

May 17, 2018

Dear Nita Taylor, Lincoln County Manager,

It is with regret that we must register this complaint against Mr. Smith, Chairman Lincoln Historical Board. At the January 2018 board meeting, as Chairman of the Board, Mr. Smith made a comment about our house burning down. It took some time for the rumors to reach us about what he'd said and it was not until the May meeting that one of us (Neil) was finally able to question Mr. Smith at the meeting as to exactly what he'd said and what he intended to do. When Mr. Smith was questioned, he voiced his opinion that our house would look better if it burned down. Rather than apologize for making such a stupid remark (as he had privately admitted that it was to another board member), Mr. Smith simply reiterated his opinion, citing his belief that he had a right to free speech. Demonstrating his hypocrisy further, as he stated this, he motioned for the County deputy to silence me and move me and my children who had accompanied me toward the door. Freedom of speech is apparently only a right for Mr. Smith to enjoy.

As a result, we must request and insist that Mr. Smith be removed from the board. No individual on the board and certainly not the chairperson of the board, which is supposed to objectively and without prejudice administer the historical ordinance, should be permitted to voice such opinions about their neighbors. Once again, the Lincoln Historical district is flooded with the usual hypocrisy and favoritism and pettiness that has characterized the District since the inception of the ordinance. In all truth, the ordinance itself needs to be removed, at the least and especially from Zone B.

If further trouble develops as a result of Mr. Smith's attitudes and words, we will be forced to pursue not only his removal but the removal of the ordinance as well. The existence of this board that oppresses whatever citizens don't meet the personal approval of its members needs to come to an end. No American citizen should be threatened with the burning of their house by any kind of bureaucrat. Neither should County deputies be utilized to support bureaucrats who deny any other citizen their right to free speech.

Sincerely,

Neil and Cindy Girrard

Lincoln, New Mexico