

EasyReader

Letter Part I

Published June 22, 2006

No ifs, ands or butts

Dear ER:

The Hermosa City Council is showing that it has no regard for its citizens. They have not expanded the wireless system past Pier Avenue and now they take away a right that we have. I am 72-years-old and come home from a full time job at 3 p.m. I will take a walk on the water's edge and then sit down at least 50 ft. away from anybody on the beach and light up a fine cigar. When I am done, there is no indication that I was smoking, however there is plenty of indication that people have eaten on the beach. Oh to bring back (former Hermosa councilman)

Benzie!

John Capraro

Hermosa Beach

No kudos for Duclos

Dear ER:

Many folks in Hermosa Beach are probably unaware of Hermosa Beach candidate Jeff Duclos's published comments in the Beach Cities Democratic Club newsletter. I think it's important that they hear what he has to say about his recent loss for city council. He says that his election loss "feels like a personal injury, like someone who has had something stolen from them; someone who knows the thief, but has no recourse." He blames his loss on my "tactics" and Councilmember Michael Keegan's "\$120,000 in mailings and misinformation." If Mr. Keegan were to have spent \$120,000 for the Hermosa Beach election that would amount to two pieces of direct mail every day for a month. I must have been hallucinating since I received about 9 pieces of mail total for all Hermosa Beach council candidates. I don't know what "tactics" he's referring to. The real kicker in his diatribe is: "After all, Hermosa Beach was forced into this election for the sole purpose of getting him (Kit Bobko) elected." In essence, he's saying it's wrong to allow the voters to choose who their next Councilmember should be. What would have he said if he had won instead of Bobko?

I challenge Mr. Duclos to provide proof that the election was stolen from him. Where are the stuffed ballot boxes, dead voters and rigged voting machines? Do we now live in Richard Daley's Chicago by the Sea?

Fred Huebscher

Hermosa Beach

A matter of ethics

Dear ER:

I attended both the Hermosa Beach City Council and School Board meetings last week where Lance Widman's well-publicized behavior was brought into question. At both meetings, the City Council members and School Board members were asked to condemn Mr. Widman's actions given that he has a contract with the City for Dispute Resolution/Mediation Services, and given that he is an elected member of the School Board. To my surprise and amazement, neither elected body would publicly condemn his inappropriate behavior. During the City Council meeting, the City Attorney not once, but twice, gave the City Council members an opportunity to comment. He advised the Council that although the District Attorney was not going to pursue the matter, as it was not deemed technically illegal to remove election signs from public property, the City clearly did not support, nor would the City encourage its citizens to do what Mr. Widman did. The City Council, and especially Mr. Edgerton who aggressively defended Mr. Widman, chose to narrowly focus on the legality of Mr. Widman's actions rather than considering the aspects of ethical and moral principles, and stated that if what Mr. Widman did wasn't illegal, then it was OK and he was off the hook. The School Board, including Mr. Widman, chose not to comment on this issue. What I gathered from these two meetings is that our elected officials condone unethical behavior, and if the community does nothing and remains silent, then we all, as a community, condone unethical

behavior. What kind of example does this set? What kind of community environment does this create? I spent almost 40 years working for a major aerospace corporation and held several senior management positions. Are there politics and “good old boy” networks in major corporations? You bet. But during my corporate experience, unethical behavior was never allowed to go unrecognized. Like with any large enterprise, organization, or group, not everyone will agree, and this can result in some very heated debates. But never during public discussions, or later behind closed doors was unethical behavior ever allowed; and if it did occur, the guilty party was publicly admonished or reprimanded, and required to make an apology. Ethics were important to everyone in our company, and I think they should be important to everyone in our community. I have yet to hear any elected official (our community management) condemn or denounce Mr. Widman’s actions, or have I heard Mr. Widman make a public apology. This may not be a legal matter, but it is certainly a matter concerning the leadership of our community, a matter concerning integrity, honesty, credibility, morality, and principles...a matter of ethics. If we, the citizens, remain silent, we are allowing our management to skirt this issue and set a precedent for how our community will operate in the future. If this happens...then shame on us!

Gary Osborn
Hermosa Beach

Educator in demand

Dear ER:

I am a thirty-five year teacher with this district and a thirty year resident of this community. As teachers in Manhattan Beach, we give students an outstanding education, resulting in some of the best test scores and university acceptance rates in the nation. However, our District is forcing teachers to leave the district for jobs elsewhere. This is not good for students or for the community. Manhattan Beach teachers have made many personal and financial sacrifices to help the District recover from its fiscal mismanagement of the past. Enough is enough.

Manhattan Beach teachers are being treated as a low priority while the District spends money on administrator salaries instead of the classroom. They have the funds to settle on a one-year contract with teachers and school funding for next year will be the highest in many years. The time to settle with MBUTA is now.

Allen Hillger

MBUSD Teacher

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