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Shooting the Messenger

As an owner who has attended every Board of Directors meeting for the past six plus years, I am extremely dismayed by the retaliatory efforts to remove Amy Carlson from the Board for doing her job and fulfilling her fiduciary responsibility to maintain our property values.

Amy didn't cause the extensive, if not visible, damage to the buildings. Amy didn't diagnosis the damage -- that was done by a professional engineer. The only thing Amy is guilty of is evaluating options and supporting one that people don't like, even though it's the one that, in the long run, will be the least expensive way to protect our investment.

Amy is also the Director who has been on the current Board the longest. A HOA Board of Directors without at least one member who's familiar with the historical problems that buildings have incurred and the financial difficulties caused by previous repair/rehabilitation projects is a Board of Directors that *will* make expensive mistakes that owners end up paying for. Amy is the only person who was on the Board during the 2014 pipe replacement project and is familiar with the envelope project of the late aughts. She's the only Director who's been on the Board longer than five years. Only one other member of the Board has served for more than one term and three have been on the Board less than a year. This combination does not lend itself to wise decisions, especially when the person who will become the longest serving Board member has repeatedly made it clear she doesn't understand the issues as well as the additional delays required by yet another newly appointed Board trying to understand extremely complex and technical issues.

Do I agree with everything that the Board has done in getting to this point? Not by a long shot. In my opinion, they didn't push hard enough get the data needed to make a decision about the deck repairs sooner. They didn't communicate about the problems with owners well enough. But Amy wasn't the President when the first occurred and had only taken over that responsibility when the second became problematic. Nor is she responsible for previous Boards inadequately funding the association's Reserves or owners who didn't do their own due diligence by attending meetings and/or at least reading the materials made available on the website.

I have been critical of many ways the Board has conducted business, both at the meetings and

via email. Because I attend the meetings, those criticisms have been heard, and many of them acted on.

The reality is that the homeowners who have been taken by surprise, who are fighting against repairing the buildings because of the cost, bear much of the responsibility for not being aware of the situation. But instead of accepting that, they are attempting to punish Amy for their own neglect. They never attended Board meetings. I'm guessing they never looked for documents on the website (which I will admit is not intuitive and about which I've complained and offered suggestions for improvement).

Removing Amy from the Board is a blatant example of cutting off one's nose to spite one's face. Putting one's hands over their ears and refusing to listen to facts doesn't change those facts. The reality is that the buildings are in dire need of repairs; those repairs become more expensive, in the current environment, by the week; and the only result of postponing the repairs will be drastic reductions in property values in addition to more extensive damage and much higher repair costs.

I understand that we're all facing the need to come up with a huge amount of money most of us don't have. I personally will probably be forced to sell and move somewhere not as nice and/or further out. But, I've already seen the value of my unit drop significantly in a housing market where prices keep going up exponentially. And, I will not be able to sell my unit under the current circumstances because, as the HOA attorney pointed out in her letter of July 27, any prospective buyers will be notified that necessary repairs have been deferred and there isn't adequate funding for those repairs.

Serving on a HOA Board of Directors is a thankless, time consuming job. Two types of people usually volunteer to do so: a) those who are controlling and want things done their way/for their own benefit however detrimental that is to everyone else and b) those who care about the community/buildings and are genuinely willing to invest the time and energy into properly maintaining them for the benefit of all.

Amy most definitely falls into the latter category and given that the people who are seeking to remove her are doing so to selfishly to avoid paying their portion of structural damage repairs, most likely the person who replaces her will fall into the former category and we will all suffer.

Cause of Action

Unlike (I'm guessing) most owners, I invested my retirement savings and own my unit outright so I don't have a mortgage I could walk away from. If my investment, and my ability to survive on a small income, is destroyed by owners who refuse to allow repairs to be made in a timely and cost-effective manor, I will have cause of action and measureable damages. I will have no choice but to sue those who signed the petition (listed below) and anyone else taking action to stop the Board from protecting my (and all of our) investment in order to recover those damages (and attorney fees).

The delays have already cost me (and every other owner) between \$1,350 and \$1,500 in additional repair expenditures. That number is only going to go up. (Note, I would not be filing a frivolous, unwinnable lawsuit against the HOA or the Board of Directors, but suing the individuals who, through their actions, sabotaged a necessary repair project and directly caused a) my property to lose significant value and b) the repairs to cost considerably more.)

Signers of Petition to Remove Amy Carlson:

- Jill Peters (13990-101)
- Joshua Salim (13990-102)
- Sue & Vic (13990-104)
- Sharon Carter (13980-105)
- Austin Mathews (13970-104)
- Mr. O (13970-105)
- Cameron & Caitlin Jerde (13960-101)
- Tai Star (13960-105)
- Francine Fahlman (13940-101)
- Zaki Pickett (13940-104)
- Tsering Kalsang (13940-105)
- Brad Guth (13900-102)
- Scott Galitz (13900-101)
- Nikki Avery (13890-104)
- Judy Lane (13890-102)
- Yanthyni Saing (13870-105)
- Sonia Hilson (13870-104)
- Saawan Patel (13870-103)
- Agy Kagawa (13870-102)
- Evan Sowerwine (13920-101)
- Joel Strimling (13920-104)
- Pamela Cook (13810-105)

- Jennifer Anderson (13810-104)
- Lisa Winters/Cheri Brown (13810-101)
- Verne & Joyce Moseri (13800-104)
- Mary Cea (13800-103)
- Ken Hagle (13800-102)
- Linda Knox (13850-101)
- Petra Kirsty Estrada (13850-102)
- Heli Baessler (13830-103)
- Dewey Surbey (13830-104)
- Casey Flynn (13740-102)
- Maria Zaccaro (13740-101)
- Svetolik Milosevic (13760-103)
- Glenn Mavor (13760-101)
- Jane Kitchen (13700-102)
- Lisa Randall (13720-104)
- Julia Poindexter (13720-101)
- Paul Hughes (13885-104)
- Derek Dowers (13895-102)