

B. Bradshaw Open Forum 3/22/2022

BOS Remarks 3/22/2022

Bob Bradshaw, US Army Veteran

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I'm responding to a claim made at the last Board of Supervisors meeting that Chris Cockrell had been invited to portray Santa Claus at the December 5, 2020 Toys for Tots event, despite the very public denials by both the Toys for Tots and the Marine Corps League. Those official postings are still up on their sites, Toys for Tots and the Marine Corp League stand by them.

After that 3/15 BOS meeting, I contacted both the Toys For Tots and the Marine Corp League and asked them to address this claim made by Mr Cockrell's supporters.

I received the following response from the Marine Corp League's Past Senior Vice Commandant

Hi Bob,

Neither the Staff Sergeant Sky Mote detachment of the Marine Corps League, nor our tireless Toys For Tots organizer--the awesome Stacie Walls--have any affiliation with Mr. Cocrell or Mandi Rodriguez, and we did not invite them to the date in question or any other TFT event. We are sorry this urban myth is still being perpetuated and prefer not to speak of it further. There is nothing to the story, and there never was.

Respectfully,

Eric L. Nelson, Ph.D.

Past Senior Vice Commandant

I also spoke with Stacie Walls from Toys for Tots which was appreciated since no one from the Board of Supervisors had reached out to her to discover the truth of the T4T event. She explained that Mandi Rodriguez had created a separate event, A "We the People" Christmas celebration at the Bell Tower and then portrayed it as a Toys for Tots event with Mr Cockrell

as their santa. The flier is provided, please note there is no red T4T train logo or other mention of the T4T permitted event. This is how they are gaslighting you, at no time was Mr Cockrell a Toys for Tots Santa.

Toys for Tots and The Marines Corp League say what you were told about Mr. Cockrell being the T4T Santa in December 2020, February 2021 and now March 2022 isn't the truth.

Speaking as a veteran, it is not appropriate for people like Mr. Cockrell who would claim to represent a children's charitable organization like Toys for Tots and a veterans organization like the Marine Corp League to be a commissioner on our Veterans Affairs Commission.

In closing, despite the continual cleansing and trying to mask his accounts, much work has been done to discover and bring to light how you were misled and asked to approve Mr Cockrell's nomination under false pretenses. The linkages are now very clear. Please review your original approval which was biased with false information and reverse the appointment because of that misinformation, misrepresentation of events, and the growing volume of facts. Mr Cockrell is not fit for the Veteran Affairs Commission.

You are aware of these links now and will have to make the hard decisions on what's best for our County. Please do this before it impacts our tourism industry and business growth to show El Dorado County does not support those who would use our local charitable activities to further their own political or personal agenda.



JOIN "We The People"

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



SATURDAY, DECEMBER
5th AT 3PM

The Bell Tower
Main Street,
Placerville

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- *Patriot Toy Drive
 - *Decorate your cars and drive down Main
 - *Support Small Businesses
 - *Celebrate Christmas with your community

On Thu, Mar 17, 2022, 14:58 <[REDACTED]> wrote:
Hi Bob,

Neither the Staff Sergeant Sky Mote detachment of the Marine Corps League, nor our tireless Toys For Tots organizer--the awesome Stacie Walls--have any affiliation with Mr. Cocrell or Mandi Rodriguez, and we did not invite them to the date in question or any other TFT event. We are sorry this urban myth is still being perpetuated and prefer not to speak of it further. There is nothing to the story, and there never was.

Respectfully,
Eric L. Nelson, Ph.D.
Past Senior Vice Commandant

From: Bob Bradshaw <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2022 13:44
To: marines@fastmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Chris Cockrell being Toys for Tots Santa 12/5/2020

I sent this to the Toys for Tots and forgot to add the MCL.

Can you provide a response please?

Thank you

Bob Bradshaw
US Army
509th Battalion Combat Team

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Bob Bradshaw <[REDACTED]>
Date: Thu, Mar 17, 2022, 12:03
Subject: Chris Cockrell being Toys for Tots Santa 12/5/2020
To: <placerville.ca@toysfortots.org>

Hello,

Sorry to have to have this addressed again, but some are disputing your previous responses.

I attended the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting last Tuesday, March 15th. During the public comments portion Mandi Rodriguez, spoke claiming that Mr Cockrell had in fact been invited to be the Santa at that Toys for Tots event by Stacie Walls. You can view it here

https://eldorado.granicus.com/player/clip/1603?view_id=2&redirect=true Ms Rodriguez begins speaking around the 4:26:00 mark.

Since I had previously provided the BOS with the public Facebook posting from both Toys for Tots and the Marine Corps League which stated that he was not the invited Santa, I want to clarify what is the official source of truth. Can you please confirm which is the correct version of the truth? And, if appropriate, a provide a response for me to give to the BOS?

Again, sorry you need to address this again but truth is important. Thank you for your time and help with this.

Regards,

Bob Bradshaw

THE DEATH OF READING



Can We Survive It?

If you can't read this, the answer is "No!"

SALIENT READINGS (Key "summing-up" articles listed are printed in **red**.)

