

Dear Mayor Bober,

Every quarter, I look forward to receiving my copy of the *New Horizon* magazine and catching up on all of the great projects happening in the City. This past Sunday was no different... until I opened up to the first page. Mayor, I am very saddened that you would choose to write such a "charged" article during the holiday season. Your first line was very abrupt, and put me on edge immediately. My husband and I chose to create a life and start a family here in Hollywood over eleven years ago. We have chosen to live, work, and play in this great city. I am an educator, and my husband has served the City for eighteen years as a public employee. We are also residents and tax payers. I am no stranger to the horrific mismanagement of city funds in the past; it has cost my family greatly. That said, I thought we were finally moving forward as a City and once again working together - residents, public servants, and the Commission. I was obviously mistaken.

There are three aspects of your letter that I find very disturbing. First, the timing is deplorable. Not only is it the holidays, but the country is in turmoil over the Ferguson case and the recent events in New York City. Why would you want to fire up more people? Secondly, you clearly insult the residents that if they do not get involved, they have their head in the sand ("proverbial ostrich.") Mr. Mayor, not everyone has the need, means, or desire to be heavily involved in all of the City's issues. That is why we elected our officials to be our voice and trust that they will have everyone's best interest at heart. I admire people who serve the City and get involved, but I also respect people who don't or cannot. Lastly, you call out your fellow colleagues on the Commission and insinuate that if they don't agree with you that they will be the reason for the City's demise. This is very unprofessional.

Mr. Mayor, I know you have a very tough job to do, and I admire you for taking it on. However, with your position comes great responsibility to serve all of your residents and take care of your city employees. With the tone of your untimely letter, I feel that you are once again on the verge of another referendum pitting the city employees against the very people they serve. I am asking that you take the time to think about the city employees and their families. We are people too and some of us are your taxpayers. At this blessed holiday season, I now have a pit in my stomach worrying what will happen to our family next. I hope the next time you address the citizens of Hollywood, you are more responsible and professional with your words (straight dope.)

Respectfully,

Tara Marino