



DARRELL ISSA  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

June 21, 2017

Mayor Judy Ritter and  
Members of the Vista City Council  
200 Civic Center Dr.  
Vista, CA 92084

Dear Mayor Judy Ritter and Members of the Vista City Council,

I write to follow up on my message from May 30th to the City's Code Enforcement Office on behalf of a local small business owner and the greater community of the City of Vista to express continuing concerns over adherence to the clear terms of a permit issued for assembly near the 1800 block of Thibodo Road.

As I know you will agree, nothing could be more important than the freedom of Americans to exercise their right to peaceably assemble, and voice their opinion in the political process as protected by the First Amendment to U.S. Constitution.

The regularly organized gatherings in front of my Vista District Office have received a permit from the City of Vista. Unfortunately, continued non-compliance from the gathered groups has resulted in a real and serious impact on the building owner, other tenants and members of the community.

Let me be clear: this isn't about me or my office. I can handle a little heat from some protestors. While I understand the goal of these protests is to impede the work of my congressional office, it's unfortunate the loud gatherings are have impeded the work of neighboring businesses and prevented their right to use and enjoy their property.

The crowds gathering in the street have posed dangers for passing traffic. The building owner, a retired hard-working public servant, who has poured his life savings into the building has repeatedly suffered property damage, with little or no recourse. While other tenants of the building, myself not included, have been unduly restricted from the full use of their space as the regular use of bullhorns, loudspeakers and other amplified sound has disturbed their day-to-

day operations and, according to their accounts, made it impossible to conduct ordinary business.

As I indicated in my earlier message, I request the City enforce the existing ordinances to ensure the safety of all participating parties and to address the concerns of non-participants in the building and surrounding area.

Additionally, I ask that the City consider opening a dialogue with the groups assembled to work toward a solution that will allow political expression to continue while ensuring the safety and usability of others' spaces. Given the recent escalation of political rhetoric nationwide, from a battle of policy ideals to both actual and threatened violence against multiple elected officials and their staff, the need for the City to engage and balance challenging circumstances is both apparent and essential to safe exercise of the competing rights of our citizens.

I appreciate the Council and the City's work to promote the well-being of our community, which has been home to both Kathy and myself and our business enterprises for nearly thirty years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Darrell Issa', written in a cursive style.

Congressman Darrell Issa