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SBSD Takes Down 8 Enamorados On The Basis Of Violence In Their Activism

By Mark Gutglueck

Seven Enamorados and the political clique's namesake founder were swept up in a predawn raid Thursday morning in a precisely choreographed operation by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department that was staged in five Southern California cities, including across the county line to include two locations in Los Angeles.

The arrests, the

wealth of information obtained in a ten-week-long investigation involving at least seven police agencies leading up to them and the penetration of the Enamorados by informants or undercover operatives sets up what promises to be a far-reaching clash of public perception with regard to the organization and whether it represents, as law enforcement maintains, a criminal enterprise or if

the description of those involved as social and political activists is more apt.

The central figure in the Enamorados as well as the bevy of arrests effectuated on December 14 is Edin Alex Enamorado. An admitted former "gangbanger" and convicted felon originally from Cudahy, the now-36-year-old Enamorado says that several years ago he recognized the error of his earlier

choices and has now resolved to eradicate the social ills of racism and poverty that are the tools of the oppressors who demean, exploit and ultimately criminalize entire segments of society. He promotes himself, and his supporters celebrate him, as the champion of the underdog, which in the Greater Los Angeles Metropolitan area and Southern California in which he plies the lion's share of

his activism, primarily means poor Latinos and African Americans, but most particularly the immigrant community, composed of largely unskilled individuals few of whom speak English and are struggling economically to find a place in the region's workforce. He and his associates in the past have advocated upon the behalf of Mexicanos or what is referred to as "La Raza" or simply "raza." See P 2

Report Has Upland Or Its Mayor Seeking San Antonio H₂O Shares Owned By Previous Mayor

A certain degree of mystery attends reports that Upland Mayor Bill Velto is dabbling in water speculation. Unknown at this point is whether Velto's interest in H₂O is on behalf of the city or for himself. Efforts by the *Sentinel* to find out exactly which is the case were not successful by the end of this week.

What is known is that

in 14.0 square mile Foothill, the City in almost but not quite total measure has control over water and its availability.

The San Antonio Water Company, which was originally incorporated as a mutual water company on October 25, 1882, has consistently provided water service to its active shareholders for over 140 years. Those shareholders in-

clude those living in its direct service area in the unincorporated county area north of Upland, San Antonio Heights, as well as the cities of Upland and Ontario and the Monte Vista Water District, and Holliday Rock Company and a few remaining grove irrigators within within the original Village of Ontario area, which extended to cover Upland

until the city's 1906 incorporation. The City of Upland owns 68 percent of the company's stock, and the city is the major consumer of the water it produces. All but five of the city's properties purchase water through the Upland municipal water division.

Those five properties, all of which were at one point parts of thriving citrus farms yet purchase

water used for cultivation purposes, bypassing the city system.

In the past, orange, lemon and grapefruit grove owners purchased water directly from the San Antonio Water Company. With the demise of each successive agricultural operation as the owners sold their property to land speculators or developers, the city purchased from See P 3

29 Palms Votes To Return \$50M Grant To The State Of California

In a move that will like delay the community from switching from a septic system to a modern sewer system for another generation, the Twentynine Palms City Council this week voted to return \$50 million to the State of California that was intended to cover a substantial portion of constructing a wastewater treatment

plant and effluent collection system.

That vote, cast unanimously among all five members, came on December 12.

Undercutting the proposed project were strong disagreements about where the plant was to be located, after the city made a previous tentative commitment to construct See P 3

Skepticism As ROV Uses Signature Validity To Toss Two Experienced Candidates Challenging Aguilar For Congress

The San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters this week finds itself with some unwanted scrutiny following its rejection of the candidacies of two experienced office seekers on unspecified technical grounds.

The status of the officeholder the two had sought to displace as an up-and-coming member

of his party has raised questions as to whether the disqualifications were done legitimately or were elements of a calculated move to keep the congressman in question safely seated.

In 2022, John Mark Porter proved out to be the leading GOP standard bearer against incumbent Congressman

Pete Aguilar, a Democrat. In the primary contest to see who would face off in the November 2022 race, Aguilar, who was formerly a Redlands councilman and mayor and was initially elected to Congress in 2014, polled 59.8 percent while Porter brought in 17.6 percent and two other Republicans, See P 5

Competitors Set For Federal, State, County & City Offices In March Primary Races

With only a handful of exceptions, the incumbents in the political positions to be voted upon in San Bernardino County are seeking reelection.

There were some mild surprises, with at least one officeholder who was not expected to file for reelection doing so and one officeholder failing to qualify her candidacy.

In the 23rd Congressional District, which covers Adelanto, Apple Valley, Barstow, Big Bear Lake, Hesperia, Twentynine Palms, Victorville, Yucca Valley and Yucaipa and parts of Colton, Highland Loma Linda, Redlands and San Bernardino, the Republican incumbent, Jay Obernolte is being challenged by Democrat Derek Marshall.

In the 25th Congressional District, which extends over Banning, Beaumont, Blythe, Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, Indio, Needles, San Jacinto and part of Hemet, Democrat incumbent Raul Ruiz is facing independent Ryan Dean Burkett, Republicans Miguel Chapa, Cecilia Truman and Ian M. Weeks, as well as Democrat Oscar

Ortiz.

In the 28th Congressional District, which entails many foothill communities in Los Angeles County and Upland and Rancho Cucamonga, Democrat incumbent Judy Chu is up against Libertarian Jose Castaneda, Peace and Freedom Party member William Patterson and Republicans April Verlato and Bonnie Wallace.

In the 33rd Congressional District, including ludes Grand Terrace, Rialto and parts of Colton, Fontana, Highland, Rancho Cucamonga, Redlands and San Bernardino, incumbent Democrat Pete Aguilar is facing Republican Tom Herman.

In the 35th Congressional District, which covers all of Chino, Montclair and See P 3

Daniels, Cajon High Gridiron Wunderkind, Wins Heisman Trophy



Jayden Daniels

Jayden Daniels has won the 2023 Heisman Trophy, capping a year in which he on his own averaged 412.17 yards in total offense per game, which outdistanced by far every other player in the nation. More astounding still he averaged 10.71 yards per offensive play in which he was involved.

Daniels, who will turn 23 on Monday, played for San Bernardino's Cajon High School, where he had such a fantastic junior year in 2018 in throwing for 62 touchdowns, he graduated early and then matriculated at Arizona State as a four-star recruit. As a freshman in the Grand Canyon State, Daniels beat out starter Dillon Sterling-Cole in training camp, becoming the first ever freshman quarterback for the Sun Devils. In the curtailed 2020 season which entailed only four games, he was the starting quarterback on a team that logged two wins and two losses. His 2021 season, in which he passed for 2,380 yards and ran for another 710, was marred by reports that Arizona State and then-coach Herman Edwards had fallen under investigation by the NCAA for recruitment violations.

He transferred to Louisiana State University for what was of-

The Enamorados Have Taken A Stand In Southern California To Ensure That Mexicanos and La Raza Are Not Exploited By The White Racist European Capitalist Establishment

from front page

meaning Hispanics.

Most recently, Enamorados and, by extension, his legion of Enamorados have taken up the cause of street vendors, sometimes referred to as sidewalk vendors, meaning those with pushcarts, tables, makeshift platforms, more elaborate temporary venues, rolling kitchens or vehicles which sell items or merchandise, often involving food.

That issue is a complicated and nuanced one.

In some jurisdictions there are only marginal regulations and little if any enforcement. In others, while regulations are somewhat more exacting, enforcement is virtually nonexistent. In still others, what enforcement there is is hit-and-miss and inconsistent. In some larger jurisdictions, such as certain unincorporated county areas, a laissez faire attitude exists in some areas and a stricter attitude prevails in others. In certain places, such as some cities and particularly in their commercial districts where street vendors interfere with or have the potential to interfere with existing well-established businesses, sidewalk vendors and street vendors are not tolerated.

