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2007 JAN 23 AM 8:00

330 FAIR LANE PLACERVILLE, CA 95667
 TELEPHONE (530) 621-5390
 FAX NO. (530) 622-3645

RECEIVED
 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 EL DORADO COUNTY



DATE: January 22, 2007
 TO: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
 FROM: Supervisor Helen K. Baumann, District II
 SUBJECT: Item #33 – Management and Operation of the El Dorado County Veterans Memorial Monument

In response to recent communications received by the Board in reaction to agenda Item #33, I would like to provide you with information on the chain of events that prompted Supervisor Sweeney and me to place this item on the agenda.

It is common knowledge that the Veterans Affairs Commission is in the process of developing a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding the operation and maintenance of the El Dorado County Veterans Memorial. I anticipated that the Commission would need some time to consider the various suggestions regarding the operation and use of the Memorial. I also anticipated that the Commission would need some time to develop a recommendation, based on those suggestions, that represents the best interest of the veterans' community. The Veterans Memorial is unlike any facility or site within our county; developing a recommendation for its use and operation will not be an easy task. Upon receipt of the Commission's recommendation, the Board of Supervisors will then determine policy and procedure for the use of the Veterans Memorial. However, an unforeseen event required county staff to review a request to use the Veterans Memorial prior to approval of a Commission recommendation or the Board's approval of a policy.

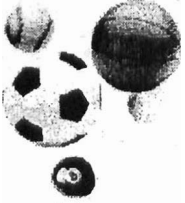
A local family contacted my office for assistance regarding the use of the Veterans Memorial. At the conclusion of the phone call, my assistant did exactly what she does with every constituent request for assistance: she contacted appropriate staff. I was fully advised of the request and the resulting communications between my office and county staff. Joanne Narloch and Rod Barton worked together to ensure that the necessary details were addressed to meet the family's request. County staff then contacted my assistant to let her know that the County could assist with the request. This information was provided to the family along with the recommendation for them to continue communication with Rod Barton, the Veterans Services Officer. In lieu of having a recommendation from the Veterans Affairs Commission, standard county policy was followed.

At the end of the day, my office was provided with a copy of an email from Rich Buchanan. I have attached this email for your review. In this email--which included county staff in its original distribution--Mr. Buchanan directs that until the Friends of the Memorial creates a committee to decide the appropriate use of the Memorial, all requests for its use are to be addressed to him, prior to approval. Per this email, Mr. Buchanan appears to be providing direction to staff regarding the approval of requests to use the Memorial prior to an approved county policy. It would also appear that Mr. Buchanan plans for this committee, determined by the Friends of the Memorial, to be the entity providing direction to county General Services staff on the use of the Memorial. Nothing in Mr. Buchanan's email mentions the recommendation currently in development by the Veterans

Affairs Commission or to the role of the Board of Supervisors in reviewing such a recommendation and in setting policy for the use of this county owned facility. In fact, it does not appear that any one of our offices was included in the original distribution.

It was this email, and this email alone, that prompted Supervisor Sweeney and me to place an item on the agenda. It has become apparent that until we receive a recommendation from the Veterans Affairs Commission regarding the use and operation of the Veterans Memorial, and the Board is able to determine a policy, the Board of Supervisors must provide an interim policy to guide staff should we receive additional requests for the use of the Veterans Memorial.

My original intention was to not include the attached email as part of the public record, as I do not want the members of the young serviceman's family, or his legacy, to become a part of the growing dispute surrounding this agenda item. I respectfully request your assistance in protecting the family's privacy when we discuss this matter.




William E Schultz/PV/EDC
01/17/2007 05:29 PM

To Brenda J Bailey/PV/EDC@TCP
cc Helen K Baumann/PV/EDC@TCP, Rod L
Barton/PV/EDC@TCP, Joanne Narloch/PV/EDC@TCP,
George W Sanders/PV/EDC@TCP,

bcc

Subject Navy Veteran [REDACTED]

History:  This message has been forwarded.

From: Rich Buchanan:

Bill, the Friends approve of [REDACTED] use of the Monument. As you know we are in the process of formalizing and expanding our organization. I will forward a draft of a fact sheet that describes our perspective on duties. We will have a committee that decides appropriate use, that will work in conjunction with general Services to obtain written approval for events at the Monument.

Until the committee is formalized please address all requests for use to me prior to approval. Please inform Brenda et al.

that you are not the contact point

thank you

Rich