

HEALTH + BEHAVIOR

Rent burden strains more than three-quarters of low-income seniors in California, study finds

Venetia Lai | August 21, 2018



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“Older Californians with limited incomes struggle to pay for shelter, food, medical care and other basic necessities. Escalating rent prices can push them out the door,” said D. Imelda Padilla-Frausto, co-author of the fact sheet.

More than three-quarters of California’s low-income seniors are financially burdened by rent, according to a [new fact sheet](#) from the [UCLA Center for Health Policy Research](#). Low-income seniors who rent — numbering more than half a million — can be forced to move far from their established social and medical networks to find rentals they can afford; they may end up in substandard housing; or — at worst — homeless, according to authors of the study.

“Older Californians with limited incomes struggle to pay for shelter, food, medical care and other basic necessities. Escalating rent prices can push them out the door,” said [D. Imelda Padilla-Frausto](#), research scientist and co-author of the fact sheet. “If they’re lucky, they can land at a relative or friend’s home.”

Rent that requires more than half a household’s pretax income is identified as a “severe burden,” while rent that consumes more than 30 percent but less than half is a “moderate burden,” according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

According to the study, 55.8 percent of low-income seniors in California shoulder a severe rent burden and 22.6 percent are moderately burdened. California renters of all ages also feel the pinch, but not to the same extreme: 28.7 percent bear a severe rent burden, according to a [recent state housing report](#). The UCLA study uses the most currently available census data, the 2016 American Community Survey.

Regional and county differences

Sacramento-area counties have the highest proportion of severely rent-burdened low-income seniors, 63.7 percent. Combined with the 18.6 percent of low-income seniors who are moderately burdened, that region has the highest regional rent burden, affecting more than 8 in 10 low-income seniors, according to the study.

Of the seven regions analyzed, the San Joaquin Valley area and Los Angeles County (counted as a region because of its large population) were close behind, at 80.3 percent and 80 percent, respectively.

Counterintuitively, the high-cost Bay Area region has a slightly lower overall rent burden among low-income seniors, 77.1 percent, because some long-term tenants in the area live in rent-controlled units, which reduces their rents paid, the study reports. Still, 40.9 percent of low-income senior renters in this broad region have a severe rent burden.

The same held true when the authors studied the severe rent burden rate in specific large counties: Sacramento County has a severe rent burden rate that is 25 percent higher than San Francisco County, 68.2 percent to 43.3 percent, respectively. Other county variations: In Los Angeles County (excluding the city of Los Angeles), 61.5 percent of residents have severe rent burdens, compared to 53.7 percent in the city of Los Angeles. The other large counties analyzed in the study — Orange, San Diego, Santa Clara and Alameda — also have high rates of moderate burden and even higher rates of severe rent burden.

“In California, we have a rapidly aging population,” said [Steven Wallace](#), associate director of the center and lead author of the study. “The gap between many older adults’ fixed incomes and increasing rents is likely to widen to a chasm unless changes occur in rental costs, incomes or

GOLDEN STATE MANUFACTURED-HOME OWNERS LEAGUE, INC.



Crestview Mobile Home Park
Placerville, CA 95667
Zone A, Region 14

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*es/rent-burden-strains-more-than-three-
in-california-study-finds*

The First Amendment guarantees the Right of free speech and the Right to petition government for redress of grievances, which the oath taker is mandated to uphold. If he fails this requirement, then he has violated two provisions of the First Amendment, the Public Trust and perjured his oath. No public officer has the constitutional authority--or any other form of valid authority--to oppose the very document to which he swore his oath, yet that is exactly what Vern Pierson has done.

Every American Citizen can expect and has the RIGHT and DUTY to demand that government officers uphold their oaths to the Constitution(s) and abide by all constitutionally imposed mandates of their oaths. On November 2nd Vern Pierson received this Declaration/Affidavit of Truth containing transcript excerpts from our 2014 meeting with Vern and former Chief Investigator Bob Cosley. By not rebutting, the oath taker denies the Citizen remedy, thus Vern denied me constitutional due process of law, as stated within the Bill of Rights. Since Mr. Pierson did not rebut any of the facts and charges contained within the affidavit, he therefore admitted to ALL of them. An un rebutted affidavit stands as TRUTH and FACT in any court of law in America.

Vern & Bob were provided ample evidence of multiple ***hate crimes, shootings, armed intrusions, threats, hacking, identity theft, sexual assault and bully tactics*** by individuals who are known to oppose my Christian values and political affiliations with conservative Capitol legislators. Most significant were the retaliatory actions and rampant corruption committed by Sheriff D'Agostini and EDSO staff in collusion with other County public officials. At the conclusion of our meeting Vern agreed to conduct an investigation into EDSO corruption, but months later he RESCINDED his agreement and refused to meet or respond to correspondence. Vern's failure to honor his oaths aids and abets the perpetration of County corruption.

As one example, earlier this year Bob Cosley was replaced by Lt. Jeff Dreher as the D.A.s Chief Investigator. After the October 16th BOS meeting when I was unlawfully censored TWICE by Mike Ranalli, I had a conversation with Vern Pierson and Jeff out in the lobby. There was something about Dreher that rang a bell, but it wasn't until later that I discovered these articles. They're about a Placerville mom who PREVAILED in a \$127,000 civil lawsuit after an angry Sgt. Jeff Dreher VIOLENTLY assaulted her and then threw her in jail where "she woke up nude, covered in urine & excrement." Note the Sheriff touted Dreher as "*one of the most respected regional leaders in law enforcement.*"

- 1) Pierson Affidavit
- 2) CA Mom prevails in Jeff Dreher Civil Lawsuit \$127,000

AFFIDAVIT/DECLARATION OF TRUTH

To: District Attorney Vern Pierson
778 Pacific Street
Placerville, CA 95667

I, **Melody Lane**, the undersigned, hereinafter: Affiant/Declarant, make this Affidavit/Declaration of Truth of my own free will, and I hereby affirm, declare and solemnly swear, under oath, before a certified California Notary Public, that I am of legal age and of sound mind and hereby attest that all the information contained in this Affidavit/Declaration is true, correct and admissible as evidence.

This Affidavit/Declaration of Truth is lawful notification to you, Vern Pierson, and is hereby made and sent to you pursuant to the Federal Constitution, specifically, the Bill of Rights, in particular, Amendments I, II, IV, V, VI, VII, IX and X, and The Declaration of Rights of the California Constitution, in particular, Article 1, Sections 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 21, 23, and Article 3 Section 1, which requires your written rebuttal to me, specific to each and every point of the subject matter stated herein, within 30 days, via your own sworn and notarized affidavit, using true fact(s), valid law and evidence to support your rebuttal.

You are hereby noticed that your failure to respond, as stipulated, and rebut, with particularity and specificity, anything with which you disagree in this Affidavit/Declaration, is your lawful, legal and binding tacit agreement with and admission to the fact that everything in this Affidavit/Declaration is true, correct, legal, lawful, and fully binding upon you in any court in America, without your protest or objection and that of those who represent you. See: *Connally v. General Construction Co.*, 269 U.S. 385, 391. Notification of legal responsibility is "the first essential of due process of law." Also, see: *U.S. v. Tweel*, 550 F. 2d. 297. "Silence can only be equated with fraud where there is a legal or moral duty to speak or where an inquiry left unanswered would be intentionally misleading."

Affiant/Declarant hereby affirms that the following actions and events took place:

On September 17, 2018. I sent you, Vern Pierson, via USPS certified mail, a letter which you received on September 18, 2018. That letter, attached hereto and marked **Exhibit A**, was sent to inform you of specific actions committed and statements made by you, and also as an inquiry to ascertain whether you support and uphold them or would rebut them. Pursuant to the lawful notification contained in that letter, as I originally stated therein, and as cited and included by reference herein, you were required to respond to and rebut anything contained in the attached letter with which you disagreed, within thirty (30) days of receipt thereof.

You failed to respond to that letter and thereby failed to rebut anything stated therein. Therefore, pursuant to the referenced lawful notification, you tacitly admit to all of the statements, charges and

claims contained therein, fully binding upon you in any court, without your protest, objection or that of those who represent you.

One of the key ingredients in a constitutional republic in practice operating as a representative democracy is the right to freely speak our minds to those who represent us. In fact, it is one of the few effective tools 'we the people' have left to combat government corruption and demand accountability. It is the duty of every Citizen to demand that government employees, such as you, specifically perform pursuant to the constitutional mandates imposed upon them by and through their oaths, thereby upholding and protecting the people, as opposed to upholding and promoting the profits of a rapacious, destructive government agency that perniciously violates the rights of the people as its apparent routine custom, practice and policy.

All actions by public officers conducted in the performance of their official duties either support and defend the national and state Constitutions, pursuant to their Constitutional oaths of office, or oppose and violate them. Some of the things to which you admit include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1) The specific purpose of our July 10, 2014 audio-recorded meeting was to confirm your commitment to investigate the liability associated with specific retaliatory conduct and falsification of records by the El Dorado Sheriffs' Office, and Sheriff D'Agostini's failure to investigate Citizen Complaints of Officer Misconduct. The following transcript excerpts verify your commitment to investigate EDSO official misconduct:

Melody: I'm talking about John D'Agostini's conduct. He's responsible for his staff. I want the investigation into John. Are you not the individual who would have to initiate the investigation?

