

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ELECTION CHALLENGE FORM

I hereby submit my challenge for the Silver Lake

Neighborhood Council Election held on 04/12/2014

I affirm that I am a stakeholder in this Neighborhood Council and that I have personal knowledge of the following challenge. check here

Name Barbara Ringuette

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REASON FOR CHALLENGE: Campaign Material Issues
Electioneering by candidates
Eligibility of Candidate

Please state the facts for your challenge.
(max 500 words)

Heather Carson, candidate for an at-large seat misappropriated an email list and used it to contact approximately 76 neighbors. The list had been compiled by myself. She disparaged, attacked, accused and called for shame on several Board members, most particularly myself of things she knew to be false. She made lies, misrepresentations, innuendos and false presumptions. Without a doubt this and Ms. C's subsequent email caused many voters to stay at home. Here is a timeline: • At the March 5th meeting of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council Point #7 of Election's Candidate Guidelines was discussed at length At this meeting Ms. Carson spoke in favor of Point #7. (FIND council mins) Thus, Ms. Carson was on notice that negative campaigning is prohibited. • The next day on March 6, Ms. Carson sent her vilifying e-mail to the list of 76. • On March 7th I sent a request to Grayce Liu (see attached) with copies asking that EmpowerLA take action to prevent further negative campaigning. • Next, IEA Terrence Gomes admonished Ms. C. to cease all contacts with Nadine Trujillo for similar disparaging and shaming behavior. • Ms. Carson failed to learn from the reprimand and on April 11th sent her second email to the list of 76 neighbors. • Later on April 11th I sent a request to Terrence Gomes with a copy to Grayce Liu requesting Ms. C's disqualification. Ms. Carson's comments sully the Neighborhood Council system and Silver Lake's specifically, bringing it into disrepute. In her emails she made disagreements sound like a cat fight or worse. As a consequence of her negative campaigning, the moderate people who represent the vast majority of this region in Silver Lake stayed

away from voting. (see comments from Tom Bliss and 4 additional recipients of the email). In addition, several individuals requested removal from the list of 76. Ms. Carson's use of inflammatory and prejudicial tactics alienated neighbors and discouraged the reasonable exchange of opinion necessary for productive and informed elections. While Mr. Gomes informed Ms. Carson not to engage in negative campaigning, her conduct persisted. Such conduct must not be rewarded, and to unequivocally make the point that such conduct will not be tolerated, therefor I ask for the removal of Ms. Carson. While Mr. Gomes informed Ms. Carson not to engage in negative campaigning, her conduct persisted. Action to remove Ms. Carson must be taken to preserve the integrity of the Neighborhood Council system. To condone such behavior would open the door to the worst of local politics. There must be a serious consequence to prevent the continuance and recurrence of this behavior or it will only continue to the detriment of the Silver Lake Council and the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council system.

I am asking that Ms. Carson be disqualified from a seat on the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council based on the facts stated above. Further, that the candidate with the next highest votes for an at-large seat replace her. Conduct such as hers should not be rewarded; negative campaigning demeans the neighborhood council system and the individuals who volunteer their service. Action must be taken to preserve the integrity of Neighborhood Councils.

Please state your desired remedy. (max 100 words)

Attach all supporting documentation: [election - challenge 4-17-14.docx](#)

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