this week [in the City]. Ben Tolson, how's that going for you - do you take a turn?"*

**Anonymous poster #2:** *"this was hysterical..."*

**Posted by "Guest"** (later confirmed to be Mayor Ben Tolson, speaking in the third person): *"He's been very busy getting rid of the trash....Fred is gone, Carol is gone and more is needed to be taken out."*

**Posted by Traci Hoenstine** (posting under her real name, but unaware that she was responding to a message posted by Mayor Ben Tolson): *"You are such a coward. You are the trash that needs to go. I get it though. Fred is honest and decent and you are not. So, you need to tear down what is better than you. Well, you better get busy because standards as low as yours, mean there are many above that for you to try to bring to a lower level than you. You have your work cut out for you. Coward."*

**Posted by Message Board Administrator:** "Dear Guest: Referring to our former and good police chief as trash; If you were to, for example, use your work computer, to send your hate posting above and bolded, we could trace that. If we traced it, it would come up, the 'organization' you work for. Why are you, hypothetically, of course, so stupid? Hell, even 'global dialer' knows about getting traced.

So, here is the deal. You should apologize on this board for your comment. We can deal with this in other ways too which we may still do anyway. I think Fred Walser should

know about this posting.

Please apologize for referring to humans as trash. The apology should be sent from the same IP address as the one in which you referenced human beings as trash.

Then ask God to forgive you. The only thing worse than a hypocrite is a stupid one.

Administrator.

PS does anyone know much about The Northwest Ministry Network? I went to their website and a local affiliation came up on 6th street in Sultan. I was just wondering.

Thanks.

Administrator"

### **POSTED WED., SEPT. 26,2007:**

**Posted by "Guest":** *"My post was out of frustration. I shouldn't have responded....I was wrong. No excuses. I was wrong in posting that comment.*

*Ben Tolson"*

**Posted by Traci Hoenstine:** *"Dear 'Person Associated with the Ministry Possibly on 6th Street' - IF you posted a comment earlier referring to a man who dedicated his life to helping others as trash, YOU are a sorry example for others. Do you walk among us as if you are some sort of leader? You are nothing more than the sum of your words. Your empty, hateful, words.*

*The next time you stand at your pulpit, should you have a pulpit, remember what a failure you are for others. Remember this word in particular, "hypocrite." There is nothing God-like about you. You sold whatever redeeming qualities you may have had a long time ago.*

*Nothing bothers me more than someone who isn't true to their word. You can even be a bad guy, and be true to your word. But to pretend to be something you are not, and masquerade yourself to be a person who follows any kind of "God" is just sickening. Then in your next breath you call people trash? Someone who dedicated his life to helping others is trash, while you only pretend to do so? If anyone fits the definition of trash it is you so look in the mirror.*

*The worst among us cloak themselves in "good & God" while possessing the corruption and hate they claim to despise.*

*What a poor excuse you are.*

*Traci"*

**Posted by Message Board Administrator::** *"Ben, if this was you that posted the apology, you need to email Traci directly and let her know you are sorry. The IP is different on this apology than the IP address used from the ministry. We have no way to know if this is you or not. So please clear that up for us. Send Traci an email with your apology and or also post the apology from your ministry computer on the board. What we know for sure is the insult, calling Walser and another person trash was associated with the ministry mentioned. If you are posting on the other board we do hope you show more restraint. You are the mayor after all. Please follow through with the apology to Traci's email. I believe you have her email address. Administrator"*