

Ontario 'Superstar' Lampkin's Demise Threatens Wider Exposure Of Pay-To-Play Ethos

A series of narratives are circulating around Ontario in which Planning Commissioner D'Andre Lampkin figures quite prominently. Among city officials and the business and political establishment that has sustained the city's elected leaders in office, there is concern that an exposure of the details relating to Lampkin's still-evolving change in fortune will rip the cover off the facade of propri-

ety constructed to keep the pay-to-play ethos that predominates at Ontario City Hall hidden.

Lampkin represents a fascinating case study in the social and political implication found in the intersection of charity, voluntarism, business interests and political ambition, elements of which are yet playing out in an ongoing string of unfolding events.

At the very center of the basic narrative is

Lampkin himself. His profile on the website for his foundation describes him as "the youngest of three brothers, the son of a single mother, and the product of the poor, gang-ridden, and drug-infested South Central Los Angeles. Despite his upbringing, Mr. Lampkin has made it his mission to make a positive contribution to society through public service." Lampkin himself has said that his rough up-

bringing in South LA instilled in him "perseverance and compassion for the poor."

In 2006, he went to work as a deputy with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, spending most of his first nine years there as a transit operations officer patrolling Los Angeles County bus and rail systems. In 2015, he was moved into the prestigious assignment of an investigator with

the department's mental evaluation team, in which he responded to incidents involving the mentally ill and assisting field, custody, and operations personnel with assessing mental health of detainees and prisoners. The position required that he work closely with the Los Angeles Department of Mental Health, particularly when dealing with incidents involving individuals with known mental

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In A Horrific Second, Kid Retrieves Gun From Glove Box And Kills His Brother

A handgun kept in an unlocked glove box was accessed by a 7-year old who then discharged it into the head of his two-year-old brother, killing him, according to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

The incident occurred on December 2 in the parking lot at 8250 Day Creek Boulevard, near the intersection of Foothill Boulevard and Day Creek Boulevard in Rancho Cucamonga.

Deputies were dispatched to the shopping center, which hosts Floor & Decor, AT Home, Friar Tux, Sake Me Sushi, Buffalo Wild Wings, Metro Supermarket, the Red Robin Restaurant and the Vitamin Shoppe at 3:56 p.m. They learned upon arrival that the toddler had been shot once in the head.

According to a state- See P 3

Wife Stabs Husband To Death, Wounds Their Son

A 44-year-old Needles woman was arrested yesterday for the stabbing death of her husband and the wounding a juvenile believed to be their son. On Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 4:57 a.m., deputies from the Needles Sheriff's Station responded to a residence on Walnut Street following the report of a stabbing. When deputies arrived, they located two victims. A 16-year-old male who had been stabbed was transported to the hospital where he remains. Bryan Jackson, 48, was also located See P 3

Clayton To Return To Deputy City Manager Role As Effort To Oust Carvalho Stalls

In the eyeball-to-eyeball stare down between San Bernardino Acting City Manager Rochelle Clayton and City Attorney Sonia Carvalho, Clayton has blinked.

Carvalho has been with the city since 2018, when she was brought in to serve as assistant city attorney. That was some 18 months after the city's residents had voted in November 2016 to re-

calibrate the municipal charter the county seat had been functioning under since 1905. The new charter did away with the administrative authority the mayor had formerly been entrusted with and eliminated the elected city attorney, city treasurer and city clerk positions, effective in 2020. In preparation for the change, then-City Attorney Gary Saenz

had shed some half-dozen staff attorneys in his office and the city made ready to hire an outside firm to serve in the capacity of general counsel to the city. The law firm of Best Best & Krieger, which is the largest public agency law firm in the State of California, was chosen to fill that role. Carvalho is a partner in that firm. When Saenz departed in 2020, Carvalho stepped into the role of city attorney and another partner, Thomas Rice, replaced her as assistant city attorney. Jason Baltimore another partner, was made deputy city attorney. One of the firm's associates, Thomas Maldonado, was retained to advise and represent the planning commission. Elizabeth Hull, a partner with the firms, is advising the city with regard to the disposition of the

Carousel Mall property.

