

Dear Mr. Barber,

I would like to relay an incident that happened to me Sunday night March 9th 2014 at the Fox Theater. My wife and I arrived with Councilmember Davis and his wife to attend the showing of "West Side Story". Shortly after going inside we saw the Chief of Police, Sergio Diaz, and proceeded to say hello. Councilmember Davis was in front of me and talked to the Chief first. When I went to shake hands with the Chief he pulled me closer and stated that should I ever have any concerns about the way he runs his department that I "should grow some balls and talk to him". I responded that I thought discussing some of the issues would be a good idea and that if he had time next week we could get together, it was then that I realized the Chief was very agitated because his response was very abrupt and curt when he said "oh I'll make the time". By this time the rest of my party was starting up the stairs to our seats and I asked Chief Diaz if there was a specific number or person to contact to arrange the meeting he then reached in his pocket, obviously angry and shoved his card at me while moving closer and said "If you have any more political aspirations don't make an enemy out of me".

I then proceeded to catch up with the rest of my group and Councilmember Davis said "so what did the Chief have to say" and I relayed the conversation to him at which point he said "no he didn't really, did he" and I said absolutely he did.

The Chief's animosity that evening clearly stemmed from some comments I made at the CPRC meeting in February. At that time I expressed disappointment at the Chiefs lack of participation in the Mental Health/ Police forum that was conducted at Bobby Bonds Park. Those comments are a matter of record and can be heard on the CPRC website. After making those comments I was "nodded" outside by Asst. Chief Vicino and he expressed his concern with the comments I made and we discussed the situation regarding the forum and also about the way Police Services are provide to local non-profits, which we had discussed in the past. He suggested I meet with Chief Diaz and talk about my ideas. I explained to him that I knew several people on his advisory committee and that their feeling was that the Chief was not very receptive to suggestions by the public on how he runs the Department with regards to community concerns. We finalized the conversation and I said I would think about it. I can only surmise that our conversation was shared with Chief Diaz and you can see the results.

I am an involved community member with several community groups, President of a local Foundation, appointee to two City Commissions, Human Relations and the CPRC, and former candidate for City Council Ward 7. I would never and have never threatened anyone either personally or politically and I find it incomprehensible that the Chief of Police in the City of Riverside would threaten residents. When a City employee with a gun and a badge makes these statements it is the worst kind of intimidation and bullying and it makes me extremely uncomfortable and wary. This is the kind of behavior you might expect in third world countries not in our City or our Country.

As the Chiefs superior my safety and well-being now rest in your hands and I don't believe this is an isolated incident. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your convenience and discuss this issue in depth. You have my e-mail and my cell phone number is . Thank-you.

Sincerely,

John Brandriff