Karthic Ramanathan Trespass Notice Appeal Meeting Notes March 5, 2010

Attendees: Karthic Ramanathan, City Manager Scott Neal, Recorder Lorene McWaters

Neal said he will make a decision on this trespass appeal in about a week.

Ramanathan said he appreciates the opportunity to tell his side of the events. He does not want any bad feelings. He said he is originally from India. He works for Seagate and loves Eden Prairie. He said he is not sure what he did wrong, and that everyone deserves to be treated with respect.

Ramanathan said he received a call from Wendy in early January asking him not to have "awkward and inappropriate behavior" with front desk staff at the Community Center. Ramanathan said he did not know he had done anything like that, and he did not know what she was talking about. He said he has received awards for character and has done human rights work in India. He said he asked Wendy if it was because he asked someone to go to a movie with him. She said no and that there was no policy violation. He said he still did not know what she was talking about. He said it is not fair to ask him not to talk to women at the front desk if it is not a policy violation.

Ramanathan said he continued to work out at the Community Center until February 19. He said he is friends with Reva and he told her about a dating experience he had. He asked her advice on what gift to give someone for a second date. Ramanathan said he is not sure if there is a cross-cultural difference in speaking about these types of issues. Nathan told Reva to leave the front desk and he told Ramanathan that Wendy had told him not to speak to women at the front desk. Nathan asked Ramanathan to leave the facility and said he was going to call the police. Ramanathan said he left the facility and called Nathan to ask about the incident. Ramanathan said he wondered if they had something against him.

The next day, Ramanathan decided to cancel his Community Center membership. He said he was told he needed to come in to do that. He went in and canceled his membership and left. He said a week later he received the letter of trespass notification.

Ramanathan said he is not violent. He loves Eden Prairie. He wants to know why the City is doing this to him. He feels it is an unjustified attack on his character. He would like clarification of the trespass order and feels it is a little heavy handed.

Neal told Ramanathan that the trespass order is not a public document and it is not a public attack on his reputation. Karthic said he appreciated that information, but he wants to address the idea that he is some sort of threat. He said he is willing to talk to anyone necessary to clarify the situation.

Neal said there are some inconsistencies in Ramanathan's characterization of his relationship with Reva. Reva does not characterize their relationship as a friendship. She says he asked her to coffee or on a date on more than one occasion. Ramanathan said he did ask Reva out twice.

Neal says he has been told that staff asked Ramanathan to stop his behavior on more than one occasion and that he declined. Ramanathan said that is not so. He began getting hostile reactions after Wendy's phone call. He said he asked two women who work at the Community Center out to coffee. He said he just wants to clear up his reputation. He does not intend to go back to the Community Center again without talking to someone first. He said he prefers, as an immigrant, not to have the trespass order on file.

Neal said Ramanathan does not need to talk to anyone. Karthic said he respects any woman or man's wish not to speak to him. Neal said he will talk with staff to clarify some factual issues and will send a letter to Ramanathan informing him of his decision on the appeal.