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Expurgated Investigation Report Reveals Malignity & Dysfunction At SB's Top Echelon

By Mark Gutglueck

Over the course of the last week, local officials throughout San Bernardino County have looked on with astonishment as the mayor and city council in San Bernardino have served up for public consumption an account of the unprecedented degree of disarray that led up to the county seat's selection of a city manager last year.

Mayor Helen Tran was unable to rein in the

determination of four of the council's members to release a redacted report of an investigation carried out by Laguna Niguel-based JL Group LLC into the council's internal functions that many insist should not have been commissioned to begin with. Despite editing and expurgation calculated to take the edge off what was at basis an incomplete investigation marred by the self-serving input

of both city employees/officials and would-be employees together with city consultants and contractors and the refusal of others with information crucial to the city's effort to find a permanent replacement for former City Manager Robert Field, the executive summary and 18 pages of 139-page report that were released display a lack of focus and continuity on the part of the council, counterproduc-

tive bickering and bias on the part of the city's consultant members of the council were willing to overlook or tolerate along with an insistence on pointless secrecy with regard to information that had already been publicly compromised which thereby ultimately prevented the hiring of a city manager candidate six of the city's decision-makers had come to a consensus to hiring who is now threatening to sue

the city. Animus on the part of four council members and the mayor toward one council member in particular resulted not only in the acknowledgement that the formerly confidential investigation had been commissioned and had taken place but the release of the report, which now in the hands of the city manager candidate threatening to sue the city provides him with at least **See P 4**

Cadiz, Inc. Enlisting North & West Central Mojave In Its Diversion Of East Mojave H₂O

Following an intense round of lobbying featuring the filtering of hundreds of thousands of dollars to the region's politicians, municipal leaders in Apple Valley, Hesperia, Victorville have joined with San Bernardino County officials in a plan to divert trillions of gallons of water out of the East Mojave Desert to a water district in Orange County.

The plan, which was hatched by corporate officer with the Cadiz Water Company some four decades ago, has undergone multiple permutations and was effectively opposed previously by a coalition of environmentalists, East Mojave residents and landowners, employees of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and key politicians in San Bernardino, Sac-

ramento and Washington, D.C. Now, however, with the 2023 death of Dianne Feinstein, the defections of both current and former office holders who were committed project opponents to the Cadiz Water Company camp upon being hired by Cadiz or plied with campaign funding and maneuvering by Cadiz by which it established a mutual water company

ostensibly to supply East Mojave farmers and consumers but which is now being altered in the proposal to purvey water to users hundreds of miles away, the once moribund concept of the Cadiz Water pipeline appears to be undergoing a revival. With the prospect of tens of thousands of acre-feet of water being drafted from deep in the aquifer underlying the

desert at the extreme east end of San Bernardino County on a yearly basis, the likelihood for the development of that area of the desert will fade along with any hope for the expansion of the now sparse agricultural operations that have been set up there. In the mid-1980s, Ted Dutton, whose major claims to fame prior to that had con-**See P 7**

Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Case Against Bingham Bogging Down

The unlicensed gun pretext for the arrest of San Bernardino County Deputy Christopher Bingham, whom prosecutors are alleging led a double life as an outlaw biker, appeared to fall apart this week during his preliminary hearing, as it was demonstrated the firearm was indeed licensed.

seen whether Judge Alexander Martinez will rule that allof the evidence against Bigham that was collected on his premises – extending to what detectives say was an arsenal – as a consequence of a search warrant based upon his arrest and possession of the pistol will now be excluded from the proceedings, end- **See P 3**

Republican Turncoat Wants GT Council Berth

The woman Republicans are seeking to bounce off their county central committee for her efforts in support of Democrats is now seeking appointment to the Grand Terrace City Council.

The city council in San Bernardino County's smallest geographical city normally entails five members. Sylvia Robles, who had been on

the council since 2012, previously intended to remain in that post until the end of her current term in December. As she and her husband are now retired, they intended to move to a coastal city to live out their golden years. They would effectuate that shift, Robles figured sometime in 2025. An opportunity to sell their Grand Terrace home and net

enough money in doing so to be able to get into what she described as a "very nice" residence in San Clemente earlier this year. To not let that chance get away, she and her husband sold their place in Grand Terrace, obligating her to resign before she had intended.

The four-man strength city council's effort to fill the vacancy with former City Council- **See P 3**

Fontana Officials Adopt Orwellian Doublespeak To Evade Warehouse Frenzy Controversy

The City of Fontana and its city council in particular were blasted for their use of Orwellian language recently as they sought to avoid the negative connotations associated with the intensive warehouse development that has occurred in the city over the past decade-and-a-half.

in 2010, the city has been so aggressive in building warehouses that she has come to be known by those who both oppose and favor warehouse development as "Warehouse Warren." Fontana's favoring of that land use has occurred in the larger context of a general accommodation of logistics facilities within the Inland Empire and San Bernardino

County, located as they are along the 10, 210 and 215 freeways and the Union Pacific/Santa Fe/Burlington Northern railroad line. Indeed, Southern California involves large port facilities in San Pedro and Long Beach that land massive amounts of merchandise from manufacturers in Asia brought across the Pacific Ocean by ship.

There are more than 940 million square feet of warehousing in San Bernardino and Riverside counties at present, with more being built. That includes 3,034 warehouses in San Bernardino County. In Ontario alone, there are 289 warehouses larger than 100,000 square feet. Reportedly, there are 142 warehouses in Fontana larger than 100,000

square feet. In Chino there are 118 warehouses larger than 100,000 square feet, 109 larger than 100,000 square feet in Rancho Cucamonga and 75 larger than 100,000 square feet in San Bernardino. Since 2015, 26 warehouse project applications have been processed and approved by the City of San Bernardino, entailing acreage under **See P 8**

Chino Mayor Protesting Transfer Of Death Row Inmates From San Quentin To CIM

Governor Gavin Newsom and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation officials are purposefully and wrongheadedly misapplying the intent of 2016's Proposition 66 by transferring Death Row inmates to prisons ill-equipped to house them, the California Institute for Men in particular, Chino Mayor Eunice Ulloa and Chino Police say.

Proposition 66 was an alternative measure to Proposition 62. While Proposition 62 would have outright abolished the death penalty in California, Proposition 66 was what its sponsors touted as a more hardnosed yet moderate reform of the penal system as applied to capital punishment in the Golden State. Proposition 66 called for speeding the process of capital trials and executions and limiting the challenges to death sentences. It aimed at doing this by designating the state's superior courts in each county for initial petitions challenging the application of the death penalty in a given case, limiting successive such petitions, require appointed attorneys who take noncapital appeals to accept death penalty appeals, and exempting prison officials from existing regulation processes for developing execution methods.

The last execution in California took place in 2006 under then-Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Difficulties with the administration **See P 5**

Council Never Got The Timing Right On Keeping McNeely As City Manager *from front page*

some ammunition to shore up his somewhat dubious claim that he is owed \$2.2 million because the city did not hire him.

What is perhaps the sole silver lining in the entire debacle is the report falls far short of substantiating, despite some internal suggestions to the contrary, the claimant's contention in his assertion that he is owed \$2.2 million that he was discriminated against in San Bernardino because he is white.

As significant in the matter is information that was either covered or not covered in the



Charles McNeely

course of the investigation and therefore was contained or not contained in the more-than-100-page report. For the public at large, knowing all that was contained in the full report is well-nigh impossible, as only 18 pages of the report was released.

In December 2022, less than a month after Helen Tran's election as San Bernardino mayor, then-San Bernardino City Manager Robert Field, throughout whose tenure in that position had been aligned with then-Mayor John Valdivia, chose to resign. The city turned to former City Manager Charles McNeely to serve in an interim capacity as acting city manager while an effort to find a replacement for Field was carried out. McNeely who was retired and participating in the California Public Employees Retirement System, was by that system's bylaws unable to work for a public agency for more than

860 hours during any municipal year, running from July 1 through June 30. Therefore, McNeely, who came back to San Bernardino in January 2023, was eligible, essentially, to serve as city manager through until the end of June 2023 and then remain in the acting city manager's capacity until December 2023 while the city conducted what the mayor and all of the council's members hoped would be a comprehensive recruitment and candidate examination process to find a municipal management professional with the skill and experience needed to oversee a city of San Bernardino's size and complexity, one whose personality would mesh with the eight sometimes temperamental individuals who hold the positions of mayor and council. There was confidence that in the nearly one-year span that McNeely would remain in place, that goal would be accomplished.

Of note is that at different times, virtually every member of the city council adopted, at least momentarily, the belief that the city need look no further than McNeely to fill the city manager's post on a permanent basis. That eventuality was not realized as a consequence of an evolving set of what were essentially artificial and changing restrictions and events. Initially, because of his retirement status and participation in the California Public Employees Retirement System, McNeely was not himself interested in coming out of retirement and taking on the job on a long-term basis. Similarly, it was the attitude of the most recent additions to the city council – Ben Reynoso, who had arrived on the council dais in 2020, and Kimberly Calvin, who too had taken office in 2020, and Damon Alexander, who had also stepped onto the council in 2020 – and Tran, who had come into the mayoralty in 2022, that whosoever should serve as the city's interim city manager should not be hired as the full-fledged city manager.

Councilman Fred Shorett, the only member of the current council who had been on the city council in the 2009-to-2012 timeframe while McNeely had previously been city manager, had been instrumental in reaching out to the retired McNeely and talking him into temporarily replacing Field. He needed, at that time, no convincing that McNeely could serve as city manager. Nor were council members Ted Sanchez and Sandra Ibarra averse to McNeely perhaps coming back as city manager.

McNeely took on the interim city manager's post in January 2023, re-acclimating himself for a week, and then departed on a three-week vacation which he and his wife, Rosalind, had planned



Helen Tran

months in advance. In the weeks after his return in early February, Councilman Juan Figueroa acquainted himself with McNeely and was impressed enough with his performance to come to believe that it was unfortunate that he could not remain as city manager beyond December 2023. McNeely at that point saw his function as two simple roles: the immediate assignment of seeing to it that the city functioned smoothly day-to-day and week-to-week and one longer-term assignment of assisting the city council in making a determination as to who was to succeed him in the long-term role of city manager. In March, at his recommendation, the city council chose the Berkeley-based firm of Koff & Associates, also known as Gallagher Benefit Services, to carry out a recruitment of city manager candidates, their vetting and evaluation and a winnowing of that field to a set of finalists determined to be

qualified to manage the city that the city council could choose among from to at last hire a top municipal manager.

Shortly thereafter, McNeely, having gotten back into the municipal management game after so many years, had warmed to the idea of coming out of retirement, indicating he might consider applying for the job himself or accepting, if the council was willing to offer it, the post for at least two more years, at which point he would eclipse his 73rd birthday, or, depending on how things went, for four years, at which point he would retire for the second time, at the age of 75. His wife, Rosalind, was willing to relocate, at least temporarily, from Escondido to San Bernardino, so McNeely could take on the job.

Tran, conscious that her mayoralty would be judged by the efficiency of city operations during her watch and her ability to make a showing of a break with the course of the city during Valdivia's time in office and the way in which things were run under Field, was willing to go with hiring McNeely on a two-year contract with an option to renew it for another two-years at that point. In fact, the votes to hire McNeely, who had long served 13 years in the capacity of Reno city manager and prior to that had been the city manager of Seaside and assistant city manager of Palo Alto, at that point existed – Tran's, Sanchez's, Ibarra's, Figueroa's and Shorett's. The hold up consisted of the earlier rather ill-advised commitment not to offer the job to an individual brought in as the interim manager, the consideration that the city had just contracted with Koff and Associates/Gallagher Benefit Services to carry out a recruitment and the council's desire to come to an overwhelming consensus, preferably a unanimous 8-to-0 agreement, on the choice of who should serve as city manager. Somewhat ironically at that point, it

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would prove out later, it was the council's three African-American members – Damon Alexander, Kimberly Calvin and Ben Reynoso – who yet needed to be fully sold on McNeely, himself an African American.



Fred Shorett

There were more than 60 applicants for the San Bernardino city manager post, which Koff and Associates evaluated, winnowing the field. Immediately deeming some of those who applied as weak, inadequately experienced or otherwise ineligible or unqualified, Koff and Associates researched, more closely examined or investigated the others who held promise, although one candidate with impressive credentials was moved out of the running through a decision by Koff and Associates because the company considered him to be an ideal city manager for another city it was recruiting for. By June there were no fewer than 18 applicants deemed worthy of being moved into a second phase of consideration, ones who were subjected to an even more intensive evaluation process. With the calendar's transition to summer, and the council having had a chance to see the quality

of managerial talent interested in coming to San Bernardino, the attitude on the council began to shift. Whereas before Tran, Sanchez, Ibarra, Figueroa and Shorett had been amenable to working on a long-term basis with McNeely, the presentation of other potential candidates and perhaps developments with regard to certain city issues in the intervening months, those five moved to the conclusion that they should pursue getting a contract with one of the top-ranked applicants for the post rather than sign off on hiring the 71-year-old McNeely, whose longevity or lack thereof in the position would mean the city in a few years would again be looking for another city manager. In contrast, Alexander, Calvin and Reynoso, having gotten to know McNeely over the previous five months, had come around to thinking that the city would not be likely to much better than keeping him in place for as long as it could and, indeed, might end up doing much worse. In the span of a few brief months, the entirety of the council had moved into polar opposite positions from those they had started from with regard to McNeely.

Of note, a factor in Mayor Tran's transition was her hope that she might persuade the members of the council to hire David Carmany, who had been the city manager of West Covina while she was employed

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Sabino Has Insinuated Herself Into The Republican Central Committee, But She Has Delivered Political Campaign Money To Democrats from front page

man Jim Miller failed last month when Miller, for health considerations, declined the offer. He council opened the field up for applicants.

Those applying include Ken Stewart, a public health professional; Ronald Perez, a grant manager for Colton Joint Unified School District; Vincent Jared Rasso, an organizer with Campaign for College Opportunity; and Michelle Sabino, a speech therapist.

Sabino has two other claims to fame or claims to political prominence. She is a member of the

San Bernardino County Republican Central Committee and is a primary functionary within the Inland Empire Business Alliance Political Action Committee.

According to a good number of her colleagues within the central committee, however, there is a pointed conflict between those two latter roles. Moreover, that she is seeking a berth on the city council in Grand Terrace, a city contiguous to San Bernardino, where she and the Inland Empire business alliance Political Action Committee are involved in promoting Democrats, is too much for them to take. They want to make sure that an opportunity for her to hold office in Grand Terrace is foreclosed to her and see to it that she is booted out of the Republican Central Committee as well.

By law under the California Elections code, local offices are nonpartisan in nature. It is only state and federal contests where candidates are identified by party in California. Nevertheless, in San Bernardino County, party affiliation is a key consideration in any competition for elective office. While California is a decidedly Democrat stronghold, with state and federal officeholders outnumbering Republicans by a supermajority margin of two-to one from the Oregon border to the north to the Mexican border to the south and from the boundaries with Nevada and Arizona to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west, San Bernardino County is one of the last bastions of the GOP in the Golden State. Despite Democrats having eclipsed Republicans in

San Bernardino County in terms of the number of registered voters fifteen years ago, Republicans still hold the upper hand in the 20,105-square mile county, with nearly equal numbers of state and federal legislators from both parties, sixteen of the county's 24 municipalities having more Republicans on their respective councils than Democrats and four of the five members of the county board of supervisors being Republicans.

That Sabino is registered as a Republican is of no little consequence. And she is, or claims to be, a passionate Republican. Not only is she a member of the county central committee, she was elevated to the position of Third District representative on the central committee's executive board by Repub-

lican Central Committee Chairman Phil Cothran, Sr.

For the last two months, however, Republican stalwarts in the central committee have gunning for her to be removed from the executive board and ousted from committee as well. Sabino's political activities extend to being a board member of the Inland Empire Business Alliance Political Action Committee. In that organization, she is playing a role – a major one it is said – in ascertaining whom the political action committee will support in the upcoming November election.

While the Inland Empire Business Alliance Political Action Committee has in the past established a pattern of endorsing more Republicans than Democrats, it has on occasion endorsed

Democrats and provided them with money. In some cases, the perception is that those Democrats would have lost if it had not been for the generosity of the Inland Empire Business Alliance and its political action committee arm.

Most recently, in the March 5 primary race, the Inland Empire Business Alliance Political Action Committee came across with support for two Republicans – Ovi Popescu and Rhodes “Dusty” Rigsby – in their electoral efforts for the Loma Linda City Council. They were successful.

Still, the Inland Empire Business Alliance is supporting a handful of Democrats. One of those Democrats is Kim Knaus, who is vying for the city council in San Bernardino in the Fifth

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Testosterone-Driven Bingham Has Been A Marine, A Sheriff's Deputy, A Gun Dealer & A Motorcycle Gang Hanger-around from front page

ing any viability of the case against him.

Christopher Bingham, who enlisted in the U.S. Marines at the age of 19 in 1998, serving with distinction until he was honorably discharged one day less than four years later in 2002, hired on with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department in 2005.

In 2015, just around the time of his son's first birthday, Bingham registered O'Three Tactical, a limited liability company in which he was the sole owner with California Secretary of State. Located at 73749 29 Palms Highway in Twentynine Palms,

O'Three Tactical was a gun shop, one that dealt in standard firearm sales as well as obtaining for its customers specialized equipment and hardware prized by gun aficionados, particularly ones looking to replicate the actuality or mystique of military firepower.

The gun shop was

contained within a shop next to a Mexican restaurant east of Adobe Road in the downtown section of Twentynine Palms on Highway 62, also known at that point as 29 Palms Highway.

As a consequence of Bingham's military experience and his immersion in the macho world of motoring in the desert on both dirt bikes and dunebuggies, together with his affinity for guns and weaponry, O'Three Tactical found a niche in a place where both current and former military personnel lived and congregated.

O'Three Tactical, was normally manned by one of four different employees, all of whom were current or former military personnel or law enforcement officers. On some normal business days after he had finished his daytime shift with the sheriff's department patrolling the Morongo Valley and occasionally on his days off, Bingham was behind the counter at O'Three Tactical.

Bingham and O'Three Tactical became known for the ability to track down for and deliver to its customers specialized firearms, as well as for providing servicing and augmenting equipment

to those products, along with, as the shop's name implied, all order of tactical gear, including knives, bulletproof wear and helmets, ammunition, magazines, cartridges, powders, primers, sights and scopes and all order of other accessories.

