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Mayor John Cook  
City Hall  
El Paso, Texas 79901

Dear Mayor:

As I have said before, I appreciate the confidence you had in me to serve on the Housing Board. You were confident that my experience could provide stability after the authority has gone through the termination of two Executive Directors in three years.

Going on the Board in December 2006, I have served six months. Early on I was indeed convinced that the Organization was in good hands with Vince Dodds as Interim Director. This was the second time he has served as the Interim CEO. He has been at the Housing Authority for four and a half years – serving also as the Finance Officer. As I strongly pointed out to the other Commissioners, if they were to get a Headhunter, with integrity, that person would quickly point out to the Board “why are you spending money and time seeking a CEO”? You have the person in Vince Dodds, he has earned his stripes and should be given the opportunity to serve as the permanent Director. The Chairperson, however, wanted to “see how he worked out” but really had an agenda that did not include Vince Dodds.

During the months I was there, I have never in my Board serving life witnessed such activity from some of the Board Members. The second-guessing and undermining was over the top and no one could perform the job as the Director now, or in the future if this activity continues. (This is why Vince Dodds would not apply for the permanent position.) Do not take my word for it, just go take a look at the number of emails that question the action of the Director.

The Authority has some wonderful employees and I am confident they can do their job well if, like the Director, are allowed to perform their duties.

It is important for the residents and all that are connected with the El Paso Housing Authority that the Board Members function as Board Members PERIOD!

Mayor, I have given the position my best shot, but under the present circumstances it is to the advantage to all that I move on. I will leave when it is convenient for you.

Most sincerely,

Don Henderson