

On Wed, Jul 1, 2020 at 1:34 PM Rick Clark <drdeadline@earthlink.net> wrote:

Dr. Mason...

In the years I was able to volunteer as Cultural Arts and Planning Commissioners I took the obligatory Ethics Training required by the state. I'm sure you, BOUSD Board members and your senior staff have as well. You'll know the training is unambiguous and quite clear in it's instruction.

It is pointed out that conducting oneself in an appropriate manner, in and of itself, is insufficient. Those in public service must conduct themselves in a such a manner that their integrity cannot be called into question for any reason. A simple task for the dedicated public servant called to support the best interests of their community. Impossible for those using public office to further personal agendas.

As you are aware, last night the Brea PD identified BOUSD Board Member Keri Kropke as a participant in the unauthorized public Black Lives Matter "protest" that moved up and down Brea Boulevard, spilling out into traffic lanes and refusing to comply with instructions from the Brea PD on several occasions. Public safety was put at risk.

As a member of the BOUSD Board, Ms. Kropke took office to represent, without preference or prejudice, all citizens of Brea. Her participation in last night's protest was clearly narrowly focused and addressed personal interests which she has publicly expressed on many occasions.

My opinion is that she cannot have it both ways. She either fulfills her role as a Board Member and represents the community as a whole or she focuses her energy to forward those special interests she holds as an independent citizen. She has a right to both but not simultaneously.

I ask that you and the Board President Colon place on the agenda, during the general public session - not a study or closed session - a discussion item to address this issue.

In all fairness, give Ms. Kropke the choice of which path to pursue. If her preference is advancing the issues she holds on a personal level, she should be asked to tender her resignation from the Board. If her choice is to continue representing everyone in Brea, she must agree to abandon the outside activities that are prejudiced towards her personal biases.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rick Clark
www.OneBrea.org

On Jul 3, 2020, at 7:34 PM, Brad Mason <bmason@bousd.us> wrote:

Good Evening Mr. Clark,

As we spoke of on the phone regarding your concerns mentioned in your email and request to agenda the matter as a Discussion Item for the Board at our next meeting, I want to confirm that your concerns are best addressed during our Public Comments portion of our Board Agenda. I have discussed your request with Board President Colon and the concerns you raised and we will be addressing your concerns; however I also sought counsel from the Orange County Department of Education legal office and the recommendation was confirmed that this matter would best be addressed during Public Comments. As for your inquiry regarding whether I have heard from Captain Hawley (Acting Chief), he did get back with me and he asked me to direct you and this matter to him as it is a Brea Police matter and I have no firsthand knowledge or jurisdiction related to the incident.

Sincerely,

Brad Mason

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Brad Mason, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Brea Olinda Unified School District
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(714) 990-7824

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On Fri, Jul 3, 2020 at 9:32 PM Rick Clark <drdeadline@earthlink.net> wrote:

Dr. Mason...

Nonsense. First, if you've followed social media (FB - Brea First), you know that my concerns reflect those of a measurably larger public. These concerns are not "best addressed during Public Comments," particularly during this time of Zoom meetings. The monotone reading of communications for items not on the agenda leads to zero response, zero action.

As you know, on Thursday Captain Hawley chose not to return multiple calls from me and, instead, at the end of the day attempted to pass the buck to the City Clerk. As I expressed to her, this is not a public records matter - especially considering she is not the custodian of police records. I ask her to inform Capt. Hawley that the simple courtesy of a returned call, a candid conversation about facts already widely known but not formally verified, was appropriate.

This, as you also know, has been compounded by a second event later the same day as the protest. BPD officers were dispatched to a theft call involving a homeless black male who allegedly stole food from a bakery. The suspect was detained at the Chevron gas station where Ms. Kropke happened to be as well.

She reportedly video recorded and harassed the officers as they detained the suspect. The bakery owner wanted to press charges, however, officers convinced the owner otherwise and released the suspect. Ms. Kropke apparently continued to interrogate the officers about racial discrimination. Both officers, by the way, are black.

She also said she was a "city official" and the officers would be hearing more from her. She is not a "city" official, she is a school board member. This sounds to me like misrepresentation and misuse of authority. So much for the hiding behind the First Amendment.

Virtually from the day Ms. Kropke took the oath of office she has embarked upon an obvious campaign to draw attention to herself and her pet issues, mugging for her personal videographer, posting photos and recaps of her many advocacy adventures on issues unrelated to the business of the BOUSD to her social media accounts, where she identifies herself as a BOUSD Board Member.

I know you were going to see if the board's bylaws offered any provision to address this matter. I also know that you discovered that the more recent update to the bylaws was never formally reviewed and ratified by the board. What a perfect opportunity to complete the update of the bylaws, making sure that behaviors that cross such an obvious ethical line, are accounted for.

The concerns I've raised are sufficiently grievous as to demand open discussion by the board. The sooner, the better. The pattern of behavior, which we've all endured for over eighteen months, must be publicly addressed and appropriate action taken.

I hope to hear from you again, soon.

Rick Clark

www.OneBrea.org

On Jul 4, 2020, at 9:40 AM, Brad Mason <bmason@bousd.us> wrote:

Mr. Clark,

You reference a second incident in your response that has not been looked into yet due to its timing and yesterday being a holiday in observance of Independence Day. All concerns that come in to the District are reviewed and addressed as this will be as well.

Sincerely,

Brad Mason

--

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