

**DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD
EMPOWERMENT WITNESS STATEMENT FORM**

FOR DEPT USE ONLY

Challenge # _____
Witness Form # _____

Witness Name: Maria Fisk Contact Number: 818-363-7820
Mailing Address: 17421 Horace St. Email: mbfisk@verizon.net
Granada Hills, Ca 91344

Challenges are covered in the Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 22.818.

"The following information contained herein is within my own personal knowledge and relates only to facts and circumstances surrounding the ~~Election Challenge~~ submitted by Maria Fisk on October 3, 2020 regarding Porter Ranch Neighborhood Neighborhood Council."

Regarding: Motion for PRNC Board consideration during the Board Meeting, September 9, 2020:
"Per PRNC Bylaws Article V-Section 8, we hereby move to Censure Becky Leveque who has engaged in conduct that is contrary to rules and regulations applicable to PRNC and impedes the orderly Business of Board operations. On her persistent disruptive conduct at meetings, violations, abuses of the Board's bylaws or rules, violations of the Code of Conduct, acting on."

The above motion is associated with events and discussions that took place during the July 8, 2020 PRNC Board meeting, agenda item #11 "Discussion and possible action on the lack of progress on the installation of the approved left turn-signal at the intersection of Wilbur and Rinaldi." Within the motion, the five items below summarized Ms. Leveque's supposed disruptive conduct and the basis for her censure. All associated meeting documents/recordings were reviewed. [1,2, 3]

(continued) see attached document

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. I understand that all information on this form is public record.

Date: October 3, 2020

Name: Maria Fisk Signature: 

Department Review

Date witness form received: _____ Date witness form reviewed: _____

Witness form reviewed by: _____ Grievance number: _____

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- 1- Becky Leveque, with no cause and no relation to the agenda item 11 started questioning Mr. Alnajjar on his City employment title, department and division which has no bearing on the issue. It is our conclusion here that her intention to possibly blame Mr. Alnajjar personally for the lack of services that should have been delivered by Councilmember John Lee office. Further, Ms. Leveque singled out Mr. Alnajjar on employment history and hence acting in bad faith for unknown reasons.

Comments: Ms. Leveque respectfully asked Mr. Alnajjar about his employment status with the City of LA. Since a signal installation is an associated street issue, it would be appropriate and reasonable to clarify Mr. Alnajjar's employment status to ensure that he had no conflict of interest in this matter. [2]

There is no evidence that Ms. Leveque acted in bad faith or intended to blame Mr. Alnajjar for the lack of services. [2] Additionally, the claims made were based solely on conclusions and assumptions. According to the Uniform Policy for Board Member Censure, "the motion shall not be based on conclusions...but shall contain factual statements that describe conduct only and is not intended to embarrass or humiliate the Board member..." [4]

- 2- Becky Leveque, insinuated and then directly falsely accused Mr. Alnajjar, Mr. Balen and the Safety Committee of making design decisions as it relates to the intersection of Wilbur and Rinaldi without community meetings or board discussions contrary to what the whole motion is all about which is to actually to grant authority by the board to pursue a resolution.
- 3- Becky Leveque, resorted to fog the multiple safety issues revolving around this intersection and introduced a series of questions that was already discussed in a presentation by the contractor to PRNC when Ms. Leveque; as always; was absent and issues were discussed by CD 12 Chief of Staff through a City of LA Planning department hearing without PRNC or community involvement till late stages. PRNC President Issam Najm reminded Ms. Leveque that all her questions, concerns and suggestions has already been discussed in her absence of that meeting and asked to move forward with the motion discussion.

