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New campaign in DHS to oust City Manager



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We have new information on a citizen effort to get the Desert Hot Springs City Manager out of office, after the city signed a contract with a company where the city manager's son works. A mailing campaign is asking residents to take action.

One by one, the letters are stamped and placed into boxes, ready to be sent out to thousands of people in Desert Hot Springs. It's all an effort by a handful of residents to call attention to an investigation of City Manager Jerry Hanson.

"When people shine the light of suspicion on themselves, they should expect to be suspected."

The city manager came under fire last week, after a city contract surfaced that was awarded to a security company that employs his own son.

"He is taking advantage of his position, benefiting from city."

The mayor has called for an investigation to determine if the contract is a conflict of interest. But in the meantime, this grassroots effort, spearheaded by resident Alex Bias, is asking fellow residents to quote take a stand against corruption, "We want commitment."

About 1,500 letters will be sent out. Inside is a petition to put the city manager on administrative leave.

"It's very difficult to investigate him while he is still in office."

But resident Jessica Gilbert says she won't be signing the petition. She thinks these mailers are keeping the city from tending to bigger problems, like the city's bankruptcy.

"We need to come together. It's a waste of time."

There's no telling if these mailers will bring change, but Bias says he has no intention of backing down.

The city manager told Newschannel Three last week that there was no conflict of interest.



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