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California State Senate

SENATOR
ANDY VIDAK

FOURTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES
VICE CHAIR
BANKING AND
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
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NATURAL RESOURCES
AND WATER

June 14, 2016

The Honorable Bill Monning and Mike Morrell,
Chair and Vice-Chair of the Senate Legislative Ethics Committee
1020 N Street, Room 238
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Monning & Vice-Chair Morrell –

I am writing to ask that your committee review the following comments reportedly made by a member of the Senate earlier today:

Patrick McGreevy @mcgreevy99 6m6 minutes ago
*Sen. @isadorehall blasts gun control foes as "crazy, vicious, heartless" people.
"They need to wash their mouths because they are filthy"*

It is my understanding that Senator Hall made this comment at a public hearing in the State Capitol and in attendance there were several fellow legislators, legislative staffers, media representatives and members of the public.

While the issue of gun control can be an emotional one, that is no excuse for Senator Hall to use such intolerant and disrespectful language aimed at those of us who don't agree with him. I too have strong views on the issue of gun control and am a solid supporter of the Second Amendment, but I do not publicly defame or insult those who happen to disagree with me at a hearing in the State Capitol.

It would appear to me that Senator Hall may have violated multiple sections of the Senate's "Standard of Conduct" policy with his tirade:

- *"First—Each Senator shall conduct himself or herself so as to justify the high trust reposed in him or her by the people and to promote public confidence in the integrity of the Senate."*
- *"Fourth—Each Senator has an obligation to provide energetic and diligent representation, and each officer or employee of the Senate has an obligation to provide energetic and diligent service on behalf of the Senate, with due consideration for the interests of all of the*

people of California. (a) Each Senator and each officer or employee of the Senate has an obligation to be informed and prepared, recognizing all sides of an issue."

- "(c) Each Senator shall be accessible to all constituents, making a special effort to attend to the concerns of those who might not otherwise be heard. (d) Each Senator shall fairly characterize the issues confronting the Legislature and accurately inform the public regarding the conduct of his or her office."
- "Fifth—Each Senator and each officer or employee of the Senate has an obligation to the public and to his or her colleagues to be informed about, and abide by, the rules that govern the proceedings of the Senate and the Legislature. (a) Each Senator shall perform his or her duties with courtesy and respect for both colleagues and those who may appear before the Senate."
- "Sixth—Each Senator, and each officer or employee of the Senate, acting in a position of leadership shall exercise his or her power and carry out his or her responsibility so as to enhance reasoned and visible decision-making by the Senate."
- "Seventh—Each Senator has an obligation to treat each officer or employee of the Senate with fairness and without discrimination, and to ensure that each officer or employee performs only those tasks for which there is a legislative or governmental purpose."
- "Eleventh—Each Senator and each officer or employee of the Senate shall conduct himself or herself in the performance of his or her duties in a manner that does not discredit the Senate."

I leave it to your committee to hand down whatever discipline is appropriate to restore the honor and integrity of the California State Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Vidak", with a stylized, flowing script.

Andy Vidak

Cc: Members of the Senate Ethics Committee
Members of the Senate