Vern: We could be, depending upon the circumstances, but it would, it, it, you know. Let me put it this way. I have a pretty good reputation of not being afraid of anything. Having said that though, to open up a criminal investigation like that we need to have some evidence that would justify that...but if there's enough evidence to prove something, let me, let me say this. One, give us specific things...

Melody: Believe me I've got more evidence, a dump truck full of hard core evidence, including transcripts of audio recordings and other documentation...meat to sink your teeth into. (Handing him documents)

Vern: One thing that you have, something like this, that's something.

Melody: Do I present it to you or the Grand Jury?

Vern: When you have specific things, give it to us.

Melody: I'll prepare for you a binder of materials as long as I have your commitment.

- 2) After I hand delivered a 3.5" binder of EDSO evidence of official EDSO misconduct to your office, you became uncommunicative and denied your commitment to investigate the Sheriff as you'd previously confirmed. Furthermore, you failed to provide proof that you'd investigated the tapping of my telephone which required you submit a subpoena to AT&T.

Under the Political Reform Act, federal anticorruption law broadly guarantees the public “honest services” from public officials. Depriving the public of honest services is a federal crime. *“Personal involvement in deprivation of constitutional rights is prerequisite to award of damages, but defendant may be personally involved in constitutional deprivation by direct participation, failure to remedy wrongs after learning about it, creation of a policy or custom under which unconstitutional practices occur or gross negligence in managing subordinates who cause violation.”* (*Gallegos v. Haggerty, N.D. of New York, 689 F. Supp. 93 (1988)*). Your failure to lawfully respond to constituents, in this case me, or to take remedial action, aids and abets the perpetuation of El Dorado County corruption. The First Amendment guarantees the right of free speech and the right to petition government for redress of grievances, which the oath taker, pursuant to his oath, is mandated to uphold. You failed this requirement, thus you violated two provisions of the First Amendment, the Public Trust and perjured your oaths of office.

- 3) A major segment of our July 10, 2014 discussion was the fact that Sheriff D’Agostini ordered IT to block my ability to communicate electronically with any EDSO staff since October 2013, when the Sheriff demonstrated overt hostility towards me for holding his feet to the fire and challenging his unconstitutional actions.

Melody: Vern, you’re the one still in charge of IT, right?

Vern: Well, I, I’m not in charge of IT in the sense that I, I...

Melody: You’re not an IT technician.

Vern: Well, yeah. I’m the Chief Technology Officer for the County, so I do overall stuff.

Melody: And who has the authority to cut off a citizen’s email access to an elected official?

Vern: Uh, well, I think the only person he could have had do it, uh, could I see what it is?

Melody: Yeah. (Handing him a sheaf of bounced emails.) They’re all the same.

Bob Cosley: It says your access has been prohibited.

Melody: John’s arrogance in refusing to deal with me, I believe, is a slap in the face not only to me, but to every citizen in this county...If you can’t trust elected officials, who do you call? Do I pick up the phone, or a loaded gun at 3 AM? I don’t trust Sheriff D’Agostini to do his job... I’m expressing it here: I’m concerned about my safety and security.

Vern: ...I do think that, I’m definitely saying a firearm, if you’re trained and you know how to use one, I think it is a good idea to have one. That being said, you should never be afraid to call 911.

In response to my distribution of the Assemblyman Frank Bigelow affidavit concerning his unconstitutional actions, you were cognizant that CAO Don Ashton threatened to ‘regulate’ and ‘restrict’ my ability to communicate electronically with county staff. No public official has lawful authority to shield the centers of power from the citizenry. Public representatives such as you have a contractual, constitutional duty to make themselves available to “we the people.” As stated previously, you made a commitment to investigate evidence of EDSO official misconduct.

When a public officer such as you fails to act and correct the matter reported to him, then he condones, aids, and abets criminal actions, and further, colludes and conspires to deprive me and other Citizens of their inherent rights guaranteed in the Constitutions, as a custom, practice and usual business operation of his office and the jurisdiction for which he works. This constitutes treason by the entire jurisdiction against me, and based upon the actions taken and what exists on the public record, it is impossible for any public officer to defend himself against treason committed. *See: 18 USC § 241 - Conspiracy Against Rights, and 242 – Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law. See also: U.S. v. Guest, Ga. 1966, 86 S.Ct. 1170, 383 U.S. 745, 16 L.Ed 239.*

- 4) All actions by public officers conducted in the performance of their official duties either support and defend the national and state Constitutions, pursuant to their Constitutional oaths of office, or oppose and violate them. When public officers take oaths and then fail to abide by them in the performance of their official duties – regardless of whether they are ignorant of the constitutional positions to which they are bound by those oaths – this suggests that they may have had no intention of ever honoring their oaths, which means that their signatures upon the oath documents constitute fraud. Fraud vitiates any action. Any enterprise undertaken by any public official, such as you have conducted, tends to weaken public confidence in law and justice system, undermines the sense of security for individual rights, and is against public policy. Fraud, in its elementary common-law sense of **deceit**, is the simplest and clearest definition of that word. Your failure to honor your commitment to investigate EDSO official misconduct was an act of dishonesty, and in so doing, you perjured your oath by violating my Constitutionally guaranteed Rights, in particular those secured in the Bill of Rights including, but not limited to, my First Amendment Rights.

- 5) It is the duty of every Citizen to demand that government employees, such as you, specifically perform pursuant to the constitutional mandates contained within their oaths, thereby upholding and protecting the rights of the people, as opposed to upholding and promoting the profits of a rapacious, destructive association that perniciously violates the rights of the people as its apparent routine custom, practice and policy. Accordingly, you have been kept apprised that I've been the victim of multiple hate crimes, shootings, armed intrusions, threats, sexual assault and bully tactics by individuals who are known to oppose my Christian values and conservative political affiliations with Capitol legislators. You've also been apprised that the Sheriff approved and then rescinded my CCW permit at the last moment without just cause and in apparent retaliation for holding his feet to the fire. The Ninth Amendment of the national Constitution specifically provides that the rights of the people are entitled to protection. Keeping and bearing arms is a natural right which existed BEFORE being enumerated in the national Constitution. Rescinding my CCW permit in a discriminatory fashion was a violation of my Second and Ninth Amendment rights because those rights entitle me to having no restrictions relating to the bearing of arms.

- 6) Until recently the El Dorado County District Attorney's Office had a "See something, say something" policy posted to their website. Lack of law enforcement is worse than no law at all, often resulting in much more violent crimes, especially against women. As I recently said during our conversation after your 10/16/18 BOS Violence Against Women presentation, such programs are only as good as the people who enforce the law. When law abiding Citizens, such as me, report crimes but then are unjustly treated as a nuisance for doing so, then they are "re-victimized" by the public officials whose duty it is to serve and protect. Typical acts of deliberate concealment reported directly to you include EDSO staff making false statements, lack of due process, hiding evidence, failure to process Citizen Complaints of Officer Misconduct, and obstruction of justice. (See 18 U.S.C. §4 - Misprision of Felony). In these ways, the law and justice system contributes to a totalitarian police state in direct and unlawful opposition to Constitutional governance.

One example that I brought to your attention entailed Deputy Terry Cissna, who I've prohibited from entering my property due to repeated acts of dishonesty. Another notorious example was former EDSO Lieutenant Jeff Dreher, who recently replaced Bob Cosley as your Chief Investigator. Such individuals undermine the public's trust in law and justice, thereby calling into question the methods by which they are held accountable and disciplined for their misconduct. In many cases, as with Cissna and Dreher, they were promoted instead of disciplined.

"Within seconds, Sgt. Jeff Dreher "threw [Pastula] into a glass-faced display case, twisted her arm and forced her face-first" into the floor, recalls Stewart Katz, the woman's attorney. "It went from zero to 60 in 10 seconds. Instead of trying to run her off, why didn't he tell her the sheriff was not even on the premises, which was true, or just give her a complaint form to take with her and fill out?"

After being assaulted by Dreher, Pastula was taken to a jail in Placerville, "where she was tasered, forced to remove all her clothing, and denied emergency medical and psychiatric care," Katz continued. When she refused an order to remove all of her clothing, Pastula was dragged into an isolation cell. The next thing she remembered was "waking up nude, covered in urine and excrement and covered partly by a 'safety' garment."

When she begged for a blanket, the jail guards "simply laughed at her," recounts Katz. The traumatized mother "spent the evening praying, believing her life was in imminent danger."

When public officers harm Citizens by their errant actions and then refuse to respond to or rebut petitions from Citizens, as you have also done, then those public officers are domestic enemies acting in sedition and insurrection to the declared Law of the land. You can be sued for your wrongdoing against me, personally, privately, individually and in your professional capacity, as can all those in your jurisdiction, including any judges or prosecuting attorneys and public officers for that jurisdiction, if once they are notified of your wrongdoing they fail to take lawful

actions to correct it pursuant to their oaths and their duties, thereto: *"Personal involvement in deprivation of constitutional rights is prerequisite to award of damages, but defendant may be personally involved in constitutional deprivation by direct participation, failure to remedy wrongs after learning about it, creation of a policy or custom under which unconstitutional practices occur or gross negligence in managing subordinates who cause violation."* (*Gallegos v. Haggerty, N.D. of New York, 689 F. Supp. 93 (1988)*).

