

Agenda Report

June 4, 2012

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: City Attorney/City Prosecutor
SUBJECT: RECEIVE AND FILE LETTER OF APOLOGY FROM GEOFFREY COMMONS

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

Receive and file the letter of apology submitted by Geoffrey Commons, dated May 21, 2012.

BACKGROUND:

On December 6, 2011, Geoffrey Commons called the Pasadena Water and Power Department ("PWP") demanding to speak to someone regarding the power outage affecting his home as a result of the windstorm. PWP phones were busy and his phone call was routed to PWP's contract call center. Mr. Commons made threatening statements during the telephone call, which statements he cites in the attached letter.

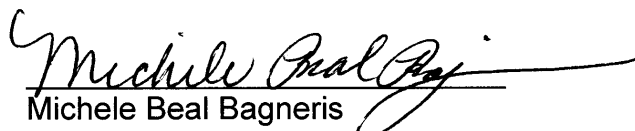
There was great concern about the safety of the PWP workers who were in the field working diligently to restore power throughout the City of Pasadena. In view of the severity of the threat, it was reported to PWP management and the Pasadena Police Department.

Later that same morning, Mr. Commons went to the lobby of the offices of the Mayor, City Manager and City Clerk in an angry and agitated state. He addressed the women working there in a rude and aggressive manner. The police were therefore summoned, arrived and arrested Mr. Commons.

Criminal charges were filed against him for violating Penal Code section 422 (making criminal threats) and Penal Code section 415(2) (disturbing the peace). Pursuant to a plea agreement, Mr. Commons wrote a letter of apology to City of Pasadena employees, a copy of which is attached to this Agenda Report as Attachment A. It was

agreed that the letter would be submitted to the City of Pasadena as part of the record of the first City Council meeting after his plea.

Respectfully submitted,


Michele Beal Bagneris
City Attorney/City Prosecutor

Concurrence:


MICHAEL J. BECK
City Manager

Attachment: Letter from Geoffrey Commons dated May 21, 2012

“ATTACHMENT A”

MAY 21, 2012

TO: The Employees of the Pasadena Water and Power and all City employees

FROM: Geoffrey Commons

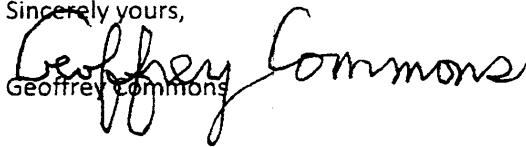
RE: Incident December 6, 2012

I humbly apologize to all Department of Water and Power employees and all city employees of Pasadena who felt fear from my criminal threat made on the telephone to Angela Bakunas where I stated that unless she gave me the phone number of the Department of Water and Power "I am going have my assault rifle and there will be many people killed, including myself." After making the threat, I then went to the City Manager's office at City Hall to file a complaint. I also apologize to the four ladies in the lobby of the office where I was both rude and acted in an angry manner.

I realize that both my words and actions are totally out-of-line and inappropriate notwithstanding the difficult circumstances of that time. There is no excuse. I have therefore voluntarily decided the following:

I need a course in anger management. I have completed eight weeks of a class at Fuller Seminary and have realized I had a significant anger management problem. I am learning why I have that problem and how to handle the problem. I am making significant progress.

Sincerely yours,


Geoffrey Commons

My unacceptable behavior is further aggravated by the fact that I was the Chair person of the Utility Advisory Commission when Rufus Hightower was the manager and I know from that experience the tireless effort and great commitment of the employees of the Department of Water & Power during this time, where many employees were working 18 hour days to restore power.