Thought & Language / Language & Reading (Book Cover) . . . Edited By Maryanne Wolf, Mark K. McQuillan and Eugene Radwin (1980). Harvard Educational Review. 732 pages (not included).

<https://www.amazon.com/Thought-Language-Reading-Harvard-Educational/dp/0916690156>

The Death of Reading: Will a nation that stops reading eventually stop thinking? . . . By Mitchell Stephens (1991). 11 pages.

<https://www.nyu.edu/classes/stephens/Death%20of%20Reading%20page.htm>

What's the latest U.S. literacy rate? . . . By Ann Wylie (2019). 9 pages.

The Importance of Deep Reading: What will it take for the next generation to read thoughtfully — both in print and online? . . . By Maryanne Wolf and Mirit Barzillai (2009). 7 pages.

<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/71cf/5d3dd4a5037003f0bca787874f2d68077cf9.pdf>

U.S. Department of Education (NCES 2014-008). October 2013.
Literacy, Numeracy, and Problem Solving in Technology Rich Environments Among U.S. Adults: Results from the Program

for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies 2012: First Look. Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics. page 1 through 37 of 60 pages.

<https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2014/2014008.pdf>

Descriptions of PIAAC proficiency levels on the literacy, numeracy and problem solving in technology-rich environments scales – as per above U.S. Department of Education (NCES 2014-008) report of October 2013. 3 pages from Appendix B.

<https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2014/2014008.pdf>

U.S. Department of Education (NCES 2020-224). November 2019. *U.S. Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) 2012/2014/2017: Main Study, National Supplement, and PIAAC 2017 Technical Report.* Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics. page 1 through 15 of 461 pages.

<https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2020/2020224.pdf>

U.S. Department of Education IEC NCES. National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL). Go to *Scoring & Performance Levels > Performance Levels > Overview of the literacy levels.* Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics. 1 page. (Compare to "Description of PIAAC proficiency levels" above.)

https://nces.ed.gov/naal/perf_levels.asp

U.S. Department of Education IEC NCES. FAST FACTS. *Adult skills in an international context.* Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics. 3 pages. (Comparison of average scores in U.S. and other participating countries in PIAAC literacy, numeracy, and problem solving in technology-rich environments.)

<https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=683>

U.S. Department of Education IEC NCES. The Condition of Education. *Reading Performance* (Updated May 2018). 9 pages. (Compares 4th, 8th and 12th grade average reading scores in U.S. over time, from 1992 to 2017.)

https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator_cnb.asp

Health Literacy: Understanding Literacy & Numeracy. . . . Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 3 pages. (Entry to CDC websites.)
<https://www.cdc.gov/healthliteracy/learn/UnderstandingLiteracy.html>

The Distribution of Users' Computer Skills: Worse Than You Think . . .
By Jakob Nielsen of NN/g Nielsen Norman Group. (2016). 8 pages.
<https://www.nngroup.com/articles/computer-skill-levels/>

U.S. Department of Education (NCES 2018-161). May 2018. *STATS IN BRIEF: A Description of U.S. Adults Who Are Not Digitally Literate*. Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics. 33 pages. <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2018/2018161.pdf>

Jacques Barzun, Historian and Renowned Cultural Critic on Language, Reading, Literacy, Learning and Thinking — From 1932 to 2003.

- > Jacques Barzun – His Works (adopted from *Wikipedia*). 2 pages.
- > *Teacher in America* (1945, reprinted 1981). 502 pages.
- > *The American University: How It Runs, Where It Is Going*. (1968, 2nd edition 1993). 356 pages.
- > *Begin Here: The Forgotten Conditions of Teaching and Learning*. (1992). 229 pages.

Advancing Our Students' Language and Literacy: The Challenge of Complex Text . . . By Marilyn Jager Adams (2010). 10 pages.
<https://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/periodicals/Adams.pdf>

THOUGHT &
LANGUAGE/
LANGUAGE &
READING

EDITED BY
MARYANNE WOLF
MARK K. McQUILLAN
EUGENE RADWIN

PREFACE BY
JEANNE S. CHALL

Thought &
Language
& Reading



HARVARD EDUCATIONAL REVIEW
REPRINT SERIES NO. 14

CALIFORNIA BROWN ACT

PREAMBLE:

"The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people do not yield their sovereignty to the bodies that serve them. The people insist on remaining informed to retain control over the legislative bodies they have created."

CHAPTER V.

RIGHTS OF THE PUBLIC

§54954.3 Public's right to testify at meetings. (c) The legislative body of a local agency shall not prohibit public criticism of the policies, procedures, programs, or services of the agency, or of the acts or omissions of the legislative body. Nothing in this subdivision shall confer any privilege or protection for expression beyond that otherwise provided by law. Care must be given to avoid violating the speech rights of speakers by suppressing opinions relevant to the business of the body. As such, members of the public have broad constitutional rights to comment on any subject relating to the business of the governmental body.

