

PVP Watch Newsletter – October 24, 2009

November 3rd is Election Day.

If history repeats itself, only 30% of Peninsula residents will vote.

That 70% don't vote is why we suffer the consequences of "Special Interest" government.

RPV Election – 2009

PVP Watch believes the two best qualified candidates for the RPV Council are **Brian Campbell** and **Anthony Misetich**. Both bring proven leadership and management experience that the RPV Council so desperately needs. It is no secret that PVP Watch has long opined the RPV Council is headed in the wrong direction and there is now an opportunity for positive change and healthy diversity.

What is needed is Common Sense, Good Judgment and Fairness.

* The majority of the current Council are supporting two attorneys, Jeff Lewis and Paul Tetreault, who both are current Planning Commissioners. According to Tom Long's letter in the Daily Breeze (Oct. 23) Tetreault and Lewis would "best assure that the current direction of the Council is carried forward." This is exactly what most residents don't want carried forward. There is already too much legal maneuvering and lack of common sense on Council. The last thing we need is more of the same. The City Attorney is paid to provide legal expertise and having more attorneys on the Council provides no additional value.

* Long's letter also erroneously states that PVP Watch is against "open space." Not so. PVP Watch's concern is the lack of appropriate land use management at RPV City Hall that should include adequate trails and other active recreation needs.

* RPV currently has legal expense exceeding \$1,000,000 annually. The RPV Council now has two attorneys, Tom Long & Doug Stern, who prefer to litigate rather than negotiate. Differing views that provide balance will better serve resident & taxpayer interests. Messrs Tetreault & Lewis may find a better fit two years hence when Doug Stern & Tom Long vacate their seats. Nothing personal against these two attorneys but this is simply the wrong time for them when more common sense, business experience and diversity is what RPV needs at this time.

* Currently, some Councilmen display a lack of civility and disregard for opposing opinions with those who appear before them. In memory of Peter Gardiner, a person who long strived for a "user friendly" City Hall among other great accomplishments, we must elect Councilmen who's purpose is to represent the people rather than having a need to vote as a team with their friends.

* Jim Knight and Craig Mueller have both been endorsed by the Sierra Club. While both have served RPV as volunteers, it seems to us that there are too many outside influences attempting to control RPV. We believe, we the residents of Rancho Palos Verdes, need to take back our city. There needs to be more independent minded residents, not outsiders, making decisions about how our city is governed.

Issues

Trash Hauling – How many RPV residents are aware that Larry Clark, Doug Stern & likely Tom Long are working to change trash hauling from Waste Management to another hauler? Unknown is whether Steve Wolowicz or Ken Dyda are included in this cabal. So far they have spent some \$160,000 in consultant fees. What was not broken is being changed to once per week pickup with automated pickup trucks. These are trucks with scissor like apparatus that pick up / dump the barrels into the truck. Several issues; one is that the Czars have decided what is best for the serfs and are working secretly to change service & carrier. There is NO public input desired or sought. What seems likely is that they will likely try contract approval to slip onto Council agenda without anyone having notice. So much for transparency & open government. And they despise PVP Watch for reporting what they are doing.....

View Ordinance –The draconian view ordinance and the interpretation / application of the ordinance by Planning Department Director Rojas and the Planning Commission has long been a problem. Searching the RPV website, one 'hit' was Measure M which apparently was enacted in November 1989. Further search found 'RPV View Guidelines – 2006' which is now posted at www.pvpwatch.com / Position Papers page. Our initial look at Measure M found two significant clauses; Section 1. A. 16 – View Areas "*the decision of the City shall control.*" And Section 5. states that "*the City Council may amend this ordinance.*"

Let's be clear, PVP Watch agrees that existing views should be maintained and not infringed upon. However, it has become apparent that the City has created views that had not existed for many years, some more than 40 years. The view ordinance has long been a contentious issue between neighbors with unknown numbers of neighborhood arguments, arbitration hearings and lawsuits. How many trees have been removed or mutilated? Apparently neither the Planning Department, Planning Commission or Council have sought to fix this problem. Four (4) of the Council candidates who have been on the Planning Commission, Jeff Lewis, Paul Tetreault, Jim Knight and Craig Muller have had opportunities to solve this problem but in so far as we are aware, have failed to act. John McTaggart reports he and Larry Clark wrote the Ordinance but now acknowledges that there are problems.

As we wrap up this political season, we would hope that Peninsula residents will be energized to vote. PVP Watch has strived to positively present candidate differences without negatively assailing candidate's character. We do agree with Doug Stern's October 24th message "that this is a very important election" as this election will set the tone of the RPV Council for many years ahead, possibly 10 years or more. The question is:

Do RPV residents want more of the same or would you prefer Common Sense, Good Judgment and Fairness and the proven abilities of **Brian Campbell** and **Anthony Misetich**

Listed below are the web sites for the RPV Council candidates. We encourage RPV residents to read the candidates opinions and to decide the veracity and suitability of each.

Anthony Misetich – www.misetich.com

Brian Campbell – www.campbellforrpv.com

Paul Tetreault – www.pault4rpv.com

Craig Mueller – www.palosverdes.com/craigmueller

Jim Knight - www.palosverdes.com/jimknight

Jeff Lewis - www.palosverdes.com/jefflewis

John McTaggart - www.palosverdes.com/mctaggart

We encourage all RPV residents to view the candidate forums on Channel 33.

Vote NO on RPV Measure TOT

On the November 3rd ballot is Measure TOT that will increase the Transient Occupancy Tax (also known as the TOT, or "Hotel Tax") from 10% of the room rate to 12%. We at PVP Watch believe that this is not only bad economics, but unwarranted, and suggest all RPV residents vote "**NO**" on this proposition. The initial reason for proposing the TOT increase was to compensate RPV for the TOT credit plan requested by Lowe's Enterprises / Terranea. Because the RPV City Council, cancelled / rescinded the TOT credit plan, no longer is there justification for increasing the TOT to 12%.

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.

PVP Watch – Contributions

PVP Watch welcomes modest contributions and appreciates the many contributions received. Those desiring to contribute, please send checks to PVP Watch PO Box 7000-22, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274. We thank those who have contributed for helping to promote PVP Watch.

Subscribers

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

PVP Watch strives to bring current issues to www.pvpwatch.com. Those who have topics of community interest are encouraged to bring those issues to PVP Watch.

The Editorial Committee