

September 23, 2014

Mayor Tom Tait
50 South Anaheim Blvd., Suite 90
Anaheim, California 92805

As an Anaheim voter, as a wife and mother, and as a woman, I would like to bring to your attention to a very serious matter regarding Doug Pettibone, your neighbor down the street whom you personally recruited to run for Anaheim City Council.

In June of 1998, Mr. Pettibone was charged with four misdemeanor counts of battery, battery against a spouse, assault and harassment, stemming from an apparently volatile, hostile domestic violence situation with his first wife. In January 1999, he pled guilty to assault, stemming from this domestic violence incident, which is "an unlawful attempt, coupled with a present ability, to commit a violent injury on the person of another."

Mr. Pettibone is your neighbor and you personally recruited him to run for our city council, but I don't know if you are or were aware of his pleading of guilty to an assault. If you were, I would like to know why you decided to ask Anaheim voters like myself to support him for city council. If you were not aware of Pettibone's pleading guilty to an assault, I would like to know how you are going to respond now that you have been made aware of it.

Recent media attention on professional football player Ray Rice's physical abuse of his wife has sparked renewed public attention on the issues of domestic violence and spousal abuse. My passion on this issue rooted in my personal experience: I suffered abuse at the hands of my former husband. It is one of the reasons I volunteer at the Family Justice Center in Anaheim. The humiliation, isolation and soul-killing awfulness of living in fear of one's husband is something I would not wish on anyone.


Spousal abuse is a serious issue. One in four women will be victims of violence from a spouse or boyfriend. Seven million children live in families where spousal abuse has occurred. It is one of the leading causes of injury to women between the ages of 15 and 44. Over 70% of women injured in domestic violence cases are so victimized after separation from their spouses. Spousal abuse isn't rare. It is something of which our daughters, sisters, mothers and friends are victims of each day.

This October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Now that you have been made aware of your running mate Mr. Pettibone's pleading guilty to an assault out of a domestic violence incident, you owe your constituents an explanation as to whether you will continue to vouch for Mr. Pettibone's fitness to serve on city council and urge your fellow Anaheim citizens to vote for him. Since taking office, you have made "Kindness" the centerpiece of your mayorship. Domestic violence, spousal abuse, acts and threats of physical and emotional abuse; these are the opposite of kindness. What kind of message does it send

to the women of Anaheim if on one hand our mayor preaches for us to be kind to each other, while on the other hand asks us to vote for a man who has pled guilty to assaulting his wife?

Anaheim voters like myself deserve your swift response. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Lisa Lewis

Lisa Lewis