

5/11/09

2009 MAY 15 PM 2:44

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PERSONNEL DEPT 2

Chair Jack Gordon,  
Santa Cruz County Civil Service Commission  
c/o Laurie Hill, Personnel  
701 Ocean Street, Room  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Keeping Discussion on Improvements to the Whistleblower  
Program Alive During This Board-Recommended Interim Period

Dear Chair Gordon & Commissioners:

In order to keep this issue current, I putting my request delivered to the  
Commission at the April 2009 meeting into writing --

Good evening Commissioners. My name is Morgan Koch and I've been a  
County employee for eight and a half years and a resident and citizen of Santa  
Cruz County for over twenty years.

A few months ago members of SEIU, including myself, met with the Auditor-  
Controller and her chief deputy to gather information on how the Whistleblower  
program actually works. We found that there is a very efficient system of  
procedures in place to handle the issues brought to this program and to maintain  
confidentiality at that stage of the process.

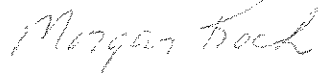
However, as has been mentioned previously and as was also found by the  
Grand Jury, once the complaint is released to the department where the alleged  
complaint originated, confidentiality can no longer be guaranteed -- as several  
staff members have already reported. It is my understanding that it was the  
intent of the Grand Jury recommendations and the recommendation of this  
Commission to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors that a solution to  
this lack of confidentiality during the Whistleblower investigatory process be  
found, perhaps through an independent commission.

Per the letter in the Agenda packet for this Civil Service Commission meeting,  
the Board has decided to shelve the set up of an independent commission for a  
year. While this is understandable during these difficult economic times when  
other perhaps more critical issues need to be addressed, I sincerely hope that  
the Commission will not wane in its efforts to seek a solution to this lack of  
confidentiality during the investigatory process.

I would therefore like to respectfully request that during this waiting period mentioned in the Board letter that the Commission continue to research how confidentiality and integrity might be maintained in the Whistleblower program through an independent commission or through some other expedient means.

I appreciate the Commission's consideration of this important matter and am,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Morgan Koch".

Morgan Koch  
SEIU Local 521 Steward,  
County Employee & Concerned Citizen