

11/08/2018

To: Mrs. Betty Wong Oyama
Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
200 North Springs Street, Suite 2005
Los Angeles, CA 90012

From: Sharareh Daghighi
4430 Noble Ave. Apt 209
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

Dear Ms. Wong Oyama,

I would like to take this opportunity to provide a witness statement regarding the grievance filed against the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council by Susan Collins.

I understand the reasons for Ms. Collins' grievance is due to the nomination and ultimately appointment of Miss. Sarah Olds to the board, which neither Miss. Collins or I feel is an appropriate choice for the position.

I have had a total of three occasions where I met Miss. Olds. The first time it was at the Homeless Outreach Committee meeting on Monday, Oct. 29, 2018. It was my first time attending this committee meeting, and few of us participated in order to discuss the locations of proposed homeless housing in Sherman Oaks since the chair of that Committee, Michael Binkow was one of the main orchestrators of this proposal. The group had a productive and respectful discussion regarding various homeless related issues in Sherman Oaks. Miss Olds seemed very impatient and was eager to change the topic to her own agenda which was protein bar and blanket drive and placing portable toilets and showers for the homeless in Sherman Oaks. I found her not at all receptive when objections were made to her plans in regards to the risks and negative impacts it might have to our community.

The second occasion I met Miss Olds was at executive committee meeting on October 30th where she was nominated to fill the long vacated seat of residential seat in area five. I was not aware this seat was open till recently, it seems Mr. Ziff the president of SONC, announced the opening in monthly newsletters where such an important announcement was buried within 50+ other less significant announcements.

Mrs. Olds gave a lengthy and passionate speech regarding her nomination with an emphasis of her life's meaning is to help the homeless. Multiple people including myself raised our objections to her appointment due to the fact that her views matched the exact views of the current SONC members regarding the homeless housing issues. I think diversity in opinions and views in any group is essential and currently SONC does not possess this important quality. When asked if SONC can give us more time to find a more suitable candidate for the seat which has been vacant for a while, Mr. Ziff once again dismissed our request.

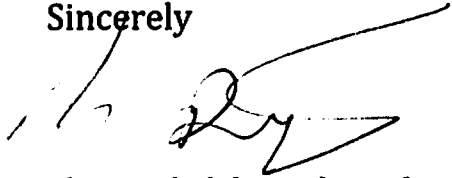
The last time I encountered Miss Olds was on SONC general board meeting on November 5th, once again she gave a speech regarding her nomination, her speech was drastically different, it was clear to me that she had been coached. She also seemed to have a change of opinion regarding the homeless housing issue in Sherman Oaks which she previously supported. Once again I raised my objection to her appointment due to her short residency in Sherman Oaks and her idealistic views, and once again my concerns along with others were dismissed by SONC.

As a Sherman Oaks resident I am very displeased of SONC's lack interest of our views and their constant dismissal of our concerns. I also find some of SONC members specifically Mr. Ron Ziff to be less than helpful in their explanation of proceedings, election protocols and announcements. I think they should update their website to make it more user friendly, they also need to improve their community outreach protocols, especially for important announcements such as available seats on the board, or important proposals which can have a huge effect in the area such as homeless housing projects or the Metro project.

It is my hope that SONC board to be more inclusive and receptive to different points of views and represent all of Sherman Oaks residents.

I would like to thank you for your time and your guidance.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sherry Daghighi', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sharareh (Sherry) Daghighi.