

From: [City Clerk](#)
To: [Eduardo Sarmiento](#)
Cc: [Tanesha Hudson](#)
Subject: FW: Cross Fit legal Defense of Councilmember Armato
Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 12:25:13 PM

Hi Eddie,
Please see the below.

Thank you,
[Tanesha L. Hudson](#)
Senior Office Assistant, City Clerk's Office | City of Hermosa Beach
Phone: 310.750-3545 | Email: thudson@hermosabeach.gov
[COVID-19 updates: hermosabeach.gov/coronavirus](https://hermosabeach.gov/coronavirus)

As of Monday March 16, 2020, the City of Hermosa Beach has significantly altered City operations to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). City staff and services will be transitioning to make services available by phone, email or online. A list of City services and department contact information is available on the [City Directory](#) page of the website. Hermosa Beach police and other City staff that provide essential services outside City Hall – such as street repairs and other public works functions – will continue their work in the community, while taking additional precautions to reduce the risk of spread.

From: Debbie Ross <daesr9@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 12:09 PM
To: Suja Lowenthal <suja@hermosabeach.gov>; City Clerk <cityclerk@hermosabeach.gov>; City Council <citycouncil@hermosabeach.gov>
Subject: Cross Fit legal Defense of Councilmember Armato

Dear City Council and City Manager,

I strongly urge you to challenge the lower court decision in the Cross-Fit case and to continue to defend and indemnify Stacey Armato in all related matters.

To cut off legal support for Ms. Armato, who was acting in her official capacity as a City Council member, would be a violation of the City's responsibility and would chill any and all future citizen involvement in City matters. Who is ever going to run for a City Council seat or volunteer, if they are now personally responsible for attorneys fees, litigation costs and damages arising out of their actions on behalf of the City?

I read the lower court decision and disagree with some of their comments concerning Ms. Armato. The appellate court may also disagree with the lower court findings. I followed the Cross-Fit matter and believe that in that case, as well as others, Ms. Armato works hard and honestly to assist her constituency, and that is what she did in the case. As a previous letter posted here by the appellate attorney stated, this matter is by no means settled and the trial court itself may ultimately be found to have erred. Ms. Armato is entitled to and deserves a vigorous defense and the expenses must be borne by the City she was acting on behalf of and represents.

I understand Mr. Fangary's ire, which seemingly stems from Mayor Campbell's efforts to pass Mr. Fangary over for Mayor. I believe that mistake has now devolved to these scorched earth tactics, to the detriment and expense of our entire City. And while I empathize with Mr. Fangary, I would urge him reconsider some of his efforts, for the sake of the City as a whole.

I urge the Council to appeal the Cross Fit case and to continue to provide for all legal costs of the City Council members, including Ms. Armato.

Regards,
Debbie Sanowski
3rd St., Hermosa Beach