



KLEIN CHAPLAINCY SERVICE

1101 Camino Real
310-921-2187, fax 310 374-7405
Redondo Beach, Ca. 90277
www.kleinchaplaincy.org
IRS # 95-4816912

30 April, 2019

Mayor Stacey Armato
City of Hermosa Beach
1315 Valley Drive
Hermosa Beach, Ca. 90254

Dear Stacey,

I am writing this letter to you with great sadness. Both Julian and I have loved this City of ours since we moved here 30 years ago. We particularly loved the fact that the City appreciated and treasured its volunteers. That does not seem to be so under the current circumstances.

I am hereby submitting my formal resignation from EPAC and as its current Chair effectively immediately. The Council's actions make it quite clear that it has forgotten its primary duty which is the welfare of all residents – the entire residential community. Ensuring the welfare of the residential community includes the responsibility for emergency preparedness.

Emergency preparedness is much more than an administrative responsibility, it is the affective and continuous education and preparedness practices that are needed to be effective. As you well know our schools practice fire drills all the time. The EPAC's work has been to reach out to the residents of Hermosa educating, and reminding all of us what are the necessary practices and preparations for an emergency. As one who has spent weeks being deployed to many national disasters such as Ground Zero and Katrina I can assure it is only when the community knows what to do that it is able to protect its residents.

The fact that we no longer have our own fire department means that there is no longer a system of helping our residents out when they have a critical need. If someone falls out of bed, or can't get to the grocery store, or has difficulty breathing and no one checks on them what do you think is going to happen? It is only because of the volunteer efforts of EPAC that these residents have had the safe feeling that there is someone who cares and is capable of helping out.

There is no current or on-going program to help businesses to prepare for an emergency. There is no program to prepare employees what to do in an emergency, how to get out of the building safely, how to make sure that everyone is out of the building and findable. That not only requires practice but a personal

interaction with each business owner individually to commit to such an activity. That interaction has now been removed because members of EPAC did this work. Administrative employees do not do this. One more issue that we faced this past winter. There was no public notification where to find sand bags. There was no public notification on how someone like me who can't pick up a sand bag would get it to my house, there was no notification as to when the sand bags would be available. Again, that is in the scope of what volunteers who are the heart and soul of the City do.

The new City Administration does not seem to value communal and resident volunteers and involvement in the life of the city. I am wondering if that reflects how you perceive the City Council's approach to the residents of Hermosa Beach. Up till now all I have known of our city life is that the residents and the volunteers were exceedingly precious to not only the Council, the administration and therefore by example to the rest of us. Somehow that sense of community is no longer being felt and for that I am indeed terribly saddened and feel I have no other option to resign. As ever, I am hopeful that in the future there will be an effective change in the Council's approach and valuation of its citizen volunteers and its residents.

In closing, I wish you and your family good health and much joy.

Gila

Rabbi Gila Katz, BCC
Executive Director
Klein Chaplaincy Service
gilak1@verizon.net
310-621-5289