

With \$120M+ Diversion Of H₂O Funds Yet Unresolved, Ontario Ups Utility Rates

By Mark Gutglueck

The Ontario City Council this week imposed on its constituents a 6.67 percent water rate hike despite outstanding questions over whether it has adequately addressed diversions of what is reported to be \$127.6 million from the city's water operating and capital improvement/facilities maintenance funds for the years running between 2008 and 2021. Over the

last five weeks, as they were moving toward upping the amount of money Ontario residents and businesses will pay for the elixir of life, Ontario city officials have assiduously avoided explicitly addressing precisely how much of the money within the city's water utility division was loaned or otherwise transferred to the city's operating budget during the 13 years in question. This week, when

confronted directly with requests to quantify the amount of water division money that was used to shore up the city's general fund for well over a decade and how much of that money had been returned, despite Mayor Paul Leon's promise Tuesday evening that City Hall would make that clarification, by press time today city officials have not yet done so.

The issue at hand is

not entirely the interfund transfers, which while significant, are not unheard of. Rather, it is that city officials are unwilling to fully acknowledge or quantify them, particularly in a situation in which they are calling upon the city's residents and the consumers of the water provided by the municipal utility department to essentially pay for the upkeep of the system that otherwise would have been pro-

vided for by the money which has been diverted.

Cities keep separate and independent accounts for their general fund, defined as a city's general operating account and its so-called special purpose funds. Special purpose funds include enterprise funds such as water, sewer or sanitation funds, which are used to operate the city's utility divisions which provide, i.e., sell, services to the **See P 4**

\$4M Judgment Against SBCUSD Over Assistant Police Chief's Vehicular Negligence

The San Bernardino City Unified School District has sustained a \$4.348 million judgment in a lawsuit brought against it by a woman injured in a traffic accident when the district's assistant police chief, Stephen Donahue, rear-ended her.

According to proof presented at trial in June, LaWanna Martin-Brown had to undergo a total

knee replacement when a department-issued car driven by Donahue in after-work hours, while he was either driving home or to a baseball game, slammed into her vehicle.

Donahue was deemed to be at fault in the accident.

In nineteen days of trial proceedings before Judge Corey Lee, including scheduling and jury

selection in May and June, Michael Geoola, Chantly Geoulla and Marine Khachoyan represented Martin-Brown while Ryan Miller represented both the San Bernardino City Unified School District and Stephen Donahue and Jeffrey Haynes provided additional representation for the San Bernardino City Unified School District.

It took until May 25, the eighth day of proceedings, to impanel a jury.

Opening statements for the plaintiff were presented on the ninth day of trial on May 30.

There was testimony or presentation of evidence, including the playing of video depositions, on May 31, June 1, June 5, June 6, June 7, June 8, June 12, June

13 and June 14, with the Jury engaging in deliberations on June 15 and again on June 20.

A special verdict was filed June 21 with a finding that Donahue was negligent, and that Donahue's negligence was a substantial factor in causing harm to Martin-Brown and that Stephen Donahue was acting within the scope of his employment **See P 15**

Rialto Residents Launch Effort To Second Guess Council With Referendum To Rescind Warehouse OK

Two separate votes earlier this year by Rialto councilmen Andy Carrizales, Ed Scott and Rafael Trujillo to divide the Pepper Avenue Specific Plan finalized in 2017 into two separate areas and add to its permitted uses light industrial zoning so that a 735,185-square foot warehouse/distribution center have sparked con-

trovery that refuses to go away.

The two members of the council who opposed that action – Mayor Deborah Robertson and Joe Baca Sr. – made statements and contacted officials about the location of that warehouse and its proximity to the home in which Carrizales lives, ultimately triggering an official complaint by a

Rialto resident, Lupe Camacho, to the California Fair Political Practices Commission, alleging Carrizales had a conflict of interest in voting upon the warehouse project as it carried with it the possibility of impacting the value of his property.

After an investigation into the matter by Christopher Burton, the acting chief of the Fair **See P 8**

County Subsidizing Two Deputy Sheriff Positions In Adelanto

With one former Adelanto City Councilman sitting in federal prison and his erstwhile colleague as mayor awaiting sentencing, both based on their efforts to profit from their city's transition to a cannabis-based economy which they championed, federal officials are at a loss to understand why San Bernardino County of-

ficials are now subsidizing the city's operations despite current officials' insistence that they allowed City Hall's once discredited marijuana-based revenue enhancement ploy through because it would cure the city's financial woes.

There being no question that the past generation of Adelanto's politicians were on **See P 3** and paramedical services), accompaniment to medical appointments, and protective supervision for the mentally impaired.

"Caregivers are essential to the health and well-being of seniors and disabled adults," said Myette Christian, acting executive director of IHSS Public Authority. "The care they provide can al- **See P 3**

In Home Human Services Need Caregivers For County's Most Vulnerable Populations

Seniors and disabled adults throughout San Bernardino County are in need of caregivers.

San Bernardino County In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Public Authority is recruiting caregivers to provide personal care and domestic services that will allow seniors and disabled adults to remain in their homes.

Caregiver applicants

will be screened and registered in the IHSS Public Authority Registry database and matched with a senior or disabled adult to deliver in-home support services. The types of services authorized through IHSS are housecleaning, meal preparation, laundry, grocery shopping, personal care services (such as bowel and bladder care, bathing, grooming



In The Chino Valley Unified School District, Where Religiosity Leaves Off And Educational Policy Begins Is Hard To Discern from front page

a school setting from the parents of those children. At its April 7 meeting, the Chino Valley Unified School Board took up consideration of a resolution to endorse Essayli's bill. The item brought hundreds of students, former students, parents and other interested community members to the meeting to express their support or opposition for the resolution as proposed as well as their support or opposition to Assembly Bill 1314. Because of an over-capacity crowd, not everyone who had shown up was allowed into the meeting chamber and at least some of those who wanted to address the board on the topic were unable to be heard. Ultimately, the board voted 4-to-1, with Na, Cruz, Monroe and Shaw, who is now serving as board president, prevailing. Board Member Bridge cast the sole dissenting vote. A week after the board's vote, AB 1314 died a quiet legislative procedural death when Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi, a Democrat and the chairman of the Assembly Education Committee, declined to set a hearing date for the bill before his committee, such that the bill was not given a chance to be considered by the entire Assembly.

Positions with regard to the concept at the core of Assembly Bill 1314 – that if a governmental entity such as a school district is to accede to the reidentification of a child's gender to something different from that child's biological, birth or previously commonly accepted gender, that the child's parents should be so informed – broke, in general, or so it seemed, along partisan lines. Democrats accepted that students, at least ones as young as 12, should be free to identify themselves using whatever

gender or alternate gender description they chose while interacting among their peers and with school authorities such as teachers and administrators but should be at liberty to declare that their privacy extended to their relationship with their parents. Republicans, or most Republicans, were unaccepting of assertions that a student could publicly identify in one form and maintain a fictional persona at home.

The Republican skepticism over entrusting to a child, an individual of less than the age of majority who does not have the power to enter into a contract and for whom his or her parents are legally responsible, with the right to withhold from his or her parents his or her gender reidentification paralleled, for the most part, the general degree to which Republicans have been less accepting of transgenderism, gender fluidity, gender ambiguity, homosexuality and similar alternate approaches to sexuality than have been Democrats.

The Chino Valley Unified School District, which covers the Chino Valley at the extreme southwest end of San Bernardino County and straddles the communities of Chino and Chino Hills, has in the past proven to be a hotbed of rightward politics. In that respect, the district has embraced fundamental Christian ideology more so than outright Republicanisms.

Curiously, both cities have more voters registered as Democrats than Republicans. In Chino Hills, 17,147 or 36.3 percent of the city's 47,294 are registered as Democrats, while, 15,996 or 33.8 percent are Republicans, with the remaining 29.8 percent unaligned with any party or members of the American Independent, Green, Libertarian, Peace & Freedom or more obscure political parties. In Chino, the Democrats are even more overwhelmingly in ascendance, as 20,218 or 40.7 percent of the city's 49,654 voters are Democrats and 15,122 or 30.5

percent are Republicans, with the 28.8 percent that make up the difference either unaffiliated or registered with the much smaller parties.

Since its founding in 1991, the Calvary Chapel Chino Hills, founded by Pastor Jack Hibbs, has steadily grown. Hibbs evinces a denominationalist attitude, which holds that Christians have a duty to take over public office and promote their religious beliefs. It was not until the very early 2000s that Hibbs felt his congregation had accrued a significant enough membership to make any real inroads on the political scene, which in any case, he understood would have to be at the local rather than state or national level, at least initially. Significantly, as well, Hibbs efforts at influence in this regard, or at least his most successful ones, were with the Chino Valley Unified School District rather than the Chino or the Chino Hills city councils.

In 2006, Sylvia Orozco, the first of Calvary Chapel's parishoners was elected to the school board. In 2008, James Na, a second member of the faithful from Calvary Chapel, was elected to the board. In 2010, Orozco was reelected and in 2012, Hibbs achieved a religious trifecta with Na's reelection and the election a third member of his congregation, Andrew Cruz.

Two years previously, with Na's and Orozco's assistance, Hibbs in 2010 successfully lobbied the school board to include Bible study classes, through an extension of his church known as the Watchman Industry, as part of the district's high school curriculum.

With the addition of Cruz to the board, Hibbs' was able to assert even further control over the tenor of education in the Chino Valley. With Orozco, Na and Cruz in ascendancy at the school board meetings, the benedictions at the beginning of the meetings which accompanied the pledge of allegiance which had always been

tolerated soon gave way to prayer and in time the prayer grew into outright evangelism.

In 2014, the Freedom From Religion Foundation of Madison, Wisconsin filed suit in Federal Court in Riverside against the district on behalf of two named plaintiffs, Larry Maldonado and Mike Anderson, and 21 unnamed plaintiffs who asserted they were alienated or intimidated at school board meetings because of the insistence of some district officials to engage in so-called Christian witnessing, including "prayers, Bible readings and proselytizing." A push was on to remove religion as a guiding element of the educational principle in the district's schools. Ultimately, a ruling on the Freedom From Religion Foundation lawsuit by Federal Judge Jesus Bernal resulted in overt religiosity and proselytizing within the district's schools being eliminated. In 2018, this trend picked up steam when Orozco did not seek reelection and Christina Gagnier and Joe Schaffer were elected and thereafter joined with Board Member Irene Hernandez-Blair to form a board majority that countered Na and Cruz in their philosophy that the district's educational mission could be merged with an effort to have the district's students accept Jesus Christ as their personal savior. Following the 2020 election, however, when Hernandez did not seek reelection and was replaced by Don Bridge and both Na and Cruz were reelected and the 2022 election when Sonja Shaw replaced Gagnier and Schaffer did not run and Jon Monroe was elected to the board, the religious right had once again taken over solid control of the district board.

