



Chevron Smears: Anarchy? Mortgage? Halloween Picture?

I suppose when Chevron gives a PR firm a huge budget for a smear campaign and they have nothing to use, they can only make things up or take them out of context. I have already answered their distortions about my record of public service. The new charge that they have mailed to every Richmond voter - that I am an anarchist --is completely false and should seem ludicrous on its face since I have long volunteered for government committees and am running for City Council.

They made up the charge based on one statement taken out of context where I try to explain that the only way we could have no government—that is “anarchy”—is if everyone was a perfect person who always acted with self-discipline. You can see this for yourself even from the clip that Chevron uses. But you will notice that they cut the clip just when I give an example that makes my point clearly. What they cut was this:

Quote: “For instance at...U.C. Davis, after all the students were pepper sprayed, they (the students) went to listen to the chancellor and even though there was no organization, everyone was able to quietly sit down on both sides of the walkway and allow her (the chancellor) to leave. That is anarchy at its best. Hopefully this city council can work that way where we respect each other and where the audience respects all of you.” Unquote.

In other words, this was all part of my call for the City Council to work together.

The lies in this mailer keep piling up. They take a photo of me in a Halloween costume from my Facebook page as proof of my desire for chaos and disorder. They claim I have "racked up \$202,000 in debts", but that is the mortgage on my house and like most of you, I make my mortgage payments monthly.

Do you think that the whole mailing was even close to a fair description of who I am and what I stand for?

I would like you to consider this. If Chevron’s cheap smears multiplied by their millions for mailings and media promotions are allowed to work, how many good people who oppose Chevron’s policies will run for office. There is a reason that Chevron is spending so much money to try to defeat Team Richmond—they do not want people who will stand up to them on the Council. You have to decide when you vote whether Chevron can buy Richmond with its money and cheap smears.

I do not object if Chevron criticizes me for something I stand for. I think Chevron has a bad record in its relations with the community and in its management of the dangerous refinery in our midst. I think the city must demand improvements from Chevron. But Chevron has not just been negatively campaigning—it has been campaigning with lies. I believe Richmond voters will see through this. Again, all you have to do is look at the official financial filings. All of the money for this smear campaign comes to you thanks to “funding by Chevron.”

Clearing the Air (about Chevron's Smear Campaign)



Chairing the CBAC on October 25, 2012

Chevron would love to divert our attention from the issues that are important to Richmond residents. Chevron prefers we not focus on its corporate responsibility to pay taxes and its negligence in operating a very dangerous refining operation in our community.

Instead, they are trying to defeat candidates who will actually hold them accountable for their actions. They have paid for hit pieces attacking me by distorting the truth, saying that I was "missing in action at government jobs."

These so-called "government jobs" are volunteer positions with no pay and I give my time willingly, not only on the two committees mentioned, but also on the Planning Commission and the Pt. Molate Advisory Committee. Moving forward failed to mention my attendance record on these committees because my attendance is stellar on these committees.

As anyone familiar with volunteer committees knows, meetings often conflict with other activities and much of the work is done by email, and sub committees. When I can't make a meeting, I still study the issues, and read the minutes and consult with my fellow committee members to find out what happened in order to submit my input.

I have been the vice-chair of Citizens' Budget Advisory Committee since the beginning of 2012 and became chair in September. Members of the committee valued my contribution and elected me to lead the committee.

I have also served on various ad hoc committees and contributed my time to various projects throughout Richmond. If I am to be accused of anything, it would be of doing too much with too little time.

There is so much to do to move our city forward. Tabloid-style attacks are a distraction that does no one any good.

If you are confused by these mailers, I ask you to follow the money and ask yourself why Chevron would spend over a million dollars to keep Marilyn Langlois and myself from being elected to the City Council. If you think Chevron has the best interests of our city in mind, vote for the Chevron candidates.

Richmond has been moving forward these past years in part because more residents like me and many others have been volunteering their time. If you want a Richmond that continues to move forward, vote for Team Richmond for Council.