Traditional businesses, ones referred to as brick-and-mortar establishments in reference to the reality that they are located within existing buildings, are hampered by a set of overhead requirements that do not attend transitory businesses such as street vendors or sidewalk vendors. A primary consideration is that a brick and mortar business is saddled, usually, with rent and lease payments to maintain such a physical location, or, more rarely, mortgage payments if

the business ownership owns the property. Even in such cases where a business operator has free and clear ownership of the building in which the business is located, the building is yet subject to property tax. Accompanying leasing or ownership of the premises where business is conducted is a need for insurance. Moreover, a stationary business is subject to a host of regulations, fees, taxes, assessments and the like by multiple government agencies and entities, which entail a further financial burden. Being confined to one specific place renders a business into a non-moving target, such that eluding regulations and fees are a near impossibility. While a sidewalk vendor or street vendor can likewise be subject to regulations, fees, taxes and assessments, eluding such burdens is often possible and in a multiplicity of cases a reality. This puts brick and mortar business operators into what many consider to be a disadvantages situation vis-a-vis transitory businesses. A vendor selling commodities in front of a retail store can thus afford to sell products at a price that is nearly half of what the same or similar goods are sold for inside such a market and achieve a profit, out-competing the competition. Similarly, a street vendor operating from a cart, a mobile kitchen or a food truck, which can easily bypass state and federal minimum wage laws, can sell food items at a price well below what a restaurant, which is monitored closely for what wages it pays its help, must charge to offer a similar menu and break even. Anecdotally, at least, there are numerous restaurants across Southern California over the last several years that have gone out of business at least partially because of the competition from street vendors.

Such subtleties of consideration are not accounted for in the position that the Enamorados have taken on behalf of street vendors. As they see it, immigrants have

come to America, in this case California, in search of the American Dream, and they are entitled to make their way in the world, or that part of it that they have come to, in whatever way they can. To them, regulations in the form of health and safety requirements, ordinances, permits, licenses or taxes are, or at least should be, an irrelevancy as far as the street vendors are concerned. The layering of such requirements upon street vendors are, the Enamorados maintain, the work of Europeans who came to North America, exterminated, removed, marginalized or otherwise dominated the indigenous people already in place and then imposed their capitalistic system on the land and anyone who remained upon it. The indigenous people who have survived or made their way back into what is now the United States and Alta California after having been displaced generations ago should now be free to conduct themselves outside that inherently unfair capitalistic paradigm without the interference of the white European racists who now have control of California politically, according to the Enamorados.

What is more, according to the Enamorados, those indigenous people who have been assimilated into the white European culture or those members of La Raza whose ancestors returned to California from Mexico or even further south two, three, four or five generations ago and have now been abstracted into the California establishment either politically or economically or both are "coconuts," i.e., people who are brown on the outside but white on the inside, ones who have accepted the racist ethos of the white oppressors.

The Enamorados carry out their activism in more than one way. One approach consists of offering what they term "support" and "security" to street vendors as they ply their trade, a presence intended to ward off anyone who would inter-

fere with the vendors. That extends to "protection," i.e., providing the vendors with what are essentially bodyguards. In addition, they will supply the vendors with chemical agents such as mace or pepper spray that they can use against anyone they deem to be threatening them.

Another is to show up singly or in small numbers or en masse at a public meeting of the civil authority or a given jurisdiction's decision-making body such as a city council to either protest a past decision or ongoing policy or to lobby against a contemplated new policy or action such as passing an ordinance that would clamp down on street vendors.

Another is a general show of protest in a given area, such as a downtown business district or outside a public building.

The Enamorados frame their activism largely on the model of that of their leader, Edin Enamorado, whose overriding position is that the social and political order and establishment in Southern California is one that is illegitimate, indefensible, racist and inherently discriminatory and hostile toward the Latino population. The only antidote to this injustice, Enamorado and his followers propound, is to abrasively and aggressively assert their rights.

On his own as a social justice crusader, Enamorado often engages in exchanges with the media, during which he holds himself out as an activist earnestly pursuing the goals of ensuring equality, protecting civil rights, standing up for the weak, impoverished and unfranchised while holding government accountable to the people. During these media encounters, Enamorado expresses himself in measured and articulate terms. His approach in the field, which more often than not is captured in moving sound images by videographers who accompany him, is to portray himself as an avenging angel of justice who will strike down with furious rage upon those who

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would harm the innocent immigrants whom he is protecting, relying primarily upon physical confrontation. This involved a formula that has as its ingredients equal parts of a presumption of moral superiority, making accusations of racism, profanity, rapid fire questions and assertions without giving his interlocutor an opportunity to respond or otherwise immediately dismissing any response made, browbeating, insults and threats. In such circumstances, the intent is not to achieve an exchange of information or views but rather to relentlessly intimidate, provoke and stage a scene in which he emerges triumphant. Key elements of Enamorado's approach are being surrounded by a physically intimidating support network, the use of surprise, verbal domination and videography to capture an indelible visual and audio recording of the individual being confronted, which in many, though not all, cases will result in an untoward or intemperate remark or reaction. Routinely, videos of these confrontations are uploaded onto social media platforms Enamorado controls. Some of those depict an individual being confronted or in other cases bystanders to the protests Enamorado's group has mounted growing impatient at being blocked or hemmed in or harangued and then reacting, whereupon the subject is ganged up upon and physically assaulted by those present. Audible in those videos will be a running com-

mentary from Enamorado, the videographer or one of the participants in the melee offering a justification for the violence that is depicted.

One such incident, which forms the primary basis of the arrests of the eight Enamorados that took place on Thursday, December 14 occurred on September 24 in Victorville. On that day, Enamorado had led a contingent of some 40 Enamorados from Los Angeles County and lower San Bernardino County in a protest relating to the action of a San Bernardino County sheriff's deputy on the evening of September 22 after a high school football game between Victor Valley and Big Bear at Ray Moore Stadium. After the conclusion of the game, a brawl broke out in the parking lot outside the stadium. In a video of the incident that subsequently went viral, two deputies can be seen attempting to intervene in the melee. At one point, a girl, subsequently identified as 16-year-old Victor Valley High School Student Faith Jeffers, can be seen involved with one deputy, who appears to have stepped between her and another female combatant. Jeffers can be seen bending down with her hands in the area of that deputy's service belt. As he reaches down to secure the weapons and devices there, another deputy approaches Jeffers from behind, lifts her and with some degree of force throws her to the pavement, disabling her, before both deputies then turn their

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March Races Set from front page

Ontario and parts of Chino Hills, Eastvale, Fontana, Pomona, Rancho Cucamonga and Upland, Republicans Vijal Suthar and Mark Cargile and Democrat Melissa May are taking on incumbent Democrat Norma Torres.

In California Senate District 19, which in addition to some Riverside County communities touches covers Twentynine Palms, Yucaipa,

Yucca Valley and parts of Colton, Grand Terrace, Highland, Loma Linda and Redlands, Republican incumbent Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh is being challenged by Democrats Blanca Azucena Gomez and Lisa Middleton.

In the newly-drawn 23rd California Senatorial District, which includes Adelanto, Hesperia, Victorville, Palmdale and Lancaster, the race will feature four non-incumbents, Democrats Ollie McCauley, Kipp Mueller and Republicans

Suzette Martinez Valadares and James Hamburger.

In the 25th State Senate District, which lies mostly in Los Angeles County but includes parts of Upland and Rancho Cucamonga, Republican Elizabeth Wong Ahlers is running against Democrats Sandra Armenta, Teddy Choi, Sasha Perez and Yvonne Yiu.

In the 29th Senatorial District, which includes Rialto, San Bernardino and parts of Colton, Fontana, Grand Ter-

race, Highland, Rancho Cucamonga, Redlands and Upland, incumbent Assemblywoman Eloise Gomez Reyes, a Democrat, is making a bid to move into the upper legislative house in Sacramento against another Democrat, Jason O'Brien, and two Republicans, Carlos Garcia and Kathleen Hazelton. In the 34th California Assembly, which covers Apple Valley, Barstow, Big Bear Lake, Twentynine Palms and parts of Hesperia, Highland, Lancaster, Palmdale and

Victorville, the incumbent Republican, Tom Lackey, must overcome Democrat Ricardo Ortega.

In the 39th Assembly District, which covers Adelanto, Hesperia, Lancaster, Palmdale and Victorville, incumbent Democrat Juan Carrillo Ventura will contend with Republicans Paul Marsh and George Pariona.

In the 41st Assembly District, which is composed mostly of eight Los Angeles County and parts of Hesperia,

Rancho Cucamonga and Upland, four non-incumbents, Democrats Phlunte Riddle, John Harabedian, Jed Leano and Republican Michelle Del Rosario Martinez are competing.

In the 47th Assembly District, the lion's share of which lies in Riverside County but includes all of Yucca Valley and parts of Redlands and Highland, and San Jacinto, Republican incumbent Greg Wallis is up against Democrats

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Despite The Obvious Assistance The \$50 Million Grant Would Provide 29 Palms & Its Residents In Constructing A Modern Sanitation System, A Disagreement Over The Location Of The Wastewater Treatment Plant Means The Money Will Be Returned from front page

it site northwest of the intersection of Twentynine Palms Highway and Utah Trail.