Comments: While the PRNC board meeting on July 8, 2020 (agenda item #11) focused on the lack of progress regarding an approved signal, Ms. Leveque posed an appropriate question of concern, “Have both committees had any community meetings related to this issue, virtual or involving the community?” After asking the same question several times, Ms. Leveque never received an answer as to whether meetings were held for the community (meaning stakeholders). [2]

There is no evidence that Ms. Leveque falsely accused board members and the Safety Committee of making design decisions. [2]

Motion items #2 and 3 do not indicate which specific provisions within the DONE Code of Conduct, PRNC bylaws, or any other applicable rules and regulations were violated by Ms. Leveque. [5,6]

- 4- Ms. Leveque again attempted to blame Mr. Alnajjar and Mr. Balen for decisions that were actually solely made by CD 12 Chiefs of Staff with no PRNC board members involvement, feedback or comments. Blinded by her hatred towards Mr. Alnajjar she didn’t realize that her attacks should be directed at CD 12 staff rather than the authors of the motion.
- 5- This intersection involves many contractor’s design, procedures and permit issues that was overlooked by CD 12 office and there is no reason for Ms. Leveque to be blaming any PRNC member for this deficiency.

Comments: Charged terms and statements such as “attacks” “blinded by hatred” are unsubstantiated and serve no purpose.

There is no evidence within motion items #4 and 5 that Ms. Leveque verbally attacked members of the PRNC board, was blinded by hatred or attempted to blame board members for decisions that were solely made by CD12. [2]

I have known Ms. Leveque for over 20 years. She is a highly respected pillar of the community. She has worked tirelessly for the safety and integrity of Porter Ranch as well as other neighborhoods within Council District 12. As a valued community leader, Ms. Leveque is known for her compassion, fairness, strong sense of ethics/values, and her unwavering dedication to the betterment of the neighborhood.

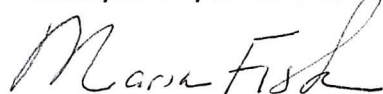
I, along with other stakeholders were taken aback by the flawed process that led to the PRNC’s adoption of censure motion. There are additional issues below that warrant further consideration and deliberation:

- When was Ms. Leveque placed on notice of misconduct and provided the opportunity to correct the misconduct? Was she given reasonable opportunity to be heard at the PRNC meeting according to the Uniform Policy for Board Member Censure [4] and PRNC Bylaws, Article V, Sec 8. [6]

- Gibson Nyambura, NEA left unexpectedly and was unable to offer input at the PRNC Board meeting on September 9, 2020. [3] The decision to vote on the motion to censure should have been postponed until DONE, NEA, Office of City Attorney weighed in.
- The listed 5 claims within the motion to censure failed to provide any specific examples of behaviors that violated specific regulations within PRNC Bylaws and rules/Code of Civility, DONE Code of Conduct, or any other applicable rules. [1,2,3,4,5,6]
- While reviewing agenda # 10 (Motion to Censure Becky Leveque) at the PRNC Board meeting on September 9, 2020, [1] Mr. Alnajjar stated that Ms. Leveque violated additional PRNC Bylaws, Article XIV, Sec 1 and Article II, Sec 3.c. [3,6] These new allegations revolved around racism and were not part of the original motion. Mr. Najm (PRNC President) and Ms. Leveque noted that it was inappropriate to bring in other issues outside of the original motion. Ms. Leveque had no time to review or respond to these new assertions. There is no evidence that Ms. Leveque has ever made racist or disparaging comments. [3]
- According to the PRNC bylaws, Article II, Sec 2, "The MISSION of the PRNC is to provide an inclusive open forum for public discussion of issues and to advise the City of Los Angeles on issues concerning City governance." [6] Ms. Leveque and stakeholders deserve a response from PRNC board members as to whether meetings were held for the community. It is incumbent of the PRNC and all neighborhood councils to outreach to community stakeholders to ensure that their voices are heard at meetings when proposed projects/developments are under review.

Therefore, I am respectfully asking for the PRNC board to rescind the adoption of the unjustified motion to censure Ms. Leveque.

Thank you for your consideration,



Maria Fisk

Former chair of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee, Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council

[1] <https://prnc.org/meetings>;

[2] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HtHb_56JSVc;

[3] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tbKUFitjNQc&feature=emb_title)

[4] Resolution by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, a Uniform Policy for Board Member Censure, March 3, 2020.

[5] <https://empowerla.org/nctrainings/>

[6] <https://prnc.org/sites/default/files/pages/2019/PRNC-Approved-Bylaws-08.01.2018.pdf>