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## **The Disgusting Accounts of Desert Hot Springs Politics In Those Friends of Desert Hot Springs Archives**



**Gabriel King with his two children.**

There was a time when Gabriel King, the founder of this website, had so gotten under the skin of city officials that they accused him a being a racist. Over the charge, King was fired from his position at Citizens on Patrol. And, to get rid of King on the planning commission where he served as an alternate, the city council fired the entire planning commission.

All that commotion took place in the Spring of 2005 and when it finally blew up into a Desert Hot Springs story, it was clear King had allies, not the least of whom is Donna Anderson who served with King on Citizens on Patrol.

"Normally I would say 'no comment.' But these allegations I don't believe," said COP treasurer Donna Anderson regarding the charge that King is racist. "He's always been aboveboard and

never brought anything political into the COP meetings." (Desert Sun, May 27, 2005 - reporter Nelsy Rodriguez).

Even without that endorsement, if King was a racist it would be hard to tell by the company he keeps, a point King made when he was quoted in The Desert Sun article.

"For them to paint me as some lunatic driving around with a Confederate flag is insane," an agitated King said. "I'm not a racist person, everybody around me is a different nationality."

Those different nationalities King refers to are his two adopted Korean children, an African American son-in-law and his wife, who was middle eastern decent.

Explaining what was at the root of the allegations King said, "They want to get rid of me because I have nailed them on everything on my Web site. If they stop doing these things and make themselves look honest, I'll refocus my Web site."

King was speaking about events in Desert Hot Springs at the time that included former City Manager Jerry Hanson firing a popular chief of police, Hanson's leaked W2 tax form showing that he earned more than \$322,000 in 2004, and scrutiny surrounding a land deal involving two public officials just outside the boundaries of a coming high-end housing development (Skyborne).

"I'm just bringing out the truth and asking the questions that need to be asked," said King.

For the city's part, using then Deputy City Attorney Thomas Neumann, the city issued a letter to King accusing him of being a racist. In that letter dated May 17, 2005 and addressed to the members of COP, Neumann wrote King was in violation of the COP mission statement and breached ethical standards.

King is not the type of person to go away easily. For five years he waged a relentless battle to expose what he called corruption and self dealing by Desert Hot Springs elected officials.

King may have been forced to resign from the COP, but in the end a city manager was fired after a scathing grand jury probe, a police chief was fired and two council members that ended up in King's cross hairs lost their re-election bids.

King was vindicated on the racism allegations when the whole sordid affair went public with the story by The Desert Sun newspaper. Said King today by telephone, "When someone makes outrageous allegations like that the only way to deal with them is to go public. Thanks to Nelsy Rodriguez (of the Desert Sun) for reporting the story."

See Friends of Desert Hot Springs archive [at this link](#).