

Bonnie Gilmore  
5222 Westridge Avenue  
Auburn, CA 95602

August 26, 2021

**VIA EMAIL - HARDCOPY TO FOLLOW**

Margaret Long, Prentice/Long PC  
2240 Court Street  
Redding, CA 96001

Christian Valley Park Community Service District  
Kathleen Daugherty, Board President  
P.O. Box 6857  
Auburn, CA 95604

Ms. Long and Ms. Daugherty,

I am in receipt of your letter dated August 5, 2021 requesting payment in the amount of one-hundred dollars for overpayment of the monthly stipend during my tenure on the CVPCSD board. I admit to being a bit perplexed as your correspondence refers to a 55% calculation/reduction for a period of time in which I was not in office. I am also confused as to why Rolando de la Torre is listed as board president on the attached settlement agreement and if you expect me to "fill in the blanks" for dates of service. From my perspective, these are yet additional examples of the sloppy manner in which this entire issue has been (mis)managed.

Your letter states that you "look forward to working with me" to resolve this matter or face action in small claims court. I have repeatedly informed you that I will not agree to payment in any amount. At the risk of being redundant, and as Ms. Daugherty knows, I had a twenty year career in California municipal government. It was my observation that elected officials in all areas of government rely on their agency's administrators to pay them a salary that is permissible under state code. Using the city example, it is not a council candidate's responsibility to research state code prior to assuming office in order to ensure that the salary is legal. That is the responsibility of the city manager and her human resources professionals. In the same regard it is not the responsibility CVPCSD board candidates to research code. That responsibility, understood by him or not, lies with your general manager, Don Elias.

The Board has acknowledged that “a mistake was made”. That mistake is solely his. His negligence may be an inconvenient truth and create a difficult situation, but it should not drive a decision to redirect liability to those that served based on assumptions of his competency. I have heard firsthand, in district meetings and confidentially, excuses from Mr. Elias regarding his difficulties managing a fulltime job in education and his District responsibilities. In 2020, he came to Chuck Rust and my home privately to discuss his anxiety and fear of Diane Alessi and the pressure he felt with the increasingly aggressive and combative nature of her interactions with the district. We suggested that he not capitulate to her antagonistic tactics, however I fear that both he and the board have done exactly that in the ill-considered manner in which this issue has been handled.

District past practice, when board members were overpaid via waiver of service fees, was to acknowledge the “mistake” and move on. At that time, Mr. Elias and the District’s then attorney were directly involved in establishing a new salary. That the hundred dollar maximum comes as a surprise to him now suggests that he neglected to do the appropriate research then, clearly failing to fulfill a fundamental part of his job as manager of a public agency. If adherence to past practice/precedent is not acceptable, I once more suggest you look to him for payment.

Please do not contact me again.

Bonnie Gilmore