

## **PVP Watch Newsletter – January 24, 2010**

### To Our Friends & Supporters

A Public Service Message - No cost H1N1 Vaccination Clinic

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health will conduct a no-cost H1N1 vaccination clinic for the Peninsula and surrounding areas.

Miraleste Intermediate School - Auditorium  
Tuesday, February 9th - 3 pm - 8 pm

The clinic is free to everyone, more clinics will be scheduled.

Please pass the word along.

### **Peninsula High School**

Peninsula High School's first Annual Arts Gala is Saturday, January 30th. This free show features performances from the dance, choir, music and drama departments as well as artwork from visual art classes. This show is on the Peninsula High School campus; doors open at 6:30 pm.

For more information - <http://www.pvphs.com/?pid=6&vid=2020>

### **Kudos to Trump National**

The January 2010 issue of Peninsula People reported that Trump National had contributed \$4,200,000 to some 175 charitable organizations during 2009. Included were the Peninsula Educational Foundation, the PV School District, the PV Chamber of Commerce and many other deserving organizations. Thank you Mr. Trump for your many contributions to our community.

### **Some Interesting Facts as Reported by the Wall Street Journal - January 23, 2010**

*"Public Employee Unions Are Sinking California"*

- Approximately 85% of state's 235,000 employees (not including higher education employees) are union members.
- Over the past decade pension costs for public employees increased 2,000%
- State revenues increased only 24% same period.
- This year, \$3 billion was diverted to pension costs from other programs.
- More that 15,000 governmental retirees receive pensions exceeding \$100,000 annually.
- Quoting former Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, a well know liberal voice, *"The deal used to be that civil servants were paid less that private sector workers in exchange for an understanding that they had job security for life. But we politicians – pushed by our friends in labor – gradually expanded pay and benefits..."*

## **RPV**

Saturday January 23rd, the RPV Council conducted a tactical goal-setting workshop. A draft Tactical Plan for 2010 was prepared by staff that included the following eight goals:

- Capital Improvement Program
- Citywide Traffic and Roadway Safety
- Emergency Preparedness
- Military Student Enrollment in Local Schools
- New Civic Center
- Palos Verdes Nature Preserve
- Recreational/Educational Facilities
- Re-Examination of City Plans

Agenda detail is posted at [www.pvpwatch.com](http://www.pvpwatch.com) / Current Issues / Tactical Plan - Jan. 2010.

Currently unknown is the final outcome of Saturday's Council deliberations. Several issues readily apparent; RPV does not need a new City Hall. Why is the RPV Council inserting itself in Peninsula schools concerns by having Military Student Enrollment in Local Schools as a goal? PVP Watch will follow up on the RPV Council's planning session and report findings to residents.

Employee salaries, pensions and benefits costs are out of control in RPV as they are at the state level. While RPV Councilman Tom Long has maintained that RPV must pay excessive salaries in order to be *competitive*, it seems to some of us that it is past time to get salaries and benefits in line with current economic conditions. One of the agenda items for the Saturday January 23rd tactical goals workshop was to appoint two members of the Council to serve as an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to address Employee Compensation Policies. PVP Watch will monitor and report Council actions to control personnel costs.

## **RPV - Terranea**

The January 9th RPV Council meeting item #8 concerned extending completion dates for various Terranea projects including payment of the now reported \$167,000 fee charged by RPV to evaluate the TOT credit proposal (10% Room Tax) that was subsequently rescinded by the RPV Council.

The staff recommended extending the completion date for these projects to April 2010. Councilman Tom Long seized upon the opportunity to yet again deliver another nonsensical harangue that he was against any further extensions of time for Terranea paying this (*excessive* - our opinion) fee billed to Terranea by RPV. Councilman Long, you and the RPV Council have a responsibility to not harass Terranea, but to assist Terranea in being a successful business in RPV. Terranea is now THE significant economic engine for the Peninsula and surrounding areas as well as a tremendous public venue.

As many are aware, Terranea is in the midst of restructuring its financing commitments while fighting to attract guests and develop an ongoing positive cash flow. Long's temper tantrums are not conducive to this effort. Councilman Long what you should do is ask City Manager Lehr why she allowed Finance Director Mclean and City Attorney Carol Lynch (law firm Richards, Watson, Gershon) to incur an expense exceeding \$150,000 for a project which they apparently had little expertise (if they knew what they were doing why did they have to spend so much time and taxpayer \$\$\$) only to then give the bill to Terranea to pay. This is but another example of public bureaucracy at its worst; unfettered government not caring about taxpayer interests.

At the January 9th Council meeting Deputy Finance Director Downs reported that Terranea has paid, so far, well over \$900,000 in TOT taxes. When sales taxes, utility taxes, golf taxes and other taxes are included, overall income from Terranea undoubtedly approximates \$1,000,000 and this is for about 7 months in an extremely difficult period for businesses and taxpayers. In an effort to express the community's appreciation, why not write off the \$150,000 fee unnecessarily created by RPV? What are taxpayer opinions? Please respond to [info@pvpwatch.com](mailto:info@pvpwatch.com). Also very important is what is RPV City Hall doing with this new found, unbudgeted wealth? It should be set aside for special purposes such as ceasing to bill RPV residents for the unwise Storm Drain Fee (tax).

### **RPV – Annenberg Dog & Cat Castle**

As some have observed, silhouette flags have been placed at Lower Point Vicente (PVIC) for the Annenberg Dog and Cat Castle. While it seems most of the RPV Council are enamored with the Annenberg Foundation and are salivating over the potential for further financial contributions, there is an increasing awakening by the community who have been unaware of the Annenberg plan.

