

Jill Cameron & Associates

Consultancy Services

City of Joondalup  
 DOCUMENT REGISTRATION  
 Ref: 37505  
 No: 020956  
 Action Officer: DCO.  
 CC: MAYOR  
 CC: CEO

Act	
Att:	

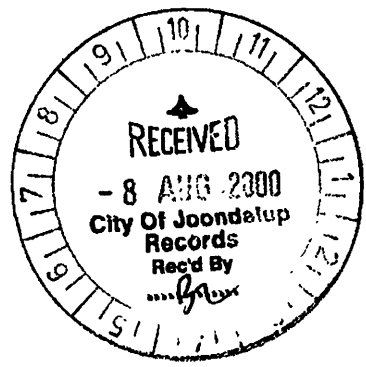
Mr Lindsay Delahaunty  
Chief Executive Officer  
City of Joondalup  
Boas Avenue  
JOONDALUP WA 6027

Dear Lindsay

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter I have sent to Mayor Bombak regarding a meeting attended at Granny Spiers Community House at 8.00am on Friday.

Yours sincerely

Jill Cameron  
6<sup>th</sup> August 2000





Mayor Bombak,  
City of Joondalup  
Boas Avenue  
JOONDALUP WA 6027

Dear Mayor Bombak,

I am writing to express my concern about a meeting I attended at Granny Spiers Community House on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2000 which was convened under the auspices of elected members of the City of Joondalup.

I was recently engaged by City of Joondalup Council Officers to provide an assessment of a Funding Application made by Granny Spiers Community House Inc. In consulting terms, this was a very small straightforward project that I completed as required in a short timeframe for a fee of \$600 plus GST.

Marilyn Beresford, Manager Community and Health Services advised on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2000 that some Councillors had requested to meet with me. I was informed at approximately 2.30pm on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August that the meeting would be at 8.00am at Granny Spiers Community House the following morning. Although I had already fulfilled my contractual obligations I attended the meeting as a courtesy to the Councillors who had made the request. This was despite having been engaged by Council Officers, not Councillors, the short notice I was given, and the inconvenient meeting time.

Present at the meeting were

- Councillors Carlos and Hollywood (Cr Hollywood left at approximately 8.30am)
- Council Officers Chris Hall and Marilyn Beresford
- representatives of Granny Spiers Community House – the Chairperson Cecilia Gartrell, the Coordinator, Mary Stewart and the Bookkeeper
- Chris Baker MLA and
- another person who arrived at the meeting at around 8.50am but was not introduced.

The presence of the range of people with an interest in Granny Spiers Community House initially supported my perception that the meeting had been convened as a positive attempt to address issues affecting the operation of the Granny Spiers Crèche. However, the meeting proceeded in a way that circumvented any constructive dialogue. There was no apparent Chair and no statement was made at the commencement or at any time during the meeting as to the purpose of the meeting or what it was hoped to achieve.

There was no formal agenda for the meeting which lasted for approximately one and a half hours. For the whole of this time I was subjected to questioning which could more accurately be described as interrogation which appeared to be directed at discrediting

- a. the process by which I had been engaged by Council Officers
- b. the process used in conducting the assessment of the application
- c. the conclusion reached, and
- d. my personal and professional integrity.

Cr Carlos pursued issues and lines of questioning that were unrelated to my role as a consultant or the work I had undertaken. Cr Carlos stated that he had been disgusted when he read my report and that I was a person with no compassion.

Mr. Baker played a significant part in questioning me. It was not clear in what capacity Mr. Baker was acting.

I believe that the treatment to which I was subjected at the meeting was disgraceful.

I have worked constructively with Local Government Authorities in Western Australia and with many Government and Non Government organisations throughout Australia. At no time in my work as a consultant have I been subjected to such inappropriate, unprofessional treatment from representatives of an elected body as I experienced on Friday morning.

I seek clarification of

- a. who called the meeting,
- b. the official purpose and status of the meeting I attended at 8.00am on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August,
- c. the status of the people who attended the meeting in relation to the task I had been contracted by Council Officers to undertake, in particular Mr. Baker,
- d. for what purpose the Council or any other attendee at the meeting intends to use any perceived outcome of the meeting, and
- e. whether there is a Code of Practice that applies to the conduct of meetings convened by Councillors.

I have attached a copy of my Curriculum Vitae. It outlines the range of work I have undertaken as a consultant for a wide range of Government and Non Government organisations throughout Australia, and is a mark of the professional respect I enjoy.

I consider that I am entitled to an apology from you as Mayor on behalf of the Council. I must also add that unless I can receive an assurance from you that in any future dealings with the Council I can expect to be treated with respect and in a professional manner, I will not undertake any work on behalf of the City of Joondalup.

Also, I require a copy of any report, comment or other record of or about the meeting made by anyone in attendance so that I can assess whether I need to take further action.

I am saddened that I am forced to this action for the first time in any dealings I have had with any client.

Yours faithfully



Jill Cameron  
6<sup>th</sup> August 2000.

cc. Mr Lindsay Delahaunty CEO