

Madam Chair, Mike Applegarth.

As if 9 o'clock this morning I am not on the clock, I have chosen to take the rest of the day off.

I think you all know me, and my character, and the fact that I love El Dorado County and I love working here.

I've agonized over this and my wife just called me and for the record she didn't want me to say anything. So if this turns out to be a bad idea it's all on me.

In no way does what I'm about to say reflect in any way on the CAO or anyone in the CAO's office.

But, I'm told that you will not tolerate retaliation, so let's test it.

I'm very, very tired of being afraid to tell the truth.

8 years ago when I was considering a position with El Dorado County, I was warned by a Supervisor's assistant not to come here because a particular elected official was impossible to deal with and actually running the organization.

And I'm sad to say that for the last two months I have been applying to other opportunities. Sad, because I grew up here, my parents are here, my brother and my sister are here. I've worked for you for 7.5 years as an employee, and for 6 years as a legislative staffer before that, looking out for the best interests of the county and its citizens.

This organization is craving someone to stand up to the Auditor-Controller.

I've been personally yelled at on several occasions. I'll never forget the day he called me screaming that he was the "god damned auditor controller" before he hung up on me.

Or the times he had called me for "dirt" on a fire chief or a member of the board of supervisors.

Recently he was belittling my work on the fire contract to two of the chiefs I'd worked most closely with. I have witnesses to that; I've asked them about that.

So many of my colleagues have shared countless, similar stories. And I'm not going to share any of their details because they're afraid, and it's not my place. But somebody's got to stand up and tell it like it is.

I've seen department heads and CAOs in my office literally cry over how he has treated them.

The Board needs to put an end to this.

Let's talk about this abysmal treatment, not continue to sweep it under the rug. Let's talk about why appointed department heads are constantly shuffling through the revolving door.

Let's talk about the number of vendors who go unpaid because the Auditor doesn't like the staffer or department head submitting the claim.

Let's talk about the incessantly late social services claim, or the backlog of journal entries that aren't posted, or problems with rate development.

Let's talk about the half-truths he tells this Board right here to manipulate the process to his favor.

This behavior is costing taxpayers thousands and thousands of dollars through workplace stress, reduced productivity, and grinding inefficiency. If you are not concerned about this behavior affects your employees, you should be concerned about its costs to you constituents.

You want to fix the culture of fear? Then fix this problem. I know what's in the survey, not because I have read it, but because my colleagues have told me how they responded. It's been the scuttlebutt, the whispering over the past several weeks. What did you say? How did you respond? I said this...I'm afraid to say that. Ask your consultants if I'm correct.

Consider censure, consider hiring an outside auditor to report to you on the functions of that office, consider calling for resignation. Act on the concerns that I know you all have, and that most of you have shared with me personally.

My parents always taught me to stand up to bullies.

Although I wasn't included in the cultural survey, 8 out of 13 items attached to this agenda were submitted by me—a former EDC County employee, HR Director & whistleblower.

In Summary:

On average, 17.5% of County employees were “dissatisfied” with their employment. The following departments each had dissatisfaction rates higher than average, based upon responses within the department: Information Technology (41%); Probation Field (32%); Public Defender (26.5%); **Sheriff's Office (23.5%);** Community Development Agency (22%).

**Retaliation.** Approximately 140 employees stated that they would not feel comfortable reporting an incident because they feared retaliation.

**Poor Work Environment.** Approximately 36 employees stated that they were planning to leave the County because of a poor work environment, which included bullying, excessive stress, and favoritism.

**Harassment/Bullying.** Approximately 47 employees cited concerns of harassment, workplace bullying, favoritism, and/or retaliation, though it was unclear whether the cited actions were taken because of a **protected characteristic**.

**My question for Pam Knorr which I expect a response today:** Are the following individuals a protected and/or exempt class of employees?

