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Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2018 8:32 PM

To: Melendrez, Andy <ASMelendrez@riversideca.gov>; Gardner, Mike <MGardner@riversideca.gov>; Conder, Chuck <CConder@riversideca.gov>

Cc: Nicol, Colleen <CNicol@riversideca.gov>; Gloria Mattson-Huerrta <dnphuerta@yahoo.com>

Subject: [External] Governmental Affairs Committee | Policy for resignations from City boards and commissions and withdrawal of resignations

Honorable members of the Committee:

I feel compelled to speak to you on this issue, as my actions are likely somewhat at the root of the matter. Unfortunately, I am unable to be present at the Committee meeting on May 2, and I hope this email serves as a reasonable replacement for personal communication. I want to begin with an apology on my part for the lapse of personal discipline that forces you to make this an issue today. I suppose I demonstrated on that day a measure of my need for the grace of God in my life. I was to chair a board of ethics hearing panel in June 2017, in the matter of Hunter v Bailey. At that panel's initial meeting in February 2017, I disclosed for the record, and as a matter of voluntary transparency, my personal and pastoral relationship with the Mayor, and asked both complainant and respondent if they had any objections to my chairing and/or serving on the panel. Had either party objected to my service on the panel at that time, I would have gladly recused myself from further deliberation, and the designated alternate would have joined the panel. Both parties stated for the record they did not have any objections. Subsequently, at the June meeting, the complainant used public comment time to allege bias on my part, and, in my opinion, level a personal attack on my character. In what I will freely admit was a pique of anger at such a blatant disregard of the previous attempt at transparency, and what I believed was an agreement honorably made in February on the part of the complainant, I adjourned the meeting (unfortunately breaking the city's gavel -- apologies again), and submitted my letter of resignation forthwith. I felt like personal assault on my character, and the revelation of what in my

opinion was stalking behavior by the complainant, made my further service on the board of ethics untenable at that moment.

Several of my fellow members of the board of ethics, plus members of the city council, as well as members in the community began to ask me almost immediately to reconsider my decision to resign. It was solely due to these multiple expressions of support and encouragement that I decided to submit a letter seeking to rescind my previous letter of resignation. I want to be clear that I had no assumptions that my second letter would be accepted by the City Council, and I was fully prepared to accept the consequence of my prior action. That my second letter was accepted, and I was able to resume service, is something for which I will always be grateful. That our city leaders offered me a second chance to serve is an opportunity which I do not take lightly.

My observation is that most early terminations of service on a city board or commission are likely related to issues related to a change in the available time to serve or a change in residence. I would also surmise that there are disagreements over city policies expressed by the public toward many, if not most, of our boards and commission members. However, rarely I think, is there a situation that involves a member of the community launching a surprise personal attack on the character of a member of a city board or commission. In my surprise over such a tactic, I acted in haste, I acted in frustration with a process which I felt had been defiled, and I got mad. In reflecting on my experience, I would encourage the Governmental Affairs Committee, if possible, to allow for some sort of "cooling off" period of no more than five (5) business days before any letter of resignation is initially processed by the City Clerk's office. During that "cooling off" period, the person submitting such a letter would be suspended from conducting city business, but could rescind said resignation, by the close of business on the fifth business day after receipt by the City Clerk.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our city.

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