

Memorandum

TO: Honorable Mayor &
City Council

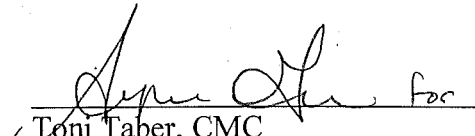
FROM: Toni J. Taber, CMC
Acting City Clerk

SUBJECT: The Public Record
September 13, 2013 – September 19, 2013

DATE: September 20, 2013

ITEMS FILED FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD

- (a) Letter to Mayor and City Council from Senior Commissioner Martha O'Connell dated September 16, 2013, regarding a motion that was passed at the San José Senior Citizens Commission meeting on September 12, 2013, to retain the wording of Section 17.22.800 of the Mobile Home Ordinance.
- (b) Copy of a thank you letter to Mayor Jan Harnik and Members of Palm Desert City Council from David Wall dated September 19, 2013, regarding "Thank-You, Ms. Lisa Ream for your kindness and professionalism!"


Toni Taber, CMC
Acting City Clerk

TJT/kc

Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

September 20, 2013

Subject: The Public Record: September 13, 2013 – September 19, 2013

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SENIOR CITIZENS COMMISSION

City of San Jose
Community Services
1694 Adrian Way
San Jose, Ca 95122

September 16, 2013

Mayor Chuck Reed
Members of the San José City Council
200 East Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113

Dear Honorable Mayor Reed and City Council:

On behalf of the San José Senior Citizens Commission, I am advising you of a motion that was passed unanimously at our September 12, 2013 meeting:

The Senior Commission encourages Mayor and Council to retain the wording of section 17.22.800 of the Mobile Home Ordinance.

Section 17.22.800 reads as follows: Representation of parties.

A. The parties in any administrative hearing are entitled and encouraged to be represented at the hearings by a person of the party's choosing. **The representative need not be an attorney.**

B. Written designation of representatives shall be filed with the city rental rights and referrals program.

C. The written designation of representative shall include a statement that the representative is authorized to bind the party to any stipulation, decision or other action taken at the administrative hearing. (Ords. 22284, 26792.)

It is this provision that allows Mobilehome Park residents to choose someone who is not an attorney to represent them at formal hearings when a Park owner has petitioned for a rent increase beyond the annual adjustment already authorized. Last year, a low to moderate income Senior Park in San Jose hired an attorney and two expert witnesses at great cost to them to defend against a large rent increase. When the Park owner again filed for another large rent increase this year (the first time such a thing has been done in San Jose), the residents could not afford an attorney. They gave proxies to non attorneys to represent them. The Park owner's attorney objected and was overruled.


Without this section of the Mobilehome Ordinance, residents who cannot afford an attorney, and who do not feel they can represent themselves, would be denied any sort of opportunity to present their case. The Senior Commission urges Mayor and Council to retain the language of 17.22.800 to give Mobilehome Park residents some sort of fairness and representation.

Sincerely,



Martha O'Connell, Senior Commissioner on behalf of the Commission

cc: Pete Constant, Councilmember, Dist. 1
Debra Figone, City Manager
Elizabeth Klotz, Deputy City Attorney
Julie Edmond-Mares, PRNS Director
Angel Rios, PRNS Assistant Director
Suzanne Wolf, PRNS, Deputy Director
Andrew Freeman, PRNS, Division Manager
Mary O'Meara, PRNS, Recreation Superintendent
Toni Taber, City Clerk
Ash Kalra, CD 2
Sam Liccardo, CD 3
Kansen Chu, CD 4
Xavier Campos, CD 5
Pierluigi Oliverio, CD 6
Madison Nguyen, CD 7
Rose Herrera, CD 8
Donald Rocha, CD 9
Johnny Khamis, CD 10
Chelsey Seagraves, Assistant to CM Constant
Mayor's Policy Analyst
Correspondence Binder

David S. Wall


RECEIVED

San Jose City Clerk

September 19, 2013

2013 SEP 19 PM 12:33

Mayor Jan Harnik and Members Palm Desert City Council
City Hall
73-510 Waring Drive
Palm Desert, California 92260

Re: Thank-You, Ms. Lisa Ream for your kindness and professionalism!

Madam Mayor and other distinguished Members of Council,

I am writing to express my thanks and gratitude about the actions of one of your dutiful and knowledgeable employees, Ms. Lisa Ream-Recycling Technician of your Special Programs Department.

Last Wednesday, September 11, I was compelled to come to your very clean and quiet city of Palm Desert for my mother passed away on the aforementioned date. She was 82. Both of my parents have resided in Palm Desert for many years.

My mother was a Type I Diabetic for over 50 years injecting herself with insulin three times a day. To assist my father, I made inquiries to properly dispose of over 900 sterile syringes and 12 unopened vials of insulin. My efforts led me to have a couple of phone conversations with Ms. Ream.

Ms. Ream's conduct in assisting me was exemplary. Ms. Ream fully explained the aspects of Special Programs with reference to medical waste, particularly the disposal of the syringes. However, the disposal of the insulin was problematic.

When one considers the senior citizen populations of Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage and Palm Desert, these areas probably represent the largest concentration of old people in California. Old people seem to have a penchant for dying without giving much notice and the proper and prompt disposal of their medications would be of great service to the surviving family members.

It would be my prayer that the Palm Desert City Council would develop a more robust medical waste disposal program under the auspices of your well managed Special Programs Department.

In closing, my association with Ms. Ream has left me with a question in two parts; does Ms. Ream's kindness eclipse her innate goodness or is it the other way around?

Please take the necessary steps to convey my gratitude and sincerest regards to Ms. Lisa Ream in a timely and thorough manner.

Respectfully submitted

Cc: Mayor Reed and Members San José City Council
City Attorney / City Auditor / City Manager

