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# VILLAGE OF CORRALES

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**3/17/2016**

## **COMMUNITY UPDATE**

### **For Immediate Release**

#### Gasteyer Investigation

Nearly two years ago, the Attorney General informed the Village Administration that it was undertaking an investigation into a variety of Village activities undertaken by then Mayor Gasteyer. Investigators were looking into possible violations of the law stemming from the potential misuse of funds related to the development project for a senior living center in Corrales as well as the purchase of the last conservation easement acquired under the Farmland Preservation Program, and the use of Village resources to investigate council candidates. Investigators were additionally looking into issues surrounding the contract administration for construction of the waste water removal system.

Investigators from the Government Accountability Division of the NM Attorney General's Office were on-site in Village offices for over two months, actively looking into these serious issues. This investigation included a review of the 17 boxes of documents that former Mayor Gasteyer had improperly removed from the Village Office upon his departure. Those documents were recovered at the urging of the investigators to aide them in their work. The Village remained silent on this issue as to not interfere with the investigation.

Upon the taking of office by the new Attorney General, these investigators were fired and the investigation was halted. The new Attorney General, in a letter dated March 7th, recently informed us that he has abandoned the investigation citing as his primary reason that the former Mayor Gasteyer didn't "intend" to break the law with his actions.

During this process, the Village staff was able to recover all known public documents that were contained in the boxes and return them to their proper files. The remaining files are available for Councilor Gasteyer to collect from the Village Office before April 15<sup>th</sup> of this year.

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