15.21

30 Mar 2018 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

This letter is a summary of events and my recollections after I was Informed that our post, VFW post 12162, was presented a cease and desist letter. I received the information from then post commander, Steve Mueller. I was concerned and wanted an explanation. I proceeded to call the Department of Texas Veterans of Foreign War and was referred to Dan West. He was not available so I left a message. Shortly after, Mr. West retuned my call. I asked him about the suspension and he started an explanation. His main point was that the post solicited donations from outside the posts geographical area. Mr. West then proceeded to explain his concern with the post banking and spending. He stated he was concerned that the post funds were commingled with Mr. Mueller's personal bank accounts. I served on the Pleasanton city council from 2008-2018, as Mayor from 2011-2018. I explained to him what an asset the post was to our community. Being a councilmember and active member of the community, I realized the good such an active organization can be for our community. After I mentioned that Mr. West focused on a grant the City of Pleasanton awarded the post. Because I had not been a part of the council since May 2018, I told him I would look into the grant. He was concerned the post received the money with no accountability. In fact that is not true. The money was a grant that would give the post money based on the success of an event. With the information I have, it seems that the actions taken against the post were a ploy to stifle the success of the post and tame Steve Mueller's aggressive ideas. I am very proud of being included in the membership of the Veterans of Foreign War.

Recently the Pleasanton Express published an article about the members of VFWPost 12162 forming a new organization, the Atascosa County Veteran's Council. The Atascosa Veteran's Council wanted to let the community know that even though the VFW post 12162 would no longer be serving the community there would be a veteran organization working hard for the community and its veterans.

Best regards,

Clinton J. Powell

Clinton J. Powell,

Former Mayor, City of Pleasanton
Member of Veterans of Foreign War