Chino Valley and in particular the Chino Valley Unified School District therefore appeared to be fertile ground for an alternate approach Essayli advocated in the aftermath of Assembly Bill 1314's inability to get out of committee,

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which was to institute similar or identical requirements at the local level.

"While Democrats have the votes to kill my bill in Sacramento, they do not have the votes to suppress parents' voices at the local level," Essayli said. He called upon parents and others who support the concept of involving parents in guiding their children through their adolescence to encourage local school districts to enact policies to achieve the goal of Assembly Bill 1314. With the strong rightward leaning of a large number of parents of the students who attend school there, the Chino Valley Unified School District was the first district in the state to give a directive to staff to place an item before them would create a directive and requirement that district employees adhere to the terms of Assembly Bill 1314 such that they are required to inform parents that their children are identifying as a gender different from the one designated on their birth certificate.

With the issue set to play out in Chino, those allied with on both sides prepared to, and did, descend on Don Lugo High School last night, seeing it as some sort of ideological battleground where the flag had to be shown. Intermixed with residents from Chino and Chino Hills were individuals and groups of people who had traveled substantial distances, including some who had come more than 400 miles, to be there that

evening.

As no fewer than four outside videographers were in place to memorialize the proceedings, it was recognized that the meeting might well turn into a forum that might greatly influence mainstream perceptions on the topic of transgenderism.

From the start of the meeting, even prior to the item of interest that had drawn so many to the meeting being heard, the crowd in attendance was unruly. Board President Sonja Shaw appealed for calm and for those present to restrain from, yelling, cheering, jeering and applause.

"The meetings are known to unfortunately get a little heated and people are yelling or saying things out loud," Shaw said. "We want to keep you all in this meeting. We want to hear everybody, so I ask that you respect each other, you listen, like how we teach our children to listen, and to respect and not to yell out. Please be careful with even the applause. I don't want to have to hammer an applaud because it is getting out of control. Any chanting, yelling – please keep that out of here. This is a meeting. We would appreciate if you guys could just literally respect each other regardless of your differences."

Immediately thereafter, during that portion of the meeting reserved for public comment from those representing the district's teachers she called Associated Chino Teachers employees

Continued on Page 5

Hassija Gets California State University San Bernardino Social Science Dean Post

Following a national search, Christina Hassija has been named dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (CSBS) at Cal State San Bernardino. Hassija will also hold an academic appointment as a tenured full professor in the Department of Psychology.

"I am honored to serve as dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and eager to continue my ef-

forts to foster a culture of collaboration and support that empowers the success of CSUSB's students, faculty and staff," said Hassija, who was officially appointed July 1. "As a CSU alumni and educator with deep passion for ensuring equal opportunities and fostering the success of first-generation and diverse college students, I look forward to working collaboratively to foster a

transformative learning environment that allows our students to break barriers, thrive and open doors to a brighter future."

Hassija has held several leadership positions since joining CSUSB in 2013. Most recently, she served a one-year term as interim dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, where she oversaw 10 academic departments

and two schools, and provided administrative leadership to 11 research centers and institutes. Previous leadership positions have included chair for the Department of Psychology, director of the Office of Student Research, and director of the Community Counseling Center.

Among her accomplishments were the development and launching of the CSBS Student

Success Center, expansion of opportunities for faculty development, creation of the CSBS Dean's Student Advisory Board to channel student voices, and increased student participation in research by more than 100 percent. She has authored dozens of publications and is the scholar support coordinator for a \$1 million Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program grant.

"My vision for the future is to inspire, empower and nurture our students and faculty alike, cultivating a thriving academic community," she said. "Together, we will shape the next generation of leaders who will actively engage with our local and global community to address societal challenges, foster community development, and promote

Continued on Page 8

Despite Three Generations Of Adelanto Politicians' Commitment To Swelling The City's Coiffers By Making It The "Marijuana Capital Of California," Adelanto Can't Pay Its Bills *from front page*

the take from the marijuana industry that has now come to flourish in the 37,868-populations city, suspicion has now fallen on the current crop of elected officials running the city. Currently, with members of the board of supervisors and the county sheriff coming in to prop up municipal operations in Adelanto that should, based on the hefty marijuana sales and profit being achieved by the companies functioning there and the permits, fees and taxes those entities should be paying to put the city well into the black, DEA and FBI agents, to say nothing of members of the U.S. Attorneys Office, are wondering what the hell is going on.

Jermaine Wright, who was first elected to the Adelanto City Council in 2012, working with Richard Kerr, who was elected mayor in 2014, and John Woodard, who was elected to the council in 2014, were able to use the pretext of Adelanto's tenuous financial circumstance to justify the bold move of defying the predominant ethos in San Bernardino County at that time, which had, with a lone exception, held the line against marijuana liberalization.

The passage of 1996's Compassionate Use of Marijuana Act, Proposition 215, had allowed those with a medical

prescription to obtain and use marijuana for palliative and prescribed medical use. Nevertheless, from the time of the Proposition's passage until 2012, not one of San Bernardino County's 24 municipalities nor the county itself would license a dispensary where medical marijuana could be purchased. Nor would any of those governmental entities permit the cultivation of marijuana to supply dispensaries or users. In 2012, the City of Needles, located at the county's easternmost extreme on the shores of the Colorado River, licensed five dispensaries.

Kerr, Woodard and Wright, asserting that a huge profit could be turned by those growing the plant within indoor nurseries and that the city could impose hefty fees on those growers which would create a revenue stream that would cure the city's financial woes, moved to go Needles one better and permit such uses to take place within a specified area of the city's industrial zone. In late 2015, the first day that the city's planning division began accepting applications for such operations, literally scores of applicants flooded into City Hall, dozens of whom were bearing briefcases stuffed with cash. The graftfest was on.

With 2016, the count-

down toward the November passage of the Adult Use of Marijuana Act, Proposition 64, began. With that, Adelanto went from merely allowing nurseries grow marijuana to allowing dispensaries or pot shops to be set up as well as for companies to arrange to deliver marijuana and cannabis products door-to-door, laboratories to be established to refine marijuana into its constituent chemicals, and operations to produce cannabis and marijuana-based products such as liniments and edibles. Kerr arranged to hire a contract economic development director for the city, one whose assignment was to induce businesses, primarily ones involved in commercial marijuana or commercial cannabis entrepreneurship, into coming into the city. The contract for that economic development director, Jessie Flores, allowed Flores to accept employment or fees from any of the businesses he was negotiating with on behalf of the city. In this way, Flores could be the recipient, legally, of money provided by the cannabis or marijuana companies.

Creative ways of delivering money to Kerr, Wright and Woodard were devised. Woodard, a real estate agent was given fees on brokered deals for property that started out outside the areas zoned for commercial cannabis or commercial marijuana activity but eventually ended up inside those expanded zones. Wright received payments in cash and

other forms. Kerr was provided with checks from a lawyer that were intended as payments for a future lawsuit settlement and his wife set up an unregistered charity which was the recipient of envelopes stuffed full of cash passed to her while she attended city council meetings.

Ultimately, Wright went down when in 2017 he accepted money from an FBI agent masquerading as a businessman looking to set up a marijuana distribution business in Adelanto who paid him \$10,000 in marked \$50 bills in exchange for his assurance the city's regulators would not trip his company up. He was removed from office in early 2018 and was convicted in June 2022 and is now serving a five-year prison sentence.

In 2018, the FBI conducted a series of raids at Kerr's home, office and City Hall, creating a degree of bad publicity for him and which, because of the close affiliation he and Woodard had with Wright, resulted in him and Woodard being voted out of office that year. Before that occurred however, he and Woodard succeeded in elevating Flores from contract economic development director to the position of city manager.

Early this year, Kerr accepted a conviction of accepting more than \$57,000 in bribes and kickbacks in approving ordinances authorizing marijuana cultivation, transportation, and commercial sales in the city and ensuring his bene-

factors would obtain licenses or permits for cannabis businesses. His sentencing, which was scheduled for May, has been delayed.

The forced departure of Wright in early 2018 and the voters' removal of Kerr and Woodard in November of 2018 did not, as many anticipated and Kerr's and Woodard's political opponents in 2018 suggested it would, result in the city's abandoning of the effort to generate revenue by licensing and permitting a wide venue of marijuana/cannabis businesses in the city. The newly elected mayor who replaced Kerr in 2018, Gabriel Reyes, and the two council members that replaced Woodard and Charlie Glasper, the other councilman displaced that year, Steevonna Evans and Gerardo Hernandez, were greeted by Flores, the city manager, who was able to convince them that the economic game plan that Kerr, Wright and Woodard had formulated and was at that point coming to fruition should be given the opportunity to fully manifest to create the economic reward that the city had been working toward for more than three years. California was on the cusp of a huge social transformation, which included the acceptance, as had been proven more than two years earlier by the passage of Proposition 64, of the use of marijuana as an intoxicant and social lubricant no different than alcohol, he told them. Adelanto was about to get in on

the ground floor of California's grand marijuana-fication and it would be foolish to abandon the progress the city had made in putting itself into the position of advantage it held at that point, he said. Persuaded by the arguments of over a dozen business interests that likewise had a whole lot riding on Adelanto pushing ahead with Kerr's 2016 statement to make Adelanto "the marijuana capital of California," the new council decided to stay the course.

More than four years on, the promised bonanza has not come. Reyes, who was voted into office because of his own suggestions that he was going to rid the city of the corruption that had flourished under Kerr and his cohorts Wright and Woodard, remains in office. He has adopted the belief that Adelanto can transform itself using a marijuana economy, one in which as much as half of the city's municipal revenue comes from licenses and fees and taxes on the growing, refining and sale of marijuana, as well as the manufacturing and sale of cannabis-based products. At this point, Kerr once predicted, Adelanto would be hauling in \$50 million every year by simply hosting marijuana entrepreneurs and cannabis-related commercial establishments. The actual truth is the city's coffers are not seeing as much as one-fifth of that.

The city plays the fi-

Continued on Page 16

Eventually, Under Ochoa's Management, Ontario Ended Its Diversion Of H₂O Money, Fiscal Discipline His Political Masters On The City Council Have Not In All Dimensions Appreciated *from front page*

city's residents. In California, under state law and the State Constitution as well as the California Municipal Utility District Act, cities are restricted from turning a profit on the provision of public utility services but must charge no more than the reasonable amount required to acquire the commodity such as water or electricity being delivered or provide the service such as sewage handling or trash disposal residents require along with the cost of maintaining the infrastructure, appurtenances and the system involved in the delivery of the service.

Modern accounting standards have developed such that local governments have the ability to and are obliged to keep all of its varying funds – from the general fund to the water fund to the sewer fund to the electrical utility fund to gas tax fund passed along by the state, to revenue enhancement funds obtained from voter-passed measures for specific purposes to state or federal grant funds to funds obtained from services rendered to the public to internal funds to asset seizure funds to money used for internal city services dedicated to special policing, special fire protection and suppression, the operation and maintenance of flood and storm protection, specialized recreational programs, special library, special museum and special cultural facility services, the maintenance of parks, the maintenance of parkways, the maintenance of open spaces or facilities in specific neighborhoods or districts supported by levies of fees exclusively applied in those subareas of the city, also know as community facilities districts – in separate and sequestered accounts. In Ontario, which owns and operates an interna-

tional airport, the number of funds it oversees is substantially greater than virtually all other cities in San Bernardino County. The accounting and accounting mechanisms are therefore more sophisticated and more convoluted.

