
Trail
Palm Coast, FL 32164

April 13, 2021

Matthew Morton

City Manager
Administrative Services & Economic Development
Mayor Milissa Holland
Council Member Ed Danko
Council Member Victor Barbosa
Council Member Nick Klufas
Council Member Eddie Branquinho
160 Lake Avenue
Palm Coast, FL 32164

RE: Complaint against Council Member Victor Barbosa's conduct

Dear Mr. Morton,

I am writing to inform you of my dissatisfaction with Council Member Victor Barbosa's conduct. It was brought to my attention from several of my long standing customers that he has posted a picture of my garage and a picture of an aerial view of my privately fenced backyard on his Facebook page. While I agree my backyard and garage need to be cleaned and I am working on it, I do not believe his approach was professional, ethical and productive.

Mr. Barbosa approached the subject in a manner that is disrespectful to me as a citizen, a taxpayer, and a small business owner. He chose to immediately accelerate the issue by posting pictures of my privately enclosed locked fenced backyard and my garage without any warning or written notice or calling. The Google aerial photo that he posted on Facebook displays my company name with a Google pin so he knows how to get in touch with me. Instead, Mr. Barbosa, an elected City official, chose to deal with it his own way...the way that suits him. He used a Google aerial image of my backyard which proves you can not see it from the street or neighboring homes or else he would have posted a picture from the street view instead. His tactic is abusive, conniving, and hypocritical. He resorted to publicly shaming and embarrassing a tax paying citizen. His intentions are fueled by anger about his own personal issues, as evidenced in his posted videos and comments on Facebook. Mr. Barbosa should practice integrity by admitting his own mistakes instead of shifting blame to others.

He also posted a video displaying his presumptions of why my garage and backyard are the way they are, which he's wrong about and is publicly

misinforming citizens. His views are lopsided and displays such lack of knowledge. His approach is highly inappropriate and should be corrected.

On his Facebook page, citizens have argued against each other, have used vulgar language in their comments that Mr. Barbosa hasn't removed (from the date of this letter), and they have assumed the most untrue conclusions of me. I am disheartened to have such a negative experience first hand from a City official that I've never met in my life. It is clear by his actions that Mr. Barbosa has a strong will against the City and is taking down citizens in the process displaying his lack of self control. There's a comment that he replied to someone with an insult and he said "Your not 100%". Another comment from a user on Mr. Barbosa's post asked twice "What street is this please" referring to the images of my home prompting another user by the name of Fred Mills to display my address. While it is not illegal to display my address and pictures, it still doesn't mean it's not ethical or immoral of Mr. Barbosa to host and engage in such nonsense of public bashing and shaming of a citizen, allow vulgarity posts, misinformation, rumors and bullying. I don't believe his "misery loves company" attitude is an appropriate reflection of the City. He has the opportunity to comment on the post that we have a privacy fence and that you can't see the backyard from the street at all and he has chosen not to disclose that information in the posts because it suits him best not to. That is dishonest and such an appalling inexcusable way to treat a citizen.

I believe his intentions were to mislead the citizens of the City with those images of my backyard and garage that he posted for his satisfaction and personal gain at my expense and the City's. Mr. Barbosa, as a City Council Member, goes against the City's code of conduct personnel policies and procedures manual states Section 3 - Standards of Conduct section 3.02 Citizen interaction A. It is the City's policy to be citizen and service oriented, and to require employees to treat citizens and other employees in a courteous and respectful manner at all times. B. Employees must understand that the citizen comes first. All employees have an obligation to represent the City in a positive fashion and to make citizens feel as comfortable as possible in dealing with the City. All of which Mr. Barbosa has displayed the exact opposite in my case and on Facebook.

Because of Mr. Barbosa's Facebook post about my business, he created conflict between citizens, creating a negative and shameful internet rift between them. He maliciously and diligently initiated a crusade against someone he knows nothing about...me.

I am a Desert Storm Veteran and served 5 years, arriving in Flagler County in 1991, the day after my military separation. I am married, have 2 young adult daughters that were born here and graduated high school here. One of them works in the medical field here in Flagler County. My wife moved here with

her family in 1989 and attended Buddy Taylor Middle School and FPC. I am proud to say that we are good hard working peaceful citizens. Palm Coast is our home and we are rooted here. I have very strong work ethics and we have been helping Flagler County residents for a long time through my fairly priced business and honesty. Getting along quite nicely without ever needing Mr. Barbosa's "support." Throughout the years, I have donated my time and appliances to the less fortunate residents and am quick to help the elderly customers in their time of need. I recycle old appliances to the metal yard therefore circulating what I have. The boxes in my garage are mostly empty and I break them down and recycle them so they too get rotated weekly. This is the truth and it's in contradiction of what's been presumed about me on Mr. Barbosa's Facebook post which he ignited. If Mr. Barbosa is environmentally concerned then he should shift his focus on making sure all his products in his barbershop are safe for the environment, are chemically free shampoos & hair dye, reduce plastic bottle usage, and lower water consumption by using eco friendly water fixtures that's used to wash hair and feet.

Because of Mr. Barbosa's Facebook post, my wife and daughters are fearful someone will come and start trouble or even break in. Users on his post asked for our address and were angry and vulgar and he's the precipitator. Could they want to come harm us? Now I have to install surveillance cameras so all my girls can sleep better at night. Also, I've received 2 unsolicited offers from different people who stopped by to ask if my Dodge Viper is for sale because they saw the picture of my garage that Mr. Barbosa posted.

I believe Mr. Barbosa's intentions and conduct need to be addressed at once. I would like the City to ask him to remove the entire post immediately as it is offensive, is dividing the citizens, sparking false rumors and comments about me...a citizen. I would like an apology for Mr. Barbosa's unprovoked conduct against me. It would be beneficial to instruct him to keep his personal opinions to himself and not publicly share his opinion about what a citizen has in their garage, unless it's breaking the law. From his Facebook post, his interactions with citizens is nothing short of rudeness, egotistical, elementary, offensive, antagonistic and insensitive. Code enforcement themselves do not post pictures or videos of violations on Facebook or on the City's Facebook page or harass, embarrass, or persecute the citizen in such a manner that Mr. Barbosa has proudly and easily accomplished. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