If those referenced above fail to act and correct the matter, then they condone, aid and abet your criminal actions, and further collude and conspire to deprive other Citizens and me of their Rights guaranteed in the Constitutions as a custom, practice and usual business operation of their office and the jurisdiction for which they work. This constitutes treason by the entire jurisdiction against the Citizens of El Dorado County, in the instant case, me. Based upon the actions taken and what exists on the public record, it is impossible for any public officer to defend himself against treason committed. *See: 18 USC § 241 - Conspiracy Against Rights, and 18 USC § 242 - Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law. See also: U.S. v. Guest, Ga. 1966, 86 S.Ct. 1170, 383 U.S. 745, 16 L.Ed 239.*

- 7) You have failed to lawfully respond to written inquiries, including but not limited to CA Public Record Act requests for information as required under US Government Code § 6250 - 6276.48. Substantiating evidence which I've submitted for case files under investigation indicate that relevant documents have been destroyed, conveniently disappeared, or were deliberately falsified and/or withheld by staff under your direction and control. One specific example, a CPRA dated August 6, 2018 requested specific documentation involving multiple hate crimes and retaliation. On September 3, 2018 I received a letter from Assistant D.A. James Clinchard that was *back-dated* August 14, 2018 and denying me access to any of those records, nor had there been any investigations conducted. Another CPRA dated September 2, 2018 was addressed to you but I never received a response. Such disregard for the law undermines the public's trust in the law and justice system. Accordingly I was again harmed by your actions and deprived of due process.

Any time public officers such as you violate Rights guaranteed to Citizens in the Constitutions they act outside their limited delegated authority, thus perjure their oaths, and by their own actions, invoke the self-executing Sections 3 and 4 of the 14th Amendment; thereby vacate their offices and forfeit all benefits, as you have done. *See United States v. Dial, 757 R2d 163, 168 (7th Cir 1985) includes the deliberate concealment of material information in a setting of fiduciary obligation. See also USC Title 18, § 2071 - Concealment, removal, or mutilation generally.* By your unlawful actions, you acted in sedition and insurrection against the Constitutions, both federal and state, and in treason against the People, in the instant case, me.

Lawful notification has been provided to you stating that if you do not truthfully and factually rebut the statements, charges and averments made in this Affidavit/Declaration, then, you agree with and admit to them. Pursuant to that lawful notification, if you disagree with anything stated under oath in

this Affidavit/Declaration of Truth, then rebut that with which you disagree, with particularity, within thirty (30) days of receipt thereof, by means of your own written, sworn, notarized affidavit of truth, based on true specific, relevant fact(s) and valid law to support your disagreement, attesting to your rebuttal and supportive positions, as valid and lawful, under the pains and penalties of perjury under the national and state Constitutions, the laws of the United States of America and this state of California. An un-rebutted affidavit stands as truth and fact before any court.

Your failure to respond, as stipulated, is your agreement with and irrevocable admission to the fact that everything in this Affidavit/Declaration of Truth is true, correct, legal, lawful, fully binding upon you, Vern Pierson, in any court of law in America, without your protest, objection and that of those who represent you.

Further Affiant sayeth naught.

All Rights Reserved,

By: Melody Lane
Melody Lane

Date: 10/31/18

Melody Lane

See Attached Notarial Certificate

Compass2Truth

C/o P.O. Box 598

Coloma, California [95613]

(See attached California Notarization)

Attachments:

- Exhibit A – Presumptive letter

CC: District #1 Supervisor John Hidahl
District #2 Supervisor Shiva Frentzen
District #3 Supervisor Brian Veerkamp
District #4 Supervisor Mike Ranalli
District #5 Supervisor Sue Novasel
Congressman Tom McClintock
Senator Ted Gaines
Assemblyman Frank Bigelow
Director of CA Parks & Recreation, Lisa Mangat
Gold Fields District Superintendent, Jason DeWall
Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park Superintendent, Barry Smith
CA Attorney General, Xavier Becerra
CA DOJ Division of Law Enforcement, Chief Kevin Gardner
US Attorney General Eastern CA, McGregor Scott
Media and other interested parties

CALIFORNIA JURAT

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document, to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA }

COUNTY OF El Dorado }

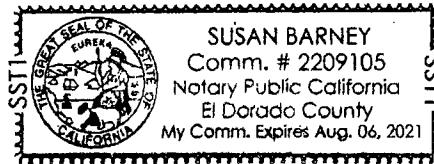
Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on this 31st day of October, 2018
Date Month Year

by Melody Lane

Name of Signers

proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person who appeared before me.

Signature: Susan Barney
Signature of Notary Public



Seal
Place Notary Seal Above

OPTIONAL

Though this section is optional, completing this information can deter alteration of the document or fraudulent attachment of this form to an unintended document.

Description of Attached Document:
Title or Type of Document: Affidavit/Declaration of Truth

Document Date: October 31, 2018

Number of Pages: 7

Signer(s) Other Than Named Above: _____

*Melody Lane
Compass2Truth
P.O. Box 598
Coloma, CA 95613*

September 13, 2018

District Attorney Vern Pierson
778 Pacific Street
Placerville, CA 95667

Mr. Pierson,

This letter is lawful notification to you, and is hereby made and sent to you pursuant to the national Constitution, specifically, the Bill of Rights, in particular, Amendments I, II, IV, V, VI, VII, IX and X, and the California Constitution, in particular, Article 1, Sections 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 21, 23, and Article 3, Section 1. This letter requires your written rebuttal to me, specific to each claim, statement and averment made herein, within 30 days of the date of this letter, using fact, valid law and evidence to support your rebuttal.

You are hereby noticed that your failure to respond within 30 days as stipulated, and rebut with particularity everything in this letter with which you disagree is your lawful, legal and binding agreement with and admission to the fact that everything in this letter is true, correct, legal, lawful and binding upon you, in any court, anywhere in America, without your protest or objection and/or that of those who represent you. Your silence is your acquiescence. See: *Connally v. General Construction Co.*, 269 U.S. 385, 391. Notification of legal responsibility is "the first essential of due process of law." Also, see: *U.S. v. Tweel*, 550 F. 2d. 297. "*Silence can only be equated with fraud where there is a legal or moral duty to speak or where an inquiry left unanswered would be intentionally misleading.*"

What I say in this letter is based in the supreme, superseding authority of the Constitution for the United States of America, circa 1787, as amended in 1791, with the Bill of Rights, and the California Constitution, to which all public officers, such as you, have sworn or affirmed oaths, under which they are bound by Law. It is impossible for an oath taker to *lawfully* defy and oppose the authority of the documents to which he or she swore or affirmed his or her oath.

Since America and California are both Constitutional Republics, not democracies, they are required to operate under the Rule of Law, and not the rule of man. The Supreme Law and superseding authority in this nation is the national Constitution, as declared in Article VI of that document. In Article IV, Section 4 of that Constitution, every state is guaranteed a republican form of government. Any "laws", rules, regulations, codes and policies which conflict with, contradict, oppose and violate

the national and state Constitutions are null and void, *ab initio*. It is a fact that your oath requires you to support and uphold the national and state Constitutions and the rights of the people secured therein and all aspects of constitutional due process.

My claims, statements and averments pertain to violations of your oaths. No public officer, including you, has the constitutional authority to oppose, deny, defy, violate and disparage the very documents to which he or she swore or affirmed his or her oath. All actions by public officers conducted in the performance of their official duties either support and defend the national and state Constitutions, or oppose and violate them.

“The Oath of Office is a quid pro quo contract in which clerks, officials, or officers of the government pledge to perform (Support and uphold the United States and State Constitutions) in return for substance (wages, perks, benefits). Proponents are subjected to the penalties and remedies for Breach of Contract, conspiracy under Title 28 U.S.C., Title 18 Sections 241 and 242, treason under the Constitution at Article 3, Section 3., and intrinsic fraud...”

Whenever constitutional violations are committed by public officers such as you, there are constitutional remedies available to the people. Such remedies make those who violate their oaths accountable and liable for their unconstitutional actions conducted in perjury of their oaths. When public officers take oaths, yet are ignorant of the constitutional positions to which they are bound by their oaths, and then fail to abide by them in the performance of their official duties, this suggests that they may have had no intention of ever honoring their oaths, and their signatures upon the oath documents constitute fraud. Fraud vitiates any action.

PUBLIC OFFICIAL TRUSTEE DUTIES AND AUTHORIZATION

**63C Am. Jur.2d, Public Officers and Employees §247* “As expressed otherwise, the powers delegated to a public officer are held in trust for the people and are to be exercised on behalf of the government or of all citizens who may need the intervention of the officer.

[1] Furthermore the view has been expressed that all public officers within whatever branch and whatever level of government, and whatever be their private vocations, are trustees of the people, and accordingly labor under every disability and prohibition imposed by law upon trustees relative to the making of personal financial gain from a discharge of their trusts.

[2] That is, a public officer occupies a fiduciary relationship to the political entity on whose behalf he or she serves

[3] and owes a fiduciary duty to the public.