O'Three Tactical dealt, legally insofar as the sheriff's department certified, in some weaponry and equipment that was banned or outlawed in California, such as certain types of firearms, silencers and explosive devices that in some other states can be purchased or possessed legally.

Bingham maintained, however, and the sheriff's department's casual acceptance seemed to confirm, that such items were being sold, as Bingham stated more than once, to “individual California law enforcement officers properly licensed and permitted to carry them or out of state buyers.” His shop also engaged in gunsmithing, making firearms to order, and legal firearm adaptations.

His second job as a gun shop owner brought him into contact with a subset of the not just the Morongo Basin's population, but many

people from outside the area who traveled hundreds of miles and occasionally from outside of California to look at, examine and buy the oftentimes exotic models of firearms he had obtained.

Bingham fastidiously adhered to the law with regard to regulations about whom guns can be sold to. One report held that he had a policy of asking anyone who came into O'Three Tactical smelling of marijuana to leave. At one point, in 2019, the sheriff's department's internal affairs division, referred to as professional standards, initiated an investigation into Bingham when it was alleged that he was improperly using the CLETS – California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System – the data base available to California law enforcement agencies that, among other things, catalogs the arrest histories and criminal convictions of the state's residents. The resolution of that investigation is shrouded in mystery and intrigue, however. No criminal action was filed against Bingham, who was eventually relieved of his assignment as a patrol deputy and was instead given custodial

duty over inmates within the department's jail system. It remains unclear whether Bingham delving into whether he could make gun sales to certain individuals seeking to purchase firearms whom he had legitimate grounds to believe might actually be felons who could not legally purchase, own or possess firearms as a consequence of their convictions was illegal, improper or a violation of department policy. An argument could be made that by utilizing the CLETS database to prevent arms from falling into the hands of criminals, Bingham was furthering a law enforcement purpose.

Existing as he did at the confluence of law enforcement, those steeped in a lifestyle involving gunnery, motorcycling and desertry, Bingham found himself positioned to serve as both an active and passive receptor of information potentially and actually of value to the sheriff's department. San Bernardino County, specifically Fontana, is the birthplace of two so-called outlaw motorcycle clubs: the Hells Angels and Devils Disciples, founded in 1948 and 1967, respectively. By the late 1970s, a bit-

ter territorial dispute had broken out between the Hells Angels and the Mongols, another outlaw motorcycle gang founded in Montebello in 1969. Though both the more numerous Hells Angels and the Mongols had chapters worldwide, the Hells Angels made more substantial inroads elsewhere in California, particularly in the Bay Area than did the Mongols, whose primary stomping grounds remained in Southern California. After their turf war devolved into murderous violence in the 1980s and 1990s, a truce was brokered in the early 2000s by which the Hells Angels were given virtual exclusivity in Central and Northern California and they ceded Southern California, with the exception of the Fontana/Rialto/San Bernardino/Riverside area to the Mongols.

The involvement of both the Hells Angels and the Mongols in a host of illicit activities, including murder, conspiracy, racketeering, extortion, kidnapping, drug dealing, money laundering, robbery, burglary and the like is legendary. The leaders and a significant portion of the membership of both or

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Differing Ideas About Best City Manager Among Mayor & SB Council Set The Stage For Contretemps from page 2

there as that city's human resources director prior to her election as mayor. Tran, who had previously worked for the City of San Bernardino, had risen to the position of human resources director. She had departed for West Covina after her predecessor as mayor, John Valdivia, had entangled himself and the city in no fewer than eight lawsuits relating to what were alleged to be wrongful or constructive firings of city employees as well as abusive treatment or exploitation of other city employees. Some of those suits suggested that Tran, as San Bernardino's human resources director at that time, had shrunk from protecting those employees in the face of Valdivia's depredations. Carmany, by hiring Tran in November 2019, shortly after he became city manager of West Covina, allowed Tran to maintain continuity in her employment history and not suffer as a consequence of her name being associated with Valdivia's and the perception that she was involved with him in his misfeasance and malfeasance. As it would turn out, however, Tran was not able to get a majority of the council, let alone all of the council, to seriously consider hiring Carmany.

Koff and Associates first hiring recommendation, which was given serious consideration by the city council in July, was Harry Black, the city manager of Stockton since 2020. Prior to holding that post, Black, was the city manager in Cincinnati, Ohio and prior to that the finance director of Baltimore, Maryland. In addition, Black, an African American, was a senior aide to Richmond, Virginia Mayor L. Douglas Wilder, the former governor of Virginia.

A 1985 graduate of the University of Virginia, Black went to work for the New York Transit Authority and then the New York City's Mayor's Office Department of Contracts. Though he had successive degrees in public administration, he had no formal education in finance, Black was able to transition into his next job as assistant director of investments for the New York State Insurance Fund.

In 1995, he moved to Washington, D.C., and served in four capaci-



Harry Black

ties over four years in the District of Columbia government, including a position with the District of Columbia Child and Family Services Agency, as deputy chief of procurement, the director of budget and finance and chief financial officer and director of administration for the Council of the District of Columbia. In 2000, he became a vice president of McKissack & McKissack, an architectural and engineering firm, coordinating governmental contracts for the firm.

In 2003, he was hired by Richmond, Virginia Mayor L. Douglas Wilder, Mayor Wilder, a former governor of Virginia, to serve as the city's chief financial officer and Wilder's his senior aide and advisor. He was made acting chief administrative officer of Richmond but was blocked from acceding to the actual chief administrative officer of the city, after which he left Richmond and joined a firm owned by his wife, Sheryl Black, Global Commerce Solutions, as vice president and chief operating officer. He was with Global Commerce when he was hired as Cincinnati city manager in 2014.

He left Cincinnati in

2018 and moved to California in 2020 to take the job in Stockton.

The San Bernardino City Council first reached a 6-to-2 consensus to hire Black this summer and that vote moved to 7-to-1, with Councilman Fred Shorett the lone holdout, after Mayor Tran gave up on her effort to see Carmany get the job.

There is a lack of clarity as to why the city did not hire Black, with conflicting versions of events, including that which is contained in the report of JL Group LLC's investigation.

One issue that might have prompted some concern on Shorett's part with regard to Black's suitability in San Bernardino that might have spread to some of Shorett's colleagues was what has been described as Black's "sometimes volatile personality" and public feuds he engaged in with Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley before Black left the employ of the Ohio city in 2018 as well as with members of the Richmond City Council, who ultimately blocked Mayor Wilder's effort to promote Black into the position of Richmond's chief administrative officer.

There is a suggestion that someone from San Bernardino went outside of the channels established through Koff and Associates to obtain information about Black from the City of Stockton out of concern that San Bernardino city officials were not getting the "straight scoop" on Black from Koff and Associates, which some suspected was holding out information relating to other more highly qualified candidates because the company was seeking to place those applicants with other cities that were relying upon it to invite, vet and recommend top administrators for them.

Though the JL Group LLC investigation report refers to several of the involved individuals who were considered witnesses and were assigned coded references using assigned letters,

the Sentinel has been able, through its knowledge of the goings-on at San Bernardino City over the last year, deduction, inference and the process of elimination, to identify who those participants are.

According to the JL Group LLC investigation report, an individual identified as "Witness B" made "selections for the top ten candidates" for the city manager's post.

The Sentinel has identified Witness B as Frank Rojas of Koff and Asso-



Frank Rojas

ciates.

"In addition to the goal of sourcing a diverse pool of applicants, Witness B [Rojas] explained that he crafted his presentation of the top ten candidates based on a combination of their credentials, alignment with the San Bernardino Council's preferences, and insights gained from pre-interviews," according to JL Group LLC's narrative encapsulating its investigation. "This comprehensive approach aimed to present candidates who not only met the necessary qualifications but also resonated with the specific expectations and priorities outlined by the San Bernardino Council."

The JL Group LLC report of the investigation offers the interpretation that "The list of candidates appeared to be fair and balanced."

In further describing Koff and Associates' evaluation of the interview process and the selection of finalists, the JL Group LLC report alludes to the city council interviewing several of the candidates via the remote meeting program Zoom.

"After the initial Zoom interviews, the city council employed a scoring matrix to evalu-

ate the candidates," according to the edited version of the report. "This first round of ratings was conducted without prior knowledge among council members about the scoring process, reducing the potential for manipulation. Following the Zoom interviews, Witness A, Witness BB, and Witness D emerged as finalists."

The Sentinel has identified Witness A as then-Salinas City Manager Steve Carrigan, Witness BB as former Avondale, Arizona City Manager and now-San Bernardino City Manager Charles Montoya and Witness D as Stockton City Manager Harry Black.

The investigative report continues, "However, some council members expressed concerns that Witness D [Black] seemed 'coached' before his second interview, as he addressed previously mentioned shortcomings which were only discussed in a closed session meeting after the initial Zoom interview on August 8, 2023. During the second round of matrix ratings, suspicions arose among council members that some were using the scoring system to create a distinct separation between Witness D [Black] and Witness A [Carrigan]. Notably, council members who ranked Witness D [Black] as their top choice tended to rank Witness A [Carrigan] the lowest, while those favoring Witness A as their first choice often placed Witness D as their second. This pattern led to a one-point difference between Witness A and Witness D in the final scoring."

Information provided to the Sentinel calls into question the accuracy of the timeline in the edited and expurgated version of the report of the JL Group LLC investigation, which gives the impression that Black and Carrigan were being considered by the council in the same timeframe. In actuality, according to individuals with knowledge of the recruitment process as well as statements by Carrigan himself, Carri-

gan's application for the San Bernardino job and the council's consideration of his candidacy came after the council had been informed of Black's application, had given close scrutiny to Black and his qualifications and had come away, generally, with a very favorable impression of him.

According to the edited report of the JL Group LLC investigation, there were "subsequent information leaks" that took place during the "contract negotiation phase."



Steve Carrigan

According to the JL Group LLC's narrative, "The significant discord within the council became pronounced when Witness D [Black] and Witness A [Carrigan] were chosen as the final two candidates. Despite Witness D being the 5-3 favorite in the vote, Councilmember Reynoso sensed sabotage when a list of 'demands' presented by Witness B [Rojas], including a surprisingly high financial figure, raised concerns even amongst his supporters. Witness E rightly halted the discussion as it had not been agendized."

While the Sentinel cannot say with full confidence, Witness E appears to be Mayor Tran.

The narrative continues, "It was then decided to obtain the 'demands' or 'deal points' from Witness A [Carrigan] so the council could conduct a side-by-side review of both candidate requests. Three days later, the council reconvened to compare both candidates' demands using a side-by-side graph constructed by Witness E. During this meeting, [the] council decided to extend offers to both candidates, with Witness A [Carrigan] receiving a

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Opened in 1941 As the Fourth Major State Prison In California, The California Institution For Men In Chino Is Now The Third Oldest State Prison In California, Is Rapidly Deteriorating And Has Sustained Some Major Escapes Over The Years *from front page*

tion of the lethal injection in which physicians opined that instead of being rendered unconscious by the sedatives administered prior to the introduction of the final lethal toxin, individuals executed were made to suffer in the several minutes before they succumbed, which was deemed a violation of the constitutional prohibition of "cruel and unusual" punishment. The Schwarzenegger administration, while seeking to resolve this issue to allow further executions to take place, did not succeed. The subsequent Jerry Brown Administration did not actively pursue executions.

Proposition 66 sought to eliminate the obstruction to the death penalty by prescribing a choice of four barbiturates for lethal injection: amobarbital, pentobarbital, secobarbital and thio-pental. Proposition also allowed those sentenced to death to work, with 70 percent of their pay to go toward restitution to their victims, insofar as they were housed in an institution providing a level of security to prevent them from harming other inmates or escaping. The proposition authorized the state to house death row inmates in any prison, rather than the one death row prison for men and one death row prison for women.

Shortly after taking office, Governor Gavin Newsom enunciated his stand on the death penalty.

"The intentional killing of another person is wrong and as Governor, I will not oversee the execution of any individual," said Newsom. "Our death penalty system has been, by all measures, a failure. It has discriminated against defendants who are mentally ill, black and brown, or can't afford expensive legal representation. It

has provided no public safety benefit or value as a deterrent. It has wasted billions of taxpayer dollars. Most of all, the death penalty is absolute. It's irreversible and irreparable in the event of human error."

In January 2020, as Newsom was approaching his one-year anniversary as governor, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation initiated a pilot plan which involved transferring 104 inmates off of Death Row to other high-security prisons over a two-year period. Officials say there were no untoward incidents involving those prisoners being placed into the general population.

In addition to imposing a moratorium on executions, Newsom by executive order closed and dismantled the only place where executions in California had taken place for decades, the death chamber at San Quentin, which had only recently been redesigned and restructured at a cost of \$853,000.

As a matter of course, the Newsom Administration has pursued the elimination of the state's two Death Rows – the inner high-security portion of San Quentin where 650 condemned men were housed and the housing unit within the Chowchilla Prison where the 21 women consigned to death are kept.

In doing so, Newsom's critics point out, he has seized on Proposition 66 to selectively apply aspects of what is contained in Proposition 66 where it lines up with his personal philosophy and is ignoring the other elements of the proposition.

On February 26, the first transfers began. Since that time 189 inmates at San Quentin who were sentenced to death and 20 from the women's facility in

Chowchilla have been sent to other prisons under the transfer program.

According to the state, condemned inmates are being transferred only to prisons with electrified fences, and their death sentences remain in force, such that a future governor could consent to their execution. In the meantime, however, they remain subject to the current governor's moratorium against state-sponsored capital punishment. Though Newsom's final term in office as governor is to come to a close in 2027, the former Death Row inmates are to remain in "closed custody" within the institutions they are being sent to for at least five years, with their activities and behavior being monitored and the effectiveness of the programs they are participating in being measured. Any work assignments they take on will last from two hours prior to sunrise until sundown. The transfers of the remaining 461 prisoners on Death Row at San Quentin will take place in gradual increments and will be concluded no later than September 1. As of yesterday, Wednesday, April 17, 26 condemned inmates were housed at the California Institution of Men in Chino. It is unclear whether there will be more Death Row inmates sent to Chino.

According to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the Condemned Inmate Transfer Program "will be carried out in accordance with Proposition 66 and with transparency."

That is not the case, said Chino municipal officials, who said they were blindsided by the state's action. They say they were not given any warning about the Death Row inmates being transferred to Chino until it was about to occur.

"I am alarmed that the Department of Corrections is transferring these dangerous inmates to one of the oldest prisons in the state," Mayor Eunice Ulloa said in a news release. "The De-

partment of Corrections needs to immediately remove these horrifically violent offenders from CIM and house them in a prison that is capable of confining people who are sentenced to death."

Chino officials referenced multiple previous registrations of local governments' concerns over conditions, security and safety issues at the California Institution for Men, well before the transfer of 26 convicted murderers to the prison.

One of those was a lawsuit filed in June 2019 by San Bernardino County, the City of Chino, the City of Chino Hills and the Chino Valley Independent Fire District jointly against the California Department of Corrections over the state's failure to properly take into consideration potential security and public safety factors when concerns when it approved plans to construct a 50-bed, 48,000-square-foot mental health care facility within the California Institution for Men. While a judge ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, finding merit to the assertion that the project's environmental impact report inadequately delineated existing and future conditions within the prison as well as the intended improvements and made less than acceptable description of the project's impacts and steps to offset them, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation deftly sidestepped the legal challenge by a simple revision of the environmental impact report.

A second protestation was a demand issued to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation by Chino officials in response to shortcomings with regard to the prison's physical plant highlighted in a 2008 report of the State Office of the Inspector General and a companion audit. According to the report, there were security issues at the facility's periphery, dilapidating housing units, leaking roofs, dysfunctional utilities extending to elec-

tricity and plumbing, and hazardous materials and unsafe conditions endangering inmates and staff that needed to be addressed. According to the Office of the Inspector General's audit, the prison, which was built in 1941, had fallen reached a level of intolerable dishabille through a lack of maintenance and neglect, such that annual outlays of \$28 million were required to maintain the facility at a minimal state of "poor" condition to allow it to remain open.

If those repairs were not undertaken, according to the Office of the Inspector General, conditions would reach an unacceptable state that would create the need for the prison to be emptied and razed by 2014.

Many, indeed most, of the conditions delineated 16 years ago have gone unredressed city officials say, with the state having not come up with the funding required to make even minimal improvements.

"Here we are, ten years after 2014, and the problems are worse than ever," Ulloa said.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation says it has made an effort, year by year, to redress maintenance issues at the Chino Institution for Men since the 2008 audit and the state has currently committed \$330 million toward carrying out facility improvements, including reroofing where necessary and roof repairs elsewhere, upgrading water and wastewater systems; revamping the prison's electrical system and its security lighting, as well as making required compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, extending to handicapped accessibility.

None of that redresses the prospect that very dangerous inmates might escape from the institution, Chino officials say.

"Considering the Department of Corrections' lack of investment in the upkeep and maintenance of CIM, I am appalled that they would choose

to house the worst of the worst prisoners in our state in such close proximity to residences, schools, and businesses," Mayor Ulloa said. "They have committed murder. They have committed rape. They have committed atrocities that you wouldn't even want to know about."

Chino Police Lieutenant Allen Kelleher emphasized that there is no buffer between the prison and the city.

"This prison is not isolated," Kelleher said. "It is right in the middle of the community. There's housing. There's schools. There's businesses that are right next to it. There's a giant community park that's next to this prison."

Beyond the issue of the buildings themselves is the overall security of the aging facility. In prisons, that means not the ability of those on the outside to find their way in but rather the possibility that those inside can make their way out. Of California's 34 prisons, the California Institution for Men is ranked at somewhere between the state's 13th and 17th most secure institution.

In California, prisons are categorized in a five-tier level of security, from minimum to maximum.

Level 1 prisons house inmates who have short sentences and are convicted of non-violent, non-serious, non-sex offenses. Those prisoners have minimal or no prior criminal history, no gang affiliation, have demonstrated compliant behavior with no discipline issues and represent a low recidivism risk. Almost universally, inmates in these facilities are nearing parole.

Level 2 prison inmates generally have short to medium sentence lengths of one to seven years, have committed non-violent property or drug offenses and sport minor criminal histories with little or no gang involvement, while displaying generally cooperative behaviors. They have a moderate recidivism risk.