Interplay among and between a local government's different funds are not absolutely prohibited and can take place with certain limitations that are meant to ensure the ultimate integrity of the funds. Loans from one fund to another can be made and sustained as long as the department of the city doing the loaning has the available financial resources within its fund or funds and does not have any immediate need to make use of that money and the department using the money needs the money and will have, or prospectively has, the ability in the future to pay the money back. Generally speaking, those loans are made at an interest rate that matches what is available from California's Local Agency Investment Fund, a collective overseen by California's state treasurer's office which makes low-interest loans among local governmental agencies. By borrowing from itself at a bargain basement interest rate when it has a need for money, a local agency such as a city can spare itself substantial expense on financing costs, most notably interest rates. In making such loans, strict accounting procedures are supposed to be applied and ironclad agreements in place as to the terms and length of the borrowing, as well as the use to which the money that is loaned is to be used.

Thus, surplus money sitting in a city's enterprise account, such as its water division funds kept for water division operations or water system expansion

or maintenance, can be temporarily transferred to another city fund in time of need, pursuant to agreements being put in place ensuring the money is eventually to be paid back with interest. Challenges against a city doing so have been turned back by the California Supreme Court.

In the fall of 2007, following years of predatory lending targeting low-income homebuyers and accompanying free-wheeling speculation in the real estate market by investors who entered the market without any substantial collateral along with excessive risk-taking by global financial institutions, what started as a temporary housing-purchase slowdown turned into a minor panic and then a major panic. A severe contraction in the United States housing market ensued, resulting in an across-the-board collapse in the value of mortgage-backed securities. There followed an international and domestic financial downturn, the latter of which took root at the national, state and local levels. Those economic doldrums would persist for some six-and-a-half years, becoming what in common parlance was known as "the Great Recession." The accompanying diminution in revenue at the state and local governmental levels led to a substantial degree of belt-tightening by cities, which entailed in many cases layoffs, employment contract renegotiations leading to salary freezes or wage and benefit reductions, the decrease in services or other financial fixes.

Among several cities, including Ontario, one strategy applied was borrowing from municipal utility funds and/or enterprise funds. In Ontario, at that time led by then-City Manager Greg Devereaux, the city undertook what was initially planned as a temporary solution to a cash flow problem considered to be fleeting. That remedy consisted of taking money out of its water utility fund to shore up the city's general fund.

This solution was one that was originally intended to last only a short time, essentially just as long as the recession continued. Upon the onset of an economic recovery, the borrowing would end and as the economy normalized, the money that had been taken out of the water department's account would be repaid, or so was the stated intention.

In early 2010, San Bernardino County lured Devereaux away from Ontario to install him as the county chief executive officer, and the Ontario City Council elevated the city's fire chief, Christopher Hughes, to the city manager's position. Hughes, while well-versed in running the fire department, had no real experience in managing a municipality, and the task of overseeing a city as large, complex and variegated as Ontario was a challenge on multiple fronts, not the least of which was maintaining its financial integrity. Initially, the idea had been to keep Hughes in place as city manager just long enough for the city to seek out a municipal managerial professional more accustomed to the intricacies of keeping all of the moving parts of a city in harmonious motion. That effort was sidetracked, and Hughes remained as city manager more than three-and-a-half years. Since he inherited a budget that was dependent upon the augmentations from the city's water fund, Hughes maintained similar arrangements in the 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 budgets prepared under his watch, such that borrowings from the city's water fund to balance the general fund budget became institutionalized. So, too, when then-Assistant City Manager Al Boling transitioned into being Ontario's city manager in October 2013, the city had grown accustomed to using water fund money as part of City Hall's operating budget. Boling continued pulling out at or around \$10 million per year from the water

department to finance basic city operations. Boling lasted four years as city manager, and in November 2017, he was replaced by Scott Ochoa, who had previously been city manager in Glendale.

Under Ochoa, the transfers of money – at an average clip of nearly \$10 million per year – from the water fund to the city's general fund continued. That "borrowing," as it were, was no longer justifiable. The 2007 economic downturn had proven abnormally persistent, lasting until 2013 as measured by some indicators. By 2014, the United States, California and the Southern California Region had shaken off the financial stagnation, and in the public sector, among county and municipal governments as well as virtually all governmental agencies, the healthy revenue levels of 2006 had been restored and in virtually all cases surpassed. Not only had the time to discontinue the transfers out of the water fund come about some four years before Ochoa arrived, but it was high time, as had been intended by Devereaux and the municipal management team that surrounded him in 2008, that the flow of money be reversed such that the city's general fund began to reimburse the city's water utility all of the money that had been taken from it over the course of the previous six years, along with the modest 2.75 percent annual interest that was the Local Agency Investment Fund's standard cost of money when capital was being transferred from fund to fund.

The lack of fiscal discipline in the Ontario bureaucracy that institutionalized under Hughes and flourished under Boling was by that point ingrained. Indeed, Ochoa, who was hired in October 2017 and arrived in Ontario in November 2017, had no idea at all raids on the water fund within the city he had found himself leading had been ongoing for just about a

decade. It was not until he had been ensconced as city manager for several months in the late winter of 2018 while he was looking forward to the framing of the 2018-19 budget that he took stock of the fact that taking money out of the city's water department for use elsewhere was de rigueur in Ontario.

To Ochoa, relatively newly arrived in Ontario, that reality was jarring. Ontario had at that point well above half of a billion dollars running through all of its municipal funds annually, putting it head and shoulders and half of its trunk financially above the next wealthiest city in San Bernardino County. For him, it was exceedingly difficult to understand how the city council could be so nonchalant about ignoring the basic financial requirement that transferences from one city fund to another, in particular a borrowing from a utility as crucial as the city's water system, could go on for as long as it had, entailing approaching what was then \$100 million in shortchanging of the city's water utility, without the initiating of any effort to wind down the fund shifting, let alone refund the depletions.

Yet, at that point, relatively newly arrived in Ontario, Ochoa was not sure enough of his footing to make any major departure from what was traditional in the city he was being entrusted with managing. The reality was he was being provided with a salary of no less of \$320,229, with perks and add-ons of \$31,633 and benefits of \$74,332 for a total annual compensation package of \$426,194. In 2018-19, Ochoa chose not to deviate from the way the city council was long accustomed to operating as the leadership of San Bernardino County's most financially accomplished city and he did not seek to ween Ontario from its slightly less than \$10 million per year addiction to water fund diversions.

Continued on Page 7

Parents Want Access To Their Children's Personifications At School, While Students Who Want To Change Their Gender & Their Supporters Say Those Who Brought Them Into The World Should Be Excluded From That Aspect Of Their Offsprings'

Lives *from front page*

representative Brenda Walker to the podium to speak, a contingent in the crowd cheered and applauded before Walker began to speak.

Expectations that the hearing on the parent notification policy would be an open forum providing a marketplace of ideas was dashed because of the sheer number of speakers, many of whom had come with prepared scripts intended to fit within the board's traditional three minute allotment for each speaker. After the preliminary items on the agenda were dealt with, including hearing public input on issues that were not on the agenda or which, more property, were supposed to not be on the agenda, Shaw and the rest of the board learned that there were 83 people in attendance who wished to address the board on the parent notification policy item. This prompted the board at that point to change the speaking time limit from three to one minute, severely curtailing the prospect of the open public forum allowing for a free-flowing interchange of ideas.

Moreover, the reduction of speaking time from three to one minute created an unintended imbalance to the proceedings, as several of the speakers who had addressed the board previously during the forum for issues not on the agenda had nonetheless taken up the subject of parent notification, and Shaw had permitted them to proceed. Thus, some of those speaking on the topic were able to provide well-articulated statements that had been prepared and even prepared in advance, while others were forced to scrap their longer prepared scripts and virtually extemporaneously seek to conform those messages into a compressed single min-

ute format. While some were able to do so, many found themselves cut off mid-sentence, not being afforded to express what they had come to say because the microphone they were speaking into had been cut off.

Several patterns, with a few notable exceptions or deviations, emerged during the course of the meeting. Members of the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transsexual/queer/plus [LGBTQ+] community, including those residing locally as well as what appeared to be an as numerous support group from outside Chino and Chino Hills, predictably were opposed to the policy. Teachers and teachers unions were opposed to the policy. Democrats, in general, were opposed to the policy. Parents generally were in favor of the policy. Republicans were generally in favor of the policy.

A substantial number of those in favor of the policy gave indication of some element of personal, and in most cases Christian, belief.

Brenda Walker, an employee representative with the Association of Chino Teachers was provided with three minutes and 18 seconds to offer her statement.

"This policy would directly require educators to violate California law, which prohibits such notification with[out] student consent," Walker said. "It would also require many educators to violate their own professional and personal ethics. The policy would be divisive, unnecessary and make many students feel insecure and unsafe at school. We support the rights of the LGBTQ+ community and all the students to feel safe and secure at school. Ensuring that all students are safe is the right thing to do. With this policy, not only will some students feel unsafe, but it will also open the district to

potential legal liability under state and federal privacy laws as well as under California's anti-discrimination laws. Has the board considered the recent ruling by United States District Judge John A. Mendez where the lawsuit demanding that they do to students exactly what this board is proposing was dismissed? And what was the basis for the judge's decision? Protecting students privacy and keeping students safe from being bullied or harassed. Has the board considered the cost of almost certain litigation and how it takes money away from supporting students and puts it in the pockets of attorneys? This is a misuse of taxpayer funds. State and federal funds are to be used for children's education, not a board member's political agenda. Vital attention and discussions regarding school programs and supports for students' academic achievement and other topics that are within the board's purview have taken a backseat to discriminatory policies this board continues to impose against our LGBTQ+ students who are some of the most vulnerable children. What are the repercussions for educators, if any, for noncompliance? Aside from the fact that policy is just wrong, how many notifications will parents get? Will they get a notification from every subject teacher a student has in middle school and high school each year for their whole school career? Is there going to be a centralized pronoun notification database for teachers to check so they aren't tripping over each other and bothering each other with the same parent notification and parents getting multiple notifications? And when do these notifications have to happen? During the class period? Between periods. The constant interruption to the already impacted school day is unimaginable. We urge you to vote no on this proposed new board policy. It's bad for students.

It's bad for educators and its bad for the district and community."

