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Board of Supervisors Appoints Snoke To Lead County As Chief Executive Officer

On Tuesday, September 12, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to elevate Luther Snoke to the full-fledged position of county chief executive officer.

Snoke, who held the position of county chief operating officer for nearly three years, was brought in to succeed former CEO Leonard Hernandez as acting CEO after the latter was suspended on August



Luther Snoke

8 of this year, ten days before he officially resigned.

The entire board of supervisors expressed confidence in Snoke in the aftermath of a scandal county officials for more than a month now have refrained from acknowledging.

Under Hernandez, the county suffered diminishing productivity and poor execution within several county departments after he terminated, forced out or prompted the resignations of multiple senior admin-

istrators, department heads and upper- and mid-level managers with whom he had personal differences or personality conflicts, including the individual who was serving as the county's top in-house lawyer at the time he became CEO, an assistant executive officer for finance and administration, another assistant executive officer, the director of public health, the director of information technology,

the director of risk management, a senior deputy county counsel, an individual serving in the capacity of acting economic development director, a deputy director of public works, the director of purchasing, the director of land use services, a deputy executive officer, the director of behavioral health, the director of children and family services, the director of agriculture, weights and measures, the See P 4

County Provided Former Chief Executive Officer Hernandez With A \$650,000 Severance

Amid widespread suspicion that he possessed blackmail material that would prove extremely problematic for some of his political masters on the board of supervisors if it were to be publicly revealed, Leonard Hernandez during his negotiations with the county over his departure as county chief executive officer in August was able to induce the county

to provide him with a severance package worth more than \$650,000.

Hernandez rose from being a part-time page at the Chino Branch Library in 1998 when he was a student at Cal State University Fullerton to a full-fledged library employee eventually entrusted with supervising operations at the Fontana library, then to the position of county librar-

ian and manager of the county museum. In 2015, he was selected by then-Chief County Executive Greg Devereaux to serve as the county deputy executive officer overseeing the library system, the museum, the registrar of voters office, the county's agricultural department and its division of weights and measures. In one of Devereaux's last actions before he



Leonard Hernandez

was forced out as county CEO by Supervisor Curt Hagman in 2017, he el-

evated Hernandez to the position of acting county chief operating officer. Months later, Hernandez was confirmed in the COO role by then-acting CEO Dena Smith.

Under the county's next chief executive officer, Gary McBride, Hernandez established himself as a ruthless operator, becoming known as the affable McBride's enforcer and See P 2

29 Palms Pulling The Plug On Its Tourism Attraction Effort

Twentynine Palm's five-year experiment with its downtown Tourism Business Improvement District has come to an end, following a 3-to-2 vote against maintaining the taxing arrangement that funded the program.

In 2018, the city council approved a proposal by city staff to establish the Twentynine Palms

Tourism Business Improvement District to levy and collect assessments from all hotels, motels, and vacation home rentals, and any other businesses within the 59.1 square-mile boundaries of the city accommodating visitors which were already subject to the city's transient occupancy tax, i.e., bed tax. The funds See P 3

Morongo Superintendent Vargas Left Relatively Unscathed In This Morning's High Speed Accident

Following an initial report that Morongo Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Patricio Vargas was critically injured in a high-speed automobile collision, word has reached the *Sentinel* that he was shaken up as a result of the mishap but is essentially physically intact in its aftermath.

Vargas was traveling south in his SUV on

Utah Trail at approximately 10:25 this morning when he was clipped by another vehicle.

Vargas's vehicle suffered extensive damage to its front end.

The driver's side air bag deployed, which based upon photos examined by the *Sentinel*, likely accounts for Vargas having eluded serious injury or death.

Based upon limited information available to the *Sentinel*, Vargas's vehicle went head into the right side of another SUV that was traveling west on Amboy Road.

The Morongo Unified School District headquarters is located at 5715 Utah Trail, which is roughly one mile distant from the scene of the accident.

Hughes Leaving In December After More Than 17 Years As Highland City Manager

Joseph Hughes, who has been Highland's city manager since 2006, will retire on December 29, he revealed this week.

Upon Hughes publicly declaring his intention, the Highland City Council authorized the hiring of a headhunting firm to recruit his replacement.

Hughes, is considered the municipality's second city manager, having succeeded Sam

Racadio in the top administrator's spot in 2006. Robert Covington, who had previously been San Bernardino County administrator, served as the city council's guide in managing operations during Highland's first three months in existence, but is not listed as having been Highland city manager.

Both Hughes and Racadio began with



Joe Hughes

the City of Highland in 1988, shortly after the city's November 1987

incorporation.

Hughes moved into the city manager's post partly on the strength of his performance in his first sixteen years with the city and partially due to Racadio's endorsement of him as his successor.

Hughes has had something of a serendipitous existence in the role of Highland city manager. He was aided in

some measure by Racadio having been elected to the council in 2010. Moreover, the city has benefited by being the host to the casino owned by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. The tribe has subsidized some improvements near the entrance to the casino and on Highland Avenue, which has enhanced the city's image along a crucial See P 3

Membership Assails County GOP Leaders' Endorsements Of Democrats

The center is not holding and things are falling apart on both sides of San Bernardino County's political divide, reportedly capturing the interest of federal investigators.

At issue is a mélange of backroom deals involving one of the region's Democratic Congresswomen, her husband and one of their sons, the chairman of San Bernardino County's Republican Central Committee, a San Bernardino County Supervisor who was formerly the county GOP chairman, the mayor of Fontana and other influential members of the San Bernardino County GOP and its central committee, the City of Fontana and millions of dollars in federal grant money currently or slated to be funneled to that municipality in the future in return for cross-party endorsements, employment promises benefiting politicians' family members and speculation in land along a major interstate corridor potentially to be impacted by federal legislative action.

The most apparent anomaly at the core of the upheaval are endorsements some of the more powerful members of the San Bernardino County Republican Party are making of either current or hopeful Democrat officeholders. This has touched off a deep countercurrent of both resentment and resistance within the San Bernardino County Republican Central Committee that was on display Thursday night at the committee's September meeting.

In 2013, Curt See P 3

Beneath The Surface, Plenty Of Scandals Dogged Hernandez, Which His Dominant Demeanor Kept Under Wraps *from front page*

hatchet man, one who was not only willing to but seemed to relish handing out pink slips to employees deemed out of step with the county's goals and production quotas.

In September 2020, the board of supervisors as it was then composed put McBride out to pasture, using window dressing to confer on him a temporary assignment as the special projects coordinator for county programs relating to the COVID-19 pandemic response to be carried out with federal and state grants. Hernandez was made CEO, officially effective the following month. In short order, Hernandez set about remaking the county governmental structure in his own image, maneuvering to terminate, force out or otherwise obtain the resignations of administrators, department heads or assistant/deputy department heads who were, in his view, too set in their ways or wedded to the previous operational standards for the county, replacing them with loyalists he could mold into his ideal model of county executives or department directors. Those he promoted were initiated into his administration by means of leadership training sessions in what he referred to as "Leonardship," designed to instruct them in his philosophy and expectations and his belief that in order to become leaders, the administrators working for him first had to excel in being devoted followers, willing to carry out his directives implicitly and without question.

Very early on, questions manifested among a cross section of assistant executive officers, deputy executive officers, department direc-

tors, deputy department directors and mid-level managers about the standards Hernandez was applying, the prioritization of loyalty above competence in those serving in the county's command echelon and his brazen promotion of a principal administrative analyst, Pamela Williams, with whom he was having an affair, to the position of chief of administration, variously described as the county's seventh, eighth, ninth or tenth most senior staff position, one which ultimately is yet providing her with \$260,783.22 in total annual compensation, including salary, pay add-ons, perquisites and benefits.

When complaints were made to the county's human resources division about his management style and practices and the impropriety of two of the county's top administrators compromising the integrity of the chain of command through a sexual entanglement, Hernandez used loyalists he had established in that department – Diane Rundles who was the assistant county administrator overseeing human resources and two human resources department deputy directors, Amy Coughin and Gina King – to squelch those grievances by either persuading those employees to drop their protests, conducting any investigations into the matter that persistent employees insisted upon "off the books," or pressuring the complainants into resigning from the county, pursuant to separation arrangements which conferred upon them a severance package, which would only be provided to them upon their executing a nondisclosure agreement.

Ultimately, as a consequence of their resentment of, resistance to and/or unwillingness to abide by the ethos Hernandez had imposed on the county's governmental structure while he was in the capacity of chief operating officer or chief executive officer, more than three dozen of the

county's highest ranking administrators, senior managers and mid-level managers departed from the county, including an assistant executive officer for finance and administration, another assistant executive officer, the director of public health, the director of information technology, the director of risk management, the individual serving at that time as county counsel, a senior deputy county counsel, an individual serving in the capacity of acting economic development director, a deputy director of public works, the director of purchasing, the director of land use services, a deputy executive officer, the director of behavioral health, the director of children and family services, the director of agriculture, weights and measures, the county's chief learning officer and the director of child support services.

While Hernandez had come to dominate the county governmental structure, ruling over it by intimidation that included maintaining strict obedience to his dictates through the monitoring of employee interactions and communications, by the summer of 2022 there were undeniable signs of lagging productivity and poor execution within multiple county departments. From December 2022 through the first six months of 2023, things worsened to the point that the dysfunction in the county could no longer be obscured by Hernandez, Williams and the coterie of administrators and department managers whose machinations in support of his authority had previously sustained him.

