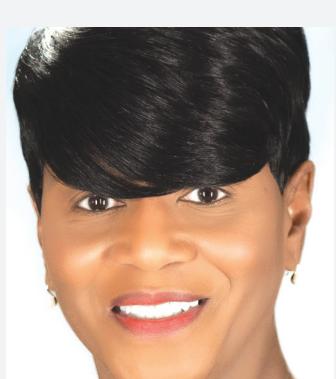


# ACCUSED BY KEN PAXTON

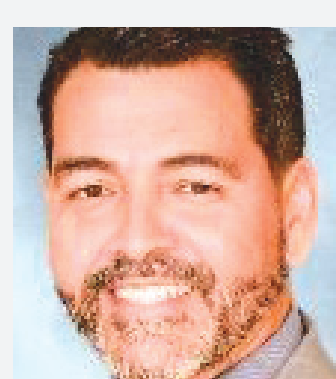
Here is a look at the 10 Killeen leaders named in the lawsuit filed last week by the Texas AG and what they have said about Killeen’s marijuana law and an ongoing lawsuit filed by Bell County aiming to strike down the pot ordinance



**Debbie Nash-King  
Mayor of Killeen**  
Mayor Debbie Nash-King said in August 2023 that she could see the pros and cons of both sides of the argument when it came to defending against Bell County’s lawsuit against Killeen on Proposition A. “The residents of Killeen did follow the proper process to get Prop A on the ballot, and it passed,” Nash-King said in August 2023. “However, cannabis is an illegal drug in the State of Texas, resulting in a lawsuit against the city. As mayor, I took an oath of office to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of this State. Therefore, I will continue to follow the state and federal laws.”



**Nina Cobb  
Killeen Mayor Pro Tem**  
Mayor Pro Tem Nina Cobb has not been very vocal on the issue of Killeen’s marijuana law and the lawsuits it has brought, often not responding to the Herald’s questions about the issue. However, in December 2022, during a City Council meeting, she did say she was opposed to the local marijuana law, which was known as Proposition A on the November 2022 ballot. “I took an oath of office and said I would be fair and I would be honest. To do those things, that means that I could not break the law.” However, Cobb did vote, along with a majority of the City Council last year, to approve up to \$100,000 for a defense of the lawsuit filed by Bell County.



**Jose Segarra  
Killeen Councilman**  
Councilman Jose Segarra said he was against Proposition A from the start, yet he also said he believes in defending the city of Killeen against Bell County’s lawsuit in what he perceives as the will of the voters. “While my intentions were never to defend this lawsuit, as I was opposed to Prop A,” Segarra said in August 2023. “I strongly believe that the people deserve a clear and definitive ruling from the court regarding whether Prop A is right or wrong, otherwise it may set a precedent for us to have to deal with other issues, in the future, that may go against state law in our city. Clarity on this matter for our citizens is what I want, and I believe the court is the one that can, hopefully, provide this.”



**Ramon Alvarez  
Killeen Councilman**  
Councilman Ramon Alvarez has been a supporter of Proposition A from day one having been a signatory of the original petition that got the marijuana law on the Killeen ballot in 2022. He has continuously stressed the perceived importance of defending the will of Killeen voters who put Proposition A into law. “As an elected official my highest duty is to listen to the majority will of the people and to strive to carry out said will to the best of my ability. And I believe that is what this Council has done and will continue to do,” Alvarez said in August 2023.



**Jessica Gonzalez  
Killeen Councilwoman**  
Councilwoman Jessica Gonzalez’s logic falls on similar lines to that of Alvarez. She said the process is working exactly how it is supposed to and that the city of Killeen is simply defending the will of its voters from the Bell County lawsuit. “I think it would be irresponsible to ‘wipe away’ valid votes and disregard the request of our people,” Gonzalez said in August 2023. “There is a process in our American government when this sort of challenge arises and again, I believe, the proper place is for our courts to make the final determination.”



**Joseph Solomon  
Killeen Councilman**  
Councilman Joseph Solomon, elected last year, was not on the City Council when Proposition A first came into law in late 2022. His position has been that Killeen’s marijuana law contradicts state law. He was also the lone vote in the City Council against using city taxpayer money to defend against Bell County’s lawsuit in June. “I really don’t think that this should have happened,” Solomon said in June 2023. “I respect and honor the vote of the citizens.” He said the city should have “done a better job of educating” the voters. “I don’t think that fighting a lawsuit is good,” he said.



