

Friday, August 11, 2023 A Fortunado Publication in conjunction with Countywide News Service 10808 Foothill Blvd. Suite 160-446 Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 (951) 567-1936

Executive Suite Affair Paralyzes County, With CEO On Extended Vacation Leave

By Mark Gutglueck

A confluence of events and circumstance has resulted in San Bernardino County's top ranking staff member being placed on an involuntary extended vacation leave, by the end of which it is anticipated his not quite three-year reign as the chief executive in the largest geographical county in the lower 48 states will draw to a close.

San Bernardino



Leonard Hernandez

County Chief Executive Officer Leonard Hernandez's steep and dramatic rise from what originally seemed a studious librar-

ian with relatively humble aspirations to what was arguably the county's most domineering administrator in its 170-year history now appears to be on the brink of being matched with a no less dramatic and even more abrupt plunge into premature retirement.

Primary factors in the turnaround include Hernandez's inability to put a cap on the forceful nature of his personality that at first had so



Pam Williams

impressed his political masters on the board of supervisors with his can-do attitude but which had more recently come to

grate upon those around him and a classic entanglement with a femme fatale he unwisely welcomed into his administration.

In September 2020, Hernandez was promoted to assume the post of county chief executive officer and replace Gary McBride, his predecessor, the following month.

Hernandez, 45, has now spent a quarter of a century employed in government, See P 4

County Moving Toward Heftier Regulations On Short-Term Rentals Later This Year

The San Bernardino County Department of Land Use Services has signaled that it will soon intensify its program aimed at the regulation of short-term rentals.

For more than a decade, various locations considered exotic in San Bernardino County, most notably in the desert and the mountains, have become popular weekend getaways for wealthy residents of San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, Ventura, Riverside and lower San Bernardino counties who are looking to tour Joshua Tree National Monument, engage in mountain trail hiking, boat on Lake Arrowhead or Big Bear Lake or enjoy a "white weekend" during December, January and February. Several locations in the desert have long been, and are becoming increasingly more, popular with tourists and so-called "snowbirds" fleeing harsh winter weather elsewhere in the country as well as Canada.

A previous county ordinance relating to short-term rentals in the mountains was instituted by the county in 2015. In late 2018 the county took up the issue once more with an eye to revamping and updating those regulations. A newly drafted form of the ordinance extending the regulations to the desert was considered in public hearings held by the San Bernardino County Planning Commission in August and September 2019 and was passed by the board of supervisors in November See P 3

County Diverting Selected Young Offenders From Detention To San Luis Obispo Academy

San Bernardino County will spend two-and-a-half million dollars over the next five years to divert roughly 50 juvenile offenders out of local detention facilities to an alternate academy in San Luis Obispo.

San Bernardino Chief Probation Officer Tracy Reece recommended and the board of supervisors approved entering into a nonstandard agreement

with the County of San Luis Obispo for what were termed placement services at Coastal Valley Academy in the total amount of \$2,555,000 for the period of August 9, 2023 through August 8, 2028.

According to its website, "Coastal Valley Academy is a custody commitment camp program in [San Luis Obispo County] Juvenile

Hall for 14-17-year-old male and female youth who are moderate to high risk and in need of residential treatment. Youth are ordered to stay 6-12 months and receive intensive case management, treatment and educational services through collaboration with a local treatment provider, Family Care Network, and the [San Luis Obispo] County Of-

fice of Education."

Reece in a report to the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors referred to what is available at Coastal Valley Academy as a "self-contained program" which she said "maintains exclusive resources including living units, classrooms, and a recreation yard, distinguishable from the San Luis Obispo detention

facilities. The physical features of the unit are more home-like, while still maintaining compliance with Title 15 and Title 24 of California Board of State and Community Corrections. Coastal Valley Academy provides a safe and effective alternative to traditional placement options such as group homes and engages families in the treatment. See P 5

Overlooked In 2018 And Self-Restrained in 2020, Carrillo Making 3rd District Run Vs. Rowe In 2024

Chris Carrillo, who in 2018 was dismissively passed over when the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors selected Dawn Rowe to replace James Ramos as Third District supervisor when he was obliged to vacate that position upon being elected to the California Assembly, has resolved to challenge Rowe at the ballot box

next year.

Carrillo, who had been Ramos's assistant chief of staff and a board member with the East Valley Water District, was among 48 residents of the Third Supervisorial District who applied to succeed Ramos.

Carrillo was familiar with district issues as one of Ramos's top staff members. Ramos had



Chris Carrillo

been elected to the board by defeating in- See P 3

SBC GOP On The Brink Of Losing Its Edge, Republican Stalwart Says

Internal Squabbling Among Local Republican Party Leaders Is Endangering Their Party's Advantage & Former Ability To Outhustle The County's More Numerous But Less Cohesive Democrats, Munson Says

By Matt Munson

A political party on auto pilot since the 2022 elections is not an effective political party. The San Bernardino County Republican Party is a deep disappointment. It

is more of a monarchy that focuses on the interests of the chairman than the good of the organization.

This started from the beginning when the chairman, Phil See P 3

Chino Teachers Protest Parent Notification Mandate To State Employment Relations Board

Associated Chino Teachers, the union/bargaining unit for educators employed by the Chino Valley Unified School District, have lodged a dual protest/complaint with the California Public Employment Relations Board, contesting what the union said was a curtailment of its members' free speech rights along with the district's board vote on July 20

requiring that faculty inform parents if their children are reidentifying their gender.

On July 20, the board revisited a policy that was previewed on June 15, which essentially reproduced a requirement that had been embodied in Assembly Bill 1314, which was introduced in the California State Legislature in March by Assemblyman Bill Essayli.

AB 1314 sought to impose statewide a requirement that school officials not keep information pertaining to the gender reidentification that students insist upon within a school setting from the parents of those children. Essayli's bill failed when it did not make it out of committee into consideration by the entire lower legislative house.

The district's version

of the mandate consists of a requirement that educators at the school where a child identifies as transgender or openly speaks about suicide notify his or her parents in writing within three days. The policy, in clarifying what constitutes gender reidentification, referenced a student seeking to change his/her name or pronouns or asking for access to gender-

based sports, bathrooms or changing rooms that do not match his or her assigned gender at birth.

The introduction of the proposed policy at the board's June 15 meeting was accompanied by another vote by the board which antagonized lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-queer advocates, that being the updating of the district's policy with regard to See P 3

Early On, Hernandez Fulfilled His Ambition By Demonstrated Himself As Aggressively Willing To Serve His Political Masters On The Board Of Supervisors *from front page*

having begun in 1998 at the age of 20 as a part-time library assistant at the Chino Branch Library while he was attending Cal State Fullerton as he was pursuing a bachelor's degree in history. Upon graduating from college, he obtained a full-time position at the James S. Thalman Chino Hills Branch Library. He then earned his Master of Science degree in library science through Pennsylvania's Clarion University's online learning program and promoted into the position of the Fontana Branch Library manager within the San Bernardino County Library System. In 2008, he became the director of libraries with the City of Riverside, but in 2010, anticipating the retirement of San Bernardino County Librarian Ed Kieczkowski, returned to San Bernardino County. In 2011, upon Kieczkowski's departure, Hernandez moved into the position of San Bernardino County librarian. In 2013, Hernandez was offered, while he was simultaneously serving in the librarian post, a secondary position as the director of the San Bernardino County Museum. In 2015, then-San Bernardino County Chief Executive Officer Greg Devereaux promoted Hernandez to the position of county deputy executive officer overseeing the community services group, which included the county's library and museum systems, the registrar of voters, regional parks, county airports and the county department of agriculture/weights and measures.

In 2017, the same year that McBride was made county chief executive officer, Hernandez was given the interim assignment of county chief operating officer and then ultimately that of full-

fledged chief operating officer.

McBride, whose experience consisted of working within the county's finance division, was affable and non-confrontational, accordingly reluctant to become forceful with the county's various department heads. He delegated much of his interaction with staff to Hernandez. Over time, the board of supervisors, and in particular the strongest personality on the board, Supervisor Curt Hagman, began to bypass McBride, going directly to Hernandez, instructing him to carry out not only what the board as a whole had voted upon but to put into play whatever it was that Hagman on his own wanted to see accomplished. Hernandez, looking to get ahead and recognizing that Hagman was the de facto leader of the board and the county, swung into immediate action in accordance with those instructions. Ultimately, the board opted to remove McBride as chief executive officer and replace him with Hernandez.

