

## Valdivia Reportedly Laundering His Political Funds Through His Laundromat

What for many was a long four-year municipal nightmare in San Bernardino grew to a close on Wednesday, December 21, with the installation of Helen Tran as the 222,101-population county seat's mayor.

Amid a host of firsts and landmarks represented by Tran assuming the mayoralty – not the least of which is that she is the city's first Asian American mayor – the event was more remarkable

because it marked the departure of John Valdivia from the city's premier political position.

A mere four years after Valdivia assumed the mayor's gavel and appeared to be catapulting toward much loftier positions in either or both state and federal politics, his career as a public official now lies in tatters, with even his most ardent supporters and hangers-on, individuals who had linked their

own business or political prospects to him, having abandoned him.

Meanwhile, no longer wielding the power that came with the position into which he was entrusted, he is now incapable of staving off the examination of and delving into the depredations he routinely engaged in both during his term as mayor and while he was in the position of Third Ward councilman in the more than six-and-a-half

years prior to that.

Multiple questions yet attend his demise. Some of those extend to whether the San Bernardino County District Attorney, the California Attorney General's Office or federal prosecutors will follow through on the investigations that have been launched into his conduct and the graft-encrusted arrangements that attended his mayoral administration. Others pertain to whether he

will be able to convert to cash the substantial amount of money local business owners and entrepreneurs invested in his political career in the form of donations to his electioneering fund so he can put the proceeds into his own pocket or personal bank account.

From the outset of his political career, Valdivia was a politician whose services were available to the highest bidder, and he made no se- **See P 3**

## Two Years After Davis Blocked His Ascendancy, Tejada Installed As Redlands Mayor

By Mark Gutglueck

The extent to which identity politics has intruded upon the governmental process in Redlands was given further illustration as the mayoral succession controversy that has existed since 2020 wound down to a still not entirely certain denouement this week.

Eddie Tejada, whose anticipated appointment to the mayoralty was

delayed for two years because of the interference of Councilwoman Denise Davis, took possession of the gavel early in the meeting, which began with Tejada, Davis, Councilwoman Jenna Guzman Lowery, Mick Gallagher and Mayor Paul Barich as its five members. Gallagher, who had been appointed early this year to replace former Councilman Paul

Foster following his January 3 resignation, did not seek election in November. Barich ran unopposed and Davis gained reelection in November, defeating three challengers. Also elected this year was former Planning Commissioner Mario Saucedo.

After a ceremonial celebration at the beginning of the meeting in which Gallagher was sa-

luted for his service on the council and Davis, Barich and Saucedo were sworn in, the council took up the appointment of the mayor and mayor pro tem, which traditionally takes place in Redlands following the installation of the council following an election. Barich nominated Tejada as mayor. Davis, recognizing there is not sufficient support for her assuming

the mayor's post at present, nominated Barich. Barich responded, saying, "I'm flattered, but I'd like to turn it over to Mr. Tejada at this time." There were no further nominations for mayor. Accordingly, without a vote taking place, City Clerk Jeanne Donaldson declared Tejada mayor.

Tejada then nominated Barich as mayor pro tem. Guzman- **See P 5**

## Continuing Republican Primacy In San Bernardino County Boosts Wallis Past Holstege In 47<sup>th</sup> District

San Bernardino County persists as one of the last bastions of Republicanism in the Golden State, a circumstance that was illustrated by the crucial role the voters in the 47th Assembly District who reside in the county played in ensuring the victory of Greg Wallis over Democrat Christy Holstege by one of the slimmest margins

in California history on November 8.

In the immediate aftermath of the voting on election night and the next day, Holstege appeared to be the winner in the race to represent the 47th Assembly District, the borders for which were redrawn in accordance with the decennial redistricting that occurred as a conse-

quence of the 2020 Census. The 47th Assembly District now includes all of Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs, Indian Wells, La Quinta, Palm Springs, Palm Desert and Rancho Mirage and part of San Jacinto in Riverside County, along with all of Yucaipa and Yucca Valley as well as parts of Red- **See P 4**

## Ontario Delayed Going To District Elections For Two Election Cycles

Nearly two years and ten months after it committed to doing so, the Ontario City Council on Tuesday adopted a district voting map together with the scheduling of district-based voting by 2026.

That action came a month and 12 days after the city failed to deliver on holding its first by-district election, which

was supposed to take place on November 8.

The city council voted on December 20 to adopt what it referred to as Map 17, which divides the city into four districts for future elections.

District 1, which lies at the northwestern end of the city abutting Montclair to the west along Benson Avenue and the 10 Freeway at **See P 6**

## Train Derailment Near Victorville Shuts Two Rail Lines Down Tuesday & Wednesday

Twenty-seven Union Pacific freight cars derailed near Victorville Tuesday morning, December 20, proximate to Mojave Narrows Regional Park near the Kemper Campbell Ranch, about one mile south of Outer Highway 18 near Stoddard Wells Road.

The mishap occurred on a railroad track owned by the Burling-



Union Pacific cars strewn on and around the BNSF Rail Line near Victorville

ton Northern Santa Fe Railway around 8 a.m.

There were no injuries reported.

The cars that went off the track were car-

rying iron ore, according to the railroad.

Two of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway tracks at that juncture had to be

closed.

Burlington Northern Santa Fe crews arrived on the scene within 75 minutes to begin an effort to clear the tracks

and restore them to use.

One consequence of the derailment was that Amtrak's Southwest Chief train, scheduled to depart from Los Angeles to Chicago on Tuesday, was canceled.

One of the tracks was restored to functionality by late Wednesday, December 21.

The derailment's cause is under investigation. **See P 3**

## Judge Rules H<sub>2</sub>O Replenishment Fee Applies In The Northwestern Mojave Desert

A ruling handed down on Wednesday by Orange County Superior Court Judge William Claster clears the way for the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority to impose water replenishment fees across the board on water users in the northwestern end of the Mojave Desert as part of an effort to end overdrafting of water in that region.

Ultimately, the imposition of that fee will drive Searles Valley Minerals, the largest company in the northwestern corner of San Bernardino County, out of business, the company's chief executives and its attorneys maintain.

Indian Wells Valley lies at the extreme northwestern end of the Mojave Desert and the confluence of the northwestern corner of San Bernardino County, the southeastern end of Kern County and the southwestern extension of Inyo County.

Over the last several years, the critical shortage of water throughout California has triggered conservation and resource management measures which have fundamentally altered the way in which companies located in the state's desert areas must operate. Nowhere is the implication of the effort at governmental regulation of the state's water resources as pronounced as it is in Indian Wells Valley. In the face of a four-year running drought, California state officials in 2014 undertook efforts to head off the absolute depletion of the state's regional water resources. In September 2014, then-California Gov- **See P 3**



**Valdivia Masked Himself As A Fiscal & Social Conservative Promoting Economic Development While Cutting Deals With City Employee Unions To Raise Their Wages In Return For Political Support, Representing Marijuana Dealers In Their Efforts To Obtain Dispensary Permits And Pocketing Money From Franchisees Seeking Taxpayer-Subsidized City Contracts**  
*from front page*

cret of it. In 2009 at the age of 33, he made his first foray into politics when he ran for the San Bernardino City Council in the Fourth Ward, finishing third among four candidates, which included the ultimate winner, Fred Shorett, who would become Valdivia's future nemesis. Two years later, Valdivia made a calculated relocation of his residence to the city's Third Ward, where he once again vied for the council against the incumbent, Tobin Brinker. Brinker was politically aligned with then-Mayor Patrick Morris, who was working along with then-City Manager Charles McNeely in a do-or-die effort to overcome the financial challenge the city faced after nearly decade-long deficit spending which had depleted the city's reserves and left the municipality teetering over a financial abyss. Morris, a former Superior Court judge, had come to recognize that exorbitant personnel costs were driving the city toward an inevitable bankruptcy and he was desperately seeking to maintain a consensus on the city council to hold the line on further employee salary and benefit increases, as 92 percent of the city's budget went to defray employee pay and benefits, with 69 percent of the budget devoted to the salaries and perks of the city's public safety personnel, i.e., sworn police officers and the city's firefighters.

Brinker represented a crucial city council vote in support of Morris's strategy to reduce spending by not giving in to city employee union demands for continuing raises and benefit enhancements. Meanwhile, the city's employee unions, including the city's powerful public

safety employees' collective bargaining units – the San Bernardino Police Officers Association and the San Bernardino Firefighters Association – were stridently rejecting the call to freeze the pay of firefighters and police officers. With the unions' support, Valdivia in the November 2011 election trounced Brinker, 826 votes or 69.24 percent to 367 votes or 30.76 percent.

Both before and after the election, Valdivia confidently declared that the city was flush with money, and he insisted no municipal financial crisis existed. A week after his March 2012 swearing in, Valdivia offered assurances that the city was shipshape financially, based on what he said was the opportunity provided to him as an elected official to examine the city's books. Five months later, in August 2012, the city declared bankruptcy with a Chapter 9 filing.

Thus, Valdivia had successfully launched his political career by actively resisting the fiscal discipline the city needed to prevent itself from being consumed by the financial demons that surrounded it. Three years later, in 2015, Valdivia's financial profligacy was put on display when the city council, in its efforts to guide San Bernardino, the oldest of the county's municipalities and the county seat, out of bankruptcy, was forced to close out its 148-year-old fire department in favor of a contract with the county fire department, and to shutter the municipal sanitation department, creating a trash hauling franchise which was ultimately awarded to Burrtec Waste Industries Inc.

Loss of its fire department and sanitation division was a severe blow

to the city's prestige, as overnight it went from having been, for more than a century, a full-service municipality to one in which it was dependent on service providers over which the mayor and city council, and by extension the city's residents, no longer had control.

Remarkably, Valdivia, a Republican who was seeking to cultivate a reputation as a fiscal conservative, was able to keep hidden from most of his constituents that he had sided with the unions in continuing to grant city employees raises and higher benefits. He refused to talk about how his unwillingness in 2012 to stabilize city employee pay and benefits resulted in the bankruptcy that ultimately led to the loss of the city's fire and sanitation departments whenever the issue was raised.

Along the way, there were multiple displays of Valdivia's political ambition.

In February 2014, just a little less than two years after he had assumed municipal office, Valdivia announced he would seek the Republican nomination for Congress in the 31<sup>st</sup> Congressional District. Within a short period of time, however, Valdivia and his advisors thought better of that, since such a campaign would unequivocally identify him as a Republican, and in the City of San Bernardino, Democrats outnumbered Republicans 48 percent to 22 percent, and in the Third Ward that margin was 49 percent to 18 percent.

From the outset of his time in office, Valdivia made an effort to accumulate a substantial electioneering war chest, as he was constantly approaching business interests in the city, seeking political donations. Partially as a result of his advantage in this regard, he warded off any challengers in 2015, and he retained his position as Ward Three councilman when no one surfaced to run against him.

Early in his time in office, Valdivia celebrated himself as a dyed-in-the-wool fiscal and social

conservative, one who was mindful of the cost of various city programs and as someone who was adamantly opposed to the proliferation of marijuana. His adventurousness extended only, he said, to experimenting with any serious effort to trigger economic growth in the city.

In 2016, a move by the city council and activists in the city was made to change the city charter, which had been in place since 1905, revamping city governance. The new charter presented to voters that year called for changing the city's treasurer, city attorney and city clerk positions from elected to appointed ones, moving its elections from odd-numbered to even-numbered years, and reducing the power and administrative reach of the mayor from what it had been since 1905, such that the mayor no longer had co-regency with the city manager and control over direct hiring and firing of city employees. Valdivia, who coveted strong mayoral authority for himself, had opposed the charter change. Nevertheless, San Bernardino's voters approved making that change and that year they also passed Measure O, which allowed for the sale of marijuana within the city.

