

Subject: Formal Complaint on Alon Perlman

From: Aaron Ochs [REDACTED]

Date: Thu, 21 Jan 2010 12:29:15 -0800

To: locac@locac.us

CC: District1@locac.us, District2@locac.us, District3@locac.us, District4@locac.us

Dear LOCAC,

I'm submitting to the record a formal complaint against Alon Perlman who is currently a representative of the 1st district.

I believe it's necessary for all Los Osos/Baywood residents in Perlman's district to be made aware of his conduct.

Alon Perlman's defamatory and libelous comments made online at Calhoun's Cannon (calhounscannon.blogspot.com), The Tribune (www.sanluisobispo.com) and The Razor (www.rockofthecoast.com/razor) show a substantial intolerance of private citizens that -- I argue -- undermines his objective ability to deliberate on land use and community issues. Mr. Perlman's conduct has gone beyond the legal realm of the First Amendment right to freedom of speech to antagonize and even threaten those who disagree with him. In publicly available text posted on the three mediums I mentioned in the first sentence, he often acknowledges his position on LOCAC, which indicates he is speaking as a representative of LOCAC, not as a private citizen. His behavior toward others, including my family (as the evidence will show below), shows that his inability to reason with private citizens in a civil manner can negatively impact resident participation in their community advisory council.

On the morning of June 21, 2009, I received a call from Perlman on my cell phone. I wasn't around to answer the phone so he left a message on my voicemail, which has been transcribed.

"Aaron, I don't know what happened, but after I posted a comment on your site last night, I checked your site today and noticed my comment was missing. I would like to talk to you and see if this is a problem with your site or whatever it is -- I don't know.

"I know you deleted my comment," said Perlman, quickly changing to an assertion that he wasn't willing to make a few seconds earlier, "and I don't like where this is headed. I believe you have potential, but you're going down a path that I don't like personally. I'm going to have to do something to you -- or I don't know, take care of the situation. I just - I think we're going to have to talk." This time around, Perlman -- now completely incensed that I didn't return his phone call promptly -- gave me his personal cell number and hung up.

An hour later, I received another call from Perlman but he called my family's home phone and left a message.

"Ed, I want to speak to you about what's been happening on Aaron's web site and I would like you to call me back or e-mail me when we get the chance. I'd like to discuss how the site is being managed," Perlman quipped, but he was more subdued compared to his previous voicemail. Nonetheless, he made a total of two calls -- one of them being threatening and irate.

At 2:19 PM on the same day, Perlman composed an e-mail to me (see attachment), starting with the lines, "Please call me after 6 tonite [number redacted] and after reading what is below. Please consider removing todays post, I can easily esculate [sic] this." Once again, a threat. However, in the next paragraph, he retracted his tone, calling me an "asset to Los Osos" and that he has no reason to "embarrass" me.

Interestingly enough, he retracted his assertion that I deleted his comment by the end of the e-mail, but he issued a stern warning. "Even if you did delete it, (and curenly [sic] I don't have a conviction that you did, but your choice to not respond to me directly, speaks louder than vague twitterings) that's fine we can get along, but you

will be wise to call me. an escalation [sic] surves [sic] neither of us, but having committed some unnecessary time to your indulgences, I hope I am not tempted."

Since then, I was alerted to several demeaning comments Perlman made on SanLuisObispo.com, Calhoun's Cannon and The Razor, which were directed at me and my family. Then the comments started to pile up and become increasingly spiteful. I will follow up this e-mail with additional evidence, which includes these comments.

Mr. Perlman's conduct wholly undermines efforts to develop a unified, cooperative effort among residents of the Los Osos community. I'm aware his personal views do not -- and should not -- fairly and equally represent the community of Los Osos on the basis of neighborhood interests and population. However, Mr. Perlman's egregious conduct contributes to the overwhelming animosity that has manifested from the contentious wastewater project and that discussion -- that he's willingly participated in -- has undermined his civic duty to perform and execute the bylaws as established by the advisory council.

At the least, I propose for a stern warning from the chair of LOCAC to Alon Perlman and have that warning on record. Alternatively, I suggest that he honorably resign from LOCAC out of respect for the citizens of Los Osos.

Sincerely,

Aaron Ochs

Razor



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