Over the years that Best Best & Krieger served as the city's general counsel, Carvalho and the members of her firm gave the city and its officials what has been generally deemed sound advice as well as what some contend was less than perfect counsel. In many cases, city officials heeded their lawyers and in others,

some or all of the city's officials did not adhere to the direction they had been given. There were and remain multiple examples of the city having been blindsided by circumstances and events in which entirely unanticipated or unforeseen developments led to litigation or legal challenges the lawyers from Best Best & Krieger had no prior input or

See P 2

Different Outcomes For Warehouse & Apartment Proposals In Redlands

In the course of two weeks, late last month and early this month, the Redlands City Council considered two aggressive development projects. Ultimately, it rejected the first, a semi-industrial project brought before it on November 19 and gave approval to a high-density residential project on December 3.

Prologis, a major development concern based in San Francisco, earlier this year tendered an application to construct a 10.9-acre warehouse and logistics distribution facility with 25 truck loading docks at 301 Tennessee Street.

The property in question was previously developed, having hosted the now-shut-

See P 3

San Manuel Mission Indians Tribe Making \$1 Million Available For Fire Recovery Efforts

In one of its most honored traditions, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians on December 3 celebrated Giving Tuesday, announcing on that date it is providing eight grants in an amount totaling \$1 million to support recovery, conservation, and wildfire prevention efforts in the communities threatened by recent wildfires. The

grants, aimed at helping restore and protect vital ecosystems, provide critical resources to local organizations and agencies working on the front lines of recovery, environmental protection, and community safety.

"Giving Tuesday is a day that calls upon us to reflect on the power of collective generosity," said Lynn Valbuena,

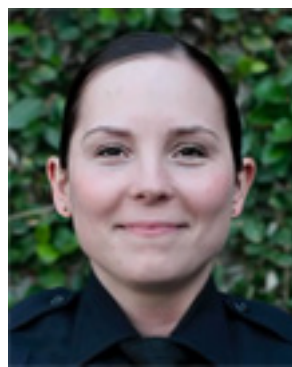
Chairwoman of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. "We are honored to support our 2024 grant recipients in their efforts to rehabilitate lands affected by the recent wildfires and invest in the long-term health of our communities and ecosystems. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians is deeply committed to preservation

and stewardship of the cultural and natural resources of the region."

These grants are particularly significant as they come at a time when many of these regions are still recovering from devastating wildfires that have threatened homes, wildlife, and natural resources. In addition to providing financial support, the

Tribe hopes to strengthen the resilience of these communities and protect the areas that are vital to both the environment and the people who live there.

The Tribe's Giving Tuesday grants will be distributed to the following organizations, each dedicated to addressing the pressing needs of their respective See P 3



Caitlin Teague

Just short of her ten-year anniversary with

the Upland Police Department and her role as a law enforcement professional, Detective Caitlin Teague has died.

Born in Missouri, she obtained her bachelor of arts degree and worked as a social worker, earning a master's degree in public administration.

In 2014, she changed professions, becoming an officer with See P 3

Upland Police Detective Caitlin Teague, 40, Was With The Department 10 Years

Lampkin Came Across As Personifying The Ideal Of The Kid Who Survived The Mean Streets Of South Central LA To Become A Law Enforcing & Medical Service Providing, Kindness-Dispensing Humanitarian Of The First Order *from front page*

health issues or suicide attempts.

In 2016, Lampkin founded Care Staffing Professionals, which, in Lampkin's words, served to "match high quality health care professionals to hospitals and medical offices."

In 2017, he created the D'Andre D. Lampkin Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization established, in his words, to effectuate "positive opportunities and change for individuals, communities, and environments. Our goal is to sponsor and develop programs and initiatives that lead to the evolution of stronger communities and positively impact individuals wanting to lead happier and healthier lives."

His foundation was, Lampkin said, "focused on societal problems, the prevention of those problems, and viable so-

lutions. In short, we are a nonprofit that makes life better for the people we serve."

Among Lampkin's talents is the ability to network and create infectious enthusiasm in others for the challenges he would take on. This inspired volunteers and brought in donations and assistance, sometimes from unexpected sources. Through the generosity of James Previti, the owner of the development company Frontier Homes, the Andre D. Lampkin Foundation took up quarters in the Frontier Building located near the Ontario Convention Center. Those headquarters contained the foundations main office and a number of other features, including conference and meeting rooms, a classroom and a food pantry. The largest conference room was

used as a community gathering hub, what was termed "a community gathering and resource site open to community members who are not a part of official organizations but have a strong desire to network and work with neighbors on community projects." The Foundation encouraged grassroots projects, neighborhood block parties, informational briefings, civic engagement activities, leadership development, community assessment, demonstration projects, and resource distribution among neighbors. The classroom at the foundation headquarters served as the setting for meetings, conferences, presentations, workshops, training sessions and seminars.

