

From: Padric Gleason Gonzales [mailto:padric.gleason@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2020 6:24 PM
To: CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>; Council District 1 <District1@longbeach.gov>
Cc: Info <info@afg.nyc>; Mary Zendejas <Mary.Zendejas@longbeach.gov>; Mayor <Mayor@longbeach.gov>; LBPDCommander-ChiefOfStaff <LBPDCommander-ChiefOfStaff@longbeach.gov>
Subject: Unprofessional, provocative, and offensive- LBPД needs a complete overhaul

-EXTERNAL-

Dear Mr. Mayor and Councilwoman Zendejas,
Just days ago, I wrote to you about the Long Beach Police department's harassment of communities of color and I called the organization "thuggish." Throughout the summer, I wrote many times in support of police reforms, none of which have yet been adopted by the Council. Today, my husband asked me to write to you because of the unprofessional, provocative, and offensive actions by the LBPД this weekend.

It is NOT OK for our police department- paid by our tax dollars- to endorse a candidate, appear to endorse a candidate, or to promote a political campaign. HOW DARE THEY fly a flag that, to many in our community, represents hate. This was a provocation and it shows exactly what views the organization has about our city. I want names named and careers ended. No public employee should feel so emboldened and protected as to padlock a Trump flag onto public property.

I'm a gay man in an interracial marriage with an immigrant. What are we supposed to think of this? We moved here because of Long Beach's diversity. If LBPД staff and officials can't participate productively in this city, then they should quit their jobs. If this were just an isolated incident, then I might be more patient, but given that I've REPEATEDLY written to you about unprofessional conduct by the LBPД, I'm no longer willing to accept excuses. My community demands action now to change the corrupt culture at LBPД.

Regards,
Padric

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