

Public Comment #14



LATE DISTRIBUTION

EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

DATE 2/9/2021

BOS RCD 2/9/21

Public comment, February 9, 2021 meeting agenda Item 14-21-0147

1 message

Philip DeRiemer <phil@adventurekayaking.com>

Mon, Feb 8, 2021 at 4:14 PM

To: edc.cob@edcgov.us

Cc: edc.cob@edcgov.us, bosone@edcgov.us, bosfour@edcgov.us, bosfive@edcgov.us, bosthree@edcgov.us, bostwo@edcgov.us

Dear El Dorado County Board of Supervisors,

Prior to the January 4th BOS meeting a good many people, myself included, wrote expressing disapproval regarding the appointment of Chris Cockrell to the Veterans Affairs Commission. Due to his public support and affiliation with the Proud Boys, a national extremist organization which supports far right, white nationalist, anti-muslim views, the appointment would not be appropriate in representing our communities views.

The extreme behavior of the Proud Boys was on full display during the siege on the capitol building in Washington, D.C. on Jan 6th. While the local Placerville chapter of the Proud Boys may not condone such actions, why would one continue to affiliate with such an organization, even if only in name?

It was determined during the Jan 4th meeting that supervisor Turnboo was going to look further into the matter of Mr. Cockrell's situation. The current agenda for the BOS meeting scheduled for February 9th and the listing of item #14 21-0147 would seem to indicate that the appointment is being recommended without going into the reasoning behind it. I am protesting the boards by-passing of the review and the seeming disregard for input from a good number of community members that are in opposition to this appointment.

I request to pull this item off consent and to the agenda for discussion.

Sincerely,

Phil DeRiemer  
Lotus, CA.  
District 4



EDC COB &lt;edc.cob@edcgov.us&gt;

---

**Public comment, February 9, 2021 meeting agenda Item 14-21-0147**

1 message

---

**Alexandra Trent** <abtrent@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 8, 2021 at 4:07 PM

To: "edc.cob@edcgov.us" &lt;edc.cob@edcgov.us&gt;

Cc: "bosfive@edcgov.us" &lt;bosfive@edcgov.us&gt;, "bosfour@edcgov.us" &lt;bosfour@edcgov.us&gt;, "bosone@edcgov.us" &lt;bosone@edcgov.us&gt;, "bosthree@edcgov.us" &lt;bosthree@edcgov.us&gt;, "bostwo@edcgov.us" &lt;bostwo@edcgov.us&gt;

Dear Board of Supervisors of El Dorado County,

As a veteran of the United States Army and a voter I am asking that you pull an item to the agenda for discussion:  
Public comment, February 9, 2021 meeting agenda Item 14-21-0147 Consent Calendar District II Appointments.

If you want qualified, young veterans to serve our county please ask. Those of us that do not make rash decisions at best and at worst are affiliated with extremist groups are available to serve our country and county.

Thank you,  
Alexandra Trent  
Veteran, US Army

--

Alexandra Burke Trent



EDC COB &lt;edc.cob@edcgov.us&gt;

---

## Public comment, February 9, 2021 meeting agenda Item 14-21-0147 Consent Calendar District II Appointments. I request to pull this item to the agenda for discussion

1 message

---

**Aiko Akers** <aiko.akers@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 8, 2021 at 4:36 PM

To: edc.cob@edcgov.us, bosone@edcgov.us, bosfour@edcgov.us, bosfive@edcgov.us, bosthree@edcgov.us, bostwo@edcgov.us

Dear Board of Supervisors,

It has come to my attention that the Board of Supervisors is considering appointing Chris Cockrell, an open supporter of the White Nationalist group the Proud Boys, to the Veteran's Affairs committee in our county. This would be profoundly disrespectful to our veterans, who come from all backgrounds and walks of life and I urge the Board of Supervisors to reject this appointment.