Ben Richards from San Diego told the board he became animated with regard to the issue of transgender advocacy ins schools when the principal at his children's school in the San Diego Unified School District "announced their new elementary school lesbian gay bisexual transgender queer club. I've never been against the club. I just want to know if they showed up to any club for that matter. Why? They're six. They can be having discussions about their sexuality, being a bisexual, sexual attraction. I want to be involved in that. I want to follow up. I'm an involved dad. When I respectfully asked the principal to be notified, they said, "No." I go to my first board meeting down at San Diego Unified, pull up, park, turn the corner and flying over the entrance is a Black Lives Matter flag, Juneteenth and the Trans flag. That's when I knew we had a systemic radical leftist indoctrination problem in our public education system that is so deep any change would be an insurmountable undertaking. The school board ignored me and I was jeered at by the crowd. I couldn't sleep that night because I had one nagging thought in the back of my head. That is: Anyone who wants to hide things from me about my little kids, you're no friend of mine. I felt alone, isolated and afraid. I reached out to neighboring parents groups and they had worse problems than me. I continued traveling around to help, realizing the same bully tactics that some of these districts are doing to them and the same slurs that people call them like Nazi and bigot is the same in every district. I don't want to be here, but they try to hide things from me about my kids and they're doing it to these parents, too. So, come to find out: My story is their story. I'm a veteran and I've become awe struck by

the courage displayed by these parents behind me. They've been slurred, publicly defamed, their jobs and livelihoods targeted and threatened, attacked by ANTIFA in Glendale, targeted by outsiders who seek to usurp their local power, and now they're sued by the governor of California who's going to take one-and-a-half million dollars away from their kids. I'm glad to see [California Superintendent of Schools] Tony Thurmond here. If you want to hide things from parents, that's where we draw the line."

Nick Parra said, "As a student, when I was in first grade, I used to love drawing rainbows. It turns out, as I got older, I was gay. Now, I'm glad my teacher was not forced to bring that to the surface, to bring me out as a child. I loved drawing rainbows, obsessively, for some reason. I am glad that I wasn't forced to come out as a child. A child has that sovereign right to decide to live and be accepted and decide on their own and be accepted. That first grade teacher, Mr. LaCosta. He cared and he just accepted me. I hope that these decisions tonight reflect the professionalism of teachers like Mr. LaCosta, who care, and bridge a connection between teachers, administrators and the parents. And there should be a process."

Agnes Mazur, the mother of two students within the district, said President Shaw and the board majority are tied in with Christian nationalist group Moms for Liberty, which she characterized as a "far right wing anti-government extremist group in favor of book bans," which has targeted or otherwise opposed teacher unions and is against culturally and racially diverse perspectives being taught in schools.

Michelle Carney, the president of the Etiwanda Teachers Association, accused the board majority of being out of step with the district's teachers and representing the district's parents to the

exclusion of the students and the teachers.

Virginia Renteria, wearing a shirt that read "Leave our kids alone," told the board, "I thank you so much for your bravery. You are in your position because we the people have had enough of the garbage. I stand before the Lord. It's obvious that we're looking at a spiritual battle, right now. These demons are after our children. California, like most of America, is dumbing down our kids. Some of the literature that's in our schools, elementary - me, as a manager, I was a manager for over ten years - if I discussed what some of these kids are being approached with, I would be hauled into HR [human resources, i.e., the personnel office] for sexual harassment, and that's an adult. Parents here have had enough. We are standing strong. We are standing proud. And I'll tell you, we are on the right side of this battlefield because the Lord is right there in front of us. We will not back down. I just think that we should be focused more on getting our children better prepared. In Asia, Chino, those kids can outsmart our kids, sadly. We are having some major problems and yet we have some lunatics that come here and fight for individuality of being whatever. I'm not against anything. If you're gay, lesbian, I don't care. That's your choice. If you're a boy, you're born a boy and you want to be a girl, that's your delusion. Don't force the delusion onto us. Just basically, leave our children alone, because this battle is far from being over. It's obvious that we're going to have to have our school board meetings here [at Don Lugo High School's larger meeting facility] every time because we're getting more and more people. More and more are coming out because a lot of parents are shocked at what is going on. They can't actually believe it. I just know we are on the right side of this spiritual

Continued on Page 6

Do You Have Information Of Public Interest? Call the *Sentinel* at (951) 567 1936 The *Sentinel* is always looking for information to inform our readership and keep our readers abreast of newsworthy developments.

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San Bernardino County **Sentinel**

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Philosophical, Ideological & Political Differences Among Officials, Teachers, Parents, Students, Activists & Religious Zealots On Youthful Gender Reidentification Appear Unbridgeable *from page 5*

battle for our kids.”

Linda Frazer told the board that she has “served God, loved God. God made a man and a woman, nothing more, nothing less. To tell children they can be another gender is against God. I do not want to stand before God and say I did nothing to protect children. A man and a woman can procreate. A man and a man cannot. A woman and a woman cannot. A transgendered woman cannot get pregnant. There’s a website Transregret.com. Why? Because transgendered life is not God’s answer. What is a woman? She is created in the image of God. She is a helpmate to her husband and she bears children The devil in the Garden of Eden told Eve the truth along with a lie. The devil has not changed his tactics. Today, the same thing. The devil is behind the lies. The devil is after your children. The Colorado Springs shooter identified as nonbinary. The Denver shooter identified as trans.”

Frazer’s remarks provoked two members of the audience who disagreed with her to yell in response.

Shaw had the police remove both.

Minook Grigorian, an immigrant carrying an American flag to the podium, told the

board, “America is the greatest country and the LGBTQ+IEA crowd has been numerous times chanting, ‘Death to America! Death to Christian Fascists!’ They want to burn the American flag. That’s not American. That’s terrorist talk. That’s evil talk. I will not stand for that. I will fight for my country and for this flag with all my might. Now they want to come after my kids. Oh, no, no. Not the kids. You cannot touch the kids. America has to realize that child slavery, child trafficking, child pornography is all pedophilia. I don’t care how soft words you put it, it is downline pedophilia. If you don’t wake up as parents and fight for our kids... These are our kids, not your kids. I’m fighting for my kids. I have four beautiful daughters in LAUSD and I am fighting for the same thing that these parents are fighting. Leave our kids alone. These are our kids! I get to decide what my kids’ future should be. And if for some God damn reason my children want to be lesbian or gay, that will be up to me to talk to my own kids, not the [L]JUSD, not the school, not the teachers. I should be the one to consult my children. Nobody else has the right to say what I can or cannot teach my

children. Just like I’m not pushing my family values on anybody, I don’t want them to push it on my family. MY family is a Christian-based family and I love my God. And I love my neighbors. We can only be tolerant so much. You cannot expect us to give you my children and you do what you want with them. No! That’s not going to happen. You can be in my sports. You can be in my clothes. You can be in my drinks. You can be in my cars. I don’t care. But you better leave my kids alone. These are my kids. And I will defend my kids, my flag and my country with all the might that I have.”

After the general comment period intended for items not on the agenda was concluded, the board took up the parental notification item. When the public hearing was opened, Shaw extended Tony Thurmond, the California Superintendent of Schools the courtesy of speaking first. As it were, Thurmond’s remarks came after the time limitation on remarks to the board had been reduced from three minutes to one minute.

First elected the California Superintendent of Schools in 2018, Thurmond was a California Assemblyman representing the north East Bay from 2014 to 2018. Prior to being elected to the Assembly in 2014, he was a member of the Richmond City Council and a board member of

the West Contra Costa County School District. It appeared that Thurmond, accustomed to being accorded deference because of his current elected status and previous social, professional and political accomplishments, assumed that the school board would accord him the courtesy of delivering what was an obviously prepared speech. Under the circumstances, however, he was granted no such dispensation and, as the first to speak after the decision to reduce the speaking time, he did not have time to edit or winnow the speech he came prepared to make. He pressed on, seeking to deliver the speech as he had originally intended, replete with flourishes, salutations and dramatic pauses, which, it would turn out, squandered the limited time that he had to deliver the substance of his messages, as Chino Unified Superintendent Norm Enfield, serving as the timekeeper, held each speaker to a strict one minute limit, cutting the microphone off at that point.

“Good evening, madame president, members of the board, parents, teachers students, I stand before you as a proud American, as a man of faith, a son of a veteran who served in Vietnam, who is buried not far from here,” Thurmond began. “I love this country. In addition to being the state superintendent, I am also a parent and I come before you as a parent tonight.

We can debate all of the laws and all of the policies and practices. I ask you to consider this: That nearly half of students who identify as being LBGTQ+ are considering suicide. I ask you to consider this: The policy that you consider tonight not only might fall outside the laws that respect privacy and safety for our students but may put our students at risk because they may not be in homes where they can be...”

At that point Enfield cut off the microphone.

This triggered a telling display of the sharp divide between the two divergent perspectives at the heart of the controversy. When Thurmond realized that his statement was not being amplified, he appealed to Shaw, as chairwoman, “Point of order.”

“I am going to do a point of order, which I learned from a previous board president,” Shaw said. “Tony Thurmond, I appreciate you being here tremendously, but here’s the problem: We’re here because of people like you. You’re in Sacramento, proposing things that pervert children. You had a chance to come and talk to me, Tony. By all means, you had a chance to come talk to me.”

Thurmond, who had left the podium, upon hearing Shaw addressing him directly, once again approached the speaker’s position, seeking to take advantage of Enfield having reengaged the microphone for the next

anticipated speaker.

Shaw personalized the exchange at that point.

“Why was it so important for you to walk with my opponent?” Shaw asked, referencing the 2022 election in which she had defeated incumbent Board Member Christina Gagnier, a Democrat, who up until that point was considered an up-and-coming member of the party who was endorsed by a wide cross section of Democratic establishment figures, including Thurmond. “You are the very reason we’re in this.”

“May I have, as a point of order,” Thurmond said into the microphone.

“This is not your meeting,” Shaw said amidst a din of shouts from the crowd. “You may have a seat, because if I did that to you in Sacramento, you would not accept it. Please sit.”

“May I get a point of order,” Thurmond said.

“You’re not going to blackmail us,” Shaw said. “You already sent us a blackmailing letter on previous things. You’ll not bully us in Chino.”

With a male voice other than Thurmond’s audible bellowing “Point of order” multiple times, Shaw said, “Five minute break,” stood and exited the dais. For a short time, Thurmond remained at the lectern, where the microphone had been turned off. He dialogued with one uniformed school security

Continued on Page 8

With His Reform Of Ontario's Tradition Of Looting Its Water Fund Incomplete & \$127.6M In Diverted Money Unrefunded, Ochoa Is Being Punished By The Council With No Raise While City Residents Are Hit With Steep Water Rate Increases Year After Year *from page 4*

Nor in 2019 with the 2019-20 budget nor in 2020 with the 2020-21 budget, did Ochoa confront his political masters on the city council and strongly suggest that the city end the practice of looting its water department of money that by the rule of law and code of common decency should have been used all along to maintain the infrastructure required to deliver water to the city's residents and businesses.

By 2021, pricked by his conscience and increasingly concerned that if City Hall were to continue rolling the dice with the city's water division money that a convergence of delapidating pipelines, cisterns and contaminated wells, state and federal regulators environmental and financial regulators and plain bad luck could converge on him and Ontario where previously for Ontario and his predecessors as city manager good luck had prevailed, Ochoa let the mayor and city council know that the city could not go on mispending the city's water division money. Summoning up his courage, he told them that sooner or later, and quite possibly sooner, someone with authority and maybe even someone with the power of prosecution was going to take note of what was going on. With Ochoa informing the council more than asking their permission to do so, and by action rather than through dialogue, with the 2021-22 budget, the diversion of water funds under Ochoa's watch and at his direction came to an end, 13 years after it had begun.

While Ochoa succeeded in turning that page in Ontario's history book, he has not made it through the next logical chapter, which is to make arrangements to have the general fund

return the approximately \$127.6 million that was diverted out of the water fund during the 13-year span accompanied by the fair amount of interest that should have accrued over those years as a consequence of those loans.

By his action, Ochoa cut a profile in courage, and he has paid the price. The year he made that move, as the city manager of Ontario, he was being paid \$338,566.16 annually. In the 2020-21 fiscal year, the City of Ontario had a total of \$553,761,426 running through all of its funds. In the current fiscal year, the City of Ontario has more than \$979,000,000 coursing through all of its municipal funds, a near doubling of the amount of money the totality of city operations involved at the time that Ochoa took the water fund diversion tiger by the tail. Yet, the only adjustment made to Ochoa's pay that has been made since that time are two three percent cost of living adjustments made to his basic salary which he is due under his contract. The council has gone into no fewer than five performance reviews of the city manager's performance over the last two years – since he ended the water fund diversions – and have yet to provide him with a salary increase. That, the Sentinel is informed, is the city council's expression of displeasure at the way in which Ochoa sought to impose fiscal discipline on the council with the discontinuation of the water fund diversions.

Moreover, continuing to withhold his raise until a decent interim passes following the controversy over the water rate increase is part of the council majority's strategy to keep Ochoa from actuating the second element of the reform he initiated in 2021: the

refunding of the \$127.6 million with interest.

In 1996, California's voters passed Proposition 218, which imposed a requirement that that voters approve all taxes and most charges levied on property owners throughout the state. In relatively short order, the proposition passed constitutional muster in the courts and was found to apply to fees or rates residents pay for services provided by cities. Nevertheless, the "taxpayer" or "ratepayer" protection found itself bogged down in the procedural process that grew up around it. Governmental officials succeeded in making it so that the approval took place not through a straight up-and-down approval of the tax or fee being applied but by means of a so-called protest vote. Thus, those who would be called upon to pay the fee would be given a signal by the governmental entity or agency or district seeking to up the fee or rates that the increase was being sought, whereupon the residents being called upon to bear the increase would be given a 30-day or 45-day window to lodge – in writing – a protest of the increase. Each protest letter would be counted as a vote against the rate increase. If a ratepayer failed to send in a protest letter, he or she was presumed to have voted in favor of the rate increase. In this way, given the level to which residents in California are ill-informed, apathetic, distracted or otherwise uninterested in such issues, since the passage of Proposition 218 there has never been a successful protest vote against any rate increase proposed in California. The closest any community came to a Proposition 218 blocking or a rate increase was what occurred in Yorba Linda in 2016, which technically was not the result of a Proposition 218 Protest vote but a referendum effort members of that community initiated after the Yorba Linda Water District increased its rates and sufficient number of votes

against it failed to materialize. Thus, Proposition 218 rate increase protest votes everywhere in California are considered to be a formality that districts, agencies, cities and counties must go through when they are seeking to increase utility rates. Upon tallying the number of letters of protest received by an agency's chief elections official and comparing them to the actual number of potential voters, the outcome of these protest elections are determined. Upon the agency's chief election official having declared the results of the election, the board of the agency – a water district or fire district board of directors or city council or county board of supervisors – will then officially vote to impose the rate increase.

This week, at Tuesday night's council meeting, City Clerk Sheila Mautz carried out the formality pertaining to the protest votes of the city's residents relating to trash, sewer and water rate increases the city council was considering that evening.

In particular with regard to the water rates, Mautz said, "We received a total of 15 written protest letters regarding the water rates. A majority protest does not exist for this proposed water rate."

At the meeting, a handful of residents, however, had raised questions about the diversion of water funds to other uses over the years. Despite an abundance of inquires that evening relating to those diversions, Mayor Paul Leon, while inviting comments, stated, "To facilitate the discussion, any questions from the speakers will not be answered during the public hearing. So, it won't be a time to answer that question. You have your three minutes to make a statement."

With the issue put square before the council that evening, which was there in four-fifths strength with, in addition to Mayor Leon, councilmen Alan Wap-

ner, Jim Bowman and Ruben Valencia present and Councilwoman Debra Dorst-Porada absent, Leon invited Ochoa to comment on the issue.

Ochoa spoke gingerly. "As it pertains to the city recovering its overhead costs," the city manager said, "cities that operate utilities like OMUC [the Ontario Municipal Utility Company] have the ability to recover their costs and they are required to document what that process is by way of a cost allocation plan and a rate study, which we have, which we have had."

With three-fourths of the ruling council majority city on the dais with him, Ochoa then finessed the pending question of whether Ontario residents and its utility customers had been deprived of \$127.6 million worth of improvements and maintenance to the city's water system and facilities because of fund diversions to other city departments and uses, such as employee salaries, benefits and pensions during the years 2008 to 2021.

"As time has gone on, especially in California, as the ballot box activism of Prop[osition] 218 and Prop[osition] 26 and other types of direct democracy ballot measures have governed, there has been a very close refinement as to what can be recovered by a city via its utility," he said. "As those standards have changed based on what experts have to say, what courts have to say, so too has the city changed its approach with respect to the cost allocation plan and the rate study, which I would invite anyone who has trouble falling to sleep to pull the rate study that Ratellis did, the cost allocation plan that has been done and be able to peruse them because they reflect the situation that we have before us. The idea of borrowing or any other analogy that might be used, I think is incorrect. The city recovers its costs. The city did recover the costs. The city will continue to recover its costs and we will

comply with the law. That is what we are doing with the last rate plan and what we are doing with this rate plan most definitely."

Following Tuesday's meeting, the Sentinel sought from the city a declaration or clarification as to whether the city – meaning its general fund or other municipal funds – borrowed any money from the city's water fund; how much money the city borrowed from the water fund if that borrowing indeed took place; how much money the city borrowed from the water fund in total; and when, that is, what years, the city borrowed the money from the water fund. The Sentinel thereafter asked for a quantification of how much the city borrowed from the water fund in 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-2021.

Further, the Sentinel asked if the city returned in the last several years any of the money it borrowed from the water fund and for it to quantify how much of the water fund money that the city had borrowed in each fiscal year running 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-2021 had been returned.

The Sentinel made those inquiries in an email sent to Ochoa and electronically carbon copied to the mayor and all members of the city council and the city attorney as well as in an email sent to City Treasurer James Milhiser which was both sent and hand delivered to him at his residence, along with a text message to Mayor Paul Leon.

Those *Sentinel* inquiries prompted no response by press time.

The *Sentinel* made a further attempt to speak directly with Scott Burton, the City of Ontario's utilities general manager, but was diverted to Dennice Raygoza, who

Continued on Page 8

It Appears The \$168,437,597 And Growing That The City Of Ontario Owes Its Water Account Will Never Be Refunded *from page 7*

initially said she would be able to answer most questions about the city's water capital funds. Ray-

goza, however, told the Sentinel she did not have any specific knowledge about loans made from the city's water fund to other municipal funds.

The Sentinel placed eight separate phone calls to Armen Harkalyan, the executive director of the City of Ontario's finance department but was unable to reach him this week.

A highly-placed On-

tario city employee, with knowledge of a wide range of city financials, told the *Sentinel* that the \$127.6 million figure is roughly accurate, but omits some minor transfers of funds that took place at several junctures over the years. The money, the source said, has not been refunded.

Asked why city officials are stonewalling the Sentinel's inquiries

with regard to the \$127.6 million and characterizing earlier Sentinel reporting on the issue as inaccurate, the employee said, "They're tripping you up when you use the word borrowing. It's a matter of semantics. Terms like borrowed and loaned aren't operative. These are interfund transfers."

There are two reasons the money will not be

paid back, the Sentinel was told. First, doing so would obviate the rationale for the just passed rate increase. Second, at this point, based on the most conservative interest accrual formula based upon 2.75 percent annual interest rate over the life of the loans, running 15 years from 2008-2009, 14 years from 2009-2010, 13 years from 2010-11,

12 years from 2011-12, 11 years from 2012-13, 10 years from 2013-14, nine years from 2014-15, eight years from 2015-16, seven years from 2016-17, six years from 2017-18, five years from 2018-19, four years from 2019-20 and three years from 2020-2021, the debt has reached \$168,437,597.

Activists Running Out Of Time To Get Referendum To Rescind Warehouse Approval On The Ballot *from front page*

Political Practices Commission's enforcement division, as well as input offered by Sarah Lang, a Sacramento-based attorney retained by Carrizales, the Fair Political Practices Commission determined that it was Carrizales' mother-in-law and not the councilman, who owned the property in question where he and his family live. In this way, according to the Fair Political Practices Commission, Carrizales has no conflict of interest.

Having shot too high and missed with what turned out to be the spurious allegation against Carrizales, the opponents of the warehouse project remain undaunted. Convinced that the vote by Scott, Trujillo and Carrizales is out of step with the attitude of the community, activists, including ones aligned with Robertson and Baca, a group called Rialto NorthEnd210 and the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice have embarked on an effort to collect enough signatures to put a measure on the March 2024 ballot to give the city's voters a straight up-and-down vote to rescind the 3-to-2 approval of the project.

Quite simply, those activists say, among those Rialto residents who are aware and care, more oppose the 470,000-square-foot warehouse than are in favor of it.

In March 2022, prior

to Baca being a member of the council, the city council first considered the project proposal. Drove of residents, in particular those living within proximity of the proposed warehouse site, turned out to make clear their opposition to the project. A recurrent motif in those complaints was that warehousing is incompatible with the primarily residential nature of the area and once warehouses come in, that change will tip the balance toward more and more "light industrial" and then "medium industrial" uses, either driving the existing homeowners out of the area or subjecting those who remain to living in an environment in which traffic and the presence of semi-trucks powered by diesel engines as well as further industrial uses in which potentially hazardous substances are stored or from which they are transported represent a hazard to their safety and health.

The group is working against a seemingly unforgiving deadline, as it must gather 6,000 valid signatures of city voters by July 27 in order to qualify the referendum for the March 2024 primary ballot.

The 2017 Pepper Avenue Specific Plan called for a commercial center on the property proximate to Frisbie Park and provided no allowance for industrial use. The city seemed to be acting in conformance with that intent, and the City Council confirmed the specific plan as yet operative earlier this year. The planning commission appeared to have shut the door on Orange

County-based Howard Industrial Partners' proposal to construct the 470,000-square-foot warehouse within the Pepper Avenue Specific Plan area when it returned a verdict against the project in keeping with city staff's recommendation. At its April 25 meeting, the city council considered the project. During the public hearing, Tina Brown, Tim Curan, Michelle Sanchez, Gabriela Valenzuela, Efrain Valenzuela, William Jernigan, Reverent Charles, Eduardo Campos, John Peukert, Anita Peukert, Bob Guinness, Frank Montes, Raquel Fuentes, Courtney Smith, Brenda Parker, Zalen Reed, Lupe Camacho, Celia Sarabia, Mirna Ruiz, Marvin Norman and Wilda Calhoun addressed the city council, expressing opposition to amending the Pepper Avenue Specific Plan and allowing the industrial project. After deliberating, however, the City Council abruptly reversed the city's course with regard to prohibiting industrial uses within the Pepper Avenue Specific Plan area and approved Howard Industrial Partners 470,000-square-foot warehouse, with the majority of Scott, Carrizales and Trujillo prevailing in the vote over Robertson and Baca.

That vote was confirmed on June 13.

The controversy over the proliferation of warehousing in Rialto replicates what is going on in nearby cities.

While many local cities are, and have been for some time, in a warehouse development frenzy, some San Bernardino County cities have

come to eschew further warehouse development as, increasingly, some elected officials, local residents and futurists are questioning whether warehouses constitute the highest and best use of the property available for development in the region. The glut of logistics facilities in the Inland Empire has some thinking their numbers are out of balance. In refuting the assertions of the proponents of warehouses that they constitute positive economic development, their detractors cite the relatively poor pay and benefits provided to those who work in distribution facilities, the large diesel-powered semi-trucks that are part of those operations with their unhealthy exhaust emissions, together with the bane of traffic gridlock they create.

Fontana has been so aggressive in building warehouses over the last dozen years that the city's mayor, Acquanetta Warren, is known by those who both oppose and favor warehouse development as "Warehouse Warren." In 2021, California Attorney General Rob Bonta sued Fontana over its affinity for warehouses, forcing the city into a settlement that calls for far greater regulation of the construction of logistics facilities in the city of 214,307. In 2021 and 2022, the cities of Colton, Chino and Redlands imposed a temporary moratorium on the further construction of warehouses in their jurisdictions and the San Bernardino City Council by a five-sevenths majority very nearly did the same in June 2021.

That effort to declare a moratorium on further warehouse construction within the county's largest city failed because the five-sevenths margin of passage was less than the four-fifths vote of a governmental entity's legislative body that is required under California law to impose building moratoria.

There is more than 930 million square feet of warehousing in San Bernardino and Riverside counties at present, with more being built. That includes 3,034 warehouses in San Bernardino County. In Ontario alone, there are 289 warehouses larger than 100,000 square feet. Reportedly, there are 142 warehouses in Fontana larger than 100,000 square feet. In Chino there are 118 warehouses larger than 100,000 square feet, 109 larger than 100,000 square feet

in Rancho Cucamonga and 75 larger than 100,000 square feet in San Bernardino. Since 2015, 26 warehouse project applications have been processed and approved by the City of San Bernardino, entailing acreage under roof of 9,598,255 square feet, or more than one-third of a square mile, translating into 220.34 acres. After Ontario, Fontana, Chino, Rancho Cucamonga and San Bernardino, the city in San Bernardino County with the next largest number of warehouses of more than 100,000 square feet is Redlands, with 56, followed by Rialto with 47. In addition to those 47 larger warehouses, Rialto has another 125 warehouses of under 100,000 square feet. Altogether the 172 warehouses in Rialto encompass over 96 million square feet.

Caregivers Needed *from front page*

- No experience necessary
- Flexible work schedule
- Access to training

low this group of people to remain safely in their homes."

Caregivers are needed throughout the county, but there is a greater need in Chino, Chino Hills, Rialto, Fontana, Yucaipa and Yucca Valley.

For more information on the IHSS program visit <https://publicauthority.sbcounty.gov>. To complete an application visit www.sbcarejobs.com. For more information about the Senior Information & Assistance Program, please call 1 (800) 510-2020.

Hassija *from page 3*

the institution's positive impact beyond campus boundaries."

Hassija completed her bachelor of arts in psychology and master of arts in clinical psychology from Cal State

Northridge. A licensed clinical psychologist, she received her doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Wyoming, an APA-accredited clinical psychology doctoral program.

With Those On One Side Accusing Their Opposites Of Being “Transphobic,” And Their Rivals Responding With Characterizations Of “Perverts” & “Mentally Ill,” A Civil And Rational Resolution Of The Child Transgender Issue In Chino Valley Appears Beyond Reach *from page 6*

officer there and then was approached by another. A third uniformed officer came up to him and lightly touched him on the back of his left arm as a fourth officer came toward him. At that point, the four district security officers essentially formed a two-thirds circle cordon about him. Resignedly, Thurmond walked off.

When the meeting reconvened, the next speaker was Essayli, whose propose legislation had precipitated the district’s consideration of the policy.

“Mr. Thurmond was granted more respect and decorum than I ever have been by the supermajority Democrats in Sacramento. “I introduced Assembly Bill 1314 to have this exact conversation – an open dialogue, to have a legislative deliberative process. They would not even hear my bill because they said it was too hateful without even having a conversation. That’s wrong. But that’s why our founding fathers had the wisdom to create the system of government that we have, where most power is reserved to local governments. We do not have the power to change laws in Sacramento but we sure enough have the power at the local level. We care deeply about every student regardless of how they identify.”

Sunitha Menon, the managing director of operations for Equality California, which she described as the “nation’s largest LGBTQ+ civil rights organization” quoted from a letter authored by Equality California’s executive director Tony Hoang. “Equality California strongly opposes this board policy. The proposal is extremely dangerous and not aligned with recommendations from the California Department of Education. Nor is it aligned with

best practices for supporting students’ success and health. This policy creates a culture of mistrust not only between LGBTQ students. But for all students. By passing a proposal like this one, you are telling students their privacy does not matter and that there is no trust and no support system in the people they see every day. Study after study has shown those students who have affirming environments at school are less likely to miss school, less likely to have depression, less likely to have seriously considered suicide in the past year.”

Max Ibarra said, “This policy is dangerous. 52 percent of trans kids are accepted at school but only 35 percent feel accepted at home. That leaves a large gap there of kids who feel welcome at school but not at home. Feeling safe at school lessens suicide risk. If a student isn’t out to their parents, this shoves them into the closet at school. That’s a miserable place to be. I am tired of the idea that all parents owe and support their children unconditionally. That is not true. There are evil people in this world and some of them have children. Shocking, I know. Some prefer a dead child to a trans child. This is just another link in the chain that is Cruz and Na’s legacy of dangerous agenda items with legal implications that cost this district thousands of dollars that should have been spent keeping students staff. But no! We don’t do that. Instead, CVUSD wastes it here. You can say you care for every student, but it doesn’t change the fact that actions speak louder than words. This action tonight is telling me I don’t belong.

Christy Hurst said “All you are going to accomplish is get this dis-

trict sued, caught up in lawsuits that are going to cost the hardworking Chino Valley residents their taxpayer dollars.

Phoenix Guiza, a senior at Chino High, told the board, said, “This policy is absolutely unnecessary and will cause more harm than good. Outing trans kids before they are ready will cause such harm to them, especially if they know their parents are not supportive. As a member of the LGBTQ community, I know how hard it is to come out as a child. This policy will destroy the lives of kids who should not have to live in fear for being their true selves. Instead of causing this damage to children, you should focus on other things like the special education program. I was in the special education program from first grade all the way up to my freshman year in high school and I can confidently say that it needs to be fixed. Special education kids are often over looked. If you try care about helping kids, you should not pass this policy.

Daniel Mora said the policy was “transphobic.” The recent Chino high grad offered his opinion that “Not only is the school board ignorant but evil, as well. Outing trans kids before they are ready is one of the most dangerous things that anyone can do.”

Oscar Avila said “Our kids are in danger. They’re in danger by groomers.”

Gus Reza said, “I’m for this bill. Children cannot enter a contract.”

Reza said those advocating on behalf of the transsexual children were engaging in “fear-mongering. I’ve heard from people from all over the community.”

He told the board members that they had been “put in place for this community and not Sacramento, not like Tony [Thurmond], not like the activists that have come in here. I can guarantee you most of the people in the gay community here don’t even live in our commu-

nity. There may be a few that are actually a part of our community. The majority of people, for their kids, the parents, are part of this community. You’re representing that. Don’t listen to the outside stupidity, like Tony and everything else that is going on. Listen to your constituents who put you on the board.”

Jessica Tapia told the board, “I was a teacher myself at a nearby school district. Within the past year, they presented me with a directive to withhold information about a student’s gender identify from his or her parents in order to keep my job. I clarified: ‘Are you asking me to lie to parents?’ And they said, ‘Yes. For the student’s safety and privacy.’ I could not understand how I was hired and expected to uphold honesty as my district states on their website but now, all of a sudden, I’m expected to lie. I couldn’t understand when and how children began needing privacy from the very ones who God appointed to protect and care for them. I left that meeting in complete turmoil because I realized that day I could no longer be both a Christian and public school teacher. Then I remembered what Pastor Jack Hibbs taught me, that the word of God says, which is that being a coward is a sin. So, I chose to obey the Lord. I loved my students, but I was ripped from them. They fired me because they could not accommodate my religious beliefs. When I spoke out and said, ‘I will not lie to parents or students or myself. I deeply urge you to vote in parental notification. Children belong to their parents.’”

Amy Davelin said, “It has been said that it takes a village to raise a child. I wholeheartedly reject that notion. It takes parents and a family to raise a child. God specifically grants parents, not a village, with parenthood and it is up to parents to decide how to raise that child and deal with any issues, including dismorphia and other mental illnesses. Why is the

LGBTQ agenda being shoved down the throat of Americans from corporate sponsorships to the government ideological curriculum? And why are we oversexualizing our children? The bottom line is money and vast political power. The left is the party of pedophilia. You cannot prove otherwise. The redline they have crossed is our kids. Tonight’s vote affirms that God’s children are not for sale. Groomers and pedophiles sexualize children and teach them to keep secrets from their parents. Teachers who propagate gender ideology and keep secrets from parents are pedophiles and groomers by nature. In the words of Pink Floyd, ‘Hey, teachers! Leave those kids alone.’”

Darlene Berg, who said she was a “lesbian parent with thriving kids in this district” read a letter from a transgender student which stated, “Firstly, during our last meeting it was mentioned that the intention was not to out us but the intention was to inform our parents about our gender identities. However, if you thing about it, wouldn’t we already have told our parents if we were ready? It’s time that you realize that just because you might be willing to accept and listen to your child, it is not guaranteed that all parents will. Secondly, I want to address the continuous fear and pressure that you are knowingly putting upon all of us transyouth. While you may believe you are doing us a favor by outing us, the truth is we’re constantly in a state of panic, fearing the consequences of being outed. Some of us may even feel the need to hide our identities, which is essentially a form of oppression.”