While the foundation did not achieve a high profile during the first two-and-a-half years of its existence, in 2020, with the advent of the coronavirus pandemic, it came into its own. With the state's sequestering mandates and many people confined to their own homes or premises

under semi-quarantine conditions, access to and the distribution of food and basic items as well as medicine and medical supplies became difficult and problematic.

According to Ontario Mayor Paul Leon, "Everyone who went through that, with the stay-at-home mandates and the isolation of much of our most vulnerable residents, there was a real challenge making sure people were checked on and had adequate essentials, while making sure they were not exposed to the virus. During COVID, D'Andre was an absolute superstar. He and his people would always find a way to get supplies to them."

Later that year, in December 2020, Lampkin was appointed to the Ontario Planning Commission after Leon nominated him and the entirety of the city council endorsed him.

In 2021, Lampkin was made the vice president of the Los Angeles Region Community Recovery Organization, which was created in response to the devastation of the

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Woolsey Fire, which started in Los Angeles County and spread north to Ventura County in November 2018, burning 96,949 acres, destroying 1,643 structures, killing three people and prompting the evacuation of more than 295,000 people. The Los Angeles Region Community Recovery Organization coordinates disaster recovery efforts and the provision of resources in areas affected by disasters.

It is not altogether clear whether Lampkin fully understood from

the outset the context into which he had been appointed to the planning commission. Ontario more than three decades ago evolved into what is now San Bernardino County's dominant municipality in terms of its financial status, speaking strictly in terms of revenue taken in by the city government. While other cities in the county such as Chino Hills, Upland, Rancho Cucamonga, Grand Terrace and Redlands are populated by residents/homeown-

Continued on Page 4

Earlier This Year, Clayton Serendipitously Benefited From The Firing Of The City Manager Who Had Just Hired Her As Deputy City Manager *from front page*

involvement. In at least a few cases, Carvalho and her colleagues coached the city through a legal minefield unscathed or relatively so; on occasion, the firm gave advice to city to stand its ground, leading to a favorable outcome. In some other cases where the city fought rather than folded, it fared worse. In several cases – including ones brought by three former employees against the city and former Mayor John Valdivia as well as one brought against it by a man, Steve Carrigan, whom the council offered to hire as city manager but who later spurned that offer – Best Best & Krieger convinced the council to settle with the plaintiffs that some thought excessive. On occasion, Carvalho has grown confrontational

in public with some or all members of the city council. She openly accused unnamed members of the city council of making misrepresentations, outright lying or deliberately withholding information, throwing a pall over the entire panel. Over the last year, a testy relationship has developed between Treasure Ortiz and Carvalho, who was elected to the city council representing the Seventh Ward in November. Ortiz has been critical of Carvalho, while also being outspokenly critical of several members of the council. In June, Carvalho at a council meeting characterized Ortiz as someone who "knowingly and maliciously make[s] false statements."

Ortiz ran for mayor in the 2022 election, placing fourth behind the incumbent Valdivia, while

Helen Tran and former City Attorney James Penman finished first and second. Tran beat Penman in the November 2022 runoff. Thereafter, there was a frosty relationship between Ortiz and Tran, based on a multitude of policy differences. Recently, however, Tran and two of the current but outgoing members of the city council, Ben Reynoso in the Fifth Ward and Kim Calvin in the Sixth Ward who were defeated in their March primary races for reelection, have made clear they want the city to part with Carvalho and her firm entirely to replace her. In recent weeks, Tran began casting around for another two votes on the council to support jettisoning Carvalho. She was hopeful that those two votes might be provided by Seventh Ward Councilman Damon Alexander, who like Reynoso and Calvin, was voted out of office in the March pri-

mary and will leave the council on December 18; or Third Ward Councilman Juan Figueroa; or perhaps Second Ward Councilman Sandra Ibarra. To effectuate the city attorney's firing would require five votes of the eight total votes to be cast by the mayor and seven council members.

