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Public Comment for Submission re: Rent Control Board nomination

1 message

David Bergeron <david@bushwatson.com>

Mon, Apr 24, 2023 at 1:32 PM

To: "publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov" <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>

Cc: Jessica James <Jessica@longfellowcomms.com>, Tom Watson <tom@bushwatson.com>, John Laliberte <john@bushwatson.com>

Dear Mayor Snyder & City Councilors,

I'm writing to you on behalf of Port Property. It has come to my attention that you may be considering the nomination of Matt Walker to serve on Portland's Rent Board. I would like to strongly object to his appointment.

As you may be aware, the Rent Board operates as a quasi-judicial body as it conducts hearings, mediates disputes, and considers a variety of applications necessitated by the rent control ordinance. As Port Property is one of the largest providers of rental housing in Portland, I am often before the Rent Board with applications. In my experience, I have found the Board to be open to logical discourse and to practice balanced consideration of the ordinance. While I don't always agree with their conclusions, I never feel that the Board is being malicious or that they view landlords in an adversarial light.

However, these meetings are invariably sidetracked by input from Mr. Walker. In nearly every case, Mr. Walker has spoken out against Port Property. He is not a current tenant of any of our properties and does not speak to the information in the applications at hand. Instead, he seizes the opportunity to be in the spotlight bashing the "big corporate landlord". His comments are accusatory and often border on slander. I cannot speak to what motivates him to crusade against our company, but I can say without a doubt that he has not shown himself to be impartial or informed. And, therefore, he should not be given a position of voting authority. His appointment will not help address Portland's Housing Crisis – we need to continue to work together constructively through the implementation of Portland's rent control policy.

I'm including below just a small sample of comments he has made on public platforms. As you can see, he clearly states he has a "vendetta" against our company. And he conducts himself in a manner that would not reflect well on this Board or the City of Portland.

I do not believe the Nominating Committee had this information at the time they made the decision to nominate Mr. Walker.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

David Bergeron

Port Property/Tom Watson & Co.

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Pragmatic Portland @PragmaticPortl1 · Mar 24

This was liked by former disgraced Mayor Ethan Strimling. Is he seriously condoning the kind of rhetoric that accuses his former colleagues of benefiting financially from supporting the new state of the art HSC? Shameful. @PressHerald @etdundon



Matt Walker   @geomathMEW · Mar 24

Replying to @PragmaticPortl1 and @mayorstrim
so you are saying you know for sure that no former or current councilors have financial investments in bayside that may have represented a conflict of interest?

that is comforting, but honestly i have little reason to believe any thing that you claim.

1 2 176



Matt Walker   @geomathMEW · Mar 24

Replying to @PragmaticPortl1 @PressHerald and @etdundon
you put words in my mouth your gonna have a bad day bro. i never stop coming for people who fuck with me

heres what i said

" id be interested to know, how many of our former and current councilors.mayors have significant real estate investments in bayside"

hardly an accusation

3 4 85



geomathMEW **OP** · 28 days ago

i just got this vendetta against ppm because they evicted me during covid, the exact first day that the moratorium ended, because i had spent the previous two years complaining every week that no one ever picked up the trash and caused a rat infestation on the whole row of buildings that they owned. easier to boot me than to hire trash guys i guess

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David Bergeron
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