Very little time went by before Hernandez had an opportunity to demonstrate his value to the supervisors who promoted him. Barely a month after Hernandez was officially in place as chief executive officer, the county's voters in November 2020 passed by a supermajority – 516,184 votes or 66.84 percent to 256,098 or 33.16 percent – Measure K, which mandated the five supervisors be deemed part-time legislators, such that each was to see his or her total annual compensation, which ranged, depending on the number of their familial dependents covered under their benefit plans, from \$242,941.27 to \$280,905.92 annually, reduced to \$60,000. Hernandez, in coordination with then-County Counsel Michelle Blakemore, the county's top in-house attorney, formulated a plan to prevent the supervisors' pay reduction from taking place. The county, through the office of county counsel retained three attorneys

– Bradley Hertz, James Sutton and Nicholas Sanders of the Los Angeles-based Sutton Law Firm – and authorized them to sue the supervisors' own immediate employee, Lynna Monell, the clerk of the board of supervisors of San Bernardino County, in a legal petition to keep her from implementing Measure K. The board complied with that proposal, authorizing the lawsuit, and further acceded to the strategy of pursuing the matter in San Bernardino Superior Court wherein the matter could be kept in front of a judge known to be sympathetic to the county's governmental hierarchy rather than removing it to another county where there would be less prospect of political, administrative or financial pressure being brought to bear on the adjudicative process. Simultaneously, at Hernandez's urging, Blakemore, who as county counsel was supposed to make a spirited defense of Monell's right and obligation to effectuate the directives inherent in Measure K, forewent making any defense of the initiative or assertion of Monell's duty to enforce its provisions.

The filing of the lawsuit put Measure K into abeyance while it was subject to legal challenge, preventing the salary reductions from going into effect until such time as the matter was adjudicated.

The matter was maneuvered into the courtroom of San Bernardino Superior Court Judge Donald Alvarez, who was known to county officials to be beholden to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department for having accorded him the courtesy of being escorted home on occasions when he had too much to drink before getting behind the wheel of his car. Judge Alvarez made a finding invalidating the entirety of Measure K on the grounds that its secondary provision limiting supervisors to a single four-year term was unconstitutional and that the term limitation element of the measure was not separable from

its salary and benefit reductions. This, Judge Alvarez ruled, rendered Measure K unenforceable.

Ultimately, the sponsor of Measure K, the government reform advocacy coalition known as the Red Brennan Group, appealed Alvarez's finding and obtained a tentative ruling reversing his invalidation of the measure. But the Hernandez/Blakemore legal ploy bought the board of supervisors two years of time, during which the county government placed on the November 2022 ballot what it represented as its own government reform initiative, Measure D, which restored each individual supervisor's total annual compensation to roughly \$255,000 to \$275,000 while imposing on the supervisors term limits of three four-year terms, essentially equivalent to what had been the wage-scale and number-of-years-in-office rules that had been in place before Measure K's passage. Measure D passed by a margin of 241,894 votes or 58.22 percent to 173,582 votes or 41.78 percent.

In hatching a plan to prevent Measure K and the county's government reform advocates from reducing the supervisors to a financial status coequal to the average county resident, Hernandez vindicated the faith the board had placed in him.

When Hernandez made the transition from chief operating officer to chief executive officer, Luther Snoke, one of the county's deputy executive officers, was promoted into the position of chief operating officer to replace Hernandez.

Hernandez's promotion came in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis. He and Snoke managed to guide the county through the pandemic despite its unprecedented challenges, earning for Hernandez high marks for his performance in accomplishing everything, or virtually everything, the county's political leadership asked of him.

The element that made and makes Hernandez so effective is at

The San Bernardino County

Sentinel

Published in San Bernardino County.

The Sentinel's main office is located at 10788 Civic Center Drive in Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

A Fortunado Publication in conjunction with

Countywide News Service

Mark Gutglueck, Publisher

Call (951) 567-1936

to learn of locations where the Sentinel is available or to provide news tips

10808 Foothill Blvd., Suite 160-446

Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

SBCSentinel@yahoo.com

Legal Notice Department 951 567 1936

Message Line 951-567 1936

the same time his Achilles' heel. Just as his value as the county's chief operating officer under McBride consisted of his ruthless willingness to exercise his authority, his reach as chief executive officer has in equal measure been contingent upon intimidation and fear. His stock has risen while he was in the capacity of chief operating officer because of a symbiotic exchange with the board: he was willing to do what neither McBride nor most previous chief executive officers would allow, which was to let the board of supervisors have their way or put into effect the action they wanted taken without having to hold a public vote ratifying the policy they were embarking upon. In return, Hernandez's own power grew. What the board members, in particular Hagman, wanted, Hernandez wanted and therefore achieved for them. Under this arrangement, the county's department heads had a simple choice: either do what Hernandez ordered them to do, whether what he was asking of them was officially approved by the board of supervisors or not, or risk being fired. When he made the transition to chief executive officer, he continued to apply that formula.

About a year-and-a-half into his time as the chief executive, however, the county structure was beginning to feel the toll of the way he had been operating.

One issue is that Hernandez's reach exceeds his grasp. His authority and ability to strike fear into those he commands

and have them carry out those commands is not matched by his depth of experience in informing the wisdom of, or determining what, those orders should be. Virtually his entire work history consists of being a government employee, giving him no workable knowledge of the demands of the private sector. Additionally, the breadth of his experience as a government employee prior to moving into top management was confined to the county's libraries and museum, departments which have different levels of significance, priority, intensity, controversy, invasivity, authority and urgency involving a far less substantial outlay of public funds than many other departments. Upon becoming chief operating officer, Hernandez knew very little about public works and engineering; the county hospital; land use services; the county health department; behavioral health; the department of human services formerly known as social services or the welfare department; the building department; real estate services, not to mention the departments that function under the authority of county elected officials other than the board of supervisors.

Despite his lack of expertise in those areas. Hernandez demonstrated a tendency toward micromanaging. This led to his efforts to dictate activity with regard to matters he did not fully understand, and subjected those in positions of responsibility to

Continued on Page 4

Board Of Supervisors Cut Carrillo Off At The Pass In 2018 *from front page*

cumbent Neil Derry in 2012 and was convincingly reelected in 2016 when he was opposed by the poorly-financed Donna Muñoz, a Morongo Valley resident. Upon being elected to the Assembly with two years remaining on his term as supervisor, Ramos made a recommendation to his board colleagues just before he resigned to

head off to Sacramento that they appoint Carrillo as his board replacement. Nevertheless, the remaining members of the board of supervisors – Curt Hagman, Robert Lovingood, Josie Gonzales and Janice Rutherford – looked over the four dozen applicants and reduced the field to 13. Those 13 consisted of former Third District Supervisor Dennis Hansberger, then-Barstow Mayor Julie Hackbarth-McIntyre, former Twentynine Palms Council-

man James Bagsby, Loma Linda Councilman Ron Dailey and then-Loma Linda Mayor Rhodes Rigsby, former Chino Councilman/then-current Big Bear Councilman William Jahn, former Assemblyman/then-State Senator Bill Emmerson, Congressional Candidate Sean Flynn, Republican Central Committee Chairwoman Jan Leja, former San Bernardino Councilman Tobin Brinker, former Westlake Village Mayor Chris Mann, then-San

Bernardino Mayor Carey Davis and Rowe, who at that point was a former Yucca Valley Councilwoman and mayor and was working as a staff member of then-Congressman Paul Cook. The 13 were invited for an interview, one to be held publicly, as the next round of the process. Carrillo had been entirely bypassed. The reason for that was not difficult to discern. Hagman, Lovingood and Rutherford were Republicans. Carrillo, like Ramos and



Dawn Rowe

Gonzales, is a Democrat. It took two votes of the four remaining supervisors to designate an applicant for an interview.

Though local elected

offices in California are defined as being non-partisan ones, in San Bernardino County in particular, party affiliation is of significance in who holds office at both the municipal and county levels, as well as on the boards of school, fire and water districts. For more than 40 years, San Bernardino County has been a Republican bastion, such that for the last two decades, it has been out of step with the rest of the state, which has

Continued on Page 5

County Has Made Progressive Efforts Over The Years At Regulating Short-Term Rentals *from front page*

2019.

The ordinance applied to short-term residential rentals and short-term accessory dwelling units, requiring owners of such properties to register at least once every two years any property being utilized for rentals on a less than continuous

basis, meaning, in practical terms, for thirty days or less. The ordinance further required identification of and signatures from renters, the maintenance of records showing compliance with the county code, and gave the county the authority to revoke a short-term rental permit, based upon violations. A permit revocation recorded against an owner entails a follow-up application fee of twice that for a permit to undo the re-

vocation. A violation of the ordinance committed by a short-term occupant of the property accrues to the detriment of the property owner, which county officials believed to be an incentive to have the owners ensure compliance with the rules by their tenants. In most, though not all cases, short-term rental units are ones owned by so-called absentee landlords, that is, ones that are not occupied by the owners and are not prox-

imate or co-located to the domicile of the owners. In a minority of cases, the properties in question involve accessory dwelling units, those being ones that are located on a property on which the owner resides or on which another long term residential unit exists.

