

May 21, 2018

Dear Mr. Smith, Chairman Lincoln Historical Board,

Last week, as chairman of the Historical Board, you repeated your original January 2018 comment (which you also made as the chairman of the board) that our house would look better if it burnt down. Then you defended your statements as being under the protection of free speech (even as you simultaneously and in complete hypocrisy had the deputy infringe upon my rights to practice free speech!) Now, we are going to exercise our right to free speech. After having had time to reflect upon your incredibly calloused statements, we are also struck by how incredibly stupid, short-sighted and sick they are as well. Funny, you even admitted to another board member that your original comment was stupid. You should have stuck with that evaluation!

First, you have opened yourself up to litigation by even making such a statement that can be viewed as a personal threat. You might even be arrested in the event that our house does burn down. As you gave your permission at the meeting, should such a thing happen, we will send the County sheriff to your door first. And should one of us or our children be in the house when it happens, the charge they will be pinning on you will be murder or assault as well as arson. See what exercising your freedom of speech (also known as shooting off your mouth) can get you! If one of us had said anything similar about your house or the town of Lincoln looking better if it burned down, we would not be permitted to hide behind “freedom of speech”!

Second, your premise is completely short-sighted. Obviously, we are having trouble with our projects as it is. Should this evil you wish upon us actually befall us, the pile of rubble will likely remain untouched for years, perhaps permanently. We might even paint your name on the debris! But since you hystericals seem to like seeing ruins slowly melting in the sun (even though they only point out the tyranny and poverty of the district), you may truly think seeing the destruction is preferable to the lived-in look our family is blessed with. Your house, which would never have been built like that in Lincoln during the Territorial Period, may be a deserted mansion and museum piece that gives you some kind of satisfaction but our house is the center of our ongoing efforts toward life, liberty and happiness. Thus your wish for our house to burn down is equivalent to your wishing that we were dead and is an assault upon our inherent, inalienable American rights.

Third, your heart is sick, even wicked, or you would not be able to say such things about us or anyone else. Before the Nazis were brown- and black-shirted Jew killers and before the Soviets sent tens of millions of their own citizens to die in the steppes and the gulags, the Nazis and Soviets were socialistic minded do-gooders who thought they could make rules that *other* people would have to follow but not they themselves. The makers of the rules were, of course, above the need for petty obedience to such things. And when those other people balked at obeying this hypocrisy, the socialists made yet more rules and then began to make insults and derogatory judgments. Then came the threats to burn houses and soon followed the actual burning. You are walking in their same footsteps because, as Solzhenitsyn, a survivor of this kind of evil, has said, the line of good and evil runs through the heart of every man. You, as Chairman of the Board, have now voiced your sick opinion that arson is a valid remedy to having people like us removed

from your government-sponsored gated community, and you may well have stirred the impulse toward evil in some other person who might actually do what you have only spoken. Further, you demonstrate the double standard of the Nazis and Soviets because if one of us had said about your house or about Lincoln what you have said about ours, we'd already be talking to the deputies, fighting off a lawsuit or sitting in jail. But you're above the pettiness of having to obey the laws about threatening your neighbors while we are not and you enjoy freedom of speech to say whatever you like but we do not.

All of this is completely unacceptable and clearly and simply and only indicates that you are not qualified to be the chairman of the board. The ordinance itself needs to be rescinded because all it seems capable of doing is to generate conflict where none need exist and to elevate someone like you – and you are not the first to seek a petty fiefdom in the historical board of Lincoln! – to a place of imagined power and preeminence where you come to think it is a good thing to wish that someone else's house will burn down. Why? Was it because our house is such a despicable eyesore in your drive to town? Is this personal opinion of yours (which is not shared by all who pass by our house by any means) sufficient reason to burn us out? That's petty. Or do you have some deeper, darker hidden motive for wishing our house to burn down? As I said at the meeting, there are basically two kinds of people in this world: those who oppress and wish evil upon their neighbors and those who seek to help their neighbors. You are certainly not among the latter!

So long as the historical board remains in existence it will always be an evil in this valley and it will always bring out the resident evil lurking in your own heart and in the hearts of those who think they have a right to control, oppress and bring evil upon their neighbors, especially when they do so in the name of a "good cause" like preserving "order" or "historicity." Do what is truly right and good for the valley – resign from the board and join us in the fight to rescue the valley from the hands of the Nazis and Soviets who use the idea of historicity to oppress and bring evil upon their neighbors.

Sincerely,

Neil & Cindy Girrard
Soviet Lincoln, New Mexico

Cc: Nita Taylor, Lincoln Historical Board

PS: Lincoln Historical Board,

In view of Mr. Smith's comments about burning our house down, you too are faced with a decision. You can side with Mr. Smith and send far and wide the notion that arson is a valid way to remove undesirable elements (people – us) from your government-sanctioned gated community. Or you can stand with us and issue a letter of censure to Mr. Smith.

We also ask you to join us in pressing for the removal of Zone B from the historical ordinance. It can be argued that since the state has control over the truly important historical buildings in Lincoln there is no longer any need for the ordinance whatsoever. But if Zone A wishes to remain an historical district (after all, it is a free country – except in Zone B!), you may continue to do so. But the ordinance only creates conflict where none need exist and it pits neighbor against neighbor as this repulsive incident with Mr. Smith so clearly demonstrates.

If Zone B cannot be separated from the ordinance at this time and the “good people” of Lincoln want to stand behind Mr. Smith’s “freedom of speech” to promote arson as a remedy for dealing with undesirables in your government-sanctioned gated community, we call upon those of you who still have goodness in your soul to resign from this board and refuse to participate in the needless oppression of one’s neighbors in the name of “historicity,” a thing that only marginally exists in Zone A and does not exist at all in Zone B.