[4] It has been said that the fiduciary responsibilities of a public officer cannot be less than those of a private individual.

[5] Furthermore, it has been stated that any enterprise undertaken by the public official who tends to weaken public confidence and undermine the sense of security for individual rights is against public policy. Fraud is its elementary common law sense of deceit and this is one of the meanings that fraud bears [483 U.S. 372] in the statute.

See *United States v. Dial*, 757 R2d 163, 168 (7th Cir 1985) includes the deliberate concealment of material information in a setting of fiduciary obligation. A public official is a fiduciary toward the public, including, in the case of a judge.

On June 5, 2014 I handed you a letter after the Rural Communities Coalition meeting led by Ron Wolsfeld. I became acquainted with Mr. Wolsfeld when he briefly attended the Bay Area church where I served in ministry. The letter specifically mentions Sheriff D'Agostini's violation of the public trust and his Constitutional Oath of Office. Additionally it explains that the Board of Supervisors had recently affirmed during the 4/28/14 BOS Special Meeting that *retaliatory, harassing, bullying or unethical conduct will not be tolerated*. Consequently I requested a one hour meeting to discuss the potential liability for El Dorado County against its bonding insurance policy, a frequent concern discussed during the Taxpayers Association meetings. Ultimately it is EDC citizens who ultimately pay for the exorbitant costs of litigation. **(See Exhibit A)**

Shortly thereafter your administrator contacted me to arrange a meeting with you and Chief Investigator Bob Cosley on July 10, 2014 to address the aforementioned issues. A retired San Diego Sheriff's Deputy accompanied me as a witness, and I provided an agenda to keep us on track. Our meeting lasted in excess of an hour and a half. Finally when I asked whether you would agree to investigate EDSO operations, you affirmed, *"Yes. Just give me something I can sink my teeth into."* **(See Exhibit B)**

The materials you were later provided in a 3 ½ inch binder were exactly the same as those given to the Grand Jury and the Department of Justice, and they were organized according to the agenda used for our July 10, 2014 meeting. Bob Cosley left me a voice mail message indicating that he was very impressed with the materials. He also remarked that you were preoccupied in developing a cold-case program.

During our 7/10/14 meeting you and Mr. Cosley were made aware of my involvement in Capitol ministries, as well as the positions I've held working for Capitol legislators. As you are aware, I've hosted numerous conferences in my home for politicians, artists, evangelists and missionaries from all over the globe. For example, in 2013 I held an all-day private symposium featuring two internationally known speakers on the topics of Constitutional Law, RICO Act, jurisdiction, and land patents. When my prominent guests were asked their reason for attending the private symposium, all 17 of them unanimously voiced, *"Government corruption!"*

Another issue we briefly discussed was the apparent tapping of my phone. I explained that several friends had expressed similar concerns prompting me to ask for your assistance in determining the source of the possible phone tap. Bob Cosley sent me the following email, however I was never contacted by AT&T:

From: Robert Cosley [mailto:robert.cosley@edcgov.us]
Sent: Friday, July 18, 2014 11:06 AM
To: Melody Lane
Subject: Phone Tap

Ms Lane,

I contacted AT&T Security and spoke with a security analyst and he advised that to start with you should contact a local AT&T representative, advise them that you've spoken to me and verbally reported to me that you believe your phone is or possibly was tapped. You can provide them with all my contact information and if they request some type of official report I can have one completed.

According to the analyst I spoke with, the phone company should come to your house and work back from there to run a check. Please let me know what their response is and hopefully they will comply.

FYI I'm still attempting to determine if there are any other ways of going about this since it's not something that I or anyone I know within the state law enforcement realm normally come across.

Talk to you soon,

Robert Cosley, Chief Investigator

Neither of you responded to multiple inquiries about the status of your phone tap investigation as you had agreed to do. Later, when you were the guest speaker at the Taxpayers Association, I inquired about the status of our 7/10/14 meeting and the phone tap investigation. You dismissed the whole notion of a phone tap and clearly were uncomfortable when I pressed you about the status of your investigation into EDSO operations. On several occasions I've publicly called you into accountability for commitments that you've reneged on, and your response has always been the same: *avoidance or denial*.

The District Attorney website states the following Mission Statement:

We dedicate ourselves, while recognizing the dignity of all individuals, to objectively and effectively investigate and prosecute matters under the Law to achieve justice and to minimize trauma to victims.

Everyone has the right to live in peace and safety. EDSO, in conjunction with the District Attorney, has a "**See something, say something**" policy that was posted to the EDC government website, that is, until just recently when it was removed. In the course of our 2014 meeting I shared that I have been the victim of multiple crimes which include: sexual assault, shootings, threats, arson, libel, slander, multiple intrusions, trespassing, harassment, and vandalism primarily by members the River Mafia Mob. Case files numbers correspond to each incident that I've reported to EDSO and fully substantiated with evidence and audio recordings. However the Sheriff refuses to meet or even speak to me about them. *It was for this reason we sought your assistance in the first place.*

On another occasion David Groth from your office was the speaker at the March 27, 2017 Taxpayers Association meeting addressing the subject of **Victim Witness** program. Afterwards I briefly spoke with David about the aforementioned crimes and our meeting with you and Mr. Cosley in 2014. After we exchanged cards he agreed to meet to discuss the subject in greater depth. However neither you nor Mr. Groth responded to any follow up correspondence about that meeting request.

Specific examples of retaliation by Sheriff D'Agostini for holding his feet to the fire were contained in the binder delivered to you and Mr. Cosley. It is apparent that the Sheriff has no intention to lawfully process Citizen Complaints of Officer Misconduct pursuant to his Constitutional oaths of office. Following is just one example involving Deputy Terry Cissna who refused to assist me in making a Citizen's Arrest. When she became manipulative and unreasonable it was necessary that I order her off my property. A full transcript of the Cissna incident was entered into the public record

during a BOS meeting and submitted along with a Citizen's Complaint for Officer Misconduct.

Shortly thereafter two armed detectives showed up unannounced at my home, crawled through the driveway gate, and demanded that I immediately turn over a CD of the Deputy Cissna incident to them. When they became rude and overbearing with my guest, I requested that they leave my property, meanwhile informing them that the CD would be available at the District Attorney's office. Following is my email exchange with Bob Cosley concerning the CD which was never claimed by EDSO:

From: Robert Cosley [mailto:robert.cosley@edcgov.us]
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 1:58 PM
To: Melody Lane
Cc: Vern R Pierson
Subject: Re: EDSO Investigation - Violation of Public Trust

Ms Lane,

Unless they came by and just made a copy of the CD and no one informed me, then I would say no they never picked them up, since I still have the CD and your letter.

Hopefully this answers your question,

On Tue, Mar 10, 2015 at 7:04 PM, Melody Lane <melody.lane@reagan.com> wrote:

Dear Mr. Cosley and Mr. Pierson,

Since we last spoke, additional EDSO improprieties have occurred which undermine the public's trust in law enforcement.

Please advise ASAP ***if and when*** EDSO picked up the CD relevant to the 4/4/14 incident referred to in the attached 11/10/14 letter addressed to your office.

I presume the attached standard "No Misconduct" letter received 2/27/15 pertains to one, if not all, of the eight complaints submitted to Sheriff D'Agostini last November. It is apparent EDSO has never taken into consideration the compelling evidence in their investigation(s). FYI, an addendum will be submitted to the Grand Jury and the DOJ

Thanks in advance for your prompt reply.

Melody Lane

The Sheriff is not above the law, and neither are you. Unenforced law is worse than no law at all. Federal law is applicable to all state, county, and local officers. The key federal criminal statute makes it unlawful for anyone acting with police authority to *deprive or conspire to deprive another person of any right protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States* (Refer to U.S.G.C. Title 18 § 241 – Conspiracy Against Rights). Another statute, commonly referred to as the police misconduct provision, makes it unlawful for state or local police to engage in a pattern or practice of conduct that deprives persons of their rights (42 U.S.C.A. 14141 re-codified at 34 U.S.C. § 12601). See also U.S.G.C. Title 18 § 242 – Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law.

In its ruling in *Millbrook v. United States*, a unanimous U.S. Supreme Court concluded that the U.S. government may be held liable for abuses intentionally carried out by law enforcement in the course of their employment. The Court's ruling was intended to send a strong message to the government's various law enforcement agencies that they need to do a better job of policing their employees and holding them accountable to respecting citizens' rights, especially while on the job. That includes the office of the District Attorney.

You've been apprised that I've been subjected to multiple EDSO attempts to intimidate and criminalize me for audio recording EDSO and other County staff. Law enforcement staff is ignorant about citizens Constitutional rights. Please note:

"The Ninth Circuit U.S. Courts of Appeals have recognized the First Amendment right to record the police and/or other public officials. The First Amendment protects the right to record audio and video regardless of whether the police/officials consent. This constitutional right would override any state or federal laws that would otherwise prohibit such recording. The rationale is public officials need to be held accountable for their actions.

[A] citizen's right to film government officials, including law enforcement officers, in the discharge of their duties in a public space is a basic, vital, and well-established liberty safeguarded by the First Amendment." Gathering information about government officials in a form that can readily be disseminated to others serves a cardinal First Amendment interest in protecting and promoting 'the free discussion of governmental affairs."