While the 2019 ordinance, in the case of desert properties, in general created regulations that previously did not exist and in the case of mountain properties tightened

existing restrictions, in one respect it liberalized the county policy. Previously, on properties containing both a primary residence and an accessory dwelling unit, which can be variously referred to as a guest house or a granny flat, only one of the units could be made available as a short-term rental. The language of the ordinance passed in 2019 dispensed with the restriction that called for accessory dwelling units being rented for a term of

30 days or longer, which had precluded accessory dwelling units from being utilized as short-term rentals. The revamped language allowed accessory dwelling units to be rented on a short-term basis in both the mountain and desert regions, provided that one or more of the units on the parcel is occupied by the property owner or his or her agent. At Third District Supervisor Dawn Rowe's suggestion, the board al-

Continued on Page 7

Teachers, Implying The Chino School Board Is Transphobic, Says Kids Should Be Allowed To Prevent Their Parents From Knowing Their Sexual Identities *from front page*

ceremonies and observances, specifying what days or events of remembrance and what holidays would be recognized at district school campuses and within classrooms, which carried with it a limitation on what flags teachers can display in their classrooms. The change permitted the fly-

ing of the California state flag and the U.S. flag, as well as other country, state and military flags, but enjoined teachers from displaying flags commonly unfurled in support of the lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-queer community.

The complaint associated Chino Teach-

ers filed August 8 with the California Public Employment Relations Board asserts the district made no effort to discuss the change in policy or negotiate its terms with the teachers or their union before voting in the policy changes on June 15 and July 20.

According to the union's leadership, in addition to violating the teachers' rights to free speech and advocacy inherent in the June 15 action, the district's

board majority, consisting of Board President Sonja Shaw and members James Na, Andrew Cruz and Jon Monroe, are focusing on political and cultural issues that should remain outside the purview of the school district, ones which will not benefit and would potentially harm students, particularly ones who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer. Moreover, Shaw, Na, Cruz and Monroe are transphobic and are vio-

lating the privacy rights of transgender students, who should be allowed to reveal their gender re-identification at a time and under conditions of their own choosing while selecting to whom they make such a revelation, opponents of the district's parental disclosure policy say. The district's newly adopted policy will create a circumstance in which students living in households hostile to homosexuality, bisexuality and transgen-

derism will be subjected to intensified mental degradation to the point they might harm or foredo themselves, the teachers' union and its support network avers.

Brenda Walker the president of the Association of Chino Teachers, told the school board at its July 20 meeting, "This policy would directly require educators to violate California law, which prohibits such notification with[out] stu-

Continued on Page 12

GOP Candidate Decries Republican-On-Republican Violence *from front page*

Colthran Sr, became finance director under former chair Jan Leija in 2020, saying that he would deliver the heavens to the organization, but we all fell flat on our feet. Even despite COVID, he was still able to help raise funds for his compatriot, now-Supervisor Jesse Armendarez, in his first run for supervisor in 2020. We had over \$50,000 in debt due to the nonpayment of our

executive director, Regina Santamaria, and we had one major fundraiser with Dinesh D'Souza to pay her off after Phil became chairman in 2021, but no big fundraisers aside from that. The irony is Orange, Riverside and San Diego County have regular fundraisers, but we are just stuck in a state of statis.

2022 came along and there was money for the organization, but it was diverted to Jesse Armendarez instead of the body. Most of the big checks were earmarked for the supervisor campaign due to the favor-

able donation regulations political parties have compared to general political action committees. The only priority was to get Jesse elected over anything else. However, when the primary happened, it was a Republican versus Republican race, and the organization became even dirtier. The zeal to get Armendarez elected reduced the enthusiasm of the grassroots to participate in the party where the nomination convention/ fundraiser in August ended up going under in debt, where there is over \$20,000 in unpaid bills owed to the chair-

man. I did ask personally if we are going to get these debts paid off, but the chair said this is none of your concern. However, despite his personality, we should do our best to get in the black where he should even be repaid.

The big problem is we should have policies against fratricide in our organization. The race between Armendarez and Louis Cetina in the 2022 Second District County Supervisor race was destructive to our organization. If two Republicans of note are our nominees, then both should be endorsed, and they should

be supported by their own merits. Leadership members of our organization should avoid below-the-belt attacks. Our chairman should not be paying for ads fighting for principles that are totally the opposite of what most of the membership of the organization believe in.

Redistricting is not kind to San Bernardino County. There must be an era of action. Just because districts may not be "winnable" we should not give up on cultivating these constituencies, such as AD 50/SD 29. If these districts can get 44% they need to be cultivated with

issue advocacy, get out the vote and other community activities. Even as a candidate in a low tier district, there is little to be expected because county, state and legislative party committee leadership want the candidates to do the hard work and deliver them money. If we just simply sit on our hands, we are going to just accelerate the decline of San Bernardino County and make it the little sister of Los Angeles County.

If we were blessed with eradicating the leadership of the organization, we would have

Continued on Page 12

His Ruthlessness Served Him For A While, But Hernandez's Patina Of Invulnerability Has Been Blown And The Momentum Of Power Is Now Shifting Toward Snoke *from front page*

having to follow through with action they sometimes recognized as being ill-conceived. His insistence on being in the loop with regard to actions each department was to take such that he was electronically carbon copied on emails department heads and mid-level staffers sent out in many cases engendered paralysis among employees within certain county divisions where the contemplated action was deemed sensitive or in any fashion controversial.

Hernandez's propensity to act without having a comprehensive understanding of all of the county's various moving parts or the full implication of what he was ordering led many to conclude that Devereaux had acted prematurely in making him chief operating officer. It would have been better, they observed, if Devereaux had allowed Hernandez to obtain more seasoning by having him remain in the capacity of a deputy or assistant executive officer or understudy to the chief executive officer for another five to ten years so that he might have familiarized himself with the function of a wide variety of the county's departments and divisions either in depth or at least in a manner that was not superficial, providing him an understanding of how the various county departments are purposed to articulate into an overarchingly cohesive operation before he took the helm as the county's top administrator.

Devereaux, however, lasted less than two years as chief executive officer after Hernandez came into the county administrative suite, at which point Hernandez found himself thrust into the post of chief operating officer. His response to this was to use his primary asset – his utter ruthlessness – to serve his political masters, to threaten department

heads with termination if they didn't do exactly what he told them to do, regardless of whether what he was ordering them to do was in accordance with standards or agreed-upon best practices, wise, sustainable or justifiable in the long run. If those department heads did not do as they were instructed, they were soon out of a job. Hernandez established his reputation as someone who got results.

In his capacities as both the county's chief operating officer and as its chief executive officer, Hernandez encountered employees who resisted, or refused to follow, his orders or instructions. Virtually everyone of those employees were forced out of the county, and were replaced by others who then sought to comply so that they too were not cashiered. In his role as chief executive officer, county employees remarked, Hernandez valued loyalty above competence. Under Hernandez, a department head who saluted and carried out his or her marching orders, realistic or unrealistic, was highly valued. Mid-level employees fled the county or retired in droves.

Amidst the hemorrhaging of experienced employees and department heads, mistakes have been made, some of them costly. In April, it was publicly revealed that the county refunded to the federal government \$4.4 million of \$8.5 million it had received in emergency grant funding to house the homeless during the COVID-19 pandemic because it had failed to make use of the money within a specified timeframe. Word now comes that the county is about to lose state grant funding that could have been applied to redress homeless issues. County employees say they were hamstrung in completing the requirements to maintain that funding because of microman-

aging and unnecessary interference by Hernandez.

Similarly, new state laws intended to streamline the approval process for certain types of development, including so-called accessory dwelling units, are in effect throughout the state. In San Bernardino County, however, the land use services department has been slow to process such applications for a variety of reasons, some of which are attributed to Hernandez having forced that division's department head, Terry Rahhal, into departing unnecessarily. Despite the county having enlisted a journeyman governmental planning official, Mark Wardlaw, who was the community development director with Mammoth Lakes, the director of planning and development with San Diego County and the community development director with Walnut Creek, to replace Rahhal, the restoration of the department to full functionality has yet to take place.

Whereas four and five years ago complaints about McBride's inability to facilitate quick action were being heard while Hernandez was being lauded as a dynamic result-oriented manager, similar complaints are now being heard, with the county's dysfunction being laid at Hernandez's feet. To cut through county red tape and bureaucracy at this point, one is directed to bypass Hernandez and go directly to Snoke.

Hernandez's heretofore firm grip on the machinery of county government was most meaningfully compromised by the recent rupture in a code of silence that had been maintained with regard to his affair of longstanding with Pam Williams, a relatively low ranking analyst in the county's human resources division who promoted rapidly within the county's strategic initiatives division to ultimately become the county's principal administrative analyst after Hernandez's rise in stature to county chief operating officer and then

was given the position of chief of administration within days after Hernandez becoming chief executive officer. When a few intrepid employees came forward to note their objections to what they said was a lapse in standards inherent in Hernandez promoting his mistress into the head administrative position and the bypassing of others they felt were more qualified, those complaints were not officially logged but deemed to be informal and the complainants prevailed upon to remain quiet. Others considered making note of the circumstance with Assistant Executive Officer Diane Rundles, who oversees the Human Resources division. Some actually did so, thereupon seeing her turn what was termed "a blind eye" to the matter, resulting in the aforementioned code of silence developing in which employees, fearing retaliation in the form of discipline or the loss of employment, ignored the situation and avoided talking about it.

