

## **PVP Watch Newsletter – July 20, 2009**

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

#### **PVP Schools**

No budget news from Sacramento so the PVP school district is still waiting for the last shoe (for now) to drop. Latest word is that the PVP schools are confronted with a \$6 million shortfall.

The PVP schools teachers' contract has expired and a new proposed agreement is on Thursday's (July 23rd) School Board agenda. The new agreement is posted at [www.pvpwatch.com](http://www.pvpwatch.com). Go to the PVP Schools page. It appears the teacher's concession is to forsake COLA increases for the next fiscal year. The agreement also includes changes in class sizes. It is not known what the fiscal impact of the class size increases will be.

We are disappointed that an option for performance based "merit" pay was not included. It is time (really past time) for implementing a merit / bonus pay plan for teachers. While we make broad statements concerning teachers, in reality there are many fine teachers who should have that option open to them.

For those interested in the current contract:

[http://www.pvpusd.k12.ca.us/employment/negotiations/PVFA\\_agreement\\_92408.pdf](http://www.pvpusd.k12.ca.us/employment/negotiations/PVFA_agreement_92408.pdf)

#### **RPV**

It seems that some of our esteemed Councilmen are attempting to circumvent the election process. Word is that Mayor Larry Clark, and likely others as well, are now driving an agenda to replace Peter Gardiner with Paul Tetreault. Tetreault is presently a Planning Commission member and as some / many are aware, Peter Gardiner has been ill and participating in some Council meetings by telephone.

So far, announced Council candidates are Tetreault, Jeff Lewis, Jim Knight, Anthony Misetich, John McTaggart and Brian Campbell. Final filing date is August 12th presuming Larry Clark maintains his position that he will not run for reelection.

If the RPV Council should attempt to remove Gardiner, which is a questionable maneuver, and appoint Tetreault by August 12th or so, Tetreault could then identify himself as an "incumbent" on election information. Some believe this would give Tetreault an election advantage. Does this not seem like "Chicago" politics? Is this the type of political shenanigans that RPV residents want? PVP Watch questions the legality of this scheme. At a minimum, the ethics of those who would participate in such a plot are questionable. Stay tuned.

## RPV & PV Net.

Readers will recall that PVP Watch has repeatedly called attention to the fees being paid by RPV to PV Net. Adding up RPV payments to PV Net for "IT" services, January thru July 21st 2009, RPV has paid approximately \$261,000. Year 2008 RPV payments to PV Net approximated \$245,000. Calendar year 2004 RPV paid PV Net over \$370,000 for IT services. Why is it that the RPV Council ignores this apparently outrageous misuse of taxpayer funds? Does anyone recall Peter Gardiner's efforts to "sunlight" this uncontrolled expense only to be rebuffed by Councilmen Tom Long & Doug Stern. It is probably only coincidental that PV Net assists Tom Long & Doug Stern with their email systems. All should know that PV Net claims "Not for Profit" (501c3) tax status and has not paid Federal and (presumably) California income taxes on receipts from RPV and others.

## RPV - Other Issues

PVP Watch has posted the RPV "Status Report on Tactical Goals" dated July 7th at [www.pvpwatch.com](http://www.pvpwatch.com) / Current Issues page. Encourage all to go there and read what this Council has done or is planning.

Goal: Create a New Civic Center. *Read this.*

Goal: Palos Verdes Nature Preserve. The Council intends to commit RPV taxpayers to an outrageous "deal" with their Land Conservancy friends who have demonstrated limited management expertise.

RPV residents should be reading the "Vision Plan" which is posted at [www.pvpwatch.com](http://www.pvpwatch.com).

Another RPV issue is the proposed Annenberg dog & cat facility at the PVIC. At the July 7th meeting the following item #13 was approved. Is this how the people want this property used?

***"Recommendation:*** 1) *Authorize the Mayor and the City Clerk to sign a Professional Service Agreement in an amount not to exceed \$116,559 with Rincon Consultants, Inc., to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Annenberg Project at Lower Point Vicente; and, 2) Authorize the City Attorney to begin discussions with the Annenberg Foundation on the appropriate agreement between the City Council and the Annenberg Foundation for the use of the City's Lower Point Vicente Property for the proposed site improvements and direct that a trust deposit be established by the Annenberg Foundation for that purpose."*

Amazing how many residents continue to ask, "what is the PVIC?" For all those who do not know what / where the PVIC is, it is the Point Vicente Interpretative Center and is the whale watching facility just North of the Lighthouse.

Question for RPV City Hall: Why does RPV charge for parking at Abalone Cove but not at the PVIC?

### Tom Long's Comments

RPV Councilman Tom Long in his June 14th Newsletter stated "*Many people, notably PVP Watch and Councilman Gardiner were counting on TOT revenues to pay for storm drain and other infrastructure repair and maintenance.*" This is but another one of Long's blatant falsehoods. The opponents of the storm drain user fee (Tax) never included the Terranea TOT income in showing why the storm drain tax was not needed. We did chide the council for delaying the project when times were good and for refusing to acknowledge that the TOT would ever arrive per their totally inept 5-Year "Going Out of Business" Model.

Don't be fooled by the "poor us" rhetoric. General Fund revenues have exceeded expenditures by \$2 Million to \$5.5 Million over the past 3-years. General Fund Reserves actually reached 100% of annual expenditures. Even with the Transfer Out of \$17 Million over the last 3 years to City Council Restricted Funds (hidden reserves), General Fund reserves will still be 50% of expected expenditures. The truth is that the number of employees has grown 30% over the last 4 years under our current city manager. The General Fund expenditures have grown about 40% (\$4.9 Million) in the same time period.

Some examples of where your annual tax dollars are being spent:

Palos Verdes Nature Preserve: ~\$325,000 for weed management.

The unself supporting PVIC (Interpretative Center): \$110,000 after a \$6 Million investment

The poorly written view restoration: ~\$325,000

Channel 33 - the Council's folly: ~\$100,000

Emergency Preparedness: \$1 Million - results unknown

Remember, this is the same tax and spend city council that endorsed the State's ludicrous Measures 1A-1E while refusing to help with the PVPUSD budget problem.

### Other Interesting Reports

The Daily Breeze / July 19, 2009 reported (Pg A4) that Sacramento plans to have a used car sale. It seems that of California's 40,000 light vehicle fleet, some 15% / 6,000 vehicles are surplus and not needed. Apparently all are in Sacramento as that is where the sale will be on August

28th & 29th. Assuming average cost of \$20,000 each equates to a total cost of \$120,000.000. Wonder do they ever turn out the lights?

Oh, the same Daily Breeze (Pg1) reports that California's largest public service union, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) which represents 95,000 of the 200,000 state works, is "angry over prospect of wage cuts or being forced to take a fourth furlough day off per month" is threatening to call a "walkout." That is good news. A month off the job and the budget problem would be significantly reduced.

We hear that the bicycle crowd is a little distressed. It seems that the bikers are upset that Deputy Knox has been giving the bikers tickets for traffic violations. Apparently the bikers believe that it is OK to ride 4 abreast impeding traffic flow. When Doug Stern & Tom Long "put on the welcome mat" for the bikers, apparently the bikers thought that meant they did not have to observe vehicle codes. Good job Deputy Knox, keeping RPV safe for all.

### **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](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