For those with homes and businesses near that location, that was an unacceptable alternative.

According to resident Joseph Carder, constructing the plant in its

currently-planned for location would potentially render nearby businesses unviable and subject the city's downtown district to the west, the Oasis of Mara and 29 Palms Inn to the south, Campbell House to the east and Twentynine Palms Elementary School to the

north to devaluation.

City officials had initially planned on locating the sewage treatment plant on Amboy Road east of Adobe Road, but the water district had concerns about having the treatment plant that close to the Twentynine Palms Water District's fluoride treatment plant.

Former Twentynine Palms City Manager Frank Luckino was instrumental in pushing the city toward undertaking the project. In October, however, he

left Twentynine Palms to become city manager in Desert Hot Springs. In one of his last acts as city manager in Twentynine Palms, he cataloged through alternate sites. Virtually every viable alternative, he told the city council and public in October, in particular moving the plant further east where it would have no or little impact on existing development, would represent a problem relating to system efficiency and added cost. The farther east the plant

goes, the greater distance the sewer lines must extend, adding costs to the project. Going much farther than Utah Trail, to as far east as the existent off-road motorcycle track would burden the project with at least \$8 million more in cost and as much as \$10 million more. The proposed location north of Highway 62 and west of Utah Trail, according to Luckino, offers the best spot in terms of topography, such that gravity will do much of the work. Locat-

ing it elsewhere, he said, would make the undertaking more expensive, as lift stations would be needed to pump the effluent uphill and raising the line to prevent it from being subject to damage from flooding would be required.

The rising cost of the project had a bearing on the city's decision to discontinue with the project for the time being.

Some community members and even some officials believed, per-

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In Upland, 5 Properties Get H₂O Directly From The San Antonio Water Company from front page

them the water shares. The owners of the five properties that yet have a direct relationship with the San Antonio Water Company did not divest themselves of the shares because, to one degree or another, the properties were not developed

to the same intensity as the other properties and each maintained a degree of agricultural use or landscaping that required water in a quantity that would justify hanging onto those water shares.

In those five cases, the San Antonio Water Company maintains a conveyance system for the properties that is independent of the water mains that provide water to the rest of the city.

City officials have for

some time have coveted the water shares monopolized by the owners of the five properties but have not been able to convince them to let go of those shares.

This is a relatively obscure element of the city's ongoing existence, which recently came to light when two of the properties were put up for sale.

One of those is the Cracker Jack Mansion and the other is the Nisbet Estate. Each harkens

back to a significant portion of Upland history and equally significant personages.

The Cracker Jack Mansion, located at 1936 North Euclid Avenue, was built in 1931 by Henry G. Eckstein.

Eckstein's place in American history is tied in with two brothers, Frederick and Louis Rueckheim, who had emigrated to America, settling down in the Chicago area. At some point in the 1890s, Fred-



Henry Eckstein

erick, a candy maker was working on perfection a confectionary consisting of popcorn and peanuts covered in molasses. Ini-

tially, the product, which was first popularized when offered at the 1893 Worlds Fair, congealed together in chunks until Henry tried adding a small quantity of oil – a closely guarded trade secret. That allowed the kernels and peanuts to separate. The product, while growing in popularity, was still somewhat limited in its distribution potential as it was packaged in metal tins, which

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Daniels Nabs Heisman from front page

officially considered his junior year in 2022. That fall, he chalked up 2,913 yards in the air and another 885 on the ground.

This year, he threw the ball like Washington Huskies' Quarterback Michael Penix Jr., the second-place finisher in the Heisman sweepstakes and otherwise the nation's next best gridiron field general and ran like Oklahoma State

Cowboys' Ollie Gordon II, the nation's best running back, who finished seventh in the Heisman polling.

Whereas Daniels logged as completion rate of 72.2 percent for 3,812 total yards and 40 touchdowns with four interceptions, Penix had a 65.9 percent completion rate with 4,218 total yards, 33 touchdowns and nine interceptions.

Daniels carried the ball for 1,134 yards, or 8.4 yards per touch, scoring ten touchdowns.

Gordon ran for a bit more, just 146 yards less than mile at 1,614 yards, an average of 8.8 yards per carry. Gordon scored a single touchdown.

In a single game this season, against Florida, he passed and rushed for a total of 606 yards – more than a third of a mile.

In the voting, Daniels received 503 first-place votes, well ahead of Penix, with 292 first-place votes. Overall Daniels had 2,029 points in the voting, as he received

fewer second-place and third-place votes than Penix, who brought in 1,701 voting points.

Oregon's quarterback, Bo Nix finished third in the election for the nation's top college player with 51 first-place votes and 885 total points. Ohio State receiver Marvin Harrison Jr. finished fourth, garnering 20 first-place endorsements and 352 points overall.

With his win, quarterbacks have taken the Heisman Trophy in five of the last seven years.

Daniels is the third LSU Tiger to be able to set the Heisman Trophy on his shelf. Tiger Running Back Billy Cannon in 1959. Louisiana State University Quarterback Joe Burrow won it in 2019.

Despite the Tigers having the most powerful offense in the country this year, the team was far off the pace for being national champions, as they logged a record of 9-3, have lost twice before the season was half over.

Alabama ended any vestige of hope that LSU could bring a national championship home to Baton Rouge when Crimson Tide beat them in early November, eliminating the Tigers from contention in the Southeastern Conference this year.

Daniels is the first player since Louisville's Lamar Jackson to win the Heisman while playing for a team that lost three games and did not play for a championship.

—Mark Gutglueck

The Enamorados' Accusations Of Racism Leveled At The Fontana City Council & Other Tactics Of Protest Did Not Stop The Mayor And Council From Approving Street Vendor Regulations & New Warehouses *from page 2*

attention to subduing Jeffers' combatant. Jeffers suffered injuries that required her hospitalization.

In short order, Jeffers and the force used against her became a cause célèbre, one which brought large numbers of protesters to the Victorville Sheriff's Station on Amargosa Road two days later. Around 40 of the more than 120 protesters who were on hand were Enamorados.

The protest in earnest began late that morning, with participants carrying signs and placards marching around the block of Amargosa, Palmdale Avenue to as far north as the parking lot for the Destiny Christian Center and then back toward Palmdale Road on McArt Road. Shepherding the protesting Enamorados was Edin Enamorado, who was using a bullhorn to exhort the crowd and address motorists who were passing or stationary at the intersection, referring to sheriff's deputies in general as cowards and demanding that the deputy who had manhandled Jeffers be identified, fired and prosecuted. Memorializing the activity were at least three videographers who were part of the Enamorado entourage carrying handheld, shoulder-mounted or tripod-based video cameras.

Near the northeast corner of Palmdale Road and McArt Road is the Mister Car Wash, located on property the back corner of which is within easy visual distance of the back parking lot and equipment yard of the sheriff's station. While the protest was ongoing, a couple driving a Hyundai sedan came into the business for a car wash. Having finished, with the woman driving and the man seated beside her, the couple attempted to leave through the Mister Car Wash exit onto Palmdale Road. They

were unable to do so, as both the traffic flow and the constant stream of protesters on the sidewalk and in the gutter of Palmdale Road prevented the Hyundai from progressing any further forward. They exhibited patience initially, but after more than two minutes, the woman sounded the Hyundai's horn. This had no appreciable impact on the protesters, who continued to file in front of the car, such that the driver could not move the car forward without running into and possibly injuring one or more of the protesters. A further wait ensued, at which point the woman sounded the horn once more and the man opened the door on the passenger's side of the car. As he emerged, he was immediately engaged by three of the Enamorados, who accused him of opening the door on one of the woman protesters. One, then two, and then a third Enamorado began to rain blows on the man, who attempted to defend himself while he was angled away from the car and then knocked to the ground. As he attempted to get to his feet, he was pepper sprayed. He succeeded in getting up but as he was staggering, he was knocked to the ground once more and kicked while he was down. Off camera, shortly after the man came out of the car, Edin Enamorado could be heard belittling him for being less than a man for hitting the woman with his car door. After the man was pepper sprayed and on the ground for the second time, Edin Enamorado can be heard remarking that he had gotten what he deserved.

The incident was livestreamed to Enamorado's YouTube page.

