

Lori Martin

From: Dan Romero
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2020 3:33 PM
To: Lori Martin
Cc: David Biggs
Subject: Fw: Celsa Taraya

Lori, As disturbing as this email is to read, the author has requested her email be read during Tuesday night's Council meeting. If this email is to be published, please redact her email address.

Dan Romero,
City of Hercules Council

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2020 2:30 PM
To: Dan Romero <DanRomero@ci.hercules.ca.us>
Subject: Celsa Taraya

It is my opinion that Celsa Taraya has no business serving on anyone's City Council, most especially in Hercules.

Celsa was married to my father Joseph Ybona Gumban in the 80's, making her my former step-mother.

When I was a child, she charged at me with a golf club, swinging it at me. Thankfully, my father grabbed her hand before I was hurt. This was her way of reprimanding me for my brother taking her car out for a joy ride .

I've also witnessed her throw a rice cooker at my brother's head for not cooking the rice correctly.

I remember, her threatening to leave my father unless he punish my brother everytime he refused to call her "mom" or obey her. I watched my brother get beaten by my father just to appease her.

My uncle and grandparents lived in Hercules for over 4 decades and I went to Refugio Park as a child. I've even taken my own children there. My children previously attended the Solis Martial Arts studio and we still make frequent visits to the Cabalen restaurant. Although I am not currently a resident of Hercules, it has always been a home away from home to my family and me. It is my personal opinion that someone with a history of violence and child abuse should not lead this community nor any other community

My brother and I have grown to lead healthy productive lives, and we are happily raising our own families now. I've also noticed that Jonathan and Joseph Taraya (formerly Jonathan and Joseph Gumban, my biological half-brothers), are too living their own productive lives, and I am very proud of them. My brother and I babysat them when they were just babies. However, a simple name change does not erase the past.

I will never forget the physical and emotional trauma Celsa, in my humble opinion, had a hand in during my youth.

Signed,

Eleanor Gumban

P.S. You have my permission to share this information in the City Council public comments.