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**chris cross**

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**From** Eva Rowles <e.rowles@mvcsdboard.org>

**Date** Tue 1/13/2026 7:31 AM

**To** Brittany Chavez <b.chavez@morongovalleyfire.org>

**\*\*Statement to the Morongo Valley Community Services District Board of Directors\*\***

**\*\*Submitted by: Eva Rowles, Parks Director\*\***

**\*\*Date: January 13, 2026\*\***

To the Honorable Members of the Morongo Valley Community Services District Board of Directors:

I am submitting this statement to formally document a persistent pattern of concerning conduct by Christopher Cross toward me that has created an unsafe, intimidating, and uncomfortable environment. This has directly impaired my ability to serve effectively as Parks Director on this board, affected my daily life, and threatens the collaborative spirit essential to MVCSD governance. As a long-time resident and volunteer dedicated to Morongo Valley, I have prioritized integrity, community support, and enhancing public spaces like Covington Park. However, these incidents have escalated to the point of significant personal distress, family impact, and professional disruption.

**\*\*My Community Involvement\*\***

I have volunteered extensively in the Morongo Basin, including as President of the Morongo Valley Firefighters Auxiliary and as an admin/advocate on local community pages. I was recently elected to this board and serve as Parks Director, focused on park development, maintenance, and creating inclusive, family-friendly environments for all residents.

**\*\*Tenancy History with Christopher Cross\*\***

For over a year, I rented office space in a building owned by Christopher Cross. During this period, I personally witnessed his inappropriate language and behavior toward others in the office buildings, including inappropriate interactions and conduct between him and his employees that created a hostile and unprofessional environment for everyone present. Specific incidents involving me included:

- His use of inappropriate language in professional settings.
- Multiple unauthorized entries into the office building while we were not present.
- Walking prospective tenants through our rented office spaces several times without our knowledge, consent, or proper notice; I am certain there were additional instances of unauthorized access of which I was unaware.

- Toward the end of the tenancy, attempting to move the next tenant into the space before our paid month had fully concluded, despite our lease rights and payments covering the entire period.

Rent was paid in full and on time every month, with no late payments or delinquencies up to and including the final day. Despite this impeccable record, Mr. Cross publicly stated in the community that I was delinquent on payments and that he was evicting me. These false accusations were damaging, portraying me as irresponsible and contradicting my established reputation as a reliable tenant and dedicated volunteer. This misrepresentation felt like a personal attack and began the decline in our interactions.

As a direct result, I no longer felt comfortable in shared environments and resigned from my long-standing position as President of the Morongo Valley Firefighters Auxiliary, where Mr. Cross was also present on the board.

#### **\*\*Recent and Ongoing Incidents\*\***

Mr. Cross became involved in a separate dispute with another board member or community individual—a situation in which I was not present and had no direct involvement. Despite this:

- He confronted me aggressively at the Dollar General in Morongo Valley while I was checking out with my young daughters. He demanded information about the dispute, insisted he was "taking [the other person] down" and claimed he was doing so for my benefit and that of others in the community. I repeatedly told him I could not and would not communicate with him. He continued pressing, blocking my path near the doorway as I tried to leave to join my daughters (who were already in the car calling for me, as we needed to get to school on time). His behavior was so intense and persistent that my daughters became scared; once I reached the car, they asked if I was okay, clearly upset and concerned for my safety. This made me feel extremely uncomfortable, harassed, physically impeded from exiting safely with my children, and deeply distressed by the fear it instilled in my family. Even after I blocked him and his business page on Facebook to limit further contact:

- He has continued to seek me out and harass me in connection with posts on community pages where I serve as an admin. These posts had nothing to do with me personally, were not brought to my attention until the following morning, and occurred on the day of my daughter's birthday—when my priority was family, not monitoring social media.

- Most alarmingly, he has escalated by sending threatening text messages directly to my personal phone number, causing significant fear, distress, and invasion of my privacy despite my clear boundaries.

#### **\*\*Broader Pattern and Impact\*\***

These incidents—in-person confrontations, online targeting, and now threatening texts—form an ongoing pattern of harassment and intimidation directly caused by Christopher Cross's actions. The false public accusations of delinquency and eviction (despite perfect payment history), unauthorized entries and showings of our rented space, attempts to move in a new tenant early, inappropriate language, aggressive Dollar General confrontation (scaring my daughters and blocking my exit), continued unsolicited

approaches via community pages (unrelated to me and during family time), threatening texts, and the inappropriate language and behavior I personally witnessed toward others (including his employees) in the office buildings have all contributed to this escalation.

Christopher Cross is an outside individual who has been harassing the board and the community more broadly, filing frivolous lawsuits apparently intended to fill his pockets, and making repeated false accusations against board members, staff, and residents. This pattern of behavior creates a toxic, chilling effect that discourages open dialogue, self-advocacy, and community involvement—elements vital for a healthy board and district.

The cumulative effect of these actions by Christopher Cross has made it impossible for me to continue serving effectively. Being on the board legally limits my ability to speak freely or defend myself appropriately against these attacks, due to open-meeting laws, district procedures, and restrictions on discussing personal matters in an official capacity. I can no longer remain in this role while these attacks persist, as they prevent me from protecting my reputation, safety, and that of my family in the ways necessary. I am therefore resigning from my position as Parks Director and as a member of this board, effective immediately.

To safeguard myself and my family from further harassment, I will be filing a civil harassment restraining order against Christopher Cross. I am taking this step reluctantly, as my preference is always peaceful resolution, but the continued threats, unwanted contact, and intimidation have left me with no reasonable alternative to ensure my safety and peace of mind.

This situation detracts from the respectful, collaborative atmosphere needed for effective governance and could silence other members or residents.

I respectfully request that the board:

- Acknowledge this statement and my resignation as part of the public record.
- Consider appropriate measures under district policies, bylaws, or applicable California law to address conduct that disrupts board service, creates a hostile environment, or intimidates members/volunteers.
- Foster an environment where all directors, volunteers, and community members can participate without fear of harassment, intimidation, retaliation, or attacks for defending themselves.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter.

Sincerely,

Eva Rowles

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