From their nearby vantage, deputies saw the assault and roughly two minutes later they came to the spot of the assault,

whereupon a shoving match ensued between two of the deputies and two of the Enamorados. Within minutes, at least eight deputies had arrived. They took four of the Enamorados into custody at that time: David Chávez, 27, of Riverside, who was arrested on suspicion of assault with a caustic chemical and unlawful assembly; Wendy Luján, 40, who is described variously as Edin Enamorado's partner or wife, who was arrested on suspicion of assault with a caustic chemical, obstructing a peace officer, battery and unlawful assembly; Victor Alba, 30, of Victorville, who was arrested on suspicion of obstructing a peace officer and unlawful assembly. At that time, the sheriff's department did not arrest Edin Enamorado or identify the Enamorados as primary participants in the protest and accompanying violence. Upon her booking, Luján provide her jailers with a Pomona address rather than her actual residence in Upland, which the department's investigators now believe was an effort to protect Edin Enamorado, with whom she cohabits, from being connected to what had occurred that day.

Edin Enamorado uploaded the video of the assault of the couple in the Hyundai to a social media account he controls. It was presented to the public within a context in which it was suggested that what had occurred was a demonstration of the noble efforts of the Enamorados to stand up to racism. The posting did not dwell on the consideration that both the driver of the Hyundai and the passenger who was assaulted are Hispanic.

The sheriff's department investigation that ensued in short order brought Edin Enamorado into focus, helped along in part by his public utterances in the im-

mediate aftermath of Chávez, Luján, Alba and Freeman arrests when he assigned blame for what had occurred to the driver of the Hyundai, who, he said, "tried to run over protesters" and her passenger, who, Enamorado asserted "hit a woman" and then assaulted Luján, who, Enamorado indignantly insisted, had merely "defended herself."

Investigators at that juncture had identified Enamorado as the prime mover of the group he heads and, as a result, located the video of the assault which offered a visual and verbal contrast to what Enamorado claimed to have occurred. This led the investigators to explore the activities of the Enamorados and their leader in multiple other venues, which were likewise documented in posted videos.

In his crusade for justice and ending the racist practices of a cross section of private citizens and public officials, the investigators learned, Enamorado had gotten arrested earlier this year in Santa Ana when he sought to interfere with a business where a security guard had aggressively dealt with a homeless woman. In Upland, Enamorado spearheaded a series of protests over the promotion of a police detective to sergeant based on the sergeant's teenaged daughter's confrontation with a food vendor near the San Diego State University campus where she is a student and the sergeant's involvement in 2013 when he was an officer in the nonfatal shooting of a Hispanic teenager. That protest involved rallies held in the neighborhood surrounding the sergeant's home in Rancho Cucamonga. When an Upland resident questioned Enamorado's conclusion that the police sergeant was a racist, the Enamorados refocused their attention on the Upland resident, picketing his home and insisting that he was a racist. The Enamorados, led by Edin Enamorado, then concentrated its ef-

forts in trying to shame a 93-year-old man who lives proximate to the resident who had no involvement whatsoever in the matter. When the 93-year-old departed for another part of the city to ride out the protest, the Enamorados followed him there. During the same series of protestations, the Upland Police Department deemed it prudent to assemble a task force to remain on standby to ensure that the Enamorados did not engage in a siege or any show of violence toward San Bernardino County District Attorney Jason Anderson, who lived nearby.

On October 24, when the Fontana City Council met to cast a second confirming vote for an ordinance relating to regulations pertaining to street/sidewalk vending, Enamorados showed up en masse, led by Edin Enamorado, in what proved to be a futile effort to dissuade the city council from putting the regulations in place. In addition to having to contend with city staff and elected officials who were in favor of the ordinance and appeared to be on a trajectory to give it final passage, the Enamorados were exasperated to learn that a sizable number of the city's Latino business owners, the Hispanic Business Owners Association and both of the council's Mexican-American members supported the ordinance, which triggered expletive-laden tirades against the city council and most particularly the mayor, repeated interruptions of the proceedings and threats of physical violence against those present voicing support for the regulations. Ultimately, the public, with the exception of the press, was removed from the council chamber and the matter was voted upon, passing unanimously. Enamorado, after having been ordered to leave and forcibly removed by the Fontana Police from the internal portion of City Hall, regrouped in the parking lot with his acolytes and directed

them to go directly to the home of the mayor, where they conducted a rally, including Enamorado's use of a bullhorn well into the late evening to regale the neighborhood with how racist of a community Fontana is. The group remained in place until the mayor returned home and quickly retreated inside, avoiding a confrontation. At around 11 p.m., a patrol car made its way down the street the mayor lives on to announce that what was going on was an unlawful assembly. Thereafter a van with no fewer than seven police officers outfitted in riot gear arrived. Marching abreast down the street, they forced those before them to make their exodus. Meanwhile, Enamorado and one of his associates who is commonly referred to as his bodyguard, had taken up a position behind where the riot squad had begun their march. At 11:24 p.m., both Enamorado and his bodyguard were arrested and charged with disturbing the peace and were booked into the sheriff's department-run West Valley Detention Center in Rancho Cucamonga. Early the next morning, the sheriff's department kicked both of them loose without either having to post bail.

Enamorado was not finished with Fontana at that point, nor was Fontana finished with him.

After the October 24 meeting, Warren sought a temporary restraining order against Enamorado to keep him from coming within 100 feet of her or her home, which was not granted by the judge hearing the petition.

In November, the city council took up two issues that were of tremendous sensitivity to the community's Hispanic population. One of those was an addendum to the sidewalk/street vending ordinance passed in October which would stipulate a \$232 retrieval fee to be borne by a vendor for the return of merchandise, products, equipment or carts impounded when a citation for violation of the

Continued on Page 6

Porter & Barrios, Two Experienced Political Candidates Who Had No Problems Before, See Their Candidacies Foiled Because The ROV Won't Accept The Signatures Of Their Endorsers *from front page*

Rex Gutierrez and Ernest Richter, captured 15.4 and 7.1 percent, respectively. In the November 2022 head-to-head vote, Porter did quite well for a Republican running in a district in which the Democrats hold a commanding 45 percent to 25 percent voter registration advantage. In losing, he captured 42.3 percent to Aguilar's 57.7 percent. Undaunted and perhaps even encouraged by his belief that he can hold onto the the Republican votes he captured and make even further inroads with the Democrat and independent votes he appealed to in the last go-round, he again jumped into this year's race. This time, there was an indication that he might fare even better. Another Democrat, former San Bernardino City Councilman Benito Barrios, declared his candidacy in the 33rd Congressional District, as did another Republican, Tom Herman.

Amateur and professional political handicappers saw an opportunity for Porter and perhaps sensed even some of Aguilar's blood in the

water. Barrios, a former Marine, had a following among so-called Blue Dog, or conservative Democrats, a voting segment that Aguilar, as what some refer to as a liberal, has difficulty with. If the 2024 primary election were to dwell deeply on such political and philosophical differences, Aguilar would most likely survive the primary but see even more Democrat votes peel away from him than did in 2022. Presumably, those votes in the November 2024 general election could go to Porter, assuming he would survive into that round again, as he most likely would have.

The Democrats have of late put a lot of stock in Aguilar. In July 2021, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi appointed eight House members, including Aguilar, to the U.S. House Select Committee to Investigate the July 6th [2021] Attack on the United States Capital. Also on the Committee were two high-ranking and high-profile Democrats, Adam Schiff and Jamie Raskin. Then-minority Leader Kevin

McCarthy at first agreed to appoint five Republicans to the committee, but then withdrew them. Ultimately, Pelosi appointed two Republicans to the committee. On June 16, 2022, Aguilar and John Wood, an investigative counsel for the Select Committee, led the committee's third televised hearing, focusing on Trump's efforts to pressure Vice President Mike Pence in to decertifying the election. The witnesses he heard were Greg Jacob, Pence's lawyer and J. Michael Luttig, a conservative former U.S. Appeals Court Judge. The televised hearings brought Aguilar into national prominence. He is considered, at least by some, to be an acolyte or protege of Schiff, who is now a leading contender to become a U.S. Senator from California. In this way, Aguilar is perceived among Democrats of a certain stripe to be one of California's leading members of Congress, particularly in the aftermath of Kevin McCarthy's recent deposeure as Speaker of the House. He chairs the House Democratic Caucus and is the highest-ranking Hispanic in Congress.

Nevertheless, his home turf yet remains something of a Republican bastion, and with

a growing number of Latino's who are reacting against liberal and progressive causes, his continuing tenure in Congress is by no means assured.

Early this week, both Porter and Barrios were eagerly looking ahead to the upcoming primary race. Within hours of one another, the rug was pulled out from beneath their candidacies.

