

Weaver, Tracy (City Clerk)

From: Greg Gabel [gregg90245@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, November 24, 2012 8:31 AM
To: Jacobson, Carl (Mayor); Fisher, Bill; Fellhauer, Marie (Council Member); Atkinson, Dave (Council Member); Fuentes, Suzanne (Mayor Pro Tem); Weaver, Tracy (City Clerk)
Subject: The Affair - Chris Powell and Laura Gabel

As elected officials in El Segundo, I believe it is important for you to understand the background on some rumors related to other elected officials in El Segundo that you may hear over the coming days/weeks. I also believe it is important for each of you to understand the integrity of those in which you conduct business, or those that actively represent your city departments and community.

First, this is Greg Gabel the husband of Laura Gabel - El Segundo School Board member. As the title of this email explained, I found out about an affair that has been going on the last year between Laura and Chris Powell, a former El Segundo School Board member and the current El Segundo City Treasurer. I have found evidence of all their secret rendezvous during the week while I am working. I found out that when I was out of town on business last month, that Chris and Laura slipped away to Las Vegas for two nights during the week, leaving Hunter and Hannah back in El Segundo without either of us home. In fact, I found out the dress Laura wore at the ES Ed Foundation's Mom's Night Out was something Chris bought for her along with the necklace and earrings during their special getaway to Las Vegas. We just spend a family vacation in Phoenix, AZ for Thanksgiving and came back in town late Thursday evening. I caught Laura with Chris Powell last night instead of out "Black Friday shopping".

A little background:

In January of this year, I first discovered that Chris was so much more than just a mentor to a future/new school member. This was strike one! When I first discovered the affair, including a night they spent together at a hotel while she was away on a California School Board Association trip and meeting, I confronted both Laura and Chris as well as visited with Chris' wife, Jeanie, to share everything. They both were extremely sorry for their behavior, promised Jeanie and I that it was over, and Laura and I began family counseling. Within a couple of months, I caught them a second time - strike two! I again confronted both Laura and Chris, demanded they stay away from each other, and at least I thought I scared the sh** out of Chris - apparently not. I again shared the evidence with Jeanie.

After the second strike, I seriously considered filing for a divorce. I stayed and tried to make things work because I did not want Hunter and Hannah to have to go through a divorce.

Early on when Chris suddenly started coming around our house, I was very surprised at how hard he was working to convince her to run for school board and why he was willing to work so hard on Laura's school board campaign and put his reputation out as such a strong endorsement. I now understand what was in it for Chris. I knew that Chris was very helpful for Laura as a mentor, since she would email and call Chris to discuss school board business and get his input to help her prepare a position on issues before school board meetings, but I did not appreciate everything else that was part of their "school board business discussions".

By the way, as school board members it does seem a little strange for a board member to discuss board business with someone outside the board. I guess this must be like someone talking to a spouse about confidential business at work - a bad practice in my opinion. Something for you guys to discuss at a future board meeting. At least you can now take their relationship into consideration if you continue to invite Chris Powell to be a member of special committees representing residents and parents of El Segundo.

Back to the affair, I always wondered how Chris had so much time available. It was obvious that Laura had plenty of free time that came with the privilege of being a stay at home mom. In some of the text messages I have uncovered, it became very clear how Chris would plan around his wife, Jeanie, and his schedule. One of the more shocking observations into the character of Chris Powell was in the text messages where Chris talks about Jeanie

being at his parents home, as a caregiver to his extremely ill father, and that she would not be home so he was available to spend time with Laura. I know this is very hurtful to Jeanie.

At this point, I now know they did not stop after I caught them a second time but only became much more secretive. Chris bought Laura a "go phone prepaid plan", since I had been able to see all of their thousands of text messages and phone calls on her family iphone. She created new secret email accounts, etc. She stopped inviting me to attend many activities and events with her, as it made it uncomfortable for Chris to see the two of us together. In recent text messages from last week, Chris showed how he worked things as they planned their attendance at the El Segundo Chamber mixer that Mattel hosted. He was sorry, because he knew it would be uncomfortable for Laura to have to see Jeanie hanging close to his side. Chris stated that he would sit his wife Jeanie and his mother at a table in the back of the room so then he could slip over and meet Laura in a side area.

So my discovery last night is strike three for Laura and I! I do not know what Jeanie will decide to do. I met with her and explained the latest evidence after I found them last night. Jeanie is obviously very devastated, so if any of you have a close relationship with her you may want to check on how she is doing.

After I caught them the second time, I made it very clear that the consequences of a third strike would be a divorce for Laura and I and also that I would make all of this public in the sleepy little town of El Segundo. You see, I have learned just how very important their public image is to both Chris and Laura. She has changed so much over the last year from the person I married and raised our two children with. The Laura Gabel I married would have never put something ahead of what was best for our two children, and yet by continuing this affair with Chris she put us in a position where everyone will be hurt.

Since you will likely hear rumors or may get questions, I think it is important that you are informed. Say a prayer for Hunter, Hannah, Laura, and I because this will be rough.

Greg Gabel