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The Headhunting Firm The City Hired To Recruit A City Manager Withheld From The City Some Highly Qualified Candidates Bound Elsewhere & Played Favorites Among Applicants, Leading To The Compromising Of The Identities Of Some
from page 4

lower salary offer. Before the meeting concluded, Witness D [Black] withdrew, citing a leak of information regarding his candidacy, though this couldn't be substanti-



Ted Sanchez

ated. This withdrawal upset Councilmembers Reynoso, Calvin, and Alexander."

At this point in the expurgated narrative, two of those expurgations render the version of events provided in the report highly problematic, as it is extremely difficult for any outsiders without actual knowledge of what is being referred to ascertain not only what actually happened but the thoroughness of the investigation and reliability of the report. "Councilmember Calvin conveyed to the group that she had spoken to Witness D [Black] and attributed his withdrawal to a [position]-to-[position] contact, hinting at a possible leak," the expurgated text of the report states.

The report uses "[position]-to-[position]" as a euphemism or euphemisms to mask the identity of at least one individual and perhaps two individuals identified by Calvin as those who had compromised or threatened to compromise Black to his political masters in Stockton as someone who was about to jump ship from that city to San Bernardino.

"She, along with Councilmember Alexander, advocated for an investigation, though this particular leak couldn't be verified," the edited investigation report states. "Following

Witness D's [Black's] withdrawal from consideration, the council still extended a generous contract offer to him, hoping to change his decision. However, Witness D, upon reviewing the offer, reportedly became even more upset, expressing dissatisfaction that not all of his requests were accommodated. He insisted that he would not accept a job in San Bernardino. In contrast, Witness A [Carrigan] viewed his offer as generous, leading the council to vote 5-3 in favor of proceeding with Witness A as their top alternative. The dissenting votes were cast by Councilmembers Reynoso, Calvin, and Alexander. Once Witness D was officially out of contention, and Witness A began moving forward in the process, closed-session information began leaking. Councilmember Kim Calvin's protégés began receiving and disseminating private information on social media platforms and news outlets. Councilmember



Ben Reynoso

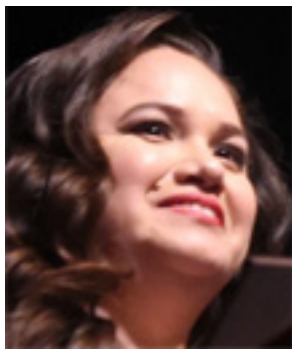
Reynoso began advocating for a new recruitment process, believing that Witness B [Rojas] had undermined Witness D [Black]. He also believed the [agency] subverted Witness D's candidacy after receiving information through Councilmember Sanchez or Figueroa."

It is unclear what entity the euphemism "[agency]" refers to. Some have suggested the reference is to the San Bernardino Police Department.

"At the conclusion of

this investigation, the preponderance of the credible evidence indicates that Councilmember Calvin seemingly funneled closed-session information to her close associates, who initiated a social media campaign against Witness A [Carrigan]," the report states.

The ultimate outcome of Carrigan's application for the San Bernardino city manager's post and what created that out-



Sandra Ibarra

come is of tremendous relevance to the controversy and circumstance it has triggered and equally if not more bizarre.

Undealt with in the JL Group LLC investigation and its report or at least in the expurgated version of the report is how a lack of security/confidentiality and/or leaks from the Koff and Associates recruitment process resulted in the compromising of information relating to both Black's and Carrigan's applications for the San Bernardino job becoming public knowledge.

Toward the middle of August, word was spreading that Black and Carrigan were or had been in the running for the city manager position in San Bernardino. Carrigan had learned that, apparently from Rojas, who is Koff and Associates' recruitment manager, that one of the competitors for the job was Black. There is reason to believe that the 18 or so candidates deemed by Koff and Associates to be qualified for a closer look in June or early July and the 10 or so candidates deemed to be quarterfinalists for the job a few weeks later knew of one another as did the yet-standing candidates interviewed by Zoom in early August.

Media outlets by August 20 were positioned to begin inquiries with

the likely candidates for the post. No later than August 21, for example, the Sentinel was attempting to reach Carrigan for comment regarding his application in San Bernardino. Simultaneously, the mayor and members of the council as well as McNeely and senior city staff members were being tightlipped with regard to any likely candidates for city manager or even the prospect that a choice was in the offing.

Assistant San Bernardino City Attorney Thomas Rice contacted Carrigan and offered him a contract to serve as city manager. Carrigan responded positively to that offer. It is not clear why Carrigan did not formally sign the contract at that point, the 356-mile distance between San Bernardino and Salinas perhaps being a contributory factor

Based on internal Koff and Associates communications and the company's communications with job applicants, the press in both San Bernardino County and Monterey County reported in late August that Carrigan had applied for the San Bernardino job and was either a finalist in that competition or that he had been offered the job and was going to accept it.



Kim Calvin

As of August 23, 2023, a five-eighths consensus on the San Bernardino City Council was proposed to hire Carrigan. First Ward Councilman Sanchez, Second Ward Councilwoman Ibarra, Third Ward Councilman Figueroa, Fourth Ward Councilman Shorett and Mayor Helen Tran were sold on Carrigan. Seventh Ward Councilman Alexander was relatively favorably disposed toward him, as well, but was less enthusiastic than Tran, Sanchez, Ibarra, Figueroa

and Shorett. Fifth Ward Councilman Reynoso and Sixth Ward Councilwoman Calvin, while not overtly critical of Carrigan, felt the city had not fully explored its options with other worthy candidates and should not end the recruitment drive and evaluative process.

San Bernardino on Wednesday, August 23 scheduled a special meeting of the San Bernardino City Council for



Juan Figueroa

Monday August 28 at which a vote to hire Carrigan or offer him the position was to take place. Carrigan, anticipating that he was going to accept the offer from San Bernardino, on Saturday, August 26 and Sunday, August 27 informed all seven members of the Salinas City Council and some other Salinas municipal officials that he had applied for the San Bernardino job and had been deemed a finalist.

Carrigan was not on hand at the August 28 meeting in San Bernardino. In the open public portion of the meeting before the council adjourned into closed session to discuss the Carrigan hiring, some city residents addressed the council, some of whom advocated against making the hiring at that time. Councilwoman Calvin sought ahead of the closed session to close out the recruitment process and the contract with Koff & Associates and to reagendaize a discussion about reinitiating the recruitment process anew. The council voted 4-to-3, with Sanchez, Ibarra, Figueroa and Shorett prevailing, against Calvin's motion and adjourned into a closed session. When the council emerged from behind closed doors, it was announced it had taken no reportable action.

The expurgated ver-

sion of the report of JL Group LLC investigation makes a point of noting that many of those cautioning against hiring Carrigan at the special August 28 meeting.

"The first appearance of an organized effort to impede the selection of Witness A [Carrigan] occurred shortly after the [publication] published its unfavorable article on August 25, 2023," according to the expurgated narrative.

The euphemism "[publication]" refers to the San Bernardino County Sentinel.

"On August 26th, a San Bernardino resident named Witness V (alias) sent a demeaning email to the [agency] [position] and revealed Witness A as a candidate in San Bernardino, JL Group's narrative continues. "On August 27th, the same mysterious resident named Witness V (alias) posted the following item on the [social media page] Facebook Group which is moderated by three people associated with Kim Calvin[, the m]ost notable being Witness Ortiz.[removed to shield witness information]. The Facebook posting implored residents to show up at the August 28th closed session meeting to demand action after the 'most



Damon Alexander

qualified candidate had been sabotaged."

Witness V is identified as Michael Davis, an individual who in actuality was never interviewed by JL Group LLC. Despite not actually having obtained any direct statement from Davis, JL Group LLC catalogs him as a witness. At other juncture's, JL Group conflated Witness V with Witness Z. Witness Z has been identified by the Sentinel as former Sixth Ward Councilman Rikke Van

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The Cadiz Land Company, A Marginal & Never Profitable Farming Operation Created By Dutton & Blackpool For The Purpose Of Laying Claim To Water Rights In The East Mojave Desert, Pursued To No Avail Storing Colorado River Water For The MWD from front page

sisted of his having engineered, with George Voight, a 45-day day double escrow of the former Ontario Motor Speedway to realize an \$8 million profit and engaging in a series of commercial developments in Rancho Cucamonga, amazed friends, former partners, acquaintances and others involved in the building and real estate industries on the west end of the county with the announcement that he was going to try his hand at being a farmer in the desert.

In actuality, Dutton's sudden interest in horticulture, growing organic tomatoes, citrus, grapes, melons, peppers, and squash on a 3,500-acre spread in the Cadiz Valley was ruse he had formulated with two others – Keith Brackpool and Mark Liggett to secure water rights in a remote area of the Mojave. Brackpool, an Englishman who had left Great Britain in 1983 after he had been convicted of stock fraud and dealing in securities without a license in his native country, that same year came to the United State in search of another get-rich-quick scheme. Brackpool was attracted to Dutton after learning of how the older man had been able to take control of the speedway property without actually owning it to engineer a sale to a buyer at tremendous profit, with the only actual investment being having to cover a few weeks of the interest payments on the loan which he arranged to make the acquisition. This was just the sort of deal, one in which the “initial investor” started with virtually no money of his own to generate a fortune out of circumstance, Brackpool was looking to pull off himself. Using satellite images, Brackpool and Liggett, a geologist, con-

vinced Dutton that there was a huge underground lake in the East Mojave Desert – the Cadiz Valley/Fenner Gap Aquifer – that could be tapped simply through obtaining ownership of some of the land overlying it.

Thus, the Cadiz Land Company was created, the ostensible purpose for which had little to do with water beyond the single well Dutton and Brackpool sunk in the Cadiz Valley to irrigate their farming operation. Over the years, they drilled eight more wells, producing tomatoes, peppers, melons, grapes and citrus. For forty years, the Cadiz Land Company's agricultural operation has never – not even once – operated at a profit. Nevertheless, the company has been able to make an assertion, based upon the irrigation of the crops at the Cadiz farm, to water rights from the Cadiz/Fenner aquifer. The Cadiz Land Company in the late 1990s sought to interest the Metropolitan Water District in a proposal to convey up to 1.5 million acre-feet of what was referenced as “surplus” Colorado River water to the Cadiz Valley and “store” that water by pumping it into the water table and then extracting the water and conveying it to Greater Los Angeles during “dry years.” Ultimately, however, the Metropolitan Water District in 2002 rejected that proposal.

All along, the Cadiz Land Company's agenda had been to get control of – i.e., obtain the rights to – a massive amount of water for marketing within Southern California. The Colorado River water storage project had been the first stage of a plan to finagle ownership of the huge underground lake of pristine water that had been accumulating beneath the

East Mojave Desert for hundreds of thousands of years. The idea was that while the Cadiz Land Company was storing the river water in the East Mojave for the Metropolitan Water District, mixing it with the water already in the aquifer, it would simultaneously be able to tap into the water table to extract water which it could sell to other entities in San Bernardino County, Riverside County, Los Angeles County and Orange County in need of the elixir of life. When the Colorado River water storage project failed, The Cadiz Land Company had to take a different, more direct approach.

That effort would be dubbed the Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery & Storage Project. The concept this time was to sink deep wells into the East Mojave and tap into the vast reservoir of unused water there and send it westward for sale to water companies and water districts. To the immediate reactions of those who said that what the Cadiz Land Company was proposing to do was stealing the desert's water for use along the coast and that the undertaking would threaten the desert environment, Dutton and Brackpool insisted nothing could be further from the truth. What they were proposing was, they said, just what the name they had given the project implied. It was aimed at conserving water, no misusing it. What they were aiming at was capturing the desert's water quickly while it was on the surface and at the top of the aquifer, where it was vulnerable to evaporation. The Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery & Storage Project would be merely recovering that water before it evaporated. In this way, the project would help the environment, not hinder it.

Along the way, the Cadiz Land Company rebranded itself as Cadiz, Inc. In the same timeframe, the company made some adjustments

to its lobbying approach. Previously, the company had adhered to advice provided by former Congressman-turned-lobbyist Tony Coelho who was given a position on the Cadiz board. Coelho's approach tilted toward vectoring money to influential statewide politicians or those with pull in Sacramento or at the regional level in the greater Los Angeles area where the water was to be marketed, such as Governor Gray Davis and Los Angeles Mayor Anthony Villaraigosa. When that did not produce the desired result, the company began plying politicians in San Bernardino County, particularly those representing its vast desert outback, with money, in most cases in quantities they did not receive from their normal stable of donors.

In 2012, Cadiz, Inc, provided then-San Bernardino County Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt with \$48,100 in political donations to finesse him and his board colleagues into allowing the board of directors of the Santa Margarita Water District in Orange County, located 217 miles away from the Cadiz Valley, to carry out the environmental certification and approval of a controversial water extraction project in the East Mojave. Cadiz, Inc. contrived to have the Santa Margarita Water District, which serves the affluent Orange County communities of Rancho Santa Margarita, Mission Viejo, Coto de Caza, Las Flores, Ladera Ranch and Talega, oversee the environmental impact report for the project, despite the consideration that the water district was to be the largest consumer of the 75,000 acre feet of water the company was proposing to draft annually from the project's 34 wells which were to be sunk in the Cadiz and Fenner valleys.

The unorthodox approval process for the plan to draft trillions of gallons of water from the East Mojave Desert's pristine aquifer for use in Los Angeles and Orange

counties, utilizing a governmental entity more than 200 miles removed from the property to be impacted which simultaneously had a financial and operational interest in the project to oversee the project's environmental certification, fueled questions about the integrity and legitimacy of the governmental regulation of the effort. A number of politicians over the years, at least for a time, championed San Bernardino County and the East Mojave in the struggle to keep the plan from succeeding. Despite, or perhaps because of, the money Mitzelfelt received from Cadiz, he suffered defeat in 2012 when he vied to replace outgoing Congressman Jerry Lewis, by seeking election in California's redrawn 8th Congressional district, which included the Cadiz Valley.

Also vying in the race for that Congressional seat was then-Assemblyman Paul Cook. Cook, taking stock of the way Mitzelfelt was intent on diverting the desert's water to Orange County, created a plank in his campaign platform in opposition to the Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery & Storage Project, which was referred to as the Cadiz Water Project for short. At the height of the campaign, Cook dashed off a letter to then-Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, stating, “The Cadiz Project, as it currently stands, is likely to impact San Bernardino County's water resources, harming ranchers, rural communities, East Mojave landowners, and the National Chloride Company of America's brine mining operation on Bristol Dry Lake. Moreover, the aggressive project pumping could harm the springs of the Mojave National Preserve and regional air quality, while exporting precious water resources out of San Bernardino County to ratepayers in Los Angeles and Orange counties. In order to ensure this project won't adversely affect my district, I respectfully re-

quest the Cadiz Project be subject to a National Environmental Policy Act review. Additionally, I request that the United States Geologic Survey conduct an updated analysis of the hydrologic features of the project area and that any new or revised Cadiz Project proposals adhere to the principle of sustainable yield, meaning no more water would be pumped out of the aquifer than would be replaced through natural recharge as determined by the United States Geologic Survey. Professional independent reviews have called into question the 32,500 acre-feet per year recharge rate Cadiz Inc. claims will naturally occur. These independent scientists concluded that the actual recharge rate is between 2,000 and 10,000 acre feet per year. There are serious doubts about the validity of the previous environmental studies, specifically the draft environmental impact statement.” Cook trounced Mitzelfelt in the primary and was elected to Congress in November 2012.

In order to run for Congress in 2012, Mitzelfelt had to forego running for reelection as First District San Bernardino County supervisor. Robert Lovingood was one of seven candidates who vied for the opportunity to replace Mitzelfelt. During that campaign, Lovingood was critical of the county's failure to wrest the role of lead agency from the Santa Margarita Water District in considering the environmental impact report for the project. Just as the desert's voters had responded positively to Cook's proclaimed effort to protect the region's water supply, so too did they support Lovingood, who was elected supervisor in November 2012.

Similarly, then-San Bernardino County Third District Supervisor Neil Derry went on record against the concept of removing water from the East Mojave for use in communities closer to the coast.

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

Level 3 prison inmates have medium to long sentences of from 5 to 15 years, have committed violent offenses like robbery, assault and rape and have extensive criminal histories. Many inmates are gang affiliated with moderate discipline issues. Inmates in a Level 3 prison have a higher recidivism risk and tendencies for violence.

Level 4 prison inmates have very long sentences or life sentences, have committed serious violent offenses such as murder, kidnapping and sex crimes, and sport long criminal histories with violence. A majority are gang members, and a fair number are gang leaders. Virtually all have displayed discipline problems, and they embody a high recidivism risk and display proven violent behaviors.

Level 5 prison inmates have indeterminate sentences that range from life to execution. They in virtually all cases have been remanded into security housing units that make escape so unlikely as to be impossible. Many are previous Level 4 inmates who committed violent acts in prison. Typically, with some exceptions, they are confirmed prison gang members and leaders who have evinced severe discipline and behavioral issues. To ensure the safety of other prisoners with whom they come into contact and guards, they require intense control and isolation.

The state's maximum-security prisons are Kern Valley State Prison in Delano; San Quentin, which has a minimum-security section as well; Salinas Valley State Prison; Pelican Bay; Folsom State Prison; Corcoran State Prison, referred to as Corcoran

I; and California Correctional Institution referred to as Tehachapi or Tehachapi Prison, which also houses prisoners of less severity.

In addition, the California City Correctional Facility; California State Prison, Los Angeles County; California State Prison, Sacramento; High Desert State Prison; and the Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison at Corcoran, referred to as Corcoran II are high security institutions intended to provide safe and secure housing for the most violent and dangerous male offenders while providing opportunities for those inmates to successfully transition to lower levels of custody by accepting personal responsibility for their actions through behavior-based multi-level programming and/or rehabilitation through participation in work, vocational and academic programs, substance abuse treatment and self-help programs.

Chino is considered to be a moderate to high-security facility. Because officials are, for security reasons, unwilling to give exact descriptions of the way in which the prison is run, they have not said how the more dangerous prisoners at the facility are segregated from the remainder of the population in a way to prevent them from having an opportunity to escape.

It is far more difficult to bust out of Delano, San Quentin, Salinas Valley, Pelican Bay; Folsom, Corcoran I or II; Tehachapi, California City, Los Angeles County State Prison, Sacramento State Prison or High Desert State Prison than Chino.

Chino has been plagued by infamous escapes, such as those by Kevin Cooper, who was convicted of killing four people a-day-and-a-half after his escape in June 1983 and the January 2018 escape of Michael Garrett. While Chino Prison has electrified and razor-wire topped fences, the former can be relatively easily de-

feated and surmounted by means of covering it with a rubber mat available in abundance within the prison and the latter by a blanket. There have been reliable reports over the years of Chino inmates exiting the institution's housing after lights out, escaping into nearby Chino for a night of drinking and other revelry and then returning to the prison and their sleeping quarters before dawn.