To qualify as a congressional candidate, one must pay a \$1,700 filing fee and gather 40 signatures.

Porter earlier this year had paid the fee and turned in his candidacy nomination paper, which was endorsed with the signatures, or what he thought were the signatures, of 44 residents of the 33rd Congressional District. According to the San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters, however, only five of those signatures were valid.

Barrios too had paid the fee and turned in his nomination paper, which was signed by 60 voters. The San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters kicked the application back, claiming that only 24 of the signatures were valid.

Thus, the only candidates for Congress in the 33rd District in the March primary vote are Aguilar

and a virtual political unknown, Tom Herman.

Suspicions were raised almost immediately. This is not the first political rodeo for Porter or Barrios. Barrios ran for city council in San Bernardino and qualified his candidacy then. More to the point, less than two years ago, Porter qualified his candidacy in the 33rd District.

Accusations are flying left and right. One suggestion is that the Registrar of Voters office, the employees of which are members of the pro-labor oriented and pro-Democrat Teamsters Union militated to cut Porter and Barrios out of the race to ensure that Aguilar remains in Congress.

It is noted that Herman, who has spend most of his professional career as a missionary outside the United States, has no political experience and would have offered the least effective opposition to Aguilar.

Some people contended that the office had changed its protocol and standard for the verification of signatures on candidate nominating documents and was then applying those standards selectively to disqualify the candidacies of some candidates – as in the case of Porter and Barrios – while keeping the

old rules intact to allow other candidates to remain on the ballot. Essentially, the charge is, the officer and its employees had revamped the standards on how a signature is verified and that this was done purposefully to lock certain people out, and that the new standard was not being applied consistently.

Accordingly, the *Sentinel* sought to hear from San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters Stephenie Shea what the bases for the rejection of the Porter and Barrios candidacies were. The *Sentinel* submitted its questions through Registrar of Voters Office Communications Director Melissa Eickman.

The *Sentinel* asked the office how many would-be candidates had their candidacies rejected this year, how many in 2022, how many in 2020, how many in 2018, how many in 2016 and how many in 2014.

The *Sentinel* asked the registrar of voters office to identify the candidates being excluded from the ballot this year because of insufficient valid signatures.

The *Sentinel* asked if, by the office's standards, there is a difference between an invalid signature and an unverified

29 Palms Foregoing \$50 Million Grant *from page 3*

haps somewhat naively and unrealistically, that the city could get sufficient money from the state and federal government to pay for the project or the lion's share of it. Indeed, some state and federal money did come available.

In September 2021, Congressman Jay Obernolte obtained \$45 million in federal money to pay for the construction of a wastewater treatment plant in Twentynine Palms, one that was to service, in the main, the Marine Corp Air Ground Combat Center, but which would also offer some treatment capability for a portion of

the City of Twentynine Palms.

In the February/March 2023 timeframe, then-Twentynine Palms City Manager Frank Luckino, who at one time had been the assistant general manager/ chief financial officer of the Hi-Desert Water District in Yucca Valley, had the city push ahead with seeking state funding/state grants for completing Twentynine Palms sewer system. In doing so, Luckino and city staff tentatively identified the sewer plant site in the vicinity of Two Mile Road and Utah Trail, west of Sunmore Estates.

Last month, the state came through with a \$50 million grant to complete that work. Conceptually, the city is explor-

ing the potential to tie the Marine base sewer system together with that portion of the city's system that will be most proximate to the base. The city is under the gun to firm up its plans and present them to Sacramento to ensure the delivery of the \$50 million.

Shortly after the city identified the plant location at Two Mile Road and Utah Trail, nearby residents, business interests and landowners let their objections be known. Simultaneously, it was learned that certain presumptions about cost from three and four years ago had been too low. City officials were caught between the state and local residents and businesses who did not want the plant at the planned-for site, high

costs, a degree of complication in dispensing with the plan to relocate it from the site near Two Mile Road and Utah Trail and scrambling to find a new site, on top of which would come even more cost.

The city had planned, in constructing the system, to build the collection system in five phases, with the first phase involving laying down 10 miles of pipeline and no lift stations at a cost of \$31 million in current dollars; a second phase in which 20 miles of pipeline would be laid into the ground with no lift stations at a cost of \$58 million current dollars; the third phase of 26 miles of pipeline and no lift stations at a cost of \$83 million in current dollars; the fourth

phase entailing 17 miles of pipeline with no lift stations at a cost of \$51 million current dollars and the fifth and final phase of 40 miles of pipeline with seven lift stations at a cost of \$133 million in current dollars. The construction of the collection system would consist of laying in 113 miles of pipeline and seven lift stations at a total cost of \$356 million in current dollars.

The sewer plant was to be built to easily accommodate the processing of 900,000 gallons of effluent per day. The city was taking a piecemeal approach to the project, thinking of it in phases. The \$31 million first phase was eminently doable, particularly if it had the \$50 million in state funding

in hand. But moving the plant eastward and other project cost escalations appeared to be inflating the first phase to \$60 million or beyond that to as much as \$65 million. One concept to cut down on the cost of the project was to shrink the scope of the system to a less than 900,000 gallon treatment capacity. But officials began asking themselves of what value a system with insufficient capacity would be.

Upon interim City Manager Larry Bowden stating that the project's construction could balloon to as much as \$70.8 million, of which at least \$52 million would be used to construct the treatment plant, the council began to get cold

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San Bernardino County **Sentinel**

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The Enamorados' Aggressive Representational Tactics Have From Time To Time Turned Violent, Sheriff's Department Investigators Say *from page 4*

ordinance was issued. A second issue was the city council's consideration of four warehouse projects, including three to be built on property where in July an unprecedented vote to deny a previous warehouse complex project had occurred. Since she had come into office in 2010, Fontana Mayor Acquannetta Warren had been an unabashed supporter of warehouse projects. A large percentage of those facilities were built in the city's south side. While the population of Fontana is heavily Latino, with approximately 69 percent of those living there identified as Hispanic, the city's southernmost districts are even more heavily populated by those with Spanish surnames.

For years, a contingent of local residents and futurists have questioned whether warehouses constitute the highest and best use of the property available for development in the city and dispute Warren's contention that they constitute positive economic development, while citing the relatively poor pay and benefits provided to those who work in logistics facilities, the large diesel-powered semi-trucks that are part of those operations with their unhealthy exhaust emissions, together with the bane of traffic grid-

lock they create.

Meanwhile, the proliferation of warehouses that has occurred throughout Warren's tenure as mayor has been phenomenol, as she considers warehouses to be positive attributes to the community, as virtually anyone who can acquire or tie up property can then quickly convert the land into warehouses, consisting of tilt-up buildings, thereby making fast money. This offers "economic advancement," she asserts, because those warehouses offer ready employment to a good portion of Fontana's largely unskilled workforce. So successful has she been in this regard that she is known by her admirers and detractors alike as "Warehouse Warren."

Many of her detractors maintain that it is the poorer denizens of the city, the impoverished Latino residents at the city's south end who are bearing the brunt of the environmental havoc represented by warehouses.

Nevertheless, Warren's advocacy of constructing warehouses had proven an unstoppable juggernaut, as she had co-opted all of the council's members except for one, Jesse Sandoval, making them obedient members of her ruling council coalition by providing them with

huge loans from her own electioneering fund to assist them in their council campaigns or otherwise interceding directly on their behalf with the development community to get them political donations. That had included bringing a former Latino member of the city council, Jesse Armendarez, and a current Hispanic member of the council, Pete Garcia, into her fold. Until July of this year, the current council majority, consisting of Warren, Councilman John Roberts, Councilman Phil Cothran Jr. and Councilman Garcia had never – not even once – voted in opposition to a warehouse project. In July, however, in large measure because of the tireless lobbying and coordination efforts on the part of a sizable contingent of people concerned about the continuing proliferation of warehouses in Fontana, sufficient inroads were made to convince Roberts and Garcia to link up with Councilman Sandoval and oppose the construction of Acacia Real Estate Group's proposed 540,849-square foot warehouse complex immediately adjacent to Jurupa Hills High School. It was an accomplishment of historic significance and a tribute to the persuasiveness of three individuals in particular, Ana Gonzalez, the executive director of the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice, Elizabeth Sena, the founder of the South Fontana Concerned Citi-

zens Coalition, and Joaquin Castillejos.

In November, the crafty Warren, shrewdly calculating that the Enamorados would again turn out in numerous and stringent opposition to the action that would give the city the authority to fine those street vendors who had been cited for violating the newly-passed ordinance, placed onto the same council agenda four items pertaining to four warehouse proposals – one of 490,565 square feet on 18.8 acres located west of Catawba Avenue, east of Poplar Avenue and north and south of Rose Avenue proposed by Seefried Industrial Properties and another three warehouses to be built by Acacia Real Estate Group totaling 532,104 square feet to be located on what is essentially the same 29.4-acre plot of ground between Citrus and Oleander avenues, north of Santa Ana Avenue, and south of Jurupa Hills High School that the warehouse rejected in July by Sandoval, Roberts and Garcia was to have been built on. Calculating that Enamorado and his cabal would act in virtually the same way they had the previous month, Warren was looking to kill not one bird nor two birds nor three birds nor four birds with one stone but indeed five birds with a single rock.

As the November 14 meeting approached, Gonzalez, Sena and Castillejos, who were philosophically aligned with

the Enamorados and other elements of the community insofar as the regulation of sidewalk and street vending goes in that they considered it to be a heavy-handed limitation on the already limited money-making potential of immigrants and that imposing a recovery fee of \$232 on the vendors was overkill, were looking hopefully toward solidifying a workable if fleeting coalition with the Enamorados that would last, perhaps, for little more than a single night but which would create, if not the actuality of a huge groundswell of opposition in the community to both the impound fee and the warehouses, then the perception that, with the number of Enamorados in the council chamber added to those adamantly opposed to more warehouses, neither Roberts nor Garcia could afford to backslide and that they should stay the course they had begun in July and once again join with Sandoval in saying no to Warehouse Warren.

That did not play out, however. Adroitly, Warren arranged to have the matter relating to the impound fee heard first. True to form, Edin Enamorado and the rest of the Enamorados continued with the same playbook as previously – insisting that they held the high moral ground, that there was no justification for regulating street vendors and sidewalk vendors let alone fining them, that owners

of brick and mortar businesses who complain about unfair competition from street vendors who have far less overhead than traditional businesses are white capitalist crybabies, that the establishment is racist as are all of the members of the city council and city staff and that both Garcia and Sandoval in voting for the sidewalk/street vending ordinance previously had demonstrated themselves to be "coconuts." Added in for good measure were constant disruptions and outpourings – chants – of profanity, personal attacks on Warren and even more pointed threats of violence against those present who supported the regulation regime than were made previously. Just as had occurred on October 24, before the vote was taken, the public was cleared out of the chamber with the exception of the press. The only difference in the vote was that Sandoval did not support the impound fine, which therefore passed 4-to-1.

Instead of calling for the return of the public to the council chamber so the council could consider the land use items that were on the agenda, including the four warehouse projects, the council then took a quick vote with regard to an item that called for rescheduling the city's traditional council meetings from at night to during the day, the rationale for which was to avoid what the council and staff said

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Eight Enamorados Rounded Up In Predawn Raids
from page 6

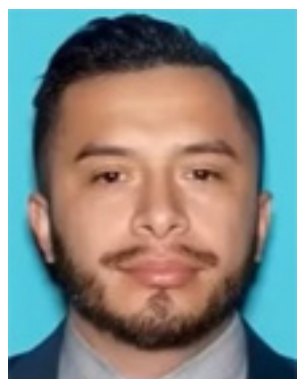
was the danger of dealing with the Enamorados during the night. The council adjourned the remainder of the meeting to 7:30 the next morning.

The suspension of the meeting meant that the more than two dozen residents and/or other members of the public who were there on the evening of November 14 to speak in opposition to the warehouse projects would need to return to City Hall early the next morning to be able to weigh in on the matter. For many, who had already sat through a delayed meeting, particularly those who would need to fulfill their professional commitments the next day or otherwise get off to work, returning on a Wednesday morning was out of the question. In one fell swoop, utilizing the opportunity that the Enamorados had provided her, Warren switched the public hearing relating to the warehouses into a forum favorable to her and the project proponents and one far less auspicious for those who were trying to keep the two properties – zoned for residential use – from being converted into industrial zones to allow logistics facilities utilizing diesel-fuel powered semi-trucks next to existing homes and a school.

Gonzalez, Sena and Castillejos did manage to show up for the 7:30 a.m. meeting, along with a handful of others. The heavy show of 25 or 30 or 35 warehouse opponents they had hoped would be there to reinforce their points or make even more persuasive arguments than they did weren't there. One of those who did show up was Enamorado. He took more shots at Warren while going on record against the warehouse projects. Then, on the way out, he created a disturbance and was arrested.

When the time for the votes came, Roberts, Co-

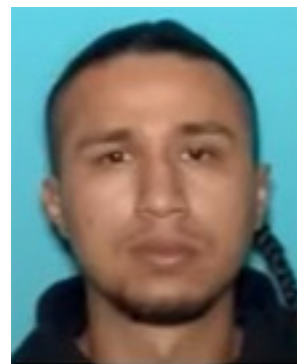
thran and Garcia, having been subjected repeatedly to accusations that they are racists along with Warren – who is African American – were left to contemplate the validity of the arguments made against the proj-



Edin Enamorado

ects, ones that stood side by side with the characterizations the Enamorados had made of them and their city. Roberts and Garcia, reversing the vote they had made in July, approved all three warehouses to be constructed next to Jurupa Hills High School and approved the other warehouse project.

This week, the Fontana City Council, in yet another tribute to the Enamorados and their political approach, passed



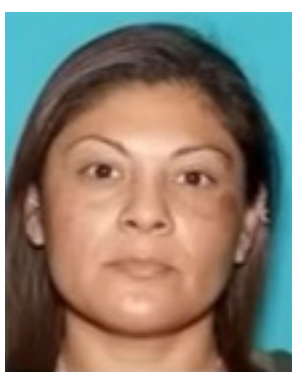
Gullit Acevedo

an ordinance outlawing demonstrations or protests in residential districts.

Meanwhile, the sheriff's department has carried out an in-depth inquiry into Edin Alex Enamorado and his associates, touching base with law enforcement agencies in Los Angeles, Pomona, Upland, Riverside, Santa Ana, Long Beach, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Woodland Hills, Huntington Park, San Bernardino and Moorpark, places where he has pressed forward with his indefatigable mission against racism, sometimes in what has proven out to be a lawful manner and in other cases in ways that skirt the law or cross some line or other.

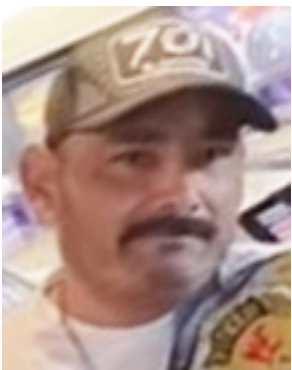
Of interest to the investigators was how Enamorado has been able to hold body and soul together, where he is getting his money and how he is able to afford to engage in being a voluntary and sometimes unwanted do-gooder.

Through the use of at least one undercover officer and at least two informants, the department was able to infiltrate the Enamorados, the *Sentinel* has learned. In recent weeks, information that Edin Enamorado was previously nonchalant about sharing has now been restricted. There



Wendy Luján

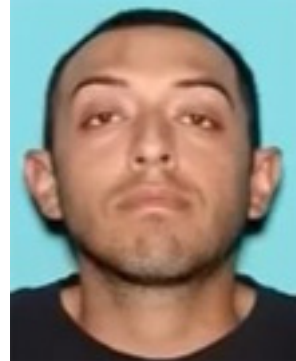
have been other manifestations of caution. He was once proud to post videos of the protests he was spearheading, seemingly convinced that the physical punishment the Enamorados would mete out from time to time to those deemed deserving of such treatment was not only morally justifiable but legally acceptable given the racism and illegal activity of those mistreating and abusing sidewalk/street vendors and immigrants in gen-



Fernando López

eral. He seems to have recognized that others, including authorities, might not see it in the same light, and many of the videos he streamed and which were widely available as postings on social media thereafter, including TikTok and YouTube, have been taken down. This, investigators believe, demonstrates Enamorado's consciousness of guilt.

Despite his newfound wariness, law enforcement agencies have secured copies of several incriminatory videos, such as the one involving the attack on the passenger who emerged from the Hyundai on Septem-

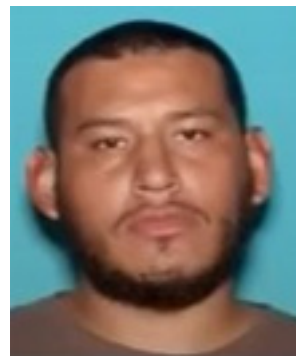


David Chávez

ber 24 during the protest along Palmdale Road.

