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CITY OF COSTA MESA  
BY \_\_\_\_\_

December 30, 2010

The Honorable Gary Monahan  
City of Costa Mesa  
77 Fair Drive  
Costa Mesa, CA

Re: Stephen Mensinger

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Unlike many in the community, I have not known Mr. Mensinger for an extended period of time. We're not close personal friends. I'm not even sure that he voted for me. But what I have observed in the past three years that he's been my neighbor has convinced me that he's the right person at the right time to best serve the needs of the taxpayers and students of Costa Mesa.

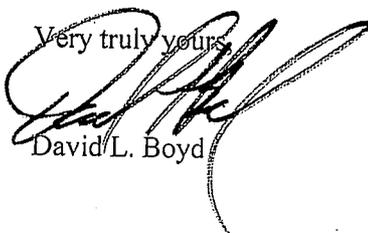
I don't think that any reasonable person could question the business skills that Mr. Mensinger's would bring to the Council. But some have questioned his temperament and willingness to work with others that might not share his political views. A conversation that I had with Mr. Mensinger over two years ago might alleviate some of these concerns.

There has been speculation that Mr. Mensinger supported Katrina Foley's campaign for the school board this year only because it would open a seat on the Council. It's understandable why some who don't know all the facts might reach this conclusions. But a conversation that took place in 2008 might shed some light on his motivation and willingness to work with others. At the peak of campaigning in the City Council race, a *Katrina Foley* sign appeared in the front of the Mensinger home. When I asked him how a conservative could support Ms. Foley, he commented that she had been supportive of his efforts to improve youth programs and athletic fields. In other words, their mutual interests in the children trumped their political differences.

With respect to temperament, Mr. Mensinger can be blunt and to the point. But in these trying times, isn't that what we need to move the City forward?

I believe that we need Council members that can hold to their political beliefs but not be afraid to seek common ground with others when it's in the public interest. It's for this reason I encourage you and the other members to appoint Mr. Mensinger to the Council.

Very truly yours,



David L. Boyd

cc: Members of the City Council

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**From:** Bob Lee [mailto:bob\_lee@sbcglobal.net]

**Sent:** Sunday, January 02, 2011 11:43 PM

**To:** Daily Pilot - LA Times; op2council

**Subject:** Costa Mesa city council vacancy

On Tuesday the Costa Mesa City Council will appoint a new member to fill the unexpired term of Katrina Foley, who has joined the Newport-Mesa school board. I would urge the council members to fill the vacancy with a person who has displayed a genuine commitment to the well-being of the city: Chris McEvoy.

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McEvoy narrowly missed being elected to the council this past November, despite having mounted a small-budget, no-frills campaign. He represents a fresh, independent voice, untied to special interests or conflicts of interest. I hope the council members will see these qualities for what they are and resist the temptation to select instead someone who "agrees" with them. Costa Mesa doesn't need lockstep conformity on its city council; we need reasoned debate and willingness to consider multiple viewpoints.

I ask the council members to do what's best for Costa Mesa--not what's best for politics: please select Chris McEvoy to fill the vacancy on the city council. Thank you.

Robert E. Lee Jr.  
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