

## **PVP Watch Newsletter - January 28, 2009**

### **To Our Friends & Supporters:**

#### *A Public Service Announcement:*

January 20, 2009, Peninsula High School Principal Kelly Johnson sent the following e-mail message:

"Dear Parents; It has been brought to my attention that young men are walking door to door in the community representing themselves as Palos Verdes Peninsula High School football players and soliciting donations. We do not solicit door to door. They are not our students--in all probability, not high school students.

If you are approached, please politely decline without explanation and, after you close the door, immediately call the sheriff. It is sad that individuals would do this, and I want to do everything in our power to see that they end up exactly where they belong--which is jail."

Editor: telephone number for Lomita Sheriff is 310 539-1661

### **Kudos To Trump**

#### **Need a Night of Relaxation and Joy? Jazz Expression Under the Stars at Trump**

**National.** Think about heading down to Trump National Grand Ballroom on Thursday evening, January 29th from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm for a free night of live jazz entertainment from our talented local youth. This evening is sponsored by Trump National in support of Freedom4U, a Palos Verdes organization dedicated to bringing safe and sound activities to the young people of our community.

Editor: We believe the concerts are a recurring event but do not have any scheduling data.

See [www.freedomcommunity.com](http://www.freedomcommunity.com) for more information

### **Rancho Palos Verdes**

One has to wonder as to why residents have to incur the expense of staff analysis and reports when the Council frequently ignores or disregards staff reports. Two examples from the RPV Council meeting on Wednesday January 21st.

\* Item 18 - Revision RR for Trump National: Staff reported that all phases were progressing well and recommended a 6 month extension. Rather than accepting the staff recommendation, Councilmen Stern & Wolowicz initiated a diatribe into a multitude of insignificant matters including when was a small area (approximately 1/2 acre) of "habitat" going to be planted. The Trump representative reported that Trump had already planted 22 acres of "habitat" which is two acres more than required. The *habitat* issue is out of control. Do residents realize that the

golf course "rough" is *habitat* and golfers cannot retrieve their golf balls if hit into the "rough" area. This ridiculous restriction is causing Trump National a loss of business which results in a loss of revenues to RPV.

\* Item 17 was the Appeal of the Planning Commission's decision concerning the Valero Service Station at Hawthorne Blvd. & Granvia Altamira. Staff's recommendation to deny the appeal was ignored by the Council. The public hearing took about three (3) hours with some 25 or so apparent friends of appellant Sharifi (property owner) supporting a zone change and some 35 or so local residents supporting the Planning Commissions denial.

Briefly, the initial zoning change request was for conversion to a CVS pharmacy. However, the CVS pharmacy had terminated their interest several months ago and the council had accepted the change in the appeal request. After approximately a one hour discussion by the Council, the decision was to defer the appeal request and directed staff, as we understand it, to change CL (Commercial Limited) zoning to include CUP (Conditional Use Permit) requirements. The Valero property was originally and is now zoned residential. When the service station was built in the early 1970's the property was given a service station overlay permit. It is NOT now zoned commercial as some have claimed.

### **RPV Storm Drains**

RPV Councilman Long recently stated that the Storm Drain funding plan never contained a contingency or made allowance for maintenance. However, the facts prove otherwise. The excellent Storm Drain Master Plan Update (6/15/04) prepared by then Public Works Director Dean Allison included a cost estimate of \$18.1 Million for the now baseline Priority 1 and 2 reconstruction projects. This included a 15% contingency and 25% administration, legal, engineering factor. A separate cost of \$4.6 Million was included for cost effective pipe lining projects. Subsequent adjustments made the total of these 2 items (reconstruction and lining) \$25 Million.

On 6/21/05, after a disastrous (Remember the February 2005 flood that brought the city \$12 Million in law suits) 1 year delay, Director of Finance and Information Technology McLean published the Proposed Storm Drain User Fee document based on the uninflated \$25 Million cost estimate. Inflating these numbers over 30 years resulted in \$39 Million. Remember, the 15% contingency and administration costs would also be inflation escalated. Then, \$9.4 Million for storm drain and filtration maintenance was added. Lastly, \$5.8 Million for staffing and analysis was added to make the grand total \$54 Million. This cost is the basis for the \$86 per ERU (Equivalent Residential Unit) that is not, as often stated by Mr. Long, the average cost per property. That number is closer to \$110 per property and is only important because it reinforces the conclusion that Mr. Long really does not understand the fundamental program or the financial implications. The staff has generally refused to acknowledge their own documents, the

current Public Works Director has apparently never developed a cohesive plan and the Oversight Committee has gladly been spoon fed what the council wants them to believe. The fact that the "Ax the Tax" campaign succeeded in limiting the tax to 10 years cannot be used as an excuse for RPV's poor planning and haphazard management. Tarapaca Canyon, for example, was identified as a problem years ago and continues to languish in limbo, although there are some recent stirrings of activity. The city's reserves remain at about 75% of expenditures and have continued to increase while most cities shoot for 15-25% while taking care of basic infrastructure and safety needs. Reserves of 30-50% of expenditures (not revenue) are a very conservative goal unless you live in a city like RPV where litigation seems to be the #1 priority. Meanwhile, Terranea will open in June '09 as long planned although the council long refused to acknowledge in the 5-year plan that it would ever happen. What these folks have planned for the Terranea revenues while you pay extra taxes for basic infrastructure is a story for another day.

### **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 readers include friend@pvpwatch.com in their address books as some spam filters reject mail from unknown sources.

### **PVP Watch – Contributions**

PVP Watch welcomes modest contributions. Those desiring to contribute, please send checks to PVP Watch PO Box 7000-22 Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274. We wish to thank all whose contributions make this Newsletter possible.

### **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