Enamorado has also unwittingly, in talking to the media over the past two or three years, made statements that could rebound to his detriment legally.

As a convicted felon, Enamorado is restricted from possessing weapons and certain materials and equipment. One such restricted item is pepper spray and chemical agents, which in some contexts are considered



Edwin Pena

defensive implements but which alternately have offensive potential.

While being interviewed by Hal Eisner of FOX 11 News about his efforts to assist street and sidewalk vendors, Enamorado on video admitted to being in possession of a weapon he cannot legally possess, which he provides to vendors as protective gear.

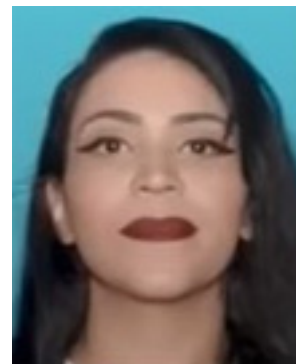
"First of all, I usually give out pepper spray, a horn," he said to Eisner. "I obtain their phone number. I add them to my data base."

Early December 14, sheriff's deputies served arrest and search warrants at seven different locations, arresting eight Enamorados.

Edin Alex Enamorado and Wendy Luján were taken into custody

at their residence in Upland 3:55 a.m. Enamorado was arrested on suspicion of violating PC 22801(a), being a prohibited person in possession of pepper spray; PC 182, conspiracy; PC 236, false imprisonment; PC 422, making criminal threats; PC 245, assault with a deadly weapon; PC 29800(a) (1) being a felon in Possession of a firearm; and PC 207 – kidnapping. Luján, 40, was arrested on suspicion of violating PC 182, conspiracy; and PC 236, false imprisonment.

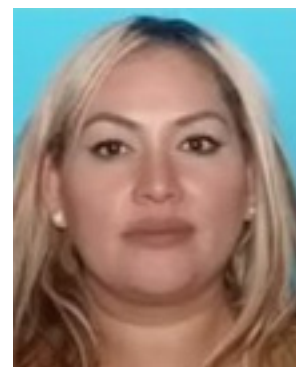
David Chávez, 28 of Riverside, who was ar-



Stephanie Amésquita

rested previously by the department along with Lujan on September 24 in Victorville, was arrested at his residence in Riverside at 4:05 a.m. on charges of PC 182, conspiracy; PC 236, false imprisonment; and PC 244, assault with chemical agents.

Stephanie Amésquita, 33 of San Bernardino, was arrested at 4:22 a.m. on charges of PC 236, false imprisonment; and PC 22810(G)(1), illegal use of tear gas.



Vanessa Carrasco

Gullit Eder Acevedo, 30 of San Bernardino, was arrested at 4:10 a.m. and charged with violating PC 245.2, use of a deadly weapon on an operator of a motor vehicle; PC 236, false imprisonment; and PC 182.5 conspiracy to commit a gang-related felony. Acevedo is also known as Jaguar Arreola.

Edwin Pena, 26 of Los Angeles was arrested at

4:46 a.m. and charged with violating PC 245.2, use of a deadly weapon on the operator of a motor vehicle; PC 422(A), threatening to engage in a crime with the intent to terrorize; and PC 236, false imprisonment.

Fernando López, 44 of Los Angeles was arrested at 3:20 a.m. on suspicion of violating PC 422(A), threatening to engage in a crime with the intent to terrorize; PC 244, assault by throwing acid; and PC 236, false imprisonment. López is also known as Patino.

Vanessa Carrasco, 40 of Ontario, was arrested at 4:08 a.m. on suspicion of violating PC 422(A), threatening to engage in a crime with the intent to terrorize; PC 236, false imprisonment; and PC 182 (A) (1), conspiracy to commit a crime.

All eight are being held without bail until their arraignment Monday, which is to take place in Victorville.

At a press conference held after the arrests attended by both Sheriff Shannon Dicus and District Attorney Jason Anderson, Dicus said the Enamorados arrested were masquerading as crusaders for justice who were seeking to eradicate racism while they were themselves engaged in racist activity. The sheriff said the Enamorados were harassing people by falsely cooking up accusations of racism, "causing them to get on their knees to beg for forgiveness while still assaulting them. Videos of the truth were manipulated and put out to the public to make it look like an underserved population was being represented kind of Robin Hoodish, when, in fact, it was felonious activity behind this. They [the Enamorados] have a large following. The more clicks they get, the more money they make as it relates to how the systems they operate within work. They're more about not substance for what their issues are, but really getting that clickbait and making money off that, just like any internet in-

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In Upland, Five Properties Do Not Get Their Water From The City System *from page 3*

the product more expensive and difficult to sell in smaller quantities. In 1896, Eckstein hooked up with the Rueckheim brothers. Over the next two years, Eckstein perfected a way of packaging the product in single serving sizes that maintained the freshness and crispness of the snack for shipments to the population centers on the East Coast. By 1899, Cracker Jack was being sold, much as it is today, in slim "waxed sealed" waterproof cartons. The company was reorganized as Rueckheim Bros. & Eckstein a few years later, by which point it employed 400. In 1908, a Tin Pan Alley composer, Jack Norworth, came up with "Take Me Out To The Ballgame," which contained the line, "By me



Eugene Nisbet

some peanuts and cracker jack." By 1912, the Rueckheims and Eckstein were fabulously wealthy.

A few years later, Eckstein purchased 20 acres on Euclid Avenue, north of what is now the northeast corner of Euclid Avenue and 19th Street. Initially, Eckstein built a winter home, a 980-square foot, two bedroom single bath abode surrounded by citrus groves where he would spend the coldest part of the winter away from Chicago. In 1931, he had a six-bedroom, six-bath mansion constructed on the property, one which had a basement of nearly 2,000 square feet, with total square footage of 8,409 square feet. Also on the property was a two-story barn, with a stable on the

ground floor and a alfalfa storage loft above, with a conveyance ramp to the feeders below.

The original home was converted to a caretaker's bungalow.

Over the years, Lucky Baldwin's nephew was a frequent visitor. He brought his belongings



The Cracker Jack Mansion

to the home in luggage that had once belonged to his great-uncle. Decades later, that luggage was yet at the home.

More than 16 of the acres remained, essentially, as a citrus grove. The original concrete pipes that brought the water to the property were upgraded by the San Antonio Water Company to ensure that there was no interruption in the water system and the groves remained irrigated.

The property would eventually pass into the hands of the Berry Family, the patriarch of which was heavily involved in construction locally, including being the contractor on Upland City Hall. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, the matriarch of the family, concerned that if access to the 210 Freeway were to be provided on Euclid, the construction of the entrance/exit lanes would mean the removal of the caretaker bungalow, effectively lobbied Caltrans and the county transportation agency to place the entrances and exits at Mountain Avenue and Campus Avenue.

Of the original 20 acres, 16.5 were subsequently sold and developed, but the mansion

remains on 3.5 acres, along with the caretaker bungalow, barn and some agricultural uses.

On June 1, 2023, the property sold for \$3.2 million. The water shares remain with the property.

On November 28, 2023, the 97,539 square

foot [approximately 2.3 acre] property located at 200 East 13th Street, consisting of a six bedroom, four bath 5,000 square foot home built in the 1890s in the midst of a citrus grove went on the market. The asking price is \$1.9 million dollars. Like the Cracker Jack Mansion, it carries with it water rights that provide it with a water supply directly provided by the San Antonio Water Company.

The property was once owned by Eugene Goodspeed Nisbet.

Nisbet was born on October 23, 1896 in Virginia, Illinois. He graduated from the University of Southern California and served in the U.S. Army during World War

City Council in 1938. He ran unsuccessfully for California assembly District 72 in 1942, but was elected mayor of Upland the same year. In 1954, after serving as mayor for a dozen years, he ran successfully for Assemblyman, again in District 72. He was re-

elected in 1956, 58 and 1960. He unsuccessfully sought elevation to Cali-



The Nisbet Estate on 13th Street

fornia's upper legislative house in 1957 in a special election fill a va-

upper legislative house, this time successfully, and was elected to represent California Senatorial District 36. In 1966, at which point the state Senate district lines had been redrawn, he ran in the newly formed Senate District 20, and was defeated. Nisbet was also

a delegate to Democratic National Convention from California, 1956,

1960, 1964 The property yet remains in the Nisbet Fam-

the city, now under the direction of Mayor Bill Velto, wants to acquire the water rights that go with the property and separate them from the home ownership.