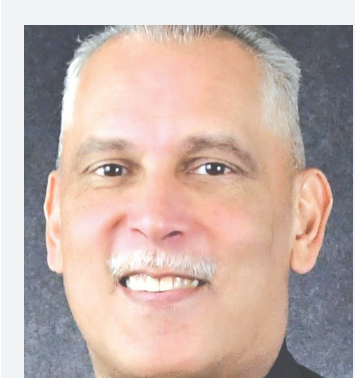
**Michael Boyd  
Killeen Councilman**  
Councilman Boyd has not often publicly commented on Proposition A. However, he did comment on it when the City Council in December 2022 voted to remove a probable cause clause from it. He said he agreed with then-Mayor Pro Tem Ken Wilkerson, who wanted to see the law put into place without gutting it. However, Boyd ended up voting to remove those provisions anyway. When Killeen city staff asked the council to approve up to \$100,000 for a defense of the lawsuit filed by Bell County, Boyd said that while he may not “personally agree with the particulars of the ordinance ... a majority of the citizens voted for Prop A expect us to uphold their vote.”



**Riakos Adams  
Killeen Councilman**  
Councilman Riakos Adams was another early supporter of Proposition A, having been a signatory on the original petition which led to it becoming law. Adams has not been very vocal on his support either way about the issue. After Killeen voters approved the local ordinance in November 2022, the Killeen City Council held a meeting on Dec. 6, 2022, when the council amended the ordinance before making it an official city law. This what Adams said at that meeting: “Killeen has a history of a low voter turnout, and I think we send the wrong message if we amend this to the point it doesn’t exist. We need to be careful with that.”



**Kent Cagle  
Killeen City Manager**  
City Manager Kent Cagle is not known as a supporter either way of Proposition A. However, he does support defending the lawsuit against Bell County. “We were put in a difficult situation and you crafted a pretty elegant compromise to respect the will of the voters but not take tools away from the police department,” Cagle said at a June 2023 City Council meeting. Cagle, as per his duty as city manager, signed an agreement with the law firm defending Killeen from the Bell County lawsuit which, as of last week, has spent more than \$71,000 and is capped at \$100,000.



**Pete Lopez Jr.  
Killeen Police Chief**  
Chief Pete Lopez Jr., hired last year, was not working for Killeen when Proposition A first came into law in late 2022. He has declined to comment on the newest lawsuit from the state Attorney General’s office, saying it was pending litigation.

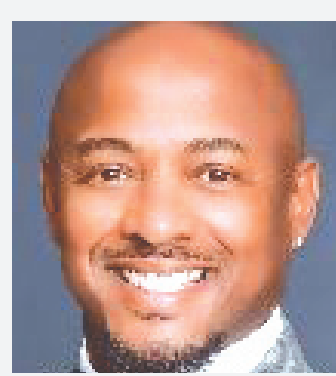
## OFF THE HOOK?: Others have played large roles in the history of Killeen’s marijuana law since it was created in 2022, but they are not named in the AG’s lawsuit filed last week



**Julie Oliver  
Executive Director of Ground Game Texas**  
Julie Oliver, an Austin-based lawyer who has run for Congress in the past as a Democrat, has been an instrumental part in bringing marijuana decriminalization to Killeen and other cities. She has argued that current marijuana law in Texas disproportionately affects Blacks. She led the effort to get the ordinance on the Killeen ballot, frequently coming to Killeen and City Hall to get the measure passed.



**Louie Minor  
Bell County Commissioner**  
Since day one, Louie Minor, a Killeen resident and businessman, has been advocating for marijuana decriminalization in Killeen. He and former Killeen Councilwoman Shirley Fleming were the boots on the ground in getting local residents to sign the petition that led to the law getting passed. “I want the city to continue to fight (for) what we voted for and stand up to this attack on local control,” Minor said in a phone call with the Herald on Friday.



**Ken Wilkerson  
Former Killeen Councilman**  
Ken Wilkerson was also one of the signatories of the original petition, and was the marijuana law’s strongest supporter on the Killeen City Council. Wilkerson said that he signed the petition as a “citizen” and not as a council member. When asked if it would go against the oath that council members need to uphold the state laws and Constitution, Wilkerson quickly responded: “How are you supposed to change state laws and the Constitution, then?”



**Shirley Fleming  
Former Killeen Councilwoman**  
Shirley Fleming played a very big part in the initial efforts to get the ball rolling on Proposition A. “Right now, we are creating a petition and going out and talking to people who are registered voters and seeing what their views are on marijuana decriminalization,” Fleming said in December 2021 as part of the original meeting at an after-school facility in Killeen. Fleming and Louie Minor were the boots on the ground in getting local residents to sign the petition that led to the law getting passed.



**Charles Kimble  
Former Killeen Chief of Police**  
Then-Chief Charles Kimble said he was opposed to Proposition A from the very start in late 2021. On Nov. 10, 2022, two days after Killeen voters approved a measure to decriminalize marijuana, Kimble issued a “special order” to end enforcement of state law, even before the Killeen council had a chance to formally adopt the city law. Days later, Bell County District Attorney Henry Garza sent a letter to Kimble asking him to rescind the order. Kimble refused.

