

March 30.2022

Dear Chair Joan Hartmann and Supervisors,

I write to you today with humility and respect hoping that you understand a fraction of who I am. I apologize for the circumstances for this meeting today.

I arrived in Santa Barbara on September 1, 2004, to care for my elderly father. I cared for him for 12 years as he suffered from severe PTSD from WW 2 trauma. This was a challenging and heartbreaking experience as a widow, single mother and a caretaker. I come from very humble beginnings. My mother was born in Puerto Rico and my father was of Mexican and Lebanese descent. Both my parents struggled with discrimination and rose to achieve what they had through a strong work ethic which they shared with me. I learned to accept all cultures through my diverse upbringing and appreciate their struggles to give me the best they could.

I purchased the property at 2905 Via La Selva in Santa Ynez after the passing of my father. It was a dream to live in such a beautiful home in such a beautiful area. My partner Carlos Aguirre and I and our children are blessed to share our home with family and friends. We care for our home with some help from a gardener 2 days a week but mostly we maintain the home and 5-acre property ourselves; it is a lot of work! Carlos has worked at Costco in Goleta for the last 18 years and I am a property manager. My son commutes to Cal Poly and we have shared custody of Carlos' 3 minor children.

We have all struggled in the past couple of years, but I have the extra burden of being monitored and photographed by my neighbor at every turn. We feel violated and have lost all sense of privacy in our once dream home. I came to realize through letters from the County of Santa Barbara that I was in violation. I quickly responded each time and learned about the various rules, regulations and zoning in my area. I now realize there are over 700 pages of rules, what's a girl to do?!? We were doing nothing different from what we saw our other neighbors doing. We never meant to cause harm or make our neighbors uncomfortable in any way. I have taken responsibility for any errors I have made. I explained my actions to the County and during the compliance process have had to pay thousands of dollars code enforcement labor hours to investigate my neighbor's complaints for doing the activities I see my neighbors and peers share online through the Nextdoor app and such.

I realize I have offended my neighbor. I wish we would have a friendly and respectful relationship where we would be able to communicate openly. We have always had open communication with her husband Bill Jackson. Carlos and Bill's relationship goes back about 15 years as they both volunteered on the soccer fields for the children. They have worked together on the property when the main gate malfunctioned and on other occasions. We let the Jackson family know when we will be hosting a gathering or birthday party and have invited them to part take in the festivities. We live on a 5-acre property with a shared access easement. We have an area by Refugio Road furthest from our home that is very suitable for personal parties and bbqs. We love to share our good fortune with family and friends and have even hosted nonprofits fundraisers, charity is very important to me. We were even reported for hosting a mostly senior member nonprofit to raise desperately needed funding for children with cancer in Puerto Vallarta Mexico for Dia de los Muertos.

I realize I have made mistakes and I have promptly done my best to correct the issues. I hired Frances Romero, as land use consultant to represent me and help guide me through the process; this is not easy for the average citizen, it is very expensive too. Currently, there are no violations on my property. County staff has suggested that whenever I am going to have a family gathering at my home that I provide them with details in advance so that they are able to respond to my neighbor when the complaint is called in. Does it seem reasonable that I need to share the details of a family birthday party or holiday party?

I feel that I have no privacy. Due to the Planning Commission appeal by my neighbor who contacted the immediate neighbors to sign on, we feel we have lost the once friendly relationship with them.

It has been over a year that my homestay permit was approved and then appealed; ironically, the permit is only good for one year at a time, the process has taken for too long. I will comply with all the conditions of approval for my homestay permit and with great humility ask the Board of Supervisors to look past all the distractions surrounding my case as they have nothing to do with the homestay use; apparently, not all neighbors can get along.

I hope you see that are normal working individuals that only want to live in peace, enjoy our property with our family & friends, & operate a homestay in 2 of the seven bedrooms in our home. I hope you may have compassion when making the final determination of my homestay permit.

Sincerely

Jacqueline Abbud

March 30,2022

Dear Chair Hartmann and Supervisors,

My name is Carlos Aguirre and I live at 2905 Via La Selva with my life partner, Jackie Abbud and our children. It saddens me that we are living in such turmoil. My family loves living in Santa Ynez. I feel that I have a good relationship with Bill and Ingrid Jackson and we communicate easily through texts and cell calls. For example, one evening about 10 pm there was an extremely bright light shining into our bedroom window approximately 100 feet away. I texted Bill and he immediately came out to find the issue and fix it. I feel just as my neighbors can respond to simple everyday issues; they could communicate about what they feel uncomfortable about such issues as Mexican music they heard coming from our home. I cannot deny that I am of Mexican heritage. We have a large family and value sense of community. We enjoy gathering to celebrate religious holidays, and special family occasions regularly. It is in our culture to put family first. We are lucky to live on such an amazing property to share with family and friends. Sadly, we are now advised to email the county planner whenever we have guests or family gatherings to avoid be investigated the Monday after our get together. It sad when I have to turn my family away from visiting us due to conflict with our neighbor. We maintain a manicured property and care for our animals. I work very long hours each day on the ranch but love where I live.

I would truly wish for a peaceful and private home life. I would prefer if the neighbors would not photograph my everyday activities on the ranch or my children playing by the barn. It is a huge invasion of privacy. We should not be in anyone's way on our 5-acre property. We deserve to live in peace and not be constantly reported for normal activities to the county. We are constantly being watched by the neighbors as they slowly drive down the easement to watch our everyday lives sometimes even stopping completely to photograph us, our guests, literally as we watch it happen. My neighbor has even lured our friends through her chicken coop to ask them questions.

I realize we have made mistakes and apologize. We have abated all violations. I hope that we will be able to return to what is normal for our family without ongoing harassment.

I ask the board to see that we are a normal family and want to follow the county rules and regulations. We applied for a Homestay permit and were so happy when it was approved in February of 2021. Please take into consideration that we live on site and review each guest request.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

Carlos Aguirre