



Jon Silver

3:56am <https://pvforum.us/g/main/message/168985>

Dale Pfau's emails

Since I posted to the PVForum yesterday regarding emails of 12/13/2021 and 1/27/2022 which appeared to be designed to suppress important testimony that should have been brought before out Town's Wildfire Safety Committee, I have received a number of inquiries as to the origin of these unusual and alarming communications.

As I said yesterday, I discovered these messages because I filed a Public Records Act request with the Town.

I have been asked to share the full results that I received in response to my request for disclosure.

Here I am doing so, to the extent that I am able (see below).

Attached is my original PRA request, and a PDF that contains the most pertinent results that I received in response. My request asked:

pursuant to the California Public Records Act, California Government Code section 6250, et seq., for the following documents:

All emails, text messages or other communications, including any attachments, between Dale Pfau in his capacity as a volunteer in the government of the Town of Portola Valley and any and all other volunteers and staff members of the said Town government, especially, but not limited to complaints regarding, Mr. Pfau's behavior. In particular accounts from Mr. Pfau's colleagues on said Committee regarding his conduct and/or misconduct.

Of course, you will please note that this request specifically encompasses all emails or text messages sent or received by Town staff or volunteers (including Mr. Pfau) on private accounts.

Such documents are "public records" within the meaning of the California Public Records Act, *City of San Jose v. Superior Court*, Cal. 5th 608 (2017).

Please peruse these messages and form your own judgements.

Unfortunately, they provide only a partial record because Mr. Pfau (who had through his attorney demanded such disclosure from others) provided no emails or text messages regarding these matters in spite of legal requests for him to also do so.

Again, please draw your own conclusions.

As for myself, having read them all, I find that Dale Pfau's emails represent a disturbing pat-

tern of behavior over *many* months of:

- Blatant disrespect to other community volunteers.
- The use of bullying tactics to exclude the viewpoints of those he disagreed with.
- These emails do not represent a single “incident” that one can apologize for.
- The record of these emails exhibits a consistent pattern.

Voters should read these emails and decide for themselves what they think, but the facts of his verbatim words are indisputable.

As a man I am struck by his repeated condescension to the women he served with. Brilliant women, articulate women are referred to in various cases, as a “clueless woman”, or as a “disaster”.

If you disagree with someone why not just say so, rather than demean them in an insulting way? And why is it relevant that the person on the receiving end of your disdain is a “woman”?

As a guy I have seen all too many men who just can’t deal with differences of opinion, especially when expressed by a bright, eloquent woman. We don’t need anymore of this in our lives, let alone in our government.

Again, also of note, despite being someone who had filed public records act (PRA) requests to the Town himself, Dale ***never responded*** to the PRA request to the members of the Wildfire Preparedness Committee (WPC), of which he was Vice-Chair. I find this odd and hypocritical.

The *only* reason we have these emails in the public eye is that they were shared during the PRA process by a recipient of Mr. Pfau’s emails who was a WPC member. Are there other disparaging emails or text messages from Dale? We will never know because Dale never replied to the PRA request – despite being Vice-Chair of the committee, he never turned over a single item.

Like the content of the emails themselves, the fact that Dale did not respond or comply with the WPC PRA request is an undisputed fact.

Dale Pfau is correct, he represents change, but not the change I want to see. I support Town volunteer leaders who are honest, decent, and respectful of their fellow community volunteers, and inclusive of other perspectives, not just their own.

I know the words above are strong, but sometimes one has an obligation to tell the truth even when the only reward may be hostility and abuse. Long ago I learned not to let such things deter me from doing what I must.

As one who was born White, male, straight, and raised Christian, I feel an obligation to stand

up for others who may not have such advantages.

Sincerely,

Jon Silver

Portola Valley resident, 1954–present former Town Councilmember, 1978-1993

former Mayor, Town of Portola Valley, 3-terms Town of Portola Valley Open Space Award

Honoree recipient, 2003 former San Mateo County Planning Commissioner, 1995-2007 former

Chair, San Mateo County Planning Commission, 2 (or 3?) terms

former Chair, Town of Portola Valley Conservation Committee, 1977-78

Chair, petition drive to annex southern San Mateo County (including Portola Valley) to

the Mid-Peninsula Open Space District, 1975

Served two years in a minimum-security State institution after graduating from WDS HS;

this minimum-security facility was then known as “Sonoma State College”, 1971-1973

Dean’s list, Sonoma State College, 1971-1973 (note, I am not saying which list!) A really

good bunter on my Little League team, 1965

Secular Mormon, for quite some time now

Gadfly, 1953-present

P.S. A few weeks back I posted two articles about sexist abuse, and misogyny to the

PVForum. Even though they were not directly related to our local area, besides receiving

thanks from many women, and most men, I also received two very vitriolic and hostile re-
sponses from two local men.

It was a reminder to me that a particularly potent form of chauvinism is still part of our lives,
whether we like it or not.

We still have a long way to go in achieving equality and decency in our civic life. As a great
man, who I had the honor of meeting long ago, once said, “The struggle never ends, and the
dream never dies.”

Let’s bring the dream of a better future into reality – while we are still here to enjoy it; we
shouldn’t leave all of the hard stuff to our daughters and our sons.