

PVP Watch Newsletter – June 25, 2012

To Our Friends and Supporters

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Kudos to Lomita Sheriff's

This is to add our kudos to Captain Blaine Bolin, commander of the Lomita LA Sheriff's office, and his team for capturing four (4) bandits who had been burglarizing homes on the Peninsula and elsewhere. Not only did the Sheriff's catch them with previously reported "loot" but found more evidence at a known location in Long Beach. Captain Bolin attributed this success to great teamwork and skillful detective work by both his deputies and Long Beach City Police officers as well.

California – Voter ID

Voter ID in California was signed into law (SB 1016) in October 2005 to conform to then existing Federal Voter ID requirements. Surprising is that this law applies only to Federal elections and not to California / State elections. ID is required when REGISTERING to vote but not subsequently when voting at local voting places.

Recently more and more states are enacting laws that require ID when voting and it is interesting is that the current Federal Administration is attempting to block implementation of these State regulations with the Federal Government filing lawsuits against these State laws. We understand there is currently an effort in California to enact legislation that requires display of ID when voting.

Is displaying ID when voting an unnecessary inconvenience? Everyone must display ID to get on a commercial airplane as well as perform many other every day functions; check cashing, renting cars, hotel registration, the list goes on.

We are interested in what Peninsula residents think about requiring voter ID when voting?
Please send comments to info@pvpwatch.com

RPV in Crisis..... The Continuing Saga

The Rules and Procedures saga began on February 21st when Mayor Misetich proposed that an Ad Hoc Subcommittee consisting of himself and Councilwoman Brooks be appointed to perform a comprehensive review of Council Rules of Procedure, Council Protocols, and Code of Conduct for Committee and Commission Members. Subsequently at a "special meeting" on May 29th, the RPV Council adopted a revised "*Rules and Procedures*" as well as a new "*Protocol*" with "do's and don'ts" for Council members as well as Commission / Committee members.

The story is what happened in between. Readers may recall that the initial proposal submitted by Misetich and Brooks, among other issues, gave virtually unlimited power to the City Manager by inserting a requirement that three (3) Council votes were required to change Council agendas prepared by the City Manager and her staff. Current California law does not allow for, Council debate, holding public hearings or voting on a matter unless the item is on a meeting agenda. Thus the minority (two Council members) were disenfranchised and could not, without the City Manager's approval, or having a third member (majority agreement), add items to Council meeting agendas, thus creating a potential tyranny of the majority. Since the City Manager is an unelected official and should not control what matters of policy can be considered by Council, this new procedure was unacceptable to many.

Also of concern was the new "Protocols" proposed by the sub-committee of Misetich and Brooks which included provisions that, among other things, were highly subjective, poorly worded, and threatened the free speech rights of members of the City's committees and commissions. It seemed highly likely that if the proposed "Protocols" were enacted, there would have been a mass exodus by these civic minded residents who donate their time to assist in making RPV a better place.

Fortunately, the proposed Rules and Protocols were met with strong objections from members of the Committees and Commissions, as well as a number of residents. Following a joint meeting between the Council and the Planning Commission, as well as other meetings with the Traffic Safety Commission, the Emergency Preparedness Committee and the Water / Storm Drain Oversight Committee, Misetich and Brooks incorporated in the final version of the documents most of the revisions suggested by the various members of the City's commissions

and committees, as well commentary primarily written by a group of concerned RPV residents; Sharon Yarber, Ken Dyda, Tom Redfield and Ken DeLong with input from Council member Jerry Duhovic. The revised Rules and Regulations as well as the new Protocol are posted at www.pvpwatch.com / Current Issues page.

We do note that the Rules have not addressed the issue of certain Council members grandstanding and engaging in lengthy diatribes that contribute little to the process and waste valuable time. We hope that the Council members will try to always be considerate of each other, the staff and the residents they serve by staying focused and utilizing Council meetings efficiently. We have observed that those who were the greatest proponents of "we must have team building sessions" do not practice what they preach.

We would like to hear resident opinions. Are you satisfied with how the Council now operates? Are you satisfied with how City Hall now operates? Do you perceive that your tax dollars are being well spent? Please send comments to info@pvpwatch.com.

RPV Budget – FY 2012 / 2013

The RPV budget for Fiscal Year 2012 / 2013 was approved at the June 19th Council meeting and is posted at www.pvpwatch.com / Current Issues

Budget Summary

Projected Revenues - - - \$24,089,934

Budgeted Expenditures - - - \$19,195,620

Net transfers to other funds – - - \$4,845,774

Difference - - - \$48,540

Estimated General Fund Reserve at June 30, 2013 - - - \$10,735,379

Reserve Policy Threshold (50% of Expenditures) - - - \$9,597,810

Estimated Capital Projects Reserve at June 30, 2013 - - - \$11,376,571

Reserve Policy Threshold (\$3 million + FEMA) - - - \$3,215,209

Editor: The projected revenues of \$24 million demonstrate a continuation of healthy growth from FY 2011 / 2012 revenues of about \$23 million and FY 2010 / 2011 revenues of approximately \$20 million. We wish to also point out that General Fund Reserve / \$10,735,379 and the Capital Projects Reserve / \$11,376,571 are two different funds which total in excess of \$22 million in

cash in the bank. The Capital Projects Reserve includes the Terranea generated TOT fees which are now projected at \$3 million for 2012 and steadily increasing in the future.

There is history of ever increasing revenues which dispel the past "doom & gloom" rhetoric of prior Administrations / Councils. In view of these ever increasing revenues we question the need for Storm Drain User Fee (tax) for the forthcoming fiscal year. We are not suggesting that there be unwarranted spending of these funds. However, having too much cash in the bank can be tempting for "pet projects" like new city halls.

The San Ramon Flood Control project is on schedule with plans and environmental permits that should be completed in the next few months. Projected design / construction costs are about \$13,000,000 and a contingency cost of approximately \$6,500,000 was added making a total project cost approximating \$19,500,000. While some contingency funding is prudent, is 50% not a questionable amount? To date, RPV has a grant from Sacramento of about \$9,400,000. The Council committee (Susan Brooks / Jim Knight) approached LA County and the City of Los Angeles for financial participation but apparently were rebuffed by Supervisor Knabe and LA City Councilman Joe Buscaino. With the many issues confronting LA City, it is understandable that they (LA City) have many pressing priorities.

Other Budget Matters

The City Council added the following program enhancements to the General Fund budget during the 2012 budget process:

1. Thirty percent allocation of a traffic enforcement deputy;
2. Sheriff bicycle patrol along Western Avenue and Palos Verdes Drive South;
3. Organizational performance assessment;
4. De-watering well improvements in the landslide area;
5. Labor attorney services.
6. Purchase of Proposition A money from the City of Rolling Hills.

PVP Schools

Construction is underway for the new swimming pool at Peninsula High school. Our understanding is that approximately \$150,000 is needed and donations are being solicited. Folks, this is a good cause as the pool is used by the community in addition to high school swim teams and contributions are tax deductible.

**Please send your tax-deductable
contributions payable to:**

ABC Pool Project Capital Campaign
Nancy Scott 19 Aurora Drive
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274
info@newpeninsulapool.org

Newsletter Responses

Subscriber comments are welcomed, please send comments to info@pvpwatch.com

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