Within the last fortnight, however, more than a dozen midlevel county employees have been brought in by human resources and questioned about what they know of the relationship between Hernandez and Williams. The contrast between the attitude that prevailed previously, when alluding to or relating any known details of the relationship was considered grounds for termination, and what is going on currently, with employees being encouraged to expound on what they know of the relationship and any perception that Hernandez and Williams might have compromised the professionalism and standard of impartiality that needed to be maintained within the county's managerial/administrative echelon, is a stark one.

It took some doing to get to that point.

Hernandez went on vacation in July. In taking what was anticipated to be nothing more than a three-week absence, he willingly temporarily signed over his authority as county chief executive

officer to Snoke. Hernandez was due to return the week of August 7.

A consensus had grown that as dynamic and promising as Hernandez had once seemed and how practically useful he had proven to be throughout his time as chief operating officer and the initial stages of his tenure as CEO, he had become too overbearing in his assumption of virtual absolute authority. A clear indication of his vainglory, even those who had been his longtime supporters admitted to themselves, was the brazenness in which he had installed a woman he was having it off with into the key position of chief of administration, confident that through their combined authority they could override any challenge to the arrangement. A testimony to how powerful he had become was that no single individual – neither a member of the board of supervisors nor any county staff member on the chain of command below Hernandez – dared challenge him. What was needed was a collective, one that would form with cunning and stealth, which was willing to engage in what the conspirators rather reluctantly refer to as a coup. Those involved ranged from four members of the board of supervisors, some but not all members of their staffs, a select handful of senior managerial/administrative staff and a cross section of the county's mid-level management.

With Snoke in place as the acting CEO, a plan was formulated, one which to the greatest extent possible was to require no overt action or public display of challenge to Hernandez. At its August 8 meeting, the board of supervisors was scheduled to adjourn into a closed session where items deemed confidential such as pending and ongoing litigation, personnel matters, real estate sales and labor negotiations are discussed outside the earshot of the public. Agendized for that closed session were discussions of seven ongoing legal cases and

two cases of anticipated litigation and a review of Hernandez's performance. While the board was evaluating the quality of Hernandez's output, the board opted to extend, without Hernandez having made any such request, the chief executive officer's vacation leave by another three weeks. As this did not involve suspending Hernandez, placing him on administrative leave or a public report of the action, the board was able to ace Hernandez out of his position of authority and oversight, at least temporarily, in a way that did not bring any negative attention or backlash to Hernandez or itself, as a direct termination or placing him on administrative leave would have.

The move gave the county nearly three weeks of breathing room during which it is believed Hernandez can be convinced to voluntarily tender his resignation as CEO and avoid a show-down in which he will ultimately run the risk of being terminated for cause.

Whether Hernandez is willing to go gentle into the good night remains to be seen. The county CEO post provides him with \$336,561.82 in salary, \$40,746.20 in pay add-ons and perquisites and \$196,035.72 in benefits for a current total annual compensation of \$573,343.74. He is yet five years away from the minimum retirement age, such that he may be reluctant to simply give up the job he has and subsist until he reaches the age of 50. Under the retirement formula for the San Bernardino County Employees Retirement Association in which he is a participant, if he leaves the county now and does not return to government work, he would become eligible for an annual pension of \$252,421.36 for the rest of his life in June 2028. By simply resigning now or accepting a dismissal, he would potentially, although not necessarily, harm his chances of landing a job elsewhere. For that reason, Hernan-

Continued on Page 6

Effort To Rehabilitate Some SBC Youthful Offenders In San Luis Obispo from front page

and re-socialization process of these moderate to high-risk justice involved youth. Youth participate in child and family team meetings as well as individual, family, and group treatment. Coastal Valley Academy staff are trained in comprehensive substance abuse curriculums and positive behavioral interventions and supports. Groups are facilitated by both treatment staff and Coastal Valley Academy probation officers. Youth also

participate in pro-social activities, including off-site activities, community service projects, and home passes.”

According to Reece, “Placement services under this agreement are provided at a cost of \$140 per day, per youth, with approximately 10 youth participating annually, resulting in an annual cost of \$511,000. Coastal Valley Academy provides this range of evidence-based services in a setting outside of San Bernardino County. The location of the facility is ideal because it provides opportunities for the youth to participate in activities outside of Coastal Valley Academy

grounds while minimizing the risk of flight due to the physical distance between San Bernardino County and San Luis Obispo. A program of this type does not exist within San Bernardino County. The terms in the agreement are set forth by San Luis Obispo County, which differ from the San Bernardino County standard contract terms.”

Reece said participation in the program would be limited to youthful offenders from San Bernardino County “who are moderate to high risk and in need of intensive case management, treatment, and educational services.”

The non-standard terms include, Reece indicated, reciprocal or mutual indemnification. While San Bernardino County standard contracts require contractors to indemnify the county, Reece said, “By agreeing to indemnify San Luis Obispo County, San Bernardino County would be responsible to defend and reimburse San Luis Obispo County for costs, expenses, and damages. Both county counsel and risk management have approved the mutual indemnification language.”

In the event a dispute arises between the two counties, Reece said, “The agreement requires the [court] venue to be in

the County of San Luis Obispo. San Bernardino County’s standard contracts require the venue to be in San Bernardino County in accordance with County Policy 11-05.” Nevertheless, under certain conditions, Reece noted “County Policy 11-05 allows for the venue to be in another California County. If a dispute arises and needs to be litigated, the case will be heard in the County of San Luis Obispo. The probation department recommends the approval of this agreement, including non-standard terms, to provide effective placement, rehabilitative, and treatment services at a lower level of supervi-

sion than a secure youth treatment facility for the county’s high-risk justice involved youth at Coastal Valley Academy.”

The cost of the program is to be funded with the Youthful Offender Block Grant San Bernardino County has already secured.

The contract with San Luis Obispo County was reviewed by Deputy County Counsel Jolena Grider, Risk Management Department Manager Victor Tordesillas and in the county’s finance division by Administrative Analyst Kathleen Gonzalez and Deputy Executive Director Robert Saldana.

-Mark Gutglueck

Rowe Immediately Brought In Two Political Hit Men To Stand Carrillo Off In The 2020 Election from page 3

grown overwhelmingly Democratic in its orientation, with the Democrats holding a supermajority in both houses of the state legislature, control of the governorship, the state attorney general’s office, the California Secretary of State’s office, the state controller’s office, the state superintendent of schools’ office and the insurance commissioner’s office. Both of California’s two U.S. senators are Democrats. Of the 53 members of California’s Congressional Delegation, 46 are Democrats and seven are Republicans. In San Bernardino County, however, currently 17 of its 24 incorporated cities/towns have more Republican members on their councils than Democrats. Four of the five members of the board of supervisors are Republicans. The district attorney is a Republican. The sheriff is a Republican. While the number of registered voters registered as Republicans in San Bernardino County in the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s and into the first decade of the Third Millennium outran the number of those registered to vote as Democrats, in 2009 the number of registered Democrats in the county

eclipsed the number of Republicans. Nonetheless, the GOP has continued to dominate San Bernardino County politically, even as the gap in favor of the Democrats in terms of registered voters has grown. At the point where the board of supervisors was looking to replace Ramos, of the county’s more than 965,000 voters, 38.9 percent were registered



Matt Knox

Democrats, while 28.8 percent were registered as Republicans. The number of voters with no political party association whatsoever stood at 26.2 percent, coming close to the number of Republicans, and voters registered with the more obscure parties such as the Peace and Freedom, Libertarian, Green and American Independent accounted for 8 percent of the total. Despite having a four-to-three advantage over the Republicans in the county number-wise, the Democrats had consistently found themselves out-hustled and outmaneuvered by their Republican Party counterparts in San Bernardino County.

Despite the consider-

ation that a majority of those who had applied for consideration as Ramos’s successor were Democrats, of the thirteen finalists selected, only one – Dailey – was a Democrat. Arguably, Carrillo was the most impressive Democrat who had applied. Indeed, a case might have been made that his was the most compelling résumé of all of the candidates, Republican and Democrat. In addition to having been Ramos’s assistant chief of staff, making him the one applicant most familiar with the running of the supervisor’s office and the Third District in particular, for six years he had worked for United States Senator Dianne Feinstein as a senior aide. His membership on the East Valley Water District Board gave him another layer of currency with the issues at play in the Third District. Beyond that, however, perhaps the most significant factor was Carrillo’s own gravitas, in that he is an attorney steeped in aspects of the law relating to governmental issues.