1. Sheriff D'Agostini
2. Al Hamilton
3. Karl Weiland
4. Roger Trout
5. Ron Briggs
6. Kim Kerr
7. Chris Daley (Mtn. Democrat Press Reporter)

I'd like to particularly address the situation involving EDC's Constitutional Sheriff. The Sheriff's staff is a reflection of his leadership ability. He is supposed to be our last line of defense. I took John D'Agostini at his word when he said during one of our meetings not long after he was elected, ***“You need a new Board. Hold their feet to the fire. Mine too. I work for you.”***

As the Board was made aware, Sheriff D'Agostini cut off my email access and has refused to respond to matters within his jurisdiction. All evidence indicates this was done in RETALIATION after I held his feet to the fire during the September 2013 Tea Party Patriots of EDH meeting:

1. When he saw me shaking my head the Sheriff called upon me regarding:
  - Manipulation of crime statistics.
  - Refusal to assign Case File # to incident reports.
  - Issue of Unjust Enrichment = Resolution 113-95/AB1234 – visibly upset as he walked out of room in a huff.
2. Refusal to enter material evidence into a Case File after theft of a surveillance camera & other intrusions threatening the safety & security of my private property.
3. Refusal to continue scheduling regular meetings as witnessed by Roger Trout, Lt. Tim Becker & MGDG Superintendent Jeremy McReynolds.
4. October 23, 2013 "*We Work for You*" community meeting w/Ron Briggs in Garden Valley: "*You're taking up too much of my staff's valuable time.*" (witnessed by Undersheriff Rich Williams) *< Brother in law (nepotism)*
5. Blocked email access & refusal to remedy the situation since September 2013 - present.

This is an election year when matters of Public Trust, transparency and accountability are in crisis and daily making headlines. Such disrespect for the Sheriff's Constitutional Oath of Office--and the citizens who elected him to office--is a badge of disgrace to this county. My purpose for publicly submitting this documentation is because citizens of El Dorado County have a right to be duly informed before they cast their votes.

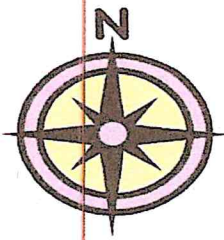
This is the appropriate time and place for the BOS to address the situation starting at the very top of the pecking order. Not only is it your DUTY, it is a golden opportunity to "do the right thing" and thereby honor your oaths of office to the citizens of our County.

My 4-part question for the Board & Pam Knorr, was my email forwarded to Sheriff D'Agostini as I requested, was there any response from the Sheriff, is the Sheriff & aforementioned staff exempt, and how do you plan to address the problem?

<sup>Mr</sup>  
Madam Clerk: Please enter these documents into the public record and note the CPRA was previously submitted on 4/22/14 via email:

1. This transcript
2. **4/22/14 CPRA re: Coloma Resort/Mt. Murphy Road incident 4/4/14**
3. D'Agostini blocked email 4/27/14





# Compass2Truth

*Citizens Serving God in Truth and Liberty*

P.O. Box 598  
Coloma, CA 95613  
(530) 642-1670  
[melody.lane@reagan.com](mailto:melody.lane@reagan.com)

April 22, 2014

To: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors  
EDC Clerk to the Board

## CA PUBLIC RECORDS ACT REQUEST

Pursuant to my rights under the California Public Records Act (Government Code Section 6250 et seq.), I ask to obtain the following:

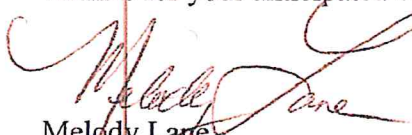
- A copy of **all EDSO and CHP email correspondence** relevant to the Coloma Resort transport of modular units down Mt. Murphy Road the week of March 31 – April 4, 2014.
- A copy of the specific **email correspondence from a CHP Sergeant** referred to by Placerville Officer Hoey in a voice mail message left on my home phone on 4/7/14 at 12:45 PM regarding the April 4, 2014 incident called into Dispatch.
- Written justification for **EDSO and CHP refusal to assign a Case File Number** as requested to the 4/4/14 incident involving the transport of Coloma Resort modular units and obstruction of traffic on Mt. Murphy Road. **(Please see attached response from Lt. Golmitz to a previously submitted CPRA.)**

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 legal authorities on whom you rely.

