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Newsmakers 2007: Dad keeps waging battle over child support

Posted by

RoNeisha Mullen | The Flint Journal December 20, 2007 07:14AM

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Former Flint resident Robert R. Parker Jr. is continuing his longshot fight against state and local officials after he was jailed in 2005 for unpaid child support.

Profiled in The Flint Journal in April, Parker has appealed the dismissal of a federal lawsuit in which he made the unusual claim that Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox and others were part of a racketeering conspiracy against him.

Besides Cox, the \$66-million lawsuit names the Genesee County Friend of the Court office and former FOC head Jennie R. Barkey, who is now a probate judge.

"I intend on dealing with them until they get it right," said Parker, 51. "They had this image of me as a child support scofflaw, and here I am guilty of nothing."

In 2005, Parker was thrown in jail for nonpayment of child support and ordered to pay \$15,000. He claimed he didn't owe the money because his ex-wife denied him visitation with his daughter.

Parker fought back, took his case to the state Court of Appeals and won, getting his conviction overturned in 2006 and an order to get his money back.

Parker will return to Genesee County Circuit Court on Jan. 7 on a motion for the return of the \$15,000 and a passport he was forced to surrender.

"The original charge against Parker was brought in good faith," said Matt Frendewey, spokesman for the attorney general, told The Journal in April.

The Journal could not reach the attorney general's office this week.

Parker, who now resides in Alpharetta, Ga., is a Flint native and high school dropout with a law degree. He is currently unemployed and said the case cost him a "good job" handling hurricane insurance claims.

"I was making \$240,000 a year when these idiots came after me," Parker said. "I've been broke since."

As for his daughter, Parker said he still hasn't spoken to her.

"Even though she's graduated law school and is practicing somewhere, she's the real victim here," he said. "It's an unfortunate set of circumstances, but I continue to wish her well in her life."

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