In December 2022, after having documented that substantiated foster children abuse cases had increased every year since 2019 and that foster children under the supervision of the San Bernardino County Department of Children and Family Services continued to be abused at unprecedented levels in resource family homes, formerly known as fos-

ter or county homes, the San Bernardino County Grand Jury called for "the department of children and family services be abolished, and a new system be created to help raise and parent foster children in the county." Five months later, the county was hit with a class action lawsuit on behalf of 5,800 children and teenagers alleging that the San Bernardino County Department of Children and Family Services had neglected to monitor properly or sufficiently a foster care system in which foster children were routinely abused and neglected.

On February 22, 2023, a blizzard touched down on the San Bernardino Mountains so intense that more than 30,000 residents of the mountaintop communities found themselves snowed in and trapped, without access to food, fuel, supplies or medicine or, alternately, caught down the mountain and unable to return to their homes. Despite the National Weather Service having given an indication on February 15 that a major weather front was going to converge on Southern California beginning as early as February 21, Hernandez and his handpicked appointee as the director of the county's office of emergency services, Deputy County Executive Officer Daniel Muñoz, failed to abide by the protocol specified in the county's comprehensive emergency management program for weather related issues by which he and Muñoz were to convene a conference call with the sheriff, county fire chief, county public works director, Caltrans regional representative, California Office of Emergency Services representative, local California Highway Patrol commander, relevant city managers and utility company representatives to size up the anticipated circumstance and begin formulating a planned action of response.

The board of supervisors, which held a regularly scheduled meeting on February 28, did not

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conduct an emergency meeting relating to the blizzard until March 1, at which authorization of a planned response to the severe winter storm was made. As a consequence of the delay of at least 11 days, many mountain community residents remained in dire danger, and over the course of nearly two-and-a-half weeks from February 22 until March 11, a number of mountain residents were killed by the severe imposition of nature or as the result of isolation. The number of deaths, which have been quantified by officials, has not been publicly disclosed.

In April, when officials with the Federal Emergency Management Agency came to San Bernardino County to obtain from county officials input on what assistance could be provided in effectuating the community's recovery and to provide assets to assist in preparation for future events, Hernandez and Williams were traveling abroad, attending a trade mission in Korea and then visiting Tokyo, accompanied by Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Dawn Rowe and Supervisor Curt Hagman.

Also in April, after the county sheriff's department's computer and communications system was hijacked by Russian hackers, the county paid a \$1.1 million ransom to restore the system's functionality.

In July, Hernandez went on vacation, at which point he willingly, for what he believed was to be a temporary basis,

turned his administrative authority over to County Chief Operating Officer Luther Snoke. While he was absent from the county, events overtook him. On August 1, Williams, having already confided to some county employees that she had entangled herself sexually with Hernandez, came forward to inform high-ranking county officials and then ultimately the office of county counsel about her inappropriate relationship with the county CEO. On August 2, Williams requested from county counsel what was described to the *Sentinel* as "whistleblower protection," to prevent Hernandez from retaliating against her. Hernandez, who was yet on vacation, was informed about Williams's statements and request that same day. Though Hernandez was scheduled to return to the county from vacation on August 8, the board of supervisor on that day extended his vacation leave.

It is now known that at that point, an intensive round of negotiations between Hernandez and county officials took place. By August 10, a separation and release of claims agreement had been drawn up which included financial terms highly favorable to Hernandez which simultaneously muzzled him with regard to matters, issues, developments, actions and information of sensitivity which his employment with the county in his various capacities gave him direct

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Hughes Departing Highland In December *from front page*

vista and arterial.

The city did endure a major challenge beginning in 2014 when a band of outside attorneys – consisting of R. Rex Parris, Milton Grimes and Kevin Shenkman – using provisions of the California Voting Rights Act that allows attorneys to challenge municipalities over their use of at-large elections to select their political leadership, settled upon targeting Highland for its use of at-large elections. Claiming that a so-called protected minority – Hispanics – were underrepresented on the city council, Parris, Grimes and Shen-

kman called upon the city to dispense with at-large elections in electing the city council and create council districts in which the city would be divided into fifths as measured by population and its residents would be thereafter constrained during council elections to vote only for a representative from their particular district on the city council. The city responded by putting an initiative on the November 2014 ballot, Measure T, asking if the city's residents were in favor of a ward system. Measure T went down to defeat, with 2,862 votes or 43.01 percent in favor of it and 3,793, or 56.99 percent opposed.

Parris, Grimes and Shenkman proceeded

with a lawsuit on behalf of Lisa Garrett, who claimed to be a Latino resident of Highland whose right to adequate representation on the city council had been abridged by Highland's traditional at-large voting system, demanding district or ward elections. The city sought to assuage the demand by proposing to allow cumulative voting, in which each voter was to be given one vote for each contested position and would be allowed to cast any or all of those votes for any one candidate, or spread the votes among the candidates. When the matter went to trial, despite making a finding that the socio-economic-based rationale presented by

the plaintiff's attorneys to support the need for ward elections was irrelevant and that the plaintiff's assertion that district voting was the only way to cure the alleged violation of the Voting Rights Act was false, San Bernardino Superior Court Judge David Cohn mandated that Highland adopt a ward system.

Highland thus became an object illustration to other cities in San Bernardino County when they were faced with efforts by outside attorneys to alter their voting systems. Virtually all of those – Chino Hills, Chino, Upland, Rancho Cucamonga, Fontana, Hesperia, Apple Valley, Barstow, Redlands, Big Bear Lake, Yucaipa, Yucca Valley and Twen-

tynine Palms – acceded to changing their voting systems when similar demands were made of them.

Hughes has fared better than he might have, given that no one has ever challenged either him or his wife, Betty, over their simultaneously serving in two key positions at Highland City Hall, in his case that being city manager and in her case city clerk.

Even prior to Hughes' tenure as Highland City Manager, many cities throughout Southern California were videotaping their city council meetings and broadcasting them on local cable channels and/or livestreaming them and then posting them on their websites to grant

the public a window on municipal governance and operations. Hughes consistently resisted that move toward transparency, and Highland is yet one of only two of the county's cities which do not make video recordings of council meetings.

When Hughes retires in December, he will have 35 years in as a Highland employee. Thus, given the formula used by the California Public Employees Retirement System, he will have maxed out his retirement at 100 percent of his highest salary as a Highland employee. Those who have achieved the status of city manager are given a pension equal to three percent for each year

Continued on Page 12

In 2014, Hagman Deposed Rego In A Ruthless Takeover Of The County GOP *from front page*

Hagman was then an Assemblyman who was due to be termed out of California's lower legislative house the following year. As stepping up to run for State Senate at that

point was not a viable option, he sought to continue his political career by entering the race for Fourth District San Bernardino County supervisor, representing Carbon Canyon, Chino Hills, Chino, Prado, the West End, Montclair, Ontario, Guasti and south Upland. That race initially appeared to be a contest between the incumbent

Republican, Gary Ovitt, who had formerly been Ontario's mayor, and Gloria Negrete-McLeod, at that point a one-term Democratic Congresswoman who had formerly been a State Senator and Assemblywoman.

Recognizing he would need leverage to force Ovitt out of the race and a substantial amount of money to pre-

vail, Hagman set about deposing the San Bernardino County Republican Central Committee chairman, Robert Rego, and taking on the committee chairmanship for himself. Rego, during his tenure as chairman, had built the county's Republican Central Committee into a formidable fundraising machine, and the party had

used the mother's milk of politics in multiple venues throughout the county to maintain incumbent Republicans in office or elect fresh candidates bearing the GOP standard, outmaneuvering their more numerous but less organized, less coordinated and underfunded Democrat counterparts. Hagman knew that Rego would be re-

luctant to support any effort to oppose the reelection of an incumbent Republican such as Ovitt and outright unwilling to use the central committee's money in support of a non-incumbent such as himself in an electoral effort against an incumbent Republican. In a power play that involved his coordinating

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With Hospitality Industry Unconvinced Of Its Effectiveness, 29 Palms Jettisons Tourism Tax Program *from front page*

raised were used to promote tourism within the city.

As a consequence, all motel, hotel and vacation rentals were subject to a 1.5% charge that was tacked on to the bills of those staying in those facilities.

California's Parking and Business Improvement Area Law, which was passed in 1989 and was incorporated as Section 36500 et. sequitur of the California Streets and Highways Code, authorizes cities to establish business improvement areas for the purposes of promoting tourism.

At its September 12 meeting, the city council was scheduled to consider reconfirming the levying of the tax, which

was referred to in a staff report as an assessment.

As might have been anticipated, the tax to support the Twentynine Palms Tourism Business Improvement District has not been popular with the owners of motels, hotels or short-term rentals, although the concept of taking active measures to increase awareness of Twentynine Palms as a tourist destination and thereby bringing in more tourists who would fill vacancies in rooms that otherwise remain empty was appreciated by some elements of the local hospitality industry.

According to the city, Twentynine Palms offers more than 590 hotel rooms, more than 175 recreational vehicle spaces and 480 or more permitted vacation rentals. Something like 32 percent of those tourists staying in Twentynine Palms come from California, roughly 16 percent come from the

Western United States, 12.6 percent hail from Europe, another 12.6 percent are Midwesterners, 12 percent are Canadians and 6 percent are Northeasterners.

According to the city, it realized around \$220,000 in the Tourism Business Improvement District tax revenue in Fiscal Year 2017-18, slightly over \$250,000 in Fiscal Year 2018-19, saw a drop-off to roughly \$190,000 in 2019-2020, something near \$283,000 in 2020-21, \$360,000 in 2021-21 and almost \$270,00 in the first three quarters of 2022-23.

