

## Sabha, Tamer

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**From:** cityclerk  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 3:05 PM  
**To:** Flores, Valerie; Iraheta, Alba; Jomsky, Mark; Robles, Sandra; Sabha, Tamer; Stevenson, Garrett; McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)  
**Subject:** FW: URGENT PUBLIC COMMENT. - PLEASE READ IMMEDIATELY: NOTICE OF FORMAL COMPLAINT RE: THE CITY OF PASADENA GOVIS TEAM PROGRAM CONTRACT AND MEMBERS

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**From:** My TRIBE Rise  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 3:02:47 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** Gordo, Victor <vgordo@cityofpasadena.net>; Márquez, Miguel <miguelmarquez@cityofpasadena.net>; Carmona, Manuel <mcarmona@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Cc:** Lyon, Jason <jlyon@cityofpasadena.net>; Rivas, Jessica <jerivas@cityofpasadena.net>; josh <josh@cityofpasadena.net>; yoland <yoland@cityofpasadena.net>; De La Cuba, Vannia <VDeLaCuba@cityofpasadena.net>; Flores, Valerie <vflores@cityofpasadena.net>; Bagneris, Michele <mbagneris@cityofpasadena.net>; Miranda, Brenda <bMiranda@cityofpasadena.net>; Madison, Steve <smadison@cityofpasadena.net>; cityclerk <cityclerk@cityofpasadena.net>; Williams, Felicia <fwilliams@cityofpasadena.net>; Márquez, Miguel <miguelmarquez@cityofpasadena.net>; Harrison, Whitney <wharrison@cityofpasadena.net>; Tunisia Offray <tunisiaoffray@cityofpasadena.net>; Jones, Justin <justinjones@cityofpasadena.net>; mjomskey@cityofpasadena.net <mjomskey@cityofpasadena.net>; bharvey-williams@cityofpasadena.net <bharvey-williams@cityofpasadena.net>; Reyes, David <davidreyes@cityofpasadena.net>; nirodriguez@cityofpasadena.net <nirodriguez@cityofpasadena.net>; De La Cuba, Vannia <VDeLaCuba@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** URGENT PUBLIC COMMENT. - PLEASE READ IMMEDIATELY: NOTICE OF FORMAL COMPLAINT RE: THE CITY OF PASADENA GOVIS TEAM PROGRAM CONTRACT AND MEMBERS

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Dear,

Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo  
City Manager Miguel Marquez  
Pasadena Public Health Director Manuel Carmona  
Respected City Leaders and Officials

My name is Heavenly Hughes, Executive Director of My TRIBE Rise, a local Non-Profit Organization focused on social and mental well-being, public safety and principles of conflict resolutions. We have compassionately served and cared for the community of Pasadena, Altadena and surrounding areas since June, 2019.

I am connecting with you regarding our concerns of Mark Sutton, a member of the City of Pasadena Gang Outreach and Violence Interruption Services Team (GOVIS).

On Saturday, December 2 at 3:10pm, My TRIBE Rise received a phone call from GOVIS team member, Mark Sutton. During the call Sutton's behavior was delinquent, indignant, and sarcastic. He raised his voice using uncontrolled belligerent language and then disrespectfully hung up in our face.

Here and Now; we are filing a formal complaint with the City of Pasadena and the Pasadena Health Department about this unacceptable, hostile and unwarranted behavior of Mark Sutton towards me as a woman, an organization leader and our organization.

I've asked before that Mark Sutton not call My Tribe Rise.

Previously on or about June 15, 2022 Mark Sutton cursed us, using foul and egregious language, irate tones and completely unprofessional in a conversation about this article

<https://pasadenablackpages.com/community/f/violence-interrupter-assaults-and-drags-23-year-old-woman>. In

that same conversation, Mark Sutton stated and admitted to my partner Victor Hodgson and myself that he punched the young 23 y/o woman in the face, as she was experiencing a mental health crisis. Stating the young woman was out of control, because she hadn't taken her medication. We informed Sutton at that time our organization does not condone or support his abusive behavior.

CONTINUED:

After a short meeting with MTR steering team, I wrote and emailed the GOVIS Contract Administrator and Public Health Director, Manuel Carmona. I also cc'd Miguel Marquez City Manager, Mayor Gordo's liaison, Vania De La Cuba, and others who apart of the **Pasadena Violence Intervention & Prevention Consortium**.

This morning at 7:30 am I had an alarming conversation with the Pasadena Health Department Director Manuel Carmona.

In the conversation Mauel Carmona told me he has decided the GOVIS team will NOT call or network with My TRIBE Rise at all concerning violence prevention. His decision to sever the relationship with MTR, landed as if addressing the repeated abusive behavioral patterns of Mark Sutton, is intimidating for him to address and correct with the lead member Rickey Pickens and Mark Sutton. Mr. Carmona was willing to go as far as severing bridges and networking to avoid accountability and correction of contracted City of Pasadena members.

Mr. Carmona told me and I quote "Heavenly, you know the game, these guys on the GOVIS team have backgrounds of trauma and triggers and sometimes those traumas may show up."

With these types of abusive traumas showing up this is a conflict of interest and embarrassment for the City of Pasadena. One would think the City of Pasadena would require treatment and therapy for such persons, before contracting them with these abusive Behavioral traumas before putting them in direct contact with community members, and threatening our safety.

I asked Mr. Carmona, "Is that an excuse for Mark Sutton to have physical fights with community members, punch women in the face, drag them by their hair, be hostile, irate and cursing members and leaders of the community, all while being paid through a city contract, representing as a City of Pasadena Violene Interrupter?"

How can we as community feel safe, if there is no accountability, safety measures or protocols implemented to protect us when the abusive behavior of GOVIS members' "trauma and triggers... show up" when engaging with people.

MY REQUEST:

- \*I ask is for the City of Pasadena Leaders to address my concerns and complaint with urgency.
- \*The abusive behavioral patterns and characteristic of Mark Sutton need immediate attention before someone else gets hurt or abused.
- \*I request an Apology by the GOVIS team leaders in writing.
- \*A written apology from Mark Sutton.
- \*The City of Pasadena and Health Department must require treatment, therapy and training for all members of the GOVIS team who are experiencing trauma and triggers due to their background before being placed in our community.
- \*The GOVIS should be put on hold, paused or stopped until each GOVIS member has been evaluated for trauma and triggers.

Trauma Informed De-escalation Strategies, Understanding and Addressing Implicit Bias, Trauma Informed Approaches. Classes and trainings are being offered by K-Rahn click here: <https://traumainformedla.org/k-rahn-vallatine/>

I also Request Public Records of the accredited training program Mark Sutton attended after being arrested in June 2022 for domestic violence that was accepted by the City when Sutton returned to the GOVIS team.

ALL Public Records regarding accredited local and national violence prevention and domestic violence training of all members of the GOVIS program. ALL Public Records of the Pasadena City Council members and Pasadena City employees' emails, correspondences, and communication with the Pasadena Health Department, Pasadena NAACP and the City Attorney, Rickey Pickens, Allen Edson, Mark Sutton, Florence Annang regarding any and all GOVIS contracts, considerations, grants, complaints, purchase orders, payments and discussion.

**IN CLOSING:**

The City of Pasadena thrives on connections and build bridges as an infrastructure and framework to establish positive and healthy fundamental relationship and networking partners. We here at My TRIBE Rise look forward to standing with you to assure the healthy networking strengthens solutions in our communities.

Peace and Safety  
Violence Solution Team  
My TRIBE Rise

*Heavenly Hughes*  
*Co-Founder and Executive Director*



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