A Georgetown University graduate with a Master of Applied Psychology degree from Claremont Graduate University and a juris doctorate from Loyola Law School, his primary focus is on employment litigation. He has experience in real estate and public vs. private possessory and nonpossessory law. He has taken several

cases to trial.

By spurning Carrillo when the board made its winnowing of the field from 48 to 13, Hagman, Lovingood and Rutherford hoped to foreclose the possibility that Carrillo would be able to make a case for himself in the widely-viewed public forum they were holding, in which side-by-side comparisons with the other candidates would have made it difficult for the board to deny him continuing consideration as the field was narrowed further.

The 13 were reduced to five finalists – Rowe, Jahn, Emmerson, Flynn and Rigsby, Republicans all. Gonzales made an appeal to her colleagues that at the next public hearing where they were to interview those five that they make up for the previous sleight to Carrillo by making a special arrangement to interview him. Hagman, Lovingood and Rutherford agreed to do so, but the session with Carrillo had all the earmarks of an afterthought. The momentum was clearly moving in Rowe’s direction. Gonzales, the lone Democrat remaining on the board, consigned herself to the inevitable and voted with her colleagues to have Rowe replace Ramos for the two years remaining on his term.

There were suggestions that Rowe might be able to ameliorate the affront to Ramos and Carrillo and simultaneously

outfit her office with an individual up to speed on the challenges in the Third District by hiring Carrillo as her chief of staff. She did not do so for a multitude of reasons, including the expectations of those who appointed her that she use the opportunity to advance the Republican Party, that she considered Carrillo’s Democratic Party-affiliation



Dillon Lesovsky

to be antithetical to her governance formula and concern that by doing so, she might put Carrillo in an advantageous position to run against her in 2020.

Rather, Rowe hired as staffers two Republican Party political operatives – Matt Knox and Dillon Lesovsky, who had been her colleagues while she was on Congressman Cook’s staff – whose reputations had been well established in conjunction to the below-the-belt electioneering effort on behalf of Cook against their fellow Republican Tim Donnelly when Donnelly had used California’s open primary system to qualify his candidacy in the 8th Congressional District in 2018.

The campaign against Donnelly, an extremely negative one which culminated in a series of accusations against Donnelly alleging everything from breaking the law to defrauding the elderly to abandoning his family, was encapsulated in a website created by Knox and Lesovsky, dubbed “Dirty Donnelly” and harbingered what Rowe was contemplating against Carrillo for the 2020 election.

Almost as soon as Rowe was sworn in, Democratic support began coalescing around Carrillo in preparation for 2020. He appeared to be involved and enthusiastic.

His connection to Ramos was of tremendous potential benefit to him. With James Ramos in Sacramento, a Democratic town in the heartland of the Democratic Party, it was assumed that massive amounts of money would be coming Carrillo’s way, if not directly into his campaign fund, then to independent expenditure committees supporting him, which could sidestep the \$4,400 individual contribution limit members of the board of supervisors several years ago imposed on themselves.

It thus appeared that Carrillo was cruising toward a showdown with Rowe in 2020 in which he had a fair prospect of winning.

Knox and Lesovsky, *Continued on page 6*

Carrillo's Legal Representation Of Assistant Fire Chief Terminated Over Age Issue Has Won Him The Backing Of The County's Firefighters *from page 5*

meanwhile, appeared to have been given license to engineer Rowe's 2020 reelection campaign from their county offices.

In June 2019, Carrillo abruptly withdrew as a candidate for Third District Supervisor in 2020.

No real opposition to Rowe emerged. In the March 2020 election,

with 46,263 or 54.96 percent of the 84,181 votes cast in the Third District, she trounced then-Redlands Councilman Eddie Tejada, who managed to bring in 15,572 votes or 18.5 percent; Kaisar Ahmed, who had previously vied unsuccessfully for the Redland City Council and Congress and polled 12,808 votes or 15.21 percent; Karen Ickes, a homeless services coordinator, with her 8,128 votes or 9.66 percent and Latron Lester, a musician and minister from Barstow who captured 1,410 votes or 1.67 percent.

The three years since

her election have not been especially kind to Rowe. A minor scandal over her employment of Knox and Lesovsky for what were patently political purposes developed and though her board colleagues did not become too animated about it, since some of them had received political assistance themselves from the duo or were looking forward to their assistance, it was decided that it might be best for them to leave her office.

Since then, Rowe has found it difficult to install competent, efficient and knowledgeable personnel into the various positions in her office, ones who

are experienced and have mastered the ropes of county operations, procedures and protocols. This has left her highly dependent on the guidance of the county's administration and County Chief Executive Officer Leonard Hernandez in particular. Hernandez, however, has been distracted by a number of issues, which resulted in inadequate performance or county governmental response to circumstances. A case in point was the delay and failures in meeting the challenges of what is now referred to as the Blizzard of '23, the severe winter storm

that blanketed the San Bernardino Mountains over the last week of February and first ten days of March, making roads impassable, trapping residents without food, fuel and medicine and resulting in a rash of deaths the county has yet to precisely quantify.

Word comes now that Hernandez has been put on an extended vacation leave while a determination as to whether and how he is to be fully relieved of his executive duty. This has thrown Rowe's office into disarray.

When it rains, it pours, as there is indication that

Carrillo is now running against Rowe in earnest.

"Too many families in San Bernardino County are being left behind by politicians who put themselves ahead of residents," Carrillo said. "From Redlands, Yucaipa, and Yucca Valley to Barstow, Crestline, and Big Bear Valley, our communities face unique challenges. I'm running for supervisor to put people first and stand up for common sense solutions."

A sine qua non for Republican officeholders in San Bernardino County has been their ability to

Continued on Page 11

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

dez may resolve to dig in his heels and fight.

Were he to do so, he is not entirely without leverage.

Over the last nearly three years as CEO, Hernandez both hired and promoted a good number of the county's current crop of top administrators, and during his three years as chief operating officer, he cleared the way for or made recommendations for the hirings or promotions of others.

Hernandez can absolutely rely upon the support of Williams, whose status as the chief of administration puts her in charge of special projects, the county's public information arm, the county office of emergency services and the county's marketing and promotional efforts.

Hernandez was instrumental in assisting Daniel Muñoz in his advancement to deputy county executive officer, a post from which he oversees the Inland Counties Emergency Medical Authority and the county office of emergency services.

It was Hernandez who made the decision on hiring Chief Communications Officer Martha Guzman-Hurtado two years ago.

Diane Rundles, who was hired by San Bernardino County as hu-

man resources director in 2019 and under Hernandez acceded to the position of assistant executive officer, has been entrusted with overseeing, in addition to human resources, the county's labor relations, purchasing, risk management, veterans' affairs, children and family services and behavioral health departments as well as the county's performance education resource centers and its Children's Network. More than a dozen county employees who had sought the intercession of Rundles and the human resources division when they objected to or resisted orders from Hernandez were not given the insulation they sought and were terminated or forced to resign.

Brad Jensen was Hernandez's choice to serve in the capacity of San Bernardino County's director of legislative affairs.

Chad Nottingham, a longtime technician in the county engineering department, was moved into the land use services department as a coordinator in 2017, while Hernandez was chief operation officer and exercised direct oversight of the land use services department. In 2019, Nottingham was promoted to the position of assistant building official in land

use services. In 2021, he was promoted to head the land use services department and then was given the added duty of deputy executive officer, overseeing the land use services, innovations and technology, projects and facilities management, public health, animal control and real estate services departments.

Michael Jimenez, who had been the county librarian, was promoted by Hernandez to deputy executive officer in 2021, in which capacity he oversees the departments of economic development, fleet management, library, museums, registrar of voters, and workforce development.

Trevor Leja, a land surveyor with San Bernardino County who in 2018 left for a surveyor position in Riverside County for higher pay, returned to San Bernardino County in 2019 to become a division manager in operations working for Hernandez. Hernandez in 2020 moved him into a deputy director position with in public works and in 2021 made him the assistant director of public works. Last year, Hernandez promoted Leja to deputy executive officer overseeing public works, project & facilities management, regional parks, airports and agriculture/weights & measures.

Child Support Services Director Amy Coughlin, formerly a human resources officer who worked closely with Her-

nandez when he was the deputy executive officer overseeing libraries, the museum, the registrar of voters, regional parks, county airports and the county department of agriculture/weights and measures, has benefited from her relationship with him. He can count upon her loyalty, as well as that of Victor Tordesillas, the director of veterans affairs and risk management, and Gina King, the assistant director of human resources.

Paloma Hernandez-Barker, a principal administrative analyst, was promoted to a deputy executive officer/deputy finance director position in 2021 by Hernandez. She oversees the financial operations of the assessor/recorder/county clerk's office, the auditor-controller/treasurer/tax collector's office, the board of supervisors, the clerk of the board of supervisors, the fleet management, human resources, information and technology, public works, purchasing and risk management departments, as well as special districts.

Carrie Harmon, the director of community development and housing, was brought to San Bernardino County from Riverside County recently by Hernandez.

Hernandez's emphasis on loyalty has created a management cadre upon whom he can, if not entirely, then in large measure, rely. While it would be awkward to do so, and he has been cut off to ready and easy ac-

cess to the troops he so recently commanded by the extension of his vacation leave and would be further disconnected if he is officially and fully separated from the county, Hernandez could, if he dares, call upon those whose careers he propelled forward to stand up for him if he decides to make a contest of it. It would be about an even bet that a fair number of the high-level county functionaries would join him in trying to vindicate himself, and the county's political leadership and the successor county administration would need to calculate what the price of trying to maintain a semblance of order and marginal efficiency would be if key operatives move into dormant mode or run renegade on them.

Moreover, Hernandez did not zoom from being what everyone took as a milquetoast librarian to one of the most dominant taskmasters in county government without having a talent, apparent or hidden, for vicious political infighting.

As impossible as it is to ignore Hernandez's already demonstrated ruthlessness and instinct for professional survival and advancement when it came to stepping over or kicking to the curb or otherwise dealing harshly with county employees down the chain of command by threatening to fire them or indeed actually terminating them if he perceived doing so to be in his interest, it is

equally apparent that in order to remain in place he is willing to pull the trigger or at least threaten to pull the trigger on his political masters up the chain of command. There is indication that he "made book" on the members of the board of supervisors while he was chief operating officer and has continued to do so while he is serving as chief executive officer, a vantage point from which he is excellently positioned to observe corners being cut, the way decisions are made, what arrangements have been made and what political horsetrading has taken place in backrooms or during closed sessions. And just as he and Blakemore were able to maneuver the lawsuit the board of supervisors filed against its own clerk into the courtroom of a Superior Court judge who had a few secrets he did not want exposed which were exploited to obtain a determination that kept the supervisors from losing their quarter of a million dollars a year compensation, Hernandez may prove himself to be more than capable of threatening to lay out for general scrutiny a few things the supervisors did they might rather the voters didn't know about as a means of convincing at least three-fifths of the board's members that they might want to think twice or maybe three or four or five times before they relieve him of his job.

Despite the very real

Continued on Page 11

Issues With Regard To Short-Term Rental Regulations Can Pit Common Citizens Against The Tourist Industry As Was The Illustrated In Big Bear Lake Last Year *from page 3*

tered that language to allow both accessory dwelling units and the primary residence on a property to serve as short-term rental units as long as the property is two acres or larger.

The regulations that are now in place call for the units rented to have placards, signs or notices that provide the renters with county standards for the rentals in writing, including the phone number for the county's 24/7 short-term rental complaint line and require owners of short-term rental properties to arrange to have trash service for each of the rental units. Even in cases where the rental units are vacant for months during the year, the owners of the units must pay for trash pick-up when no refuse is being generated on the properties.

The ordinance sets maximum occupancy standards for seven categories of short-term rental units, with 20 persons being the maximum for any single unit. Parking standards restrict vehicles of renters from parking anywhere other than on the property of the short-term residential rental unit. Road and street widths in many mountain communities are narrow, and the proliferation of cars parked at certain junctures along them had in the past created circumstances in which the streets or roads become impassable.

The 2019 ordinance added a prohibition of outdoor fires in the mountain region, that the interior and exterior of a short-term unit be kept free of hazardous materials, and a requirement that spas/hot tubs be covered and locked when not in use and that the spas or tubs be maintained in sanitary conditions.

The ordinance provided the county with the power to issue and serve an administrative subpoena to obtain specific information regarding short-term rentals.

The ordinance requires that an evacua-

tion map be posted on the back of a short-term rental unit's main door.

The sheer numbers of short-term rentals have increased substantially in the mountain and desert communities. In neighborhoods of some communities, including Mt. Baldy, Big Bear, Lake Arrowhead, Lake Gregory, Crestline, Joshua Tree and Yucca Valley, tourist activity has mounted during certain periods. Depending on the location, a property owner can rent out a property to one or more occupants on four weekends and make two to three times the amount of money that could be made renting the property on a long-term basis over a comparable one-month period. This has created "transitory neighborhoods" in which homeowners who live on their property are at times surrounded by homes or cabins which are owned by investors and occupied by "neighbors" who are not in place long enough so their acquaintance can be made by the actual inhabitants of those districts.

While the permanent residents of these areas were supportive of the county's efforts at regulating the short-term rental market, the rules put in place have not undone the transitory nature of the districts in question. Conversely, some San Bernardino County property owners in these districts no longer value their mountain or desert properties as their own domiciles but are using the residences they have there as a means of generating income by renting them out at a relatively high rate for short periods of time, essentially converting their units into hotels.

The 2019 ordinance applies to permanent structures that are utilized as short-term rental units and accessory dwelling units, including stand alone homes, cabins, guesthouses and casitas.

The City of Big Bear

Lake is a skiing mecca in the winter and early spring, a co-claimant with Lake Arrowhead as the boating capital of San Bernardino County from spring until mid-fall, a major swimming venue in the summer, a place where hiking, camping and fishing are ongoing year round and the spot for upland game bird and California mule deer hunting in season. As such, Big Bear Lake attracts tourists like no other place in San Bernardino County per capita, given that its 5,102 population makes it the second smallest of the county's 24 municipalities. For at least half the year, Big Bear Lake has as many or more outsiders breathing its 1.277-mile-high oxygen-thin atmosphere on a daily basis than natives who call it home.

Big Bear Lake's status as a tourist community first and foremost has proven highly profitable and advantageous to the operators of the community's skiing resorts, lodges, hotels, motels, boating rental businesses, the owners/landlords of short-term rentals, property owners, investors, real estate speculators and the like. Still, the influx of temporary residents into any given locale and in particular the 6.5-square mile city limits of Big Bear Lake has created nuisances for those living in proximity to properties that have been leased out or rented on a temporary basis.

In at least some cases, homes or cabins have been simply converted into temporary accommodations without regard to local ordinances or regulations. Nearby residents have been put at the disadvantage of having, for a short time, neighbors they do not know and who in some cases have little or no regard for others they are not likely to ever see again. On occasion, those guests have proven to be poor neighbors, creating disturbances, inviting dozens, scores or even hundreds of others to parties on the premises they have leased or rented, involving parking and traffic problems. Rarely but

still potentially, such parties can prove to be raves, with highly intoxicated participants. Excessive noise has been an issue in some cases. Bonfires are a staple of such gatherings. In some isolated cases, those lodging at the rental properties or their guests grow aggressive or confrontational with nearby residents.

Gradually over the last ten years and then more loudly still in the last five years, Big Bear Lake's full-time residents began importuning the members of the Big Bear City Council to impose tough restrictions on both tourists and the owners of vacation rental units. Big Bear Lake's absentee landlords and present landlords, who were making a killing by renting their properties on a temporary basis, wanted nothing in place that will discourage renters from coming to Big Bear Lake. They sought to discourage the city council from taking any action whatsoever. The council sought to take a middle path, passing an ordinance that many local residents considered to be watered-down measures to create a regulatory regime that involves a modest licensing requirement and fines on cabin owners on whose properties problems manifest, with the potential for revocation of those licenses if the nuisances persist on a given property.

In 2021, a contingent of Big Bear Lake residents who did not believe that City Hall had gone far enough formed a local federation that called itself Big Bear Lake United to Limit Short Term Rentals. They redoubled the lobbying effort for more vigorous regulation, making a concerted call for a cap on vacation rentals, pushing the city to increase the transitory occupancy tax – i.e., the city's bed tax or hotel tax – from 8 percent to 12 percent, based on their argument that 35 percent of the calls for service from the fire department or sheriff's department in Big Bear Lake involve short term rental properties and/or visitors to the city.

In August 2021, the Big Bear Lake City Council voted 4-to-1 against a proposed cap on vacation rental permits, with the controlling council majority members saying they wanted to give the regulations that exist an opportunity to work. If those did not achieve the desired results, they said they might then put more restrictive measures into place.

The city's residents did not take that lying down. They embarked on an effort to bypass the city council, which they said was collectively too sympathetic to the tourism industry, and they set about gathering signatures on a petition to place an initiative on the November 2022 ballot calling for a limit on the number of vacation rentals in the city.

City officials were a bit fazed when the Big Bear Lake United to Limit Short Term Rentals group was able to get 762 of the city's 2,887 registered voters to endorse the petition to put the measure on the ballot and acting San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters Michael Jimenez and his office made an analytical determination that the petitioners had met their burden of getting enough signatures to force the matter to a vote.

Placed on the November 2022 ballot for Big Bear Lake's voters was Measure O and Measure P.

Measure O asked "Shall a measure be adopted to amend the Big Bear Lake Municipal Code to limit the number of vacation rental licenses the city may issue to a maximum of 1,500 and limit the number of vacation contracts to 30 per year per property, excluding home-sharing arrangements, limiting duplexes, triplexes and four-plexes to one vacation rental per property, and enacting additional further limitations and regulation for vacation rentals?" Measure P called for increasing the hotel tax from 8 percent to 9 percent on January 1, 2024, and then increasing it from 9 percent to 10 percent on January 1, 2025, with the revenue

dedicated to general services in the city.