Despite your lack of practical experience in IT, until relatively recently you've received additional compensation taxpayer's expense to act as EDC IT Director. After a couple rounds of musical chairs, that position was handed over to Phil Dold. Per CAO Don Ashton, Sheriff D'Agostini ordered Phil Dold and EDSO IT Director, David Russell, to block my ability to communicate electronically with any EDSO staff whatsoever. You are aware that I've been unable to meet or communicate with the Sheriff since October 2013.

Notification of legal responsibility is the first essential of due process of law. Several weeks ago you, and several other public officials, received an email from me containing a notarized Affidavit of Truth addressed to Assemblyman Frank Bigelow at his Capitol office. Sheriff D'Agostini was cc'd on the Bigelow document; however you know I'm unable to communicate electronically with EDSO. Therefore Don Ashton, Sheriff D'Agostini's former CFO, has acted as 'mediator' between me and the Sheriff. Since the Sheriff has blocked my IP address, that means Mr. Ashton has to literally make a hard copy of all correspondence and hand deliver it to the Sheriff for me. I am perfectly cognizant that all correspondence addressed to the Sheriff, including Citizen's Complaints for Officer Misconduct, go directly to county counsel. That is akin to tampering with the USPS mail.

In response to the Bigelow document, Don Ashton sent me an email on August 17, 2018 threatening to 'regulate' and 'restrict' my ability to communicate electronically with county staff. Neither the Sheriff, Don Ashton, nor county counsel has any authority

whatsoever to do so! My response to Mr. Ashton's email was cc'd to you, and is attached as **Exhibit C**.

You've also been apprised of the fact that Sheriff D'Agostini has deprived me of the ability to communicate electronically with anybody in EDSO necessitating that I make multiple trips to EDSO in order to provide case file evidence of targeted hate crimes by the River Mafia Mob that have included weapons, assaults, threats, trespassing, casing, stalking, harassment, libel, theft, and armed intrusions. The identity theft, hacking and cyber-crime incidents were reportedly turned over to the IT Forensics division of the District Attorney's office, yet your office has failed to respond appropriately to my inquiries and/or CPRAs. A specific CPRA addressed to you and Sheriff D'Agostini was dated August 6, 2018 and was due August 17th. (**See Exhibit D**)

On September 3rd I received a response to the aforementioned CPRA from Assistant D.A. James Clinchard, which was back dated August 14th, but not mailed until August 31st. In his response he erroneously applies laws and exceptions which are entirely inapplicable to the documents I was seeking. To reiterate, ***I am the victim of multiple CRIMES, and as such I am THE authorized representative in pro per*** as delineated in CA GC 6254(f):

“...However state and local law enforcement agencies **shall disclose the names and addresses of persons involved in**, or witnesses other than confidential informants to, the incident, the description of any property involved, the date, time, and location of the incident, all diagrams, statements of the parties involved in the incident, the statements of all witnesses other than confidential informants, **to the victims of an incident, or an authorized representative thereof...**”

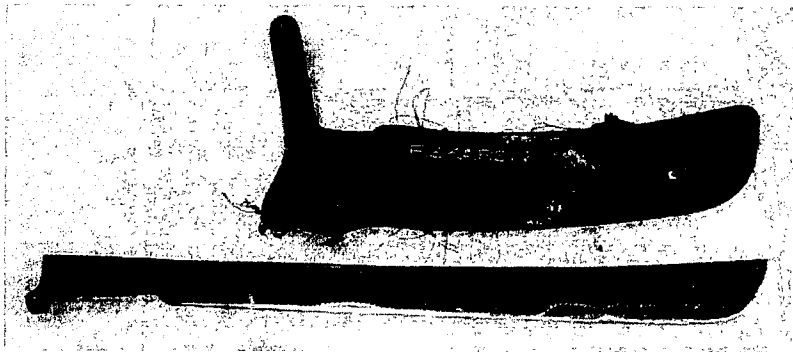
Case files EG15-5698 and EG15-15793 involving American River Conservancy were to have turned over by Deputy Bernie Brown to the IT Forensic Division of your office. Prior to being hired by EDSO Deputy Brown was the political consultant for Sheriff D'Agostini. When he left EDSO for medical reasons, I never heard a word again about his investigation as I'd been repeatedly assured by Deputy Brown. The distinct impression was that I'd been victimized again by Sheriff D'Agostini's 'Bureaucratic Shenanigans', the politically correct terminology for BS.

It is a matter of public record that the Sheriff approved my CCW permit, but then I received a certified letter from EDSO rescinding my approved CCW permit just 3 days before I was to pick it up at EDSO Records. The Sheriff added insult to injury by falsely attacking my good name and character. Law enforcement has failed to stop crime; therefore, I have a natural right of self-preservation as recognized in the Second, Ninth and Fourteenth Amendments. The right to self-preservation includes the right to possess the tools necessary to defend myself and my loved ones from harm. The right to keep and bear arms is a natural inherent right, constitutionally guaranteed, that every law abiding Citizen possesses; this right can never be restricted, limited, legislated, abridged, and/or denied, in any lawful way, whatsoever, by lawful Government.

EDSO staff has engaged in misleading, deceptive, or otherwise contrived actions and schemes in the course of denying qualified Citizens, such as me, a CCW permit.

Such schemes and actions are designed to mask the unlawful and improper denials of CCWs. (See Riddell v. Riddell Washington Corp., 866 F.2d 1480, 1491, D.C. Cir. 1989).

If a woman can't arm herself, then she's at the mercy of anyone who is. Being unarmed is putting oneself at the mercy of a stronger miscreant. It's harder to disarm somebody with an edged weapon than it is a gun. Edged weapons are just as devastating as guns in close quarters, which is where these things usually happen. When EDSO discourages residents from filing a Citizen's Arrest and pressing charges, the offender is essentially *granted permission to continue illicit activity* without fear of consequences. Think about that as you reflect upon all the evidence in case file **EG18-0098**:



Another example entailed multiple intimidation tactics and threats made against me by EDS Sr. Services attorney, Al Hamilton, during Taxpayers Association meetings. On several occasions he refused to allow me to participate in discussions, falsely accused me of 'creating a disturbance' and threatened to have the Sheriff remove me from the premises, when in fact, a room full of witnesses can attest there was absolutely nothing inappropriate about my conduct.

From: Melody Lane [mailto:melody.lane@reagan.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2017 6:50 PM
To: Vern R Pierson; Bob Cosley
Cc: Nancy Anderson
Subject: Meeting request - Al Hamilton threats/CA BAR Investigation

Mr. Pierson,

On several occasions Senior Services lawyer, Al Hamilton, has libeled, slandered and threatened me at Taxpayers Association meetings. Note the attached affidavit includes as an exhibit the testimony of a witness, Lori Parlin. Also attached is my most recent letter to the CA BAR.

Al Hamilton has similarly threatened to physically harm one other businesswoman, and has discriminated, intimidated and/or denied membership in the Association to at least five other women. Although I cannot speak on behalf of those women, it is my civic duty to bring to your attention the corrupt tactics of a public employee whose salary is paid via our taxes. Furthermore, any enterprise undertaken by any public official who tends to weaken public confidence and undermine the sense of security for individual rights is against public policy. Fraud is its elementary common law sense of deceit and this is one of the meanings that fraud bears [483 U.S. 372] in the statute.

Al Hamilton's illicit conduct cannot be tolerated indefinitely. Pursuant to your Constitutional Oaths, and in the interest of good governance and accountability, I request a one hour meeting with you and Mr. Cosley to discuss these issues and possible resolution. As usual, another individual will accompany me. It would therefore be appreciated if Nancy would provide two time slots for scheduling convenience.

Thanks in advance for your anticipated cooperation and timely response.

Melody Lane

Your subsequent lack of response to my correspondence documenting the aforementioned claims, demonstrates that you have consistently violated your oaths, thus, do not take your oaths seriously. The First Amendment guarantees the Right of free speech and the Right to petition government for **redress of grievances**, which, the oath taker, pursuant to his oath, is mandated to uphold. If he fails this requirement, then, he has violated two provisions of the First Amendment, the Public Trust and perjured his oath.

By not responding and/or not rebutting, the oath taker denies the Citizen remedy, thus, denies the Citizen constitutional due process of law, as stated within the Bill of Rights. By your own actions, pursuant to your oath, you have violated these First Amendment guarantees. An American Citizen, such as I, can expect, and has the Right and duty to demand, that government officers uphold their oaths to the Constitution(s) and abide by all constitutionally imposed mandates of their oaths. This is an unenumerated Right guaranteed in the Ninth Amendment, which I hereby claim and exercise.

Furthermore, there is no legitimate argument to support the claim that oath takers, such as you, are not required to respond to letters, emails or meeting requests, which, in this case, act as petitions for redress of grievances, stating complaints, charges and claims made against them by their constituents or by Citizens injured by their actions.

