

PLEASE FORWARD TO FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

FACT CHECK CHUCK

“The board knows how to fire a Chief when it’s time, and it’s done it.”

Chuck Toombs

The tough talk of Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD) incumbent Chuck Toombs at the candidate’s forum doesn’t quite reflect the actual history of the board’s “firing” of its Chief of Police. The reason Toombs’ comment was met with laughter from the audience ([listen here](#)) is because in the wake of the Reno scandal outraged citizens demanded that the KPPCSD board fire Chief of Police Greg Harman, but the board only voted to discontinue contract negotiations with him. As for board member Toombs, his was the only vote to continue the negotiations. Here’s what happened:

On February 8, 2015, Thomas Peele, an award-winning investigative journalist for the Bay Area News Group, broke the story of Kensington Sgt. Keith T. Barrow having his badge, his gun and his wallet stolen by a Reno prostitute nine months earlier, on May 23, 2014. Under the headline [East Bay cop whose gun was stolen by prostitute still working](#), Peele gave Kensington residents our first glimpse of the police district’s long-delayed action against its rogue detective; “... late Friday nearly nine months after his bad night in Reno, and after this newspaper started asking questions of Barrow and Kensington officials,” Peele wrote, “his attorney said a disciplinary decision has been made. Barrow will be suspended, attorney Justin Buffington told the newspaper, but he would not say for how long or when it would begin.”

Barrow’s job was saved because once this long-delayed punishment of Barrow was handed down by Chief Harmon, any further action would be considered double jeopardy.

On February 16, 2015, with hundreds of angry Kensington citizens packing the Community Center, the KPPCSD board went into closed session and [voted 4-1 to end negotiations to extend Harman’s contract](#). But, rather than firing Harman from his \$262,000 (salary and benefits) position and showing him the door immediately, the board kept him on for another three months.

So, the KPPCSD board didn’t really “fire” Harman, and Toombs cast the only vote to support Harman. But, as he seeks reelection to a third term, Chuck Toombs is trying to tell a different story.

*[*Click on highlights to connect to original sources.](#)*

For more information, go to [Kensingtonca.org](#), an archive of source documents, analysis and commentary on current governance issues of the Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District (KPPCSD). To unsubscribe, click [here](#) to send us your request, with or without a message.