Some questioned how effective the campaign to bring tourists into Twentynine Palms has been.

Under California law, a tax cannot be imposed without it being ratified by a vote of those to bear the financial burden of the tax. Local agencies, however, have steered around that requirement by using a so-called pro-

test vote or protest process to make that ratification. Thus, those to be taxed are given notice of what is usually a 30-day or one month window during which they have an opportunity to file a protest in writing with regard to the tax. Those who lodge such a protest are deemed to have voted against the tax. Those who do not mail in a protest are deemed to have supported the tax.

With the city's authority to impose the Tourism Business Improvement District tax set to elapse, the city made a call for protests of those upon whom the tax is imposed. The vote was weighted such that those eligible to participate in the vote were given a percentage of the available ballots in the ratio that their individual business contributed toward the total of the Tourism Business Improvement District tax collected. If more than 50 percent of

the ballots had been cast against the continuation of the tax, it would have sunsetted this year, taking with it the existence of the district.

When the deadline for lodging a protest arrived, the percentage of the operators of hotel, motel and vacation home rentals who opposed the district, based on their respective degree of contributing toward the total tax revenue, stood at 18.82 percent.

Nevertheless, a significant number of those operating the city's hotels, motels and short-term rentals were on hand on September 12 to let the council know they disapproved of the tax. In response, Councilman Octavious Scott, trying to signal to those entrepreneurs that he had their back, made a motion to discontinue the Tourism Business Improvement District's charter. Scott and Councilman Steve Bilderain then supported

Scott's motion, but were outvoted by Wright and councilmen Joel Klink and Daniel Mintz.

An alternate motion to reauthorize the imposition of the 1.5 percent tax followed. Wright then joined with Scott and Bilderain in voting against the reauthorization of the tax, which had the effect of killing the district, which draws its lifeblood from that transitory occupancy assessment.

Scott said a large number of local hospitality industry entrepreneurs did not want to be in the district, particularly because it was not meeting their needs or expectations, and he opposed forcing them to participate in it.

In effect, the Twentynine Palms Tourism Business Improvement District will cease to exist as of October 1.

Snoke, Chosen To Replace Hernandez As County CEO, Will Need To Overcome His Predecessor's Legacy And His Bureaucratic Management Team To Succeed *from front page*

county's chief learning officer and the director of child support services.

For nearly two years, Hernandez and several administrators and department directors he had promoted into the positions of those he had moved out had been able to keep a lid on the county's burgeoning problems and dysfunction, but beginning last year the county suffered a series of setbacks that were a direct outcome of his mismanagement. Ultimately, Hernandez's tenure as CEO unraveled when it was revealed that he was involved in a sexual relationship with Pam Williams, the woman he had jumped 17 pay grades from her position as a principal administrative analyst to that of the county's chief of administration. When, in the wake of that revelation it was learned that Hernandez had been concupiscent with at least two other women working for the county, his then-ongoing vacation leave was extended, and the county quickly negotiated a separation agreement with him in the hope the matter would quietly resolve itself without any attention being focused on it. Snoke was tapped to fill in for Hernandez on a temporary basis. A little more than a month later, the board of supervisors has permanentized that assignment, making Snoke the actual CEO.

"It is truly an honor to work for a county that capitalizes on the diversity of its people, its geography and economy," Snoke said in a prepared statement released in conjunction with his appointment. "I look forward to working with the board and our staff to achieve the countywide vision of increasing access to prosperity and well-being throughout our region."

At Tuesday's meeting, when the vote to promote Snoke was made, Fourth

District Supervisor Curt Hagman said the board of supervisors had "full confidence in you to... keep our county in the right direction, achieving greatness as it has the last few years and to establish a great culture of inclusiveness and acceptance and greatness, like you've been doing."

Four days before he was elevated to CEO and was yet in the interim role, Snoke on September 8 sent all county personnel an email in which he acknowledged that "The recent changes in county leadership have opened up wounds for those who have felt past pain or deep frustration towards certain aspects of past leadership. The shock of the recent changes has created fear within our ranks, with staff wondering 'Where will the county go from here?'"

He lamented "sensational unverified stories, without regard for the truth" that had recently appeared in the local press "alleging various things about county staff." Those accounts were doing the county and its employees a disservice, he said. "We all know the county is full of good, hard-working people... who are dedicated to doing their best for this county, just like you and I are... who are crushed when they see their names mentioned" and "who are hurt when they see the county's name dragged through the mud, when they and so many more work so hard to have it well represented."

Snoke wrote, "For those who know me, this all hits close to home, as I am sure it does for you. We care so much for those who every day put themselves on the line for this county... who show up even when it's hard, and still give it their all... who do incredible things to serve the residents of the county and make our communities

better. We are a team. I hurt as a leader when there is a collective feeling of disappointment or defeat."

Both before and after the board's action to promote Snoke, county employees reacted to Snoke's letter. There was a general consensus among those the *Sentinel* spoke with that the new CEO is well meaning and represents a positive change from the direction and atmospherics that existed under Hernandez. A common theme was that Snoke seemed genuinely intent on overcoming the hiccup that had occurred with the demise of his predecessor. Others gave him high marks for his enthusiasm and upbeat attitude.

A few, however, were skeptical about whether he is constitutionally and attitudinally capable of eradicating the infection that had settled into various spots in the county in the form of Hernandez's appointment of his loyalists who were described as more committed to their own ambition and personal advancement than they were in living up to the ideal of public service that should have been the performance standard they adhered to.

Three county employees spoke with the *Sentinel* in a conference call on Tuesday. Each expressed in slightly differently articulated terms that the demonstrated willingness of Hernandez's acolytes to please him when it was apparent that his priorities clashed with recognized best governmental practices and clearly stated policies and procedures raised questions as to their fitness for holding the positions Hernandez appointed them to and in which they remain. Snoke so far appears unwilling to confront those bad actors who yet hold positions of authority within the county, they said.

One county employee the *Sentinel* engaged with said he found Snoke's remarks refreshing and discouraging at the same time. He said Snoke enunciated

an admirable degree of confidence and set forth a worthy set of goals. "He's a nicer guy and has a far superior value system than Leonard ever did," he said. "There's no mistaking that."

Ironically, however, he said, it seems that Snoke lacks the two elements of Hernandez's personality that counted for much in terms of commanding the county's ship of state: decisiveness and forcefulness.

"I think the question is this: Does he [Snoke] possess the ruthlessness he needs in order to lead?" the employee said. "Time will tell, but from what I see, I just don't think Luther is aggressive enough. Leonard had no problem getting what he wanted, even when it wasn't in the county organization's interest. By his tremendous show of will, this overwhelming striking of fear into anyone he was dealing with, Leonard made everyone do what he asked for. He made the department directors do things they knew they shouldn't do. To stay on Leonard's good side, they were as ruthless with their departments' employees as Leonard was with them. Now, Luther's in charge but he just can't bring himself to be as ruthless in rooting out those people who did Leonard's dirty work for him. Leonard's gone, but other than that there haven't been any real changes."

In his September 8 letter, Snoke said, "I've spent considerable time over the past few weeks since my interim appointment working to figure out how to best shape the future in a positive way for our leadership and for our county team. What I have found is that we do not have a county that is stalled in its efforts to perform. In fact, I see employees becoming more empowered than ever before and being entrusted with greater responsibility. We have a strong and aligned board [of supervisors]. I have personally witnessed our board members building

up and supporting our teams, appreciating the great work being done by the great people who do it, and wanting to be involved and engaged like never before."

Fleetingly, Snoke acknowledged damage had been inflicted on the county and county staff morale by Hernandez and Hernandez's management team.

"However, I also see an organization that is wounded and confused by recent changes," he wrote. "That is to be expected."

Still, he offered no assurance that his administration would directly address the pervasive remnants of Hernandez's appointees who hold the lion's share of positions in the county's administrative echelon. Rather, he expressed hope the county could cure itself holistically, without any radical surgery or amputations.

"[W]e each need our own time and space to heal and move forward," he said. "I do believe that time heals all wounds. I believe that great work cannot be hidden and will shine through. I believe that kindness and respect are requirements. I believe that it is a non-negotiable, that we operate with integrity, and a lack of integrity or concern for this organization must be addressed. I believe that the county will thrive and continue to demonstrate the in-

credible things we can do for the community, our residents, and for each other."

Snoke said his formula for recovery was camaraderie.

"How do we get there?" he asked and then answered: "The first step is we support each other. We build one another up. We don't go it alone, but we ask for help when we need it, and we offer help when it's needed. We then move forward together, aligned in vision, and led by a strong, unified board and a leader that has deep care and concern for our mission and for you... someone who wants to see those who give it their all achieve all that they desire. We are not perfect, but we strive to do our best. This is our chance to show everyone watching that the county is great."

Chairwoman of the Board of Supervisors Dawn Rowe said she is sold on Snoke's leadership formula.

"Throughout his time with the county, Luther has effectively managed department operations, which has translated to maximum efficiency and quality public service," she said. "Given his proven track record of quality leadership, I'm very confident in his ability to continue expanding and improving the services we provide to our residents."