Scott Carter told the board, “I have taught in this district for 25 years. I attended this school back in the 80s. We didn’t have this problem back then because everybody was hiding in the closet. It’s wonderful to see that our society is more open now and people can ac-

tually be who thy want to be. The problem is you will cause the death of one of our students. This policy will out a student, putting them into a hostile household, which will further their mental degradation to the point where they will harm themselves. All of our previous lawsuits will be nothing at that point compared to this. This policy will kill somebody.”

A woman, who identified herself only as “Misty” said, “It is essential to recognize that parents are the primary caregivers and educators of their children. Our kids are being told they can trust teachers and friends more than their parents and family. This leads to kids questioning our love because of truth that is being twisted while at school. No one is against anyone’s decision to be whatever sexual orientation you choose to be. The world is not against you. What we are against is anyone stepping in and trying to take away our role as parents [and] anyone who is lying to our kids that they love our kids more than we do. If you truly feel suicidal, you need your parents even more. Seek out a therapist. Keeping secrets makes it worse. Lastly, shame on the teachers unions for overstepping their bounds. The last time I checked, the unions were created to protect the employees, making sure they had good working conditions, job protection, fair wages, etcetera. No one hired the unions to tell us how to parent our children.”

Cecil John Howell as a Muslim rejected accusations that Shaw and the board majority were involved in a right wing Christian conspiracy in sponsoring the policy.

“When I was a kid, I hid lots of stuff from my parents,” Howell said. “All the stuff that I hid was stuff I knew I shouldn’t be doing and I am so glad as a grown man that my parents found out about it and corrected me. No one loves my kids more than

Continued on Page 16

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FBN 20230006642 The following person is doing business as: JDS STEEL CONSTRUCTION. 15777 VALLEY BLVD UNIT J FONTANA, CA 92335; MAILING ADDRESS PO BOX 1290 BLOOMINGTON, CA 92316; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO FLEENER CONSTRUCTION INC 15777 VALLEY BLVD UNIT J FONTANA, CA 92335. The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: DEC 19, 2002

FBN 20230006703 The following person is doing business as: GLOWWITHDANIELA. 104 E. STATE ST SUITE A REDLANDS, CA 92373; MAILING ADDRESS 22111 NEWPORT AVE SPC 93 GRAND TERRACE, CA 92313; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO DANIELA MAGALLON-VELASCO 104 E. STATE ST. SUITE A REDLANDS, CA 92373. 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

FBN 20230006698 The following person is doing business as: CAMDAN PACIFIC REALTY. 9431 HAVEN AVENUE SUITE 232 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO RAMDAN PACIFIC, LLC 9431 HAVEN AVENUE SUITE 232 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730 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

Public Notices

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/ DAN AKINS, MANAGER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JULY 03, 2023 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.

FBN 2023006402 The following person is doing business as: VICIOUS TINTZ. 122 S ARROWHEAD AVE SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO LUIS A CORTEZ ZUNIGA 1904 E LYNWOOD DR APT 124 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92404. 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

FBN 20230006583 The following person is doing business as: RAPID CUSTOM TRAILERS AND REPAIR. 17532 VALLEY BLVD UNIT 500 FONTANA, CA 92316. The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JUN 26, 2023 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/ JESUS ESPINOZA, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JUNE 28, 2023 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.

FBN 20230006517 The following person is doing business as: CHILDREN'S RESOURCE NETWORK CENTER. 2048 W 18TH STREET SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92411; MAILING ADDRESS P.O BOX 8822 REDLANDS, CA 92375; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO THE LORD'S HOLINESS RESOURCE CENTER INC.

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2048 W18TH STREET SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92411 The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: AUG 06, 2013 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/ MICHAEL E HARTWICK, CEO Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JUNE 27, 2023 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.

FBN 20230006754 The following person is doing business as: CAMPOS LOGISTICS. 25154 INDEPENDENT PL SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92404; MAILING ADDRESS 311 W CIVIC CENTER DR STE B SANTA ANA, CA 92701; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO UNCULTURED ATHLETIC, LLC 25154 INDEPENDENT PL SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92404; 25154 INDEPENDENT PL SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92404; 311 W CIVIC CENTER DR STE B SANTA ANA, CA 92701. 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

FBN 20230006528 The following person is doing business as: TALIA'S NAIL & SPA. 1546 ORANGE ST SUITE #1546 REDLANDS, CA 92374. 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

FBN 20230006688 The following person is doing business as: HAIR EXTENSIONS BY RUTH STUDIO. 2364 DEL ROSA AVE SUITE B SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92404 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO RUTH A LAGUNES VAZQUEZ 2364 DEL ROSA AVE SUITE B SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92404. 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

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mon law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 07/14/2023, 07/21/2023, 07/28/2023, 08/04/2023 CNBB29202315MT

FBN 20230006603 The following person is doing business as: KAUR CAFE INC. 16635 SIERRA LAKES PKWY #110 FONTANA, CA 92336 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO KAUR CAFE INC 4300 RIMA DR FONTANA, CA 92336 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

FBN 20230006739 The following person is doing business as: IT WORKS. 56202 TACOS TRAIL YUCCA VALLEY, CA 92284; MAILING ADDRESS P.O BOX 168 YUCCA VALLEY, CA 92286; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO LARRY C CATALDO 56202 TACOS TRAIL YUCCA VALLEY, CA 92284. 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

FBN 20230006688 The following person is doing business as: HAIR EXTENSIONS BY RUTH STUDIO. 2364 DEL ROSA AVE SUITE B SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92404 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO RUTH A LAGUNES VAZQUEZ 2364 DEL ROSA AVE SUITE B SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92404. 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

FBN 20230006960 The following person is doing business as: THE CANNABIS CLUBZ. 360 GREENSPOT BLVD BIG BEAR CITY, CA 92314 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO STEPHEN J LEMELLE 360 GREENSPOT BLVD BIG BEAR CITY, CA 92314. 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

Public Notices

ment 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 07/14/2023, 07/21/2023, 07/28/2023, 08/04/2023 CNBB29202312MT

FBN 20230006827 The following person is doing business as: ICARS AUTO SALES, LLC. 1254 S WATERMAN AVE #53 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO ICARS AUTO SALES, LLC 1254 S WATERMAN AVE #53 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408 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

FBN 20230006974 The following person is doing business as: PEPPERTREE LEARNING. 7468 PEPPERTREE LN FONTANA, CA 923367468 PEPPERTREELFONTANA, CA92336 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO SHERRI D MORGAN 7468 PEPPERTREE LN 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: JUL 06, 2023

FBN 20230006960 The following person is doing business as: THE CANNABIS CLUBZ. 360 GREENSPOT BLVD BIG BEAR CITY, CA 92314 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO STEPHEN J LEMELLE 360 GREENSPOT BLVD BIG BEAR CITY, CA 92314. 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

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Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JULY 11, 2023 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 07/14/2023, 07/21/2023, 07/28/2023, 08/04/2023 CNBB29202309MT

FBN 20230006899 The following person is doing business as: DELICE EXECUTIVE PROTECTION. 8780 19TH STREET ALTA LOMA, CA 91701 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO J&D CORP 8780 19TH STREET #452 ALTA LOMA, CA 91701 The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: MAR 24, 2011

FBN 20230006901 The following person is doing business as: VIRTUAL CYBER COP. 8780 19TH STREET ALTA LOMA, CA 91701 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO J&D CORP 8780 19TH STREET #452 ALTA LOMA, CA 91701 The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JUN 21, 2018

FBN 20230006906 The following person is doing business as: ALKALINE WATER MART. 9950 FOOTHILL BLVD STE 1 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730; MAILING ADDRESS 5888 TIMBERMIST PL RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91737; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO BRONEY'S ENTERPRISES INC. 5888 TIMBERMIST PL RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91737 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

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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/GORDONBRONEY.PRESIDENT Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JULY 10, 2023 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.

FBN 20230006908 The following person is doing business as: GORDON'S AUTO SALES. 708 WEST MILL ST UNIT L STE B SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92410; MAILING ADDRESS 5888 TIMBERMIST PL RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91737; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO BRONEY'S ENTERPRISES INC. 5888 TIMBERMIST PL RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91737 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

FBN 20230006857 The following person is doing business as: LIVIN 2 LIVE 365. 17963 PASSIONFLOWER LANE SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO GENERATIONAL ALLIANCE INCORPORATED 15218 SUMMIT AVE STE. 300-107 FONTANA, CA 92336 The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JUL 06, 2023

FBN 20230006941 The following person is doing business as: FORT GREGORY OUTDOOR COMPANY. 722 CEDAR LANE CRESTLINE, CA 92325; MAILING ADDRESS P.O BOX 3423 BLUE JAY, CA 92317;

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the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time...

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#452 ALTA LOMA, CA 91701 The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: MAR 24, 2011...

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County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JULY 10, 2023 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...

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FBN 20230006739 The following person is doing business as: IT WORKS. 56202 TACOS TRAIL YUCCA VALLEY, CA 92284-0003 MAILING ADDRESS P.O. BOX 168 YUCCA VALLEY, CA 92286; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO LARRY C CATALDO 56202 TACOS TRAIL YUCCA VALLEY, CA 92284. 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...

FBN 20230006668 The following person is doing business as: HAIR EXTENSIONS BY RUTH STUDIO. 2364 DEL ROSA AVE SUITE B SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92404 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO RUTH A LAGUNES VAZQUEZ 2364 DEL ROSA AVE SUITE B SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92404. 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...

FBN 20230006827 The following person is doing business as: ICARS AUTO SALES, LLC. 1254 S WATERMAN AVE #53 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO ICARS AUTO SALES, LLC 1254 S WATERMAN AVE #53 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408. 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...

FBN 20230006974 The following person is doing business as: PEPPTREE LEARNING. 7468 PEPPTREE LN FONTANA, CA 923367468 PEPPTREE LN FONTANA, CA 92336 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO SHERRI D MORGAN 7468 PEPPTREE LN 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: JUL 06, 2023...

FBN 20230006960 The following person is doing business as: THE CANNABIS CLUBZ. 360 GREENSPOT BLVD BIG BEAR CITY, CA 92314 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO STEPHEN J LEMELLE 360 GREENSPOT BLVD BIG BEAR CITY, CA 92314. 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...

FBN 20230006899 The following person is doing business as: DELICE EXECUTIVE PROTECTION. 8780 19TH STREET ALTA LOMA, CA 91701 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO J&D CORP 8780 19TH STREET

FBN 20230006901 The following person is doing business as: VIRTUAL CYBER COP; VCC. 8780 19TH STREET ALTA LOMA, CA 91701 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO J&D CORP 8780 19TH STREET #452 ALTA LOMA, CA 91701 The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JUN 21, 2018...

FBN 20230006906 The following person is doing business as: ALKALINE WATER MART. 9950 FOOTHILL BLVD STE 1 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730-0204 MAILING ADDRESS 5888 TIMBERMIST PL RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91737; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO BRONEY'S ENTERPRISES INC. 5888 TIMBERMIST PL RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91737 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...

