

Dear Mayor Henry and City Manager McClendon,

Some people are complaining to me about this and I am complaining again too.
I'm of the understanding that Simeon Den receives funds from the City as well as Josie Diaz.

In my letter below I am using the word "official" in a general sense of the definition meaning any elected or appointed or employed person for the City as well as one for an NGO.

Since the City Council members, as representatives of the residents, will be studying a Code of Conduct at an upcoming Study Session concerning officials (elected and non-elected), appointees (paid and unpaid), and employees, I would like there to be included in the Code of Conduct certain language. I would like to see instructions to all organizations and individuals that apply to receive municipal or other government funds which might be transferred through the City to abide by the Code of Conduct too.

The awful accusations and choice of words coming from recipients of money for Cathedral City Projects needs to be controlled.

While these recipients of government funds or City charitable funds are under an agreement, they need to conduct themselves respectfully or their funds should be withdrawn. They should not be considered as a recipient for the future (for example 2 years) if they can not respect us. Neither should they within the two years apply for funds under a different name or a different organization. The offending person should not be in an official or management capacity of a different applying organization if he/she has had 2 complaints against them within the year after which an application for their project was accepted.

Codes of Ethics, Codes of Behavior, and Guidelines, mean nothing without enforceable punishments. Please include them so that the residents of Cathedral City can expect to be treated with the same respect each of our officials enjoy. It's only fair.

Granted, the City can not enforce codes **against residents** except under the rules of their own official City Webpages. So, it could seem unfair to some City officials to abide by a more strict code than the residents do when on general media; but it should be viewed as part of their **service to the public**.

Many people have commented that if speak at council meetings their input will have no effect because of treatment by certain people who they feel hold favor with the council. They will not attend civic meetings where certain abusive official(s) also attend. They have been harassed by certain official(s) who obtained their private email addresses without permission. These behaviors ruin public participation. Good and intelligent people with valid viewpoints who love peace are opting-out of public discourse because of some official(s) who deliberately drum them out. These residents love peace; not intimidation and stress. Some official(s) have a strong political bent and will not allow opposition to be heard without personally ridiculing the individuals holding differing viewpoints. They effectively shut down civil discourse and then belittle the individual for giving up.

Any public servant whether elected, appointed or employed, should never do harm to the individual resident who is expressing his/her opinion on a civic matter. Viewpoint discrimination is against the law. The City Charter says that the City is responsible for the "health and wellbeing" of the residents. That being the case, the City Council needs to move to protect the rights of the citizens from abuse by city

officials. Adopting a strong Code of Conduct for recipients of public funds as well as for **all** officials (elected or appointed; paid or not paid) It is one of the best ways to safeguard public health & wellbeing.

Below is the some of the latest from Simeon Den (& Josie Diaz who is agreeing with him) and comments from others who's names I've removed as they (to my knowledge) do not receive government funds or funds transferred to them through the City government from other sources.

(I have highlighted some words in **bold** to draw your attention to some of the words which are, or can become issues.)

Thank you,

Bethany Ballard

Please enter into the Public Record for this agenda item