-Mark Gutglueck

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Intrigue Has Attended Hagman's Ascent To The Pinnacle Of The Governmental Structure By Means Of Dominating The County GOP, Which Has Included Alliances With Democrats, Unions & Betrayal Of Fellow Republicans *from page 3*

with former Assemblyman and State Senator Jim Brulte who that year was gunning, ultimately successfully, to seize for himself chairmanship of the California Republican Party, Hagman utilized his available resources, which included his then-status as an assemblyman along with the talents of his Assembly office chief of staff, West Covina Mayor Mike Spence, to engage in a round of dealmaking and political horse-trading, to oust Rego as the chairman of the San Bernardino County Central Committee and install himself in that post, a perch from which he could ensure that he would be able to prioritize the spending of local party money to elect him as San Bernardino County supervisor in the Fourth District in the 2014 election cycle. Once Hagman had the local GOP party scepter firmly in hand, he persuaded Ovitt that discretion would be the better part of valor, such that it would be best for Ovitt to gracefully step aside and let him run against Negrete-McLeod. Though local – town, city, county and governmental district/agency – elections in California are by law non-partisan contests, in San Bernardino County the outcome of the races for all political offices are heavily influenced by the party affiliation of the candidates vying for them. The 2014 race for Fourth District supervisor was no exception. Despite Negrete-McLeod's status as an incumbent congresswoman and an 11 percent voter registration advantage that Democrats had over Republicans in the Fourth Supervisorial District, Hagman, was able to rely not only on his own fundraising ability but a substantial amount of money in the San Bernardino County Republican Central Committee's bank account. Combining that financial enable-

ment with the superior electioneering prowess of Spence, who managed his campaign, Hagman emerged victorious, with 52.11 percent of the vote in the November election.

Hagman remained for a time as the party chairman, turning that post over to his longtime ally, Jan Leja, in 2017. In 2018, again with full Republican Central Com-



Curt Hagman

mittee backing, he beat Negrete-McLeod in a rematch in an even more convincing fashion than he had in 2014, dispatching her in the June primary contest with 53.41 percent of the vote, despite the Democrats' registration advantage over Republicans in the district having grown to 14 percent. Later that year, Hagman accepted his appointment by his board colleagues to a two-year term as chairman of the board of supervisors. Two years later, in an unprecedented move, the board extended Hagman's chairmanship of the board of supervisors for another two years.

In 2022, Hagman sought reelection to the board of supervisors, finding himself facing a challenge by State Senator Connie Leyva, a former labor leader celebrated as a progressive Democrat. Leyva had represented California Senate District 20 as it was then composed since 2014. Under the revamped term limit restrictions that had been put in place for those first elected in 2012 and thereafter, she was at liberty to run for the California State Senate one more time, but she opted

against doing so because the reapportionment that took place in 2021 based upon the 2020 Census had changed the boundaries of the 20th Senate District, including removing Chino, where Leyva lives, from it entirely. Instead, Chino was placed within the newly-drafted Senate District 22, which also includes Ontario, Pomona, West Covina, and Baldwin Park, the home of incumbent 22nd District Senator Susan Rubio, also a Democrat. Leyva, who was not willing to run against her sister Democrat Rubio, instead decided to take on Hagman in the Fourth District San Bernardino County supervisor race.

Leyva's decision to challenge Hagman appeared to be based on a sound set of political calculations. Foremost, the Democrats' registration advantage over the Republicans in the Fourth District had grown. With the dawning of 2022, 101,876 or 44.1 percent of the Fourth District's 230,908 registered voters were affiliated with the Democratic Party. Republicans in the district numbered 61,233 or 26.5 percent, while 52,198 voters or 22.6 percent were aligned with no party. The remaining 6.9 percent were registered as members of the Libertarian, Green, Peace & Freedom, American Independent or other more obscure political parties. Secondly, Leyva, who was born in 1967, was 54 as the campaign began, a year younger than Hagman and 24 years younger than Negrete-McLeod was during her 2018 campaign against Hagman. It was believed that Leyva not only would prove far more energetic and agile than Negrete-McLeod had been but would be able to convert the money she had in her political war chest for reelection to the State Senate into money she could use in her run for supervisor, and thereby subject Hagman, who in six straight contests in 2004, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2018 had an unbroken string of six victories, to not only the most exacting political test of

his career, but outright defeat him.

Before that could occur, however, the ever politically facile Hagman formed an alliance with Norma Torres. Torres had been a councilwoman with the City of Pomona from 2001 to 2006, Pomona Mayor from 2006 to 2008, then from 2008 to 2013 succeeded former Pomona Mayor Nell Soto as the Assemblywoman representing Assembly District 61 and from 2013 to 2014 succeeded Negrete-McLeod as the State Senator representing the 32nd Senatorial District. Since 2015, Torres had been the Congresswoman succeeding Negrete-McLeod, representing California's 35th Congressional District. Of significant note is that Torres is a Democrat. In endorsing Hagman, Torres notably spurned Leyva.

Despite Leyva's labor and union affiliation, Hagman was able to pick up the endorsements of multiple unions, including the one that perhaps counted most, that of the Teamsters Union representing San Bernardino County employees. Torres was widely credited with giving the union bosses clearance to back away from Leyva and embrace Hagman.

One other candidate, Larry Wu, got into the 2022 Fourth District Supervisor race, though the real race was the matchup between Leyva and Hagman. Ultimately, with key Democrat and Democrat-affiliated entities having backed away from her, Leyva never got her campaign on track and in the end, in the June Primary, she proved no match for Hagman, who convincingly defeated her, with 56.867 percent or 27,906 of the 49,072 total votes cast. Leyva managed a relatively anemic 17,816 votes or 36.305 percent with Wu polling 6.827 percent.

In the June primary race for Congress in California's 35th District, Mike Cargile, a Republican, managed to qualify to go head-to-head against Torres in the November general election.

Despite the consideration that Cargile was the Republican standard bearer in that contest, Hagman felt himself obliged to, and indeed did, endorse Torres. Hagman's endorsement of Torres had both symbolic and actual impact. Other Republicans in San Bernardino County, influenced by the then-all-powerful chairman of the San Bernardino County supervisors, were less enthusiastic about backing Cargile than they might otherwise have been.

The 35th District, which spreads across portions of Los Ange-



Norma Torres

les, San Bernardino and Riverside counties, is considered a safe Democrat district, given that 44 percent of its voters are registered Democrats as opposed to 26 percent who are registered as Republicans. Nevertheless, Cargile, fighting the dual disadvantages of the Democrats' larger registration numbers as well as the consideration that Hagman, a key member of his own party, had undercut him by endorsing his opponent, managed a respectable showing in the November 2022 race, receiving 43,271 votes or 43.8 percent of the total 98,791 cast. Torres claimed 55,520 votes or 56.2 percent for the victory.

Torres' reelection left a bitter taste in the mouths of many Republicans, some of whom lamented that with an even more concerted push in favor of Cargile's electioneering effort and the undivided support of the Republican Party, including that of several of its most powerful and influential members, Cargile rather than Torres might today be representing the 35th District in the nation's capital.

Meanwhile, Torres, who is considered by

some to be a leading member of the California delegation in Congress, was suffering some re-primations from her own party over her endorsement of Hagman and the manner in which she had cut the progressive and pro-labor Leyva off at the knees.

People from both sides of the aisle began to look into what had gone into the sudden phenomenon of cross-party endorsements in San Bernardino County.

A few interesting factoids bubbled to the surface as a consequence of those inquiries.

One surrounded the City of Fontana's hiring of Torres' son, Robert.

Robert Torres was, in the footsteps of his mother, elected to the Pomona City Council in 2016. From 2013 until 2017 he had been employed as a district director for then-52nd District Assemblyman Freddie Rodriguez, who represented Pomona, Chino, Ontario, Montclair and portions of unincorporated San Bernardino and Los Angeles counties in California's lower legislative house. In 2017, Rodriguez, a Democrat, fired young Torres.

From 2017 until 2021, Robert Torres was unemployed beyond serving in the capacity of city councilman in Pomona. Those four years of unemployment drew to an end when he was hired to serve in the newly created position of public affairs manager with the City of Fontana, a post that came into being at the behest of Fontana Mayor Acquannetta Warren.

Corresponding with Fontana's hiring of Robert Torres were efforts by his mother in her capacity as a congresswoman to obtain federal grants and other funding for the City of Fontana.

Shortly after Robert Torres' hiring in Fontana, Norma Torres obtained for both Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties as well as six of the cities that fall within her Inland Empire district \$2.75 million in clean energy grants, funding that was provided through

Continued on Page 11

The Inside Information Potentially Damaging To His Political Masters Hernandez Accumulated Gave Him The Leverage To Obtain A Generous Severance, Despite The Shortcomings In His Performance That Led To His Departure From The County

from page 2

and firsthand as well as indirect and secondhand access to.

The agreement designated August 18 as the date of Hernandez's official departure from the county. Hernandez signed the agreement on August 10. Supervisor Rowe, who as the chairwoman of the board of supervisors committed the county to the terms of the agreement, affixed her signature to the document on August 17, the same date as did San Bernardino County Counsel Tom Bunton, whose signature approved the agreement as to form.

The separation agreement enjoins Hernandez from publicly disclosing subjects in general or in detail that are highly problematic, prejudicial toward or even potentially embarrassing for the county and its higher-ranking officials, in particular, the *Sentinel* is informed, two of the members of the board of supervisors. The perceived need by some county officials to ensure that Hernandez would refrain, essentially forever, from disclosing certain information he is privy to provided him with the leverage to negotiate such a generous severance, knowledgeable sources said.

The *Sentinel* obtained a redacted copy of the separation agreement through a California Public Records Act request. The copy provided to the *Sentinel* had Hernandez's employment identification nomenclature blacked out.

According to the document, Hernandez is to stay on the county payroll from his resignation date of August 18, 2023 through November 22, 2024. From August 18, 2023 until February 23, 2024, he is to continue to draw the salary he was receiving prior to his resignation and, as of

February 24, 2024 until November 22, 2024, his salary is to be increased by 3 percent from what he was receiving at the time he was last employed.

