

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
November 19, 2019

"For all items NOT on the agenda"

(Each Speaker Limited to 3 Minutes)

Voluntary Sign-In Sheet

1. Barbara Kennedy
2. Vince Campbell UBNC
3. KARPANI BERRIS
4. Cynthia Pung
5. Suresh Uthappa
6. George Kramer ✓
7. Sean DeVries
8. Patricia Lai ✓
9. Meg Stofsky ✓
10. Doti Russell ✓
11. Graham Russell — Permit Green house
12. Shakti Vega
13. ALEXANDRA PROFANT
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.

November 17, 2019

To: Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

From: Moriah Miranda and Phillip Viveiros

RE: Our Abatement Experience

On January 7, 2019 we submitted an application for the Amnesty program, because we built an unpermitted cabin on our property (to replace an old existing cabin). We had been hearing from Rex Bohn and Estelle Fennell (on KMUD) appealing to people to come in and "work with us", and listening to their offer on how they would waive the penalties and only require people to pay for the proper permits. So, we patiently waited for a response from the building department, and heard nothing for months. We didn't know it was a trap at the time, but then it became crystal clear....

On March 31, 2019 we received an abatement notice, on our gate, for unpermitted grading on our property, but we didn't know it until April 3, when Phillip went to the shop for a part. On April 4, we went into the Planning Department, and had a face to face meeting with Code Enforcement Agent, Warren Black. Our goal for the meeting was to try to understand how we were being accused of being "environmental outlaws." We tried to explain to Warren Black, that we didn't have any cannabis on our property, and we didn't grade the area in question. We tried to explain that the property had been logged over 40 years ago and there are all sorts of pre-existing flats and roads on the property. He told us to take photos, with a newspaper in every picture, to prove it. He also said that ***we had better have an engineer on the property within 10 days, and a contract with a forester or engineer proving that we have engaged them and that they were willing to assess the property.*** He said that we need a "restoration plan for corrective actions submitted in writing and it needed to be 'emphatically written' or he may not accept it". I asked him what will happen if we can't find someone within 10 days, and he shrugged his shoulders and said, "then the fines begin"! We were facing \$20,000 a day in fines, and the fear of ultimately losing our property motivated us to comply with their demands. We have never felt so powerless...

That same day we went out to our property and took photos of the "graded flat in question" and proved there was no Cannabis, and emailed them to Warren Black (he said this was the best form of communication for him). He has never responded to any of the proof we submitted to him...it has been over 7 months and still nothing.

From the first encounter with Warren Black it was made crystal clear to us that:

1. He held all the power and he wasn't willing to listen to us, or consider our position
2. We were guilty for "legacy logging" until proven innocent
3. If we didn't do exactly what he said..."the fines would begin"

This abatement has been the most stressful experience of our entire lives, and has taken a toll on us that we will never be able to explain in words. Phil is part of Operating Engineers and was set to work in Paradise this year as Equipment Owner Operator...he has lost \$150,000 in wages. We have had to hire an engineer for a grading report (which the planning department "lost"), completed an entire forest restoration program, which also triggered an LSA with CDFW, and the \$100,000 (100 year flood culvert) project. These are all things that legal cannabis farmers are being required to do for their

licensing...**and this is for something we didn't even do.** After Moriah spoke out publicly about our experience on July 28 at the Town Hall Meeting in Redway we met with John Ford the next day, and he looked over our Foresters report and saw old aerial photos that showed the "graded flat has always been there" and acknowledged they had made a mistake, but said he couldn't give us any of our money back.

Later, at a second meeting, after we had completed the Restoration Program, and the Culvert project, I told him I was refusing to sign a compliance agreement for something I didn't do, and he said he would "make it go away". I said, "Is that it? And he said, "What else is there"?

What else is there? How about making it right? How about an apology? Offering to clean up the mess? Give us our money back? We have been **REQUIRED** to give up our **life savings**, and gone into debt over this! Is your solution to have us quietly walk away from all this penniless? Where is the Restorative Justice in this offer? How is any of this ok?

This experience has felt like nothing short of a **terrorist attack** from a weaponized planning department!! How is our experience any different from getting robbed at gunpoint while the thieves take all your money and dignity; and then walk out the door (without remorse)...leaving you alone, broken and traumatized, to pick up the pieces of your life, as they move on to the next victim?

Is this how we plan on treating rural property owners in Humboldt County? Is our solution to these "mistakes" to ignore them? Dismiss them? And minimize the trauma they have endured at the hands of an inefficient bureaucracy that is riddled with institutionalized discrimination toward the Cannabis Community? The time for change is now!! We will not be silenced into Compliance!!

United Bikers of Northern California

Humboldt County



Sunday, December 1st, 2019

All motorcycles welcome

Leave Arcata Plaza at the noon whistle

RIDE TO EUREKA, COLLECT TOYS, 50/50 RAFFLE & LUNCH

Info: Vince (707) 834-4826

or

Jeff (707) 498-0698

or check out the website

www.ubnchumboldt.com

Please bring an unwrapped toy

or \$5 donation

for the children of

the Eureka Rescue Mission