Rochelle Clayton, who had worked 17 years in the finance department with San Bernardino County and, later held the positions of finance director with the City of La Habra Heights, chief financial officer for both the High Desert Water District in Yucca Valley and the West Valley Water District in Rialto, administrative services director and deputy city manager with Banning before she became assistant city manager in Menifee, was lured to San Bernardino to serve as deputy city manager by then-City Manager Charles Montoya in April of this year. Not quite six weeks later, on

May 22, the city council fired Montoya and designated Clayton as interim city manager. Over the next four months, Clayton built enough of a rapport with the mayor and entirety of the council that on October 2, during a closed session back-and-forth with her, the council assented to having the qualifier "interim" removed from her title and extending an employment offer to her to thereby finalize her appointment as full-fledged city manager. The council resolved to do just that at the next regularly scheduled council meeting. Because the council was engaged with a California League of Cities meeting on October 16, the meeting scheduled for that day was canceled, and the hiring was pushed off until the November 6 meeting.

In the interim, however, based upon Councilman Ted Sanchez's inquiry, carried out under the auspices of the California Public Records

Act, it was learned that the California Department of Housing and Community Development in July had approved providing the City of San Bernardino with a \$17 million Homekey Program grant to be used for its effort to establish a comprehensive homeless services and housing facility on the former School of Hope campus on Sixth Street, which Clayton had not informed the council about and which she without input from the council or informing its members had turned down.

The revelation that the city had foregone the reception of the grant because of Clayton's unilateral decision gave enough members of the council pause that the decision to finalize the contract with her on November 6 was continued to a future date.

On December 18, what is to be the newly composed city council *Continued on Page 5*

San Manuel Tribe Funding Fire Recovery Efforts *from front page*

regions:

The Wildlands Conservancy will receive a \$200,000 grant to support clean up and restoration efforts to Bluff Lake which was severely impacted by the Line Fire and will also provide support for replanting of vegetation and removal of invasive growth.

The Mojave Desert Land Trust will receive a \$200,000 to support the design and planning of a comprehensive fire

management response plan that can be implemented by MDLT and be shared with other organizations and entities as a resource.

The San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust will receive a \$100,000 grant to aid in the implementation of a seed bank; this will support collecting and growth of native plants and trees in the mountain area after wildfires or other disasters occur.

The Center for Biological Diversity will receive a \$100,000 grant to support relationship building between tribes,

and lead land stewardship projects and projects in advocacy to protect sacred sites.

The Victor Valley College Foundation will receive a \$100,000 grant to provide support for students of the "Fire Fighter I" academy to help increase the number of trained fire personnel.

The Arrowbear Lake Fire Department will receive a \$100,000 grant to help purchase emergency rescue equipment and make modifications to the existing station.

The Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians will receive a \$100,000 grant

to purchase emergency rescue equipment.

The Apple Valley Fire Protection District will receive a \$100,000 grant to purchase emergency generators for Stations 332 and 334 allowing the stations to maintain operations during critical times enabling effective and efficient response.

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians has long been a leader in charitable giving and environmental advocacy. By supporting these organizations, the Tribe continues its tradition of fostering sustainable practices and contribut-

ing to the well-being of local communities.

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians is a federally recognized Indian tribe situated on its own reservation near Highland, which includes the Yaamava' Resort & Casino at San Manuel.

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians exercises its inherent sovereign right of self-governance and provides essential services for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services, and promoting social, economic, and cultural

development. As the Indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys, mountains, and high deserts, the Serrano people of San Manuel have called this area home since time immemorial and are committed to remaining a productive partner in the San Bernardino region.

More can be learned about the tribe at <http://www.sanmanuel-nsn.gov> and those wanting to know more about the tribe's acts of generosity can satisfy their curiosity at www.SanManuel-Cares.org.

Upland Detective's Time On Earth Restricted To A Mere Four Decades *from front page*

the Upland Police Department.

Teague worked patrol for several years, earning the position of field training officer.

In May of 2021, she

was designated a school resource officer,, in which capacity, according to Upland Police Chief Marcello Blanco, ""She touched thousands of lives, bridged the gap between law enforcement and our youth, and became a role model to countless students who looked up to her."

In July of 2022, Teague was promoted to the rank of detective. She

worked property crimes and crimes against children/elders. In addition, she was the team leader of the Upland Police Department Crisis Negotiation Team. In addition, she was for four years the department's Explorer Program advisor for several years, and also functioned as the department's taser and CPR instructor. Most recently, in the face of rising fen-

tanyl overdose deaths, she was tapped by Chief Blanco to instruct her colleagues in the use of Narcan.