For those who are against using Point Vicente parkland for the Annenberg Dog and Cat Castle, it is time to make your opinions known as the RPV Council is rushing forward to "do a deal." Our understanding is that RPV's EIR consultant is preparing an Initial Study (the first component of the EIR process) which will be circulated to the public in February 2010. The project silhouette flags were constructed for review by the public during the Initial Study's comment period. Supposedly the Draft EIR will be completed and circulated to the public in May 2010 and the Planning Commission will consider the project applications in September 2010. Who would know about this process if PVP Watch was not keeping residents informed?

PVP Watch questions the proposed Annenberg dog and cat facility as misuse of public lands & public funds pursuing this very questionable endeavor.

Some are of the opinion that residents would be better served by Annenberg giving the *reported* \$40,000,000 to Peninsula schools for educational programs including animals. This would undoubtedly result in better use of the funds for education rather than monuments.

### **RPV – Affordable Housing**

Well the Mirandela Affordable Housing project at the corner of Crenshaw & Crestridge is well under way with many truckloads of dirt already having been removed. Unknown is the long term consequences of this poorly conceived project directed by Larry Clark, Tom Long, Doug Stern and RPV Planning Director Joel Rojas. Oh yes they say it is mandated by California law. Well look around, neither Rolling Hills Estate, Palos Verdes Estates or Rolling Hills are pursuing such nonsensical projects.

At the January 19th meeting, the RPV Council approved #7 – *Adoption of a Final General Plan Housing Element Amendment*. Planning Director Rojas seemed quite satisfied that RPV is now committed to providing 60 *affordable housing* units. Unknown is how many *affordable housing* units now exist in RPV and how many more will be needed? Future Councils will likely have to deal with these ill-conceived projects.

### **RPV – Traffic Enforcement**

PVP Watch has received several comments concerning Deputy Knox and his ticket writing practices and verbal treatment of some seniors. We wonder if these reports are merely an anomaly or does Deputy Knox have a pattern of "ticky tack" citation writing and age bias. Reader comments are welcome.

### **RPV – View Restoration**

If we understood Deputy Finance Director Downs correctly during the January 9th Council meeting, while making her presentation concerning RPV's current financial / budget status, she reported that two employees had been added for dealing with view restoration matters. Apparently it was a cost savings to replace contract (outsourced) personnel with full time employees. Although staff efforts to reduce costs is commendable, the greater issue is why does managing the view ordinance require two people? While we are in agreement that existing views needed to be maintained, this again confirms that the current view ordinance is poorly written and MUST be updated. Too bad this was not a Council goal rather than their efforts to insert themselves into PVP schools matters.

### **Newsletter Responses.**

Following are responses to the last Newsletter. We thought readers might find responses from other Newsletter readers interesting and will continue to do so in the future.

#### **Re Annenberg Money**

Cats and dogs are *animals*! That money should be spent on humans. Anybody that disagrees should be told to get a life.

**Re: Killing of professor by 17 yr old.** Two words: Vehicular manslaughter. This is not a video game where when you crash, suddenly by video game magic, all is right again and you go speeding off. No one is ever harmed in video game crashes. This is the real world. Had he been going 40 MPH then it's an accident. 80 MPH = Vehicular manslaughter. Period.

*(Editor: Unknown is the identity of the 17 year old who killed Mr. Kammoun on Sunday December 20th on Hawthorne Blvd. or if he has been charged with an appropriate crime.)*

**Re: More on Annenberg.** 100% misuse of public owned ocean front land. Just because the land is undeveloped does that mean we have to develop it at this time? Building additional parking lot for Pt. Vicente IC was deemed inappropriate use of land, but now it's okay to build a multi-million dollar monument (and it's parking lot) to a person with way too much money and time on her hands. Not on my land. A dog and cat animal shelter will serve the public much better if built in a high density area, especially in a high density area where the cultures of the population do not embrace pets, unlike most citizens on the Peninsula. There is a finite amount of coastal property, and the fiscal promises of the Annenberg to the City of RPV is nothing more than bribery for the edification of Mrs. Annenberg.

*Response to Traffic Enforcement question relating to accidents:*

**Re: Response to Officer Knox' Ticket Writing.**

My guess is that officer Knox was busy writing tickets for not indicating a lane change with their directional. Mine cost me over \$200 and he even commented "you don't get tickets do you?" He's a jerk and we deserve better.

Just wanted to thank you again for your excellent work in keeping us posted on the nonsense coming from City Hall. As you noted with respect to the oversized vehicle parking ordinance, it seems that most everything coming out of the City Council/City Hall represents a "solution looking for a problem". I wish these hacks would just leave us alone and stop wasting our tax dollars.  
45+ year RPV Resident

**PVP Watch – Newsletter List**

A reminder to ALL PVP Watch supporters. Should you change your e-mail address, don't forget to advise PVP Watch of your new address. We suggest that pvpwatch.com be added to your computer address book to assure delivery of PVP Watch Newsletters.

**Subscribers**

The PVP Watch e-mail list continues to grow. For those who wish their addresses removed, please send notice to [info@pvpwatch.com](mailto:info@pvpwatch.com).

PVP Watch strives to bring current issues to [www.pvpwatch.com](http://www.pvpwatch.com). Those who have topics of community interest are encouraged to bring those issues to PVP Watch.

The Editorial Committee