The Sentinel is informed that prison officials have repeatedly expressed confidence that security improvements at the facility made over the years particularly in response to the Cooper escape make repeats of that horrific event unlikely. Specifically, the addition of electrification to one of the perimeter fences, razor wire atop the other fence, multiple but relatively primitive guard towers, motion detectors, intensive nighttime illumination that creates a 175-yard gauntlet through which a would-be escapee must pass underneath the eyes of constantly vigilant nocturnal personnel before reaching the electrified perimeter, constant motorized patrols near the perimeter and siren signals effectively deter breakout attempts, the prison's operators insist.

Nevertheless, there have been constant and recurring breakdowns in the electrical circuitry for the sirens, motion detectors and fence which officials have been loath to admit. Over the years, holes in the perimeter fence which have not been addressed in a timely manner have been observed.

While not, exactly, busting at the seams, the California Institution for Men, a 2,500-acre complex consisting of four facilities under a single warden addressed at 14901 Central Avenue and existing on a campus that extends from Central Avenue on the west, El Prado Road on the southwest, generally south of Eucalyptus Avenue, to the west border of the now shuttered Herman J. Stark Youth Cor-

rectional Facility which fronts to the east on Euclid Avenue and generally north of Kimball Avenue, is overcrowded. Designed to have a capacity of 2,763 and expanded to accommodate according to U.S. prison standards 2,976 inmates, it stands at 112.8 percent of that capacity, with 3,357 incarcerated there.

Many residents in Chino and the nearby area have been abuzz over the last several days over the serious offenders in their midst. Among many, there was something akin to disbelief.

"Death Row inmates are very dangerous people," said one. "I don't know why the state corrections system would put them in a place where they can get out. They should be in solitary confinement and not in with the general population, on which they get to watch UFC fights and YouTube and whatever they do at Camp Snoopy over there."

Some who lived in the area expressed confidence in the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the security members in place. One resident of the nearby unincorporated county area north of the Chino City Limits near Central Avenue called for the application of security measures to include outfitting condemned prisoners at the California Institute for Men with wrist or ankle monitors that would utilize satellite hookups and global positioning data to track the location of condemned inmates with a probable error of no more than 18 feet. Such tamperproof devices could be designed to be removed only through the simultaneous use of three separate keys, including one with an electronic component, which would be independently maintained by the prison warden, the California Department of Corrections and the Chino Police Department. The devices could be designed so that their unauthorized removal without the use of the keys would incapacitate the prisoner

wearing them, up to including the severing of the limb to which it is attached.

Prison officials were tightlipped with regard to how many more former Death Row inmates will be transferred to Chino in the weeks and months ahead, as security regulations prohibit any announcement ahead of time with regard to the movement of prisoners, their destinations or the timing for those rehosings.

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation did state that Chino is not now the institution within the California Penal System hosting the largest number of condemned.

There are 641 condemned inmates in California's prison system. Since Feb. 26, 189 condemned inmates at San Quentin and 20 from the women's facility in Chowchilla have been transferred to other prisons under the transfer program, according to the CDCR. At San Quentin 461 that were formerly on its Death Row remain confined at that institution. Some of those are to be reassigned elsewhere by the end of the summer. As of yesterday, Thursday April 18, there were 35 condemned me at the California Health Care Facility, Stockton and 31 housed at the California State Prison, Sacramento, making Chino Prison the state institution with the fourth highest number of prisoners sentenced to death.

Orwellian Warehouses *from front page*

roof of 9,598,255 square feet, or more than one-third of a square mile, translating into 220.34 acres. At present among cities in San Bernardino County, Fontana stands behind only Ontario in terms of warehouse space. Fontana is followed by Chino, Rancho Cucamonga, San Bernardino, Redlands and Rialto.

Fontana, led by Warren, is gunning to surpass Ontario in this re-

According to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, there were 93,900 people incarcerated by the state as of January. Of those 89,100 were men housed in 30 men's prisons and 4,200 were women housed in two women's prisons. Another 600 non-binary prisoners are incarcerated, as well. Of the 93,900 in prison, less than 0.72 percent - 0.0071458998935037 - or roughly 1 out of 138 - has received the death penalty. Of some concern is the safety of those in the general prison population who might come into contact with former Death Row inmates as well as the negative influence the condemned prisoners might have on others, and the way they may interrupt the effort to rehabilitate them.

The Sentinel sought but was unable to land an interview with California Institution for Men Warden Travis Pennington.

The Sentinel has learned, however, that Pennington on Tuesday April 16 did meet with members of the Chino Police Department, personnel from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department including those working out of the Chino Hills sheriff's station, officers with the Ontario Police Department and the higher-ups in the Chino Valley Fire District. There was no announcement as to what issues had been discussed or resolved.

garg. Citing Fontana's location, she says her city is a logical host for warehouses and distribution centers. She has argued that given the largely blue collar populace of Fontana and the consideration that approaching 30 percent of the parents of children attending Fontana schools either do not speak, or lack proficiency in, the English language, the best that can be done for a significant percentage of those who graduate from or drop out of Fontana

Continued on Page 15

Its Farming & Water Storage Distractions Having Played Out, Cadiz, Inc. Took Aim At Fulfilling Its True Intention, Diverting The East Mojave's Water At Huge Profit To Orange County, Making Over A Million Dollars In Political Contributions To Overcome Senator Feinstein's Opposition And Achieve Its Goal *from page 7*

The most ardent office-holding opponent to Cadiz, Inc. and its designs on the desert's water was also the most powerful: Senator Diane Feinstein, the author of the California Desert Protection Act. Feinstein proved an indefatigable foe to the efforts to draft the desert's water and convey it out of the region. Time and again, she took action which blocked the project.

While Feinstein worked at the federal level, two members of the California legislature, State Senator Richard Roth and Assemblywoman Laura Friedman, undertook efforts in Sacramento which stymied the project.

The Santa Margarita Water District Board of Directors in 2012 ratified the environmental impact report for the project, using its authority to give the company clearance to construct another 25 wells throughout the Cadiz and Fenner Valleys, which lie more than 200 miles from the district's furthest east-lying border. Questions about the propriety of that action led to the filing of no fewer than eleven lawsuits, which kept Cadiz, Inc. tied up in court for years.

In devising their strategy to obtain clearance for the Cadiz Water Project, Dutton and Brackpool had retained Scott Slater, a water rights attorney with the law firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck. It was Slater who quarter-backed, from the serenity of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck's Los Angeles office, how undertaking what is termed "beneficial use" of some of the East Mojave region's vast underground water resources – at first a couple dozen acre-feet of water per year to grow fruits and vegetables on land scattered over a 40-

acre plot of ground and then gradually increase that use to a couple hundred acre-feet of water to irrigate farms covering some 400 acres – that it could stake a claim to the recurrent use of tens of thousands of acre-feet of water per year. An acre-foot is the amount of water that would cover an acre-of ground to a depth of one foot, 43,600 cubic feet of water, or just under 325,851.43 gallons. In addition to coordinating with Metropolitan Water District's lawyers in working out the terms of the never actuated Colorado River Water Storage Project, the terms of acquisition for property slated for both agricultural use and pipeline right-of-way, as well as the licensing and sharing arrangements for the infrastructure – pipes and aqueducts both existing and proposed – to convey the water to its end-use points, Slater formulated the approach the company would take in either getting the region's existing governmental authorities to adjudicate local water rights in the Cadiz and Fenner Valleys or creating agencies or authorities that did not exist to assume control of that adjudicative process. That would entail stacking the boards and staff of such an agency or agencies with individuals primed to grant the Cadiz Land Company's corporate successor, Cadiz, Inc., with the rights to far more water than was actually being used.

Hemorrhaging money on legal fees that was threatening the viability of the Cadiz Land Company altogether, Dutton and Brackpool passed control of Cadiz, Inc. into the hands of Scott Slater, who maintained his shareholder position at Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber, Schreck, partially out of a belief that by doing so, Slater would

be able to reduce the company's astronomical legal costs. Slater was appointed President of Cadiz in 2011 and named CEO in 2013, at which point Brackpool became chairman of the board.

Throughout that time Slater was devoted to defending the company against the 11 lawsuits brought against the company. Though the company was able to prevail in most of those suits, which it succeeded in having removed to and consolidated in Orange County Superior Court, appeals on those suits were filed. The combination of those legal challenges and the efforts at the state and federal legislative levels hamstrung the company.

Simultaneously, Slater was waging a battle to establish a key component to the project: the means of conveying the water to the Metropolitan Water District's pipeline originally created to bring Colorado River Water to Los Angeles. That effort was thwarted because the company could not get clearance to construct the pipeline on multiple grounds, the primary one being environmental. The workaround to this that Slater came up with was nothing short of a gimmick. The environmental objections to a newly constructed pipeline would not apply to land within an existing railroad right-of-way. The problem was that the regulation of the railroad right-of-way fell under the authority of the federal government, where Feinstein held tremendous sway. Of a sudden, Slater and Cadiz, Inc. grew nostalgic, proposing that the company build a shrine to the desert as it was in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Cadiz, Inc. would operate a steam-powered excursion train on the Arizona & California Railroad line through the Mojave Desert between Cadiz, California and Parker, Arizona, Slater announced. The Arizona & California Railroad had been a corporate subdivision of the Santa Fe Pacific

Railroad built in 1910. Cadiz, Inc. would revive it with what the company dubbed the Cadiz Southeastern Railway.

"The steam train is an original fixture of the Cadiz area – an important historical asset intimately connected to the local culture – and offers a rewarding way to invest locally and promote the unique desert environment," said Slater in announcing the move. "As a 30-year member of the Mojave Desert community, we have long appreciated the area's majesty and appeal and are proud to diversify our business with this exciting new venture."

The Cadiz Southeastern Railway was to operate, the company said, on existing tracks along an 85-mile portion of the ARZC between Parker, Arizona and Cadiz with water stops in desert locales of Milligan, Chubbuck, Rice and Vidal. It would further feature a museum and cultural center at the Cadiz Ranch property dedicated to the promotion of local desert and railroad history.

In seeking the permitting for the historical tributes including the excursions, Slater said, Cadiz, Inc. would obtain permission to build the facilities needed so the Cadiz Southeastern Railway would be powered by water from the Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery & Storage Project.

In this way, Cadiz, Inc. was constructing a water pipeline for a railroad purpose along the railroad right-of-way, it claimed. That the pipeline would also convey water from the East Mojave to the Metropolitan Water District Colorado Aqueduct was incidental.

Under the Donald Trump Administration, which included his Secretary of the Interior Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and a career Interior Department employee, Tim Spisak, promoted into the position of deputy assistant director for energy, minerals and realty management in 2017, Cadiz was able

to achieve some degree of traction by getting the federal government to go on record that the existing federal railroad right-of-way could be used to construct the crucial 34-miles of pipeline to deliver the water mined from the desert well field to the existing Colorado River Aqueduct and thus make delivery to the Greater Los Angeles area. That development represented a leap forward for the project, but other obstructions prevented the project from proceeding.

Senator Feinstein remained as a Cadiz, Inc.'s primary nemesis, as at both the legislative and sub-legislative levels she barred the Department of the Interior from assisting the company with its designs on the East Mojave Desert's water, using on multiple occasions the parliamentary ploy of using riders on bills important to politicians on both sides of the aisle that prevented the Bureau of Land Management expending money on anything that would facilitate the groundwater transferring project, including completing what she felt would be environmental reviews of the proposal during the Trump Administration she believed would be favorable to the concept of depleting the desert of water.

In one respect over the years, however, first in its incarnation as the Cadiz Land Company and then as Cadiz, Inc., the company made important progress, consisting of its ability to generate extensive investor confidence, thereby draw in money from existing and new shareholders and use that capital to grease the skids politically. At various times, based on pronouncements that the project was on the verge of springing forward made by Dutton, Brackpool, other corporate officers and later Slater, there would be huge purchases of Cadiz stock, pushing its value into the stratosphere. In 2001, while it looked as if the company was going to close its deal with the Metropolitan Water Dis-

trict to store Colorado River Water, the value of Cadiz stock jumped to over \$200 a share. It fell precipitously after Metropolitan walked away from the deal, but at various times since then, Dutton, Brackpool and Slater were able to revive stock speculators' interest in the company by claiming it was on the brink of yet another breakthrough, such as with the vote by the Santa Margarita Water District Board of Directors. At just such junctures, they would exploit the situation, selling off their own shares and engaging in profit taking. Today, at the opening bell, Cadiz stock was selling at \$2.25 a share. At closing, it had fallen to \$2.15.

Those infusions of investor capital have been used in other ways to advance the company's prospects, or so its corporate officers have hoped. Scouting the political landscape, Cadiz, Inc. and its lobbyists have identified the elected officials who are in positions to either harm or help the company in achieving its goals. It then made massive donations to their political war chests.

One of those was Paul Cook. Another was Robert Lovingood.

After Cadiz, Inc. and several of its investors surfaced as major contributors to Cook's congressional reelection campaign, in 2014 the Congressman flip-flopped and publicly stated that he was in favor of the project proceeding. Of note, working for Cook in 2014 as a member of his Congressional staff was Dawn Rowe. In 2018, when James Ramos, who succeeded Derry as Third District Supervisor, was elected to the California Assembly, the board of supervisors appointed Rowe to replace Ramos during his two remaining years as supervisor. Thereafter, Rowe was elected Third District supervisor in her own right in 2020, and was then reelected this year, in March. In 2020, Cook left Congress to success-

Continued on Page 17

Having Secretly Applied For The SB Job While Yet Working For Salinas, Carrigan Was Offered The San Bernardino Post But Delayed In Accepting It, Even As Word Was Reaching Salinas Of His Betrayal, At Which Point He Spurned The SB Offer, Only To Be Fired By Salinas *from page 6*

Johnson. JL Group has suggested that Witness V – Davis – does not in actuality exist, but is a phantom that was used to engage in spurious and scurrilous attacks on Carrigan to derail his selection as city manager. Van Johnson has denied being the Davis phantom.

“On August 28th, the closed session meeting took place,” the expurgated narrative continues. “It was marked by the attendance of a significant number of upset African-American residents expressing dissatisfaction with the selection process.”

Nine days later, at the city council’s September 6 meeting, during the council’s closed session, a unanimous decision to make a final offer of employment to Carrigan was made, with Calvin and Reynoso bowing to the reality of Carrigan’s inevitable selection. After the council emerged from that closed session, City Attorney Sonia Carvalho announced an offer of employment had been made, but she did not identify Carrigan as the selection. A vote on confirming the appointment and the candidate’s acceptance of the contract was set for the October 4 city council meeting. The identification of the council’s selection as city manager – Carrigan – was to be provided in the agenda for the October 4 meeting, which was scheduled for posting no later than September 29, 2023.

Those preparations proceeded and were in full swing by the last week of September.

On September 26, 2023, Mayor Tran hosted a fundraiser to bank money toward her anticipated 2026 reelection campaign. During the course her interaction with the public and her supporters at that event, she was importuned by

some in attendance to reconsider her support for Carrigan, with some suggesting that if he were to not work out as the city manager, his failure would be perceived as a discredit to her administration. It is not known beyond Tran’s immediate circle the degree to which she took those admonitions to heart. Some have suggested that she was prepared to withdraw her support of Carrigan and that in doing so, Carrigan was to have been left high and dry, as his appointment would fail on October 4 on a 4-to-4 vote, with Sanchez, Ibarra, Figueroa and Shorett voting for the hiring and Tran, Reynoso, Calvin and Alexander opposed. Others have said that even if Tran defected from the camp supporting Carrigan, he still would have been appointed on a 5-to-3 vote, with Sanchez, Ibarra, Figueroa, Shorett and Alexander in support. Still others insist that Tran was not going to waver, as she was convinced Carrigan was a capable municipal manager and she could ill afford to allow the city to remain adrift and without crucial long-term staff leadership any longer, as she was approaching her first anniversary in office without having an actual city manager in place.

How things might have gone on October 4, however, will never be known with certainty, as Carrigan, on September 28 had an abrupt change of heart. He called Koff & Associates/Gallagher Benefit Services and informed the company he would not take the San Bernardino job, after all. He then drafted a memo to the Salinas municipal staff. “Earlier this morning,” he began, “I contacted the recruiter and removed my name from consideration for the po-

sition of San Bernardino city manager. Over the past few weeks I have had time to think about what’s important to me from a personal and a professional standpoint and I have decided that Salinas is the best place for me. In Salinas, we’ve made a lot of progress on major issues like homelessness, affordable housing, crime and infrastructure and I want to be here to continue that momentum. I cannot see myself working anywhere else.”

Carrigan then alluded to something many people already knew, which was that his decision to remain in Salinas was influenced by his desire to maintain the relationship he had developed over the previous two years with Salinas City Elementary School Superintendent Rebeca Andrade. “I have met someone in Salinas that I’m crazy about,” he wrote.

In San Bernardino there was a mad scramble on at City Hall, particularly in the city clerk’s office, where staff had to redraft the nearly fully prepared October 4 city council meeting agenda by deleting the item relating to Carrigan’s employment with the city and renumbering the items that followed it on the agenda, with each given an identifying number one less than what had already been assigned, and likewise altering the agenda packet to remove the staff report relating to and recommending Carrigan’s hiring, which was augmented with an employment agreement.

Over the weekend of September 30/October 1, Carrigan was looking forward to life with a renewed purpose: He was committed to continuing to meet, and overcome, even more than before, the challenges facing Salinas.

On October 3, the day before the San Bernardino City Council would have voted on approving his contract with the city that was to provide him with a \$291,000 annual salary, pay add-ons and perquisites worth \$16,000 or

thereabouts and benefits/deferred compensation in the range of \$89,000 for a total annual compensation of \$396,000, six of the seven Salinas City Council members met in a two-hour closed session, after which it was announced they had voted 6-to-0 to terminate Carrigan from his \$355,899.38 total annual compensation job as city manager.

When it rains, it pours.

