

In 2016, the PIPOA implemented a "Compliance" program that, for the first time EVER, threatened homeowners with fines. At the time, many homeowners questioned the legality of this action because nowhere in our Covenants do we grant authority to the PIPOA to assess or collect fines. Let alone for issues that were not mentioned in our covenants. Do we all remember being told to trim our palm trees on threat of a \$100 fine?

Our questions were ignored and went unanswered. The fining commenced.

But we never quit questioning. Many owners were fined. Some paid under threat of a property lien. Many refused to pay, so the fines were placed on the Member's statement and involuntarily collected when a property was sold. Or for many, a monthly statement shows up in their mailbox with the fine and accumulated interest.

Recently, we have discovered, that in 2019 the Board Attorney told the PIPOA that they NEVER HAD ANY AUTHORITY to assess or collect fines from any property owner.

Since then, we have been asking the PIPOA to come clean about this issue, but as recently as last month, fines were still being assessed.

We kept voicing our demands that the fines stop. And this week, with the assistance of PIPOA Board Member Marta Sprout, the PIPOA has FINALLY stopped the process of fining. In addition, ALL fines assessed since the beginning of the program are being refunded and any fines currently on a property owner's statement are being removed. Linked below is a copy of Marta's recent letter to the Board demanding victim restitution.

All we can say is IT IS ABOUT TIME.

If you were a victim of this illegal practice, we encourage you to contact the PIPOA and make sure that you are on the Victim Restitution List.

The PIPOA needs to remember that they have legal and ethical boundaries. The PIPOA needs to remember that they work for us, not the other way around.

As always, we will continue to watch out for the rights of the Members.

Jim and Kelly McFadden

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