Any attempt to restrict the content of such speech must be narrowly tailored to effectuate a compelling state interest. Specifically, the courts found that policies that prohibited members of the public from criticizing school district employees were unconstitutional. (*Leventhal v. Vista Unified School Dist.* (1997) 973 F. Supp. 951; *Baca v. Moreno Valley Unified School Dist.* (1996) 936 F. Supp. 719.) These decisions found that prohibiting critical comments was a form of viewpoint discrimination and that such a prohibition promoted discussion artificially geared toward praising (and maintaining) the status quo, thereby foreclosing meaningful public dialog.

54954.2 E (3) No action or discussion shall be undertaken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except that members of a legislative body or its staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their public testimony rights under Section 54954.3.

Where a member of the public raises an issue which has not yet come before the legislative body, the item may be briefly discussed but no action may be taken at that meeting. The purpose of the discussion is to permit a member of the public to raise an issue or problem with the legislative body or to permit the legislative body to provide information to the public, provide direction to its staff, or schedule the matter for a future meeting. (§ 54954.2(a).)



County of El Dorado

OFFICE OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

360 FAIR LANE
PLACERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95667-4193
Phone: (530) 621-5487 Fax: (530) 295-2535

JOE HARN, CPA
Auditor-Controller

BOB TOSCANO
Assistant Auditor-Controller

March 22, 2022

Board of Supervisors
County of El Dorado
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, California 95667

Subject: Apparent Overpayment to Former Department Head

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The purpose of this communication is to keep your Board informed about an issue that may require your assistance in the near future.

On April 2, 2021, it appears that a Department Head's final paycheck was overstated by \$28,149.68 because she was paid for unused sick leave hours in violation of the Salaries and Benefits resolution.

Upon this Department Head's resignation, a Computation of Final Wages Due form was prepared by an Administrative Technician and reviewed by a Fiscal Manager and an Agency Chief Fiscal Officer. The payment of used sick leave hours was then approved by the former Director of Human Resources.

My office conducts risk assessments to determine the level of resources to expend verifying the accuracy of payment requests. Based on the review by the Agency CFO and approval of the previous Human Resources Director, my office processed this apparent overpayment without a thorough review.

On February 23, 2022, one month ago, the aforementioned Agency CFO called this former Department Head explaining the situation and requesting reimbursement on behalf of the taxpayers of El Dorado County. After discussing the matter with the CAO and the County Counsel, I mailed the attached letter on March 16, 2022. I will keep you informed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Harn".

Joe Harn, CPA
Auditor-Controller

CC: Don Ashton, CAO



County of El Dorado
OFFICE OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

JOE HARN, CPA
Auditor-Controller

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BOB TOSCANO
Assistant Auditor-Controller

March 16, 2022



Regrettably, it appears that the County has overpaid you in the amount of \$28,149.68.

The overpayment is due to the payment of unused sick leave on your April 2, 2021 check.

| County of El Dorado | | Location | Check Date | Period Ending | Type | Check Amount |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------|------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| | | 0800 | 04/02/2021 | 03/26/2021 | BI-WEEKLY | \$39,935.10 |
| Earnings | Days/Hrs. | Current | YTD | Deductions | Current | YTD |
| BASE PAY | | | 44019.36 | MEDICARI | 847.27 | 1455.84 |
| OP BEN CRD | | | 1820.00 | HEALTH INS | | 1253.76 |
| D/C % | | | 1100.48 | DELTA VS | | 106.88 |
| P/O SICK | | 28149.68 | 28149.68 | HEALTH PLA | 75.00 | 525.00 |
| P/O VACATI | | 27948.80 | 27948.80 | DEP CARE FSA | | 750.00 |
| | | | | PERS DCN P ER | 52.40 | 1100.48 |
| | | | | PERS DCO MP | 877.61 | 1545.59 |
| | | | | FED TAX | 12207.81 | 16875.87 |
| | | | | CALIF ST TX | 3647.29 | 5600.55 |
| | | | | SDI | 701.18 | 1204.82 |
| | | | | PERS 2% @ 1/2 | 162.45 | 3411.51 |
| | | | | PERS SUR | 0.93 | 6.51 |
| | | | | DRCT DPS 1 | | 1800.00 |
| | | | | DRCT DPS 2 | | 900.00 |
| | | | | DEPOSITS: | | |
| | | | | DRCT DPS NET | | 26766.41 |

Per Section 902 of the Salary and Benefits Resolution 165-2020 for Unrepresented Employees adopted November 10, 2020, in order to be eligible for the payment of unused sick leave, "...a Management or Confidential employee must have five (5) or more years of County service; provided, however, that Appointed Department Heads who retire prior to the completion of five (5) years of service are entitled to receive a payoff of 100% of their unused sick leave..." According to Section 302 of the same resolution, "Employees in classifications designated as UM are considered Management Employees." Because you resigned instead of retiring, and had fewer than five years of County service at the time of resignation, it does not appear that you were eligible for a payment for unused sick leave.

If you have any documents that would justify this payment for unused Sick Leave hours, please provide them to the County.

We would like to see this matter resolved amicably and we request that you respond to this letter within 14 days to arrange repayment of \$28,149.68. As you are aware, the County has an obligation to recover overpayments made to individuals and entities.

Sincerely,

Joe Harn
Auditor-Controller