Hernandez is to remain eligible for some, though not all, of the benefits he was receiving while he was actively employed. Among the benefits dispensed with, according to the separation agreement, are reimbursements to Hernandez for tuition; past, current or future tuition loan repayments; his membership dues in any of a variety of professional or personal organizations, associations or fraternities; the allowance he was provided for portable communication devices; any further retention pay provided under the county exempt employee compensation plan; and his automobile allowance. He was required to surrender his county-issued computers, communications devices and other equipment. He is no longer eligible for the county's bereavement plan or any COVID-19-related leave provided for in his employment contract. The separation agreement prohibits him from converting any sick leave into vacation leave.

Under the agreement, Hernandez is to receive no "step" or "merit" increases after August 18. Hernandez will receive the across-the-board cost-of-living wage increase he was previously due to get as of February 24, 2024. He is to continue to accrue sick, vacation, holiday and administrative leave in accordance with what he was receiving under his employment contract, that being 7.3 hours of sick time every two weeks, 12.3 hours of vacation time every two weeks and, between the date of his departure and November 22, 2024, 288

hours of holiday time and 160 hours of administrative leave.

He and his family are permitted through November 22, 2024 to participate in the county insurance plans for medical, dental and term life insurance, with the county continuing to pay the medical and dental premium subsidies and the term life insurance premium.

During the slightly more than 15 months between his separation on August 18, 2023 and November 22, 2024, the county is to continue to make employer contributions to his pension fund, administered by the San Bernardino County Retirement Association, and any salary savings plans along with deferred compensation accounts he has, including 401(K), 457(B) and 401(A) plans that were part of his employment contract. Furthermore, the county is to continue to make contributions to Hernandez's retirement medical trust fund as specified under his employment contract.

The separation agreement permits Hernandez to continue to participate in the county's flexible spending account program, with the county making all required contributions.

The *Sentinel's* calculations of what is due to Hernandez monetarily under the separation agreement runs to \$656,915.37.

Hernandez was, at the time of his separation, being paid \$391,768 annually or \$32,647.33 per month.

Thus, from August 18, 2023 until February 23, 2024, he is to be provided with \$201,325.22 in salary.

On February 24, 2024, when he is to be provided with a 3 percent salary increase, his annual salary rate will increase to \$403,521.04 annually or \$33,626.75 per month. In this way, from February 24, 2024 through November 22, 2024, he is to be provided with \$300,398.97 in salary.

Under that calculation, Hernandez's total

salary, from August 18, 2023 until November 22, 2024 is pegged at \$501,724.19.

At the time of his departure, Hernandez was being provided with \$186,313.64 in benefits annually. The best estimate available to the *Sentinel* is that the monetary value of Hernandez's benefits during the slightly more than 13 months between August 18, 2023 and November 22, 2024 will run at just under two-thirds – 66.35116 percent – of what he was receiving while he was duly employed. Thus, the monetary equivalent of the benefits he will receive annually during the 15.064515129 month period he will remain on the county payroll following his departure is \$123,621.26 annually or \$10,301.77 monthly. Since the span between August 18, 2023 and November 22, 2024 is 15.064516129 months, the calculation of the monetary equivalent of total benefits he will receive after his separation from the county is \$155,191.18 [\$10,301.77 X 15.064516129].

Hernandez's projected salary between August 18, 2023 and November 22, 2024, which amounts to \$501,724.19, when added to the \$155,191.18 in benefits he is to receive during that same span, will total \$656,915.37.

For that sum, the county is to get in return certain assurances. Language in the agreement makes clear that the county went above and beyond what is standard when an employee voluntarily leaves his or her position prior to the expiration of his or her contract.

"Employee understands, acknowledges and agrees that these benefits exceed what the employee is otherwise entitled to receive on separation from employment, and that these benefits are provided as consideration in exchange for executing this agreement, including the general release," the separation and release of claims agreement states.

"Employee further acknowledges that employee is not entitled to any additional payment or consideration not specifically referenced in this agreement. Nothing in this agreement shall be deemed or construed as an express or implied policy or practice of the county to provide these or other benefits to any individuals other than the employee."

The agreement makes clear that the county is through with Hernandez forever.

"Employee agrees not to seek employment reinstatement or reemployment with the county and agrees that the county will not employ, reinstate or re-employ employee," the separation and release of claims agreement states. "Employee further agrees that he will not at any time in the future apply for or accept employment by the county. If employee breaches this provision, he understands that his application will be rejected. However, in the event that he becomes employed by the county as an employee, consultant, independent contractor or otherwise in the future, he understands that he will be subject to immediate dismissal or discharge without any resulting tort, contract or other liability to the county."

The document makes clear that Hernandez is not due and should not expect a positive review of his performance while he was employed with the county.

"Employee agrees to direct all requests for references to the chair of the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors," the separation and release of claims agreement states. "In response to a request for a reference, the county shall provide only the following information: (a) dates of employment, (b) job title, (c) if requested and authorized by the employee in writing, the employee's last salary or hourly rate of pay and (d) that employee voluntarily resigned from employment."

Under the subheading "Non-Disparagement," the separation and release of claims agreement gets to the heart of why Hernandez was given the courtesy of not being terminated and provided with a severance of more than \$650,000.

"The employee agrees not to make any public or private statements, comments, or communication in any form, including oral, written or electronic, which in any way could constitute libel, slander, or disparagement of a county management representative, or which reveal confidential or other communications with the board of supervisors or county management and staff that are otherwise protected from disclosure under California law, and any statements which may be considered to be derogatory or detrimental to the good name or business reputation of the county, any employee, director, officer, agent, insurer, attorneys, owner, partner, or any parent, subsidiary or affiliated entity of the county, after the effective date of this agreement. This provision includes posting on social media sites including but not limited to Facebook, Yelp, Instagram, Google Reviews and Twitter."

A former member of the office of county counsel told the *Sentinel* that the county "had more than sufficient grounds" to have terminated Hernandez with cause solely on the basis of his improper relationship with Williams. "That indicates to me there were other considerations influencing the decision to go with the separation agreement," the lawyer said.

Current and former county employees told the *Sentinel* that one of those considerations extended to highly damaging information Hernandez possesses with regard to two current members of the board of supervisors.

In one case, that supervisor's action is virtually indistinguishable

Continued on Page 12

Public Notices

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER CIVSB 2319460

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioners: XIAOMIN LIU [and] JIANYING ZHANG filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

YUANFU ZHANG to JACK ZHANG

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

Notice of Hearing: Date: 10/16/2023 Time: 08:30 AM Department: S24

The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in the SBC Sentinel in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Dated: 08/17/2023 Judge of the Superior Court: Brian S. McCarville

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on August 25 and September 1, 8 & 15, 2023.

AMENDED ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER CIVSB 2319794

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: MUNA WAGAW filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows: AMEN ABDI REDI to AMEN ABDI

[and] HABIB ABDI REDI to HABIB ABDI

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

Notice of Hearing: Date: 10/09/2023 Time: 08:30 AM Department: S33

The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in the SBC Sentinel in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Dated: 08/24/2023 Judge of the Superior Court: Brian S. McCarville

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on August 25 and September 1, 8 & 15, 2023.

FBN 20230008369 The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as SPRINKLES & SPICE BAKING SUPPLIES &

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CLASSES 8673 BASELINE RD RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730: BRENDA L RUBIO 8673 BASELINE RD RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730 This 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/ BRENDA L RUBIO

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 8/18/2023

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 J5480

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

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on August 25 and September 1, 8 & 15, 2023.

SUMMONS - (CITACION JUDICIAL) CASE NUMBER (NUMERO DEL CASO) CIVSB 2212921

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):

ALEJANDRO MARTINEZ PACHECO, AN INDIVIDUAL and DOES 1-20, inclusive, YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): SARA BELL, an individual. NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a non-profit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. ¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días,

FBN 20230008791 The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

ONI SAME DAY LOAN & AUTO SALES 210 N BEECHWOOD AVE, APT 488 RIALTO, CA 92376: VINCENT I ONI 210 N BEECHWOOD AVE, APT 488 RIALTO, CA 92376

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/ VINCENT I ONI, Owner Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 8/29/2023

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 J7550

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of

Public Notices

la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la informacion a continuacion. Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov), o poniendose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 o mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso. The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y la direccion de la corte es): Superior Court of California, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415 San Bernardino Justice Center. The name, address and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): James A. Alderson (State Bar #241860)

Alderson Law Firm 14350 Civic Dr Ste 280 Victorville, CA 92392-2393 Phone: 760-245-1818 DATE (Fecha): July 21, 2022 By: Clerk of the Court (Secretario) Yvonne Taylor, Deputy (Adjunto)

Hearing date: 11/14/2023; Name and address of court:

Superior Court of California, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415 San Bernardino Justice Center, Department S14. Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on August 25 and September 1, 8 & 15, 2023.