In 2018, despite the charter change that had significantly reduced the mayor's authority, Valdivia challenged Carey Davis, who in 2013 had succeeded Morris as mayor with Morris's endorsement.

Valdivia prevailed in that election, with 19,155 votes or 52.51 percent to Davis's 17,327 votes or 47.49 percent.

Upon being sworn into office on December 18, 2018, Valdivia straightway began to militate to fire then-City Manager Andrea Travis-Miller, whom he considered to be a vestige of the Davis Administration. His intention was to install a city manager of his own choosing, one who would be willing to broker a deal that would give him the de facto authority to hire and fire city employees

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and department heads, and thus provide him with the power as mayor that had been attenuated with the 2016 charter change. As of December 2018, Valdivia essentially controlled four votes on the city council – those of newly elected First Ward Councilman Ted Sanchez and Second Ward Councilwoman Sandra Ibarra as well as those of Fifth Ward Councilman Henry Nickel and Sixth Ward Councilwoman Bessine Richard, with whom he had cultivated alliances while he was Third Ward councilman. After three months of constantly calling for and having the council carry out reviews of her performance, in April 2019 Valdivia mustered four votes to put Travis-Miller on paid administrative leave. In May 2019, when a special election held to fill the Third Ward council position he had vacated to move into the mayor's post resulted in a victory by his ally Juan Figueroa, Valdivia effectively controlled five of the city council's seven votes.

In short order, Valdivia effectuated Travis-Miller's removal as city manager, replacing her with soon-to-retain Assistant City Manager Teri Ledoux and then cutting deals every which way intended to benefit his political benefactors.

He simultaneously began to enrich himself by utilizing his position and authority as mayor. Although it was not widely known, among some it was recognized that money was a major motivating factor with regard to Valdivia's political comportment well before

he was mayor. He had demonstrated his willingness to take money from the police officers' union and the firefighters' union in his first successful run for council in 2011 in exchange for voting against extending the fiscal discipline that Morris and McNeely were trying to impose on the city to the city's policemen and firemen. In 2015, as Burrtec Waste Industries Inc, Athens Services and Waste Management Inc were competing for the city's trash hauling franchise, according to Athens Services Executive Vice President Gary Clifford, Valdivia had approached the would-be franchisees, soliciting \$10,000 donations. Clifford said he had to tell Valdivia his company could not provide him or his campaign with any money while the franchise bid process was ongoing.

Unsatisfied with his \$106,793 mayoral salary, \$8,768 in stipends for attending meetings of regional boards, joint powers authorities and other governmental entities and committees, along with medical, dental and other benefits such as a car and travel allowance totaling \$24,665 and retirement benefits of \$29,322.40, for a total taxpayer-defrayed compensation of \$169,548.40 annually paid to him by the city's taxpayers, Valdivia went into simultaneous money-making mode. Using his consulting company AAdvantage Comm LLC, Valdivia convinced clients they would have something to

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## Judge Says West Mojave Groundwater Conservation Agency Can Impose Hefty H<sub>2</sub>O Replenishment Fees On Mining Company

*from front page*

ernor Jerry Brown signed into law the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, which requires local agencies to draft plans to bring groundwater aquifers into balanced levels of pumping and recharge. That was followed in 2015 by Brown mandating water-saving measures throughout the state.

In response, pursuant to a joint exercise of powers agreement, the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority was formed with Kern County, San Bernardino County, Inyo County, the City of Ridgecrest and the Indian Wells Valley Water District as general members and the United States Navy and the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management as associate members, with each general member having one voting seat on the authority board and the federal associate members participating in all board discussions, but not having a vote.

The joint powers authority took as its mandate counteracting the overdraft of the aquifer underlying Indian Wells Valley.

Based upon a survey of water usage patterns undertaken by an engineering consultant, Carlsbad-based Stetson Engineers, the authority and the Indian Wells Valley Water District sought to derive a strategy for both reducing water use in the valley and increasing groundwater recharge to reach a balance of both that will end the overdraft. Several different plans, or models, were contemplated. Basically, the concept was to decrease the drafting of water from the regional aquifer through conservation, increased recycling of water and perhaps the minimization of evaporation, augmented by the importation of water from outside the val-

ley to achieve, no later than 2040, a balance of water coming in with the amount of water usage, such that the depletion of the aquifer will end.

Stetson Engineers was designated the water resources manager for Indian Wells Valley, and the authority's board in January 2020 passed a tentative proposed groundwater sustainability plan and voted to submit it to the state. Thereafter it made adjustments to the plan, which contained water use limitation elements and water replenishment measures. The plan incorporated a farmland fallowing option as well as an increase in the monthly assessment or fee that was imposed on the extraction of water by major pumpers. That fee had been previously collected to cover the costs associated with the administrative activity of the groundwater authority.

After a survey of water use by well owners both collectively and individually was made, the authority assigned water use allowances to the region's well owners. Excess use fees, referred to as augmentation fees, were formulated for application to those well owners who pump above their allowances as well as on any farmer whose use exceeds his respective share of the water supply set aside for agricultural usage. Money generated in this way is used to purchase imported water and pay for the eventual provision of infrastructure needed to bring in the imported water.

Even before the California Department of Water Resources had fully examined the proposed groundwater sustainability plan for the Indian Wells Valley, a number of farms and operations in the region raised protests over the limitations being imposed on them. Among those were Searles Valley Minerals, Mojave Pistachios and Sierra Shadows Ranch, along with John Thomas Conaway and the Nugent Family Trust. Ultimately, those entities sued the groundwater authority

and the Indian Wells Valley Water District as the lead agency in that joint authority, claiming the conservation efforts being undertaken imposed not only an unacceptable financial burden on them but were abrogating their long-established water use rights altogether. The legal actions have created paradoxes, as some private sector entities which are allies in their lawsuits against the district and the authority have also filed separate actions against one another.

Meanwhile, the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority and the Indian Wells Valley Water District pushed ahead with the effort to refine the groundwater sustainability plan and garner state authorization to apply it.

Growing out of the litigation brought by Searles Valley Minerals, Mojave Pistachios and Sierra Shadows Ranch, along with John Thomas Conaway and the Nugent Family Trust was a cross complaint from the Indian Wells Valley Water District in the form of Indian Wells Valley Water District v. All Persons Who Claim a Right to Extract Groundwater in the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin. Essentially, that suit calls for a survey of water usage among all water users and purveyors in the region, data from which will ultimately form the basis of water use allotments being apportioned to those users. Under the legal process involved in the legal action brought by the Indian Wells Valley Water District, the region's water users are to be afforded the opportunity to object to or provide input regarding those allotments, which will ultimately be determined by the Orange County Superior Court judge.

The disputes over water in the Indian Wells Valley region have been assigned to the Orange County Superior Court to avoid bias that might manifest if the hearings were held in a court in Kern, Inyo or San Bernardino counties,

Searles Valley Miner-

als maintains that the water use regulation regime the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority is seeking to create and enforce is a violation of California water law and the company's long established water rights.

In September 2020, Searles Valley Minerals, represented by Eric Garner, Jeffrey Dunn and Maya Mouawad with the law firm of Best Best & Krieger, filed a lawsuit in Kern County Superior Court against the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority in an effort to protect what Garner, Dunn and Mouawad asserted are the company's groundwater rights within the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin, and to stop the collection of what they characterized as an illegal and unfair groundwater replenishment fee and a tax disguised, they assert, as an "extraction fee."

Searles Valley Minerals uses solution mining, which involves soaking portions of the company's dry Searles Lake in San Bernardino County with water to precipitate brine which is then extracted and processed to produce boric acid, sodium carbonate, sodium sulfate, several specialty forms of borax, and salt.

The groundwater replenishment fee, according to Garner, Dunn and Mouawad, is unprecedented and exorbitant, and will increase the company's water costs by 7,000 percent or \$6 million per year – pushing Searles Valley Minerals out of business after more than 140 years of operation, and thereby threatening the livelihood of the company's 700 employees. The groundwater replenishment fee ignores and violates Searles Valley Minerals' adjudicated water rights, according to the lawsuit.

Searles Valley Minerals' 90-year-old water rights are the most senior in the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin.

Garner, Dunn and Mouawad take issue with the fashion in which the China Lake Naval Air Station is not subject to the restrictions in the

plan nor its fees.

"Searles Valley Minerals' right to pump water in the basin for domestic uses is senior to any water right reserved to [the] Weapons Station, and because [the] water district's groundwater pumping began no earlier than 1955, its appropriate right, if any, to basin water remains junior to Searles Valley Minerals' right," according to the lawsuit. "The authority falsely asserts in its groundwater sustainability plan that any pumping allocations under the groundwater sustainability plan will be 'consistent with existing groundwater rights and priorities.'"

In a joint statement, Searles Valley Minerals and Garner, Dunn and Mouawad maintain the groundwater management plan that the authority is attempting to implement "represents an arbitrary and illegal taking of Searles Valley Minerals' water rights," and Searles Valley Minerals has been "singled out" by the authority.

The community of Trona presently has a population of roughly 1,850 and has been piggybacking on Searles Valley Minerals for the provision of domestic water. The groundwater management plan will transform Trona into a ghost town, according to Garner, Dunn and Mouawad.

"Moreover, all domestic and municipal activities for the disadvantaged Trona communities are supplied by groundwater that Searles Valley Minerals pumps from the basin," according to the statement. "The economic impacts of the authority's new fee would devastate these communities."

The authority's decision to impose hefty new "replenishment fees" on the valley's civilian water users while providing no check on other groundwater users in the basin such as the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station is indefensible, Garner, Dunn and Mouawad contend.

The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Author-

ity maintains that federal autonomy trumps California law, and that it does not have the prerogative to impose water use limitations on the U.S. Navy.

What is today known as Searles Valley Minerals has been in existence since 1873, when John Wemple Searles, a gold and silver miner who had arrived in the area in the 1860s, founded the San Bernardino Borax Mining Company to extract borax, a white crystalline powder from the dry Searles Lakebed near present day Trona. Initially long mule teams were used to haul borax in wagons to San Pedro, which was thereafter shipped by train when the Southern Pacific Railroad reached the western Mojave in 1876. The company passed into the possession of Francis Smith, who shuttered the operation in 1896. Subsequently, in 1913, British investors revived the mining operation at Searles Lake, and in 1914, the American Trona Corporation established the company-owned town of Trona, at which point the Trona Railway was constructed, connecting the town with what was then the Southern Pacific line at Searles.

The America Trona Corporation proved highly profitable during World War I, when Trona was the only reliable American source of potash, an important element used in the production of gunpowder.

By the 1930s, the town's population peaked at around 7,000, making it what was at the time the ninth largest community in the county. Workers at the company plant were paid in company scrip, which was every bit as negotiable in Trona's commercial establishments of the time as greenbacks. Talk of incorporating Trona as a city was kiboshed, since it was not in the American Trona Corporation's interest to surrender control over the townsite. The American Trona Corporation gave way to the American Potash & Chemical Corporation

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## Graft & Favors To Donors Lined Valdivia's Pockets & Gave Him A Wicked Election-eering Fund Advantage Over His Challengers *from page 2*

gain by hiring the mayor of San Bernardino to intercede for them, as he could use his influence and ability to engage in backroom political horse-trading to ensure that their applications for project approval or government contracts or franchises would achieve for them desired results.

Of major significance was the way in which Valdivia in the aftermath of the 2016 passage of Measure O in San Bernardino and the state-wide passage of Proposition 64, the adult use of marijuana act, made a 180-degree flip. Before Proposition 64 and Measure O passed and while the matter was in doubt, Valdivia hewed to the Republican line, maintaining he was adamantly opposed to marijuana availability in the city. After the 2016 election in which both the state-wide proposition and the municipal measure found favor with voters, Valdivia metamorphized into an advocate of multiple individuals and entities seeking permits and licenses to operate marijuana-related and cannabis-related businesses in San Bernardino. More than a dozen would-be commercial cannabis business applicants have related how Valdivia took money from them, either in the form of political contributions or under-the-table payments, while promising he would ensure their applications for cannabis-related business permits would be approved. Even before he was sworn in as mayor in December 2018, he was gladhanding with would-be commercial marijuana enterprise operators, hailing them as the new breed of entrepreneurs that were to lead San Bernardino into a prosperous future.

As mayor, Valdivia soon developed a further reputation for taking money from those who needed the city to take action that would benefit them or their companies. Through AAdvantage Comm LLC, he accepted

consulting fees, assuring his clients he could deliver for them the approvals they needed. As mayor, he wielded the gavel at city council meetings, controlled the ebb and flow of discussion and debate and had sway over what matters would be discussed and what actions contemplated but did not possess a vote, although he could do so to break a tie, and he had mayoral veto power on votes that ended 4-to-3 or 3-to-2. Thus, he rationalized, he could take money from those with business before the city council, since he would not himself be voting. For a short time after his ally Figueroa was on the council, he controlled, essentially, five of the seven council votes and was the head of a ruling coalition that essentially ran the city. He let all of AAdvantage Comm's clients and prospective clients know that he had command over the council, and the money poured in. To sidestep any conflict-of-interest issues, he duly reported as personal income on his official California Form 700 statements of economic interest the money he was making as the owner of AAdvantage Comm, cleverly omitting exactly who AAdvantage Comm's clients were.

With Ledoux in place as his handpicked city manager who was to see her pension upon retirement zoom from the \$125,000-per year range to near \$180,000 as a consequence of the promotion Valdivia had provided her accompanied by his control over five-sevenths of the city council, Valdivia in the summer of 2019 was at the apex of his power, bestriding San Bernardino as a political colossus.

By the end of that summer, however, his political empire began to collapse.

First, his chief of staff, Bill Essayli, left to take a position with an Orange County law firm. Then, one by one, as they watched Valdivia pursue

objectives they recognized as averse to their own interest or that of the citizenry at large or that he was using their votes and support to construct quid pro quos with his clients in which he was given money for their votes, Ibarra, Nickel and Sanchez found themselves on the outs with the mayor. By the fall of 2019, Valdivia no longer had five reliable votes on the council but only two – those of Richard and Figueroa – to support whatever he was attempting to achieve.

There followed a series of revelations as cannabis entrepreneurs began to speak openly and bitterly about how the mayor had promised marijuana operation licenses and permits to those who had applied for them in exchange for cash; an employee in his office, Mirna Cisneros, related how Valdivia made sexual advances to her and how he misused city funds to engage in travel and activity that had nothing to do with city business and was taking money from those with business before the city; another employee of the mayor's office, Karen Cervantes, related how the mayor had made sexual advances toward her; his field representative, Jackie Aboud, likewise said Valdivia had pressured her to accommodate his sexual needs; Alissa Payne, a single mother whom Valdivia appointed to two city commissions, said Valdivia had made similar indecent overtures to her; Valdivia's field representative Don Smith brought to light how he had been present while Valdivia made a late night rendezvous with a city tow service franchise holder who handed Valdivia an envelope stuffed with cash; Matt Brown, who had succeeded Essayli as Valdivia's chief of staff, came forward to say that Valdivia attempted to have him make fraudulent unfavorable work reviews of Cisneros, Cervantes, Aboud and Smith to justify their firings and discredit them with regard to the allegations they had made.

Based on a host of Valdivia's actions, the city found itself facing nearly a dozen lawsuits.

With untoward accusations mounting, Valdivia continued to engage in questionable, bold and risky behaviors, utilizing city resources, funding and personnel to provide or defray the cost of providing materials and services relating to political promotions of himself and his associates while using city money to cover the cost of travel, meals and lodging while he was engaged in matters unrelated to his duty or function as mayor.

In return for money provided to him by a Chinese-based company, SCG America, Valdivia pushed to give SCG America an inside track on a proposal to demolish the Carousel Mall in downtown San Bernardino in preparation toward the transition of the property upon which the mall sat into a mixed-use retail/residential project in a way that SCG America stood to obtain clearance to obtain the highly lucrative position as the master developer of the project.

In December 2021, the city council unanimously censured Valdivia. That action was based upon Valdivia in June 2021 utilizing a host of city facilities and assets to stage what he billed as the "State of the City Address," a barely disguised effort to promote himself through what was essentially intended as a fundraising event to fatten his political war chest by creating an invitation list that consisted of his past donors, whom he referred to as San Bernardino's "movers and shakers," along with a handful of his political associates, including Figueroa. He excluded the remaining six council members from the "State of the City Address" guest list.

In passing the resolution of censure, the council had an attorney, Norma García Guillén, present documentation relating to Valdivia's expenditures of public funds that were used for a hotel stay and meal in San Diego on September

20-22, 2019; a hotel stay in Irvine on September 10-11, 2020; a hotel stay and meal in Irvine on March 8-9, 2021; a hotel stay in Irvine on March 18-19, 2021; meals in Nevada on March 22-23, 2021; a meal in Newport Beach on March 23, 2021; and a meal and hotel stay in Irvine on April 13-14, 2021, all of which García Guillén said had nothing to do with city-related business.

Looking toward his 2022 election campaign, Valdivia created a political war chest titled John Valdivia For Mayor 2022. In 2021, he received donations of \$380,987.21 into that account. In the first five months of 2022, he deposited another \$106,500 into that account for a total over 17 months of \$487,487.21.

Valdivia also created another fund, the Mayor John Valdivia Legal Defense Fund. With legal challenges against him mounting, he began transferring money out of the John Valdivia for Mayor 2022 account into the Mayor John Valdivia Legal Defense Fund.

Valdivia purported to make a number of disbursements from his political fund in support of his electoral effort in this year's June primary, in which he was challenged by six others, including his one-time political mentor, former City Attorney Jim Penman; another erstwhile political ally, former Councilman Henry Nickel; former San Bernardino Human Resources Director Helen Tran; his longtime political opponent, Treasure Ortiz; Mohammed Khan; and Gabriel Jaramillo.

Many have questioned whether the money that Valdivia claimed to have spent on the June 7 electoral effort was actually expended.

In total, Valdivia amassed \$854,626.21 that was to ostensibly go into his mayoral reelection effort. A good chunk of that was diverted to redress the legal issues he faced.

Documentation obtained by the *Sentinel* shows that Valdivia made disbursements totaling \$446,762.45 from his legal defense fund to pay

for services rendered to him by his lawyer, Rod Pacheco, in defending him against the several lawsuits naming him and the city, including those filed by Cisneros, Cervantes, Aboud, Smith and Brown, as well as in response to the city council's censure resolution. The payments made to Pacheco entailed \$9,274.10 in 2020; \$386,354.25 in 2021 and \$51,134.10 in the first six months of 2022 ending on June 30.

In 2021, he received donations of \$380,987.21 into the John Valdivia for Mayor 2022 account. In the first five months of 2022, he received another \$106,500 into that account for a total over 18 months of \$487,487.21. This money was in addition to money he had left over from his 2018 mayoral run and money he had collected during his first two years as mayor.

In 2021, according to campaign reporting documents he filed, Valdivia expended \$136,367.04 in preparing for his 2022 campaign. In 2022, from January through to the end of June, he spent \$513,138.85 on the campaign, again according to his campaign expenditure reporting documents. Thus, Valdivia maintains that he laid out \$649,505.89 overall on his effort to remain in office in conjunction with the 2022 election. Despite that, and the consideration that he outspent all six of his opponents in the contest, Valdivia finished third, with 2,970 votes or 16.92 percent, behind second-place finisher Jim Penman, who polled 3,510 votes or 20 percent, and the top vote-getter, Helen Tran, with 7,310 votes or 41.65 percent. Thus, Valdivia did not qualify for the runoff.

Valdivia's abjectly poor performance in the June election has led many to question whether his campaign made the expenditures on his reelection effort as he claimed.

As of June 30, Valdivia's election fund had an ending cash balance of \$43,988.38 and cash equivalents of

*Continued on Page 6*



## Davis's 2020 Ploy To Cut In Front Of Tejada In The Redlands Mayoral Succession Queue Backfired, Delaying Her Own 2022 Ascendancy To The Mayor's Post To 2024 *from front page*

Lowery nominated Davis for pro tem. Davis cast the lone vote in opposition to naming Barich Mayor Pro Tem. A vote was taken with regard to Davis's mayor pro tem nomina-



**Eddie Tejada**

tion. Davis and Guzman-Lowery voted for Davis, but Saucedo, Tejada and Barich voted against her appointment.

With Tejada presiding over the meeting, the council later took up a scheduled second vote confirming the council's decision on December 6 to adopt a new ordinance changing Chapter 2.02 of the Redlands Municipal Code relating to how the mayor and mayor pro tem are to be selected and how long their respective terms in office are to be.

The issue had grown into a difficult one, with the contretemps rooted in the clash between Councilwoman Davis's advocacy for what she references as both "inclusivity" and "tolerance" being reflected in the city's operations and the traditional approach Redlands officials took in designating the council's officers. Essentially, Redlands, because it does not have a directly elected mayor, followed a tradition of elevating into the mayor's position one of the council members based upon two criteria. One of those was having experience in office/seniority that would give the holder of the mayor's gavel sufficient understanding of Robert's Rules of Order or basic parliamentary procedure to allow him or her to conduct an orderly meeting. The other consideration was that it was preferred that the mayor, because the holder of that

honorific is called upon to officiate at groundbreaking, ribbon cuttings and other celebratory civic functions that often occur on weekdays during normal business hours, have a flexible enough work schedule or be retired in order to be able to frequently participate in those events.

Davis, for a number of reasons, found herself at odds with that tradition. A lesbian whose inception as a politician grew primarily out of her Lesbian Bisexual Gay Transsexual Queer agenda advocacy, Davis has a patented stock in trade of promoting and celebrating tolerance and inclusion as the core of her social/political philosophy.

Her council colleagues, in a show of welcome at the time she was installed onto the council in December 2018 the month after her initial election, took the extraordinary step of elevating her immediately to the post of mayor pro tem – the assistant mayor or vice mayor who stands in for the mayor during his or her absence. This was done despite the consideration that she had no previous experience as an elected official and thus had yet to master parliamentary procedure. The gesture was intended as one meant to signal to Davis that the city council – which was otherwise composed of heterosexuals – was accepting of her and her values of inclusion and tolerance and prepared to work with her as a coequal.

Conferring upon her the enhanced status of mayor pro tem in a way that broke with tradition, however, appears to have engendered in Davis a sense of entitlement, one that was exacerbated by her political ambition.

A Democrat, Davis is also a member of Emerge California, a collective of Democratic women chartered with the purpose of empowering self-identified women leaders within the Democratic Party

in successfully running for elected office. It is no coincidence that Davis, a graduate of Redlands University, chose the Redlands City Council as the venue for her first stab at achieving elected office. Like Pete Aguilar, who was a member of the Redlands City Council from 2006 to 2010 and Redlands mayor from 2010 until 2014, at which point he successfully ran for Congress, where he now holds the fourth highest ranking position among Democratic members of the House of Representatives as the chairman the Democratic Caucus, Davis sees the Redlands City Council as an excellent platform from which to launch an effort for higher office. It is well recognized that she is intent on seeking a position in the California Legislature or in U.S. Congress, if and when an opening in the form of a retiring or term-out Democratic legislator presents itself. In this way, Davis from the time she was elected to the council has been in ticket-punching mode, seeking to enhance her political résumé, with titles and council committee or regional joint powers committee assignments.

Upon being made mayor pro tem in 2018, Davis had a wishful glimpse of her future: the possibility that two years hence, in 2020, her colleagues might entrust her with the mayor's gavel.

Such was not in the cards, however.

One complicating consideration was that two years before she was elected to the council, Eddie Tejada had proceeded her to a berth on that panel. If the election of Davis, a lesbian, to the Redlands City Council was a significant social, cultural or political milestone, Tejada's election was of substantial importance as well, if not quite as unique. Latino members of the Redlands City Council were comparatively rare, with Norman Martinez having been elected to the council in the 1950 and 1960s and his brother, Oddie Martinez, following in his path to become a member of

the council in the 1970s and ultimately the city's first Latino mayor. The last Hispanic member of the city council prior to Tejada was Aguilar, and before Aguilar was Gilberto Gil, who served from 1993 to 1997 and again from 2003 to 2007. Tejada was reelected to the council in 2020, at which point his four years on the council made him the logical mayoral heir apparent, given the consideration that the one member of the council at that time with the most seniority who had not yet served as mayor was Barich, whose business commitments made his accepting the mayoral post problematic.

At the December 15, 2020 meeting where the mayoral selection for 2020 to 2022 was scheduled to be made, Davis asked for the council to consider her proposal for the establishment of a regimented mayoral selection process, one which called for not two-year mayoral and mayor pro tem terms but rather one-year terms. Additionally, she proposed that the system include an assignment schedule and sequencing of responsibility by which the mayor's slot would be filled by the individual who had most recently served as mayor pro tem. In making the pitch for the system she was proposing, Davis was essentially seeking to propel herself into the mayoral position. The council, which had been primed to follow what was essentially tradition and most likely elevate Tejada to the mayoral post, was caught flatfooted by Davis's proposal. The council members agreed to defer the mayoral appointment while they contemplated the scope and merit of the procedure Davis had articulated and took the opportunity to consult with city residents about their perspective and take up the consideration of who should be mayor in January 2019.

Davis thereupon networked with her support network in the community to put pressure on the three male members of the council who made up

a majority of the panel – then-Mayor Paul Foster, Barich and Tejada – in a way that would lead to her appointment as mayor. Redlands' history was replete with "backroom conversations" which inevitably led to "backroom deals" by which "rich White men" had "perpetuated the status quo" to "marginalize... women and minorities" while "suppress[ing] minority votes" to "prevent" anyone other than themselves "from assuming leadership roles," she charged.

Her proposal, she said, would "guarantee minority representation and diverse leadership... rooted in equity." She saluted the city's shift to by-district elections in 2018, which she said was long overdue since it meant that each of the city's five "representatives are elected equally. Therefore, each should have an equal chance to serve as mayor and mayor pro tem." She said her proposal, with its one-year mayoral and mayor pro tem terms instead of the current two-year terms would double the degree of diversity and fair distribution of the city's leadership.

She pointed out that in all of Redlands history there had only been three women mayors, but failed to note that the city had only had two Latino mayors and that her proposal as she was framing it would in all likelihood, if it were to achieve the goal she was apparently setting for the city, result in keeping the Hispanic Tejada from taking up the mayoral gavel as he was about to just before she intervened with her mayoral succession proposal.

As might have been anticipated, Tejada, who under the existing and traditional system stood next in line to be mayor, objected to the imposition of her selection strategy with its implied favoritism toward distaff members at the exclusion of its agnate members as part of a deliberate strategy to undo what she implied were generations of inequity and a lack of diversity, one which would thus logically lead to her immediate selection as

mayor and Tejada's immediate exclusion from that municipal leadership role. Tejada's reaction provoked from her the observation that he "obviously had ambitions to be in a leadership role himself." In this way, she seemed to impute malevolence to Tejada's ambition, while making no



**Denise Davis**

such association with her own ambition.

Many of those observing the process noted that the terms Davis had layered into the selection process appeared calculated to give her the first opportunity to be mayor. As she represents District 1 and the rotation, as she originally proposed it was to move in numerical order, she would be the recipient of the mayoral gavel with the first rotation, it was widely noted. Nor was it lost on city's political cognoscenti that she was simultaneously proposing that the Redlands mayor pro tem be automatically promoted into the mayor's slot when the city's change of council officers took place, and that she was, at that point, the mayor pro tem.

Ultimately, in January 2021, when the council took up her proposed succession procedure and the mayoral succession question, the council failed to adopt her suggestions with regard to an automatically rotating one-year duration mayoral term. When Councilwoman Guzman-Lowery nominated Davis for mayor, Davis seconded the nomination, but her selection failed on a 2-to-3 vote, with Foster, Barich and Tejada opposed. Tejada, who had been derided by Davis for his mayoral ambition, nominated Barich, which Foster seconded. Barich, who was reluctant to accept the assignment be-

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## Recurrent Reports Are That Valdivia Is Converting Funds In His Political War Chest Into Personal Cash *from page 4*

\$222,695.24. Immediately after the election, Valdivia departed for the East Coast, where, it was said, he was to fly to Europe. There was concern that he was engaged in an effort to secret a substantial portion of his remaining electioneering funds into banking institutions in New York and

potentially Switzerland, allowing him eventually to take control of that money and convert it to his own personal use. As it turned out, Valdivia did not make a sojourn to Europe as it was reported he had previously intended.

Despite having paid \$446,762.45 from his legal defense fund to pay for Pacheco's services, Pacheco on July 19 of this year filed separate motions to withdraw from representing Valdivia in each of the four cases yet outstanding against him by Cisneros, Cervantes,

Smith and Aboud. Those motions were granted.

According to the mid-year filings for Valdivia's electioneering and legal defense accounts, which ran through June 30, Valdivia owed Pacheco's firm \$42,000 as of May 22. Thereafter, the law firm billed Valdivia for another \$9,200 worth of legal work prior to the June 30 finance reporting deadline.

It thus appears that Valdivia is in arrears to Pacheco by some \$51,200.

Pacheco once advo-

cated long and hard on Valdivia's behalf, insisting that the then-mayor was deeply committed to the city, that those who were suing him had fabricated the charges against his client out of whole cloth and that the city council's action against Valdivia, including the censure resolution, were politically motivated attacks. It now appears that Pacheco's deep faith in Valdivia as a dedicated and honest public servant has been compromised. A politician who regularly interacted with

Pacheco told the *Sentinel* that Pacheco had abandoned his client because he had discovered, in the aftermath of the election, that Valdivia was transferring his political electioneering money out of his campaign and legal defense accounts to personal savings, interest bearing and investment accounts. As his legal representative, the *Sentinel* was told, Pacheco is constrained by attorney-client privilege and the ethical restrictions of his profession from disclosing what he knows about

Valdivia's activity.

The *Sentinel* is reliably informed that Valdivia, who at one time worked as a representative for several pharmaceutical companies, including Solvay S.A., GlaxoSmithKline, Schering-Plough, Merck & Co. and Amgen, has now purchased a laundromat. This prompted one his former council colleagues to quip, "John is going to launder the political money he controlled through his laundromat."

—Mark Gutglueck

## Ontario Delayed Moving To District Elections For Four Years *from front page*

its north end, is the most densely populated of the four districts. It extends eastward to North Allyn Avenue and south to Mission Boulevard. District 2 lies mostly south of District 1, with Mission Boulevard forming its north boundary and extending south to East Walnut Street, lying between South Benson Avenue on the west and blanketing east to the city limits just beyond South Vineyard Avenue.

District 3 covers the southernmost portion of the city, lying south of Walnut Street and the 60 Freeway and north of the southern city limits

between Euclid Avenue to the west and Hammer Avenue at the east.

District 4 is the least densely populated of the four districts as it surrounds Ontario International Airport and has as its northern border the northern city limits on the east side of the city along 8th Street, with North Allyn Avenue at its westernmost extension, South Etiwanda Avenue as its eastern boundary and the 60 Freeway for most of its southern boundary.

The map appears to place both Councilman Jim Bowman and Councilwoman Debra Dorst-Porada in District 1.

It is unclear whether the map also puts Councilman Ruben Valencia into the same district as

Councilman Alan Wapner, and city officials had not clarified that issue by press time.

Scott Rafferty, an attorney based in Walnut Grove, some 400 miles from Ontario, utilized provisions of the California Voter Rights Act of 2001 to demand on behalf of Chris Robles, an Ontario resident and the immediate past chairman of the San Bernardino County Democratic Central Committee, that the city adopt a by-district voting system. Rafferty and Robles claimed the at-large voting system Ontario has used throughout its history discriminates against so-called protected minorities, in particular Latinos, who in Ontario

make up a majority of the population. Rafferty and Robles maintained that the at-large voting system was preventing minorities from being elected to the city council, despite the consideration that there are now and have been in the past Hispanic members of the city council.

The city opted to not legally contest the demand for a transition to the district voting system. In February 2020, the city adopted a resolution to make the changeover to district voting, saying it would have a district map drawn up for implementation by the November 2022 Ontario municipal election, during which Mayor Paul Leon, a Latino, was to be up for re-

election as were Councilman Bowman and Councilman Wapner. The council races were to become district contests. The mayoral race was to remain at large. Both Dorst-Porada, whom some credit with being a Latina, and Ruben Valencia, a Latino, were due to stand for reelection in 2020, while at-large elections were to yet be in effect.

The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 interrupted the groundwork for the transition to by-district voting. Dorst Porada and Valencia were reelected in 2020. This year's election was held under the traditional at-large system. Leon, Bowman and Wapner were all reelected. Neither Rafferty nor Robles

followed through to insist on the city adhering to the by-district election transition timetable the council had committed to in 2020.

The district map that was accepted by the council on December 20 was one of several maps that were the product of the analysis of 2020 Census data and public hearings and workshops the city held beginning in April 2022.

Under the terms approved by the city council on Tuesday, voters in Districts 1 and 4 will participate in votes to select their council members in the 2024 election, and Districts 2 and 3 will carry out district voting beginning in 2026.

—Mark Gutglueck

## No Longer The Leading Party Numerically, Republicans Have Extended Their Political Dominance Of San Bernardino County Through More Sophisticated And Energetic Electioneering Tactics, Greater Coordination & Superior Fundraising Efforts *from front page*

lands and Highland in San Bernardino County.

Prematurely confident of her victory, Holstege flew to Sacramento to take part in an orientation for new members of the legislature on November 10. Wallis, however, made dramatic gains over the next several days, surpassing her and then falling behind and then retaking the lead, as the two remained neck-and-neck with each tally of incoming mail and provisional ballots. In most other legislative races throughout the state, clear winners had

emerged by the third week of November. In the 47th Assembly District, however, neither Riverside County nor San Bernardino County election officials nor the California Secretary of State's Office was willing to make a call as to the victor. When Riverside County officials certified the election results in that jurisdiction on December 1, it appeared that overall in the district Wallis had eked out a razor-thin win. The San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters Office, however, did not certify

its results until December 8, and both the Holstege and Wallis camps contemplated seeking a recount in the event that the final results showed its side coming up short.

The lion's share of the slightly more than 309,000 registered voters in the district eligible to vote in this year's election reside in Riverside County. Ultimately, Holstege, who was elected to the Palm Springs City Council in 2017 and became that city's first woman mayor after her 2020 reelection to the council, fared far better among voters in Riverside County than she did in San Bernardino County.

All told, according to the Riverside County Registrar of Voters, 70,758 or 53.99 percent of the 131,061 Riverside

County voters who cast votes in the Assembly District 47 race supported Holstege, compared to the 60,303 voters or 46.01 percent of voters in Riverside County who favored Wallis.

In San Bernardino County, the collective attitude of the voters residing in Assembly District 47 was substantially different. Within that portion of the district, the voters were lopsidedly supportive of Wallis. Among the 38,358 San Bernardino County residents in Assembly District 47 who voted at the polls or by mail, 24,449 or 63.74 percent endorsed Wallis and 13,909 or 36.26 percent voted for Holstege.

For more than a half century, the GOP has dominated San Bernardino County. In Janu-

ary 1964, the Democratic Party, which throughout Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, Harry Truman's Square Deal and during the Eisenhower and Kennedy Administrations held sway in the 20,105-square mile county, fell into disrepute when Harry Sheppard, the Democratic Congressman who had represented it for 27 years at that point, opened three accounts in each of eight savings and loan associations in Washington, D.C. and the surrounding Maryland and Virginia metropolitan areas, depositing \$10,000 into each of them, and deposited another \$35,000 in banks in or near the nation's capital. The New Deal Democrat imploded in scandal thereafter as questions emerged about where he had gotten the

\$275,000 in question, and his 28-year career as a legislator came to an end when he opted not to seek reelection that year. Two years later, Sheppard's Democratic successor as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Kenneth Dyal, was defeated by Republican Jerry Pettis in the same election that brought Ronald Reagan to the Governor's Mansion in Sacramento.

San Bernardino County has been a Republican enclave ever since. Indeed, in the 56 years since Ronald Reagan's first public office electoral victory, with only a few notable exceptions, Republicans have held the majority of political offices at the local agency, municipal, county and state level in

*Continued on Page 11*



Public Notices

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Sections 3071 of the Civil Code of the State of California the undersigned will sell the following vehicle(s) at lien sale at said address below on: 01/06/2023 09:00 AM

Year of Car / Make of Car / Vehicle ID No. / License No. (State)  
12 PETE IXP4D49X5CD123639 XP19213 CA

To be sold by M & C DIESEL ROAD SERVICE 8606 DUMOND DR FONTANA CA 92835

Said sale is for the purpose of satisfying lien for together with costs of advertising and expenses of sale.

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on December 23, 2022.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Sections 3071 of the Civil Code of the State of California the undersigned will sell the following vehicle(s) at lien sale at said address below on: 01/06/2023 09:00 AM

Year of Car / Make of Car / Vehicle ID No. / License No. (State)  
15 KIA KNADM4A39F6443028 7K1R698 CA

To be sold by AIR EXPRESSWAY TOWING AV 13606 JOHN GLENN RD APPLE VALLEY CA 92308

Said sale is for the purpose of satisfying lien for together with costs of advertising and expenses of sale.

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on December 23, 2022.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Sections 3071 of the Civil Code of the State of California the undersigned will sell the following vehicle(s) at lien sale at said address below on: 01/06/2023 09:00 AM

Year of Car / Make of Car / Vehicle ID No. / License No. (State)  
01 FORD 3FDN-F65231MA43758 6U13077 CA

To be sold by CONTINENTAL TOWING 14601 VALLEY BLVD FONTANA CA 92335

Said sale is for the purpose of satisfying lien for together with costs of advertising and expenses of sale.

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on December 23, 2022.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Sections 3071 of the Civil Code of the State of California the undersigned will sell the following vehicle(s) at lien sale at said address below on: 01/06/2023 09:00 AM

Year of Car / Make of Car / Vehicle ID No. / License No. (State)  
16 CHEV IG1FFR74G0138755 AU91F50 CA

To be sold by MOTORING GENUINE AUTO CARE INC 111 S. LEMON AVE ONTARIO CA

Said sale is for the purpose of satisfying lien for together with costs of advertising and expenses of sale.

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on December 23, 2022.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Sections 3071 of the Civil Code of the State of California the undersigned will sell the following vehicle(s) at lien sale at said address below on: 01/06/2023 09:00 AM

Year of Car / Make of Car / Vehicle ID No. / License No. (State)  
05 INTER IHMT-PAFM35H118228 94568S2A

To be sold by MFD ENTERPRISES INC 14262 WHITTBRAM AVE FONTANA CA 92335

Said sale is for the purpose of satisfying lien for together with costs of advertising and expenses of sale.

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on December 23, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FBN20220010398  
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: ROOTED DOG TRAINING 860 N SAN ANTONIO AVE ONTARIO, CA 91762, primarily in

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY: CHLOE ANCHONDO 860 N SAN ANTONIO AVE 91762  
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/CHLOE ANCHONDO This statement was filed with the County Clerk of SAN BERNARDINO on: 11/10/2022

I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.  
Began Transacting Business: January 1, 2022  
County Clerk, J3108  
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 10/28, 11/04, 11/11 & 11/18, 2022. Corrected on December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2022.

Public Notices

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on 12/02/2022, 12/09/2022, 12/16/2022 and 12/23/2022.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No. 22-01211-RM-CA Title No. 8776752 A.P.N. 0108-591-22-0-000

YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 04/19/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, (cashier's check(s) must be made payable to National Default Servicing Corporation), drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state; will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made in an "as is" condition, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: Carol A Roberson, an unmarried woman Duly Appointed Trustee: National Default Servicing Corporation Recorded 04/26/2007 as Instrument No. 2007-0253714 (or Book, Page) of the Official Records of San Bernardino County, California. Date of Sale: 12/19/2022 at 1:00 PM which is being postponed until 1/4/2023 at 1:00 PM Place of Sale: At the Main (South) Entrance to the City of Chino Civic Center, 13220 Central Avenue, Chino, CA. 91710 Estimated amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$302,340.02 Street Address or other common designation of real property: 1842 Marin Ave, Ontario, CA 91764 A.P.N.: 0108-591-22-0-000 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The requirements of California Civil Code Section 2923.5(b)/2923.55(c) were fulfilled when the Notice of Default was recorded. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear

ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call or visit this internet website www.ndscorp.com/sales, using the file number assigned to this case 22-01211-RM-CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT\*: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call 888-264-4010, or visit this internet website www.ndscorp.com, using the file number assigned to this case 22-01211-RM-CA to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase.\*Pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code, the potential rights described herein shall apply only to public auctions taking place on or after January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2025, unless later extended. Date: 11/30/2022 National Default Servicing Corporation c/o Tiffany & Bosco, P.A., its agent, 1455 Frazee Road, Suite 820 San Diego, CA 92108 Toll Free Phone: 888-264-4010 Sales Line ; Sales Website: www.ndscorp.com Connie Hernandez, Trustee Sales Representative. 12/09/2022, 12/16/2022, 12/23/2022 CPP353540

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: PHILIP CHARLES MAY CASE NO. PROSB2201663

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of RONALD VAN ROSMALEN has been filed by CHARLES VAN ROSMALEN in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

THE PETITION FOR PRO-

BATE requests that CHARLES VAN ROSMALEN be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held January 12, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept. No. S35 at Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415, San Bernardino District.

Filed: November 28, 2022  
NATHANIEL JOHNSON, Deputy Court Clerk

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under Section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Notice of Sale Of Real Property [Probate Code Sec. 10300]

Case No. PROSB2100727  
In re the: Estate Of Marcus Marcell McCowen  
Notice is given that Cleaforse McCowen, as Personal Representative of the Estate Marcus Marcell McCowen, will set at private sale subject to confirmation by the Superior Court of San Bernardino, on or after February 9, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at Superior Court of San Bernardino 247 W. Third Street, San Bernardino CA Department S37, of the following real property of Estate 27981 Atlantic Avenue, Highland, CA 92346-2703  
The terms and conditions of sale are: All cash, the amount of the sale is \$499,000.00. The required amount of the first overbid is \$514,950.00 At least ten percent (10%) of the amount

bid must be paid with the offer, and the balance must be paid on close of escrow after confirmation of sale by the Court.  
Bids or offers for this property must be made to the Court at the time and date shown above. The sale is subject to confirmation by the Court.  
Dated: November 29, 2022  
Signed: Cleaforse McCowen Jr.  
Attorney for Cleaforse McCowen:  
Conrad Aragon, Esq. SBN: 220413  
Law Office of Marc E. Grossman  
100 N. Euclid Avenue  
Second Floor  
Upland, CA 91786  
conrad@weight4you.com  
Telephone: (909) 608-7426  
Fax: (909) 949-3077  
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel December 9, December 16, December 23 & December 30, 2022.

FBN 20220010413  
The following entity is doing business as GODINEZ AUTO GLASS 3550 DUFFY ST SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407 GABRIEL DELGADO GODINEZ 3550 DUFFY ST SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407  
Mailing Address: 3550 DUFFY ST SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407  
The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JANUARY 1, 2022.  
By signing, 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/ GABRIEL DELGADO GODINEZ, Owner  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 11/10/2022  
I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy G8420  
Notice-This fictitious 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 business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).  
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2022.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under Section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Filed: November 28, 2023  
Attorney for Charles Van Rosmalen:  
R. SAM PRICE SBN 208603  
PRICE LAW FIRM, APC  
300 E STATE STREET SUITE 620  
REDLANDS, CA 92373  
Phone (909) 328 7000  
Fax (909) 475 8800  
sam@pricelawfirm.com  
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on December 9, 16 & 23, 2022.

Notice Of Sale Of Real Property [Probate Code Sec. 10300]

Case No. PROSB2100727  
In re the: Estate Of Marcus Marcell McCowen  
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The terms and conditions of sale are: All cash, the amount of the sale is \$499,000.00. The required amount of the first overbid is \$514,950.00 At least ten percent (10%) of the amount

bid must be paid with the offer, and the balance must be paid on close of escrow after confirmation of sale by the Court.  
Bids or offers for this property must be made to the Court at the time and date shown above. The sale is subject to confirmation by the Court.  
Dated: November 29, 2022  
Signed: Cleaforse McCowen Jr.  
Attorney for Cleaforse McCowen:  
Conrad Aragon, Esq. SBN: 220413  
Law Office of Marc E. Grossman  
100 N. Euclid Avenue  
Second Floor  
Upland, CA 91786  
conrad@weight4you.com  
Telephone: (909) 608-7426  
Fax: (909) 949-3077  
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel December 9, December 16, December 23 & December 30, 2022.

FBN 20220010413  
The following entity is doing business as GODINEZ AUTO GLASS 3550 DUFFY ST SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407 GABRIEL DELGADO GODINEZ 3550 DUFFY ST SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407  
Mailing Address: 3550 DUFFY ST SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407  
The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JANUARY 1, 2022.  
By signing, 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/ GABRIEL DELGADO GODINEZ, Owner  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 11/10/2022  
I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.  
Began Transacting Business: February 22, 2022.  
County Clerk, G8420  
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 10/28, 11/04, 11/11 & 11/18, 2022. Corrected on December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2022.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under Section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

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YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Christine Maria Masia:  
ANTONINETTE JAUREGUI (SB 192624)  
1894 S. COMMERCENT-ER WEST, SUITE 108  
SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408  
Telephone No: (909) 890-2350  
Fax No: (909) 890-0106  
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on December 9, 16 & 23, 2022.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: PHILIP CHARLES MAY CASE NO. PROSB2201663

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of RONALD VAN ROSMALEN has been filed by CHARLES VAN ROSMALEN in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

THE PETITION FOR PRO-

BATE requests that CHARLES VAN ROSMALEN be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held January 12, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept. No. S35 at Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415, San Bernardino District.  
Filed: November 28, 2022  
NATHANIEL JOHNSON, Deputy Court Clerk

Public Notices

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Sections 3071 of the Civil Code of the State of California the undersigned will sell the following vehicle(s) at lien sale at said address below on: 01/06/2023 09:00 AM

Year of Car / Make of Car / Vehicle ID No. / License No. (State)  
12 PETE IXP4D49X5CD123639 XP19213 CA

To be sold by M & C DIESEL ROAD SERVICE 8606 DUMOND DR FONTANA CA 92835

Said sale is for the purpose of satisfying lien for together with costs of advertising and expenses of sale.

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on December 23, 2022.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Sections 3071 of the Civil Code of the State of California the undersigned will sell the following vehicle(s) at lien sale at said address below on: 01/06/2023 09:00 AM

Year of Car / Make of Car / Vehicle ID No. / License No. (State)  
15 KIA KNADM4A39F6443028 7K1R698 CA

To be sold by AIR EXPRESSWAY TOWING AV 13606 JOHN GLENN RD APPLE VALLEY CA 92308

Said sale is for the purpose of satisfying lien for together with costs of advertising and expenses of sale.

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on December 23, 2022.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Sections 3071 of the Civil Code of the State of California the undersigned will sell the following vehicle(s) at lien sale at said address below on: 01/06/2023 09:00 AM

Year of Car / Make of Car / Vehicle ID No. / License No. (State)  
01 FORD 3FDN-F65231MA43758 6U13077 CA

To be sold by CONTINENTAL TOWING 14601 VALLEY BLVD FONTANA CA 92335

Said sale is for the purpose of satisfying lien for together with costs of advertising and expenses of sale.

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on December 23, 2022.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Sections 3071 of the Civil Code of the State of California the undersigned will sell the following vehicle(s) at lien sale at said address below on: 01/06/2023 09:00 AM

Year of Car / Make of Car / Vehicle ID No. / License No. (State)  
16 CHEV IG1FFR74G0138755 AU91F50 CA

To be sold by MOTORING GENUINE AUTO CARE INC 111 S. LEMON AVE ONTARIO CA

Said sale is for the purpose of satisfying lien for together with costs of advertising and expenses of sale.

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on December 23, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FBN20220010398  
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: ROOTED DOG TRAINING 860 N SAN ANTONIO AVE ONTARIO, CA 91762, primarily in

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY: CHLOE ANCHONDO 860 N SAN ANTONIO AVE 91762  
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/CHLOE ANCHONDO This statement was filed with the County Clerk of SAN BERNARDINO on: 11/10/2022

I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.  
Began Transacting Business: January 1, 2022  
County Clerk, J3108  
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 10/28, 11/04, 11/11 & 11/18, 2022. Corrected on December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2022.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FBN20220010626  
The following person(s) is(are) doing business as: AUTO AMBASADOR, 1018 N VISTA AVE, RIALTO, CA 92376,  
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY  
Mailing Address: , AUTO AMBASSADOR, 1018 N VISTA AVE, RIALTO, CA 92376,  
State of Inc./Org./Reg. CA, Inc./Org./Reg. No. 5301463  
Business is Conducted By: A CORPORATION

Notice Of Sale Of Real Property [Probate Code Sec. 10300]

Case No. PROSB2100727  
In re the: Estate Of Marcus Marcell McCowen  
Notice is given that Cleaforse McCowen, as Personal Representative of the Estate Marcus Marcell McCowen, will set at private sale subject to confirmation by the Superior Court of San Bernardino, on or after February 9, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at Superior Court of San Bernardino 247 W. Third Street, San Bernardino CA Department S37, of the following real property of Estate 27981 Atlantic Avenue, Highland, CA 92346-2703  
The terms and conditions of sale are: All cash, the amount of the sale is \$499,000.00. The required amount of the first overbid is \$514,950.00 At least ten percent (10%) of the amount

bid must be paid with the offer, and the balance must be paid on close of escrow after confirmation of sale by the Court.  
Bids or offers for this property must be made to the Court at the time and date shown above. The sale is subject to confirmation by the Court.  
Dated: November 29, 2022  
Signed: Cleaforse McCowen Jr.  
Attorney for Cleaforse McCowen:  
Conrad Aragon, Esq. SBN: 220413  
Law Office of Marc E. Grossman  
100 N. Euclid Avenue  
Second Floor  
Upland, CA 91786  
conrad@weight4you.com  
Telephone: (909) 608-7426  
Fax: (909) 949-3077  
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel December 9, December 16, December 23 & December 30, 2022.

FBN 20220010413  
The following entity is doing business as GODINEZ AUTO GLASS 3550 DUFFY ST SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407 GABRIEL DELGADO GODINEZ 3550 DUFFY ST SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407  
Mailing Address: 3550 DUFFY ST SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407  
The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JANUARY 1, 2022.  
By signing, I declare



Public Notices

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/JAIME VALDEZ, PRESIDENT This statement was filed with the County Clerk of SAN BERNARDINO on: 11/17/2022

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

Began Transacting Business: 10/20/2022

County Clerk, 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).

12/16/2022, 12/23/2022, 12/30/2022, 1/06/2023

seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 12/09/2022, 12/16/2022, 12/23/2022, 12/30/2022 CNBB49202201MT

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: BARBARA ANN MASIA

CASE NO. PROSB2201717

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of BARBARA ANN MASIA

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by CHRISTINE MARIE MASIA in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that CHRISTINE MARIE MASIA be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval.

Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in Dept. No. S-37 at 9:00 a.m. on JANUARY 19, 2023 at Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415, San Bernardino District.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under Section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

Public Notices

a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Christine Marie Masia: ANTONIETTE JAUREGUI (SB 192624)

1894 S. COMMERCENT-ER WEST, SUITE 108 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408

Telephone No: (909) 890-2350

Fax No: (909) 890-0106

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on December 23 & 30, 2022 and January 6, 2023.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: LEONOR SALDANA ALVAREZ

CASE NO. PROSB2201709

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of LEONOR SALDANA ALVAREZ

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by ADRIANA CONTRERAS in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that ADRIANA CONTRERAS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval.

Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in Dept. No. S-37 at 9:00 a.m. on JANUARY 25, 2023 at Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415, San Bernardino District.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under Section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Adriana Contreras: ANTONIETTE JAUREGUI (SB 192624)

1894 S. COMMERCENT-ER WEST, SUITE 108 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408

Telephone No: (909) 890-2350

Fax No: (909) 890-0106

Public Notices

treras: ANTONIETTE JAUREGUI (SB 192624)

1894 S. COMMERCENT-ER WEST, SUITE 108 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408

Telephone No: (909) 890-2350

Fax No: (909) 890-0106

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on December 23 & 30, 2022 and January 6, 2023.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF ARDRELLE M. BANKS BAHAR

CASE NO. PROSB2201672

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of ARDRELLE M. BANKS BAHAR

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Lenora Bahar in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Lenora Bahar be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval.

Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on January 17, 2023 at 9:00 AM in Dept. No. S35 located at 247 W. Third St., San Bernardino, CA 92415.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner: RICHARD F NEVINS ESQ SBN 137261

LAW OFFICE OF RICHARD F NEVINS 3895 BROCKTON AVENUE

RIVERSIDE CA 92501

CN992638 BAHAR Dec 23,30, 2022, Jan 6, 2023

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF WILBERT F. ANDERSON

Public Notices

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of WILBERT F. ANDERSON

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Natalie Antoinette Anderson in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Natalie Antoinette Anderson be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval.

Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on January 10, 2023 at 9:00 AM in Dept. No. S35 located at 247 W. Third St., San Bernardino, CA 92415.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner: PAUL HORN ESQ SBN243227

PAUL HORN LAW GROUP PC 11404 SOUTH STREET CERRITOS CA 90703

CN991913 ANDERSON Dec 23,30, 2022, Jan 6, 2023

FBN 20220011559

The following entity is doing business as JOHN DUKE MUSIC 11660 CHURCH ST #156 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730

JOHN K O'NEILL 11660 CHURCH ST #156 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: NOVEMBER 15, 2022.

Public Notices

a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy G8420

Notice-This fictitious 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 business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on December 23 & 30, 2022 and January 6 & 13, 2023.

FBN 20220011466

The following entities are doing business as SLICK PRODUCTIONS [and] SLICKQUAL [and] SLICK DIGITAL 14932 BOBCAT LN FONTANA, CA 92336

SANJAY RAJAN 14932 BOBCAT LN FONTANA, CA 92336 [and] BEN T BOBEN 1900 COLORADO ST REDLANDS, CA 92374

The business is conducted by: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: DECEMBER 15, 2022.

By signing, 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 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ SANJAY RAJAN, General Partner

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 12/16/2022

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy J3108

Notice-This fictitious 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 business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on December 23 & 30, 2022 and January 6 & 13, 2023.

FBN 20220010650

The following person is doing business as FAFAN DELIVERY SERVICES. 15252 SENECA RD SPC 140 VICTORVILLE, CA 92392

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

Public Notices

transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A

By signing, 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 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ JOEL ONTIVEROS MIRAMONTES, MANAGING MEMBER

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: NOVEMBER 18 2022

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious 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 business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 12/02/2022, 12/09/2022, 12/16/2022, 12/23/2022 CNBB48202208MT

FBN 20220010798

The following person is doing business as: P&J CRM. 11444 ALTON DR CORONA, CA 92883

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

P&J, LLC 11444 ALTON DR CORONA, CA 92883

The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A

By signing, 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 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ PAUL M. MALDONADO, MANAGING MEMBER

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: NOVEMBER 11, 2022

Public Notices

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

J & S HAULERS, LLC 1155 S RIVERSIDE AVE SPC 49 RIALTO, CA 92376

The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A

By signing, 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 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ JIMMY CEDA, MANAGING MEMBER

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: NOVEMBER 18, 2022

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious 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 business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 12/02/2022, 12/09/2022, 12/16/2022, 12/23/2022 CNBB48202205MT

FBN 20220010776

The following person is doing business as: BOSS'D UP BARBER/SALON #2. 7251 BOULDER AVE, SUITE A5 HIGHLAND, CA 92346

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 12/02/2022, 12/09/2022, 12/16/2022, 12/23/2022 CNBB48202207MT

FBN 20220010543

The following person is doing business as: BABY UNIVERSITY. 19065 HINTON STREET HESPERIA, CA 92345

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

TAMMI M CASON 19065 HINTON STREET HESPERIA, CA 92345.

Public Notices

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A

By signing, 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 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ TAMMI M CASON,

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: NOVEMBER 15, 2022

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious 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 business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 12/02/2022, 12/09/2022, 12/16/2022, 12/23/2022 CNBB48202206MT

FBN 20220010656

The following person is doing business as: J & S HAULERS, LLC. 1155 S RIVERSIDE AVE SPC 49 RIALTO, CA 92376







Public Notices

By signing, 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 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ ALBERT L LIMBRICH JR, OWNER  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: DECEMBER 13, 2022

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious 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 business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 12/16/2022, 12/23/2022, 01/06/2023 CNBB50202204MT

FBN 20220011170  
The following person is doing business as: BRANDON'S DINER VINEYARD. 2407 SOUTH VINEYARD AVE SUITE A ONTARIO, CA 91761; MAILING ADDRESS 10246 INDIANA AVE SUITE A RIVERSIDE, CA 92503;

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO  
JAM BENITEZ RESTUARANTES INC 10246 INDIANA AVE SUITE A RIVERSIDE, CA 92503

The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: DEC 06, 2022

By signing, 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 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ ANA BENITEZ, PRESIDENT  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: DECEMBER 07, 2022

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious 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 business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 12/16/2022, 12/23/2022, 01/06/2023

**Davis Asserted Rotating Mayoral Post Would Result In Equity & More Balanced Community Representation from page 5**

cause of his professional commitments, nevertheless did so, as he was taken aback by Davis's bare-knuckle political tactics against Tejeda. Barich was elected mayor, by a 4-to-1 vote, with Guzman-Lowery dissenting.

Ironically, had Davis gone along with making Tejeda mayor in 2020, she very likely would have acceded to the mayoral position this year.

This week, on Tuesday night, however, she was not able to overcome the determination on the part of Barich, Saucedo and Tejeda that Tejeda be granted the mayoral

Public Notices

CNBB50202203MT  
FBN 20220011235  
The following person is doing business as: BUY RITE PRODUCTS. 5049 GRAND AVE MONTCLAIR, CA 91763

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO  
PERRY M POWELL JR 5049 GRAND AVE MONTCLAIR, CA 91763.

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: NOV 09, 2022

By signing, 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 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ PERRY M POWELL JR, OWNER  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: DECEMBER 09, 2022

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious 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 business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 12/16/2022, 12/23/2022, 01/06/2023 CNBB50202202MT

FBN 20220011290  
The following person is doing business as: ARCHIBALD LIQUOR & WINE. 8880 ARCHIBALD AVE STE A RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 917305; MAILING ADDRESS 4718 GRAPHITE CREEK RD JURUPA VALLEY, CA 917305;

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO  
PRAMUKHIRTH INC 4718 GRAPHITE CREEK RD JURUPA VALLEY, CA 91752

The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A

By signing, 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 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ NITINKUMAR P PATEL, PRESIDENT  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: DECEMBER 13, 2022

privilege at last. Davis's last shot was that she might convert the mayoral term into a single year, thus making it possible for her to assume the mayor's post in December 2023. That possibility was left open because at the city council's December 6 meeting, the council as it was then composed voted 3-to-2, with Davis, Guzman-Lowery and Barich prevailing and Tejeda and Gallagher in opposition, to create a rotation system for selecting the mayor, an item that had been set before the council at Davis's request. That vote had given first approval, what in municipal parlance is referred to as a first reading, to the new ordinance which would confer upon the council member with the most seniority who had yet to serve as mayor the honor of being mayor.

Public Notices

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious 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 business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 12/16/2022, 12/23/2022, 01/06/2023 CNBB50202201MT

FBN 20220011617  
The following person is doing business as: PARATAX; PARATAX INCOME TAX SERVICES; PARATAX LA; PARATAX FINANCIAL SERVICES. 18074 LAUREL DR FONTANA, CA 92336

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO  
LEE O AMARO 18074 LAUREL DR FONTANA, CA 92336.

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: NOV. 08, 2022

By signing, 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 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ LEE O AMARO, OWNER  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: DECEMBER 22, 2022

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious 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 business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 12/23/2022, 12/30/2022, 01/06/2023, 01/13/2023 CNBB51202207MT

FBN 20220011512  
The following person is doing business as: WREKAGE. 8151 SHIRLEY AVE HIGHLAND, CA 92410

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO  
JOSE D ALAVASAREZ 8151 SHIRLEY AVE HIGHLAND, CA 92410.

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious

Further, under that proposed ordinance, the title of mayor pro tem would be bestowed upon the next most senior member of the council who had not been mayor. Going forward, the practice would be to then elevate the mayor pro tem to be the next mayor. Davis's stated preference in introducing the ordinance was that the mayoral term would run not two years but a single year. This week, the mayoral succession ordinance given first reading on December 6 came back for a second reading, which was necessary for its final approval. Up for consideration was whether the ordinance would go into effect as approved on December 6, whether it would be modified in any of its particulars or whether, upon further contemplation, it might

Public Notices

business name or names listed above on: N/A

By signing, 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 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ JOSE D ALAVASAREZ, OWNER  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: DECEMBER 06, 2022

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious 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 business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 12/23/2022, 12/30/2022, 01/06/2023, 01/13/2023 CNBB51202206IR

FBN 20220011511  
The following person is doing business as: CABALLERO AUTO PROS. 739 W. BASELINE ST. SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92410; MAILING ADDRESS 7020 ARGYLE AVE SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92404;

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO  
ALEJANDRO CABALLERO MAGANA 739 W. BASELINE ST. SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92410.

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A

By signing, 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 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ ALEJANDRO CABALLERO MAGANA, OWNER  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: DECEMBER 06, 2022

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious 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 business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Ber-

Public Notices

nardino County Sentinel 12/23/2022, 12/30/2022, 01/06/2023, 01/13/2023 CNBB51202205IR

FBN 20220011425  
The following person is doing business as: ONTIVEROS TIRES. 15252 SENECA RD SPC 140 VICTORVILLE, CA 92392

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO  
COSPITA, LLC 15252 SENECA RD SPC 140 VICTORVILLE, CA 92392

The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A

By signing, 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 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ JOEL ONTIVEROS MIRAMONTES, MANAGING MEMBER  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: DECEMBER 15, 2022

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious 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 business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 12/23/2022, 12/30/2022, 01/06/2023, 01/13/2023 CNBB51202205MT

FBN 20220011415  
The following person is doing business as: E FLORES TRANSPORT. 1428 E COLTON AVE REDLANDS, CA 92374

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO  
JALAPAN INVESTMENTS INC 668 W FAIRWAY DR SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408

The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A

By signing, 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 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ ELIDA FLORES, OWNER  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: DECEMBER 06, 2022

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement

not be given final approval and would be therefore rescinded. According to Davis and several of her supporters who addressed the council, the way in which the mayor and mayor pro tem have been historically chosen limits equal representation. Rather, they said, the method of mayoral selection Davis is championing ensures equity among the council members, affording four of the council's members an opportunity to serve in the mayoral role during the span of a four-year term. Davis asserted that other cities used the rotation scheme and that Redlands should therefore adopt it. "I can't emphasize enough how successful I've seen this be in other cities," Davis said. "I'm confident it could be suc-

Public Notices

cessful here if we just gave it a chance."

She noted that on December 6, Barich had shown himself to be in favor of the rotational model. "That's one step forward," Davis said, but asserted that having two-year mayoral terms was wrongheaded. "If we really want representation and to give people an opportunity, the one-year model is the model to go with."

Barich took issue with limiting a mayor to a single one-year term and he accused Davis of orchestrating the numerous endorsements of the one-year term by inducing her supporters to lobby the council to that effect.

"Denise, with all due respect, it seems like you stacked the deck," Barich said. "You know these people very well. I could

on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious 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 business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 12/23/2022, 12/30/2022, 01/06/2023, 01/13/2023 CNBB51202204MT

FBN 20220011319  
The following person is doing business as: SOLPIX. 3139 N ASHFORD AVE RIALTO, CA 92377

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO  
LOUIS C RODRIGUEZ 3139 N ASHFORD AVE RIALTO, CA 92377.

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: DEC 06, 2022

By signing, 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 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ LOUIS C RODRIGUEZ, OWNER  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: DECEMBER 13, 2022

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Notice-This fictitious 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 business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

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FBN 20220011522  
The following person is doing business as: DAMIENSONLINE-SHOP. 1215 BIRCH ST SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92410; MAILING ADDRESS PO BOX 1352 HIGHLAND, CA 92346;

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO  
MARLON D RAMIREZ 1215 BIRCH ST SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92410.

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above

have gotten people to call in." Barich said "50 or 60 people" had told him privately that they believe the current mayoral selection methodology is good. He said the residents of the city have the ability to vote for members of the city council, and the choice of who the mayor is to be is the prerogative of the city council. "This is our say, to determine how we elect a mayor," Barich said. "I personally think the way we have it now is fine."

Davis responded, "It's not fine for a multitude of reasons that have been expressed. Let's back up ten minutes. You said you were fine with the rotation model. Is that not the case anymore?" Barich said, "I'll go

Public Notices

on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

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FBN 20220011505  
The following person is doing business as: SAGE PATHWAYS. 5405 DELANEY WAY FONTANA, CA 92336

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO  
LISA M ROSS 5405 DELANEY WAY FONTANA, CA 92336; BRIAN K ROSS 5405 DELANEY WAY FONTANA, CA 92336.

The business is conducted by: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP.  
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: NOV 18, 2019

By signing, 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 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ LISA M ROSS, PARTNER  
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: DECEMBER 19, 2022

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

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## Wallis Narrowly Bests Holstege In 47<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Race from page 6

San Bernardino County. Even as the rest of California was falling more and more under the sway of the Democrats, San Bernardino County resisted that trend.

For more than 40 years, Republicans simply outnumbered Democrats in the county overall, with there being only a few heavy blue collar pockets within its 20,105-square mile expanse where Democrats predominated.

In 2009, that statistical demographic edge for the GOP ended, and for the first time in more than four decades, the number of Democrats in the county eclipsed the number of Republicans. That trend has continued, such that at this point, 471,952 or 41.2 percent of the county's 1,144,612 total voters are registered as Democrats, while 335,077 voters or 29.3 percent affiliate with the Party of Lincoln.

Remarkably, however, local Republicans, despite the registration disadvantage they face, have succeeded in holding onto most of the county's elective offices they controlled in their heyday, at least so far. This has largely occurred because Republicans turn out to vote in far higher percentages than do Democrats nationally, statewide and particularly locally. In San Bernardino County, as well, the party structure the Republicans have has proven far more energetic, efficient and engaged than the local Democratic Party. Republicans have proven far more effective at raising money than the Democrats and have more experience and are therefore more accomplished in employing the money they have to run convincing and targeted campaigns – using newspaper ads and both television and radio spots, billboards, handbills, mailers, phone banks as well as to conduct polls and door-to-door voter appeals – to drive Republican voters

to the polls and wage efforts against their Democratic opponents. At present, four of the five members of the county board of supervisors are Republicans and in 17 of the county's 24 municipalities there are more Republican members of the city or town councils than Democratic mem-



**Greg Wallis**

bers.

Wallis is a protégé of Assemblyman Chad Mayes, a former Yucca Valley councilman and mayor who was elected to the California Assembly in 2014. A strident, right-wing Republican whose effectiveness in Sacramento was undercut by his close identification with the GOP, Mayes successfully ran for reelection in 2016, 2018 and reregistered as an independent in 2020, gaining reelection. He chose not to seek reelection in 2022. Wallis affiliated with Mayes through their shared religious upbringings and involvement in conservative political causes.

A graduate of California Lutheran University with a degree in political science, Wallis went to work for Mayes in 2014, at the age of 24. Mayes' bolting from the Republican fold represented for Wallis something of a morale crisis, as he has gone on record as associating Democrats with a lack of morality and common sense, saying many of the party's leadership are pandering to minorities and ultra-liberals. In seeking office, Wallis tried to bridge the gap he had created with Democrats by some of his more provocative statements, saying he will work with those across the aisle for bipartisan fixes to the state's problems.

Wallis, who lives in Bermuda Dunes with his wife, Desiree, is mortified by Holstege's political and personal eclecticism.

Holstege is a graduate of UC Santa Barbara with a law degree from Stanford. She is member of the Gilbert & Bourke Law Firm, where she practices real estate and civil rights law. She is married to the firm's founder, Adam Gilbert, with whom she has a son. Holstege makes no secret of, indeed celebrates, her bisexuality, which advanced her political fortunes in her two successful runs for municipal office in Palm Springs, which is celebrated as "a gay friendly oasis in the California desert" by the element of the community that migrated there because of its atmosphere of tolerance, particularly retired and wealthy homosexuals. Holstege's 2018 election was part of the full makeover of the city in which all five of those on the city council were part of the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Trans/Queer lifestyle.

While identifying herself in that way appears to have boosted Holstege's candidacy on the Riverside County part of the divide in Assembly District 47 in the November 8 election, it had the opposite impact in San Bernardino County.

While some Democratic strategists cautioned Holstege to soft-pedal her bisexual identity in her approach to voters in San Bernardino County, that proved unworkable as one of her most vociferous supporters in the area, Redlands City Councilwoman Denise Davis, herself an openly lesbian politician whose primary election-eering tactic consists of sharp advocacy of inclusiveness in all public affairs, repeatedly drew attention to Holstege as a candidate whose primary selling point was that she was a member of the LG-BTQ movement.

Meanwhile, Wallis's strategists, who had considered using Holstege's bisexual identification against her in San Bernardino County, did not need to do so, as Davis's efforts on behalf of Holstege did that for him.

In June, Holstege, competing against Wallis and Republican Gary Michaels and Democrat

Jamie Swain, had polled 43,711 votes or 50.02 percent of the vote in Riverside County. Wallis claimed 27,241 votes or 31.17 percent in Riverside County in June. Michaels in Riverside County had captured 9,631 votes or 11.02 percent and Swain brought in 6,807 votes or 7.79 percent. In June in San Bernardino County, Wallis captured first place with 10,755 votes or 47.4 percent to Holstege's 7,478 votes or 32.87 percent, while Michaels collected 3,085 votes or 13.6 percent and Swain received 1,393 votes or 6.14 percent. Thus, in June, Holstege had proven overall in the district to be the top vote-getter with 51,189 votes, ahead of the second-place Wallis, who had 37,996. Together as Democrats in June, Holstege and Swain had 59,389, while Wallis and Michaels as Republicans boasted 50,712. Moreover, in June, overall in the district, Democrats outperformed the Republicans 53.94 percent to 46.06 percent.

Exit polling after the November election in Redlands and nearby Yucaipa and Highland, in comparison to the results of the June primary election, suggests, political analysts say, Davis's insistence on touting Holstege as a candidate in favor of what many in the heartland of San Bernardino County consider to be an "alternative lifestyle" was the difference in the November race, and the bare 85 votes that separated Wallis from Holstege and tipped the race in Wallis's favor.

Holstege appeared to acknowledge as much with a series of tweets she made on December 12.

"No openly bisexual woman has ever been elected to the California Legislature, and while we fell short, we came closer than any candidate ever has to breaking that glass ceiling," she tweeted. "We've learned, once again in 2022, we can never take a woman or an LGBTQ candidate winning a race for granted, since the barriers to our success are still very much real."

Nevertheless, Holstege was relatively upbeat in assessing what her campaign had accomplished.

"The votes have all been counted, and it is clear that by the very thinnest of margins, we have fallen just short of victory, coming the closest this district has ever



**Christy Holstege**

come to electing a Democrat to the State Assembly," she stated. "With slightly better turnout, we would have flipped this district blue. I called Greg Wallis this morning to congratulate him, and expressed to him that I hope we can work together these next two years to deliver measurable results for our communities. I am grateful for each and every one of our supporters for the passion and commitment that you brought to this campaign. I'm proud of the nearly 85,000 votes we earned in this race and I'm grateful to voters for responding to our message, caring deeply about the issues we highlighted, and participating in our democracy. The close margin shows that every door you knocked on, every call you made, every grassroots donation, and everything we did together made a difference in this extremely close race. If anybody ever tells you their vote

doesn't count, tell them about this Assembly race that was decided by just 85 votes. Our democracy depends on everyone participating and voting like their rights and their futures depend on it."

Wallis on December 8 put out this statement on Twitter, "With today's certification in San Bernardino County, all of the ballots in the 47th Assembly District have been counted and we've seen the democratic process through to its end. I'm honored that the people have elected me to represent our community. Now it's time to roll up our sleeves and get right to work. The governor has initiated a special session, and the legislature has already convened and started organizing. I'm excited to get to Sacramento right away and represent all constituents of our district."

Wallis stated, "Thank you to everyone who supported our campaign. As promised, I'll work with anyone with good ideas – Democrats, Republicans and independents – to make real changes that make life more affordable, with more opportunity for everyone."

While the rest of the members of the Assembly elected in November were sworn in on December 5, because of the lack of certainty about the outcome in the 47th Assembly District and San Bernardino County not certifying the election until December 8, Wallis's installation was delayed until Monday December 12.

-Mark Gutglueck

## Water Replenishment Fees Threatening Viability Of Trona Mining Company

from page 3

in 1926, at which time its major products were borax, soda ash and sodium sulfate. Productions of these chemicals continued to expand throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and the company experienced a resurgence during World War II.

In 1962 the company received nationwide recognition and an award for its innovative solvent

extraction process to recover boric acid and potassium sulfate from weak brines.

In 1967, Kerr-McGee Corporation (now a subsidiary of Anadarko Petroleum Corporation) acquired American Potash and Chemical Corporation and it operated the Searles Valley facilities until 1990. That year the operations were purchased from capital investors D. George Harris and Associates, resulting in the formation of the North American Chemi-

Continued on Page 12



## Tejeda Says He Considers Davis's Assertion That The Redlands Council Consists Of Domineering Heterosexual Men To Be A Personal Attack *from page 10*

along with the rotation, but I just don't like the one year [term]." Barich said there was a learning curve to being mayor and it took him time to assimilate the responsibilities and duties he had as mayor.

Davis said she would reluctantly accept a two-year term if that was the only way to establish having a rotational mayor.

"I'm trying to get a compromise to get us something better than what we have right now," she said. "There's an unexpected, ambiguous process that we have for selecting the mayor and mayor pro tem. It's often been biased. It's often been based on backroom conversations. It's a surprise to some people and it's just not fair to the council and public. I think we all deserve a clear, transparent process for who's next in line."

It appeared to some that Davis was militating to get the one-year term in place to speed up her ascendancy into the mayoral post. Tejeda remarked upon that, pointing out that he had abided for the entire time he was on the council by the two-year mayoral term and that now that he was mayor, Davis was seeking to change the rules and limit the time he would be mayor to a single year.

"I was here in 2016 and served my time," Tejeda said. "2018 came around. You were selected the mayor pro tem through that same process. We all supported that because it was something special that happened, right? There was a special moment in the history of our community, and we supported you. We said, 'You know what? Yes. You can be the mayor pro tem.' At that point it was either my turn or Councilmember Barich's turn. You were arguing about the process being shady and all this other stuff. It's not shady. There's a reason why whatever happened today happened. We judged –

all of us up here – who would be the better fit to be the mayor."

Davis retorted, "Not all of us."

"Is it my turn?" Tejeda asked. "Yes or no? According to seniority, is it my turn?"

Begrudgingly, Davis said, "According to seniority, yes."

"That's what your model was based on, correct?" Tejeda asked.

"There's a number of ways," said Davis, "but that's not what happened tonight."

"It isn't," said Tejeda. "But you were already mayor pro tem, correct?"

"I was, but I didn't become mayor," responded Davis. "I'm saying this is not a good system. We can have a better system."

Tejeda said, "Okay. So, I will divulge why I was not supportive of you being mayor, if that's okay."

Davis said, "I don't think that is relevant. We're talking about process. This doesn't need to be personal."

"You are making it personal in that you're shaming us for being men and having control of what's going on up here," Tejeda said, asserting that there was no chauvinistic male conspiracy to limit the leadership opportunities of others. "That's not what's happening. It's only a question because someone is asking us to consider the question [of whether the traditional mayoral selection process is unfair]. It was a question in 2020, and I thought, 'Okay.' We all spoke our piece on it and then it was more shaming us for being men controlling the system. That's what it was. And I thought, 'Wow! Seriously?'"

Davis said, "I'm definitely not shaming anyone for being a man."

"I feel shame for being a man, the way you were speaking," Tejeda said. "I have a right to feel that way, based on what you were saying."

Saucedo asked, "Who

will make the determination on what district this rotation starts on?"

Davis indicated she was no longer advocating that the rotation run from District 1 to District 2 to District 3 to District 4 to District 5.

"It's not a district rotation," she said. "It's based on seniority, continuous years of service on the council."

Tejeda expressed the view that Davis's fight for inclusion favored the inclusion of one subset of society over another subset of society.

"The north side of this community has waited a long time to have a council member followed by a mayor to represent our side of town since before I was elected," Tejeda said.

In Redlands, the north side of the city is less affluent than its south end. The north side is more heavily populated with Latinos than the other parts of the city.

"The last person to be elected from north Redlands was actually a relative of our deputy [police] chief, [Travis] Martinez, way back when," Tejeda said. "I didn't hear any talk about equity about the Latino community being served, how many Latinos have served on

the city council. It's always one sort of way to look at it. You can look at equity a lot of different ways. It isn't fair for my constituency, who has always cried, 'There are southsiders controlling our destiny in Redlands and nothing on the north side.' That's why I'm speaking out. It's important for us to have that two years. If two years is good for you, I'll support what you've got right here [i.e., the rotational mayor system], because that's what everybody else has served. Councilmember Barich served two years. Before that it was other councilmembers. We've had, yes, three ladies who have served on the city council as mayors. One of them served three consecutive two-year terms [as mayor] because her colleagues decided she was best fit for the job. That's how it used to work until somebody had an issue with that. I want to do this peacefully. I would hope you guys would understand where I'm coming from with this and respect the fact that our district, District 2, has not been represented. Please respect the fact that everyone else has had the opportunity to serve two years, and that is why I support that

everyone who is going to serve in this capacity has two years. I can tell you that if it stays this way, your term will be next, Councilmember Davis. I'm sorry that other people feel there's some shady business going on back there," he said, pointing to the meeting room where the council meets in closed sessions, "but that's just not the case. For that to be implied hurts me. I have to stay quiet, because if I open my mouth, it's like, 'Shame on him for saying that.' I should be able to speak my piece and my truth. I've waited up here on that side of the dais for quite a long time, just like everybody else."

Councilwoman Guzman-Lowery said she believed the rotational model offers a means of "preventing less transparent ways of making decisions. What is being referenced in terms of tonight's feeling of being blindsided is it is evident decisions get made at prior meetings or decisions get made during phone calls and none of us are blind to that. The thing about a rotational model [is it] would create a very transparent and expected process for what comes next."

Tejeda reiterated that

the men on the council had been accused of engaging in backdoor deals, which he said was not accurate. At that point Guzman-Lowery seemed to back off from her suggestion that backroom deals had been or were being made.

"I never used the word shady," Guzman-Lowery said, a tacit admission that Davis, who had used the term, had overstated her case.

Tejeda then pointedly illustrated his objection to Davis's suggestion that he bear the brunt of the reform of the system she was advocating by being the first of the city's mayors in recent memory to be limited to a one-year term. Tejeda said that he would nominate Davis to be the mayor in 2024 and "Once you become the mayor, I would vote for your yearly rotational model."

Ultimately, the council adopted the resolution and ordinance with wording that is to specify that a new mayor be appointed in December of even-numbered years using a rotational system whereby the member of the council with the longest continuing service without having served as mayor is to be appointed mayor.

## Judge Says H<sub>2</sub>O Replenishment Fees Don't Impact Historic Water Rights *from page 11*

entities fighting the joint powers authority over the principle of suspending previously existing water rights.

The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority brought identical motions to dismiss Searles Valley Minerals and Mojave Pistachios claims that the authority's adoption of a replenishment fee to fund implementation of its groundwater sustainability plan, as is required under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, would effectively deprive them of water they have established rights to and would thereby result in damages to them quantified in the amount of \$250 million.

Judge Cluster granted the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority's motion to dismiss the Searles Valley Minerals, Inc.'s and Mojave Pistachios LLC's claims.

Both companies' water rights yet stand, Judge Cluster ruled, meaning they are allowed to use water in the quantities they have historically, as long as they stay current on the replenishment fees imposed by the authority.

"Nothing in the groundwater sustainability plan determines or alters groundwater rights because the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act says the groundwater sustainability plan, etc. do not determine or alter groundwater rights."

According to James Markman, who is serving as special counsel to the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, "This puts to rest a claim that has been made for years that the authority has been taking away private property rights. The court found that contrary to the assertion of both Searles Valley Minerals

and Mojave Pistachios, the authority did nothing to unlawfully 'determine or alter water rights.' We hope that this decision puts that claim to rest once and for all."

Garner, Dunn and Mouawad maintain that Judge Cluster's ruling will impose a severe hardship on the companies, resulting in the collection of back unpaid replenishment fees from their delinquent clients in the millions of dollars of fees to be collected in the years going forward.

Markman stated the intention of the authority to do just that, saying, "The board has directed us to seek immediate payment of all unpaid fees from all delinquent parties. We intend to seek the court's cooperation in that regard in the new year."

-Mark Gutglueck