In the course of a few months or maybe a few weeks or, depending on how you counted things out, a few days, Carrigan had lurched from one direction – running municipal operations in Salinas to adjusting himself to a similar but different life in San Bernardino, overseeing municipal operations there. Then he had lurched back, telling himself that he was going to mentally and spiritually recommit to Salinas and stay as the top municipal dog there, only to have the ground underneath him lurch, as he found himself without a job. Maintaining his composure, or trying really hard to, he lurched again, this time trying to land the position that suddenly and opportunistically loomed before him, that of interim city manager in Pacific Grove in Monterey County. But because of the dual debacle he had just been through with San Bernardino and Salinas, and the damage done to his reputation as a result, or so he maintains, the Pacific Grove City Council passed on hiring him.

Ultimately, after cataloging through the remainder of the applicants for the city manager’s position, the city council settled on Charles Montoya, who was previously employed as the city manager in Watsonville in California, city manager in Avondale, Arizona, town manager in Florence, Arizona, finance director and treasurer with the Town of Castle Rock in Colorado, the chief financial officer for Centennial, Colorado as well as Jefferson County in Colorado, after having grown ac-

climated to government employment as an employee in the governor’s office in New Mexico.

On November 30, 2023 the Irvine-based Executive Law Group on Carrigan’s behalf filed a \$2.2 million claim with the City of San Bernardino. Carrigan’s attorney R. Craig Scott maintained Carrigan was fired by the city of Salinas, where he was employed as city manager when he applied for a similar position in San Bernardino, because someone with San Bernardino intentionally informed his political masters in Salinas that he was contemplating leaving his managerial post there.

In that claim, Scott, essentially discounted that Carrigan of his own volition withdrew his application less than a week before the San Bernardino City Council was set to ratify his hiring.

In response, a majority of the city council voted to enter into a contract with JL Group LLC to carry out an investigation into the events surrounding the city manager search, the effort to hire Carrigan, his decision to turn down the offer and what led to his firing in Salinas.

While JL Group was given relatively free access to San Bernardino city employees, materials and documentation, it was hamstrung in carrying out much of its investigation by a lack of subpoena authority, which restricted it from obtaining in many instances any information, let alone thorough and complete information, from crucial participants in the string of events being focused upon.

In this way, JL Group was put in the position of having to draw its information from those willing to participate and submit to interviews. As such, the investigation and the report thereby generated reflected information from participants with an interest in putting their best foot forward and providing input that entirely omitted or at most minimized any of their own involve-

ment in, responsibility for or perpetration of the acts at the basis of the investigation.

In addition, what can only be ascribed to personality conflicts between, on one side, Councilwoman Calvin and, on the other side, councilmembers Sanchez, Ibarra, Figueroa and Shorett, ones that appear to have accelerated over the last year and which were compounded during the search for a city manager and the eventual hiring of Montoya, hang over the entire circumstance. Compounding that, Calvin lost her bid for election in March after failing last fall to qualify for the ballot, forcing her to run as a write-in candidate. Thus, any city employees interviewed by JL Groups investigators would be aware that it would be impolitic at best to answer questions that might in any fashion be seen as a defense of Calvin.

Because the public has been treated only to the two-page executive summary of the report and a selection of 18 full and partial pages, some of which are expurgated, of what is at least a 103-page report of the investigation, it cannot be said with definitude what ground the investigation did and did not cover.

It does not appear, however, that JL Group focused on known leaks of information relating to the city manager search from the Koff and Associates recruitment team. Rojas, who was one of the primary points of contact between Koff and Associates and both the City of San Bernardino and Carrigan, was a primary source of information to the JL Group’s investigators, who sought to mask his identity and protect his confidentiality by designating him as Witness B. It does not appear that JL Group pursued with Rojas making a determination of the degree to which he shared with those applicants for the city manager’s post who their competitors were.

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Public Notices

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE

N U M B E R CIVS2404955

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Gaven Daniel Martin filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Gaven Daniel Martin to Gaven Daniel De La Fosse, 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: 05/03/2024 Time: 08:30 AM Department: S27

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: 03/08/2024 Judge of the Superior Court: Gilbert G. Ochoa Published in the SBCS Upland on 03/28/2024, 04/04/2024, 04/11/2024, 04/18/2024

FBN 20240002503 The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

SUNSHINE CLEANING SOLUTION 8529 SIERRA MADRE AVE RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730: AMANDA M LANTER

Business Mailing Address: 8529 SIERRA MADRE AVE RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 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/ AMANDA M LANTER

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 3/13/2024

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 D9865

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 March 29 and April 5, 12 & 19, 2024.

FBN 20240002998 The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

Public Notices

GIBIN MILLWORK 4201 E SANTA ANA ST UNIT F ONTARIO, CA 91761: GIBIN REMODELING INC 2125 S HELLMAN AVE STE O ONTARIO, CA 91761

Business Mailing Address: 2125 S HELLMAN AVE STE O ONTARIO, CA 91761

The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION registered with the State of California under the number 4649368.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: January 4, 2024.

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/ IMELDA PULIDO, Secretary

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 3/26/2024

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 J9965

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 March 29 and April 5, 12 & 19, 2024.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: PAUL LUTHER WILLIAMS CASE NO. PRO-VA2400132

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of PAUL LUTHER WILLIAMS: a petition for probate has been filed by MARDEN GEORGE PAUL WILLIAMS in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that MARDEN GEORGE PAUL WILLIAMS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests full 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 full 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 July 10, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at 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

Public Notices

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.

MARDEN GEORGE PAUL WILLIAMS, In Pro Per 21935 VAN BUREN STREET #B6 GRAND TERRACE, CA 92313

Phone (951) 529-1599 Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on April 5, 12 & 19, 2024.

FBN 20240002751 The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

SOUTHLAND POOL PLASTERING, INC. 6421 SUNSTONE AVE RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 90701: SOUTHLAND POOL PLASTERING, INC. 6421 SUNSTONE AVE RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 90701

Business Mailing Address: 6421 SUNSTONE AVE RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 90701

The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION registered with the State of California.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: June 6, 1978.

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/ MARIO JUAREZ, CEO Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 3/20/2024

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 D9865

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 April 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2024.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: LETA MARIE PAUL CASE NO. PRO-VA2400289

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of LETA MARIE PAUL:

A petition for probate has been filed by VICTOR MANUEL PAUL JR. in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

THE PETITION FOR

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PROBATE requests that VICTOR MANUEL PAUL JR. be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests FULL 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 May 23, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at

San Bernardino County Superior Court Fontana District

Department F1 - Fontana 17780 Arrow Boulevard Fontana, CA 92335

Filed: April 8, 2024

CHRISTINA WRIGHT, Deputy Court Clerk.

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

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

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

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

Attorney for Victor Manuel Paul Jr.: R. SAM PRICE SBN 208603 PRICE LAW FIRM, APC 454 Cajon Street REDLANDS, CA 92373 Phone (909) 328 7000 Fax (909) 475 9500 sam@pricelawfirm.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on April 12, 19 & 26, 2024.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE N U M B E R CIVS2404448

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

DANIEL MAZARIEGOS to DANIEL SANDOVAL

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any,

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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: 05/20/2024 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 Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in the San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Filed: 03/20/2024 Khiyara Frontela, Deputy Clerk of the Court

Judge of the Superior Court: Gilbert G. Ochoa

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on April 12, 19, 26 & May 3, 2024.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE

N U M B E R CIVS2404442

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner OLGA MARINA MAZARIEGOS filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

OLGA MARINA MAZARIEGOS to MARINA SANDOVAL

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: 05/20/2024 Time: 08:30 AM Department: S25

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 San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Filed: 03/20/2024 Khiyara Frontela, Deputy Clerk of the Court

Judge of the Superior Court: Gilbert G. Ochoa

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on April 12, 19, 26 & May 3, 2024.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE

N U M B E R CIVS2405577

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner MOHAMMED KHALAF NASSRULLAH ALOTHMAN filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

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M O H A M M E D KHALAF NASSRULLAH ALOTHMAN to MIKE ALOTHMAN

[and] ZENNALABADEEN MOHAMMED KHALAF ALOTHMAN to ZAIN ALOTHMAN

[and] KANZ MOHAMMED ALOTHMAN to KANZ ALOTHMAN

[and] FAHAD MOHAMMED ALOTHMAN to FAHAD ALOTHMAN

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: 05/07/2024 Time: 08:30 AM Department: S32

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 San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Filed: 03/26/2024

Abrianna Rodriguez, Deputy Clerk of the Court

Judge of the Superior Court: Gilbert G. Ochoa

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on April 12, 19, 26 & May 3, 2024.

FBN 20240002146 The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

JJ IRON WORKS & WOOD DESIGNS 4115 N SIERRA WAY SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407: ROBERTO C VILLALOBOS

Business Mailing Address: 4115 N SIERRA WAY SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: January 1, 2024.

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/ ROBERTO C. VILLALOBOS

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 3/05/2024

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 J3256

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 April 12, 19, 26 & May 3, 2024.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: KIMBERLY MICHELLE CATHEY CASE NO. PRO-VA2400263

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of KIMBERLY MICHELLE CATHEY: a petition for probate has been filed by WILLIAM ROY HONEYCUTT in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that WILLIAM ROY HONEYCUTT be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests full authority to administer the estate under the Independent

Public Notices

MAILING ADDRESS 14947 CHELSEA AVE CHINO HILLS, CA 91709; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

JEVITA R WEBSTER 4195 CHINO HILLS PARKWAY #1199 CHINO HILLS, CA 91709.

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/ JEVITA R WEBSTER, OWNER

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: MARCH 01, 2024

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 03/22/2024, 03/29/2024, 04/05/2024, 04/12/2024 CNBB12202401MT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC LIEN SALE

Notice is hereby given that personal property in the following units will be sold at public auction pursuant to Sections 21701-21716 of the California Self-Service Storage Facility Act. A public lien sale will be conducted by www.storage-treasures.com on the 3rd day of April 2024, at or after 8:00 am. The property is stored by All American Storage Ontario located at 505 S. Mountain Avenue, Ontario, CA 91762. Purchases must be made in CASH ONLY. Items are sold AS IS WHERE IS and must be removed at the time of sale. All American Storage Ontario reserves the right to refuse any bid or cancel auction. The items to be sold are generally described as follows: miscellaneous personal and household goods stored by the following persons:

Table with 2 columns: Unit, Name. Includes entries for D104, C157, C139, C160, D057, C023.

Dated: 4/18/2024

Signed: Garrett Gossett storagetreasures.com

Sales subject to prior cancellation in the event of settlement between Owner and obligated party.

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on April 19 & 26, 2024.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: KIMBERLY MICHELLE CATHEY CASE NO. PRO-VA2400263

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of KIMBERLY MICHELLE CATHEY: a petition for probate has been filed by WILLIAM ROY HONEYCUTT in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that WILLIAM ROY HONEYCUTT be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests full authority to administer the estate under the Independent

Public Notices

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.)

A hearing on the petition will be held MAY 15, 2024 at 9:00 am at

San Bernardino County Superior Court Fontana District

Department F2 – Fontana 17780 Arrow Boulevard Fontana, CA 92335

Filed: MARCH 22, 2024 DiAnna Verdugo, Deputy Court Clerk.

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

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

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

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

Attorney for Francisco and Anna Guzman: JAMES LEE, ESQUIRE SBN: 110838

LAW OFFICE OF MARC E. GROSSMAN 100 N. EUCLID AVE, SECOND FLOOR Upland, CA 91786 jim@wefight4you.com Telephone: (909) 608-7426 Fax: (909) 949 3077

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on April 19 & 26 and May 3, 2024.

Attorney for William Roy Honeycutt: R. SAM PRICE SBN 208603 PRICE LAW FIRM, APC 454 Cajon Street REDLANDS, CA 92373 Phone (909) 328 7000 Fax (909) 475 9500 sam@pricelawfirm.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on April 19 & 26 and May 3, 2024.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JUANA H. PEDRAZA

CASE NO. PRO-VA2400278

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of JUANA H. PEDRAZA has been filed by FRANCISCO AND ANNA GUZMAN in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that FRANCISCO AND ANNA GUZMAN 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 obtain-

Public Notices

ing 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 MAY 15, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at 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 Francisco and Anna Guzman: JAMES LEE, ESQUIRE SBN: 110838

LAW OFFICE OF MARC E. GROSSMAN 100 N. EUCLID AVE, SECOND FLOOR Upland, CA 91786 jim@wefight4you.com Telephone: (909) 608-7426 Fax: (909) 949 3077

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on April 19 & 26 and May 3, 2024.

Attorney for William Roy Honeycutt: R. SAM PRICE SBN 208603 PRICE LAW FIRM, APC 454 Cajon Street REDLANDS, CA 92373 Phone (909) 328 7000 Fax (909) 475 9500 sam@pricelawfirm.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on April 19 & 26 and May 3, 2024.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JUANA H. PEDRAZA

CASE NO. PRO-VA2400278

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of JUANA H. PEDRAZA has been filed by FRANCISCO AND ANNA GUZMAN in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that FRANCISCO AND ANNA GUZMAN 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 obtain-

Public Notices

statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/ Deputy J2526

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 April 19 & 26 and May 3 & 10, 2024.

FBN 20240002550

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

RM ACADEMY LLC 13673 SMOKESTONE ST. RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91739; RM ACADEMY LLC 13673 SMOKESTONE ST. RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91739

Business Mailing Address: 13673 SMOKESTONE ST. RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91739

The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY registered with the State of California under the number 202460718541.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: January 1, 2024.

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/ RAISA TEIXEIRA ES-PARZA, CEO

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 3/14/2024

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 J6748

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 April 19 & 26 and May 3 & 10, 2024.

FBN 20240003710

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

CHEXMATE INVESTIGATIONS 1525 VIGILANT ST UPLAND, CA 91784; KENNETH W COUNTS

Business Mailing Address: 8780 19TH STREET #154 ALTA LOMA, CA 91701

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/ KENNETH W COUNTS, Owner

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 4/17/2024

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

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

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on April 19 & 26 and May 3 & 10, 2024.

FBN 20240002117

The following person is doing business as: GET IT GONE. 808 COLLEGE AVENUE REDLANDS, CA 92375; MAILING ADDRESS P.O. BOX 7944 REDLANDS, CA 92375;

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO LENARI UNLIMITED LLC 808 COLLEGE AVENUE REDLANDS, CA 92374 STATE OF ORGANIZATION CA ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION 202359918373

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

Public Notices

ing business as: TRANSIT NOW LOGISTICS 9431 HAVEN AVENUE SUITE 100 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730; MAILING ADDRESS 9431 HAVEN AVENUE SUITE 100 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730;

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

TRANSIT NOW LOGISTICS 9431 HAVEN AVENUE SUITE 100 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730 STATE OF ORGANIZATION CA ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION 202460816166

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: FEB 27, 2024

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.

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on: APRIL 02, 2024

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 on: 03/29/2024, 04/05/2024, 04/19/2024, 04/19/2024 CNBB14202401MT

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 J6748

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: 03/29/2024, 04/05/2024, 04/19/2024, 04/19/2024 CNBB14202401MT

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on: APRIL 19, 2024

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on: APRIL 19, 2024

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on: APRIL 19, 2024

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on: APRIL 19, 2024

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on: APRIL 19, 2024

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on: APRIL 19, 2024

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on: APRIL 19, 2024

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on: APRIL 19, 2024

Public Notices

tree 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/ LENEIR B. WEBB II, MANAGING MEMEBER

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: APRIL 02, 2024

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

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on: 04/05/2024, 04/12/2024, 04/19/2024, 04/26/2024 CNBB14202402MT

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

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on: 04/05/2024, 04/12/2024, 04/19/2024, 04/26/2024 CNBB14202402MT

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on: 03/29/2024, 04/05/2024, 04/19/2024, 04/19/2024 CNBB14202401MT

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on: 03/29/2024, 04/05/2024, 04/19/2024, 04/19/2024 CNBB14202401MT

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on: 03/29/2024, 04/05/2024, 04/19/2024, 04/19/2024 CNBB14202401MT

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 on: 03/29/2024, 04/05/2024, 04/19/2024, 04/19/2024 CNBB14202401MT

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on: 03/29/2024, 04/05/2024, 04/19/2024, 04/19/2024 CNBB14202401MT

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on: 03/29/2024, 04/05/2024, 04/19/2024, 04/19/2024 CNBB14202401MT

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on: 03/29/2024, 04/05/2024, 04/19/2024, 04/19/2024 CNBB14202401MT

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on: 03/29/2024, 04/05/2024, 04/19/2024, 04/19/2024 CNBB14202401MT

Public Notices

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on: 04/05/2024, 04/12/2024, 04/19/2024, 04/26/2024 CNBB142024040MT

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).

Public Notices

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 04/05/2024, 04/12/2024, 04/19/2024, 04/26/2024 CNBB14202409MT

FBN 20240003153
The following person is doing business as: ZAPATO AUTO SALES CORP. 363 WEST 6TH STREET SUITE 113 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92401; MAILING ADDRESS 363 W 6TH ST SUITE 13 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92401;

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
ZAPATO AUTO SALE CORP 363 W 6TH STREET SUITE 13 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92401 STATE OF INCORPORATION CA

The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JAN 05, 2004

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/ SANTA BARRON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: MARCH 29, 2024

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 04/05/2024, 04/12/2024, 04/19/2024, 04/26/2024 CNBB14202410MT

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER CIVSB2405577

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner MOHAMMED KHALAF NASSRULLAH ALOTHMAN filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

MOHAMMED KHALAF NASSRULLAH ALOTHMAN TO MIKE ALOTHMAN

[and]
ZENNALABADEEN MOHAMMED KHALAF ALOTHMAN TO ZAIN ALOTHMAN

[and]
KANZ MOHAMMED ALOTHMAN TO KANZ ALOTHMAN

[and]
FAHAD MOHAMMED ALOTHMAN TO FAHAD ALOTHMAN

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: 05/07/2024
Time: 08:30 AM
Department: S32

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 San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.
Filed: 03/26/2024
Abrianna Rodriguez, Deputy Clerk of the Court

Judge of the Superior Court:

Public Notices

Gilbert G. Ochoa
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on April 12, 19, 26 & May 3, 2024
FBN 20240003096

The following person is doing business as: IGLESIA MANANTIAL. 16779 ARROW BLVD FONTANA, CA 92335; MAILING ADDRESS 33345 COLORADO ST YUCAIPA, CA 92399; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
IGLESIA MANANTIAL 16779 ARROW BLVD FONTANA, CA 92335 STATE OF INCORPORATION CA ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION 2089929.