FBN 20230008791 The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

ONI SAME DAY LOAN & AUTO SALES 210 N BEECHWOOD AVE, APT 488 RIALTO, CA 92376: VINCENT I ONI 210 N BEECHWOOD AVE, APT 488 RIALTO, CA 92376

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/ VINCENT I ONI, Owner Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 8/29/2023

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 J7550

Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of

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the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on September 1, 8, 15 & 22, 2023.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER CIVSB 2320648

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: CHUN MING CHEN filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

CHUN MING CHEN to JIMMY C M CHEN

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

Notice of Hearing: Date: 10/10/2023 Time: 08:30 AM Department: S26

The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino San Bernardino District-Civil Division 247 West 3rd Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0210

To appear remotely, check in advance of the hearing for information about how to do so on the court's website. To find your court's website, go to www.courts.ca.gov/find-my-court.htm

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Dated: August 29, 2023 Sergio Villanueva, Deputy Court Clerk

Chun Ming Chen, In Pro Per 7827 Paxton Place Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

Phone: (949) 888-9185

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on September 1, 8, 15 & 22, 2023.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER CIVSB231848

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: EDEN USHER filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

KATELYN CATALEYA ROMERO to KATELYN CATALEYA USHER THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court

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may grant the petition without a hearing.

Notice of Hearing: Date: 10/09/2023 Time: 08:30 AM Department: S31

The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino San Bernardino District-Civil Division 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in the SBCS ? Upland in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Dated: 07/03/2023 Judge of the Superior Court: Brian S. McCarville

Published in the SBCS Upland on 09/01/2023, 09/08/2023, 09/15/2023, 09/22/2023

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER CIVSB 2318312

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: ASTRID MARTINEZ [on behalf of JOHAN ANDRE GONZALEZ] filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

JOHAN ANDRE GONZALEZ to JOHAN ANDRE BALDERAS

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

Notice of Hearing: Date: 10/10/2023 Time: 08:30 AM Department: S26

The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino San Bernardino District-Civil Division 247 West 3rd Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0210

To appear remotely, check in advance of the hearing for information about how to do so on the court's website. To find your court's website, go to www.courts.ca.gov/find-my-court.htm

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Notice of Hearing: Date: 10/13/2023 Time: 08:30 AM Department: S15

The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino San Bernardino District-Civil Division 247 West 3rd Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0210

To appear remotely, check in advance of the hearing for information about how to do so on the court's website. To find your court's website, go to www.courts.ca.gov/find-my-court.htm

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition. Judge Brian S. McCarville Dated: 08/14/2023 Jasmine Bolanos, Deputy Court Clerk

Johan Andre Gonzalez In Pro Per

3187 Del Rey Drive San Bernardino, CA 92404

Phone: (213) 477-0404 acruz0828@yahoo.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on September 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2023

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: SUSAN BALAND CASE NO. PRO-VA2300035

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of JOSE RAMON GONZALEZ ZALASAR

Public Notices

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of ROBERT JOSEPH FIORE, aka ROBERT J. FIORE, aka ROBERT FIORE has been filed by JASON FIORE and CHERYL FIORE in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that JASON FIORE and CHERYL FIORE be appointed as personal representatives to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held AT 9:00 A.M. OCTOBER 19, 2023 San Bernardino County Superior Court Fontana District

Department F2 - Fontana 17780 Arrow Boulevard Fontana, CA 92335

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under Section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Laurie Stites, In Pro Per

1243 S. San Antonio Avenue Ontario, CA 91762

Phone (909) 562 7610 lorif@yahoo.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on September 15, 22 & 29, 2023.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JOSE RAMON GONZALEZ ZALASAR CASE NO. PRO-VA2300057

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of JOSE JUAN GONZALEZ LARIOS in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that JOSE JUAN GONZALEZ LARIOS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held AT 9:00 A.M. OCTOBER 19, 2023 San Bernardino County Superior Court Fontana District

Department F2 - Fontana 17780 Arrow Boulevard Fontana, CA 92335

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under Section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Laurie Stites, In Pro Per

1243 S. San Antonio Avenue Ontario, CA 91762

Phone (909) 562 7610 lorif@yahoo.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on September 15, 22 & 29, 2023.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: SUSAN BALAND CASE NO. PRO-VA2300035

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of JOSE RAMON GONZALEZ ZALASAR

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held AT 9:00 A.M. OCTOBER 19, 2023 San Bernardino County Superior Court Fontana District

Department F2 - Fontana 17780 Arrow Boulevard Fontana, CA 92335

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under Section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Laurie Stites, In Pro Per

1243 S. San Antonio Avenue Ontario, CA 91762

Phone (909) 562 7610 lorif@yahoo.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on September 15, 22 & 29, 2023.

Public Notices

Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that LAURIE STITES be appointed as personal representatives to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held AT 9:00 A.M. OCTOBER 2, 2023 San Bernardino County Superior Court Fontana District

Department M3 - Fontana 17780 Arrow Boulevard Fontana, CA 92335

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under Section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Laurie Stites, In Pro Per

1243 S. San Antonio Avenue Ontario, CA 91762

Phone (909) 562 7610 lorif@yahoo.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on September 15, 22 & 29, 2023.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JOSE RAMON GONZALEZ ZALASAR CASE NO. PRO-VA2300057

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of JOSE RAMON GONZALEZ ZALASAR

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held AT 9:00 A.M. OCTOBER 19, 2023 San Bernardino County Superior Court Fontana District

Department F2 - Fontana 17780 Arrow Boulevard Fontana, CA 92335

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under Section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Laurie Stites, In Pro Per

1243 S. San Antonio Avenue Ontario, CA 91762</

Public Notices

JUAN GONZALEZ LARIOS be appointed as personal representatives to administer the estate of the decedent.

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

A hearing on the petition will be held in Dept. F-1 at 9:00 a.m. on October 11, 2023

San Bernardino County Superior Court Fontana District

Department F1 - Fontana 17780 Arrow Boulevard Fontana, CA 92335

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

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

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

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

Attorney for Jose Juan Gonzalez Larios:

ANTONINETTE JAUREGUI (SB 192624)

1894 S. COMMERCENTER WEST, SUITE 108 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408

Telephone No: (909) 890-2350

Fax No: (909) 890-0106

ajprobate@gmail.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on September 15, 22 & 29, 2023.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: NELSON ANGEL BERNAL

CASE NO. PRO-VA2300056

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of NELSON ANGEL BERNAL

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by ANA CRISTINA BERNAL BALMACEDA in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that ANA

Public Notices

CRISTINA BERNAL BALMACEDA be appointed as personal representatives to administer the estate of the decedent.

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

A hearing on the petition will be held in Dept. F-3 at 9:00 a.m. on October 5, 2023

San Bernardino County Superior Court Fontana District

Department F3 - Fontana 17780 Arrow Boulevard Fontana, CA 92335

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

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

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

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

Filed: September 8, 2023

Deputy Court Clerk Valerie Goldstein

Attorney for Ana Cristina Bernal Balmaceda:

ANTONINETTE JAUREGUI (SB 192624)

1894 S. COMMERCENTER WEST, SUITE 108 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408

Telephone No: (909) 890-2350

Fax No: (909) 890-0106

ajprobate@gmail.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on September 15, 22 & 29, 2023.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

CASE NUMBER CIVSB 2320699

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner MARIA DE LOS ANGELES VALERO DE PENALOZA filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

MARIA DE LOS ANGELES VALERO DE PENALOZA to MARIA DE LOS ANGELES VALERO PER-

Public Notices

ALTA THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

Notice of Hearing: Date: 10/18/2023 Time: 08:30 AM Department: J53

The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino San Bernardino District-Civil Division 247 West 3rd Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0210

To appear remotely, check in advance of the hearing for information about how to do so on the court's website. To find your court's website, go to www.courts.ca.gov/find-my-court.htm

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Judge Brian S. McCarville

Dated: 08/02/2023

Aradelsi Piso, Deputy Court Clerk

Maria De Los Angeles Valero De Penaloza, In Pro Per

2250 Darby Street Space 44

San Bernardino, CA 92407

Phone: (909) 640-8250

penaloza.angeles@gmail.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on September 15, 22, 29 & October 6, 2023.

FBN 20230008333 The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

FAST WOK 2550 S. VINEYARD AVE SUITE C ONTARIO, CA 91761 FAST WOK, LLC 1401 21ST ST STE R SACRAMENTO, CA 95811

The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, REGISTERED WITH THE State of California under the number 202358611573.

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/ HELEN H HIEM, CEO Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 08/18/2023

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 J5480

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

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on September 15, 22, 29 & October 6, 2023.

FBN 20230008076 The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

FLORERIA EL QUEZTAL 12571 EAST END AVE CHINO,

Public Notices

CA 91710: ISABEL N BARTOLA SALVADOR 263 VERNON DR. #B UPLAND, CA 91786

Mailing Address: 263 VERNON DR. #B UPLAND, CA 91786

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: AUGUST 09, 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/ ISABEL NICOLASA BARTOLA SALVADOR, OWNER

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 8/10/2023

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy J7550

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

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on August 11, 18, 25 & September 1, 2023. Corrected on September 15, 22, 29 and October 5, 2023.

FBN 20230008311 The following person is doing business as: ARMANDO'S MEXICAN FOOD. 630 W BASELINE RD RIALTO, CA 92376

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO ARMANDOS RIALTO INC 630 W BASELINE RD RIALTO, CA 92376; The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION.