The Proud Boys are being investigated for their role in the insurrection against the government of the United State of America on January 6, and they espouse openly White Nationalist views. They are against democracy. While individuals have the right to believe whatever they want, when their beliefs turn to actions that harm others, then they have no place in our government or representing the people of this county.

I went downtown to do Christmas Shopping on December 5. I was not expecting a Proud Boys event. There was a large gathering of unmasked individuals supporting the Proud Boys, crowding the streets and making social distancing impossible. As I am aware of the Proud Boys explicit support of White Nationalism, I was incredibly uncomfortable and I left downtown as quickly as I could. This is a group that openly flaunts the laws and believes laws don't apply to them. They can believe what they want, but I call on my elected representatives to reject lawless actions and hateful beliefs.

Thank you,

Aiko Akers  
Lotus, California (District 4)



EDC COB &lt;edc.cob@edcgov.us&gt;

---

**RE: Appointment of Chris Cockrell**

1 message

---

**Foothill 7 TV** <foothill7tv@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 8, 2021 at 11:24 PM

To: edc.cob@edcgov.us

Dear board,

First let me say that I am aware of the amount of responses you have received around this issue, so I will keep brevity in mind moving forward.

As a camera operator, our video production team has covered this county for about 6 years professionally, and have received national recognition for it.

Our coverage of the event on Main St. gives me first hand knowledge of how the Toys For Tots event, with Chris actually took place.

I am, without a doubt, absolutely certain that the "hand gesture" or any accusations of affiliation projected from members of the public and others have been misinterpreted, and I feel are not an actual representation of the person in question.

What I know of Chris personally, makes me think it would be negligent of me not to bring forth my account of what happened. Despite the cleverly taken still shots, and public perception of that moment to follow, I feel the intent was purely innocent.

I believe this was an action in the moment, where culturally and historically "Santa" might do his best to try and please the public with photo opportunities.

In no way would I equate a random act such as this to any of the descriptors, or modifying language that has come about in the past few weeks. Such as racist, white supremacist, hate, etc.

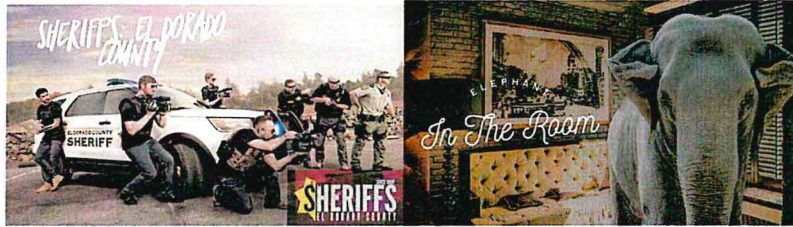
I am hopeful that the facts, and the intent of this moment will rise above the false perception of some members of the public, and I thank each of you for your time and consideration on this matter.

I would love the chance to speak with any/all board members about my account of the Toys For Tots event in regards to Chris.

Justin Taylor  
Foothill 7 Television  
530.457.7744







Click here to visit our website: <http://www.foothill7tv.com/>  
Foothill 7 TV/

**Sheriffs El Dorado County**

**Daniel Norman** Cell: (530)295-7442

**Justin Taylor** Cell: (530)457-7744

For Marketing info contact **Rachael** @ (530)306-5253

To purchase or learn more about advertising on the station please email or call us

**Foothill 7 TV** [Facebook.com/Foothill7tv](https://www.facebook.com/Foothill7tv)

**Sheriffs is on Facebook:** [Facebook.com/SheriffsEDC](https://www.facebook.com/SheriffsEDC)



EDC COB &lt;edc.cob@edcgov.us&gt;

---

## Response to Supervisor Turnboo's Office Statement for Item 14

1 message

---

**leocauchon@netscape.net** <leocauchon@netscape.net>

Tue, Feb 9, 2021 at 7:48 AM

Reply-To: leocauchon@netscape.net

To: "bosone@edcgov.us" &lt;bosone@edcgov.us&gt;, "bostwo@edcgov.us" &lt;bostwo@edcgov.us&gt;, "bosthree@edcgov.us" &lt;bosthree@edcgov.us&gt;, "bosfour@edcgov.us" &lt;bosfour@edcgov.us&gt;, "bosfive@edcgov.us" &lt;bosfive@edcgov.us&gt;

Cc: "edc.cob@edcgov.us" &lt;edc.cob@edcgov.us&gt;

Attached is an information check including photos and media coverage. Pre COVID I would be giving these to your wonderful clerk at your meeting.

