

## Sasha Linker

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**From:** Stephen Petzold <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2020 10:10 AM  
**To:** CommAsst  
**Subject:** Public Comment for October 15 Meeting

### EXTERNAL EMAIL

Dear FPPC Commissioners,

I want to make you aware that in addition to providing real time written comments during the September meeting, I was online at media [site.fppc.ca.gov](http://site.fppc.ca.gov) and it seems you were unable to hear me.

I had logged in per instructions to media [site.fppc.ca.gov](http://site.fppc.ca.gov) and shortly after my name was called , you asked if I was on the phone. After a brief moment you moved on to the consent calendar. I attempted to call in and the operator said that I would have to wait. My schedule did not allow me to stay on the line for an extended period.

I do plan to call in for the October meeting and look forward to having an opportunity to address the Commission regarding the ongoing enforcement actions against College of the Canyons Foundation (FPPC 2019-00475) .

Sincerely yours,

Stephen Petzold  
[REDACTED]

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Steve Petzold  
[REDACTED]



August 14, 2020

Dear Ms. Alonso and Ms. MacGregor,

I am writing in regard to the last Board of Trustees meeting and the comments that were made regarding the COC Foundation, its staff, board members, and the work that we have done to advance the college.

The overall tone of the comments, paired with the body language used, has been viewed by many of those in attendance as negative and disparaging to the Foundation. We do not want to make any assumptions to how it was meant to be received, but it has been brought to my attention by numerous people and I want to provide clarity to you on the intentions of the Foundation Board members and the work that we do.

The goal of the foundation is and always has been to advance the efforts of the college while providing support to the students, faculty, staff and administrators. We work to connect the community with the college and increase the meaningful partnerships that have helped to get the college to the elite level it is at today. Our intentions are earnest and pure, and our work is always done in good faith. We volunteer our time for the betterment of everyone in our community and it is clearly reflected in the success of our college.

For Board Member Joan MacGregor to announce -- in Open Session of all places -- that, "There's quite a bit of controversy right now about the foundation and the district," shows distrust and disrespect for the actual facts of the situation. Additionally, the implication disparages the efforts of our board members. Each of you knows full well that there is no controversy between the college and the foundation, but Mrs. MacGregor's statement and tone, combined with the way your questions are phrased, make it seem as if there is. This is not acceptable to the Foundation Board in any way.

Board Member Edel Alonso adds to the acrimony by continuously asking menial questions that could be, and should be, addressed beforehand, pursuant to well-established board of trustee policies and procedures so as not to waste the time of the many people who take their time to participate in the Board of Trustees meeting.

Not only does it waste the time of the people participating in the meeting, but also it devalues the integrity of the college and the college staff who work tirelessly at their jobs and do so while following the guidelines set by state policy and procedure.

I have had many people question the length of the board meeting as well as the questions that were asked of staff. It makes it appear that you are unprepared or that you have not dedicated the requisite time prior to the board meeting to do the research needed to get your questions answered.

One specific example of the waste of resources surrounded Mrs. Alonso's questions about Blackbaud Incorporated being a program of the Foundation for software licensing which is paid by the college. Following staff's patient reminder of how this works, Mrs. Alonso's telling response was "I should know this."

Now this is our chance to ask questions of you. In a format that allows you the ability to answer, without holding others up from pertaining to their duties.



What is the true issue at the core of your distrust of the COC Foundation?

Why would you ask – in a public forum -- about COC Foundation transfers for fiscal year 2020 and 2021 into Fund 81, 82, 83, and 84? You each have access to the Foundation staff and board members and could have certainly addressed any concerns privately before attempting to embarrass those of us who put in hours of support for an organization that we love and believe in!

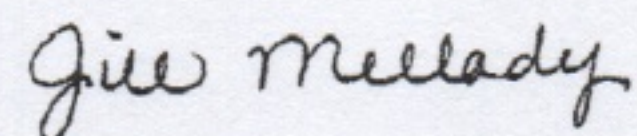
I find it concerning that you ask for Foundation documents on the day before the COC Board of Trustee meeting and attend the Foundation Board of Directors meeting only after we have been served a Public Records Act request from Steve Petzold the Friday before. It raises the questions. Are you feeding him this information? Are you trying to get answers because he is attending the Board of Trustees meeting? Where do these questions come from? Why don't you ask the Foundation directly instead of making it appear as though there is controversy? Why would you ask this in a board meeting and not pick up the phone and call Sharlene Coleal?

You make it seem that the Foundation and the College have something to hide when, in fact, there is nothing. We would like an explanation as to why you feel it necessary to do so. We would welcome a discussion in a private forum, rather than attempt to embarrass you in the midst of a public board meeting – which is why we are extending an invitation for you to meet with several of our more active board members to address their concerns.

Regarding the FPPC investigation and citations, the foundation made an administrative error that was unintentional 4 years ago. We have owned up to our errors and we have been and will continue to be more careful moving forward, but to talk about the Foundation the way you have is a poor reflection on the entire College of the Canyons community.

The college is a complex system made up of many moving parts. However, no one part can properly function without the others. I ask that you be a part in working as a cohesive unit and helping us continue to make College of the Canyons the leading institution that it is today.

Regards,



Jill Mellady

cc: Michele Jenkins  
Michael Berger  
Steven Zimmer  
Dr. Dianne Van Hook  
Cathy Ritz