The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: DEC 07, 1997

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/ NANCY MORALES, SECRETARY
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: MARCH 29, 2024

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 04/05/2024, 04/12/2024, 04/19/2024, 04/26/2024 CNBB14202411MT

FBN 20240002940
The following person is doing business as: LUSH PRINT CO. 999 N. WATERMAN AVE STE A-23 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92410; MAILING ADDRESS 999 N. WATERMAN AVE STE A-23 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92405; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
COCCO LUSH INC 999 N. WATERMAN AVE STE B-17 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92410 STATE OF INCORPORATION CA

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/ ROBIN WITHERS, CEO
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: MARCH 25, 2024

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 04/05/2024, 04/12/2024, 04/19/2024, 04/26/2024 CNBB14202412MT

FBN 20240003233
The following person is doing business as: JB ENTERPRISE. 15050 MONTE VISTA AVENUE SP 91 CHINO HILLS, CA 91709; MAILING ADDRESS 15050 MONTE VISTA AVENUE SP 91 CHINO HILLS, CA 91709; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
JUAN J BAILLY

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: MAR 11, 2024

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is

Public Notices

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/ JUAN J BAILLY, OWNER
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: APRIL 02, 2024

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 04/05/2024, 04/12/2024, 04/19/2024, 04/26/2024 CNBB14202414MT

FBN 20240003320
The following person is doing business as: ROYAL COLLISION CENTER. 1800 FOOHILL BLVD FONTANA, CA 92335; MAILING ADDRESS 1500 FOOTHILL BLVD FONTANA, CA 92335; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
AJ MAGMEN, INC 1500 LONG BEACH BLVD LONG BEACH, CA 90813 STATE OF INCORPORATION CA

The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: OCT 11, 2017

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

s/ JOSE MAGDALENO, CEO
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: APRIL 04, 2024

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 04/05/2024, 04/12/2024, 04/19/2024, 04/26/2024 CNBB14202415MT

FBN 20240003323
The following person is doing business as: INVICTUS SERVICES. 9668 MILLIKEN AVE SUITE 104-220 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730; MAILING ADDRESS 9668 MILLIKEN AVE SUITE 104-220 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
HILDA GONZAGA

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/ HILDA GONZAGA, OWNER
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: APRIL 04, 2024

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

Public Notices

federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 04/05/2024, 04/12/2024, 04/19/2024, 04/26/2024 CNBB14202416MT

FBN 20240003162
The following person is doing business as: EVOLUTION LIFT. 12757 KIOWA RD APT 3 APPLE VALLEY, CA 92308; MAILING ADDRESS 311 W CIVIC CENTER DR STE B SANTA ANA, CA 92701; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
ANDREW ALFARO

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/ ANDREW ALFARO, OWNER
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: MARCH 29, 2024

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

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 04/05/2024, 04/12/2024, 04/19/2024, 04/26/2024 CNBB14202417CV

FBN 20240003464
The following person is doing business as: THE G COMPANY. 25388 7TH ST SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92410; MAILING ADDRESS 25388 7TH ST SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92410; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
JOAN M GAMEZ-CRUZ 25388 7TH ST SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92410; DESIRAE R GAMEZ 25388 7TH ST SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92410.

The business is conducted by: A MARRIED COUPLE.

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/ JOANN M GAMEZ-CRUZ, HUSBAND
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: APRIL 09, 2024

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

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 04/12/2024, 04/19/2024, 04/26/2024, 05/03/2024 CNBB15202405MT

FBN 20240003486
The following person is doing business as: DIVINE BEAUTY & WELLNESS BY SHERLY. 8405 HAVEN AVE RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730; MAILING ADDRESS 10808 FOOTHILL BLVD STE 160-302 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
SARAH S MANOPO

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: APR 04, 2024

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/ SARAH S MANOPO, OWNER
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: APRIL 10, 2024

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

Public Notices

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/ KALPESH SOLANKI, PRESIDENT
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: APRIL 05, 2024

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 04/12/2024, 04/19/2024, 04/26/2024, 05/03/2024 CNBB15202406MT

FBN 20240003489
The following person is doing business as: FLEXPARTS. 15218 SUMIT AVE. SUITE #300-251 FONTANA, CA 92336; MAILING ADDRESS 15218 SUMIT AVE. SUITE #300-251 FONTANA, CA 92336; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
FLEXPARTS 15218 SUMMIT AVE SUITE #300-251 FONTANA, CA 92336 STATE OF INCORPORATION CA

The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JAN 10, 2024

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/ VANESSA FLORES, CEO
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: APRIL 10, 2024

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

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 04/12/2024, 04/19/2024, 04/26/2024, 05/03/2024 CNBB15202405MT

The business is conducted by: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: APR 13, 2019

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

s/ LAUREN ANDREW, MANAGER
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: APRIL 09, 2024

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

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Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 04/12/2024, 04/19/2024, 04/26/2024, 05/03/2024 CNBB15202402MT

FBN 20240003495
The following person is doing business as: CHILO CARPET. 1239 W 14TH ST APT #2 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92411; MAILING ADDRESS 1239 W 14TH ST APT #2 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92411; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: MAY 01, 2019

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

s/ ARTURO SANCHEZ, MANAGER
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: APRIL 16, 2024

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

Public Notices

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 04/12/2024, 04/19/2024, 04/26/2024, 05/03/2024 CNBB15202404MT

FBN 20240003440
The following person is doing business as: 2ND CHANCE COLLISION & AUTOBODY. 909 W 21ST STREET SAN BERNARDINO, CA 2405; MAILING ADDRESS 19193 MOUNTAIN SHADOW LN PERRIS, CA 92570; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
ROBERT L. EARLY

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: APR 01, 2024

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/ ROBERT L. EARLY, OWNER
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: MARCH 09, 2024

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 04/12/2024, 04/19/2024, 04/26/2024, 05/03/2024 CNBB15202403MT

FBN 20240003428
The following person is doing business as: TOP KNOT HAIR SALON. 28200 CA-189, UNIT R115 LAKE ARROWHEAD, CA 92352; MAILING ADDRESS PO BOX 3841 LAKE ARROWHEAD, CA 92352; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
LAUREN ANDREW ; BONNIE SUNSERI

The business is conducted by: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: APR 13, 2019

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

s/ LAUREN ANDREW, MANAGER
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: APRIL 09, 2024

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 04/19/2024, 04/26/2024, 05/03/2024, 05/10/2024 CNBB16202402MT

FBN 20240003688
The following person is doing business as: COMMUNITY MULTI SERVICES. 1998 W VALLEY BLVD UNIT A COLTON, CA 92324; MAILING ADDRESS 1998 W VALLEY BLVD UNIT A COLTON, CA 92324; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
CMSR LLC 1998 W VALLEY BLVD COLTON, CA 92324 STATE OF ORGANIZATION CA

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: MAY 01, 2019

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information

Public Notices

ANES, OWNER
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: FEBRUARY 15, 2024
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 02/16/2024, 02/23/2024, 03/01/2024, 03/08/2024 CNBB72024261R CORRECTION DATES 04/19/2024, 04/26/2024, 05/03/2024, 05/10/2024
FBN 20240001505

Public Notices

The following person is doing business as: MICHOCAN AGUAS FRESCAS. 1145 W HILL DR SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407[MAILING ADDRESS 311 W CIVIC CENTER DR STE B SANTA ANA, CA 92701]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
ANTONIO AVELAR JR
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/ ANTONIO AVELA JR, OWNER
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: FEBRUARY 16, 2024

Public Notices

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/ Deputy
Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 03/01/2024, 03/08/2024, 03/15/2024, 03/22/2024 CNBB9202411CV CORRECTION DATES 04/19/2024, 04/26/2024, 05/03/2024, 05/10/2024
FBN 20240001522
The following person is doing business as: NEW FORM CREATIVE. 1350 ALDERWOOD LN MENTONE, CA 92359[

Public Notices

MAILING ADDRESS 1350 ALDERWOOD LN MENTONE, CA 92359]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
DARIO R PEREZ 1350 ALDERWOOD LN MENTONE, CA 92359; NICOLE A PEREZ 1350 ALDERWOOD LN MENTONE, CA 92359.
The business is conducted by: A MARRIED COUPLE.
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/ DARIO R PEREZ, HUSBAND
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: FEBRUARY 16, 2024

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FBN 20240001511
The following person is doing business as: JMI CUSTOM & DISCOUNT FLOORING. 1164

Public Notices

MONTE VISTA AVE SUITE #9 UPLAND, CA 91786[MAILING ADDRESS 664 8TH AVE UPLAND, CA 91786]; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
JMI CREATIVE INC. 664 N 8TH AVE UPLAND, CA 91786 STATE OF INCORPORATION CA ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION 4723128
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/ JANELLE MALUENDA, PRESIDENT
Statement filed with the Coun-

Public Notices

ty Clerk of San Bernardino on: FEBRUARY 16, 2024
I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/ Deputy
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Orwellian Fontana Warehouses from page 8

tana’s high schools is to provide them with jobs such as those available in warehouses, which do not demand skilled laborers. Between 2016 and 2021, Fontana approved more than 30 warehouses totaling approximately 16 million square feet in southern Fontana alone.

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

In Fontana in particular, an increasingly vocal element of the community has decried the relatively poor pay and benefits provided to those who work in the logistics facilities, and the degree to which warehouse operators not only exploit those who work there but victimize nearby residents with their use

of large diesel-powered semi-trucks that are part of those operations with their unhealthy exhaust emissions, together with the bane of traffic gridlock they create.

In the face of that, Warren maintained that the building of warehouses constitutes easy “economic advancement” for the Fontana community, which allows those with capital to acquire or tie up property and quickly convert the land into warehouses consisting of tilt-up buildings, thereby generating fast money and investment in the local economy.

In 2021, with the city council composed exactly as it is now, the city council voted 4-1, with Sandoval being the lone dissenting vote, in favor of placing a 206,000-square-foot warehouse on the north side of Jurupa Hills High School at the corner of Slover and Oleander avenues. After word reached California Attorney General Rob Bonta about that action, he sued Fontana over its affinity for warehouses.

As part of an effort to appease those objecting to the proliferation of warehousing in the city, Warren and her council allies adopted the so-called Industrial Commerce Center Sustainability Standards Ordinance, which city officials said offered an assurance logistics facilities to be built in the city in the future would meet or exceed “all federal and state environmental standards for warehouses and freight

operations.” The city settled the suit brought by Bonta with an agreement that it would apply greater regulation of the construction of logistics facilities in the city of 214,307.

Environmentalists and community activists, however, saw what Warren and her cohorts were doing as merely engaging in lip service and a cynical manipulation of their governmental authority to continue to cater to the real estate industry, land speculators and developers that were heavily investing in Warren’s political career and her political machine. They decried the fashion in which she and the ruling council coalition she controlled nonchalantly imposed more warehouses on the neighborhoods at the city’s south end.

In an effort to silence her critics or at least reduce their volume and

stridency, Warren and the city she heads have sought to avoid the use of the term warehouse.

This became evident on April 9, when the city council took up consideration of what previously were referred to as warehouses. On the council’s agenda were three general plan amendments, two of which pertained to the construction of what the city euphemistically referred to as two separate “industrial commerce center buildings.” The other general plan amendment involved a residential project.

One of the proposals, by the applicant MIG, Inc., was for to construct a 355,995-square-foot warehouse building the Citrus and Boyle Industrial Commerce Center on 15.8 gross acres located north of Slover Avenue, south of Boyle Avenue, and east of Citrus Avenue at the southern end of the city.

MIG sought a general plan amendment, zone change, tentative parcel map and design review to proceed with the proposal.

Labor unions representing construction workers supported the proposal. They made sure to refer to it as a commerce center.

Two local residents residing near the project site complained about not being provided with timely notification of the proposal.

The council supported the project, which its supporters said would replace existing hazards and blight in the area, including abandoned buildings and boarded-up homes, which are beset with homeless squatters and crime.

Further approval was given to Chase Partners’ proposed Fontana Business Center 3, located on the east side of Juniper Avenue and south of

Santa Ana Avenue, also in southern Fontana.

The project required the granting of a general plan amendment, zone change, specific plan amendment, tentative parcel map, and administrative site plan to construct a 33,585-square-foot industrial commerce building on a 1.6 acre-site.

There was no opposition to the project.

With Councilman Jesse Sandoval absent, the council voted 4-to-0 to approve both of the warehouse projects and the residential undertaking, the Monte Vista subdivision, which will entail 53 single-family residential units between Poplar Avenue and Catawba Avenue, south of Orchid Avenue.

During the evening’s discussion of the “industrial commerce center buildings,” the term warehouse was not used.

-Mark Gutglueck

Without Subpoena Power, Investigators Were Limited To Those Who Were Willing To Be Interviewed from page 10

According to Carrigan’s claim, he was informed by Rojas while he was yet vying for the post that three members of the council, who are African American, wanted a different candidate, one who was presumably African American. Rojas was quoted in the claim as saying, “This is about race.”

Similarly, Carrigan was a primary source for the investigators. There

is no indication that the investigators explored with Carrigan, if he in fact knew, how officials in Salinas came to learn that he had applied for the San Bernardino job if they did not discover it from him when he informed them on August 26 and August 27, 2023 that he was a finalist for the position. Nor is there an indication from the material released that an exacting discussion was carried out with Salinas officials, most particularly members of the city council, who, by the time the investigation was initiated, were wary of talking with investigators out of the

concern that Carrigan might be inclined to file suit against Salinas for what he could allege was wrongful termination. Thus, it does not appear that the JL Group investigation explored the actual grounds for Carrigan’s termination in Salinas nor how it was that the city council came by the information which led to its decision to terminate Carrigan.

Contained among the 18 pages of the report that were released were comments made by Treasure Ortiz and Calvin variously during a podcast, during a radio interview hosted by Robert Porter, at what was apparently

a political candidates’ forum hosted by former 6th Ward Councilman Rikke Van Johnson and during council meetings. Ortiz, who was identified as “Treasurer Ortiz” in the report, possibly reflecting the mistaken belief by the JL Group that Ortiz is or was San Bernardino treasurer, is one of Calvin’s associates who ran for mayor, unsuccessfully, in 2022 and is vying for city council representing the 7th Ward this year, having proven the top vote-getter in that district in the March primary election. The excerpts

Continued on Page 16

The Investigation Into The San Bernardino City Manager Recruitment Debacle Was Plagued By A Lack Of Cooperation Among Key Players & The Investigators' Dependence Upon The Self-Serving Versions Of Events Offered By Those Who Chose To Be Interviewed *from page 10*

from those interviews, public statements and comments include ones from Calvin expressing the difficulty she had in collaborating with her council colleagues whom she perceived as taking action they recognized to be wrong or counterproductive, that during the city manager recruitment process while the hiring of Carrigan was yet pending



Rikke Van Johnson

she wanted to extend the recruitment process and that she was wary of hiring a city manager who lacked financial savvy or who “someone that had a bad reputation with handling money. It was further noted that during the forum hosted by Van Johnson Calvin had leveled criticisms of Mayor Tran and Montoya. The report further noted that during the candidate forum hosted by Van Johnson that Calvin said her fellow and sister councilmembers were not following the direction of the community and were not listening to community members.

The report interpreted one of Calvin's statements as an attack on Montoya and “insinuating that Witness BB [Montoya] is a thief, or the councilmembers are being paid off.”

The report noted that during a podcast on August 27, 2023, the day before the city council was set to meet and vote on accepting an employment contract with Carrigan, Ortiz had stated, “I can confirm that Witness A [Carrigan] is the candidate.”

The report further quotes Ortiz during Van

Johnson's February 7, 2024 candidates forum, stating her belief that the candidacy of one of the applicants for city manager, apparently Black, had been sabotaged.

According to the executive summary of the investigation and its report, “The weight of credible evidence unveiled during the investigation leads to the conclusion that Calvin intentionally divulged closed-session information to numerous individuals who she is known to associate with in public and at her place of work. The individuals did not participate in the closed session meetings and had no right to obtain or distribute the information.”

According to the section headed “Findings” contained in the 18 pages taken from the JL Group LLC report, “At the conclusion of this investigation, the preponderance of credible evidence strongly indicates that Councilmember Kim Calvin actively participated in releasing closed-session information related to the hiring processes of Witness D [Black], Witness A [Carrigan], and Witness BB [Montoya]. Calvin directly shared information with surrogates who subsequently initiated a campaign through both printed and social media to undermine the candidacies of Witness A and later Witness BB. These same organizers then mobilized a group of citizens during the council meeting's public comment period, making derogatory remarks about the candidates, the process, and expressing a desire either to retain [position] or initiate another search. The expeditious and accurate dissemination of this information was traced back to City Councilmember Kim Calvin through investigative interviews and her com-

ments in public forums afterwards.”

ments in public forums afterwards.”

The report seeks to set up a conclusion that Calvin was responsible for leaking information from closed and confidential city council executive sessions by citing Ortiz as saying, during a January 29, 2024 radio interview with Robert Porter, that “if we didn't have Kim Calvin... what would have been able to transpire and go on behind closed doors?”

In what was an apparent effort to determine the substance of Carrigan's assertion that he was discriminated against because he is white, JL Group pursued some pu-



Treasure Ortiz

erile indicators of some collusion between the three African American members of the council – Calvin, Alexander and Reynoso – and African American members of the community relating to the lobbying effort against Carrigan's hiring that took place in August and September 2023. The 18 pages of the report that were released carry a few scant references to either criticisms of Carrigan or calls to extend the recruitment effort, but they hardly deliver any proof of a raced-based animus toward Carrigan or that a coalition of African American officeholders and residents were conspiring against him.

On the fifth page of the 18-pages lifted from the report, these two sentences appear: “On August 28th, the closed session meeting took place. It was marked by the attendance of a significant number of upset African-American residents expressing dissatisfaction with the selection process.”

Also on the fifth page, with reference to the September 6, 2023 council meeting at which the council voted in closed

session to hire Carrigan, is this this passage: “Negative social media coverage persisted prior to the next city council meeting on September 6, 2023, where another predominantly African American group of residents continued to voice concerns about Witness A's potential hiring. Witness A faced disparagement without the opportunity to defend his character, as no one else on the dais was allowed to speak on the topic. [Identifying information], and very close personal friend of Kim Calvin, Witness Z, was notably vocal during the meeting and made public comments about Witness A.”

The identifying information expurgated from the original report is apparently “Former Sixth Ward Councilman,” as it is known that Witness Z is Rikke Van Johnson.

The report also contains on page 6 of the 18-page excerpt from the whole investigative report, the two following sentences, which come immediately following a narrative relating to Carrigan withdrawing his candidacy and Montoya consequently being hired as city manager: “Before departing, _____ sent a confidential email on October 28th to the City Council and [Witness F], calling for an investigation into Councilmember Damon Alexander. This email was leaked within a couple of days and posted on the [social media page] group.”