The *Sentinel* this week sought from Velto information about the effort to secure the water shares/rights that go along with the Crackerjack Mansion on Euclid and the Eugene Nisbet residence on 13th Street, as well as the original water conveyance system, separate from the city system, that descends from San Antonio Heights to serve those houses specifically. It is said that the system, with a few flaws that have been repaired, remains intact.

The *Sentinel* asked Velto if the report that the city attempted with the Crackerjack Mansion to separate the water shares from the property, such that the mansion would no longer have access to the water coming directly from San Anto-

nio Heights and bypassing the city's water system, was true.

The *Sentinel* asked if the intention had been to put the mansion and its property onto the city water system.

The *Sentinel* further asked Velto if the city indeed wants to end the special arrangement the San Antonio Water Company has with the Nisbet Property, so that the new owner will not have the water rights historically associated with the property and will need to go onto the city water system.

Velto was asked about *Continued on Page 12*



Water availability allows the Nisbet Estate to remain verdant

I. Nisbet was first elected to the Upland

cancy. In 1962, he again ran for a position in the Golden State's upper

Word again is that

ROV Ends Candidacies Over Vague Reference To Signature Problems from page 5

signature.

The *Sentinel* asked if the standards for verifying signatures were changed this year and, if so, how.

The *Sentinel* asked what the signature veri-

fication standard consists of.

The *Sentinel* asked if a voter makes a variation from past signatures - say perhaps by including a middle initial or middle name where previously no middle initial or middle name was included or vice versa - that nullified the signature permanently or whether the registrar of voters office would revisit the issue with the voter and check

with him or her to make sure he or she did not in fact want to endorse the candidate in question.

By press time, the *Sentinel* had not received a response to the questions.

At issue is whether the signatures were discarded for not matching those on the registration documents or whether those signing were not actually registered voters or whether those who

signed the documents did not live within the 33rd Congressional District.

With regard to the residency requirement, there is perhaps a superseding question. Members of Congress are not required to live within the districts they represent. Rather the residency requirement is for them to live within the border of the state delegation they represent.

Thus, a candidate for Congress from California need only to demonstrate that he or she lives in California. That being the case, there seems to be no precedent on record wherein a would-be candidate whose candidacy was rejected contested the rejection by asserting that the signatures of those endorsing them were adequate as long as the signatories lived in California.

It is know that the Registrar of Voters also rejected the candidacy of incumbent San Bernardino Sixth Ward Councilwoman Kimberly Calvin because of signature insufficiency. In Calvin's case, she has acknowledged that she was responsible for that inadequacy and said she is determined to run for reelection as a write-in candidate.

-Mark Gutglueck

Arrests Of Enamorados On Assault & Violence Charges Represents An Attack On Free Speech, Lawyer Says from page 10

fluencer does."

Dicus said, "What this group does is not protected by the First Amendment. It's illegal to assault someone who doesn't agree with you. In San Bernardino County, I, along with our local chiefs of police, will continue to uphold the law and protect citizens from this type of unlawful behavior."

Because of Edin Enamorado's propensity for making accusations of racism against public officials and law enforcement agencies in particular, the sheriff's department arranged to have Hispanic officers assigned to the case. Similarly, the district attorney's office is assigning the evaluation of the case and its possible prosecution to a Latino deputy district attorney.

Detective Sergeant Tony Romero, who works out of the Victorville Sheriff's Department headquarters, oversaw the investigation. At Thursday's press con-

ference, he said, "This investigation began in late September, when we investigated a brutal assault that occurred at a protest in the City of Victorville. The investigation quickly became a multi-agency investigation when we discovered our group of suspects were responsible for violent acts during other protests in both San Bernardino and Los Angeles counties. The investigation stemmed from multiple incidents involving this group, to include the assault that occurred in our city on September 24, 2023. Throughout the course of our ten-week

investigation, investigators identified eight active suspects belonging to this group of activists who committed the crimes of assault with a deadly weapon, false imprisonment, conspiracy, convicted felon in possession of a firearm and other offenses currently under the review of the district attorney's office."

Romero said, "During the arrests and search warrants, evidence was collected to corroborate the crimes that were committed. The evidence will not be released to protect the integrity of the investigation at this time."

Christian Contreras, a civil rights and criminal defense attorney who is representing the Enamorados, stated on Instagram, "The arrests of the Justice 8, including Edin Alex Enamorado, are highly disturbing and tactics straight out of a third world country. Edin and his team have been doing great work advocating for the marginalized. These arrests are not only an attack on the Latino community, but an attack on the activist community as a whole."

Contreras said, "I will be in court this Monday at 8:30 am in Victorville

Superior Court to defend the Justice 8 and fight these baseless charges. Please come to court to show your support."

Contreras had not responded by press time to the *Sentinel's* inquiries as to the manner in which the Enamorados had been penetrated by undercover operatives and informants and the claims by Dicus and Romero that the evidence accumulated by investigators indicated that the eight had engaged in activity that went beyond the bounds of speech and involved physical assaults.

29 Palms Foregoing \$50 Million Grant from page 5

feet. When he reported that it would cost each household in the city up to \$3,300 a year to be

connected to and use the system, the council gave up the ghost. As late as early this month, there had been representations that upon the city receiving the state grant, existing residences would be

able to hook up to the sewer system at no cost. Having now returned the state money, if the system is to be constructed, homeowners will be saddled with a cost of about \$12,000 each in 2023

dollars to tie into the system, followed by the exorbitant \$3,000 plus per year service charge.

One of the city's leading lights, George Mulopulous. By letter sought to encourage the

council to push ahead with the project.

But others who had been prime movers with regard to undertaking the proposed project, such as Karalee Hargrove, a member of the

city's wastewater committee, acknowledged financial reality had rendered the project unviable at this point.

The city council concurred.

-Mark Gutglueck

Mayor Said To Be Involved In Upland Water Issue from page 11

an unverified report that either he or the city was involved in seeking to have the San Antonio Water Company's historical/traditional special arrangements with the Crackerjack Mansion/Nisbet properties terminated.

If that was the case, the *Sentinel* inquired, what is to become of the water shares and whether the city intends to take on the ownership of the shares. The *Sentinel* attempted to ascertain how many shares are involved in the case of the Cracker Jack Man-

sion and how many in the case of the Nisbet property. The *Sentinel* asked what the city was willing to pay for those shares and whether the city was perhaps willing

to enter into a deal where the future owners of those properties would be given free water into perpetuity in exchange for those shares.

An alternative report

of Chino, Ontario and Upland, Democrats Carlos Goytia, Javier Hernandez, Michelle Rodriguez and Robert Torres are running against Republican Nick Wilson.

In the 58th Assembly District, composed primarily of Riverside County but including Grand Terrace, Republican Leticia Castillo is up against Democrats Clarissa Cervantes and Ronaldo Fierro.

San Bernardino County First District Supervisor Paul Cook, who is now 80 years old, de-

making the rounds in Upland was that Velto, who is himself involved in the real estate industry and is one of the city's most prolific real estate brokers, was acting on

fied expectations that he would retire and is seeking reelection. Running against him are Marcus Hernandez, Clifton Harris and Rafael Porras.

Third District Supervisor Dawn Rowe must overcome Graham Smith, Chris Carrillo and Robert Block to remain in office.

Incumbent Ward 3 San Bernardino City Councilman Juan Figueroa is facing Christian Shaughnessy.

Ward 5 Councilman Ben Reynoso is facing a challenge by former

inside information available at City Hall and was himself seeking to obtain the property once occupied by one of his mayoral predecessors.

At present, depending

Ward 5 councilmen Chas Kelly and Henry Nickel as well as Kim Knaus and Rose Ward.

In a stunning development, incumbent Ward 6 Councilwoman Kim Calvin failed to qualify for the March ballot because of a voter endorsement signature issue. Running to replace here is former Ward 6 Councilwoman Bessine Littlefield Richard, whom Calvin defeated in 2020, and Mario Flores.

In San Bernardino's Ward 7, incumbent Damon Alexander is seek-

ing reelection against James Penman and Treasure Ortiz, both of whom were unsuccessful in their mayoral bids in 2022.

In the 40th Senatorial District, in the 45th Assembly District, in the 59th Assembly District and in San Bernardino County's Fifth Supervisorial District, respectively, incumbents Young Kim, James Ramos, Phillip Chen and Joe Baca Jr. are running unopposed.

-M.G.