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30 Years of Feminism From Marching in the Streets To a Seat at the Table

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April 16, 2018

Fire and Police Commission
Staff Contact: Lori Luhnnow, Police Chief
215 E. Figueroa St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Email: clupo@santabarbaraca.gov

Dear Members of the Fire and Police Commission:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee (SBWPC). Our nonpartisan organization is one of the largest women's political committees in Santa Barbara County with over 400 members. SBWPC's vision is to achieve a society based upon the feminist values of social, political, racial, economic and gender equality. This vision cannot be achieved if a large portion of our population is in danger of being left uninformed during emergencies.

We have recently been informed that neither the Fire Department, Police Department nor Office of Emergency Services has a designated Spanish speaking Public Information Officer, a written Spanish language communication plan, or a redundancy plan for Spanish communications for emergency services. SBWPC joins The Restorative Community Network, CAUSE, La Casa de la Raza, El Centro, and LISTOS, 805UndocuFund, Just Communities, CLUE, SURJ in urging that this situation be rectified promptly. It is imperative that clear, timely and coordinated communication, including in the Spanish language, is imperative to protect lives and property before, during and after emergencies occur in our city.

Therefore, I am writing today to urge the Commission to recommend the addition of a line item to the Fire Department Budget to fund a full-time Information and Education Officer position. This will ensure that our Spanish language community is fully informed throughout emergencies such as the deadly fires and debris flows which we recently experienced.

Sincerely,

Catherine Swysen
President

Cc: SBCityCouncil@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

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