The aforementioned examples constitute criminal actions on the part of EDC public officials. All of these facts clearly demonstrate that the elected and appointed officials of EDC are in dereliction of duty, malfeasance of office, and have zero concerns for the safety of the Citizens who live in EDC. This proves, by their own actions and inaction, that the EDC officials, including you, routinely violate their oaths as an apparent custom, practice and policy, violate the Constitutions, at will, violate the constitutionally secured rights of the Citizens, at will, thus, have invoked the self-executing Sections 3 & 4 of the 14th Amendment, and pursuant to the superseding authority of the Constitution, have **ALREADY VACATED THEIR OFFICES AND HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO LAWFUL AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT ANY COUNTY AND PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THOSE OFFICES OR TO DRAW SALARIES AND BENEFITS FROM PUBLIC FUNDS**. Any actions they take in those offices are not only unlawful, but also illegal, and any public funds they expend from those offices are spent unlawfully, without valid constitutional authority.

Government representatives are agents of the People, receiving their limited, delegated authority from the People, and accepting the duty to exercise this authority on behalf of the People to support and enforce the national and state constitutions. By your inaction, it is clear that you have violated on numerous occasions each and every one of the above provisions. **You've been made aware of unlawful government practices within your department, yet you've failed to take any corrective measures. In so doing, you've aided and abetted the perpetuation of government fraud, and are therefore culpable, complicit and liable.**

Domestic enemies are those who oppose inherent rights guaranteed in the Constitution(s) and due process of law, and it is abundantly clear by your actions or inactions that you are domestic-enemy-traitors to the people, to the Constitution(s) and to America.

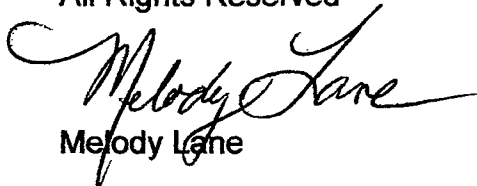
When you and other public officers violate the Constitutions, at will, as an apparent custom, practice and policy of office, you and they subvert the authority, mandates and protections of the Constitutions, thereby act as domestic enemies to these Republics and their people. When large numbers of public officers so act, this reduces America, California, and the County of El Dorado to the status of criminal frauds operating for the benefit of errant unconstitutional governments and their corporate allies, and not for the people they theoretically serve.

If you disagree with anything in this letter, then rebut that with which you disagree, in writing via a notarized affidavit, with particularity, to me, within thirty (30) days of the date of this letter, and support your disagreement with valid evidence, fact and law.

Your failure to respond, as stipulated, is your agreement with and admission to the fact that everything in this letter is true, correct, legal, lawful, and is your irrevocable agreement attesting to this, fully binding upon you, in any court in America, without your protest or objection and that of those who represent you.

Sincerely,

All Rights Reserved



Melody Lane

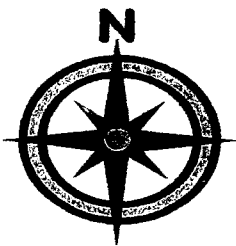
Attachments:

Exhibit A – 6/5/14 Letter to Vern Pierson & Grand Jury

Exhibit B – 7/10/14 Pierson/Cosley meeting agenda

Exhibit C - Ashton threat to cut off email access & ML response

Exhibit D - CPRA re: EG15-5698 & EG15-5793, EG18-06720, EG18-0098



Compass2Truth

Citizens Serving God in Truth and Liberty

P.O. Box 598
Coloma, CA 95613
(530) 642-1670
Melody.lane@reagan.com

June 5, 2014

TO: District Attorney Vern Pierson

**RE: REQUEST FOR MEETING TO DISCUSS
EDSO Dereliction of Duty & Violation of the Public Trust**

Dear Mr. Pierson,

Please find enclosed a small sample of materials which have been submitted to the Board of Supervisors involving the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office. These issues warrant your attention and action.

I'm confident you are aware by now that Sheriff D'Agostini, as well as several other public officials, is in violation of the public trust and his Constitutional Oath of Office. The Board of Supervisors recently affirmed during the 4/28/14 Special BOS meeting addressing the Cultural Assessment Survey that retaliatory, harassing, bullying or unethical conducts will not be tolerated.

The potential liability for El Dorado County against its bonding insurance policy is another concern of taxpayers who ultimately pay for the exorbitant cost of litigation.

Therefore I respectfully request a one-hour meeting with you to discuss the significance of the above issues. Another individual will accompany me as a representative for mutually concerned citizens. As with all meetings with public officials, an agenda will be prepared to keep us on track.

Please have your administrator contact me to coordinate schedules for this important meeting. I can be reached at (530) 642-1670. We look forward to your anticipated cooperation and hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Melody Lane
Founder – **Compass2Truth**

Attachments: 5/22/14 Cessna Citizen Complaint
4/29/14 CA Public Records Act Requests (non-compliant) Coordination/EDSO Refusal to Serve
4/28/14 BOS Transcript – Cultural Assessment
4/22/14 CPRA – Emergency Evacuation Plan/Fire Stations (non-compliant)
4/7 & 29/14 CPRAs re: EDSO MOUs
2/25/14 BOS Transcript – Bullying/Retaliation/Discrimination

CC: EDC Grand Jury

EXHIBIT A

Agenda
DA Vern Pierson & Bob Cosley
7/10/14 @ 2:30 PM

- I. EDSO OVERVIEW
 - A. History of Meetings
 - 1. RMAC – River Management Plan
 - 2. CA State Parks
 - 3. BOS/CAO/Legislators

- II. ISSUES
 - A. Dereliction of Duty - Accountability
 - B. Constitutional Oath of Office – Oathkeepers: Last Line of Defense
 - C. Violation of Public Trust
 - D. Title 18 Sections 241 & 242
 - E. Jurisdiction
 - F. CPRAs – Delinquent & Backdated
 - G. Refusal to Assign Case #s
 - H. EDSO Access – Refusal to Meet
 - I. Public Safety – Evacuation Plans
 - J. Citizen Complaints - False Reports/No Investigation
 - K. Resolution 113-95 v. AB1234 – Unjust Enrichment
 - L. Retaliation – Cultural Assessment Survey

- III. NEXT STEPS
 - A. Request for Investigation - Timeline
 - B. Grand Jury – Attorney General
 - C. Follow Up

EXHIBIT B

From: Melody Lane [mailto:melody.lane@reagan.com]

Sent: Friday, August 17, 2018 10:27 PM

To: 'Donald Ashton'; Michael Ranalli; shiva.frentzen@edcgov.us; john.hidahl@edcgov.us; sue.novasel@edcgov.us; brian.veerkamp@edcgov.us; Vern R Pierson

Cc: 'AD-Department-Heads-m'; 'The BOSONE'; 'The BOSTWO'; 'The BOSTHREE'; 'The BOSFOUR'; 'The BOSFIVE'; Roger Trout; Vickie Sanders; Noah Rucker-Triplett; Serena Carter; donna.mullens@edcgov.us; kris.payne@edcgov.us; john.arenz@edcgov.us; josh.morgan@edcgov.us; steve.yonker@edcgov.us; James Williams; gary.miller@edcgov.us; jvegna@edcgov.us; jeff.hansen@edcgov.us; brian.shinault@edcgov.us; Jim Mitrisin; edc.cob@edcgov.us; Char Tim; William (Bill) Schultz

Subject: RE: Email Access

Mr. Ashton, et al,

First and foremost, permit me to remind you who you work for by drawing your attention to the words of Sheriff D'Agostini during our first meeting after he was elected, ***"You need a new Board [of Supervisors.] All of them. Hold their feet to the fire. Mine too; I work for YOU."***

My taxes pay for your salaries and all EDC support services. That means neither Don Ashton, Sheriff D'Agostini, the BOS or County Counsel have any authority to restrict, dictate, or deprive me access to any government representative, public information, or use of IT services.

There has been a purpose to my correspondence being addressed to you, the BOS and other county staff, and the reason is clearly stated in the Affidavit that was received by Don Ashton on January 8, 2018 at 8:54 AM:

We discussed during our 8/3/16 meeting that evidence reveals your collusion with county staff to deprive Citizens of their right to public information, refusal to engage in dialog, or participate in the deliberation of public policy. Consequently, the decisions made by you and the other Supervisors that are based on collusion and deliberately falsified information will ultimately adversely affect all EDC tax payers through unnecessarily expensive litigation, thus, undermining the public trust in local government.

By your actions and in some cases, inaction, it is clear that you have violated on numerous occasions each and every one of the above provisions. **You've been made aware of unlawful government practices within your department, yet you've failed to take any corrective measures. In so, doing you've aided and abetted the perpetuation of government fraud, and are therefore culpable, complicit and liable.**

When you and other public officers violate the Constitutions, at will, as an apparent custom, practice and policy of office, you and they subvert the authority, mandates and protection of the Constitutions, thereby act as domestic enemies to these Republics and their people. **When large numbers of public officers so act, this reduces America, California, and the County of El Dorado to the status of frauds operating for the benefit of governments and their corporate allies, and not for the people they theoretically serve.**

None of my correspondence has been mere expression of opinion or viewpoint. Everything is all based on truth, fact, evidence and valid law. **Mike Ranalli, Shiva Frentzen, Roger Trout, Gary Miller, Bill Schultz, Al Hamilton and Assemblyman Frank Bigelow** have received similar notifications. You are encouraged to carefully review the substantiating documents submitted into the public record. Those who are cc'd on this message are hereby notified that they also are culpable, complicit and liable.