FBN 20230006857 The following person is doing business as: LIVIN 2 LIVE 365. 17963 PASSIONFLOWER LANE SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO GENERATIONAL ALLIANCE INCORPORATED 15218 SUMMIT AVE STE. 300-107 FONTANA, CA 92336 The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JUL 06, 2023...

FBN 20230006941 The following person is doing business as: FORT GREGORY OUTDOOR COMPANY. 722 CEDAR LANE CRESTLINE, CA 92325; MAILING ADDRESS P.O. BOX 3423 BLUE JAY, CA 92317; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO RYAN J KEHLER 722 CEDAR LANE CRESTLINE, CA 92325. 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...

San Bernardino City Unified School District Adjudged Negligent In Use Of District Vehicle, Costing District \$4 Million from front page

when he harmed Martin-Brown. The special verdict further came to a determination that the district owed Martin-Brown at least \$4,348,238.94, given that she had suffered past economic damages of \$285,189.47, past noneconomic loss including pain, suffering, physical impairment, disfigurement, humiliation, loss of enjoyment of life, inconvenience, grief, fear and emotional distress of \$1.5 million and would undergo future economic damages, including medical costs calculated at \$1,527,860 and would sustain future noneconomic loss of \$750,000.

The assistant chief of police post was created within the San Bernardino City Unified School District under former District Superintendent Dale Marsden at Marsden's suggestion.

Donahue was promoted into the post in June of 2015 from a school police sergeant's position, at which point his salary jumped from \$81,530.53, add-ons/perquisites of \$2,740.00 and benefits of \$23,413.42 for a total annual compensation of \$107,683.95 to \$108,576.32 in salary in the assistant chief's position augmented by \$8,458.60 in perquisites/add-ons along with \$47,376.97 in benefits for what was then a total annual compensation of \$164,411.89. In the 8 years and two months since then, Donahue has seen his total annual compensation grow to \$242,097.36.

Virtually from the time he was promoted by Marsden to the assistant police chief slot, city residents and parents within the district have wanted to see the position he holds abolished, as many perceived a whole host of the administrative posts that came about during Marsden's tenure as being superfluous and unnecessary. Word has spread through the district that Donahue has made frequent use of an unmarked district police department vehicle or vehicles for use unrelated to his job assignment, getting into no fewer than five traffic accidents with them, including an incident in which his daughters were in the vehicle with him at the time of the mishap.

Furthermore, according to a reliable source, Donahue a few years back, discharged his firearm within the school district police station, fortunately avoiding wounding any bystanders.

Word has reached the Sentinel that district officials are torn about what to do with the careless and accident-prone assistant police chief. More district officials than not consider him, in the aftermath of the aftermath of the Martin-Brown verdict to be a district liability. The factor in his favor, the Sentinel is told, is bureaucratic inertia. What is lacking, at least at present, is the will to cashier him, given that a concerted effort to mount an effort to convince him to leave would need to be made, and some are concerned that he would demand a sizable cash payout to retire without a fight.

No one at the district, including Donahue, was willing to speak on his behalf.

-Mark Gutglueck

With Scores Of Marijuana-Related Commercial Enterprises Going Back Five Years, It Has Yet To Be Flush With Cash & Needs County Assistance To Keep Enough Cops On The Payroll *from page 3*

nancial documentation it has about the marijuana-related and cannabis-related businesses it hosts very close to the vest. The city simply will not release those figures, even in the face of California Public Records Act requests.

One issue is that for the marijuana cultivation operations to flourish, two commodities are needed: water and electricity. The plants could be grown the old fashioned way: out in the sun. But the city's ordinance does not allow that. Under the city's ordinances, they must be grown indoors, under lights. That requires electricity and the local electrical utility does not have the capacity to serve the businesses that the city has licensed. Nor is water available in Adelanto in the quantities envisioned by Kerr when he spoke of putting Adelanto at the head of the marijuana industry. Somehow, things got ahead of the city.

Yet, some businesses are making money. Products are being manufactured, either from marijuana grown in Adelanto or elsewhere. City officials are just unable – or unwilling – to say how much money is being generated by those operations and whether the percentage that is supposed to go to the city in licensing, fees, permits and taxes is actually being collected. There are reports that money – far less than the city is actually due but still a substantial amount – is being diverted into the pockets of public officials, both elected and un-elected.

Flores is still the city manager. Evans, who initially got along with Reyes after their 2018 election but had a falling out with him, sought to challenge him for mayor in 2022 and lost. She is no longer on the council. Hernandez, who suffered a near-death experience during the COVID-19 pandemic, left the coun-

cil for that reason in 2020. The council is now composed of Reyes as mayor and council members Daniel Ramos, Joy Jeannette, Angelo Meza and Amanda Uptergrove.

Late last year, Adelanto officials gave indication that the city was facing fiscal challenges that were going to require financial discipline.

Early this year, as both the city and the county were awork on preparations for the 2023-24 budget, city officials informed county officials that because of the revenue shortfall the city was experiencing, it would need to reduce the contract it has with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department for law enforcement services by two deputies over the number that were employed last year, effective July 1, 2023. That prompted the office of San Bernardino County Chief Executive Officer Leonard Hernandez, First District County Supervisor Paul Cook and Sheriff Shannon Dicus.

What Hernandez, Cook and Dicus wanted to know, essentially, was why.

The city, Flores re-

sponded, has grown accustomed over the last decade to income provided it by the GEO Group, which purchased 13 years ago a 1,940-bed correctional facility once owned by the city, now known as the Adelanto ICE Processing Center.

A reimbursement arrangement that went with that sale was an amount of money annually for two deputy positions. Those deputies were dedicated to patrolling 56-square mile Adelanto, specific crime reduction response, as well as handling any issues for service at the Adelanto Immigration and Customs Enforcement Processing Center.

The GEO Group over the years has experienced problems with the federal government over certain standards at the facility. The federal government precipitously late last year and early this year, informed the GEO Group it would not be housing as many inmates there as it had previously and would no longer be paying the company for 1,455 beds per day as it had previously. This prompted GEO to cut back on its operations, including

laying off 112 employees at the Adelanto ICE Processing Center in April. On February 15 Mayor Reyes received a letter to that effect as did San Bernardino County Workforce Development Director Brad Gates.

Operations at the Adelanto Immigration and Customs Enforcement Processing Center had already been greatly reduced. That was justification, the GEO Group said, to discontinue its reimbursement to the City of Adelanto for the two deputies.

In essence, the Geo Group withdrew about \$460,000.

Adelanto contacted the sheriff's department about the revenue shortfall and requested to remove the two positions from the upcoming contract renewal between the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and the city effective July 2023.

Leonard Hernandez, Cook and Dicus took what Flores conveyed at face value. They served up no questions to him about why the city cannot tap into the revenue it previously stated it would be realizing from the thriving marijuana

and cannabis commercial activity the city is hosting. Instead, a request was made of the entire board of supervisors to consider having the county subsidize, for one year, the City of Adelanto's law enforcement function.

The supervisors acceded to funding two deputy positions for that duration, with the proviso that the city work out some way for it to pay for the crimefighters on its own starting on July 1, 2024, the initiation of fiscal year 2024-25.

The county will be covering the cost of roughly \$461,296 for Adelanto in 2023-24, price tag for employing a deputy and providing him with equipment and a patrol car is quantified at \$230,648.

"With the number of [marijuana/cannabis-related] operations there are in that city, that doesn't sound right to me," a federal agent told the Sentinel. "A city that is putting in drug operation after drug operation like that as a means of generating revenue, should be able to pay its own way."

-Mark Gutglueck

If A Child Opts To Change His Gender Identify, His Or Her Parents Should Be Informed, Chino School Board Mandates *from page 9*

me and I am sure that no one loves your kids more than any of you do as parents. So, parents need to be involved."

Gia D said, "I was educated in the public system and academics was the focus. I was inspired and I was challenged by my teachers. In my time in school, I don't remember the teachers or the administrators saying, 'Don't tell your parents.' In fact, it was the opposite. They frequently told our parents and contacted our parents about whatever was relevant to our welfare and our education. Our parents were the onew who guided us in our moral direction. The education system concentrated on educating and teaching. I want to encourage the board to include parents in poli-

cies and directions affecting the students in all matters. The students do not belong to the school. They are the responsibility of the parents. In medicine we have an oath to say 'Do no harm,' and these students are minors whom we should be careful to do no harm [to]. And in medicine we also have a thing called informed consent.

Elise Anderson proved to be a rarity among the teacher's in the district as someone who supported the proposal.

"As a special education teacher, it is my job to communicate to parents everything that pertains to the child, including their social and emotional wellbeing," Anderson said. "Wouldn't gender confu-

sion fall under this category? I'm thankful this policy is being discussed tonight because I would feel extremely uncomfortable withholding this information from parents. I am a teacher and that is all. There are no secrets. Schools should never conceal information from parents, ever. I understand there are children who come from families who may not be accepting of their child's decision to change their gender, but his is when schools would be able to provide families with the support they need and get the child into counseling immediately. For those who might think what I am saying is hateful, you are sorely mistaken. I speak from a place of genuine concern for the times we are living in where the war has been waged on children creating total estruction of the family unit.

One man, identified

as Jesse S., seemed to hit a resounding chord with the board and earned approving nods from many of the parents around the room while LGBTQ+ crowd speechless.

"Listening to these people talk should let you know it's mental illness," Jesse S. said. "That's all they talk about: suicide this, they're going to kill themselves here, there, my parents, this and that. This is why we've got to keep our kids away from people like this trying to indoctrinate our children. This is wrong. This is mental illness and they have proved it tonight. This is total mental illness they are trying to bring upon our kids. So, I urge you to vote yes, because our kids are very important to us. They have said it themselves and they don't even realize they are mentally ill, and they are."

It is unclear whether

the entirety of the board or any of its members, actually, took stock of a letter that California Attorney General Rob Bonta dashed off to the district and the board late Thursday in which he offered his opinion that the notification policy might intrude on students' privacy rights and otherwise interfere with educational access. Students individually have the right and discretion to determine under what circumstances and when they should make disclosure of their gender identity and to whom. Bonta said his office will act to see that right is upheld.

The attorney general's office "has a substantial interest in protecting the legal rights of children in California schools and protecting such children from trauma and exposure to violence. I will not hesitate to take action as appropriate to vigorously protect stu-

dents' civil rights," he wrote.

In a follow-up press release, Bonta's office stated, "By allowing for the disclosure of a student's gender identity without their consent, Chino Valley Unified School District's suggested parental notification policy would strip them of their freedom, violate their autonomy, and potentially put them in a harmful situation," Bonta said. "Our schools should be protecting the rights of all students, especially those who are most vulnerable, and should be safeguarding students' rights to fully participate in all educational and extracurricular opportunities."

Ultimately, the board, in a 4-to-1 vote, with Shaw, Na, Monroe and Cruz prevailing and Bridge dissenting, passed the policy directive.

-Mark Gutglueck