

November 3rd, 2020

**Please include this letter in the Written Communication Section of the upcoming
November
10th city council meeting**

Dear City Council:

Recently I became aware that Laura Mecoy, who I understand is a city-hired public relations consultant actively sought to have a letter to the editor in the Easy Reader removed from the on-line version of the paper. When I found out about this I became very concerned. Few would disagree that an open and free press is essential to a free society. In this case, it appears that Laura Mecoy was actively involved in suppressing this letter despite the fact that it had been already printed in the Easy Reader. What's, even more, alarming is the Easy Reader accommodated the removal of what appeared to be only slightly critical of the city manager. When I contacted the Easy Reader to find out why the letter was removed, the owner of the paper, Kevin Cody told me that the letter boarded on Liable. Below is the letter in question. I don't see anything about the letter that is unusual or even close to liable. Also concerning to me is that the city pays the Easy readers for ads and had even recently placed an ad in the paper for their 50th-year celebration. Is this payback for favors?

At this time I am asking that the council look into this matter as well as any other suppression of information involving the services of Laura Mecoy. I am also asking the Council agendaize a complete review of the services that Laura Mecoy provides to the city of Hermosa Beach and that a full cost/benefit analysis be conducted. How much does the services of Laura Mecoy's cost Hermosa beach?

As Mayor Campbell frequently points out, we are in "unprecedented times" and we are "sailing on uncharted waters". As the cities revenues decrease we should leave no stone unturned in our efforts to cut costs. It seems to me that a complete review of the cost of this public relation expense is in order. Is this a "nice to have" item or a "need to have item"? From the outside, especially given all the money we pay to our legal counsel, this appears to be a luxury the city could do without.

Please see the below two attachments.

Warmly,

Kent Allen

Page 1 Of 3

FW: City email

From: Laura Mecoy <laura@mecoy.net>
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2019 10:32 AM
To: 'Suja Lowenthal' <suja@hermosabch.org>
Cc: 'Nico De Anda-Scaia' <ndeanda@hermosabch.org>; 'Leeanne Singleton' <lsingleton@hermosabch.org>;
'Mayor Stacey Armato' <sarmato@hermosabch.org>
Subject: Easy Reader Letter to the Editor about EPAC is no longer on their site

Hi there:

After we reached out to Kevin Cody at the Easy Reader on Friday, the letter to the editor about EPAC has been removed.

Here's a link to the letters to the editor. ~

https://easyreadernews.com/letters-to-the-editor-5-9-2019/?utm_source=Daily+News&utm_campaign=2fcf52588e-Daily+EMAIL+NEWSLETTER&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_b41a925468-2fcf52588e-286682961

Laura Mecoy
310-546-5860

In the dark

Dear ER:

Well, this is a total, hidden-from-all-sunshine mess ["After vote, EPAC members wonder: What's in a name?" ER May 2, 2019]. First Hermosa City Manager Suja Lowenthal and her staff alienate EPAC (Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission) by not communicating with them. This is an emergency communication department and they can't communicate with their own commission. Or did they not want to communicate because they were tossing them out so they could be replaced with a big, fat, expensive paid department for Lowenthal and her friends?

Now Lowenthal and her department alienate the former commissioners, now either tossed or replaced again by hiding all discussion from the public, renaming, reforming and letting Lowenthal create a fiefdom for her Calpers, job-hopping from city-to-city friends (yes, we need Calpers reform too).

It's time to re-evaluate Lowenthal's contract. It's time to dump all her excessive spending on hiring for emergency activity and put that money back into police. It's time to reinstate EPAC.

It's time to clean house, beginning with Lowenthal and her friends first before they move the entire city government into the dark so that she can spend more and more of our hard earned money on her pet projects.

Robert Thomas
Web comment