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

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ MA GUADALUPE VEGA DE LA TORRE, PRESIDENT

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: AUGUST 17, 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 08/25/2023, 09/01/2023, 09/08/2023, 09/15/2023

CNBB34202301MT

FBN 20230008315 The following person is doing business as: LISA'S THREADING. 416 N H ST UNIT #5 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92410

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO NAVJOT CHAWLA 416NHSTUNIT #5 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92410. The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

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

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

s/ NAVJOT CHAWLA, OWNER

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: AUGUST 17, 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 08/25/2023, 09/01/2023, 09/08/2023, 09/15/2023

CNBB34202305MT

Public Notices

CNBB34202302MT FBN 20230008310

The following person is doing business as: WORLD AUTO RENTALS. 1680 S E STREET STE B-70 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO WORLD MOTORS LLC 1680 S E STREET STE B-70 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408

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

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/ PHILLIP G WOMACK II, MANAGING MEMBER

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: AUGUST 17, 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 08/25/2023, 09/01/2023, 09/08/2023, 09/15/2023

CNBB34202303MT

FBN 20230008397 The following person is doing business as: A MOTHERS ELEGANT TASTE. 245 EAST 1ST STREET RIALTO, CA 92376;[MAILING ADDRESS 1320 SOUTH RIVERSIDE AVE SUITE 314 RIALTO, CA 92376];

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO VINEISSIA RAMSEY 1320 SOUTH RIVERSIDE AVE SUITE 314 RIALTO, CA 92376. 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/ VINEISSIA RAMSEY, OWNER

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: AUGUST 21, 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 08/25/2023, 09/01/2023, 09/08/2023, 09/15/2023

CNBB34202305MT

FBN 20230008352 The following person is doing business as: KM SERVICES. 22391 LADERA ST GRAND TERRACE, CA 92313

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO KARL R MASON 22391 LADERA ST GRAND TERRACE, CA 92313. 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/ KARL R MASON, OWNER

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: AUGUST 18, 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 08/25/2023, 09/01/2023, 09/08/2023, 09/15/2023

CNBB34202308MT

FBN 20230008442 The following person is doing business as: VAL'S CUSTOM PRINTING. 13734 LIVE OAK AVE CHINO, CA 91710;[MAILING ADDRESS 13734 LIVE OAK AVE CHINO, CA 91710];

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO VALORIE M ARMIJO 13734 LIVE OAK AVE CHINO, CA 91710. The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: AUG 22, 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/ VALORIE M ARMIJO, Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: AUGUST 22, 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 08/25/2023, 09/01/2023, 09/08/2023, 09/15/2023

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another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 08/25/2023, 09/01/2023, 09/08/2023, 09/15/2023

CNBB34202306MT FBN 20230008347

The following person is doing business as: STACKS LANDSCAPING. 13495 JENNIFER LANE YUCAIPA, CA 92399 ;[MAILING ADDRESS 13495 JENNIFER LANE YUCAIPA, CA 92399];

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO BRIAN R STACKS 13495 JENNIFER LANE YUCAIPA, CA 92399. 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/ BRIAN R STACKS, OWNER

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: AUGUST 18, 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 08/25/2023, 09/01/2023, 09/08/2023, 09/15/2023

CNBB34202307MT

FBN 20230008348 The following person is doing business as: HERBAN KULTURE SB. 764 INLAND CENTER DR SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO EMPIRE CONNECT INC 117 E LAS TUNAS DR SAN GABRIEL, CA 91776

The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: FEB 14 2020

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/ ANTHONY HICKS, CEO

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: AUGUST 18, 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 08/25/2023, 09/01/2023, 09/08/2023, 09/15/2023

CNBB34202308MT

FBN 20230008422 The following person is doing business as: VAL'S CUSTOM PRINTING. 13734 LIVE OAK AVE CHINO, CA 91710;[MAILING ADDRESS 13734 LIVE OAK AVE CHINO, CA 91710];

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO VALORIE M ARMIJO 13734 LIVE OAK AVE CHINO, CA 91710. The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: AUG 22, 202

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STE B SANTA ANA, CA 92701]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO JULIANA M PENA 12990 SAN ANTONIO AVE CHINO, CA 91710. The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

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The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: AUG 01, 2023 By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and

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correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

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s/ JULIANA M PENA, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: AUGUST 10, 2023 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original state-

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ment 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

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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 com-

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mon law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 08/25/2023, 09/01/2023, 09/08/2023, 09/15/2023 CNBB34202314RC

In Addition To Hagman, Other Top SB County Republicans - Including Fontana Warren, Roberts, Cothran And Garcia - Have Cut Deals With Democrats To Strengthen Their Grip On Local Political Power from page 5

the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program. Congresswoman Torres was a champion of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which provided a total of \$550 million in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants distributed nationwide. After Los Angeles County, which received the lion's share of that grant funding at \$1,344,700 and San Bernardino County, which received \$393,590, Fontana was given the largest portion of the money reserved for the 35th District's cities. The City of Fontana received \$230,640; the City of Ontario got \$218,330. The City of Pomona, where she had been mayor and where her son was a councilman, received \$188,070. The City of Rialto was gifted \$151,580; the City of Chino, \$147,470; and the City of Montclair, \$76,320.

The federal government's generosity toward Fontana as a direct result of Congresswoman Torres' advocacy has grown. Four months ago, Torres unlocked \$15 million in RAISE grants, a discretionary funding program for investments in surface transportation infrastructure, specifically earmarked for Fontana.

With the progression of 2023 toward the election year of 2024, candidates for political office in the next election cycle, which will manifest first with the March primary, are readying for their electioneering efforts, including scouring the political landscape to size up the competition or possible competition, raising money, securing support, lining up endorsements and forming alliances.

A number of Repub-

licans inching toward, or committed to, running in 2024 have been disheartened to learn that just as occurred in 2022, several of their party's most prominent and influential members – including the chairman of the Republican Central Committee, Phil Cothran Sr – have com-



Acquanetta Warren

mitted to supporting the Democrats they are going to run against.

Cothran is a member of Team Fontana. Team Fontana counts among its members Fontana Mayor Acquanetta Warren; Phil Cothran Sr's son, Fontana Councilman Phil Cothran Jr; Fontana Councilman John Roberts and Fontana Councilman Pete Garcia. Warren, young Cothran, Roberts and Garcia, all of whom are Republicans, compose the ruling coalition on the Fontana City Council. The lone Democrat offering a counterweight to that quartet is Fontana Councilman Jesse Sandoval, who is routinely outvoted by the four on any issues of substance in the city. Warren has been able to form that coalition and sustain it, despite the Democrats having an overwhelming 49.4 percent voter registration advantage over Republicans in Fontana, where the Party of Lincoln maintains 20.9 percent voter registration. The Republican political primacy in Fontana is based in large measure upon the willingness

of Republican donors and the San Bernardino County Republican Central Committee to commit money and electioneering support resources to assist Warren and her crew of handpicked Republican candidates in the former steel town.

Within the last 30 days, members of the Republican Central Committee first heard and have since confirmed that Team Fontana and Hagman, among other Republican luminaries, have already endorsed not only Congresswoman Torres, but Robert Torres, who is vying for Assembly representing the 53rd District in next year's election. The current 53rd District was formed in 2021 with the redistricting that took place based upon the 2020 Census. District 53, for the most part, replicates the previous 52nd Assembly District, and is currently represented by Assemblyman Freddie Rodriguez, who formerly employed Robert Torres as his district director in District 52 before he terminated him in 2017. Freddie Rodriguez is to be termed out of the legislature next year. His wife, Michelle, is purposed to run in District 53 in his place.

Dozens of San Bernardino County Republican stalwarts, including what appears to be a majority of those members of the central committee, were outraged, particularly as Cargile is intent on once again carrying the GOP flag in an effort to unseat Norma Torres, while Nick Wilson, a recently retired police officer residing in Chino, has declared that he is vying for the Assembly against Robert Torres in the 53rd District.

As chance would have it, at this month's San Bernardino Republican Central Committee meeting, which was held in Upland on September 14, Hagman was scheduled to speak in the guest's spot. A number of central com-

mittee members, including Cargile and Agnes Gibboney, who in 2020 was the Republican candidate against incumbent Democrat Pete Aguilar in California's 31st Congressional District, were intent on grilling both Hagman and Cothran Sr with regard to their support of Democrats over Republicans, both past and present.

Hagman gave an upbeat presentation about the function of the county and his role as supervisor, including his participation on more than a dozen subcommittees and joint powers authority boards, which he said took up much of his time on an almost daily basis. Hagman expressed his view that the county, while dealing with challenges and problems, had made substantial progress with regard to a number of pressing issues. He noted that the county had "dealt with COVID with distinction" and had resisted the Democratic administration of Governor Gavin Newsom by "not shutting down businesses. We sued the governor [over COVID precautionary mandates]. We lost several times, but still sued him." He congratulated himself and the board of supervisors for putting an initiative on the November 2022 ballot, Measure EE, calling for the county to secede from the State of California, noting that for decades the Bay Area and Los Angeles would "get more than their fair share of state resources back in tax dollars." Hagman suggested the ploy had worked, since the state in this year's budget appropriated more to San Bernardino County than its residents had paid in state taxes.

"We have a pretty flush budget in San Bernardino County," he bragged.

When the time came for Hagman to field questions from those in attendance, Secretary/Parliamentarian Ben

Lopez passed over Gibboney, who had come armed with a litany of inquiries about why Hagman and other members of the central committee were turning their backs on Republicans and embracing Democrats. Cargile and one other central committee member, however, were able to press Lopez and Hagman on the issue of cross-party endorsements. Why was he endorsing Robert Torres in the 53rd Assembly District race, Hagman was asked, when the Republicans had an earnest and strong candidate in Nick Wilson?

"I thought I might be asked that question," Hagman began. Then, half apologetically but half boldly, he said, "Sorry, Nick," essentially indicating he would not be rescinding the endorsement of Robert Torres, nor of Torres' mother. Hagman indicated it is folly to "think we are all perfect."

Nevertheless, he justified his support for Congressman Torres and her son by briefly reminiscing about when he was yet mayor of Chino Hills between 2006 and 2008, before he was elected to the California Assembly.

