

November 18, 2015

Via Certified Mail

Aaron Rosenzweig 1 Thorburn Road Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Dear Mr. Rosenzweig:

This letter is being sent to you at the request of the Mayor. The City is increasingly concerned with the manner of delivery and confrontational tone of your statements during the public comments portion of the Mayor and Council public meetings. Your statements contain highly inflammatory comments and statements regarding individual City staff members which are not conducive to resolution of the issues you seek to address.

Your public statements are clearly intended to malign Lisa Holland and other members of the Animal Control Division of the City's Planning and Code Administration Department. These statements are defamatory in nature and will not be tolerated by the City.

As you are aware, the City Manager, at your request, previously investigated the actions of the Animal Control Division with regard to their interactions with you and your family and took appropriate action. As this matter has been addressed, no further investigation or disciplinary action will be taken with regard to these circumstances.

The City welcomes public comments at its meetings and respects individual's rights under the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution to speak free of government imposed restrictions on the content of their speech. However, as recognized by the Courts, the City has a substantial interest in having its meetings conducted with relative orderliness and may cut off speech when it is reasonably perceived to be disruptive. Mayor and individual City Council members have cautioned you regarding the tone and offensive delivery of your public statements during several public meetings.

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As a result, the City is demanding that you immediately cease and desist from further publication of derogatory comments directed at employees of the Animal Control Division. Future disruptive conduct, which includes the use of inappropriate language and the failure follow the protocol for public comments, will result in your removal from the meeting and may result in banning from the City Hall property. If so banned, entry onto the City Hall property will be considered trespassing and you may be arrested.

Sincerely,

N. Lynn Board,

City Attorney

cc Mayor and City Council

City Manager Chief of Police