

PVP Watch Newsletter – March 17, 2012

To Our Friends and Supporters

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RPV in Crisis..... Again

Here we go again..... Although the RPV Council has many substantive matters that it must deal with including possible fiscal mismanagement, overpaying for "IT" services provided by PV Net, the high necessity of developing an agreement with the new employee union, unsustainable pension and benefit costs and other significant matters, apparently Council Member Brooks believed that updating the Council's "Rules and Procedures" more vital than controlling fiscal management, developing a union agreement, determining pension / benefit costs etc. Although we agree that some updating of Council's "Rules and Procedures" is appropriate, it does not seem that "Rules and Procedures" should take precedence over the many critical issues confronting the RPV Council.

As we understand the situation, at Brooks urging, Mayor Misetich created a Council Committee consisting of himself and Councilwoman Brooks to work on the Council's Rules and Procedures. The Committee included City Manager Lehr and unknown, other than to the Committee, is the participation of each of the Committee members in creating the new / proposed Rules and Procedures.

On Friday March 9th a Draft of the committee report was posted on the RPV website as part of the agenda for the March 14th / 15th Council / Staff *team building* workshops.

Well,,,,, as paper / email bombs go, this one was probably measured a 7 on the Richter earthquake scale. City Manager Lehr quickly "fell on her sword" that it was an error as the report was a Draft that had not yet been vetted with the team (did not the team compose it?) and must be heard by the entire Council as well. Whether or not it was a Draft document, had not been vetted by the committee or the entire Council, the intent was / is clear that the proposed plan intended to hand entire control of RPV city government to the City Manager.

- Some of the concerns were;

1 - The city manager was given exclusive authority to set the agenda for all council meetings. *

2 - None of five council members could place an agenda item without the city manager's consent.

* This shift in power from the council to the city manager would have eliminated an important power previously exercised by the city council, which represents the public.

This was a major issue which was questioned by many who read the report.

There were other issues that took authority away from the Council and gave it to the staff.

It was a poorly written and power-grabbing Code of Conduct.

On Friday March 16th a corrected Draft Rules and Procedures document was posted on the RPV website. This version eliminated much of the questionable segments including the questionable Code of Conduct but did insert a separate Proposed Council and Commission/Committee Protocol. PVP Watch believes that although the corrected Draft Rules and Procedures document is a much-improved version, more work is required and we urge the Council to get more public input before making any final decisions. We see no reason to rush the process. Take the time to "get it right." To read the corrected Rules and Procedures documents go to the RPV website / www.palosverdes.com/rpv - Council Agendas / March 20 / Public Hearings #3

This matter is on the Council agenda for Tuesday March 20th & Wednesday 21st. We urge interested residents to attend and make their comments known to the Council.

RPV - Crime

The chart below depicts the RPV crime "stats" for the 4th quarter of 2011 with a comparison to 2010. We have previously posted reports about the "Knock-Knock" bandits plaguing our community. The Sheriff's office is in pursuit but cannot be everywhere at the same time. Be vigilant, neighbors make other neighbors aware when you are away and DO NOT LEAVE VALUABLES IN PLAIN SIGHT IN UNLOCKED AUTOS. When something unusual or out of the ordinary occurs, call 911 immediately.

2011/2010 Part I – 4th Quarter Comparison
Rancho Palos Verdes

	2011	2010	Change	% Change
Homicide	0	0	0	0%
Rape	0	1	-1	-100%
Robbery	1	2	-1	-50%
Aggravated Assault	7	11	-4	-36%
Burglary, Residence	47	37	10	27%
Burglary, Other Structure	18	7	11	157%
Larceny/Theft	124	72	52	72%
Vehicle Burglary	44	15	29	193%
Theft from Vehicle	41	19	22	116%
Other	39	38	1	3%
Grand Theft Auto	9	4	5	125%
Arson	0	0	0	0%
TOTAL	206	134	72	54%

RPV - San Ramon Stabilization Project

Good news as Mayor Misetich reports that project planning / engineering is moving ahead and it is anticipated that plans will be finalized and necessary approvals will be "in hand" and a groundbreaking may occur this September. As many are aware, RPV has received a grant from the State for approximately \$9.5 million and other funding is being pursued as part of the pending Federal Highway program with a backup plan that includes LA County and the City of Los Angeles. These are NOT "done deals" but serious discussions are underway.

PVP Schools

PVP Watch received an anonymous letter concerning out of area students attending PVP schools. Usually unsigned letters are better left unanswered but in this particular situation we decided clarification was necessary as the writer claimed that the "out of area" students were in effect denying PVP schools to Peninsula residents.

We checked into this allegation and following is what PVP Watch learned;

- Students are referred to as "Allen Bill" students as that is the name of the State legislation that permits schools to enroll "out of area" students IF at least one of their parents is employed in the area of the school district for 15 or more hours per week.
- No additional teachers are hired as students are placed where there is ample capacity.

- Currently PVPUSD has an enrollment of 175 Allen Bill students who yield approx. \$1.1M annually in ADA (Average Daily Attendance)(~\$5,150 each) funds.
 - The additional ADA funds pay for approximately 16 teachers including benefits.
 - In reality, Peninsula residents benefit as ADA monies fund teachers without causing any increased teacher expense.
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Newsletter Responses

- Thank you for your great service to our community. We look forward to your reports.
- A truly informative newsletter, thank you!

Annenberg

Clearly the Annenberg PVIC parking lot funding issue WAS tied into their attempt to grab public lands at Pt. Vicente. When Annenberg committed to fund PVIC's parking lot, the funding appeared to be quid pro quo, but Annenberg assured the city that it was not. The opponents to the 'Annenberg Pet Facility' project were absolutely correct about Annenberg's true intentions, turns out the emperor indeed was wearing no clothes.

I always enjoy your comments about our schools, and they are always food for thought. With regard to your comments about widening PVDR North, I completely agree that the construction stress caused by adding bike lanes on this road is completely not worth it. My son is a competitive triathlete; his safety is the only thing I care about, and I don't let him ride that section anyway because unless you want to die soon, you shouldn't ride through that area to Miraleste... However, I take issue with your comment about "just what we need, more bike traffic on the Peninsula." I just wanted to comment that if more local kids rode their bikes to school and to after-school activities, though, the whole 8am and 3pm problem in Malaga Cove / Cloyden Road / Pen Center / Dapplegray areas would be alleviated somewhat. There are ways to get to these areas safely from certain neighborhoods with current roads and lanes.

- Editor: We were not clear in our commentary and the subscriber is "right on" concerning "if *more local kids rode their bikes to school*" and we received other comments as well. Our commentary was directed towards the weekend *tourists* that clog narrow roadways like PV Dr East and PV Dr South thus creating road safety hazards.

- Reader comments are welcomed and should be sent to info@pvpwatch.com. Newsletter responses are posted with names removed and with no editing other than obvious grammatical changes. These are subscriber thoughts and opinions and PVP Watch does not vouch for those opinions. That so many have sent their comments in the past has made the Newsletter more interesting and we appreciate the input.

We have been reminded that not ALL subscribers are aware of the PVP Watch website; **www.pvpwatch.com**. Lots of good info posted there.

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 thanks the many subscribers who have contributed to PVP Watch. Those desiring to make a modest contribution, please send checks to PVP Watch PO Box 7000-22 Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

Subscribers

The PVP Watch e-mail list continues to grow. For those who wish their addresses removed, please send notice to info@pvpwatch.com. Those who have topics of community interest are encouraged to bring those issues to PVP Watch.

The Editorial Committee