At that point, a wake-up call went out to the local tourism industry and those who were heavily invested in turning a profit on short-term rentals, one that declared the long-term residents of Big Bear Lake were militating to clip the wings of the local tourist trade.

The the committee in favor of Measure O, consisting of Big Bear Lake United to Limit Short Term Rentals and local residents, collected \$19,649.59 to run the campaign to convince Big Bear's residents to vote for the measure, going into debt in that effort by spending \$24,231.47 on a campaign that involved signs and mailers.

The No on O Committee raised \$173,978.07 to defeat it, of which \$171,278.07 came from individuals or entities outside of Big Bear Lake. The Committee to Expand the Middle Class, an entity sponsored by AirBnb, Inc, put up \$50,153 to support No on O. The California Association of Realtors Issues Mobilization Political Action Committee donated another \$49,999. The National Association of Realtors put up \$49,999.99.

The committee in favor of Measure O spent \$8.39 per voter registered in Big Bear Lake in the effort to convince them they should support the initiative.

The committee against Measure O spent some \$60.26 on each of the city's registered voters in the effort to convince them they should reject the initiative.

When the votes were cast and counted, it appeared the discrepancy in the amount of money spent on the two campaigns controlled the outcome. There were 832 votes or 41.39 percent in favor of Measure O and 1,178 votes or 58.61 percent in opposition to it.

Measure P, which had no committees promoting nor fighting it, passed with 1,044 votes or 53.87 percent in favor and 894 votes or 46.13 percent opposed.

On August 3, Heidi *Continued on Page 12*

Public Notices

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 08/04/2023, 08/11/2023, 08/18/2023, 08/25/2023 CNBB31202306MT

FBN 20230007758
The following person is doing business as: PURE ACTIVEWEAR. 9116 FOOTHILL BLVD #108 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730; MAILING ADDRESS P.O. BOX 4552 ONTARIO, CA 91761; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO PURE ALKALINE WATER LLC 9116 FOOTHILL BLVD #108 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730 The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. The registrant commenced to transact business under the ficti-

Public Notices

tious business name or names listed above on: JAN 01, 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/ SAMIR YEZHNIKOVSKY, PRESIDENT Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: AUGUST 02, 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.,

Public Notices

Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 08/04/2023, 08/11/2023, 08/18/2023, 08/25/2023 CNBB31202304MT

FBN 20230007679
The following person is doing business as: NIRVANA DESIGN COMPANY. 3492 N WOODRUFF CT RIALTO, CA 92377 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO DEBORA S MERTAN 3492 N WOODRUFF COURT RIALTO, CA 92377; NAOMI A JARRETT 14792 PALM STREET VICTORVILLE, CA 92394; CHRISTINE D OLBRICH 1042 N MOUNTAIN AVE UPLAND, CA 91786. The business is conducted by: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware

Public Notices

that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/DEBORA S MERTAN, PARTNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JULY 31, 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 08/04/2023, 08/11/2023, 08/18/2023, 08/25/2023 CNBB31202303MT

FBN 20230006993
The following person is doing business as: TRUIZMSTREETWEAR. 1232 N SIERRA WAY APT 2

Public Notices

SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92405 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO STEVE M MARTINEZ 1232 N SIERRA WAY APT 2 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92405. The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ STEVE M MARTINEZ, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JULY 12, 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

Public Notices

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 08/04/2023, 08/11/2023, 08/18/2023, 08/25/2023 CNBB31202302MT

FBN 20230007615
The following person is doing business as: LOS CUBANOS TACOS. 9615 FOOTHILL BLVD RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO ANDRES M DIAZ ACOSTA 1337 LA MANCHA WAY ONTARIO, CA 91764. The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JUL 26, 2023 By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares

Public Notices

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/ ANDRES M DIAZ ACOSTA, OWNER

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JULY 28, 2023 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy 54554of 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 08/04/2023, 08/11/2023, 08/18/2023, 08/25/2023 CNBB31202301MT

Unsurprisingly, Hernandez Has Some Loyalists Who Will Hang With Him from page 6

possibility that Hernandez will seek to make removing him as CEO as politically expensive as he can, four of the members of the board of supervisors – Curt Hagman, Paul Cook, Jesse Armendarez and Joe Baca, Jr. – have misgivings about his performance. Hagman is in a lead role in what is said to be an effort to “clean the county slate.”

Supervisor Dawn Rowe, the current chairwoman of the board of supervisors, is more favorably disposed toward Hernandez than her board colleagues. It is widely acknowledged that Rowe’s supervisory staff is less steeped in the rough-and-tumble of governmental operations and political maneuvering and thus less effective than the staffs of all four of the other supervisors. For that reason, Rowe has been particularly dependent upon Hernandez for guidance and the operation of her office.

Other forces are arraying themselves against Hernandez.

Virtually every mid-level administrative employee in the county is looking forward to his departure.

Hernandez presumed that he had the backing of County Counsel Tom Bunton, who leads the county’s stable of in-house attorneys. Bunton, who has the full confidence of the board’s members to navigate

them through not only legal but many operational challenges, has demonstrated himself to be independent of Hernandez on multiple issues.

Looking down the road at the prospect that the move afoot to depose Hernandez as county chief executive officer will succeed, a consideration for the board is what portion of the senior county staff in place will go with him.

If, indeed, Hernandez engages in a scorched earth attempt to stay in place and fails, it is difficult to see how any element of county staff that aligns itself with him can survive. Even if Hernandez does not put up a fight and goes voluntarily, it appears likely that Williams and Rundles will be casualties of his ultimate departure, given all that has already occurred. On the other hand, were Hernandez to pull through, he will likely be able to extend an umbrella of protection over them.

The suite of four administrators within the county’s finance division – County Chief Financial Officer Matthew Erickson and the three deputy executive officers for finance and administration that serve under him, Robert Saldana, Valerie Clay and Paloma Hernandez-Barker – could play a pivotal role in whatever stab at survival Hernandez will make. With money being not only the mother’s milk of politics but of governance, whosoever not only controls the purse strings but manages to maintain stability in minding the county’s

money is likely to capture the high ground in this battle. Erickson, Saldana, Clay and Hernandez-Barker owe their current vaunted positions within the county to some degree or other to Hernandez, either for keeping each in place or promoting them. Still, if all four side with the forces intent on removing Hernandez from office, it is difficult to see how he can remain as CEO. A prognostication of the outcome in this circumstance could well be how each of these four comport themselves in the weeks ahead.

Muñoz, whose rise at the county is closely identified with Hernandez, finds himself in a tenuous position.

Both Hernandez and

Muñoz and to a lesser extent Williams have been pointedly criticized over the lackluster response to the nearly three-week-long blizzard that blanketed the San Bernardino Mountain communities in February and March, leaving roads impassable for most of that time, resulting in food, fuel and medicine shortages and deaths. There are reports that employees with the county’s office of emergency services, directly overseen by Muñoz, made multiple requests for equipment, materials and the means to respond to the blizzard conditions but were frustrated in that effort. Those employees, it is reported, at least partially attributed the loss of

life that took place in the mountains during that crisis to Hernandez’s failure to act. A report on the blizzard response compiled by a committee formed at the behest of Supervisor Rowe laid the responsibility for those shortcomings at the feet of Muñoz without mentioning Hernandez. It is unclear at this point the degree to which Muñoz is willing to accept responsibility over the blizzard response inadequacy, and if doing so will appreciably help Hernandez in his effort to remain in place as county CEO.

If Muñoz displays the loyalty some expect him to and he backs Hernandez, his continued viability as a county employee will rise or fall on

whether Hernandez survives. Muñoz represents a bellwether for Hernandez. If he makes a show of loyalty to his patron, he may inspire others to stand by Hernandez. Conversely, if Muñoz breaks with Hernandez, as perhaps the best known and maybe even the closest friend and ally the county chief executive officer has in the county other than Williams, the likelihood that others will stand with Hernandez will likewise diminish.

A whole host of other top administrators at the county – Behavioral Health Department Director Georgina Yoshio-ka, Children and Family Services Director Wendy Alvarez, Assistant Exec-

Continued on Page 12

Carrillo Challenging Row In The 3rd District Next Year from page 6

identify with and align themselves with public safety institutions and entities, in particular law enforcement, and extending to firemen.

Events beyond Rowe’s control, however, have overtaken her in that regard. The Blizzard of ‘23, while touching down at spots within the First District and the Second District, was hardest felt in the Third District communities stretching from Crestline through Cedar-pines Park, Cedar Glen, Blue Jay, Lake Gregory, Lake Arrowhead, Twin Peaks, Arrowbear, Running Springs, unincorporated Big Bear City, incorporated Big Bear Lake, Forest Falls and

Angelus Oaks.

