

During Business from the Floor on September 17, I addressed the content of a Facebook rant by the Mayor in which he made horrible accusations about my colleagues and me, including causing “physical and emotional harm” by our requests for public information, “hijacking” business from the floor, and “encouraging hateful individuals among us to act.” He attempted to tie our protected speech to racism, threats, and violent crimes, including “personal attacks on family members, vandalism of property, and hospitalization of city officials.” He accused us of playing “a major role in wrongdoing at City hall and contributing to the hostility towards the great city employees” and said he “observed [us] violating public personnel standards.” Finally, he accused us of having “contributed to loss of revenue or level of debt or impeded [his] ability to perform the responsibilities of [his] office.

I reminded him of the rights of individuals to criticize government officials under Section 54954.3 of the Brown Act, and I provided copies of the Facebook transcript for the Council and the public.

There is no doubt about what I was addressing. Yet, what do the minutes reflect?

“Mary Fitch addressed the Council regarding how she was interrupted by the Mayor while speaking under Business from the Floor at the September 3, 2013 meeting.”

Incredible, just incredible. If the Council believes Officer Boothe’s Facebook comments were media worthy, why aren’t the Mayor’s at least minutes worthy?