

From: [Brian Lo](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Statement regarding Community Service and Police actions over past 2 weeks
Date: Monday, December 11, 2023 11:59:36 AM
Attachments: [CSO and PD Conduct.pdf](#)

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Hello-

I would like the following (and attached) statement added to the agenda for the City Council meeting on December 12th.

Thank you,

Brian Lo

Date: December 11, 2023

From: Brian Lo (blo.brian@gmail.com)
To: Hermosa Beach City Council (cityclerk@hermosabeach.gov)

Subject: Statement regarding Community Service and Police actions over past 2 weeks

This statement is calling for the termination or resignation of CSO Supervisor Sean Tanabe and an independent investigation of Community Services Division Manager Lisa Nichols, Police Chief Paul LeBaron and City Manager Suja Lowenthal for failure of leadership, lack of professional maturity and resource management as illustrated by the actions of Hermosa Beach police and community service officers observed throughout the past 2 weeks. This statement is also calling for an independent commission to audit Hermosa Beach's \$27.7M 2023-2024 public safety budget and operations (55% of our total city budget) with specific emphasis on the scope, remit, training guidelines, codes of conduct and culture of the 16-person Community Services Division (3302), accounting for \$3.3M of the budget. Additionally, this statement serves notice to Hermosa Beach's elected city council members that a complacent and immature leadership approach to governing our town will not be tolerated.

Explicitly, the scope of this statement is broader than a simple complaint of the recent enforcement of Hermosa Beach leash laws in the vicinity of Clark Field; as several other residents have publicly and officially proposed sound logical solutions which should be evaluated by Hermosa Beach city leadership to address resident demand for off-leash dog recreation.

The decision and actions of both the sworn police officers and community service officers on the morning of Monday, December 4, 2023 demonstrated lack of professional maturity in the stewardship of our city's resources. Beginning at

approximately 6:30am, at least 10 officers, multiple police and CSO vehicles and the deployment of a drone were utilized to enforce the violation of ordinance 21-1439, animals (i.e., dogs) being unleashed in the city limits (i.e., Clark Field), a non-violent and victimless offense (see Exhibit A). In addition, these ordinance violators are generally good citizens of Hermosa Beach, contributing to trash clean up from time-to-time on Clark Field. Common sense and public perception can conclude that the magnitude of city assets deployed to enforce such an immaterial ordinance violation is a gross over-reaction and a material waste of our community's resources – especially considering the recent weekend fights that have broken out on Pier Avenue over the past few months and lack of persistent police and community service presence when those events occurred, including recently on Saturday, December 10th where a fight resulted in a man losing his right eye. The resources and tactics deployed on the morning of December 4th are more closely associated with the apprehension of violent criminals, organized crime or counter-insurgency operations. A better tact to approach these ordinance offenders would have been for a community service leader to engage this group in person and seek a resolution without creating a highly antagonistic and militaristic environment.

Furthermore, aside from the tactics of the past week, the conduct of several community service officers has been highly unprofessional and not reflective of the department's stated core values of dedication, integrity, and honesty. When questioned as to why an officer needed to drive the Community Services' 2019 Toyota Tacoma at excessive speed across Clark Field to issue a citation to a 75-year-old female who dropped her dog's leash to avoid being dragged by her dog who jerked his leash, a female community service officer stated that she "worked for the city, I can do whatever I want." Additionally, when a resident complained about the over-watering and flooding of Clark Field and the constant state of trash and debris along the outer edges of Clark Field, a male community service officer stated, "that's not my department, I'm not responsible for that. It's not my problem." These symptomatic comments point to an underlying mindset, culture, training and/or lack of leadership that runs contrary to a common person's understanding of the term "Community Services". Accounting for a material portion of our budget (\$3.3M), the flawed or absent direction of this Division needs to be placed under the leadership of someone the community of Hermosa Beach can entrust to meet our expectations.

Justification aside, along with a dog leash law enforcement problem and Pier Avenue disturbance problems, Hermosa Beach public safety now also has a public perception problem and has lost the trust of many good residents who now feel compelled to speak out. A strong and meaningful action must be taken to correct this.

Respectfully,

Brian Lo

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(626) 376-0364
blo.brian@gmail.com

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Brian Lo

Exhibit A:

