

## Upland Jettisons Two Commissioners Over Their Votes Against Amazon Project

By Mark Gutglueck

Two months after the Upland City Council gave go-ahead to Bridge Development's controversial Amazon distribution center project on the city's west end, the two planning commissioners who stood by their recommendations against proceeding with the project are being removed from their posts.

One of those commissioners also went on

record as being opposed to the high density Plaza Serena housing project that lies within the footprint of land designated for flood control purposes on the city's east side. The Plaza Serena project was also ultimately approved by the city council.

City officials have not acknowledged that the votes commissioners Alexander Novikov and Yvette Walker cast

against the Amazon project had anything to do with their being bounced from the panel that deals with the evaluation of development proposals and determining their consistency with the land use standards in the City of Gracious Living. Nevertheless, there were unmistakable signs that Novikov and Walker had shown themselves to be out of step with City Hall's recently-evolved

imperative toward facilitating any substantive proposals that can be construed as representing economic development in the city. Novikov's vote against Frontier Homes' Plaza Serena development project east of Campus Avenue and north of 15<sup>th</sup> Street further put him out of sync with City Hall.

Walker, whose appointment to the plan-

ning commission was made in 2016 after her nomination by then-Mayor Ray Musser, jeopardized the support she formerly had from developmental interests intent on aggressive growth in the city when she opposed the Amazon distribution center.

In the 1970s, the demise of Upland as an agricultural wonderland began in earnest, as the first of what **See P 4**

## After Challenge And Recovery, Ramirez More Determined Than Ever To Maintain Her Political Career

There has been some limited reference to a health challenge being the reason why Victorville Councilwoman Rita Ramirez has been physically absent from council meetings much of this year, and speculation about that topic has intensified as she has participated in those forums remotely over the last several months. The *Sentinel* learned only recently how serious of a medical crisis the mayor pro tem had faced.

Earlier this year, Dr. Ramirez underwent three stages of surgical amputations. Her left foot and lower portion of her leg are now gone.

Dr. Ramirez said, "In December, as I was walking to my car, I fell. I didn't see a bruise. It was not bleeding. Sometime after the first of January, it was obvious I needed medical care. The bruising was internal. By the Thursday of the next week, the middle toe on my left foot was gangrenous. I was admitted to the hospital. First, I lost the middle toe, then my foot and then the lower leg. I was in the hospital from January until April."

The onset of Dr. Ramirez's ordeal came just as the 2020 Primary election season was warming up. She had entered into the race for First District supervisor, a position from which the incumbent, Robert Lovingood, had announced his intention to retire. "I had filed to run and then I fell in December," she said. Vying with Ramirez to **See P 4**

## Despite Employing His Veto Power, Valdivia Still Sees His Travel Allowance Trimmed

Following a nearly 24-hour interlude of misdirection, the San Bernardino City Council this week put itself on course to reducing the amount of money Mayor John Valdivia is provided with by the county seat's taxpayers to engage in travel and other activities that take him afield from City Hall but which he maintains relate to his

function as the city's figurehead.

In doing so, through what started out as a 4-to-3 and ultimately became a 5-to-2 voting majority, the council had to overcome Valdivia's veto attempt.

With the city facing what has been projected to be a \$10.3 million budget deficit in the upcoming 2020-21 Fiscal

Year, the city's elected leadership last month tasked City Manager Teri Ledoux and the city's department heads with slashing spending within municipal operations wherever and however they could to get city expenditures in line with the flow of income into city coffers, which in the last several months has been diminished

considerably by the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It was reported that economies of roughly \$7.3 million had been identified. On Tuesday of this week, the council carried out a virtual budget workshop meeting intended to determine if or how much of the remaining \$3 million in projected overspending could be

curtailed before the city approves the upcoming fiscal year budget, which will run from July 1 this year to June 30, 2021. That meeting did not involve the mayor, council members, involved city staff or the public convening in one place, but rather carrying out the session to formulate the city blueprint for spending over the **See P 6**

## Demonstrations' Tenor & Civility Around SB County Widely Vary

Protests in reaction to the Memorial Day death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, ones of varying degrees of intensity and civility, have been carried out over the last week at locations throughout San Bernardino County.

Protests in Rancho Cucamonga were staged at the high-traffic-volume intersection of Foothill Boulevard and Day Creek Boulevard, which

event was a carryover of a similar protest on May 29. At the May 29 protest, 13 arrests were made after protesters threw bottles and rocks at sheriff's department deputies who were dispatched to the scene to keep order. At the May 30 rally, there were some reports of vandalism, but no arrests.

The following day, Sunday, May 31, in Rancho Cu- **See P 3**

## His Father's Captain Position Helped Officer Arrested For Raping Teen Girl Get FPD Berth

By Carlos Avalos, Randy Scott and Mark Gutglueck

The Fontana police officer arrested earlier this week on a charge that he had raped a 16-year-old girl was not subjected to the strict hiring procedure that involved an exhaustive background check that is a standard personnel policy among most California law enforcement agencies when he was welcomed

into the department in April 2018, the *Sentinel* has learned. Rather, department sources report, Nicholas Stark was able to bypass much of the scrutiny routinely applied to new hires by virtue of his familial connection to the department, specifically based upon his father's status as a captain with the department at the time he was brought into the department in 2017 as an

officer trainee.

Yesterday, June 4, Nicholas Stark was arrested on a charge of rape of a minor by intoxication, according to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. The alleged victim was a 16-year old girl, and the alleged crime took place in Rancho Cucamonga. Stark was taken into custody and booked into West Valley Detention Center. His bail **See P 5**

## Dozen COVID-19 Deaths At Chino's CIM Represent Only Fatalities In State Prisons

For a dozen criminals in California who were sentenced to prison and incarcerated at the California Institution For Men in Chino, their punishment has become a death sentence.

As of yesterday, June 4, twelve inmates who were in custody at the state penal facility in Chino when they contracted COVID-19 have died.

Three of California's prisons are dealing with large-scale outbreaks of the coronavirus. Those include the Institution for Men in Chino, Avenal State Prison in Kings County and Chuckawalla Valley State Prison in Blythe. Initially, the Institution for Men had the largest number of cases of infection among all of the state's prisons, but has since been passed in

that dubious regard by Avenal and Chucawalla.

Nevertheless, according to the prison population COVID-19 tracking page on the California Department of Rehabilitation's website, no other deaths from COVID-19 or its complications besides those at the Chino prison have occurred within California's prison system.

Last month, the Cali-

fornia Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation transferred 691 inmates considered vulnerable to the coronavirus because of their age or medical condition from the San Bernardino County facility to other prisons around the state where until that time there had been no known incidences of the coronavirus.

In more than 20 cas-

es, prisoners from the California Institution for Men who had grown seriously ill with the condition had been transferred to hospitals or medical facilities near the prison, though officials did not disclose the exact locations where this had taken place.

The total number of prisoners at the California Institution for Men who had come **See P 7**

## Ramirez Says She Will Remain In Office "As Long As The Voters Will Have Me" from front page

replace Lovingood was Paul Cook, who is currently the incumbent 8<sup>th</sup> California Congressional District congressman; Adelanto Councilwoman Stevonna Evans; and Marcelino Garza. "I didn't want to make use of what had happened to me when I was running for supervisor," she said. Without raising money or campaigning, she was yet able to finish second in a field of four.

While the election was pending, things were touch and go for Dr. Ramirez. "I didn't want my leg amputated," she said. "They wanted to cut my leg. I said, 'You are not going to touch my leg.' The doctors conferred with me, and I said I will make the final decision. The mayor [Gloria Garcia] told me I was gutsy."

Ultimately, Dr. Ramirez said, "It was a choice of life vs death. I took life. I have been blessed because I am alive. I was very resistant to the idea. I had three operations, first the toe, then my foot and now the lower leg. I had six blood transfusions. Six different times they took fluid out of my lungs."

She was laudatory of the care provided to her by Kaiser Permanente.

"I'm just very blessed," she said. "Kaiser helped me immensely. It has been remarkable in that I never had any fever or pain in my foot. I have been pinched, prodded and punctured constantly everywhere else. I feel like a pincushion. I'm fine, except I have lost my foot. Thank God, I live in America! I had a wonderful core of medical professionals at Kaiser. The only difficulty I had with them was when some of them referred to my leg as a stump. I had to tell them to quit referring to a part of my body like I was a tree. I am grateful to my friends and family members. I

did not want to lose my leg. I did not want it cut off, but I had to be reasonable."

"The trauma, or major trauma," Ramirez said, "is over. I came through the surgeries. I did lose 20 pounds. I've lost much of my appetite. I'm getting it back but I still want to eat only certain foods. It has to do with the medication. I'm feeling well, in spite of everything. I lost my leg but I am still a whole person. I am still a human being, and that is how I will remain, no matter what part of my body is lost. Now I can see how veterans feel when people do not want to understand them as human beings. All of this makes you no less human than before."

Dr. Ramirez said, "I was able to finally come home in April. I did go to rehabilitation in order to be able to walk. I had to learn to walk. I was under care at a small hospital in Reche Canyon. Fifteen people there tested positive for coronavirus, and then one of them died. My son heard about it and he called and said, 'Mom, I'm going to get you out of there.' He brought me to our family home in 29 Palms where I have been recovering ever since. I have told very few people about this."

A degree of normalcy is returning to her existence, and she recognizes she has a way to go.

"I will be returning to Victorville as soon as I can, which means as soon as the wound is healed," she said. "I need to learn to walk on one foot. The wound is still open and bleeding. I still cannot go outside beyond the sidewalk because it is not good for me to get sand in the wound. I hope to be able to stand on two legs. I understand I will be living a part of my life in a wheelchair and will need some form of help for the rest of my life. I can accept that."

Dr. Ramirez said, "At our family home, I am able to find my way from room to room, from my bedroom to the living room to the kitchen. There are some hurdles. At doorways, someone

has to pick up the wheelchair to get over the partition. I still can't get out into the garage. When I go outside, I have to stay on the cement, the sidewalk, to avoid hurting myself. It is a learning experience. It is a different life, but it is still a life."

While she was yet dealing with the gangrene issue, she had to dodge the same health threat everyone else was up against, she said. "I was in a very vulnerable state," she stated. "I have been tested for COVID-19 three times. I have been negative. I am still quarantined pretty much. I have contact with my sons and family. That's about it. I have to have people cook for me. It is hard on me because I am so independent."

"No one is an island," Dr. Ramirez said. "It makes a difference when you have support. I am very grateful to [Mayor] Gloria [Garcia] and the city manager [Keith Metzler], [Councilwoman] Blanca [Gomez] and Mr. [Councilman James] Cox, and [Councilwoman] Debra [Jones] for caring about me and providing support, so I can continue to participate as a member of the council. I am committed to remaining in office for as long as the voters will have me."

Ramirez said, "I was asked if I was going to quit. I said, 'Heck, no!' Number one, I have two years left still in my term, so I'm hoping my health will continue to get stronger and better. As far as I'm concerned, Victorville's voters and residents are living a life with a bright future in the High Desert," she said, but she believes their lives can be better and she wants to bring attention to the diverse interests they have and make sure that their needs are met. "They need certain things, and I will always be their advocate for a better life," she said.

Ramirez said, "I want to be every bit as energetic and even more so in my second two years on the Victorville City Council and potentially beyond as I was in my

first two years. People look at me like I'm crazy, but I consider it to be my serious mission to bring businesses to the High Desert. To do that, we need education. I want to bring a new state university. To attract businesses, we need to have more professional people. I believe the Southern California Logistics Airport should become an international passenger airport. We have two runways that can handle 747 and 757 aircraft," she said. "In Victorville, 52 percent of our population is Latino, and they can communicate in the Spanish language. We should be bringing tourists in from Mexico and South America. We have the airport. We can provide hospitality."

Ramirez continued, "While I've been on the council, there have been people who have complained about off-road vehicles and motorcyclists driving behind their houses and yards. I think we need to create places where people can enjoy themselves without bothering others. Victorville is a desert area and people should be able to go to a park where they can barbecue and ride their bikes. We need to provide safe places for that. I believe in enhancing the quality of life. I think we should make the golf course greener, with landscaping and gardens. Those are the things that make life rich and worth living. Plus, I want to make sure that Victorville gets a boys and girls club. Leadership skills can be learned."

Ramirez carried on. "We need to rejuvenate downtown," she said. "What is happening there is resulting in the loss of economic opportunity and income, both to the residents and the city. I am all for celebrating our downtown. In other communities in the county – Yucaipa, Glen Helen, Rancho Cucamonga, Fontana, Chino – there are places where people can go and play soccer and baseball, volleyball, tennis, football, places where there are artists and music, and playgrounds for

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children, places where a family can go out and walk. We have older parts of the city that could be renovated into a large scale park. We should make it so it's easy for our residents to enjoy life. As mayor pro tem, I want to lead an effort to bring that to Victorville."

Where there is a will, there exists means, said Dr. Ramirez. "There is no reason why these things can't be, unless you accept that it can't be done," she said. "God put me on this earth to help people. That is what I want to do as part of the city council, to the best of my ability."

This latest challenge is a physical one, she said, which is probably far less restrictive than the boundaries which she and others placed on herself years ago. When she was young, she had accepted the limitations put on her, Dr. Ramirez said. "I told my high school counselor I wanted to be a civil engineer," Ramirez said. "She told me that wasn't going to happen. She said I could be secretary, a nurse or a teacher." This was daunting, Ramirez said. "I was 17 years old and I hated kids, and I fainted at the sight of blood." She set aside the dream of becoming an engineer, and she ended up teaching junior high. Eventually she moved on to being a college professor.

Her horizon has widened, and now she is a retired college professor of 38 years involved in politics, she pointed out. She missed out on getting elected First District supervisor on March 3,

perhaps because, she said, her medical condition prevented her from getting out and campaigning. "I know I was a far better candidate and more suited for the job than Paul Cook," she said of the victor in that race. "I was going to start my campaign in January, but I ended up in the hospital."

The primary path to enrichment and self-actualization, Dr. Ramirez said, is "scholarship. Young people and all of us have the right to be educated. If you don't have education, it is hard to find your proper and best place in the workforce, and people control you. If you don't have a trained mind, that is the same thing as being a slave. I will fight for everyone to be able to go to school for as long as they are interested in learning. That is a basic right."

When it was remarked that losing her foot and lower leg was a tough break, Dr. Ramirez said, "No, I have been lucky. I could have died. Sometimes your fate is destiny. I will do my best with what I have. I am very satisfied with what I have. You can't win them all. Whatever I do, I do it to the best of my ability. I will be returning to Victorville and will be working with Mayor Garcia and the rest of the council in doing the job, not focusing on my personal needs. That should have nothing to do with your role as a public official. If someone feels otherwise, then that is a

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## Civility Of Protests Around The County Varies from front page

camonga, what started as a verbal confrontation between members of the crowd and an Uber driver devolved into protesters throwing an object at the Uber vehicle, which broke one of the car's windows. The driver responded by pepper-spraying members of the crowd. A more intensive confrontation was avoided when he made a hurried exit from the intersection, but almost ran down some pedestrians in a crosswalk as he was leaving.

After the driver called the sheriff's department, which provides law enforcement services to Rancho Cucamonga, deputies with the Sheriff's Department Mobile Field Force team declared the protest had devolved into an unlawful assembly. That provoked a number of verbal taunts being hurled at the arriving deputies, but no arrests were made.

A crowd of protesters estimated at between 200 and 300 assembled at the intersection of Grand Avenue and Peyton Drive in Chino Hills on Sunday afternoon, May 31. Theirs was a peaceable demonstration which featured banners and signs bearing slogans such as "Stop the Killing" and "No Justice, No Peace," and "Black Lives Matter."

Perhaps as many as 500 people participated in a largely peaceful set of gatherings in Redlands that began in the late morning and lasted into the afternoon on Sunday. One contingent marched downtown, where those involved took a symbolic knee at Ed Hales Park. That gesture was repeated outside the Redlands Police Department on Orange and Vine streets. There were some minor incidents of vandalism that were reported.

Around the same time on Sunday, a much more intensive display of anger and resentment

toward authorities took place in San Bernardino. By late afternoon, that mass protest had become the most violent and destructive one to occur in the county, going well beyond what had occurred in Fontana last week, on May 28.

Protesters made their first show of overwhelming presence near, around and on the off-ramp from the 215 Freeway at Second Street. Some reached the freeway level, but did not interfere with the 60-mile-per-hour traffic.

The protest then manifested a bit later en masse in the downtown area, near State of California, County of San Bernardino and San Bernardino city buildings, including both courthouses, the county administrative headquarters, the district attorney's office and City Hall. There was at that point a fair degree of vandalism, including graffiti mark-ups. Windows were broken at the Bank of America at 303 N. D Street, which is proximate to San Bernardino City Hall, and across D Street from the Guatemalan consulate and across Third Street from the Mexican consulate.

As marchers progressed through downtown, they headed, eventually, up D Street where they surrounded the police department. By that point, the department had activated the entirety of its roughly 250 sworn personnel, three-fourths of whom were at that point working overtime. Another 150 peace officers from nearby law enforcement agencies, including those with the California Highway Patrol and the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department, were in San Bernardino by 4 p.m. There was a tense stand-off at the police department headquarters at 710 North D Street as a number of officers were stationed inside in the lobby, visible from outside of the building through the glass entranceway into the building at the back of the building's portico. A command decision

was made to not have officers exit the building, out of concern that would provoke a large scale physical confrontation that might lead to violence and perhaps fatalities. As the crowd outside police headquarters grew increasingly agitated, some provocateurs suggested that an effort to break out the building's glass wall and doors on the ground floor be made so the building could be stormed. A religious group, however, had pushed its way to the front of the crowd within the portico and took up a collective prayer. Subsequently, the crowd left the police department headquarters and made its way eastward, where it congregated in the parking lot of the Waterman Discount Mall. As nightfall approached, looting began there. In time, looting would spread to other areas of the city.

With nightfall, numerous fires were lit. Responding police were pelted with rocks, bottles and other objects. There were reports that gunfire was trained on some officers. No injuries from gunfire were reported, however. Windows were broken out in various commercial and professional buildings on Waterman, Baseline Avenue and Highland Avenue in the city's most heavily concentrated commercial districts. Some of the looting and vandalism spilled over into neighboring Highland that night.

A sheriff's department helicopter in the evening circled overhead, informing those on the streets that the protest had been declared an unlawful assembly and those who remained in the area would be subject to arrest.

Police Chief Eric McBride on Wednesday reported to the city council that a total of 32 arrests had been made Sunday evening and Monday morning. "I would have to say about two-thirds of the arrests we made were for people with addresses outside the city," McBride said.

McBride added that

much of the protest appeared to be driven by organizers who were using social media to vector those participating to different points of congregation.

At the Waterman Discount Mall the officers were in the presence of a clearly unruly mob engaging in criminal activity, McBride said. The officers, however, did not wade into the crowd to effectuate arrests. McBride estimated that the officers on the scene there were "outnumbered ten-to-one."

Many officers, McBride said "sustained bruises" that evening.

The number of officers from outside law enforcement agencies that came into San Bernardino to augment the city's 250 officers rose from 150 in the late afternoon to nearly to 250 that evening. At one point, McBride said "We had close to 500 officers in the city."

McBride reported to the city council that "Probably until about two in the morning we

ity Lane deterred looting there.

In Rancho Cucamonga on June 1, a fourth straight day of protests were staged. Late in the day, just prior to sunset, eight cars carrying protesters arrived near the Victorian Gardens Mall. Rancho Cucamonga-based sheriff's deputies approached them as they were exiting their vehicles. Upon ascertaining that they were out-of-towners who had come to the city to protest, the deputies instructed them to leave. When some of those who had arrived refused to depart, the deputies arrested seven of them on various charges.

In the aftermath of what happened on Sunday night and early Monday morning in San Bernardino, protests in two of the county's other cities provoked reactionary citizen or resident reaction which carried with it fatal potential.

In Yucaipa, a group of earnest protesters marching on Yucaipa Boulevard on Monday

was made. A sheriff's department investigator clad in civilian clothes who made his way into the crowd and interacted with individuals on both sides of the dispute learned that large numbers of city residents present in the area were armed as a preparation to prevent any looting that might break out. As a consequence, what was calculated to be sufficient numbers of sheriff's department patrol units were dispatched to the area to head off any further confrontations.

Also on Monday, some 37 miles west of Yucaipa in Upland, demonstrators assembled near the intersection of Foothill Boulevard and Euclid Avenue. What was estimated to be upwards of 300 demonstrators made their way to the Euclid Avenue median north of Foothill Boulevard near architect August Leimbach's iconic "Madonna of the Trail" statue that faces southward at the intersection. As the afternoon progressed and commut-



**Members of the Black Lives Matter Movement staged a protest on Wednesday outside the Historic Carnegie Library in Colton, decrying the brutal death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, the lack of proportionality in force used by the police in dealing with minorities generally, and Colton's unwillingness to allow the Colton History Museum, housed within the Carnegie Building, to feature displays relating to African-American culture. At the center of the photograph, with his foot on the bench, is the organizer for the Inland Empire chapter of Black Lives Matter, Rick Spann. To Spann's immediate right, in the tie and face mask, is Colton Councilman Luis Gonzalez.**

were encountering looting throughout the city."

Two major sporting goods stores and both of the city's Walmarts were looted. A show of police force at the Inland Center Mall, the Target on Orange Show Drive and businesses on Hospital-

was met by an equally determined group of local counterprotestors. What was described as a gang fight ensued, with one man severely injured in the melee. Far greater mayhem was avoided after the sheriff's department arrived. An arrest

ers coming home from work intensified the traffic moving northward on Euclid Avenue, more and more protesters, in an effort to encourage those passing motorists to acknowledge and take stock of the expression

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# San Bernardino County **Sentinel**

News of Note  
from Around the  
Largest County  
in the Lower  
48 States

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## **2007-to-2014 Economic Downturn Made Upland Hungry For Development At Any Cost** *from front page*

eventually proved to be dozens of large-scale citrus groves that had existed in the city for upwards of 50, 60 and 70 years were leveled to make way for conversion of those properties to residential subdivisions. That aggressive development continued into the 1980s under the guidance of city council members including Dina Hunter, Frank Carpenter, Frank Hoover, Robert Nolan and Al Canestro along with mayors John McCarthy, Richard Anderson and Nolan after he acceded to that position. In the 1990s as most of the developable properties in Upland had been consumed, the building frenzy abated somewhat, with the developmental focus transitioning in the later part of that decade and then in the 2000s to the more problematic previously unimproved properties on the city's periphery that required considerable additions of infrastructure. Infill development on smaller size parcels at that point intensified within the city's existing neighborhoods and commercial/industrial districts.

For roughly ten years beginning with the economic downturn of 2007, there was only sporadic interest in undertaking development in Upland. With the emergence from the lin-

gering nationwide, state, regional and local recession in 2014, the freeing up of financing resulted in more and more project applications being filed at the city's planning counter. Simultaneously, city management found itself under the gun to augment the city's revenue stream because of the gradual drawdown in available city revenues and increasing city operational costs, including ones brought on by escalating pension commitments as more and more long term city employees retired. A casualty in all of this was the integrity of the city's community development, planning and building and safety functions, as the development services director, city planner and associate planners no longer conceived of their assignments as calling for them to make a straightforward and thorough assessment of each project proposal filed at the planning counter so that thereafter the planning commission and then the city council could fairly assess whether the project should be allowed to proceed. Rather, they saw their jobs as ones which called for them to present a case for allowing such projects to achieve fruition. In this way, the intent of senior staff was that no exhaustive evaluation of the projects under consideration be given, but that the city's consent for the plans was to be provided automatically, followed by a one-sided analysis that justified the approval.

That such an orienta-

tion was the new order in Upland was apparent from the manner in which the city began shying away from requiring that environmental impact reports be undertaken for the projects submitted to City Hall, allowing instead for what is referred to as a mitigated negative declaration to suffice as the environmental certification of those projects. Mitigated negative declarations are a finding by a governmental jurisdiction's decision-making body that any negative environmental impacts of a project or proposed project are offset by the conditions of approval for that undertaking. Not only is a mitigated negative declaration significantly less expensive than carrying out a full-blown environmental impact report, it is far less exhaustive in delineating what impacts the project will have, thereby decreasing the likelihood that an objectionable element of the project will be noted and brought to the attention of the community and its citizens. This greatly reduces the potential that protest over those impacts will derail the project or prevent its approval.

In early 2018, representatives of Bridge Development Partners quietly began discussions with the City of Upland relating to the development of a distribution center for on-line retail giant Amazon on a 50-acre property owned by the Bongiovanni Family Trust north of Foothill Boulevard and south of

Cable Airport eastward of the northern terminus of Central Avenue. In June 2019, the project was officially previewed to the Upland community as a three building complex with 977,000 square feet under roof. After objections to the scope of the proposal manifested, the tentative site plan was modified several times until in October 2019 a revamped conception of the project was presented, one that was reduced to a single structure of 276,250 square feet. When the environmental review documentation for the project was posted on December 16, 2019, it came in the form of a draft negative mitigated declaration as opposed to an environmental impact report. In that documentation, the project was shown as a 201,096-square-foot distribution center. While the 37-day review period for that document was yet ongoing, on Thursday, January 9, 2020 the Upland City Council, the Upland Planning Commission and the Upland Airport Land Use Committee held a joint workshop at City Hall to carry out a discussion of the draft initial study and draft mitigated negative declaration for the project. The vast majority of the public attending the meeting who addressed the city council and planning commission indicated opposition to the project.

After feedback from the public was accepted in conjunction with the processing of the mitigated negative declara-

tion, which some residents said was marred by the failure to post all of the public input and commentary submitted to the city, the planning commission met on February 12 to consider the project. Commissioner Alexander Novikov, who because of prior business commitments was out of town, was therefore absent from that evening's irregularly-scheduled meeting. Thus, five of the commission's then-current six members – Chairwoman Robin Aspinall, Carolyn Anderson, Vice Chairman Gary Schwary, Linden Brouse and Yvette Walker – were present. On a key issue relating to the project, its environmental certification, the panel voted 4-to-1, with Walker dissenting, to ratify the mitigated negative declaration for the project, making what was essentially a finding that any untoward environmental impacts would be offset by the conditions of approval imposed on the project. On a second primary issue relating to the project, consideration of its site plan, a motion to reject it was made, garnering the support of commissioners Schwary, Walker and Brouse. Aspinall and Anderson dissented in that vote.

The commission's vote was a non-binding one, but which served as the primary recommendation to the city council with regard to the project. Over the next two weeks, the commission's members were subjected to a withering round of intense lobbying by

project proponents. The *Sentinel* is informed that city staff members also expressed disappointment and criticism of the planning commission's February 12 vote against the project.

On February 26, the commission made an unprecedented reconsideration of the project, and then took a do-over vote to rescind the February 12 decision that had rejected the site plan. With Novikov present, the commission reconsidered the matter, at which point Novikov joined with Walker in registering opposition to the site plan, while Schwary and Brouse reversed themselves from their February 12 votes, resulting in a 4-to-2 recommendation that the city council approve the project's site plan.

On April 1, the city council, during a meeting from which the public was excluded because of concerns about the COVID-19 contagion, took up consideration of the project, giving it ap-

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## **Ramirez from page 2**

politician who puts himself before what he is responsible for and that is when you get into trouble. As a politician, you are a public servant. That is, you have been elected to serve the people, not yourself. Thank you to everyone who prayed for my recovery, and thank you to those who voted for me. God bless you all."

*-Mark Gutglueck*

## Culture Of Department Nepotism Allowed Accused Rapist Cop To Sidestep Pre-Hiring Background Vetting from front page

was set at \$250,000.

According to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, the Fontana Police Department had cooperated with and facilitated its investigation of Stark and the circumstances surrounding the case.

In an article published today, the Fontana *Herald-News* reported that Fontana Police Chief Billy Green had made particularly scathing remarks about Stark and his character. According to the *Herald-News*, Green said that neither he nor his department will "attempt to justify or mitigate his predatory deviant behavior." Green told the *Herald-News*, the lone adjudicated newspaper based in Fontana, that both the city's residents and department employees had "righteous concern" over what had occurred. "He has tarnished the badge of the Fontana Police Department and our community deserves answers," Green was quoted by the *Herald-News* as having stated.

Green made an effort to distance his department and its reputation from Stark, which included, for Green, atypically harsh characterizations and remarks regarding a police officer and department members. "This is not what the Fontana Police Department is about," the *Herald-News* article said Green had insisted in an email. Green also made clear to the *Herald-News* that the rape for which Stark was arrested "occurred prior to [Stark] becoming a Fontana officer." Green in the email to the *Herald-News* said that he understood that what had occurred "rightfully calls into question the character of the entire department," and that he, the department and its 300 personnel were committed "to

do what needs to be done to begin repairing the damage."

Green simultaneously informed the public through the *Herald-News* that he was absolutely done with Stark. "Based on California law, I cannot immediately fire Nicholas Stark. He is on paid leave and that is disgusting. However, I will endeavor to terminate him in the most expeditious manner possible," Green was quoted by the *Herald-News* as saying.

Nowhere in the *Herald-News* article was any information relating to the manner by which Stark had managed to land his officer's assignment with the department.

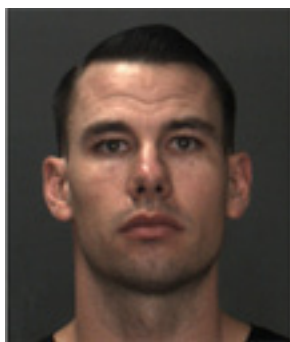
Stark is the son of Michael Stark, who had risen to the rank of captain with the department. As such, Michael Stark was a senior officer and indeed a mentor to the current generation of command officers at the Fontana Police Department, including Green and the immediate past police chief, Robert Ramsey.

Despite his father's status as a senior member of the Fontana Police Department, Nicholas Stark's ambition toward becoming a police officer does not appear to have begun early, as there is no indication he participated in the police explorer program through which teenagers intent on a career in law enforcement often make entrée into the profession. Rather, he did not become an actual police officer until he was 26 years old in 2018, having first been hired as an officer trainee with the department the year before, just prior to his father's retirement.

At the time of his retirement, Michael Stark was receiving a \$171,485.62 yearly salary and was provided with overtime pay and various allowances and add-ons of \$44,278.84 per year, together with \$113,799.76 in benefits for a total annual compensation of \$329,564.22. In retirement, he is now pulling an annual pension of

\$182,452.68.

Prior to Nicholas Stark signing on with the police department, he had obtained a job with the City of Fontana at the age of 19 in 2011 as a water safety instructor. His total pay and benefits for 2011 was \$6,935.97. In 2012 Nicholas Stark had promoted to the position of assistant pool manager and his total pay and benefits for that year nearly doubled, zooming to \$13,545.26. In 2013 he held the same job title but his total pay and benefits declined to \$10,331.17, with his total pay and benefits similarly dropping in 2014 to \$9,441.33, while he remained in the capacity of assistant pool manager. In 2015 he



Nicholas Stark

made the jump to pool manager, and his total compensation rose that year to \$16,166.91. In 2016, while yet in the capacity of pool manager, his overall compensation reached \$30,596.78.

In 2017, after he had graduated from the sheriff's academy, Nicholas Stark was hired by the Fontana Police Department as an officer trainee, a position for which he received total pay and benefits of \$38,313.78. In April 2018 Nicholas Stark was hired as a police officer, and he received in both his officer trainee and police officer capacities total pay and benefits of \$72,136.70. In 2019 he kept the officer title and his total pay and benefits were \$78,249.70.

The *Sentinel* since yesterday spoke with multiple sources within the department with regard to Nicholas Stark. One stated, "Nicholas Stark was not vetted, analyzed, and scrutinized how normal applicants trying to become law enforcement officers are." Other officers related to the *Sentinel* that they were there during young

Stark's efforts in trying to become a police officer. They said Nicholas Stark was given special consideration because of his father's status in the department. "Right away, we knew he was not being treated how he should have been because his father was a captain," one said.

Some of the officers acknowledged that there was a "good ol' boy" element to the department's culture. "There is an ideology, political belief, as well as the treatment of people which fits that description," one of the officers said. That ethos carries over into the hiring process, another officer said.

Nepotism has been an issue within the Fontana Police Department for years. In November 2016 the *Sentinel* reported that an analysis of those employed with the Fontana Police Department at that time demonstrated "one third of officers were related by marriage, blood or sex." As reported in 2016, according to sources within the police department itself, an overwhelming number of those working for the department were blood-related in some way or another or were or had been involved in a personal, physical, sexual, domestic or quasi-domestic situation with one another. Lifelong friendships, marriages, intimate relationships, and blood relations have historically been among the ways that people in the Fontana Police Department are closely connected and promoted.

In any police force or business atmosphere relationships are forged and kept, and a few intimate relationships and/or marriages within an organization may be inevitable. People become friends, partners, and engage in relationships and marriage. Relationships are expected to be grown and gained. Such is the nature of human interaction and cooperation. At what point human nature and human tendencies within the context of an organizational structure devolve into nepotism and incestual compro-

mise is open to debate. With the Fontana Police Department, where roughly 100 of that organization's employees had or have a familial, domestic, intimate or close personal relationship in which their financial interests may have been or were merged, there had been concern expressed that professional and accountability standards had been put at risk.

Despite this information having surfaced in the 2016 *Sentinel* article [ <http://sbcsentinel.com/2016/11/fpd-nepotism-one-third-of-officers-related-by-marriage-blood-or-sex/> ], the following year Nicholas Stark was brought into the department as an officer trainee while his father was at the senior level of the department's command echelon.

In his email to the *Herald-News*, Green said, "Despite our best attempts to weed out people that should not be hired, we missed the mark and hired someone we should not have."

Of note is that the rape now at the center of attention allegedly occurred in Rancho Cucamonga prior to Nicholas Stark's hiring as a police officer, and reportedly involved plying the victim with alcohol prior to sexual intercourse taking place. What was not clear was whether Stark was employed as pool manager at the time or as an officer trainee, as well as whether the victim was 16 at the time of the rape or is currently 16 years of age. There was speculation that Stark had met the young woman while he was serving in his capacity as pool manager in Fontana at its aquatic center, which draws swimmers from a number of nearby communities, including Rancho Cucamonga.

The *Sentinel* spoke with individuals who knew Nicholas Stark when he was employed at the aquatic center, including his supervisor when he was hired as a water safety instructor/lifeguard. Stark appeared to be a model employee when he was serving in that capac-

ity in his late teens and early 20s, the *Sentinel* was told, and there was nothing untoward about his comportment noted. His performance never caused any concern, which was reflected in his promotion to positions of greater responsibility and authority while he was working at the center, his one-time supervisor said. The supervisor said that those who worked with Stark while he was a lifeguard, water safety instructor, assistant pool manager and pool manager were "floored" by the initial report of his arrest. Stark was reportedly on the verge of getting married, the *Sentinel* was informed.

The *Sentinel* has learned that the case against Stark evolved out of a social media posting by his alleged victim, who gave indication of having been sexually assaulted, and further posted that the perpetrator was a police officer. An inquiry into the matter, including determining the identity of the victim and then contacting her directly ensued. Once Stark was identified, Green interceded directly with San Bernardino County Sheriff John McMahan to handle the investigation.

Two officers with the department, noting that the pre-hiring background investigation process entails applicants filling out a detailed questionnaire that is then signed under the penalty of perjury and subject to very close scrutiny including a polygraph exam and battery of questions during an oral interview, augmented by an examination by a clinical psychologist, suggested that the investigation into Stark's hiring should utilize the same methods and techniques employed on line officers prior to their employment with the department as a means of seeking to determine from the department's management why Stark was allowed to bypass those rigors during his hiring process.



## San Bernardino Mayor And Council Struggle Over Control Of The City's Deliberative Process *from front page*

next 12 months through teleconferencing, with the proceedings captured on video and broadcast so the city's residents could monitor it.

In some measure encouraged by Councilman Ted Sanchez, who asserted that the city's political leadership needed to set the tone for fiscal discipline amongst city staff by first imposing on itself the austerity that would be asked of others, succeeded in getting his colleagues to agree to collectively forego receiving \$28,000 over the next 12 months to cover their travel expenses and/or reimbursements for attending meetings, seminars and conferences while serving in the capacity of the city's representatives. Prior to the meeting, the city had set aside a total of \$42,000 for all seven of the council members – \$6,000 each – to cover costs associated with their sojourns related to serving in their municipal legislative capacities. Unanimously, they agreed to reduce that by two-thirds to \$2,000 each. Thereafter, Sanchez set his sights on reducing the mayor's expense account for his travel and extracurricular governmental activities from the \$16,200

that had been set aside for Valdivia to \$4,000.

It was at that point that what had been a relatively civil meeting descended into utter chaos.

Earlier, the proceedings had begun with a sober assessment of the city's deteriorating financial picture by the city's staff members, during which the discussion generally moved into specifics of how and where the city was going to make adjustments to the spending plan that had been formulated prior to the financial devastation of the COVID-19 crisis. The exchanges were for the most part somber but amicable ones, with the most animated elements relating to Councilwoman Sandra Ibarra's probing with regard to hard and documentable numbers in what was being proposed, the actual depth of cuts to certain departments, those departments' current performance and effectiveness overall and whether savings were to actually be derived by the economies outlined.

When Councilman Ted Sanchez was given the floor, he said, "I'd like to go over the line item budget for the council as well as the mayor's office," and he emphasized that the cost reductions that were being imposed throughout the city were to entail hardship on the city's employees. Thus, he said, the council itself had to be willing to sustain the same cutbacks. "I hope the public will take note that we are asking people to cut sal-

aries they have earned," Sanchez said. "They don't have to say thank you for this paycheck because they have fulfilled their responsibility to the city. We are a municipal corporation, and we exist solely to provide core services, that is: trash, streets, parks, libraries, the administration of our finances and public safety to our police department and our fire. That these individuals are now being asked to make cuts before we make any cuts to our office is a sign of poor leadership if we do not do this. So, I ask: Please, my colleagues, join with me to make the cuts we can make without making any interruptions to the quality of service we need to provide for our residents."

Sanchez advocated that the council authorize utilizing the lion's share of savings to be realized from cutting the city council's travel allowance to sustaining the pay of the two remaining staff members working directly for the city council after that division, formerly consisting of four workers, had been halved, even while the work load for those serving the city was increasing.

"I see this as \$25,000 that doesn't need to be spent right here, right now," Sanchez said with regard to the council's travel money. "This \$25,000 should be spent to offset the salaries for these two staffers because no employee that works full time for this city should live in poverty without expending every other option we have. There are right now employees who risk living in poverty while they work full-time for this city."

Councilwoman Bes-sine Richard acknowledged that the two council staff employees Sanchez had alluded to "work twice as hard if not three times as hard as they did because we went down from a five-member staff to a two-member staff," but she said the council could not micromanage how city employees were to be compensated, which

was something to be left up to management and the city's human resources department.

City Manager Teri Ledoux pointed out that the boost in salary to the two staffers could not be done because the two employees' salaries and cuts thereto had been arrived at through the collective bargaining process and therefore could not be altered without further negotiation.

Sanchez then conceded the point and asked the savings to be had from curtailing the city council's travel stipends be transferred into the general fund.

"We have allotted to every council member \$6,000 for meetings and conferences," he said. "I cannot in good conscience take this money knowing that individuals who provide vital services to our city are taking cuts to their paychecks. I would ask that we reduce the amount to \$2,000 per council member, the remaining balance to go back into the general fund."

Councilman Henry Nickel seconded that motion

After the council showed unanimous support for doing so, Sanchez said, "We are showing real leadership by taking cuts to our budgets first before we do anything else."

Within a very few minutes, however, as Sanchez sought to instigate a next chapter in leadership among his colleagues, the very concept of leadership in San Bernardino would undergo a severe test.

"On the mayor's office, the council has made cuts to their travel expenses," Sanchez said. "The mayor's current budget for travel is \$16,200. I think it would be fair to cut that down to \$4,000."

"What do you base that on, Councilman?" Mayor John Valdivia challenged him.

"\$4,000," Sanchez said. "Divide that between 12 months. I think that should be sufficient."

"When you become the mayor, you can argue that, but you haven't

had a conversation with me on this," Valdivia retorted.

"Do you think it's fair to the city?" Sanchez asked.

"Hold on, councilman," said Valdivia. "This is a surprise to me. This is, frankly... We've never had a conversation..."

Chiming in to support Sanchez, Councilman Fred Shorett interjected, "No one had a conversation with me about changing our \$6,000 to \$2,000. No one has to have a conversation with you."

"Well, it's polite and courtesy," Valdivia said. "I guess not, Fred, if what you want to continue to do is be uncivil."

"We can afford you, Mayor, the opportunity to discuss this right now," said Sanchez. "What do you think for your travel?"

"We can have a cup of coffer over that and you can discuss it with me," Valdivia said.

"No, I think we should discuss it publicly," said Sanchez.

"Well, I'm not prepared to make that assessment, right now," Valdivia said.

"I would say \$4,000 – Would that be fine, council members?" Sanchez pressed ahead.

"I'll support you on that," said Shorett.

"Okay, there's no opposition to that?" Sanchez asked.

"No, frankly, the privileges of the mayor are afforded in the charter," said Valdivia. "You guys can go ahead and try to do this, but I have charter authority... the charter affords..."

"Let's call the question," said Councilman Nickel, meaning the council should take a vote on the matter.

"Hold on," said Valdivia.

"Parliamentary maneuver. Let's move on," Nickel could be heard to say as he, Valdivia and Shorett began talking over one another at once, with some of their words growing unrecognizable and their sentences disjointed in the resulting cacophony.

"No, I'm not going to move on," Valdivia could be heard asserting.

"Point of order," Nickel said. "Call the question."

"You are out of order, Mr. Nickel," the mayor could be heard saying at one hour 53 minutes and 24 seconds into the meeting video.

"No, you're out of order," said Nickel. "Let's move on."

"I'm not going to move on," said Valdivia.

At that point Valdivia, Nickel and Shorett talked over each other some more, with only a portion of their words standing out in a mélange of sound in which their precise syntax could not be ascertained.

"You're out of order," Nickel could be heard saying amid the cacophony

"No, I'm not," Valdivia said. "This is my budget item..."

"All in favor of appealing the decision of the chair say aye," Nickel said.

There was a chorus of ayes that ensued.

"Mr. Teddy Sanchez, I will now defer to your chairmanship on this vote," Nickel pronounced.

"No, you're not," said Valdivia as Sanchez, who is the mayor pro tem, sought to assume chair authority.

"If there is no dissension on this, Ms. city manager, I think you have direction," said Sanchez.

"We're going to take a break," said Valdivia. "Ms. city manager, let's take a five minute break..."

"I don't want to break," Shorett said.

"I don't need a break," said Nickel.

"I don't need a break," Sanchez echoed.

"Let's get this done," said Councilman Jim Mulvihill.

"Time to get business done," Nickel said.

"Then you need to allow your elected mayor to respond to this," Valdivia said, sounding as if he was conceding that he had lost control of the meeting.

*Continued on Page 7*

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**Tenor, Destructiveness & Civility Of Protests Around The County Vary**  
*from page 3*

of disapproval of police violence and brutality, began blocking the northbound lanes of Euclid. By this point, residents of homes lining the east side of Euclid, having grown increasingly wary of anticipated damage to their property, assembled themselves in their front yards and summoned others to stand with them to repel the crowd should it prove unruly or intent on vandalizing those private properties. At one point, when the crowd surged eastward, one of those gathered with the residents retrieved a gun from his vehicle and brandished it, momentarily raising its barrel to a point parallel with the ground, while he profanely exhorted the crowd to back off. He was later arrested.

Many jurisdictions in San Bernardino County, as in Southern California

generally, sought to impose curfews to prevent large gatherings in the evening hours when it was believed looting was most likely to occur.

Again in Yuciapa on Tuesday, self-designated protectors of the city engaged in mostly verbal confrontations with protesters. Those incidents did not reach the level of violence that had occurred there the previous day.

In Highland on Wednesday, a group of mostly peaceful protesters undertook to demonstrate, holding a benediction officiated over by the Reverend Ben Skaug of the Immanuel Baptist Church when the activists first gathered near Greenspot Road and the 210 Freeway. That demonstration proceeded much more peaceably than what had occurred Sunday evening at the periphery of Highland abutting San Bernardino.

At around 5 p.m. on Wednesday, a Black Lives Matter peaceful protest was staged at Colton's historic Carnegie Library, which is

now used as the Colton Area Museum. In addition to registering their objections to the death of George Floyd and police brutality against African-Americans in general, the protesters also made note that the curators of the museum currently and in the past have refused to display any artifacts or materials relating to African-American personages or historical figures in the museum, and that the museum's operators have spurned requests to host African-American themed events there, as well.

The *Sentinel* received a report that during the Colton protest, quick reaction by Colton police officers prevented a demonstrator from falling victim to a machete attack by a counterprotestor.

Earlier that day, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit on behalf of Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles and a cross section of activists, writers, protesters and citizens, naming the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County and the

City of San Bernardino, alleging the curfews in place in those places were an abridgment of Constitutional rights. Simultaneously, the executive director of Inland Congregations United for Change threatened legal action against San Bernardino if it did not dispense with its curfew. The San Bernardino City Council at its meeting Wednesday night moved the effective time of the city's curfew from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., although the city's website did not reflect the change, instead continuing to state the curfew was in effect at 6 p.m.

On Thursday, June 4 in Fontana, a somewhat more peaceful demonstration than what had taken place in that city on May 28 was held at Don Day Park. A relatively orderly crowd of 400, some bearing placards, gathered to hear speakers inveigh against what was called systemic racism within police agencies that resulted in the brutalizing of minority citizens by cops.

At roughly the same time, in Redlands, a

**Protest Scheduled**  
**Wednesday June 10 3 PM**

Where: City of Colton's Development Services Offices at 659 N La Cadena Drive in Colton, 92324

Demonstrators intend to call for the resignation of Ramon Hernandez, Colton's building official who is alleged to have repeatedly shown bias in his role within the permit application process at the city. Those participating say they feel public action is required to get Colton Development Services Director Mark Tomich to take the mounting complaints with regard to Hernandez's actions seriously, and to ensure that Colton City Manager Bill Smith is informed of certain facts members of the development industry believe Smith and members of the city council either do not know about or are ignoring.

crowd of protesters, ones hitting on the same themes articulated in Fontana, surrounded the entrance to the Redlands Police Department headquarters.

Today, Friday, June 5, the *Sentinel* received reports that protests are

ongoing at the National Orange Show in San Bernardino, Heritage Intermediate School in Fontana, and in the 16400 block of Bear Valley Road at the Hesperia/Victorville city limits/boundary.

-Mark Gutglueck

**Verbal Donneybrook Breaks Out Between SB Mayor & City Council Members On Tuesday Night**  
*from page 4*

There ensued further cacophony during which Valdivia came across as trying to reassert his control, but much of what he was saying was drowned out in the mix of Nickel's, Shorett's and Sanchez's statements.

When Nickel asserted that the meeting was now Sanchez's to conduct and called the question, the mayor could be heard to say, "Mr. Nickel, you're out of order, sir. Mr. Nickel you're out of order. The city charter provides privileges, reimbursements on all of that stuff..."

The cacophony mushroomed once more.

When there was a brief subsidence of the verbal roar, Valdivia said, "This is nonsense, guys. We ought to be focused on... not particular

**Coronavirus Deaths At Chino Mens Prison Off The Charts** *from front page*

down with the coronavirus since the progress of the disease has been charted was not avail-

able, although one published report put that number at 672. At present, there are 474 active

in-custody inmates there with the condition. According to state prison authorities, 207 inmates at the California Institution for Men are deemed to have recovered from the malady.

measurements of square footage of the mayor's office. The city council needs to get to work on overall economic renaissance of this community. You guys are playing games and not doing your jobs as city council members."

"We are doing our job," Nickel shot back. "That's what we're doing right now."

At that point, Valdivia redirected the discussion to an exchange with Ledoux about whether her presentation with regard to the upcoming year's budget was complete. She said that staff had concluded its presentation for the evening. After some further less animated and more civil discussion, Ledoux requested that the coun-

cil encapsulate its collective recommendations for further adjustments to the upcoming budget to be brought back for ultimate passage by the council. Nickel moved and Shorett seconded that Valdivia's travel budget be reduced from \$16,400 to \$4,000, that the travel budget for the council be reduced by \$28,000 to \$14,000, that \$25,000 in savings from the council's travel allowances be put into the city's general fund and that there no longer be an annual transfer of \$20,000 from the city's cultural development fund to pay for festivities relating to the mayor's annual state of the city address. The council approved that motion on a 4-to-3 vote, with

Valdivia's sole remaining council allies, Juan Figueroa and Bessine Richard, voting against it along with Ibarra. Ibarra's unwillingness to support Nickel's motion was a consequence of her discomfiture over her colleagues' unwillingness to institute even more drastic across-the-board economies than they have so far. Previously that evening, she had called for the council to "go department by department" to "discuss how we're going to balance our budget for this next year, what's needed and what's not, our needs versus our wants. I'm not happy with the proposed budget because we're not going detail by detail."

*Continued on Page 10*

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Began Transacting Business: N/A

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on 5/15, 5/22/20, 5/29/20, 6/05/20 & 6/12/20.

FBN 20200003985  
The following person is doing business as: THE NORTH SHORE INN 2402 LAKE DRIVE CRESTLINE, CA 92325 SANT&T INVESTMENT INC 129 4TH ST EUREKA, CA 95501

Mailing Address: 19 FALLING LEAF CIR POMONA, CA 91766 CA CORPORATION C4250631

This Business is Conducted By: A CORPORATION

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S/ FELTON R LEAGONS  
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FBN 2020000486  
The following person is doing business as: LGI PLUMBING & DRAIN CLEANING 540 N. CENTRAL AVE #5102 UPLAND, CA 91786 FELTON R LEAGONS 540 N. CENTRAL AVE #5102 UPLAND, CA 91786

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FBN 20200004294  
The following person is doing business as: STRATTON BAIL BONDS

6844 TIARA AVE HIGHLAND, CA 92346 MICHAEL GUTIERREZ 6844 TIARA AVE HIGHLAND, CA 92346 [and] NANCY LOZANO 6844 TIARA AVE HIGHLAND, CA 92346  
Mailing Address: 31 W CIVIC CENTER DRIVE SANTA ANA, CA 92701

This Business is Conducted By: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP

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FBN 20200004319  
The following person is doing business as: THE CUT SHOT 9153 LEMON AVE ALTA LOMA, CA 91701 TWILA KNIGHT POULIOT 9153 LEMON AVE ALTA LOMA, CA 91701 [and] MATTHEW R POULIOT 9153 LEMON AVE ALTA LOMA, CA 91701

This Business is Conducted By: A MARRIED COUPLE

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Began Transacting Business: N/A

County Clerk, Deputy A8608  
NOTICE- This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14400 et. Seq. Business & Professions Code).

**Public Notices**

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on 5/29/20, 6/05/20, 6/12/20 & 6/19/20.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO- 20200004235

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: New Line Network, 16277 Montgomery Ave, Fontana, CA 92336, Keytonn Alonso, 16277 Montgomery Ave, Fontana, CA 92336

This Business is Conducted By: An Individual

Signed: BY SIGNING BELOW, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. (B&P Code 17913) I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

S/ MICHAEL GUTIERREZ  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 05/27/2020

I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Began Transacting Business: N/A

County Clerk, Deputy A8608  
NOTICE- This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14400 et. Seq. Business & Professions Code).

**Public Notices**

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on 5/29/20, 6/5/20, 6/12/20, 6/19/20

FBN 20200004868  
The following person is doing business as: MOSAIC SUITES 948 N. MOUNTAIN AVE. #938 SUITE 129 ONTARIO, CA 01762 JUDITH P. ZAMORA 2302 S. CALDWELL AVE. ONTARIO, CA 91761

Mailing Address: 2302 S. CALDWELL AVE. ONTARIO, CA 91761

This Business is Conducted By: AN INDIVIDUAL Signed: BY SIGNING BELOW, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. (B&P Code 17913) I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

S/ MICHAEL GUTIERREZ  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 05/27/2020

I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Began Transacting Business: 05/26/2020

County Clerk, Deputy  
NOTICE- This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14400 et. Seq. Business & Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on 6/5/20, 6/12/20, 6/19/20, 6/26/20

**Public Notices**

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on 6/05, 6/12, 6/19 & 6/26, 2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO- 20200004987

The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: Willy's Speed Shop, 6905 Palm Ave, Highland, CA 92346, Mailing Address: PO BOX 930, Highland, CA 92346, Kenneth M. Brana, Social Engineering, CA 6909 Center St, Highland, CA 92346

Business is Conducted By: A Limited Liability Company

Signed: BY SIGNING BELOW, I DECLARE THAT ALL INFORMATION IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime. (B&P Code 17913) I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ Kenneth Brana  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 6/1/20

I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

Began Transacting Business: N/A

County Clerk, s/ D5511

NOTICE- This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14400 et. Seq. Business & Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on 6/5/20, 6/12/20, 6/19/20, 6/26/20

**Upland No Longer Placing A Premium On Independent & Penetrating Land Use Analysis**  
*from page 4*

proval on the crucial issues of its environmental certification through a mitigated negative declaration and passage of its site plan, both on 4-to-1 votes, with Councilwoman Janice Elliott dissenting. The full council then voted unanimously to approve a development agreement relating to the project, by which Bridge Development agreed to make up for the consideration that Amazon, as an on-line retailer, would not generate sales tax revenue to the city. That agreement called for a series of payments totaling \$16 million over the first 20 years of the distribution center's operations.

The fashion in which the planning commission was cozened and browbeaten into changing its recommendation and to thereby depart from acting as an independent evaluating body foretold a dynamic shift in the integrity of the city's planning process.

As a result, the political will and reach of the city council, which appeared to be intent on approving the project well prior to the public hearing process and its scheduled consideration of the project proposal, was exposed as the driving factor in the values embodied at City Hall.

Late last year, Upland's community development and planning divisions had taken up another proposal, this one pertaining to a residential subdivision development on the city's east side within the Foothill Knolls neighborhood. City officials placed before the planning commission a plan by Frontier Homes, owned by James Previti, Jr., to construct the Villa Serena project, 65 single family detached residential units on 9.2-acres that lie within the footprint of the 15<sup>th</sup> Street Flood Water Detention Basin. The project was represented to the commission by city staff as fitting within what remains as some of the last open space at the north end of Upland's long-existing Foothill Knolls neighborhood. From shortly after Frontier Home's initial filing with regard to the project

in July 2018 there were objections to it, primarily relating to the density it entails being inconsistent with its surroundings, that the two-story nature of the homes would interfere with both the privacy and mountain vistas of the existing homes to the south and the intensification of traffic circulation problems it will create. In short, the area's residents considered the densely-packed multi-story homes to be an architectural misfit with the knolls.

An overarching issue was that the project is to be located on land intended for flood alleviation. That 20.3-acre property had been obtained some two decades ago by the Colonies Partners, headed by Dan Richards and Jeff Burum, to serve as an intrinsic element of an elaborate flood control network for water that would be channeled away from the Colonies at San Antonio subdivision to the north. In 2002, the city had entered into a development agreement with the Colonies Partners allowing the development of the Colonies at San Antonio Project, which included an agreement that

entailed the city paying the Colonies Partners \$5 million as the city's fair share cost for increasing the capacity of various streets and the capacity of the city's storm drains and sewer facilities, including having the city use the 20.3 acres near 15<sup>th</sup> Street as a flood water basin. In 2003, the city, at that point strapped for cash, voted to modify the agreement with the Colonies Partners by paying Richards' and Burum's company \$1.5 million and making up the remaining \$3.5 million it had agreed to pay by granting the Colonies Partners a 10-year term for their first right of refusal to explore and identify a potential project in the area before the 15<sup>th</sup> Street Basin property was dedicated to public use. The city council extended the Colonies Partners' first right of refusal after the ten year period had passed. Rather than develop the property itself, the Colonies Partners offered Previti the opportunity to develop the property. He came up with the Villa Serena project, for which the Upland Planning Commission thrice held hearings, continu-

ing its initial hearing on December 11, 2019, when the majority of the Foothill Knolls residents addressing the proposal opposed it, to its next meeting on January 22, 2020, at which point the commission voted 3-to-2, based upon a motion worded by Commissioner Gary Schwary, to recommend to the city council that it deny approval of the project. Schwary and commissioners Linden Brouse and Alexander Novikov went on record as being against the project and commissioners Robin Aspinall and Yvette Walker voted in favor of it. The commission then took up the project as an issue once more, at its February 25, 2020 meeting. On this occasion, all six of the commission's members were present, including the previously absent Carolyn Anderson. The resultant vote to recommend to the city council that it deny the applicant permission to proceed registered at 4-to-2. Of note was that Commissioner Aspinall, who had previously voted in favor of the development plan, reversed herself, this time joining with her colleagues Anderson, Brouse and

Novikov in opposing the project. However, Schwary, who the previous month had made the motion to advise the city council against allowing the project to proceed, reversed himself, joining with Walker in endorsing Frontier Homes' proposal for the development of the property.

City staff continued to militate heavily in favor of the project.

For many in the community, Schwary's reversal of his votes that were initially against two highly controversial projects to ones in favor of them intensified questions about the independence of the planning commission and the influence being brought to bear on it.

On Monday, April 13, after Development Services Director Robert Dalquest and Joshua Winter, the city's planner on the project, gave an overview of the project proposal and Andrew Winterstrom of Frontier Homes also fielded questions from the council relating to the project, 22 Upland residents, most of whom live in the immediate environs of the project, addressed the

*Continued on Page 11*

## San Bernardino County Coroner Reports

Coroner's Report #702003332 On Tuesday, April 28, 2020, at 2:51 pm, deputies with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department responded to a multi-vehicle collision in the 14000 block of Bear Valley Road in Hesperia. The motorcycle passenger, 17-year-old Tristyn Shae Madole of Victorville, was pronounced deceased at the scene at 3:00 pm. The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department is investigating the collision. [04292020 0600 JK]

Coroner's Report #702003254 & Coroner's Report #702003256: On Saturday, April 25, 2020, at 10:47 AM, a 911 call was received reporting a collision at the intersection of Fairview Road and Harvard Road in Newberry Springs. A Jeep Wrangler traveling eastbound on Fairview Road struck a Polaris Ranger traveling southbound on Harvard Road. Virginio Ponce, a 47-year-old resident of Newberry Springs, was the front seat -passenger in the Razor was pronounced dead at the scene. Russel Ambrose, a 58-year-old resident of Newberry Springs and driver of the Jeep was flown to St. Mary Medical Center where he was pronounced dead at 12:56 PM. The Barstow office of the California Highway Patrol is investigating the incident. [04252020 1730 GB]

Coroner's Report #702003142 On Tuesday, April 21, 2020, at approximately 7:56 pm, David Lamb, age 34 of Fontana, was riding a motorcycle on Laurel Avenue in the city of Fontana when he was struck by a black pickup truck. Lamb was pronounced deceased on scene. Fontana Police Department Major Accident Investigation Team is investigating the incident. [04222020 1000 JK]

Coroner's Report #702003073 On Sunday, April 19, 2020, at 12:02 AM, officers with San Bernardino Police Department responded to the intersection of West 34th Street and North East Street in the City of San Bernardino regarding shots fired. They found the unresponsive driver of a sedan in the intersection with gunshot wounds. The driver, Andrew Zepeda, a 35-year-old Mira Loma resident was pronounced dead at 12:21 AM. by paramedics. San Bernardino Police Department Homicide Division is investigating the incident. [04252020 1055 GB]

Coroner's Report #702003042 On Friday, April 17, 2020, at 8:22 pm, a 911 call was received reporting a vehicle struck a pedestrian on southbound Interstate 15 just north of Nipton Rd. near Mountain Pass. Emergency crews responded to find Lateishia Atkinson, a 32-year-old resident of Las Vegas with multiple injuries. Resuscitative efforts on scene failed and Atkinson was pronounced dead at 9:03 pm. The Barstow Office of the California Highway Patrol is investigating the incident. [04182020 0925 GB]

Coroner's Report #702003019 On Thursday, 04/16/2020, at 9:54 pm, a 43-year-old male was walking across the number one lane of southbound Interstate 15, north of Baker, when he was struck by a vehicle. The driver of the other vehicle stopped and called 911. The male was pronounced dead on scene. His name will be released once his family is notified. [04172020 0630 JK]

Coroner's Report #702003010, Coroner's Report #702003011, & Coroner's Report # 702003012 On Thursday, April 16, 2020, at 4:03 PM, The California Highway Patrol and San Bernardino County Fire Department personnel were dispatched to the area of Palmdale Road and Sheep Creek Road, Phelan, for a two-vehicle traffic collision. The driver of a Honda, Mary Lynn Lacerte, age 23, a resident of Pinon Hills, the passenger, Eden Sage Duenez, age 22, a resident of Jonson Valley, and the driver of a BMW, Asley Morgan Taylor, age 28, a resident of Palmdale, were declared dead at 1619 hours. The California Highway Patrol is investigating the incident. [04172020 0630 JK]

*The Coroner Reports are reproduced in their original format as authored by department personnel.*

### Valdivia Wields His Veto Power To Hang Onto His Larger Travel Allowance, But Only Temporarily from page 7

Based on the 4-to-3 vote, Valdivia was able to temporarily resist having the amount of money vouchsafed to him to finance his junkets reduced over the upcoming 12 months. His authority as mayor allows him to veto any simple majority council vote, those being

ones settled on either a 3-to-2 or 4-to-3 margin.

An issue overhanging the entire discussion were accusations made earlier this year by Mirna Cisneros, a citizen relations employee formerly working within Valdivia's office, that Valdivia had made improper use of his travel allotments and taxpayer-defrayed expense accounts to take trips and pay for accommodations and other services that were unrelated to Valdivia's function as mayor.

In documents filed with the court supported

by affidavits, Cisneros said that Valdivia had requested her to process a reimbursement request for travel, hotel accommodations and meals, and that in making the request Valdivia had instructed her to be deliberately vague about the meeting for which the reimbursements were being sought, and that Cisneros should not name names in the paperwork filed in the reimbursement request. According to Cisneros, Valdivia told her that "he had raised a lot of money on that specific trip for his campaign."

Over the last five months, Valdivia has been involved in a burgeoning scandal in which Cisneros and four other members of the mayor's office, including Valdivia's closest and most powerful aide, Chief of Staff Matt Brown, have alleged Valdivia has continually overstepped his authority, misused public funds and engaged in graft and bribetaking. Those staff members have been supported in those accusa-

tions by Alissa Payne, whom Valdivia arranged to have appointed to both the Arts and Historical Preservation Commission and the San Bernardino Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission, and who was once considered one of his political allies. Payne now maintains that Valdivia was exploiting his position and authority as mayor for his own advancement.

On June 3, the night following the Tuesday evening budget workshop, a regular meeting of the city council was held, one which was again conducted in a virtual environment without there being an actual physical presence in one place of those involved nor where the public was allowed to attend. The public was, however, given the opportunity to participate telephonically in advance. During the meeting, Councilwoman Sandra Ibarra informed the council, "I want to reconsider my vote from last night to make the cuts to our of-

fices, city council and the mayor." Though that action to reverse the outcome of the direction to city staff was not taken, it is to be incorporated into a future action of the council before the 2020-21 budget is passed, meaning the council's travel allowance will be reduced to \$2,000 for each member and \$4,000 for the mayor.

After the Wednesday night meeting, Ibarra told the *Sentinel*, "I'm not reconciling with the mayor, as many people may have thought. The reason I voted against those two proposed cuts was because there was much more our city council could have made cuts to in the other departments as well, not just the council and the mayor: city clerk, city attorney, city manager. The city manager did not have enough cuts on her end. For further example, the police department has a lot of top paid positions that they are funding. So, there's a lot of expenses we could have additionally cut from the budget

yesterday. That didn't happen. My colleagues stayed quiet. They are always talking about the deficit, but they didn't want to go line by line because they didn't want to be in a long meeting. They made it perfectly clear they didn't want to be there long hours, and city staff pretty much said to me that 'No, we're going to keep these positions in the way our departments asked for because they know what they are doing.' They are disregarding the budget deficits. There were a lot of line items we could have cut some more. We could have cut more unnecessary and wasteful spending, but there was only one of me, and my colleagues and city staff did not want to. That is why I was not satisfied."

Nevertheless, Ibarra said, "I changed my vote today, so we're going to make those cuts to the mayor's office and the city council as suggested by the mayor pro tem."

*-Mark Gutglueck*

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## Mayor Did Not Consider Novikov's Re-application And Did Not Interview Him Or Walker During Commissioner Selection Process from page 9

council by teleconference, as the meeting was not open to the public. All 22 expressed opposition to the project. Thereafter, the council voted 4-to-1 to approve a motion by Councilman Ricky Felix seconded by Councilman Bill Velto to approve the residential specific plan, accede to a general plan amendment and parallel zone change, and then certify the mitigated negative declaration, tentative tract map and design review for the project. Councilwoman Elliott dissented from the majority in the vote.

Jeff Burum was a political sponsor of Felix's successful 2018 campaign for city council as well as Walker's unsuccessful council campaign that same year. Burum has publicly stated he is committed to advancing Velto's electioneering effort later this year, whether Velto seeks to remain as a councilman or instead seek the mayoralty.

Walker and Novikov's dissenting votes on the Amazon project apparently caught the attention of the city council

Yvette Walker was appointed to the planning commission in 2016, taking up her position thereon in July of that year. Under the city's tradition, members of the panel are routinely reappointed to a second term, provided they are amenable to remaining and their service has been demonstrated as satisfactory. Generally, members remain for no more than two terms, though there have been some exceptions to this pattern. A member's reappointment past two terms requires no fewer than four votes of the council.

Novikov was among 14 applicants for the position considered in early 2019 when then-Commissioner Bill Velto was obliged to resign after he was elevated to the city council to fill the gap that had been created when Janice Elliott, who

had been elected to an at-large council position in 2016 was elected in 2018 to the city's newly created Second District council position.

Novikov, a Russian who had worked for the government in his native country before emigrating to the United States and becoming a naturalized citizen, now runs a dance academy locally. On the commission, he developed a reputation for exacting analysis of the projects being considered, and for his ability and willingness to network with those with specific areas of expertise relating to issues pertinent to the various proposals, such as economists, land use specialists, scientists and environmental experts including those he had contact with at the UCLA Anderson School of Management where he is currently working on a postgraduate degree, to help inform his decisions and those of his commission colleagues.

Walker, it turns out, had assumed that she would automatically be considered for reappointment when her term expires at the end of this month. Novikov in January had applied to be considered for reappointment when the term to which Velto was reappointed in 2016 and which he was completing expires at the end of this month. On Wednesday, however, both Novikov and Walker were contacted by Planning Commission Chairwoman Robin Aspinall, who provided each with the courtesy of knowing, before they read it in the city council agenda for June 8 that was posted late Wednesday, that the council would be appointing Thomas Grahn and Lorraine Kindred to replace them on the commission.

In Upland, there is no precedence for terminating a commissioner's tenure after serving a fraction of a term, as is the case with Novikov.

To Novikov, the heads-up provided to him by Aspinall was unexpected. Following his reapplication in January, he had heard nothing. He indicates now that because he had not been contacted for a re-interview by the appointment committee, he had been lulled into a certain degree of complacency, essentially an expectation that he was going to be reappointed.

"I asked the city clerk and [Planning Commission] Vice Chairman [Gary] Schwary about exactly what I have to do to reapply," Novikov told the *Sentinel* on Thursday. "I did what they instructed me to do. All of this time, they never came back to me. I assumed my name would come up in the application process and they would talk to me about my plans, interview me, and they would bring my name up in the council meeting when the appointments or reappointments for the next term are made. Yesterday [Wednesday, June 3], I got a call from Chairwoman Aspinall. She told me, 'I want you to know that what you are going to see on the agenda is your term is up and they decided not to reappoint anyone.' She said that it might be as a result of the political situation. She didn't say whether that meant in the country or in the city, because of the COVID-19 matter or the protests [relating to the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis last week]."

Aspinall did not mention the Bridge Development Partners project vote, but Novikov said he had an "understanding" that his decision on that matter had played a part in his departure.

His conclusion that his opposition to the Bridge project was the deciding factor in his not getting the reappointment follows logically from a multitude of indicators, Novikov said. "I believe that is what happened," he said. "Of course, no one will directly tell me that. I did talk to some of the people with the city, and they would not use those words, but I can read people well. For me,

it was pretty clear in this process there were many people who had differing views. There were good things about the project. I would not say I was absolutely against it. It had some positive things, ones that I felt were good, but I saw more negative things that made me make the decision I did. I heard from people who felt the same way I did. There were people in the city who did not approve of the project absolutely. There were other people supporting the project, and there was, of course, strong support of it from the project's proponents. All that the planning commission does is make a recommendation. We did not make the final decision. But I took seriously looking at the project, and I did my best from all the information I had."

Novikov said he went so far as touching base with his professors at UCLA's Anderson School of Management to get their perspectives. One of those, an Upland resident, had enumerated a number of points against the project, he said. He said he and others had come to a consensus that an environmental impact report for the project was called for, and that certifying the project with a mitigated negative declaration was insufficient. He said an economist at UCLA had guided him in evaluating the development agreement with Bridge Development Partners for the project, one which called for delivering \$16 million in fees to the city over the course of the first 20 years of Amazon's operations at the facility, including \$460,000 per year in so-called in-lieu of sales tax fees to make up for the consideration that Amazon as an on-line retailer will not collect sales tax on its sales, thus depriving the city of any sales tax revenue. While the \$460,000 per year to be initially collected would prove roughly equivalent to the sales tax revenue the city might make off of a comparatively-sized retail operation, Novikov said the economist told him, as the years go by

the development agreement would become less and less advantageous to the city. "The city never provided a full financial model for this," Novikov said. "When I figured in the eight percent cost of capital, the net present value of the revenue from this project is worth significantly less than half of what is projected, meaning the total amount of the payments over the 20 years will actually be worth \$4.5 million in today's money, given inflationary and other factors. That is just one of the things that I believe made this a project the city should not have approved."

Novikov said, "I feel I was punished for the way I voted, but they will never admit that."

Novikov said he did not know, exactly, how to interpret that his application for reappointment was never considered. On one hand, he said, his being bypassed may have been deliberate. Nevertheless, he said, it might have been a mix-up.

"The chairwoman [Aspinall] said she had never seen my application," Novikov said. "They will probably say the application got lost." He said, he wanted to hear directly from Mayor Debbie Stone what had occurred. "If I could talk to Debbie, I would like to ask her to explain what really happened and why they didn't invite me for the interview process."

Under the city's protocol, the mayor makes the nomination of the commission's members, based upon an evaluation of the applications and the interviews, which are done by the mayor, the mayor pro tem and the community development director. As of the beginning of this month, former Mayor Pro Tem Ricky Felix is no longer on the council, having resigned to move to Utah. The community development director is Robert Dahlquest, who was strongly in favor of both the Amazon and Plaza Serena projects. Likewise, Stone and Felix had voted to approve those plans. The remainder of the city council

will vote on Monday night on whether to ratify the mayor's selections for the commission.

Novikov said he was "disappointed" that the city waited until after its selection of Grahn and Kindred to contact him, which he said prevented him from knowing that he wasn't being considered. If he had been informed earlier, he said, he could have told them that he had in fact applied for reappointment.

"They decided to give me a call two or three hours before the agenda came out," he said. "All that time, there was nothing said to me."

He said it was hard for him to believe that city officials did not know he was enthusiastic about serving on the commission and was looking forward to remaining as one of its members for a full term beyond the year he has now served.

"When they approved me to serve on the planning commission in this country where I was not born, I was very proud, very proud to live in this country where they value you for your skills and do not judge you for what you think," he said, emphasizing that he made an effort to show how much he appreciated the honor of the appointment. "I missed only one meeting, which happened because it was a specially-scheduled one and I had a prior business commitment I could not break," he said. "I attended all the workshops."

He was reluctant to make any criticism of the city, its elected officials, personnel or its operations, but permitted himself to say that he felt there was some degree of shortcoming in terms of the city's "organization." He also remarked that he thought the city could have been more up front in the way it moved him off the commission.

"I haven't heard anything from Debbie, herself," he said. "I'm left not knowing. The way this happened, I'm left thinking that maybe I hadn't done enough. It would at least make me

*Continued on Page 12*

## County Wildlife Corner

## Threadleaf Brodiaea

*Brodiaea filifolia*, known by the common name threadleaf brodiaea, is a rare species of flowering plant in the cluster-lily genus. It is endemic to southern California, mostly in the region around the junction of Orange, Riverside, and San Diego Counties, but it is also found in open areas containing or associated with patches of coastal-sage scrub found in San Bernardino County. The range of this species extends from the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains at Glendora in Los Angeles County, east to Arrowhead Hot Springs in the western foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains in San Bernardino County, and south through eastern Orange and western Riverside counties to the City of San Diego.

Thread-leaved brodiaea is a member of the brodiaea family (themidaceae) and is a perennial bulbiferous herb. The bulb is a resident of scattered remaining vernal pool, alkali playa and grassland habitats. It is a federally listed threatened species and it is listed as an endangered



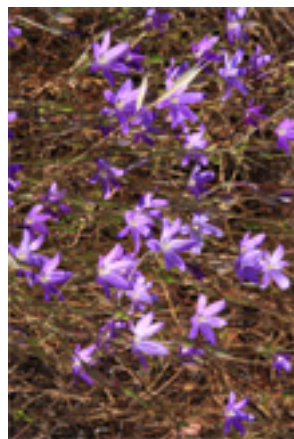
species on the state level. The genus *Brodiaea* was named after the Scottish botanist J. J. Brodie. The species name *filifolia* literally means thread-leaved.

*Brodiaea filifolia* is perennial, producing a flower cluster 20 to 30 centimeters tall which bears bright purple, blue to red-purple flowers. Each flower has six spreading petals/sepals/tepals 1 to 1.5 centimeters long with a center containing three stamens and narrow or small staminodes, which are flat sterile stamens lying against the petals/sepals/tepals. It produces several linear leaves from an underground corm. Its flowers are at the terminus of a leafless stalk.

This plant occurs in grassland areas, often in floodplains, and it is a member of the local vernal pool flora and grassland habitats. It requires heavy clay soils. This type of habitat is

becoming very rare as it is being cleared for development, especially as residential areas expand.

Thread-leaved brodiaea is a California endangered plant species, which means that killing or possession of plants collected from the wild



is prohibited by the California Endangered Species Act. This species is also listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. At the time of federal listing in 1998, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service identified loss of habitat from urbanization and agricultural conversion as the most significant threat to thread-leaved brodiaea. Since that time, urbanization has remained the most significant threat to the spe-

cies because populations occur in close proximity to heavily urbanized areas. Other threats to thread-leaved brodiaea include alteration of hydrology and impacts from livestock grazing, unauthorized off-highway vehicle activity, discing and mowing for fire suppression, and competition from non-native plants. The dumping of livestock manure and sewage dumping has also been identified as a threat to a few localized populations in Riverside County.

The plant is also at risk for reduced genetic variability. It often reproduces vegetatively by producing new corms, a method of cloning which does not produce individuals with new combinations of genes. When the plant does reproduce sexually, it requires unrelated individuals which have different genes; it cannot fertilize itself, nor can it successfully reproduce with closely related individuals. Small population sizes that have low genetic diversity and wide distances between populations make it less likely the plant will suc-



cessfully undergo sexual reproduction. The plant sometimes hybridizes with *Brodiaea orcuttii*.

There have been 103 remaining occurrences of this species quantified in widely spaced locations between the San Gabriel Mountains and west-central San Diego County, according to the California Natural Diversity Database. Several occurrences have been discovered since the plant joined the endangered species list, including locations on Camp Pendleton, and a few have been extirpated.

Although urbanization remains the most prominent threat to thread-leaved brodiaea, several populations of this species have been protected by regional planning efforts. Long-term conservation of

thread-leaved brodiaea is dependent upon continued protection of additional existing occurrences and minimization of habitat loss caused by development. According to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, "Sites with large or geographically distinct populations of this species should be acquired and protected, and non-native plants should be controlled and man-



aged on sites that have been set aside for conservation. Research on thread-leaved brodiaea should be conducted that focuses on pollinators and their impact on the number of new plants that are developed, soil characteristics that facilitate establishment and propagation, and germination."

*From Wikipedia, www.wildlife.ca.gov, http://calscape.org and http://www.glendoranaturalhistory.com*

### With Novikov And Walker Gone From Commission, City Facing Lawsuits Over The Amazon & Plaza Serena Projects *from page 11*

feel at peace if I knew what I had not done right or if the city had some other criticism, which I could learn from. Yesterday, my wings got cut. The whole night I couldn't sleep. Before I had dreams about what I was going to do. Those dreams are over. It is unfortunate what I experienced. In Russia, I worked for the government and that was the same in a lot of ways to what I experienced here. It feels it wasn't quite frank or straightforward.

It should be open and transparent, in my opinion. The chairwoman in the phone call was saying what she did, and she was was trying to comfort me."

It was at that point, when Aspinall indicated that he had not been considered for reappointment and that she had not seen an application from him that Novikov informed her he had applied. Aspinall then told him she would, he said, "let them know you want to be considered."

This temporarily revived in him hope that he might remain on the commission, Novikov said, but that giddy confidence passed when he considered that if that were to occur he would be in the position of interrupting the others who have been chosen.

"I think they have already let other people know they are to be appointed," he said. "So, where am I really, right now? They probably will appoint those people on Monday. I'm not sure what my situation is, right now. They will take my place, most probably."

One year on the commission was way too short of a time, he said, from multiple perspectives, including that he was beginning to show his value to the city after getting acclimated. "I was learning how things are done," he said. "I started serving in June, so I have really been here only about a year. They and I invested time and money in me and it was only when I was getting more comfortable and understanding every-

thing that they are just discharging me."

Novikov said, "I wish they would have considered me so I could serve more time, so I could have served another four years, but I don't want to create any drama. Maybe there will be drama anyway." Despite his desire for more and his disappointment, Novikov said, "I will be forever thankful for the opportunity I was given. I am thankful for the chance to have been a member of the planning commission and to have been a part of the city and an important part of the community."

Walker was not available for comment.

Anticipated commission appointee Thomas Grahn currently works in the planning department with the City of

Ontario and formerly was employed in the Rancho Cucamonga and Redlands planning departments.

The other commission replacement to be considered Monday night, Lorraine Kindred, is the vice president for public affairs with National CORE, a development company specializing in low-income to moderate-income housing, of which Jeff Burum is president of the board and James Previti is a board member. She has 25 years experience in the real estate industry, and was formerly the chairwoman of the Upland Chamber of Commerce. She was also president of the Pomona Valley Chapter of Executive Women International and is on the board of the Upland YMCA and

the Baldy View Chapter of the Building Industry Association.

The City of Upland is facing legal challenges from its residents with regard to both Bridge Development's Amazon and the Plaza Serena projects.

Upland Community First has filed a writ of mandamus with regard to the Bridge project. It includes a petition for an injunction against the project proceeding.

The Friends of Upland Wetlands is pursuing a lawsuit against the city relating to its approval of the Plaza Serena project, including the filing of a writ of mandamus and a petition for an injunction to halt the project.