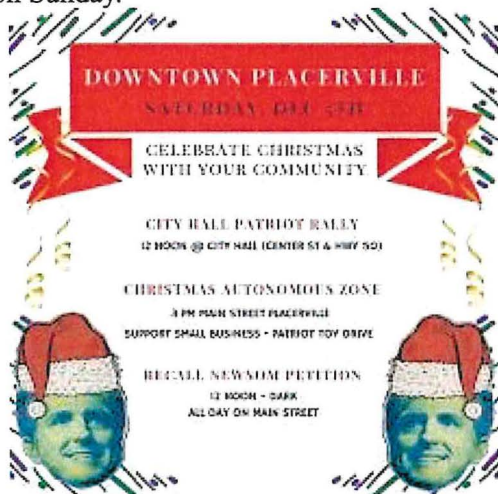
I miss being able to use in person handouts as a part of public comments :)

**Response to Supervisor Turnboo.pdf**

1195K

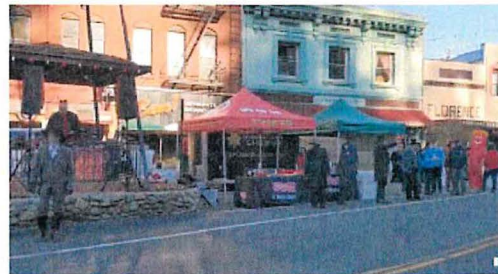
## INFORMATION CHECK OF SUPERVISOR TURNBOO'S OFFICE STATEMENT

On Dec. 5th, 2020, Mr. Cockrell attended the "Toys for Tots" toy drive event in Placerville: • Mr. Cockrell dressed as Santa Claus to encourage Christmas Spirit for the children. • The toy drive was a community event where families, law enforcement, veterans, and other organizations were equally welcomed to donate toys for underprivileged children. (Supervisor Turnboo's Office Statement) INCORRECT: Toys for Tots was a drive thru event which followed COVID masking and social distancing guidelines. The "Christmas Autonomous Zone" did not follow these guidelines as is evident in the photos/videos. Proud Boys and Mr. Cockrell participated in the latter. The videographer apologized for "hijacking" the former. The Toys for Tots Santas attended on Sunday.



Toys for Tots - Placerville-El Dorado County  
December 5, 2020 · 🌐

Good morning El Dorado County We are here on historic Main Street at the Bell Tower with our first day of our drive-thru donations with D. Norm providing Christmas music!  
We have assistance from the Hangtown Marshalls the El Dorado County Sheriff's explorers the California Highway patrol and the Placerville Police Department and their cadets... Drive on through.. if you can donate that be fantastic... if not give us a wave



Toys for Tots - Placerville-El Dorado County  
December 6, 2020 · 🌐

Santa and the Mrs are at the Bell tower .. come on down and get a candy cane!



### Toys for Tots Placerville-El Dorado County

We are aware that a lot of people have questions about the incident that happened Saturday afternoon in downtown Placerville.

"Toys for Tots was at a permitted event on Dec 5th.

It is unfortunate that while we were conducting our drive thru donation event, that others chose to use our event to further their own political or personal agenda...

Our Program is inclusive and assists all less fortunate children during the Christmas holiday season. Every financially struggling family who registers, no matter their race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, gender, age, sexual orientation, and/or disability, will receive toys for their children.

