

3152 Shad Court
Simi Valley, CA 93063
January 23, 2023

Board of Supervisors
Hall of Administration
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Re: Agenda Item No. 35 (Recommendation of Supervisor Parvin to Appoint Justin Honsinger, and Reappoint William Saunders and Stephen Frank to the El Rancho Simi Cemetery District).

Dear Members of the Board:

Since Mr. Justin Honsinger is being recommended for the El Rancho Simi Cemetery District Board, I am writing to express my support for his appointment because the Simi Valley Public Cemetery District and the Simi Valley Public Cemetery (now El Rancho Simi Cemetery District and El Rancho Simi Pioneer Cemetery) are a major part of his family's history. Also my own history with the Cemetery District and the Cemetery have come full circle.

BACKGROUND

I learned about the Simi Valley Public Cemetery District and the Simi Valley Public Cemetery in the late 1980's when I served on one of the City of Simi Valley's Neighborhood Councils. The Simi Valley Public Cemetery District Board was pursuing a loan from the City to improve the Simi Valley Public Cemetery.

In 1990, I attended Simi Valley Public Cemetery District Board meetings, and I met Mrs. Virginia Honsinger, the Cemetery District's secretary.

Years later, through my extensive research of the District and Cemetery, I learned that Mr. William Honsinger (Mrs. Virginia Honsinger's husband) was the Cemetery caretaker, and upon his death, Mr. Dale Honsinger (son of Mr. William Honsinger and Mrs. Virginia Honsinger) became the Cemetery caretaker.

On August 11, 2021, the Honsinger name resurfaced during the El Rancho Simi Cemetery District Board's Agenda's "Agenda Review" (Item No. 3). I participated via Zoom. The Board's approved August 11, 2021 Minutes stated "A motion was made by Chairman Saunders to amend the Agenda to add 10C to New Business to discuss the Burial of Virginia Honsinger, Seconded by Trustee Burdorf Vote: 4:0". And, under Agenda Item 10c it was stated in the approved Minutes "10. New Business c) Honsinger burial - Chairman Saunders informed the board that he received a call from Supervisor Huber and Mayor Mashburn requesting the board to consider allowing Mr. Dale Honsinger to be buried at no cost, after much discussion the board decided to carry this item over to the next meeting to allow time for more research on the matter".

I participated via Zoom the rest of 2021 and most of 2022. I have checked and re-checked the Board's approved Minutes on the District's website, and the Agenda Item, which would have been agendized under "OLD BUSINESS", was not included in any of the Agendas. The information is also not found under any other Agendas' sections.

It is now January 23, 2023. I once again cross paths with the Honsinger family name.

Members of the Board, during the Cemetery District Board's January 11, 2023 discussions, I learned about the recent efforts by Trustee Deborah Burdorf and Juanice (Cemetery Manager/Cemetery District Secretary) to organize reserved and unreserved plot records. This was excellent news, but there is still quite a lot of work to be done. Mr. Justin Honsinger's family's background will be helpful as the El Rancho Simi Cemetery District Board, and staff move forward with this Cemetery office records' activity.

Sincerely,

Teresa Jordan