AB1234 was signed in 2005 by the Secretary of State which superseded EDC Resolution 113-95. (Resolution 113-95 no longer exists on the Government website.) Agencies may charge the **direct cost** of producing a copy of a record. The direct cost of duplication includes the pro-rata (proportionate cost) of copying equipment as well as the pro-rata cost of the person running the equipment. The direct costs of duplication **DO NOT** include costs affiliated with the research, retrieval, or redaction of a record as the Sheriff claimed previously. Such exorbitant fees are referred to as UNJUST ENRICHMENT.

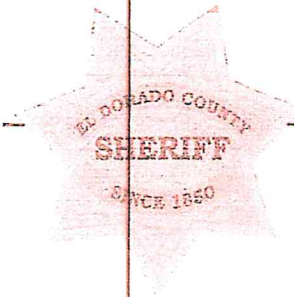
In order to avoid unnecessary costs of duplication, digital copies of documents are acceptable and may be emailed to [melody.lane@reagan.com](mailto:melody.lane@reagan.com). It is requested that your determination be made within **10 days** as stipulated within the California Public Records Act **Government Code 6253(c)**.

Thanks for your anticipated cooperation.

  
Melody Lane  
Founder – Compass2Truth

Attachment: 4/11/14 Lt. Bryan Golmitz response to 4/7/14 CPRA

*Rcvd 4/17/14*



JOHN D'AGOSTINI  
SHERIFF - CORONER - PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR  
COUNTY OF EL DORADO  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

April 11, 2014

Ms. Melody Lane  
P.O. Box 598  
Coloma, CA 95613

Re: Public Records Request

Dear Ms. Lane,

I have received and reviewed your Public Records Act Request dated April 7, 2014.

You have requested relevant El Dorado Sheriff's Office case file reports and information for an event that occurred on April 4, 2014

1. EDC Dispatch call/report made by Melody Lane
2. All calls/reports made on behalf of the Coloma Resort
3. CHP call/report made by Melody Lane on April 4, 2014
4. A copy of EDSO Case File #14-3120

The Sheriff's Office has complied with your requested information with the exception of item 3. CHP call/report. The Sheriff's Office does not maintain or have access to CHP communications. A search was conducted of our records in an attempt to locate a CHP transfer call to the Sheriff's Office, but none was located. Copies of the reports are available to you Monday - Friday during business hours at the Records Division located at 300 Fair Lane, Placerville CA 95667. You may also call the Records Division at (530) 621-5703 to schedule an appointment.

Government Code Section 54985 allows the Board of Supervisors to pass ordinance allowing for full reasonable cost recovery. Per El Dorado County Resolution 113-95 there is a \$10.00 fee for each report requested:

Sincerely,

Lt. Bryan Gölmitz  
El Dorado County Sheriff's Office  
Support Services

**"Serving El Dorado County Since 1850"**  
HEADQUARTERS- 300 FAIR LANE, PLACERVILLE, CA 95667  
JAIL DIVISION- 300 FORNI ROAD, PLACERVILLE, CA 95667  
TAHOE JAIL- 1051 AL TAHOE BLVD., SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CA 96150  
TAHOE PATROL- 1360 JOHNSON BLVD., SUITE 100, SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CA 96150

## Melody Lane

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**From:** MAILER-DAEMON (Mail Delivery System)  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 27, 2014 4:23 PM  
**To:** melody.lane@reagan.com  
**Subject:** Undelivered Mail Returned to Sender  
**Attachments:** details.txt; Undelivered Message Headers.txt

This is the mail system at host smtp2.relay.ord1c.emailsrvr.com.

I'm sorry to have to inform you that your message could not be delivered to one or more recipients. It's attached below.

For further assistance, please send mail to postmaster.

If you do so, please include this problem report. You can delete your own text from the attached returned message.

The mail system

<[john.dagostini@edso.org](mailto:john.dagostini@edso.org)>: host edso.org.s9a1.psmtp.com[74.125.148.10] said:  
550-5.7.1 The user or domain that you are sending to (or from) has a policy  
that 550-5.7.1 prohibited the mail that you sent. Please contact your  
domain 550-5.7.1 administrator for further details. For more information,  
please visit 550 5.7.1  
<http://support.google.com/a/bin/answer.py?answer=172179> ck1si9155397pad.368  
- gsmtpl (in reply to end of DATA command)