We have no affiliation with the Proud Boys

Thank you

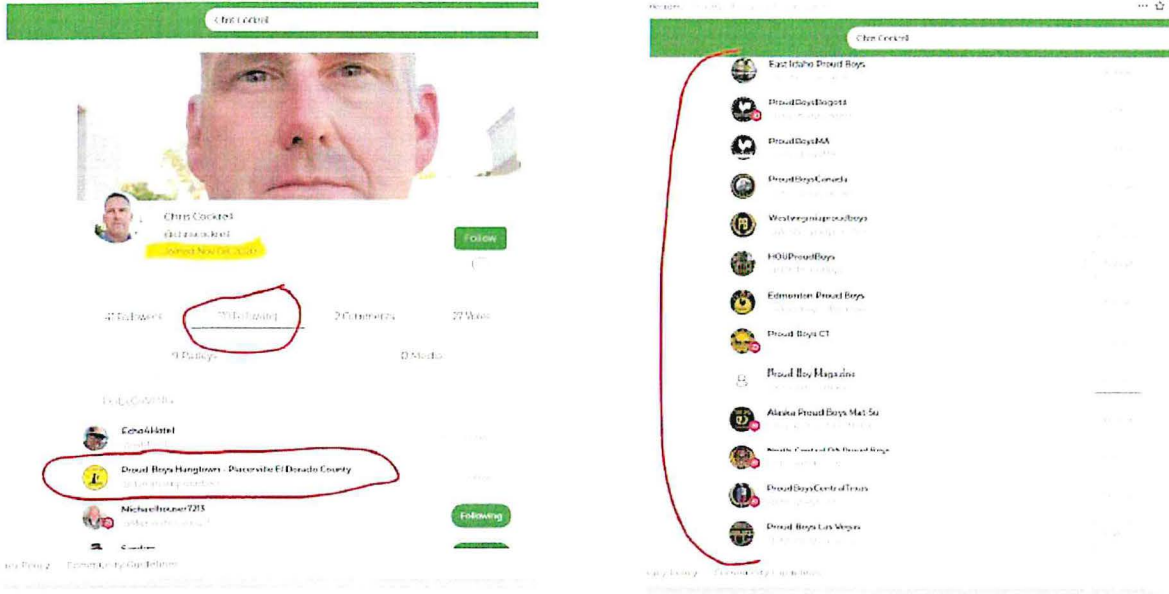
<https://www.facebook.com/edct4t>



## INFORMATION CHECK OF SUPERVISOR TURNBOO'S OFFICE STATEMENT

Mr. Cockrell listed his organization affiliations on his application for the Veterans Affairs Commission and that list does not include the Proud Boys nor the Hangtown Proud Boys. (Supervisor Turnboo's Office Statement)  
INCORRECT: Mr. Cockrell followed both the Proud Boys and the Hangtown Proud Boys on his Parler account.

### PARLER



The Mountain Democrat newspaper did not have an article in the newspaper stating that Mr. Cockrell was a member of the Proud Boys, nor did a photo of Mr. Cockrell dressed as Santa appear in the newspaper. (Supervisor Turnboo's Office Statement ) CORRECT BUT MISLEADING: Given the reference to video that includes Mr. Cockrell as Santa.

### MOUNTAIN DEMOCRAT



A video showing the Hangtown Proud Boys donating toys at Saturday's Toys for Tots drive in downtown Placerville and then posing for a group photo next to a Placerville police car while holding up a hand gesture purportedly connected to the white power movement went viral after it was posted to social media.

<https://www.mtdemocrat.com/news/proud-boys-toy-drop-off-riles-community/>



## INFORMATION CHECK OF SUPERVISOR TURNBOO'S OFFICE STATEMENT

Photos and misinformation were circulated in political groups on social media. (Supervisor Turnboo's Office Statement) INCORRECT: Regular media featured the story which also spread on social media due to the contrast between the reputations of the Proud Boys and Christmas.