As an attorney, in 2016 Carrillo represented former San Bernardino County Deputy Fire Chief George Corley in an action against the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District in which it was alleged Corley was terminated because of age discrimination. After trial, the jury rendered a verdict in which it found that Corley’s age was a substantial motivating reason for the district’s termination of his employment and awarded damages for lost earnings. When the county appealed the case, Carrillo continued to represent Corley before the state appellate court, prevailing when that panel returned a published decision upholding the trial court in Corley v. San Bernardino County Fire Protection.

As a consequence, Carrillo is on excellent terms with the union representing the county’s firefighters.

This morning, the San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters, International Association of Firefighters 395, which represents over 600 firemen and firewomen with San Bernardino County, Big Bear City, Big Bear Lake, Colton, Loma Linda, and Montclair fire departments, endorsed Carrillo in the 2024 election.

In announcing the endorsement, Jim Grigoli, president of IAFF Local 935, stated, “Chris’s knowledge of county government will provide the experience needed to end the disastrous financial mismanagement that has cost San Bernardino County taxpayers millions of dollars

in lost federal funding. Chris understands the concerns of District 3 and will be ready on day one to deliver results for local communities. The residents of District 3 deserve a new representative who will restore competence and integrity to the county board of supervisors. That’s why Local 395 is proud to support Chris Carrillo for supervisor and we look forward to helping him win.”

Carrillo said, “I’ve stood with county firefighters throughout my career and when elected supervisor, I’ll fight to ensure firefighters have the resources they need to continue protecting San Bernardino County communities.”

Calls to Rowe’s office were unreturned at press time.

-Mark Gutglueck

Tea Leaves Say The County Is Likely to Institute Some Order Of Limitation On The Number Or Percentage Of Short-Term Rentals To Be Allowed *from page 7*

Duron, the planning director with the San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department, and Colin Drukker, a county consultant with the firm Placeworks, decamped at the Twin Peaks County Offices for a meeting with San Bernardino Mountain Community residents, the purpose for which was to both provide information and take a survey of residents' attitudes with regard to short-term rentals.

Duron wanted to know whether mountain residents believed short-term rentals are impacting the local housing market.

Before the turn of the millennium, reservations for and renting rooms was done directly between visitors/tourists and hotels and cabin operators. Since 1995, the site VRBO (Vacation Rental By Owner, operated by Expedia), and since 2008, Airbnb have made it possible for residential homeowners

to share or rent their homes or space therein with members of the public. Other companies are now providing rental arrangement services. The COVID-19 pandemic increased demand for short-term homes in rustic and rural areas. In unincorporated county areas alone, according to Duron, there are over 6,300 units licensed as short-term rentals.

Some mountain residents expressed to Duron their concern that corporations have now leapt into the breach and are now constructing what are tantamount to "small hotels" on relatively small lots. This represents a new wave of ownership in which companies are supplanting individual home owners in what were traditionally residential districts.

With the county's update of its so-called San Bernardino County Housing Element document launched in 2022,

closer examination of short-term rentals has been undertaken, according to Duron, with efforts to determine if such rentals are impacting the availability and cost of permanent housing, and if long-term renters are being priced/forced out of the market by short term rentals.

In March, county officials concluded that there is a dearth of data with regard to short-term rentals' impact on the housing situation in the county.

The San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department is now engaged in an outreach effort to obtain more such data. Upon the assimilation of that information, county officials will be intensifying short-term rental regulations. The department is going to deliver findings and a recommendation to the board of supervisors by the end of the year, with a revamped short-term rental ordinance anticipated for consideration and passage in 2024.

The county will consider the rate of conversion of rental housing

into short-term rentals and regulations put in place by other counties and cities in the state. The county has hired extra workers to compile that data, including that extrapolated from internet sites offering short-term rental arrangements. The county is also quietly seeking to ferret out unpermitted short-term rentals.

Roughly 93 percent of short-term rentals are single family homes. Close to 99 percent of those renting short term rentals use the entire premises. The number of short-term rentals have mushroomed since 2018. Since last year, the short-term rental frenzy has cooled.

In May 2022, Twentynine Palms set an 8.525 percent cap on how many of the city's housing units can be utilized as vacation rentals, which practically means that no more than 500 of its 5,797 dwelling units can be occupied by short-term renters.

Through the county's adoption of its current housing element in September 2022, the board

of supervisors sought to address housing needs and the development of affordable housing. An issue identified was the degree to which short-term rentals impinge on the availability of housing throughout the county. The board requested that the county's department of land use services study the issue, and carry out an assessment of short-term rentals by March 31. The land use

services department did not meet that deadline. With the ultimate determination of how to interpret that data once it is collected, it is anticipated the board of supervisors will vote on instituting a policy proposed by county staff, perhaps one containing a percentage or numerical limitation on short-term rentals, similar to that in Twentynine Palms.

—Mark Gutglueck

Snoke Could Seamlessly Move Into Hernandez's Position As County CEO *from page 11*

utive Officer Diana Alexander, Deputy Executive Officer and Health and Human Services Director Cheryl Adams, Aging and Adult Services Director Sharon Nevins, First 5 Director Karen Scott, Public Works Director Brendon Biggs, Real Estate Services Director Terry Thompson and Arrowhead Regional Medical Center Director William Gilbert — are expected to keep their heads down while this plays out and

ultimately side with the board of supervisors majority if pushed to take a position.

It is unclear whether the board majority would favor elevating Snoke from Hernandez's temporary to full-fledged replacement. An informal and unscientific survey of the county's middle-management indicates Snoke is considered a viable replacement for Hernandez.

As far as the *Sentinel* can determine, there has been no discussion of who would replace Snoke as chief operating officer if he were to be appointed CEO and accepts that posting.

School Board & Its Supporters See Transgenderism As A Mental Disorder That Parents Have Every Right To Know Their Children Are Suffering From *from page 3*

dent consent. It would also require many educators to violate their own professional and personal ethics. 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. This proposed new board policy... is bad for students. It's bad for educators and its bad for the district and community."

California Superintendent of Schools Tony Thurmond traveled from

Sacramento to Chino on July 20 in an ultimately unsuccessful effort to persuade the board to not adopt the policy.

"I ask you to consider this: That nearly half of students who identify as being LBGTQ+ are considering suicide," Thurmond said at the July 20 meeting. "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."

The board and its supporters maintain that parents have a right to participate in the education of their children and be apprised of anything that impacts their well-being. They insist that parents are the primary caregivers and educators of their children and that withholding from parents information about the gender identification

of their own offspring is absurdly delusional. They point out that unless parents are financially enabled to fund a private education for their children, they are required by law to have their children attend public schools. Those parents should not be forced to accept their children being subjected

to a lesbian-gay-bisexual-trans-queer agenda while they are in that educational setting, members of the board and parents of students in the district maintain, and preventing parents from learning of the gender re-identification of their own children is a central tenet of that agenda, they say. Gender dysphoria

was previously almost universally considered, and is yet identified in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, the authoritative set of definitions relied upon by psychologists, as a mental disorder. With some psychologists yet defining gender dysphoria as a mental illness, those who

support the school board have posited, the parents of students with gender confusion should be informed of their child's mental state, and it is not the school district's or a school's or teachers' role to block parents from information about their child's condition or mental state.

—Mark Gutglueck

Munson Says The County GOP Should Not Engage In Or Encourage One Republican To Compete With Another & Should Return To One Of The Things It Does Best: Raising Money To Defeat Democrats *from page 3*

to have a business plan. We will need to produce funding solutions to help make our county party great again. I would offer VIP mixers with our monthly guests for 50-100 dollars in a suite near the event. I would suggest quarterly 50/50 raffles, a yearly fundraiser like how many county parties have a Lincoln Day event. We cannot sustain the organization of member dues alone. Even with member dues, we need to

help bring back unity instead of conformity. The party is not just a party for the well off. It needs to involve common people.

I also would like prohibitions of the chair to have staff paid from outside sources or sublet. Staff need to be paid out of our state and federal accounts. It should be up to the executive committee of the organization to decide who is worthy of being staffed.

We have almost seven

years to make San Bernardino County more difficult for the leftists to redistrict. We need to have a long-term plan to change the county party, change the map for legislative districts and bring forth the people who left our sphere of influence back. American political parties are two major parties, and we have factions within each party, but we need to bring forth more factions to be involved so we can win by addition, not subtraction.

It should not be because people want to win government contracts or increase the wages of government employees, but it should be on unified issues of stopping crime,

restoring the energy grid, bringing back parental rights, and making sure education teaches our youth to be successful and not be functional illiterates.

It is construction time again, for activists to restore the San Bernardino County Republican Party to become the Action Party for 2026 so we can restore the herd of elephants in the county.

Matthew Munson was the Republican candidate in California State Senate District 20 in 2014 and 2018 and was involved with the San Bernardino County Republican Central Committee for nearly eleven years.