

Rivera, Michael

Item G. Public Comment

The City of Paso Robles

Mayor: John Hamon

Council Members: Sharon Roben, Chris Bausch, Steve Gregory, Fred Strong

CC: Chief of Police Damian Nordan, City Clerk, City Attorney, FPPC

I am deeply saddened to report an act perpetrated by a sitting member of this City Council. Yesterday, after my wife and I attended a luncheon meeting downtown, we witnessed Council Member Sharon Roden removing my sign in front of a Business on 13th Street that I had permission to have there by the business owner. The act is reprehensible, but more disturbing is that after removing my sign, she placed her campaign sign where mine had been and zip-tied it to the public fencing. When placing my sign, I purposely used T posts to avoid using the city fencing. In addition, an additional sign was put up right next to Ms Roden's sign, Councilmember Steve Gregory's. Mr Gregory should know better. To his credit, his sign was removed. My question is, who put it up?

This act is a direct challenge to our election laws and a complete disrespect for a candidate. I interpret this as a serious case of election interference by someone who should know better: Councilmember Roden. The code of Civility that we all signed when we began our run for office clearly outlines how we should conduct ourselves, and this act by Ms Roden is a clear disregard for civility. It reveals a character flaw that the community should be aware of. This incident also demonstrates a complete disrespect for election law itself. We all recently witnessed another act of vandalism on another candidate's sign, Laurene McCoy, a school board candidate, and I also spoke out about this. However, the City Council remained silent. You must address this issue.

Once again, I am deeply disappointed. As this election unfolds, I hope we can all rise above petty and juvenile acts and focus on the issues that matter to our community.

With Respect

Michael Rivera

Candidate for Paso Robles City Council 3rd District