### SACRAMENTO BEE

Near the end of Saturday's toy drive, more than two dozen demonstrators arrived, most of them donning black-and-yellow hoodies that read "Hangtown Proud Boy" on the back — and with one of them dressed as Santa, <https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/article247694565.html>

### CBS 13



PLACERVILLE (CBS13) — A Placerville Toys for Tots event took a dark turn this past weekend after the Proud Boys posed with Santa while holding up a gesture widely recognized as a symbol of hate.

But before they left, the group posed with Santa Claus while holding up a hand gesture widely recognized as a symbol of hate.

“Why would you display a hand signal that has been affiliated with such a stance which is white power?”

Placerville Mayor Michael Saragosa said.

<https://sacramento.cbslocal.com/2020/12/09/placerville-protest-proud-boys-toys-for-tots-mayor-condemns/>

### MERCURY NEWS

Near the end of the drive, a group of about 25 men showed up and posed for a photo near a police car. One was dressed as Santa Claus, and most of the others wore sweatshirts with the words “Hangtown Proud Boys” and an image of a noose. In the photo, many flashed a hand sign that has become associated with white supremacists.

“To be clear, neither the City of Placerville nor the Placerville Police Department invited, associated with or supports this organization,” said a Facebook post Monday on the police department’s website that was signed by the police chief and the city manager.

A crowd of demonstrators outside City Hall on Tuesday evening waved posters showing the Proud Boys’ Toys for Tots photo with the words “This is not us!!”

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/12/09/proud-boys-appearance-at-toy-drive-roils-placerville/>



## INFORMATION CHECK OF SUPERVISOR TURNBOO'S OFFICE STATEMENT

### ABC 10



Placerville's City's Mayor and Vice Mayor Dennis Thomas are denouncing the group.

"I think our community has come out very clearly and stated that they don't want these people acting like that in our community. They don't want the hate, they don't want any of those adjectives that describe them... We don't want that in our community," Thomas said.

<https://www.abc10.com/article/news/local/california/placerville-police-car-white-supremacist-group-toy-drive/103-b153bfa4-352a-4a7b-9afd-ef08fc63a1b2>

### INDEPENDENT, UK

Members of the far-right group Proud Boys sparked outrage over the weekend by crashing a Christmas toy giveaway in Placerville, California.

The group posed for photos with a dress-up Santa while making the 'OK' hand gesture, which has been associated with white supremacy.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/proud-boys-christmas-toy-giveaway-california-b1769256.html>

Video from the toy drive shows that when Mr. Cockrell was asked to stand in front of the Proud Boys group for a photo, he made a peace sign for the photo, but the group prodded him to make other hand gestures, which he did in the spur of the moment without any ill will or preconceived intention. (Supervisor Turnboo's Office Statement) INCORRECT: Proud Boys posed for three pictures. Santa initiated joining them and made two different signs on his own. Neither was the peace sign.



It is unjust to determine ANYONE'S ability to serve based on misinformation. (Supervisor Turnboo's Office Statement) CORRECT: It is just to pick the best candidate to represent ALL of District II based on a fair process. Postponing and considering a female veteran whose actions have not resulted in controversy and in perceptions of exclusion is a better option for the BOS. There are many other ways for Mr. Cockrell to serve which will repair the loss of county unity resulting from his "spur of the moment" lapse in judgement.



EDC COB &lt;edc.cob@edcgov.us&gt;

---

## My vote

---

**Maria Duenas** <mariasellsca@gmail.com>  
To: edc.cob@edcgov.us

Tue, Feb 9, 2021 at 8:50 AM

Hello,

This email is being sent to a US government address and should be delivered, read and discussed to and by the appropriate individuals that pertain to this matter.

In regards to the Public comment, February 9, 2021 meeting agenda Item 14-21-0147 Consent Calendar District II Appointments. I request to pull this item to the agenda for discussion

As a proud American, I have the right to vote, Chris Cockrell was not voted in and I am unsure as to why this is being bypassed. Please send and discuss in the next public meeting agenda as to the reasoning why this matter isn't being dealt with as the "Good old American way" of a plain and simple vote.

Thank you for reading,

Maria D. Sofia