The passage references Alexander, one of the council's three African Americans, so it might have been included to shed light on the Carrigan's accusation of racial bias. Nevertheless, the sentences lack context and suffer from a lack of clarity due to the expurgations to the point that it is difficult to understand what relevance they have.

It is not clear to whom the underscored blank refers. The Sentinel has not been able to determine who Witness F is and the expurgation of the name of the social media forum makes it virtually impossible to

find out what any of this pertains to.

Worthy of note is that the report makes at least some mischaracterizations.

On Wednesday, April 17, the council considered an item calling for the initiation of censure proceedings against Calvin based upon the conclusions in the JL Group LLC report. When a vote was taken on that item, it passed on a bare 4-to-3 vote in which Mayor Tran was not permitted to vote as she is excluded from most votes of the council other than those relating to hirings and appointments, councilmembers Sanchez, Ibar-



Charles Montoya

ra, Figueroa and Shorett voted yes, while Calvin and Alexander voted no and Councilman Reynoso voted with a resounding, “Hell, no!”

Reynoso has not spoken publicly but word has reached the Sentinel that he considers at least one passage in the investigative report pertaining to action he took and/or statements he made during the discussions relating to the city manager recruitment last summer to be factually inaccurate. This extended to, the Sentinel is informed, the position he took in closed session with regard to action that was discussed and voted upon.

The report makes reference to an article which ran in the Sentinel on August 25, 2023 under the headline “San Bernardino Poaching Salinas City Manager, With Hiring Scheduled Next Week.”

In the executive summary of the JL Group investigation, Carrigan is referred to not as he is in the investigation report as “Witness” A but rather as “Candidate #2.” The summary states, in part, “The city moved forward with an employ-

ment offer to Candidate #2 on August 22, 2023, which was promptly accepted. However, within three days of his acceptance, an unflattering article surfaced in the San Bernardino [County] Sentinel. This article provided a detailed accounting of the closed-session discussions about Candidate #2 and divulged the identities of the councilmembers who voted for, and against, his hiring.”

The article offered a cursory outline of Carrigan's background and history as an administrative echelon municipal employee, including that he had worked eight years as the economic development director in Stockton, was the assistant city manager of Sanger in Fresno County for several years, was the city manager of Los Banos in Merced County for two years, and that he had been hired as city manager with Merced,

the county seat of Merced County, on a three-year contract which was extended. The Sentinel article also reported, as was historically accurate, that in 2020, when Carrigan had complied with Governor Gavin Newsom's health precautions and mandates with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic he had upset then-Merced Mayor Mike Murphy by making purchases of certain items meant to meet the state's regulations without first consulting the city council, and he resigned in lieu of what looked might be a vote to terminate him. The Sentinel article filled in the top line of Carrigan's résumé by reporting that he was hired soon thereafter as Salinas' city manager, rising to the top in a competition against 77 other applicants.

The August 25 Sentinel article further noted that in Salinas Carrigan had wrestled with the same issues that bedevil San Bernardino, including an institutionalized budget deficit, crime, homelessness and efforts to create affordable housing. Referencing Carrigan's experience as an

Continued on Page 18

Los Angeles-Based Company Made Major Contributions To Politicians To Further Its Designs On Desert H₂O from page 9

fully run for the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors representing the First District, which extends into a portion of the East Mojave, which is also contained, in part, within the Third District. Cadiz, Inc. emerged over the years as a major donor to the campaigns of San Bernardino County supervisors Robert Lovinggood, James Ramos, Janice Rutherford, Curt Hagman, Dawn Rowe and Paul Cook. Cadiz, Inc. has continued to support Ramos since he made the transition to the California Assembly. The company has made substantial political donations over the years, totaling at least \$1.086 million.

In 2010, Cadiz, Inc. worked behind the scenes to create the Fenner Gap Mutual Water Company. In 2014, it further orchestrated the creation of the Fenner Valley Water Authority, a joint powers authority comprised of Fenner Gap Mutual Water Company, the Santa Margarita Water District and San Bernardino County.

Derry, who as a member of the board of supervisors had taken a stand against the Cadiz, Inc. water importation project, was defeated for reelection in 2012. Shortly thereafter, he went to work for Desmond & Louis Communications as the senior vice president of public affairs. In the run-up toward the formation of the Fenner Valley Water Authority in 2014, which carried with it the implication that San Bernardino County's entire governmental structure was going to endorse the Cadiz, Inc. water transfer to Orange County, Cadiz, Inc. retained Desmond & Louis to represent it, at which point Derry found himself promoting the Cadiz Water project and remaining silent on the formation of the Fenner

Valley Water Authority.

The Board of Supervisors in 2014, at that time consisting of Gary Ovitt, Josie Gonzales, Janice Rutherford, Robert Lovinggood and James Ramos voted to form the Fenner Valley Water Authority, in so doing surrendering roughly one third of the authority over the groundwater supply in the Cadiz and Fenner valleys to the Orange County-based board of directors of the Santa Margarita Water District and one third of the authority over the groundwater in the Cadiz and Fenner Valleys to Cadiz, Inc., as the Fenner Valley Mutual Water Company is essentially a creature of Cadiz, Inc.

During the four years the Trump Administration was in place, the federal government sought to streamline and lessen regulations pertaining to projects like the Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery & Storage Project.

Congressman Cook, reelected in 2014, 2016 and 2018 in part by hefty donations from Cadiz, Inc., its corporate officers or its investors, intensified his efforts to promote the project. He appealed to Interior Secretary Zinke to excise the Cadiz Valley from the Mojave Trails National Monument proposal. Including that expanse as part of the National Monument introduced further regulations over diversion of the desert's water assets out of the area. Ultimately, given Senator Feinstein's pull and the resistance of other members of Congress along with employees within his own agency, Zinke did not inculde Cook's suggestion in the Department of the Interior's creation of the new monument.

In 2021, Susan Kennedy, who served as Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's chief of staff, Governor Gray Davis's cabinet secretary, as a member of the California Public Utilities Commission and was the founder and chief executive officer of the energy company Advanced Microgrid Solutions before it was bought out by

AES/Siemens in 2020, was appointed to the Cadiz, Inc. Board of Directors. She moved up to the position of executive chairwoman of the board just a few months later. In December 2023, Cadiz announced that Kennedy would succeed Slater as Cadiz's chief executive officer and that Slater would move into a role as the company's senior advisor.

The executive suite change knelled what the company claims will be the ultimate an final push to make good on the water exportation project. Under Kennedy, the company is taking a different approach. Prior to sending water to Orange County, which it yet intends to do, it hopes to remake its image by casting off the guise of an entity stealing water from the poor desert to give it to rich coastal communities. Rather, it will first take that water from the southeast Mojave Desert and send it via a new pipeline to the northwest Mojave.

Under Kennedy, the Cadiz Water Project is now being represented as "California first fully integrated groundwater conservation and storage project."

While Kennedy headed the board of directors, the company followed through on a concept inaugurated by Slater in 2020, involving the purchase of pipelines from El Paso Natural Gas that had previously conveyed gas from the Texas and New Mexico gas fields to storage tanks. The idea replicates what Penn Phillips, the founder of modern Hesperia did in the 1950s when he used petroleum lines cannibalized from a dismantled oil field to serve as the water system for that community. The idea now is to use the fossil fuel pipelines Cadiz, Inc. has now taken possession to create an aqueduct running Kennedy says Cadiz's new focus will initially be on converting an old natural gas pipeline running 86 miles from Cadiz to Barstow, carrying water that will be offloaded at various points along the way to desert communities in

need of it or who are otherwise dependent on the state water project bringing water from up north. That method of slacking California's thirst is beset with challenges, not the least of which is that the large amounts of water moving to the southern part of the state has deprived the abundant fertile growing regions in the central part of the state, such as the San Joaquin Valley, is threatening agricultural production there, particularly in the face of what was for nearly a decade an implacable drought.

At this point, Cadiz, Inc. is downplaying or seems to have forgotten about and has abandoned the ale of water – lots of it – to the Santa Margarita Water District. Those in the know say that is not actually the case but making it seem so is the latest wrinkle in the company's strategy. What is actually going on is Cadiz corporate officers, led by Kennedy, are now focusing on removing water from the East Mojave just as before, but instead of sending it outside of the desert or outside of San Bernardino County, conveying it to the High Desert portion of the Mojave Desert, that being the communities in the Mojave River Valley communities of the Victor Valley – Hesperia, Apple Valley, Lucerne Valley, Victorville and Adelanto – as well as north-lying Barstow.

This will accomplish two goals.

By being a party to using San Bernardino County Mojave Desert water for so-called beneficial use elsewhere in the Mojave Desert within San Bernardino County, Cadiz, Inc. will avoid being accused of stealing the poorer and drier region's water for use by wealthier and wetter Orange County. This will provide the Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery & Storage Project a moral and environmental legitimacy that for nearly decades has eluded it. As importantly, the drafting of tens of thousands or even more than a hundred thousand acre-feet of water on an annual basis will estab-

lish an actual water use pattern far greater than the limited water use that existed at the Cadiz Land Company and later Cadiz, Inc. farms for growing fruits and vegetable. That established pattern of water use can then be employed by Cadiz, Inc. first claiming and then securing, presumably through San Bernardino County Superior Court and the California Department of Water Resources the water rights to the water deep beneath the East Mojave.

Under Kennedy, Cadiz, Inc., having greased the skids with generous political donations and appealing to city governments which have seen their jurisdictions and communities struggling with a multi-year drought, is now lining up support for the importation of water originating in the Cadiz and Fenner valleys to them.

Opportunistically, with the death of Feinstein last September and what they see as the prospect that Donald Trump will return to office following the November 2024 election, Cadiz, Inc. corporate officers are accelerating efforts to put things in place and line up all that will be required for a renewed effort to commandeer the East Mojave's water and sell it to Southern California's coastal communities at a profit exceeding billions of dollars over the next century.

This week, on April 16, the Hesperia City Council proved to be the latest governing board in San Bernardino County to sign off on the Cadiz, Inc. game plan.

In a report written up by Hesperia Director of Public Works/City Engineer Cassandra Sanchez and delivered to the city council by Hesperia City Manager Rachel Molina, the council was told about the latest permutation of the Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery & Storage Project or that part of it not aimed at sending water to Orange County but rather to the Victor Valley and Barstow, a proposal referred to as the

Mojave-San Bernardino One Water Project.

by and between the City of Hesperia and Fenner Gap Mutual Water Company. The City of Hesperia is part of an adjudicated water basin which is intended to remediate overdraft in the Mojave Basin Area by limiting the amount of water produced in specific subareas. The adjudication determines the free production allowance, which is the maximum amount of water a producer may pump in one year without incurring a replacement or make-up obligation. As a result of the judgment, the Hesperia Water District incurs replacement water obligations in the Alto Subarea when verified production amounts exceed the free production allowance for the water year. Historically, the city and the Hesperia Water District may meet these replacement water obligations by three mechanisms:

1) Assignment of carryover right or temporary transfer of unused free production allowance (i.e. lease) from interested water rights owners in the respective subarea at negotiated rates (this is a cost effective short-term option to meeting the production demands);

2) Purchas[ing] water from the Mojave Basin Area Watermaster at the current per acre-foot water rate which is derived from the State Water Project water rates; and/or

3) Purchas[ing] permanent water rights from interested parties in the Alto Subarea at negotiated rates. Purchase provides a long-term solution, but is costly and difficult to acquire."

Water rights in the Mojave River Basin of the Mojave Desert were adjudicated as a consequence of a lawsuit filed by the City of Barstow in May 1990 in Barstow Superior Court against the Mojave River's upstream users, including the cities of Adelanto, Victorville, Hesperia and the Town of Apple Valley, to which the Mojave Water Agency filed

Continued on Page 18

Antagonism Among Her Colleagues Toward Lame Duck Calvin Is So Great They Are Willing To Cost The City \$2.2 Million In Dealing With Carrigan To “Blacken” Her Name & Reputation As She Is About To Leave Office *from page 16*

economic development director who had pushed for development and economic expansion, including incentivizing development by governmental subsidizations of projects or through private/public partnerships, the Sentinel noted that formed the basis for San Bernardino’s decision-makers belief that possessed “what is called for in a management professional for their city.”

The Sentinel article did state, “One issue that local residents find disturbing about the San Bernardino City Council

majority’s apparent offer of employment to Carrigan and his willingness to accept it is Carrigan’s commitment in 2021, at the time of his hiring by Salinas, to remain as city manager. Much was made of his move to the city and purchase of a home there as a show of that commitment. That he is now breaking, or on the verge of breaking, that commitment and that the mayor and San Bernardino City Council are abetting him in the violation of that commitment is considered a poor omen or

inauspicious beginning of Carrigan’s tenure in San Bernardino.”

The JL Group’s use of the term “unflattering” in reference to the August 25 article more than implies that the Sentinel was drawn into or was actively participating with a network of Calvin’s surrogates in an orchestrated leaking of confidential information aimed at short-circuiting Carrigan’s prospect of becoming San Bernardino city manager. That a journalistic effort at evenhanded coverage of what was at that time a significant breaking story is so readily dismissed as propaganda gives rise to a variant interpretation, one that undercuts both the thoroughness and integrity of the investigation as well as the reliability of

the conclusion reached thereupon.

An inconsistency in the report is the manner in which it dwells upon the accounts of witnesses and the series of events that begin with the council majority’s gravitation toward selecting Carrigan as city manager which are interpreted to suggest Calvin selectively leaked information to torpedo his candidacy while it barely outlines the circumstance with regard to Calvin’s contention that Black’s prospect of becoming city manager was previously foreclosed by compromises of the confidentiality that was supposed to attend the application and selection process.

Carrigan’s claim that San Bernardino owes him \$2.2 million over the way in which Salinas

fired him after members of the council in that city learned that he had chosen to back out of his commitment to remain at the helm of that Central California city was the longest of longshots, particularly since Carrigan himself had spurned San Bernardino of his own free will, refusing to take the job it had offered him. With the release of the JL Group’s report, as checkered as it may be with regard to its overall factual basis, the city’s imprimatur is on an account which says one its own violated the confidentiality of Carrigan’s job application with the city offers conclusory language that can only strengthen Carrigan and embolden him to follow through with a lawsuit that some previously saw as an idle

threat. The city council’s waiver is all the more shocking, considering that following Calvin’s defeat for reelection on March 5, the council will no longer have her as a colleague in December. As a collective leading a city that a dozen years ago was forced by fiscal reality to declare bankruptcy and is yet facing financial challenges, the mayor and city council’s willingness to risk having to pay out to Carrigan more money than it would had to pay him to guide their city for four years to make a show of their antipathy to Calvin when they are already as a practical political matter done with her, demonstrates the malignity and dysfunction that has been crippling the county’s oldest and largest city for decades.

Hesperia Assisting Cadiz, Inc. In Its East Mojave Water Grab *from page 3*

a cross-complaint. The matter was removed to Riverside Superior Court where the case was overseen by Riverside County Superior Court E. Michael Judge Kaiser. A judgment setting water rights was entered in 1996, followed by appeals from multiple impacted parties and the rights were set in their entirety in 2002.

The Alto Subarea encompasses most of the populous Victor Valley and its waters serve Summit Valley, Hesperia, Victorville, Adelanto, Apple Valley, Oak Hills, Phelan and Helenale.

The Hesperia Water District pre-existed the founding of the City of Hesperia in 1988 and remained an independent entity until it was subsumed by the City of Hesperia in 1994. At present the city’s water division draws its supply from 15 wells, all of which are within the city’s 73.21 square mile limits.

Sanchez’ and Molina’s April 16 report to the city council continues, “The Fenner Gap Mutual Water Company has approached the city

with a potential fourth solution for the replacement water obligations by providing water from a currently undedicated water source to use toward groundwater basin replenishment. Using a new water supply from the Cadiz-Fenner Valley Watershed, the Cadiz Water Project has discussed a regional plan with the city, as well as other public agencies in the surrounding areas, and asked interested parties to sign a letter of intent to participate in the Mojave-San Bernardino One Water project. The Fenner Gap Mutual Water Company is a non-profit California mutual water company consisting of water providers participating in the Cadiz Water Project. The Cadiz Water Project is a water supply project that aims to transport water from the Cadiz and Fenner Valley, which is located approximately fifteen miles east of Amboy, California to the Greater Mojave Valley. Importantly, the Cadiz Water Project looks to capture and transport water that would otherwise be lost to evaporation and bring it to this region of San Bernardino County. The Cadiz Water Project will utilize the existing Northern Pipeline, which is a 220 mile pipeline that

extends from the Fenner Valley west to Kern County and through Barstow.”

According to Sanchez and Molina, “The Mojave-San Bernardino One Water project will eventually work together in the design, development, construction and operation of water infrastructure facilities necessary to utilize this water in the Mojave Basin Area. The letter of intent will initiate Hesperia’s participation in the Mojave-San Bernardino One Water Project. This project will be a collaborative effort by participating agencies in the design, development, construction, and operation of water infrastructure facilities necessary to utilize all potential sources of water to create water security, climate resiliency and equitable distribution of water resources in Mojave Basin and other connected regions in San Bernardino County. By participating in the Mojave-San Bernardino One Water Project, the letter of intent offers the good faith delivery of up to 75,000 acre-feet of water to the City of Hesperia. It is recommended that the city council authorize the city manager to approve a letter of intent.”

The letter of intent stated the City of Hesperia

will participate with Apple Valley, Victorville, Adelanto and Barstow and the Fenner Gap Mutual Water Company in coordinating resources towards infrastructure for the delivery of the water.

Hesperia resident Al Vogler called the deal with the Fenner Gap Mutual Water Company “a many-years-old attempt by Cadiz Water to pump and move water over 200 miles. The controversy of whether or not water evaporates from the surface of the Cadiz Dry Lake or in what quantity leaves the door open for many problems. Years ago, the County of San Bernardino capitulated their authority over San Bernardino County water in favor of Rancho Santa Margarita, a large conflict of interest. The issue of Fenner Gap water is so convoluted that I suggest a letter of intent not be issued, along with a \$25,000 fee due to them by Hesperia. Instead, place a baloot item asking Hesperia voters if they are in favor of higher taxes. The six-year-old failure of the Hesperia reclaimed water plant must be tied in with Fenner water and the continuing approval of major water-using developments by the city. The reclaimed water

plant cost \$40 million, I believe, and it doesn’t work. Consider all: Who pays and who benefits? Taxpayers pay. There is almost no information in the agenda on how much money in fees and taxes will be paid for an operational Fenner water project by taxpayers over 40 years. In a time of major inflation and costs and the loss of thousands of jobs, I ask: How long already has the City of Hesperia been discussing Fenner water in private?”

