

Nowhere in the First Amendment does it permit the government to limit speech in order to avoid causing offense, safeguarding government secrets, or protecting government officials. When we first met with Sheriff D'Agostini in 2011, he said, *"You need a new board of supervisors. All of them. Hold their feet to the fire. Mine too; I work for you."* Wendy Thomas, now I'm holding your feet to the fire.

Last week I submitted into the public record an affidavit addressed to George Turnboo's former Planning Commissioner Kris Payne. When I finished speaking, I asked if you had any comments, to please make them while I was at the podium. Hearing none, I returned to my seat. Afterwards you again abused the public trust by falsely proclaiming that the county is not affiliated with the Taxpayers Association.

Mandatory ethics training should have taught you that the **Brown Act Rights of the Public** states: *"Care must be given to avoid violating the speech rights of speakers by suppressing opinions relevant to the business of the body...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."*

I will not remain docile and quiet about corruption, nor will you have the last word in this matter. The Taxpayers Association most certainly is relevant to the business of the body. The public has the right to know that many of Mr. Payne's unlawful actions against me occurred while he was still a Planning Commissioner. Several TPA members are government officials or BOS appointees to various boards, commissions, and committees. For example, Planning Commissioners **Andy Nevis, Lexie Boeger, and Bob Williams**. **Steve Ferry** is a director for the EDH CSD. Supervisor **Lori Parlin** is a member who regularly attends TPA meetings which she reports to the BOS. All have taken oaths requiring they abide by the Supreme Law and superseding authority of the national Constitution.

Clearly these government agents have something to hide by conspiring to conduct TPA business like a secret society and under the color of law. For example, after the July 1st meeting when John McGinnis was the guest speaker, it was revealed that Kris Payne colluded with Lee Tannenbaum, Carol Louis, and other directors in yet another secret tribunal for the purpose of my character assassination. Lee projected onto the overhead screen his nefarious plan to censor and destroy me, and the plot was implemented with the full knowledge and cooperation of the **BOS, County Counsel, and the Mtn. Democrat**. Your conspiracy against my rights severely impaired the public trust, thus revealing your lust for power over the citizens whom you profess to serve.

C. Lewis OpenForum BOS 7/23/2024

This is from a letter we received (7/21/22) from a concerned citizen who did not want to be subjected to one of Ms. Lane's accusatory rants.

"To whom it may concern: Melody Lane's assertion that Chair Wendy Thomas on 7/16/2024 made a false statement when she said, "The County is not affiliated with the Taxpayers Association." is incorrect. Keep in mind that the Association is a 501(c)(4) NOT a (c)(3). Ms. Lane, we did the following search:

Our question was: "Is a 501(c)(4) subject to the Brown Act?" (and by your implication affiliated)

Answer: From the First Amendment Coalition:

"A: A private entity will be subject to the Brown Act only if it was either:

**(A) created by a governmental body in order to exercise governmental authority delegated to it, or
(B) both receives funds from and shares a board member with a local governmental agency.**

Govt. Code section 54952(c)(1)."

From the above, it appears Taxpayers is **not** subject to the Brown Act in that it was NOT created by a governmental body and it does NOT both receive funds from, nor share a board member with, the BOS. It, therefore is NOT an affiliate of the County.

Chair Thomas's "assertion" was accurate. Your accusation is not.

#2. From you aforementioned letter: "There most certainly is a direct connection of the Taxpayers Association to EDC government."

Answer: "Direct Connection" is not a criterion. Only source of formation, funding and a shared Board Member are (see above).

"You violated the Brown Act by not permitting me to respond to your false assertion, and in so doing you abused the public trust."

We don't think so. Your wild rants are without merit and should be ignored.

The complete list of your accusations and the corresponding responses will be posted on our website.

In closing:

"Compass2Truth" appears to be a fiction. We can find no record that it is registered anywhere."