

Good morning Chairperson Murray, Directors, fellow employees, and guests. My name is Ellen Mackey; I am an ecologist and chair of the AFSCME Women's Caucus. We thank you for this public session opportunity and invite the public to download copies of [all](#) our comments in the MWD Board, **Document Archives**.

We are expressing our concerns of events in the last 2 weeks, specifically:

- First, the ouster of two Latino board members who have expressed support for our employees and the Women's Caucus, by unfairly characterizing them to their board and council as disrespectful, disruptive, and
- Second, a swarm of emails from last Wed opening an investigation against Gina Chavez as a result of her threat assessment investigation. The intent is obvious. This email swarm has 2 purposes:
  - 1) To intimidate and retaliate against a woman who is speaking her truth to power as a whistleblower, and,
  - 2) To find a path to begin a parallel investigation as a result of her threat assessment investigation. This OP&T Committee in Oct specifically stated no parallel investigations should occur as the results **will color** the report of the independent outside investigation.

So, as a whistleblower or employee expressing my 1<sup>st</sup> amendment rights, am I also at risk? Am I the next target? I already know my actions are being watched; my timesheets and work are examined and questioned.

With the MWD chairwoman retaliating against the board members who have spoken up, and MWD management finding a way to conduct a parallel investigation against one of the women who is speaking out – Who is safe?

If board members aren't safe, what chance do employees have? Will I be the last person standing?

Will I have a job next week?

Thank you