"When I was mayor, she [Norma Torres] was mayor of Pomona," he noted, saying he got along with her well at that time. More recently, he said, she had carried legislation that was of benefit to San Bernardino County and as such was a valuable resource at the federal level for local government.

Hagman then came to the crux of the matter. "She stood up and endorsed me over Connie Leyva," he said. Consequently, he said, he had endorsed her. This year, when Torres' son jumped into the 53rd District Assembly race, he endorsed him, too, Hagman said.

That was meant as no offense to Wilson, Hagman said. "So, before I even knew he [Wilson] was running, I endorsed

him [Robert Torres]."

After Hagman was put on the spot, Cargile pressed further with regard to the Team Fontana endorsements of Democrats.

"We have members who have opted to endorse Democrats," he said, before citing the central committee's bylaws and California Elections § 7413, which states, "A committee may remove any member, other than an ex officio member, who during his or her term of membership affiliates with, or registers as a member of another party, who publicly advocates that the voters should not vote for the nominee of this party for any office, or who gives support or avows a preference for a candidate of another party or candidate who is opposed to a candidate nominated by this party."

This presented an awkward moment for Lopez as secretary and parliamentarian, who was presiding over the proceedings from the dais at the front of meeting room while Cothran Sr and Cothran Jr were some 20 feet or so away, seated in the front row of the gallery.

While no reference was made to either Cothran specifically, Cargile extracted from Lopez the assertion that neither Warren, nor former Councilman and current Supervisor Armendarez nor Councilman Jon Roberts are members of the central committee. At that point Cargile dropped his effort to steer the entire body toward taking action to remove any members who had endorsed Democrats.

Thereafter, the meeting adjourned into an executive session from which members of the public or non-executive committee members were excluded.

After the meeting concluded, the *Sentinel* was informed by one of *Continued on Page 12*

Federal Investigators Have Become Interested In Cross-Party Deals Apparently Involving “Insider Investing” Relating To Federal Subsidies Aimed At Enriching Elected Officials *from page 11*

the executive committee members that the topic of cross-party endorsements by committee members was discussed by some of the committee’s executive members.

After the meeting, Cargile told the *Sentinel* that he was satisfied, at this point, with the incremental step of ascertaining that those Republicans and/or former central committee members who had made the endorsements of Democrats were now acknowledged to no longer be central committee members.

Today, Gibboney told the *Sentinel*, “I believe that any candidate who seeks the endorsement of the SBGOP and endorses a Democrat should immediately be removed from the central committee and barred from attending or speaking at the SBGOP meetings. It seems that the Republican Party has been infiltrated by RINOs [Republicans in name only] and progressives, which is destroying the morale of our party. It’s like a clique. If you go along with everything, you are in. If you disagree, you are shunned.”

Gibboney said, “We need real Republicans who care to preserve our party.”

Another Republican Central Committee member, Matt Munson, said, “I think the basic statement from most of the policymakers is that our county has dominant pockets of Democratic Party voters where leaders would rather just surrender to the Democratic Party than to grow the territories involved so we can change the districts for the better. I understand that policymakers like [Republican Ontario City Councilman] Alan Wapner and Acquanetta Warren want stuff done for their cities, but it should not mean endorsing these politicians so early in the cycle. If politicians want the Re-

publican Party endorsement, they should be tied to the state and county party bylaws and have fidelity to the Republican Party. If they do not have fidelity to the Republican Party, then these individuals should be prohibited from being endorsed by the state and county parties for their next election.”

Munson asked, “Why have a county party when we are just here to surrender to the Democrats? We are not here to find the least toxic Democrat in office. We are here to find the best Republican possible to be nominated for major offices such as state legislature and Congress. Robert Torres might be the least toxic Democrat for AD 53, where Curt Hagman and Acquanetta Warren may not want Connie Leyva’s endorsed choice for State Assembly, Javier Hernandez. However, Republican Party voters want bold colors of Republican Party candidates, such as Nick Wilson, instead of the pale platitudes of alleged centrist Democrats who will be whipped to submission in the floor where they will not vote for bills to stop the influx of crime. Robert and Michelle Rodriguez [another Democrat vying for the Assembly in the 53rd District] will vote for most of the tax increases, making it harder for working families and retirees to survive in California.”

Munson, who was the Republican candidate in California State Senate District 20 in 2014 and 2018, said, “Yes, Curt [Hagman] may have a personal relationship with Norma Torres, even though they may not agree on issues such as abortion. Norma did not necessarily endorse Curt due to this personal relationship; she personally had a vendetta against former Senator Leyva and did not want to see her promoted to

the county board. I do believe most Republican activists feel that Curt sold his soul to get another term on the board. Yes, I would rather have Curt as my supervisor, but in 2026 he should do it without the endorsement of the San Bernardino County Republican Party. I can envision that Alan Wapner, Jesse Armendarez and Curt Hagman will have ads paid for by Robert Torres trying to deceive Republican voters. This is one reason I would like to see individuals such as Curt blackballed from any endorsement for a cycle.

“There are countless examples of local elected officials who at one time asked for our endorsement and then went against the grain and decided to stab our candidates in the back, such as Rancho Cucamonga Mayor Dennis Michael endorsing [Democrat Assemblyman] James Ramos in 2020,” Munson continued. “This is the reason we are losing in our county. If our local registered Republican leaders such as city council members or county supervisors do not like our candidates, then simply abstain on endorsing them instead of supporting Democrats for higher office. Why endorse individuals who will make it harder for our state legislative and congressional candidates to run for office? Then we will have a literal uniparty of political eunuchs. If we want California to improve, we need to vote for the Republican

County Paying Hernandez \$650,000 To Leave & Stay Quiet *from page 6*

from some of the more egregious conduct that Hernandez was engaged in, according to one employee.

“That’s why they didn’t just cashier Leonard outright a year ago,” the employee said, “and that’s why Luther [Snok, Hernandez’s successor as CEO] hasn’t gone through there and cleaned house and gotten rid of or demoted Leon-

ard’s people. Up on the fifth floor [of the county administration building, where the board of supervisors and senior county administrators have their offices], there’s four or five people on tenterhooks, including a couple of supervisors and some of their staff people. They know what Leonard knew, and they’ve apparently bought his silence, but no one’s sure how many others he told. That’s why you’re not seeing any radical changes.”

“We have had that discussion before, Nickel, who vied for the State Assembly in 2018, went on. “When I ran, there were certain members who chose to endorse my opponent, a Democrat. I cannot make exact citation of the state election code and our bylaws, but we have the authority to remove any elected member who endorses someone from another party. I don’t think we can remove ex officio members, but we have the authority to remove elected ones who are not in line with the party. I think every member of the party has a mandate to endorse a Republican candidate and not a Democrat in any race that takes place.”

Nickel lamented that “Our party is not as potent of a force as it was before. It has fallen victim to those fringe elements that get us off message and away from what concerns most voters. I do not like to say it but I think our party has become fractured. I think

we have become largely undisciplined, and a few vocal members have created discord within the county party. We need to remain focused on the issues that distinguish us from the Democrats.”

Concern about the cross-party endorsements in San Bernardino County has not confined itself to the local politicians who have one dog or another in the hunt. The deviation in expected affiliations has caught the attention of personnel with no fewer than four federal governmental agencies who are seeking to make sense out of what has occurred.

Those with one of those agencies in particular – the U.S. Department of Transportation – are perhaps closer than the others in sizing up the fuller picture, as they have a window on the dimensions of what some of the county’s political players, at the municipal, county, state and federal level, are involved in. While some less steeped in the intricacies of both U.S. and California statutes pertaining to conflicts of interest were surprised to learn that an offspring of an elected official is not prohibited from realizing a financial benefit as a consequence of his or her parent’s action or vote, investigators examining the manner in which Robert Torres glided into a sinecure with the City of Fontana recognized early on that there was no real criminal implication therein. Nevertheless, other connections and actions which might have proved of benefit to the major players involved in

making the cross-party endorsements in San Bernardino County are being explored for potential criminal implication.

One item of interest that has come up is the opportunity for profit that exists in speculation in land within and adjacent to the high-speed rail corridor running from Las Vegas and first to a station in Victorville/Apple Valley and then to Rancho Cucamonga, penultimately to Anaheim and ultimately to Union Station in downtown Los Angeles. It is unknown whether Norma Torres and/or her husband, Louis Torres, and/or her son, Robert, are getting in on that action, nor is it known whether Hagman or Acquanetta Warren are looking to or have picked up any land out in San Bernardino County’s Mojave Desert running along the I-15 Freeway, which in most spots in the desert closely parallels where the train line is to be constructed.

Norma Torres is a member of the House Appropriations Committee, including its Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies. Hagman is a member of the San Bernardino County Transportation Agency, as is Warren. In those capacities, they would conceivably have input, impact or control, direct or indirect, on where stops along the line, other than those in Victorville/Apple Valley, Rancho Cucamonga and Anaheim, are to be located.

-Mark Gutglueck

Hughes Will Get A Pension Equal To His Salary Upon His Retirement From Highland *from page 3*

they have worked times the number of years they have been in place as a public employee times the top yearly salary throughout the employee’s career. Thus, Hughes will collect an annual pension equal to his current annual salary of \$237,232.09 for the

rest of his life.

The city will invite applicants to apply for the open city manager’s post. After the executive search firm evaluates those applicants and comes up with a subset of those it considers to be qualified candidates for the job, a council subcommittee will do a further screening of applicants, after which the subcommittee’s recommendations will be considered by the full city council.

-Mark Gutglueck