

August 4, 2020

Attn: Gilbert Arevalo  
Ben Wadsworth  
Pheadey Tang  
Sheri Fierro  
William Morrison  
Martha Riley  
Richard Larsen  
Theresa Velasquez  
Michael Merced  
Vincente Gonzales Reyes  
Armida Marrufo  
Maribel Hernandez  
Vince Rosiles  
Tameka Flowers  
Stefan Acheson  
Jose Vanegas  
Selena Ortega  
Hugo Hernandez  
Erika Xu

CC: Raquel Beltran  
Mike Fong  
Jackie Kim

**Subject: Violation of Article VII Committees and their Duties Section 3  
Committee Creation and Authorization / Illegal removal of Benny Madera for  
Planning and Land Use Committee.**

I was appointed to the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Planning and Land Use Committee as a member. On January 15, 2020 at 3:41 am Mr. Larsen sent me an email stating the following:

*"It is my sad duty to inform you that we no longer appreciate your participation. Normally we welcome participation in our committee, however you have been Out of Order in the past which included voting No on the Minutes. There were other infractions I don't wish to go into presently, but frankly we need members who are more dedicated within our bonafide stakeholder community."*

*"You are hereby eliminated from this committee. Should you wish to attend, you are welcome, however you will not be needed for quorum or voting. You can certainly join other committees as a remedy, seek them out. You can Resign or Respond; however, this is **my decision**. You can also be Heard at a public meeting of the Executive Committee if you choose, which I encourage you to do."*

I am disturbed by Mr. Larsen using "It is my" ... "my decision" when our bylaws clearly state otherwise. Mr. Larsen has stepped way out of bounds on our Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council bylaws with these statements. It is clear that Mr. Larsen believes that he has the authority to remove me by his own will and he is wrong according to our bylaws. Please read our bylaws below:

## **Article VII Committees and their Duties**

### **Section 3 Committee Creation and Authorization**

*B. The President shall have the authority to replace the chair of a committee for cause. A majority vote of the Board may remove a chair.*

Under this section of our bylaws it gives no such power to Mr. Larsen to solely make the decision to remove me. In fact our bylaws do not have a removal process for a committee member. It only has a removal process for a Chair and the power is still not given to Mr. Larsen to remove anyone but under our current bylaws our board can remove a chair to a committee.

Let it be known for the record that I feel Mr. Larsen has targeted me and using his appointed power as a chair to Planning and Land Use misused it against me. This type of Bullying behavior is unacceptable and should not be tolerated.

I am asking for the following to correct this matter:

1. Mr. Larsen should be removed by our president / board for violating code of conduct and our bylaws. His disregard for the bylaws and code of conduct is unacceptable at any level while creating a bullying environment.
2. I Benny Madera be immediately reinstated to our Planning and Land Use Committee.

Thank you for your activism in our great community,

Benny Madera

Board Member, LHNC

