

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] [Phil Brock](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Formal complaint against Stephanie Reich/ aka the day Santa Monica City Gov called in 3 armed police officers to control 100 of SM's Elders.
Date: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 9:45:13 AM

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Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

"This Is Santa Monica's Vacancy Rate"

5/19/23 -- *Santa Monica
Mirror*

[https://smmirror.com/2023/
05/this-is-santa-monicas-
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That statement doesn't seem to be accurate.

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There's quite a difference between 10% and the 3 to 4% figure Stephanie gave the ARB.

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We had a terrific turnout of people who want to participate in the democratic process, who had been invited by the city to speak before the board before the vote. They filled the room and represented all neighborhoods, 750 SMCLC signatures, 1000 FOSP signatures, experience, and passion. They stayed for hours and were treated with contempt by Ms. Reich.

When the architect from KI showed us a slide of a building saying, it's 6 stories, but it will just appear to be 5 stories, the packed audience all spontaneously laughed. Stephanie gave us a warning. The architect then said that the buildings on Ocean Park were modified to look very different from each other and not be a monolithic block, then showed us a slide of basically buildings that were exactly the same, a monolithic block and again the audience burst into laughter. So Stephanie actually called in a police officer and said 'we were not allowed to make any sounds or we would be removed. (Is that a rule?)

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Phil Brock](#)
Subject: Thank you.
Date: Saturday, March 9, 2024 5:53:57 PM

EXTERNAL

Hi Phil. Great talking to you today. Please let the City attorney and/or manager know I would be happy to provide specific details regarding the armed guards who stood right in front of husband and me in the second row in a very intimidating fashion and who also roamed the room in a threatening manner, the false percentages Stephanie quoted, and how she declared the board would vote to approve the changes, long before the vote took place. I had worked very hard to rally residents to actually attend and I was mortified this city employee lied to us with false statistics 3 times, and that a City Commissioner yelled at us, that "at least the people who will live here will be younger than all the people in this room!" Ageism is discrimination, violent intimidation is not a good look for Santa Monica, and promoting blatant lies and insulting resident speakers should not be allowable behavior for any SM City employee.

In any business, an employee who exhibited such extreme behavior would be looked at very carefully out of concern for future threatening behavior.

Perhaps the city should require Ms Reich to take anger management classes. Certainly HR must have a process for an individual who was threatening. I hope her disdain for residents doesn't ever result in further violent intimidation, or, god forbid, gun violence. Since her disdain for residents seem so well known, perhaps it is time demand some kind of psych review. So residents will feel safe to return to City Hall.

I feel responsible for many of the people who attended, and that is why I take this so seriously.

Thank you
[REDACTED]

From: [Phil Brock](#)
To: [Rebecca Adams](#)
Subject: PRA Request - Mastbaum
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2024 3:19:00 PM

Phil Brock
Mayor
City of Santa Monica

P: [\(310\) 458-8201](tel:(310)458-8201)

C: [\(310\) 560-3071](tel:(310)560-3071)
santamonica.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 5:59 PM

Subject: Fwd: Formal complaint

To: David Martin <david.martin@santamonica.gov>, David White
<david.white@santamonica.gov>

FYI - I have received a dozen complaints against Ms Reich's behavior/attitude today from residents.

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED] >
Date: March 5, 2024 at 5:26:39 PM, [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED], Renee Montagne
<rmontagne@npr.org>
Subject: Formal complaint

I am writing to submit a formal complaint against Stephanie Reich, the staff member who moderated the Gelson's ARB meeting.

Her behavior is certainly grounds for reprimand, perhaps also a lot of hours of community service cleaning up the debris piling up around all the

new developments, or even dismissal. Her actions last night were unacceptable, unethical and must, I'm sure, violate basic rules of decency or even employment in city government.
She must be held accountable.

We had a terrific turnout of people who want to participate in the democratic process, who had been invited by the city to speak before the board before the vote. They filled the room and represented all neighborhoods, 750 SMCLC signatures, 1000 FOSP signatures, experience, and passion. They stayed for hours and were treated with contempt by Ms. Reich.

When the architect from KI showed us a slide of a building saying, it's 6 stories, but it will just appear to be 5 stories, the packed audience all spontaneously laughed. Stephanie gave us a warning.

The architect then said that the buildings on Ocean Park were modified to look very different from each other and not be a monolithic block, then showed us a slide of

basically buildings that were exactly the same, a monolithic block and again the audience burst into laughter. So Stephanie actually called in a police officer and said we were not allowed to

make any sounds or we would be removed. (Is that a rule?)

When I spoke about how many developments remain 1/3 empty and we have 4,000 empty units, I said, "If you build it, they won't come." Pam O Connor spoke after, and was absolutely reprehensibly ageist, she turned and said, 'People will come' and they will be a lot younger than the people in this room!"

Looking at us with such disdain. There are cultures where elders are respected. Perhaps Pam doesn't respect herself...But then Stephanie decided to state, in response to the person who had said we had 4,000 vacancies, moi, that in fact SM had a 3 percent vacancy rate, lower than any other So Cal city... Which is absolutely false information to present to a board before a vote. And then Ms. Reich also said, long before the vote,

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To: [Rebecca Adams](#)
Subject: PRA Request - Mastbaum
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2024 3:22:31 PM

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Mayor
City of Santa Monica

P: [\(310\) 458-8201](tel:(310)458-8201)

C: [\(310\) 560-3071](tel:(310)560-3071)

santamonica.gov

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: March 5, 2024 at 6:47:37 PM PST
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Formal complaint
Reply-To: [REDACTED]

Phil,

My memory is slightly different from [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] so it figures!), but in general the same.

Three points about the Gelson's hearing at the 3/4/24 ARB meeting:

1) We had a pretty good turnout. Most of the people in the audience seemed to be Sunset Park and Ocean Park residents in their 60s, 70s, and 80s. Although we knew ahead of time that the ARB probably wouldn't do much, it was our only opportunity to speak in a public meeting to the developer and developer reps.

Of the 14 speakers during Public Comment, only 2 supported the Gelson's project -- former Mayor Pam O'Connor (an Abundant Housing LA Board member) and another woman from Abundant Housing LA who mistakenly said there were going to be 70+ affordable apartments in the project..

There were only 2 mild outbursts during the meeting:

A) When **Stephanie Reich**, the staff liaison, said something that seemed ridiculous,

near the beginning of her long and somewhat disorganized presentation, the audience laughed, and she admonished us. After that, we remained quiet.

B) After the first speaker during Public Comment, Peter Spelman, the audience applauded, and Stephanie admonished us again. After that, we used jazz hands, including for Mario Fonda-Bonardi's fiery speech.

After one of those occurrences, Stephanie threatened that she would have us removed from the meeting if this happened again.

To the contrary, when something like this happens during City Council meetings, whoever's chairing the meeting will say matter-of-factly, "No clapping or booing is allowed. If you like something, you can use jazz hands to express your approval."

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