

Formal Complaint by [REDACTED] against Supervisor Rex Bohn for abusive and hostile behavior towards staff and attempting to direct staff to disregard the new ordinance for a special favor for his friend

Date of Incident: Tuesday June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 4pm

[REDACTED] on the Tobacco Retail Licensing (TRL) Ordinance. [REDACTED] just recently passed the Ordinance by a vote of 5/0 of the BOS.

[REDACTED] In attendance [REDACTED] Supervisor Bohn, [REDACTED] and a few other [REDACTED] staff.

As soon as the meeting started it became obvious that this meeting was initiated by Supervisor Bohn to lobby for an acquaintance of his. This person was the owner of 30 or more Chevron Stations in Northern California who was selling his business, as a whole. The owner was upset that the new TRL Ordinance was going to cost him to lose his tobacco sale license for 3 stations in Humboldt County. One in McKinkleyville, one in Garberville, and one in Willow Creek. The ordinance aims to reduce the number of tobacco outlets over time through attrition and or sales to other than a related family member.

Supervisor Bohn was upset with this result, even though he voted for the new ordinance. He aggressively pushed on staff to offer some sort of waiver for his friend and when they explained they did not have the authority to do that he continued his attack on staff. He demanded that they come up with some exception and if they could not get it done in a few days due to vacation or some other reason, then to give it to someone else to get it done. Staff again explained they had no authority to do that.

Staff explained that they had intended to come back to the BOS in a month or two with some suggestions for change to the Ordinance. The change they suggested might deal with a license at a remote location with only one store like in Petrolia. They explained again that the case Bohn was lobbying for was unlikely to be changed.

Supervisor Bohn continued his rants and I spoke up and asked him to calm down and how inappropriate it was to be pushing so hard for this waiver. He said "I know I am an asshole, I am just an asshole". This is not the only incidence of this behavior on Bohns part.

The tension in the meeting was still very high and at no time did Bohn apologize or offer an acknowledgement of the position he was putting staff in. They kept trying to explain their position, but Bohn was not accepting any of that. [REDACTED] end the meeting as nothing was being accomplished. The meeting ended after approximately 45 minutes or so.