After a discussion in which the Hesperia City Council noted that the Mojave Water Agency, which emerged as the watermaster as a consequence of the 1990-2002 water adjudication process had repeatedly “ramped down,” i.e., further limited the city’s water allotments under the adjudication, putting the city in the position of having to find more wa-

ter sources.

Mayor Larry Bird said, “Water has been, is and will always will be the equivalent of gold in the desert community. Water is always required.”

Bird said the Mojave-San Bernardino One Water Project had the effect of “opening up new avenues [to obtain water after being ramped down.” He said the Mojave Water Agency’s reductions of the water available to the city under the adjudication is “outside our control. We can complain. We can stomp our feet but that is the reality. So, we do have to look for other water sources.” The council, with Bird, Councilman Cameron Gregg, Councilwoman Rebekah Swanson and Councilwoman Brigit Bennington present and Allison Lee absent, voted 4-to-0 to issue the letter of intent.

-Mark Gutglueck

Sabino Covets Grand Terrace City Council Post *from page 3*

Ward.

Running against Knaus is Henry Nickel, a Republican. Knaus and Nickel were the top vote-getters on March 5 and will now go head-to-head in November.

Making things particularly awkward is the consideration that Nickel is not only a Republican, he is a member of the San Bernardino County Republican Central Committee.

In her role with the Inland Empire Business Alliance and its political action committee, Sabino is active in de-

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Deputy Rode With Mongols *from page 3*

ganizations have been, over the years, subject to prosecution, with multiple convictions across the United States. A select number of the members of both clubs pride themselves on being “One-percenters,” a reference to a characterization made by authorities in reaction to the 1947 Hollister Riot during which a motorcycle rally grew violent which held that “99 percent of motorcycle riders are law-abiding citizens.”

Controversy, confusion and multiple conflicting representations attend whether Bingham had purposefully insinuated himself into the Mongols [subculture] and, if so, for what purpose. There is substantial evidence to suggest that Bingham was associating with several local Mongols chapters and that some of the sheriff’s department’s higher-ups were, at the very least, aware of that association. Some of the evidence, which is controverted by the sheriff’s department on an official level as well as by the San Bernardino County District Attorney’s Office, that the department was employing Bingham to gather information about the motorcycle gang’s activities and the nature of its hierarchy. If it is in fact the case that at least some within the department’s command echelon knew that as part of his civilian life while off-duty Bingham was attending Mongols rides and rallies and had been accepted into the Mongol subculture to the point that he could openly interact with the gang’s members and leaders, the legal ordeal that Bingham is now undergoing takes on a whole different complexion.

That several of the department’s lower-downs, in particular those who worked with him in the jail system, knew of his off-duty relationship with the gang has been established.

There is information to suggest that on a

multitude of occasions, Bingham’s extracurricular activities – his civilian life outside the realm of his work life as a cop – resulted in the production of information useful in the sheriff’s department’s operations, as he became privy in his capacity as a gun shop owner to potential or actual criminal activity through his or his employees’ interaction with customers or would-be customers.

In 2019, for example, Lance Corporal Rafael Aikens, who had been stationed at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, went on trial for the March 23, 2017 murders of Christy McKissic and her mother, Renee Metcalf, who were shot in their Twentynine Palms home. Aikens had been in a dating relationship with McKissic, whom he had met at the Virginian bar in downtown Twentynine Palms, where she worked with her mother. The San Bernardino County District Attorney’s Office put on a largely circumstantial case against Aikens, a machine gunner attached to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines at the time of killings. The case against him was strengthened by his alleged confiding in two of the Marines housed within his living quarters at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms and by the testimony of Bingham. Bingham told the jury that O’Three Tactical sold a 45-caliber handgun to Aikens a month before the killings. McKissic’s and Metcalf’s fatal wounds were inflicted by 45-caliber bullets. Aikens was convicted.

Evidence that Bingham was passing information along to investigators gleaned from his relationship with the Mongols is, at this time, less clear cut. Still, what was previously known and what emerged during the first day of his preliminary hearing this week is that Bingham’s department colleagues at the Central Jail in San Bernardino where he most recently worked,

including deputies also assigned to that jail, at least two sergeants and one lieutenant, knew of his Mongols association.

At his workplace at the San Bernardino Central Jail, Bingham had adorned his locker with multiple stickers containing Mongols regalia. The locker door was in full view of the more than a dozen deputies who regularly work the jail, as well as no fewer than two shift supervisors and, occasionally, a lieutenant who oversees the jail. At least some of the emblems had been on display for over a year.

At some point within the last six months, questions about exactly what Bingham’s relationship with the Mongols entailed were raised.

There was concern that in one way or another, he might be “furthering” the interests of the Mongols. A first area of concern was his access to information to which he was privy as a law enforcement officer, including CLETS and other databases, such as the JDIC, the Justice Data Interface Controller, a law enforcement data communications system operated by law enforcement agencies in the Southern California region and the NCIC, the National Crime Information Center, the central database used by the FBI for tracking crime-related information which serves as an information sharing and networking tool among federal, tribal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. Both systems have virtually instantaneous access to messaging, inquiry and message switching functions available on the computers used by a whole host of law enforcement agencies, potentially allowing a terminal operator to access information about operations, including undercover operations and operators.

According to Sheriff Shannon Dicus, in January the department opened an investigation into Bingham’s activities. It is not clear the degree to which that investigation covered

those aspects of Bingham’s actions that might have been carried out in conjunction and coordination with those arms of the department that might have been looking into the Mongol’s alleged criminal activity.

It appears that the department, in addition to monitoring Bingham in his workplace, was delving into aspects of his private life as well, including tracking his use of his personal communication devices/phone[s], including voice and text messages.

A glimpse with regard to how Bingham was being watched and what was observed was revealed during Bingham’s preliminary hearing at the San Bernardino Justice Center, which began Thursday, April 18, continued Friday and will continue on Monday, April 22.

Bingham is being represented by attorney Jeff Moore, who has asserted his client’s innocence, insisting that there were misrepresentations with regard to the circumstance leading up to and during his initial arrest on March 23.

According to reports and testimony, On March 23, a Saturday, Deputy Robert Stucki was surveilling Bingham, who was off duty, when he observed him riding a Harley-Davidson with a Mongols member near Onaga Trail and Elk Trail in Yucca Valley. They were riding their motorcycles within five feet of one another. Stucki lost sight of the pair, but then reacquired a visual fix on them as they were fueling their motorcycles together at the Circle K in Morongo Valley. Stucki further confirmed that Bingham and the Mongols member were together in that they were conversing at the Circle K. Based upon previous monitoring, Stucki knew Bingham and his companion were heading to a Mongols rally in Irwindale. Stucki followed them on Highway 62 toward the 10 Freeway. At some point Bingham and the other rider met up with another Mongols member. Knowing that the trio

would pass out of San Bernardino County for a portion of their sojourn toward Irwindale, Stucki contacted California Highway Patrol Sergeant Scott Beauchene through Highway Patrol dispatch, requesting assistance. Beauchene and another Highway Patrol Officer, Teodora Blanco, were positioned on the 10 Freeway near Highway Springs Avenue in Beaumont when they spotted the trio. Through visual observation and bumper pacing, Blanco determined that the motorcyclists were traveling somewhere around 75 to 80 miles per hour along a stretch of the 10 Freeway where the maximum speed limit was 70 miles per hour. Blanco made a speeding stop of the two Mongols members at 4:50 p.m. and Beauchene stopped Bingham at 4:51 p.m. The two Mongols members were wearing leather vests bearing Mongols insignia, referred to as “cuts.” Bingham was wearing a dark jacket. It was observed that he wore a belt with a buckle displaying a black M and his helmet had Mongols symbology. Early during the traffic stop, the CHP officers learned that both Bingham and one of the Mongols were carrying knives. When Bingham was frisked, it was learned that he was carrying a loaded Glock 9 millimeter pistol and two magazines for it. At some point, during the stop, while out of earshot of the two Mongols members, Bingham confided to one of the CHP officers that he was the CHP officer.

Having been informed that Bingham was a police officer, and aware that police officers routinely carry weapons while off duty, neither Beauchene nor Blanco believed there to be grounds to arrest Bingham. The two Mongols members were cited for speeding and released. At some point, Stucki arrived. The CHP ran a registration check on the Glock, entering the nomenclature US when making the inquiry, unaware, apparently, that the US was a designa-

tion to indicate it was licensed with the federal government rather than the state. As a consequence, a report was returned that through the California Highway Patrol that the gun was unlicensed and unregistered. That report was in error. Later, when the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department ran a registration check on the weapon, properly omitting the US on its registration number and searching for it on a federal registry rather than a state registry, a report came back that the gun was registered to Bingham.

On March 23 on the side of the I-10 Freeway, Stucki effectuated Bingham’s arrest on the grounds that he believed he had reasonable cause to believe Bingham had committed a felony by being in possession of an unregistered loaded firearm while participating in a criminal street gang.

Stucki made the arrest on those grounds despite Section 830.5 of the California Penal Code allowing law enforcement officers to carry a firearm while off duty and no arrest of the two Mongols members Bingham was riding with relating to their involvement in any criminal street gang activity having been made.

Bingham’s Glock and its two extra magazines were confiscated. Following his arrest of Bingham, Stucki entrusted his prisoner to Blanco, who transported him to the Smith Correctional Facility in Banning. While there, he was searched more thoroughly, at which point it was noted that he was wearing a T-shirt beneath his jacket emblazoned “Fuck the 81!” and “SYLM.” The number “81” is a gang code for the Hells Angels, the Mongols’ rivals. The acronym “SYLM,” translates to “Support Your Local Mongols.” On a chain around his neck was a ring with a black letter M signet, which was interpreted to refer to the Mongols.

Bingham posted bail later that day.

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Is Sabino A Republican Or Democrat? Only Her Conscience Knows For Sure *from page 18*

termining which candidates for local office the organization is going to support, securing money for those candidates and then either conveying it to them directly or using it to run independent expenditure activity to support their candidates,

The research Sabino does for the Inland Empire Business Alliance in determining which candidates it should support

includes interviewing the candidates. Despite the consideration that both Sabino and Nickel are members of the Republican Central Committee and that they have been attending monthly meetings of that organization together for the last two years, Sabino did not arrange an interview with Nickel.

"I would have been more than willing to be considered by the Inland Empire Business Alliance for an endorsement and any support it would offer to my campaign," Nickel told the Sentinel. He said he was disap-

pointed that Sabino did not reach out to him.

Nickel added, "It also appears Council Candidate Kim Knaus' funds are being used to pay for the services of San Bernardino County GOP Treasurer and former Chairman Robert Rego's company, Parkview Business Services, as Knaus' campaign treasurer. San Bernardino County GOP bylaws are clear that members of the central committee are subject to removal if advocating for the election of candidates opposing SBCGOP-endorsed candidates. If members of

the SBCGOP are in fact advocating for any of my opponents in the 5th Ward City Council race, they are subject to removal from the San Bernardino County Central Committee."

An effort is now under way to have Cothran rescind his appointment of Sabino as the third District board member. Simultaneously, a coalition of Republican Central Committee members is determined to extend an invitation to Sabino to leave the committee altogether. Some want to make an effort to ensure she is not appointed to

the Grand Terrace City Council, which has traditionally been a vanguard of Republicanism.

Republicans are bound by the 11th Commandment which prohibits speaking ill of a fellow Republican.

Sabino has spurned efforts by the Sentinel to have her respond to explain why she is assisting a Democrat in a run against a Republican and charges that she is a Democrat wolf in Republican sheep's clothing, a turncoat, a traitor, a RINO, a phony, a pretender, an imposter, a Democrat-Lover and

someone who is generally unworthy of wearing the mantle of Ronald Reagan, Barry Goldwater, Earl Warren, Dwight Eisenhower, Robert Taft, Robert LaFollette, Teddy Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln.

Local Democrats say they are doing nothing different with Sabino than what Republicans have been doing for years, which has consisted of a strategy of insinuating agents provocateur and disrupters within the ranks of the county Democratic Party.

-Mark Gutglueck

Circumstance Suggests Deputy Is Either Mentally Ill Or Engaged In A Risky Deep Game Intelligence Gathering Effort By Recruiting Into The Mongols *from page 18*

Meanwhile, Stucki in conjunction with other members of the department prepared an affidavit for a search warrant of Bingham's residence in Twentynine Palms and his work locker, memorializing the events of that day leading up to Bingham's arrest, noting that it was anticipated that it was believed Bingham was in possession of 150 licensed firearms and that the search of Bingham's home and his personal space at his workplace would turn up evidence of Bingham's participation within, and furtherance of the interests of, a criminal street gang. San Bernardino County Superior Court Judge Christopher Pallone, upon reading the affidavit, issued a search warrant for Bingham's premises at 7225 Adobe Road and his locker at the sheriff's department's Central Jail in San Bernardino that were served that day. While a deputy remained on watch outside, Stucki, Detective Jeremy Spinney and Detective Joshua Gile went into Bingham's home to search it, where they came upon "about 160 firearms." These included a Remington 870

shotgun altered to fire less-than-lethal rounds that the department later said was the property of the department and which Bingham had stolen from the Morongo Valley Sheriff's Station. Other notable finds, according to the department were a modified, fully automatic assault rifle with an attached grenade launcher, a customized AR-15 12-inch barrel assault rifle, four silencers and two projectile explosive devices. The cache represented, a detective said, "a virtual arsenal."

Grenade launchers, which are specially designed, large caliber projectile weapons, can be legally owned in several states, although they are subject to restrictions. They are classified as a destructive device by the National Firearms Act. Silencers can be legally purchased and owned under the penal codes of 42 states, with California, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and Rhode Island having outlawed them outright or restricting them to those who have a permit to outfit their guns with them.

Also found at Bingham's home was a leather "cut" or vest with multiple Mongols patches and insignia, including a red and white "1%er" [one-percenter] patch, together with Mongols T-shirts, along with other Mongols paraphernalia, stickers and memorabilia. Similarly, Mongols indicia was found

at his workplace, in his locker and on the locker door, including a sticker that said "RFKNSIDE," an acronym for River-Fucking-Side, a business operation controlled by the Mongols, as well as one that used the term "Victimville," the name of the Mongols' chapter in Victorville.

Bingham was suspended from his job, but remained free for more than 11 days. He was rearrested on April 4, and has been in custody, isolated from the general jail population, ever since. He was initially charged with 10 felony counts, which have since been amended to 18 felony counts: PC32625(A)-F: possession of a machine gun; PC33210-F: possession of a short barreled rifle or shotgun; five counts of PC186.22(B)(1)(A)-E: engaging in street gang terrorism; one count of PC487(D)(2)-F: grand theft of a firearm; one count of PC496(A)-F: receiving/etc known stolen property; five counts of PC18710(A)-F: possession of a destructive device; and four counts of PC33410-F: possession of a silencer.

During Bingham's preliminary hearing at the San Bernardino Justice Center in Department 18 before Judge Alexander Martinez, Deputy District Attorney Alberto Juan elicited testimony and provided documentation that Bingham used the alias Charles Tate to communicate with members of the Mongols, in-

vestigators maintain, based on their analysis of two cellphones seized at Bingham's home, as well as of two distinct Instagram accounts he maintained that were accessed by Detective Spinney. In his private discussions, Bingham dwelled upon "omerta," the code of silence maintained by Mongols with regard to activities they engage in. Omerta was imprinted on Bingham's motorcycle helmet as was the number 1312, a code conveying that "all cops are bastards."

According to Gile, at various times Bingham expressed hostility toward the sheriff's department in his interactions with Mongols members, including saying that law enforcement officers taken together compose "the biggest gang in California."

Bingham had apparently told his wife that he had accumulated the various Mongols-related indicia, including the patched cut for "training purposes" relating to his work as a deputy.

The sheriff's department's admission that the Glock Bingham was in possession of at the time of his March 23 arrest greatly complicates – indeed endangers – the case against him. Bingham carrying that gun while he was in the company of the two Mongols members formed the basis of his arrest on the charge of carrying a loaded firearm while participating in a the illicit activity of a criminal street gang.

That gun the he was carrying was his, was registered, that he authorized as a law enforcement officer to be carrying a gun and that no arrest of his two motorcycle-riding Mongol companions was made on March 23 greatly undercuts the validity of Bingham's arrest. Moreover, Bingham's arrest and his possession of an unlicensed firearm formed the basis of the search warrant that resulted in the seizure of the weaponry, devices, silencers and Mongols paraphernalia at his home and workplace. Given that the firearm was indeed licensed is likely to render the search warrant invalid, in which case the evidence seized as a result would be deemed inadmissible in the proceedings against him.

Jeff G. Moore, Bingham's attorney, in motions before Judge Martinez has alleged the March 23 arrest was invalid and that the case that has flowed from the arrest is entirely without merit.

In a press release put out by the sheriff's department on April 4 at the time of Bingham's arrest, the department was yet maintaining that Bingham's Glock was unregistered.

Bingham, a rifleman in the Marines who was a firearms expert and aficionado, owned and operated O'Three Tactical as much for the ability it provided him to pursue his personal indulgence in and support of the Second Amendment

as for personal financial profit. While the operation made enough money to pay its employees, Bingham's stated commitment to O'Three Tactical's customers that it would make guns and ammunition available at pre-Obama Administration prices was severely tested by the increase in demand for both firearms and ammunition that accompanied the rioting nationwide following in the aftermath of the May 25, 2020 death of George Floyd during his arrest by Minneapolis Police. O'Three Tactical, which might have otherwise enjoyed a windfall as a result of the increase in sales, at first kept up with that demand by scrambling to find ammo and guns from creatively derived sources, as supplies of both dwindled because of the stepped-up demand and an accompanying rise in wholesale and retail gun prices. As the gun-buying panic fueled by the riots not only ate into his profit margin but created a circumstance in which he was functioning at a loss, Bingham, stating that he was hemorrhaging money, shuttered O'Three Tactical in June 2021. The date of the expiration of his federal firearms license or the possibility that Bingham renewed it despite the closure of O'Three Tactical could have a bearing on whether the charges against him with regard to the silencers and explosive devices found at his home will stand.