

Apologies in advance that my first real contact to you guys (u/Lynda73, u/YnotTomorro, u/digitalmofo, u/DrinkMoreCodeMore, u/Foment_life, u/Dtkay) is going to be regarding some serious concerns with the current state of the electronic_cigarette subreddit. If you haven't seen me in the ECR sub before, I've been here for close to 3 years and post technical tests of vape gear, as well as help out in comments where I can. The ECR forum is very dear to me as it helped me quit a 17 year smoking habit and has given me some great life direction in potentially being able to help people. I am absolutely of the opinion that the sub should be a great resource for those wanting to quit or needing advice, and should be friendly and moderated with clear headed fairness and neutrality.

Things are very very wrong here at the moment though and I believe need immediate attention. I'm calling for u/lestermagneto, u/Anthony_vapes to be resigned from moderation duties and for u/Sychophantom to be permanently banned.

u/Sychophantom has on numerous occasions violated sub and site-wide Reddit terms of service. It is well known he has multiple alt accounts solely for the purpose of bullying and harassment of users. I have identified at least 5. These are u/VillainVaper, u/CorpusEdimus, u/th3potatowhisperer, u/tatertime69 and u/SmokCustomerSupport. There are likely more. In addition, there is strong evidence to suggest he has or still is engaging in vote manipulation. Three users including two past moderators have confirmed u/lestermagneto and u/Sychophantom have plotted "IRL consequences" and doxxing to some sub users. Regardless of these users' action on the sub, this is wildly unethical, against Reddit TOS and borderline illegal. There is clear proof u/lestermagneto supports the behaviour of u/Sychophantom, by faking discipline to his alt account u/VillainVaper to deceive the other forum users (screenshots available) and by reinstating u/Sychophantom as a moderator without the consent of the older mod team. I understand that u/Sychophantom had been demodded again due to complaints but that this might have been just to "calm things down". I'll also add that the very rules of the ECR sub (alt accounts made for trolling purposes will be permabanned, along with the main) have been changed to banning of alt only in order to protect u/Sychophantom. By the rules that were in effect at the time u/VillainVaper was discovered, u/Sychophantom should have without question been permanently banned.

Supporting a member who is toxic and in clear violation of sub and Reddit rules should absolutely not be tolerated. It is clear that both u/Anthony_vapes and u/lestermagneto are friends with and support the actions of u/Sychophantom. This puts our entire subreddit at risk as well as promoting a negative environment. This is unacceptable. u/Sychophantom remains as a member in the mod chat - he absolutely should not be.

Many attempts by myself and multiple other regular users have been made to rectify this situation. I personally have sent a several-page PM to u/lestermagneto with my concerns. These were ignored. I had been good friends with u/lestermagneto so I do not enjoy having to suggest he be removed as mod but I feel I have no other choice.

We have reached the point on the sub where tempers are boiling over and progress is going backwards. Several valuable members have been banned (u/_Passafire_, u/musicman3030, u/EdibleMalfunction, u/eyemakepizza, u/ginjabear13) unfairly for speaking their minds or petty reasons. Others have simply left outright. It's apparent that anyone in disagreement with the mod team will be unfairly punished or heavily censored. u/Anthony_vapes is particularly quick to assert his moderation power, in an egotistical "my way or the highway" kind of attitude. The sub direction should be user-driven, but currently it has degenerated into a dictatorship - which u/Anthony_vapes openly admits to. This is absolutely not how this or any other forum should be. Users should not be afraid of speaking their minds unless they are personally attacking others or otherwise violating rules. I disagree heavily with the recently added "don't be a dick" and "drama" sub rules as they're essentially being abused by the moderators to ban people at will just for comments they don't like. This subreddit should not be a personal plaything of the mod team.

I have supporting evidence of what I describe above - of u/Sychophantom's probable alt accounts, user abuse, sub rules being changed to protect him, fake discipline by u/lestermagneto and user reports of the vote manipulation / doxxing / IRL threats.

Since attempts to reason with u/lestermagneto and u/Anthony_vapes by myself and many other respected users have failed, I can't see any other option but to remove them from moderation positions. While they are there, I cannot trust that u/Sychophantom will not be involved in decisions made by them, or that he won't be re-moderated at some point in the future. Let me say again that it would be an utter mistake for u/Sychophantom to have absolutely anything to do with this forum let alone be in a position of power - he has engaged in toxic bullying, broken several sub and Reddit rules, consistently makes wildly inappropriate comments in the ECR chat which is not marked NSFW (such as jokes about testing his knives on his neighbors, several times about explicit sex acts), and displays bizarre behaviour like obsessively requesting ownership of ECR redirect subs and disturbing multiple personalities in alt accounts. I unjokingly suggest that u/Sychophantom needs to seek professional help.

I firmly believe that his continued involvement in the sub along with those who are either in support or complicit, will lead to only degeneration of the sub itself or intervention from admins. This does not benefit anyone and threatens our community. I hope once again ECR can return to being a helpful and positive environment for those wishing to stop smoking, and an enjoyable place to discuss vape gear.

Thank you for your time,

Simon