

Engineering vs. Bureaucracy: A Carlsbad Homeowner's Stand Against City's Disregard for Expert Advice

Rene Lichtman's Struggle Highlights the Potential Dangers and Enormous Costs of Ignoring Engineering Expertise in City Planning

CARLSBAD, CALIF., UNITED STATES, July 26, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- In a case that underscores the critical importance of expert advice in city planning and development, a Carlsbad homeowner's dispute with the city over a retaining wall in his backyard has brought to light the potential dangers and enormous costs associated with ignoring engineering expertise. The homeowner, Rene Lichtman, has been embroiled in a legal battle with the city, highlighting the clash between engineering and bureaucracy.

Lichtman built the retaining wall as a heartfelt tribute to his late girlfriend. However, when the city discovered the unpermitted structure, they demanded it be torn down and the hillside fully graded. This operation, estimated to cost over \$900,000, has been deemed dangerous to life and surrounding properties by at least three independent engineers. The potential risks include destabilizing the hillside, endangering nearby properties, and potentially causing harm to the individuals involved in the operation.

In response to the city's demands, Lichtman proposed an alternative solution to retrofit the walls with soil nails, a method endorsed by a reputable engineering firm. This solution would ensure the stability of the hillside while preserving the retaining wall. Despite the backing of professional engineers and the support of the majority of his neighbors, the city has refused to consider the proposal. This has led to an ongoing legal battle that has put Lichtman's life's work and retirement at risk.

"This case is about more than just a retaining wall," Lichtman said. "It's about the importance of listening to expert advice and the potential consequences when bureaucracy overrides engineering expertise. It's a stark reminder that ignoring professional advice can lead to dangerous and costly outcomes."

Adding to Lichtman's struggles, he has also been unfairly removed from rental platforms Airbnb and VRBO due to neighbor complaints, causing significant financial loss. These platforms, which once served as a source of income, have turned their backs on him, further exacerbating his situation.

Lichtman has documented his entire ordeal in a detailed 29-page account and is planning to launch a full media campaign to bring attention to his plight. By sharing his story, he hopes to shed light on the importance of expert advice in city planning and the potential dangers of ignoring such advice. His story serves as a stark reminder of the consequences when bureaucracy and disregard for professional expertise take precedence over common sense and human consideration.

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