EXHIBIT C

So cut the Bureaucratic Shenanigans, threats, and bully tactics. The solution is simple: Just do the ***right thing*** pursuant to your Constitutional Oaths of Office.

Better yet, fire Consigliere Ciccozzi, thereby saving EDC taxpayers a whole lot of headaches and the exorbitant drain of unnecessary litigation.

Please ensure Sheriff D'Agostini receives a copy of this message and REMEDIES the problem immediately.

Melody Lane

Founder – Compass2Truth

As history teaches us, if the people have little or no knowledge of the basics of government and their rights, those who wield governmental power inevitably wield it excessively. After all, a citizenry can only hold its government accountable if it knows when the government oversteps its bounds.

From: Donald Ashton [mailto:don.ashton@edcgov.us]

Sent: Friday, August 17, 2018 3:45 PM

To: Melody Lane

Cc: AD-Department-Heads-m; The BOSONE; The BOSTWO; The BOSTHREE; The BOSFOUR; The BOSFIVE

Subject: Email Access

Good afternoon Ms. Lane,

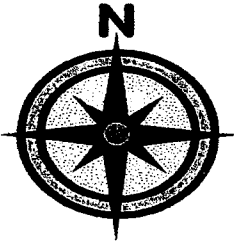
Over the last few months, you have sent numerous emails, sometimes including lengthy email chains and/or attachments along with your communication. These emails have included in their distribution numerous staff members in addition to Department Heads, my office, the offices of the Board of Supervisors and their assistants.

The County's email system is designed to make County operations more effective and efficient. In furtherance of that objective the County has a practice of limiting certain types of email traffic. The County has never by policy or practice opened its email system for indiscriminate use by the general public.

The County takes seriously its obligation to provide the constituents of the County with access to their local government, however, the County's email system is not a traditional public forum nor has the County designated it as such. As a nonpublic forum, the County can impose reasonable regulations on the use of its email system. In fact, even where a public forum is involved, the law allows reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions upon the use of that public forum. As has been noted "Freedom of expression does not mean that everyone with opinions or beliefs to express may do so at any time and place..." It has also been recognized that the government and the taxpayers it serves have a substantial interest in avoiding unnecessary drains upon the public resources. By sending these lengthy emails with extensive attachments to numerous County employees and officials, public resources are diverted from other important tasks when those employees and officials must open and review the email and attachments.

This is to let you know that effective immediately the County is restricting your ability to email County staff. In order to ensure you continue to have access to your local government, you will still be permitted to email all Board of Supervisors members, their assistants, County Department Heads as well as edc.cob@edcgov.us and planning@edcgov.us. You remain free to express any opinions, requests, or other comments in your emails as the County has no interest in restricting your ability express your viewpoint on matters of County governance.

We appreciate your interest in the operation of your local government and trust you understand that we share your desire to ensure that the County operates effectively and efficiently for all of the citizens of the County.



Compass2Truth

Citizens for Constitutional Liberty

P.O. Box 598
Coloma, CA 95613

August 6, 2018

To: Sheriff John D'Agostini
Vern Pierson

CC: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors Districts #1, 2, 3, 4 & 5
EDC Clerk to the Board
CAO Don Ashton

CA PUBLIC RECORDS ACT REQUEST

I am the victim of multiple hate crimes and retaliation. Pursuant to my rights under the California Public Records Act (Government Code Section 6250 et seq.), I ask to obtain the following documentation:

1. EDSO Case File **EG18-06720** involving Greg Jorgensen.
2. All EDSO documentation, reports and correspondence pertaining to **EG18-0098** involving Greg Jorgensen and Robert Palacios.
3. All EDSO documentation, reports and EDSO correspondence pertaining to the investigation of Case Files **EG15-5698 & EG15-5793** by Deputy Bernie Brown. The investigation was reported to have been handed over to the District Attorney/Forensics IT. Please include all associated correspondence with the D.A.

The agency must justify the withholding of any record by demonstrating that the record is exempt or that the public interest in confidentiality outweighs the public interest in disclosure. (§6255) The agency always bears the burden of justifying nondisclosure, and "any reasonably segregable portion... shall be provided...after deletion of the portions which are exempt." (§ 6253(a)) The agency must provide assistance by helping to identify records and information relevant to the request and suggesting ways to overcome any practical basis for denying access. (§ 6253.1)

If you determine that some but not all of the information is exempt from disclosure and that you intend to withhold it, I ask that you provide a signed notification citing the specific legal authorities on whom you rely.

To avoid unnecessary delays or costs of duplication, electronic responses and/or pdf copies of documents are acceptable and may be emailed to melody.lane@reagan.com. **Access is always free.** Fees for "inspection" or "processing" are prohibited. (§ 6253) It is requested that your determination be made within **10 days—or sooner—**as stipulated within the California Public Records Act, Government Code 6253(c).

Thank you for your compliance and timely response.

Sincerely,

Melody Lane

Founder – Compass2Truth

EXHIBIT D

Calif. Mom Prevails in Civil Lawsuit Settlement

by Denny Walsh On Sep 28, 2009

Sep. 27--Kathleen Copelin Pastula wanted to see the sheriff of her county.

Perhaps naively, she went to the El Dorado County sheriff's office without an appointment to discuss with him her daughter's substance abuse problem and two experiences stemming from her daughter's condition that Pastula had with deputies within the previous 72 hours.

A 56-year-old housewife and mother of four, she was looking for answers, trying to cope with the worst kind of trouble a parent can face.

Pastula never got the meeting she wanted. Instead she became embroiled in an ordeal that would involve a night in jail, two courts, a criminal charge dismissed and a check written to her to settle a civil lawsuit.

Until Feb. 10, 2008 -- three days before her visit to the sheriff's office -- she had never had an encounter with law enforcement. She was jailed on that date when a deputy allowed her daughter to make a "citizen's arrest" based on Pastula seizing a large supply of Xanax her daughter obtained from a physician unaware of her history of addiction.

Pastula had learned that her daughter planned to trade the Xanax for street drugs, according to her attorney, Stewart Katz.

She was not charged with a crime in connection with that arrest.

When Sgt. Jeff Dreher told Pastula she could not see Sheriff Jeff Neves and could not make an appointment with him, he ordered her to leave the office. She refused.

An angry Dreher "threw her into a glass-faced display case, twisted her arm and forced her face-first to the (floor) -- and -- arrested her," according to Pastula's civil rights lawsuit in Sacramento federal court.

"It went from zero to 60 in 10 seconds," said Katz in an interview Saturday. "Instead of trying to run her off, why didn't he tell her the sheriff was not even on the premises, which was true, or just give her a complaint form to take with her and fill out?"

Pastula was transported to jail in Placerville, "where she was tasered, forced to remove all of her clothing and denied emergency medical and psychiatric care," the suit alleged.

"It was her second time in jail in two days after never being in trouble in her life," Katz noted.

Based on Dreher's report, Pastula was charged with resisting arrest. On the trial's second day, after hearing all the witnesses, El Dorado Superior Court Judge James R. Wagoner threw the case out and excused the jury.

"I just do not see how a reasonable jury, having heard this information, this testimony, and evaluating the conduct, could find that Ms. Pastula had violated" the law, Wagoner told the attorneys.

"You could believe everything the cop said and there still wouldn't be a crime," Katz added.

El Dorado Chief Assistant County Counsel Edward Knapp strongly disagreed.

"A reasonable person could decide she had done the crime charged," he declared in an interview Friday.

The civil suit, filed June 8, was settled on Aug. 13 with the county agreeing to pay Pastula \$127,000. The resolution came so quickly the county had not yet responded to the suit. U.S. District Judge Frank C. Damrell Jr. dismissed it Wednesday.

Knapp's rendition of events differs markedly from Pastula's.

"She was acting totally out of control, and they thought she was headed toward the display case to smash it, and was going to injure herself in the process," Knapp said of the incident at the sheriff's office.

Dreher "grabbed her and a tussle starts. You know how things tend to escalate in circumstances like this."

Knapp said deputies may actually have saved Pastula's life at the jail.

"She began choking herself with the drawstring of her hooded sweatshirt, and she was fighting them so hard they couldn't get her hand out from under the string," he said. "She was losing consciousness. They tasered her to get her hand free from the string."

Her suit claimed officers then demanded she remove all her clothing and, when she did not comply, "was dragged down the hall to an isolation cell. Pastula either lost consciousness or blocked out what transpired" next.

"What she remembers -- is waking up nude, covered in urine and excrement and covered partly by a 'safety' garment."

"Later, Pastula begged officers for a blanket, but they simply laughed at her," the suit alleged. She "spent the evening praying, believing her life was in imminent danger."

Knapp said, "There is a tendency to believe that if you pay a lot of money, you must have done something wrong. That's not true in civil rights cases. If there is so much as a dollar awarded in damages, the defendant is on the hook for the plaintiff's attorney's fees, which could easily run into six figures."

In Pastula's case, Knapp said, "She got maybe half what we would have paid our own attorney for a trial."

