

# PARKINSON FOR SHERIFF 2010

April 25, 2010

Dear HROA Board:

I have received your letter and the attached emails, in which John Allen submitted and described his opinion of what the candidates said during the April 13th forum.

Let me say initially that I strongly disagree with Mr. Allen's statements to the extent that he claims they are an accurate characterization of what I said during the forum. But to give this some context, I think it's important that I begin by telling you the history of the forum.

The April 13th forum was completely arranged by John Allen – the campaign manager for Joe Cortez. All communications regarding every aspect of the forum, including its format, were handled by Mr. Allen. To have a campaign manager arrange and conduct a speaking forum was irregular and raised suspicions that it would be self-serving, especially given the fact that Mr. Allen lived in Heritage Ranch himself. Nonetheless, my campaign staff and I decided that we would participate.

During my opening statement, I was the first candidate to state that I recognized that Heritage Ranch was a unique location due to its isolation, and that I was very interested, as Sheriff, in expanding the current Resident Deputy Program and would seek to have a resident deputy in the Heritage Ranch area. I was the second to last candidate to give my opening, thus others had a chance to make a statement similar to mine, but did not do so. Yet before the end of the forum most, if not all, of the other candidates agreed with my plan for a resident deputy.

I am aware of the question that was asked that has caused concern; however, I do not recall the exact wording of the question. But after first hearing it, I do recall feeling that it was unusual and was intended to elicit a response regarding some internal security issue at Heritage Ranch. I was the second candidate to answer the question, immediately after Mike Teixeira. The first words in my response I will paraphrase; I said something to the effect of: I cannot comment or would not comment on any internal concern that people might have with your security, because I do not have any facts. By this response, I intended to make it known to the audience that my answer was solely based on my experience with security and not on *any practice* at Heritage Ranch. I also recall one or perhaps two of the other candidates stating something about handcuffing people; but since "handcuffing" was not part of the question as I remember it, I cannot tell you why it came up at all. I do not recall which candidate(s) made the statement about handcuffing, other than to say that it was made after Mike Teixeira. Jerry Lenthall and I spoke.

I have 18 years experience running security at the California Mid-State Fair and well-understand that comparing the security at Heritage Ranch with the security at the Mid-


State Fair is akin to comparing apples with oranges. The Fair relies on the Paso Robles Police Department during the day for law enforcement issues and, after 7:00 p.m., has the Sheriff's Department on grounds to serve that purpose. Ninety five percent of the Fair's law enforcement needs occur during the evening when the Sheriff's Department is on grounds. Our response time on the fairgrounds by the Sheriff's Department is very short – a matter of a couple of minutes or seconds – which is a significantly different from the time it takes the Sheriff's Department to drive to Heritage Ranch.

I told the audience of my experience when I took over security at the Fair and expressed my opinion that, in many cases, the security at the Fair caused more problems than they were solving by getting involved when it simply wasn't necessary. I **never** stated that security at Heritage Ranch was doing anything wrong and even today could not comment on it because I have no foundation for doing so. I have been involved in security long enough to know that there is, of course, always potential liability. But since I am not an attorney or a security consultant and have no knowledge of the security practices and procedures utilized by Heritage Ranch, it would be extremely improper to offer an opinion regarding the same.

Finally, as I recall the forum was taped by Mr. Cortez's campaign staff, and so I would encourage you to contact Mr. Cortez or Mr. Allen and obtain the tape so you can review it and decide for yourself.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,



Ian Parkinson