Call The Bee's Denny Walsh, (916) 321-1189.

http://edca.typepad.com/eastern_district_of_calif/2009/09/el-dorado-county-pays-woman-127000-after-encounter-at-sheriffs-office-leads-to-arrest-and-tasing.html

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<https://www.lewrockwell.com/lrc-blog/never-never-never-go-to-the-police-for-help/>

Never, Never, NEVER Go to the Police for "Help"

William Norman Grigg

Several years ago, after catching one of my children trying to steal a small toy from a convenience store, I took him to the local police department to arrange a mini- “Scared Straight” lecture.

A young, polite, and very professional officer explained what can happen to people who get caught shoplifting. I had taught my child the importance of property rights, and my intent was to impress on him the seriousness of violating those rights through theft.

Although that melodramatic little exercise turned out well, as I recall that episode today I can’t help but wonder if I had momentarily taken leave of my sanity.

Every encounter between citizens and law enforcement, even those involving cooperative parents trying to correct wayward children, is pregnant with the possibility of unprovoked criminal violence under the color of state “authority.” Witness [the infuriating case of Kathleen Copelin Pastula](#).

Mrs. Pastula, a mother of four from El Dorado, California, made the tragic mistake of turning to the [El Dorado County Sheriff’s Department](#) for help with her daughter’s drug addiction.

Pastula’s daughter had acquired a large quantity of Xanax she intended to trade for narcotics. On February 10, 2008, Pastula visited the Sheriff’s office in the hope of discussing the matter with Sheriff Jeff Neves. When that request was rebuffed, Pastula refused to leave, out of desperation to help her daughter.

Within seconds, Sgt. Jeff Dreher “threw [Pastula] into a glass-faced display case, twisted her arm and forced her face-first” into the floor, recalls Stewart Katz, the woman’s attorney. “It went from zero to 60 in 10 seconds. Instead of trying to run her off, why didn’t he tell her the sheriff was not even on the premises, which was true, or just give her a complaint form to take with her and fill out?”

After being assaulted by Dreher, Pastula was taken to a jail in Placerville, “where she was tasered, forced to remove all her clothing, and denied emergency medical and psychiatric care,” Katz continued. When she refused an order to remove all of her clothing, Pastula was dragged into an isolation cell. The next thing she remembered was “waking up nude, covered in urine and excrement and covered partly by a ‘safety’ garment.”

When she begged for a blanket, the jail guards “simply laughed at her,” recounts Katz. The traumatized mother “spent the evening praying, believing her life was in imminent danger.”

As is common in such situations, Pastula — the victim of unprovoked police violence — was charged with the non-crime of “resisting arrest.” That charge was quickly thrown out by El Dorado Superior Court Judge James R. Wagoner, who explained: “I just do not see how a reasonable jury, having heard this information, this testimony, and evaluating the conduct, could find that Mrs. Pastula” had committed a crime.

Pastula filed suit against the county on June 8, and received a taxpayer-funded \$127,000 settlement on August 13. [Notes the Sacramento Bee](#): “The resolution came so quickly the county had not yet responded to the suit.”

Horrible as Pastula’s experience was, it could have been much worse if she lived in Sacramento and had sought help from the [Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department](#). [Several years ago it was revealed that numerous people detained by the Department on minor charges were left crippled or otherwise permanently impaired when they were strapped down for prolonged periods in “restraint chairs.”](#)

If you’re a conscientious parent seeking help with a troubled child, the *last* place you should seek that help would be from the state’s armed enforcers.

(Thanks to LRC reader Kirk Bolas for the tip.)

9:17 am on September 28, 2009 [Email William Norman Grigg](#)

<https://www.edcgov.us/County%20Press%20Releases/Pages/El-Dorado-County-Sheriff%27s-Lieutenant-Jeff-Dreher-Joins-the-El-Dorado-County-District-Attorney%27s-Office.aspx>

El Dorado County Sheriff's Lieutenant Jeff Dreher Joins the El Dorado County District Attorney's Office

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El Dorado County Sheriff's Lieutenant Jeff Dreher, One of the Most Respected Regional Leaders in Law Enforcement, Joins the El Dorado County District Attorney's Office

Department:
Sheriff
Date:
3/2/2018

Today, District Attorney Chief Investigator Jeff Dreher was sworn in by District Attorney Vern Pierson. His selection to this position occurred after an extensive process to identify the next Chief Investigator. This recruitment effort was led by former Department of Justice Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement Chief John Gaines.



El Dorado County Sheriff John D'Agostini, who was present for the swearing in ceremony, said, "Although this is a loss for the Sheriff's Office, it is a significant gain for the DA's Office and all of law enforcement throughout El Dorado County."

District Attorney Pierson stated, "I am extremely excited to welcome Chief Dreher to our team. His strong ties to the community and to the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office will help continue the longstanding partnership between our agencies."

Jeff Dreher has 23 years of law enforcement experience, all of which has been with the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office. He comes to our agency with 12 years of experience as a Supervisor and Administrator. Over the past 4 years he has held the position of Lieutenant of the Investigations/Narcotics unit. As part of his duties he has served as the Commander of the Sheriff's S.W.A.T. team and was the liaison with the **Sheriff's El Dorado County television show**.

Chief Dreher noted, "I have loved being a part of the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office and will truly miss working with such a great group of dedicated public servants. I am looking forward to coming to the District Attorney's Office and continuing to work with the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office and the rest of our law enforcement partners to carry on the fight to keep El Dorado County safe."

ENTERPRISE-RECORD

OPINION > EDITORIALS

Editorial: Camp Fire the tragedy we were all warned about



PARADISE, CA – NOVEMBER 15: Aerial footage shows homes destroyed by the Camp Fire near the Paradise Plaza off Clark Road in Paradise, California, on Thursday, November 15, 2018. (LiPo Ching/Bay Area News Group)

By [EDITORIAL BOARD](#)

PUBLISHED: November 17, 2018, 4:41 pm | UPDATED: November 17, 2018, 4:52 pm

Nobody would have ever thought this could happen, President Donald Trump said while touring the Camp Fire devastation Saturday.

That's not true. The Camp Fire was inevitable. It is the event that so many dreaded for so long.

Some people prepared. Fire prevention officials planned. They drilled. They worked with homeowners. They worked to start fire-safe councils and Fire on the Ridge, and sent fire prevention officials to schools via a program called Fire Pals. They raised money to keep fire lookouts open when the state said it wouldn't.

Eventually, geography and topography proved to be the trap everyone thought it was.

Paradise and Magalia sit on top of a pine-studded ridge between several canyons. There are very few subdivisions. Instead, homes have been built one at a time and tucked into trees. Fly over the area in a helicopter and those trees stand like matchsticks surrounding well-hidden homes.

Most cities have grass. Paradise's predominant ground covering was mainly pine needles — extremely flammable pine needles.

It wasn't a well-planned city, but rather a village that grew into a city. The grid pattern of Paradise's roads is haphazard. There are few arterials. Instead, there are two-lane roads without much connectivity. When people tried to evacuate in a flash, those bottlenecks were pronounced. Several people died in their cars, trapped by gridlock.

The primary roads leading out of town aren't large. Only the Skyway is two lanes in both directions. Two summers ago the town decided to turn the Skyway from four lanes to two in the downtown area to "calm" traffic and make things more quaint. That couldn't have helped the escape.

Clark, Pentz and Neal are rural roads, one lane in each direction. The town, in a lesson from the 2008 Humboldt Fire, learned that all lanes on the Skyway, Clark, and Pentz should be used for downhill traffic out of town in an evacuation. That's what was done Nov. 8. It had to help, and still there was unprecedented loss of life.

The area around Paradise and Magalia burns every summer. Often homes are destroyed. Usually, aggressive firefighting saves a disaster — and the town would again breathe a collective sigh of relief over escaping the big one.

People warned it was coming. That's why Congressman Wally Herger, Supervisor Kim Yamaguchi and others fought so hard early this century for the upper ridge escape route through Butte Meadows. The government purse strings were only loosened when enough politicians became convinced, after years of hammering by our local representatives that this was a disaster waiting to happen. The upper ridge escape route helped last week.

Again, it wasn't enough.

There were overt signs. Larry Mitchell, a retired former Paradise Post and Enterprise-Record reporter, recalls when a new fire chief was hired in the 1980s with very strong credentials. He was immediately concerned about the fire danger. He took Mitchell on a tour of places that he said were especially dangerous. "He showed me places along the canyon edges where there were ravines full of brush and talked about how the fire could rush up them, like a chimney," Mitchell wrote to us this week.

The chief didn't last long. Mitchell said he got the impression one reason the man left was that he didn't want to be fire chief of a town that could explode in flames.

With hounding, some residents did an excellent job of creating what firefighters call "defensive space" around their homes. Others weren't about to touch their pines. And they didn't like anyone else doing it either. When PG&E went into Paradise earlier this year to cut trees that were near power lines, people complained. Pines were the very reason many people move to Paradise. They accepted the danger, despite the warnings from so many people.

There are countless stories in our archives like this headline from 2003: "Firestorms not a matter of if, but when." It's not like our headline writer was prescient. It's what everybody says here, every year.

And it finally happened.

Now what? Paradise needs to decide how it will rebuild. The maze of streets doesn't look so charming. The city's forest doesn't seem so quaint. The two-lane Skyway downtown looks like a trap.

Paradise will come back, but it can't be what it once was. It shouldn't be.