A Rancho Cucamonga resident, she suffered, on November 24, an unanticipated medical emergency, requiring hospitalization. She succumbed that evening, 27 days shy of what would have been her 41st birthday.

Detective Teague is survived by her husband, Upland Police Department Lieutenant Lon Teague, her mother, father, three sisters, one brother, two brothers-in-law, two nephews, one niece, and three stepchildren.

Of her passing, the Upland Unified School District noted, "The loss of Caitlin Teague, our former school re-

source officer, is deeply felt by our entire school community. Her unwavering dedication, kindness, and positive spirit touched many lives, making a lasting impact on both students and staff. We send our warmest condolences, love, and strength to her family, friends, and those who knew her."

-M.G.

Prologis Unable To Convince Redlands Council To Overturn Planning Commission's Denial Of Its Warehouse Proposal *from front page*

tered La-Z-Boy furniture manufacturing factory.

Prologis asked the city to permit it to erect a facility that would tower over and dwarf the immediately proximate commercial structures in the area. Prologis identified no specific tenant for the warehouse, but indicated that it was anticipated whoever came to occupy it would likely dispatch more than 115

semi-trucks from the facility per day. The land use professionals on the city's planning staff made a recommendation that the city give go-ahead to the project.

When the Redlands Planning Commission took up the matter on May 28, residents and some commissioners expressed reservations with regard to a glut of logistics facilities in the region, environmental risks and hazards, the large diesel-powered semi-trucks with their unhealthy exhaust emissions that are part of warehouse operations, the traffic issues that would be created by 115 trucks or more departing from and returning

to the warehouse, the potential that hazardous substances were to be stored at and transported from the facility, the consideration that there were two schools near the site and the incompatibility of the warehouse with surrounding structures and land uses, including the ESRI campus and a high-density multi-family residential neighborhood 700 feet from the project site. The commission denied approval for the project.

Prologis, asserting that the commission's findings in forming the basis for the denial "were inadequate and lacked justification," appealed that denial to the city council. According

to Prologis, the project, a light industrial use by definition, would not be in conflict with city's zoning codes, general plan or land use standards. Nor would the intensity of truck traffic exceed that which existed when the land was being used by La-Z Boy, according to the company.

In its appeal, Prologis disputed that the project would entail a threat to public health and safety. In making this assertion, it cited a traffic impact assessment the company paid for that reached the conclusion that the 115 trucks sojourning from the warehouse would only have "negligible impact on congestion at

the intersection most affected by the proposed project."

Prologis disputed the planning commission finding that the 40-foot height of the building was not explicitly prohibited by the city's municipal code, which has no explicit limitation on the height of industrial buildings.

Furthermore, according to Prologis, the streets in the area had been designed to accommodate trucks of the type to be used by any future warehouse tenant. And the amount of truck traffic that the project would generate would not result in an excessive amount of exhaust such that it would

exceed that which is anticipated in the regional air quality standard plan propounded by the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

To overcome the commission rejection of the project, the city council had to make a reversal with a majority vote.

Councilmen Paul Barich and Mario Saucedo were in favor of overturning the planning commission. Barich said Prologis was willing to change the intensity and nature of its proposal to match what the impact of the La-Z-Boy operation. Saucedo said the planning commission's rejection of the project was not in keeping with

Continued on Page 10

Needles Man Knifed By His Wife Dies *from front page*

inside the home with multiple stab wounds. Lifesaving measures were attempted. Jackson, however, was pronounced deceased at the scene by emergen-

cy medical personnel. The homicide detail of the sheriff's department's specialized investigations division was thereafter dispatched to the scene, and assumed the investigation. Detectives identified Jackson's wife, Carolyn Jackson, as a suspect. Carolyn Jackson was located nearby

and taken into custody. She was booked in at the High Desert Detention Center on PC 187 – murder and PC 664/187 – attempted murder charges. She remains in custody without bail. An autopsy will be conducted on Jackson to determine the cause of death.

7-Year-Old Shoots, Kills 2-Year-Old Brother *from front page*

ment obtained by the *Sentinel*, while the 7-year-old and his brother were inside the cab of a truck and their mother was loading just-pur-

chased merchandise into the truck bed, the gun fired once.

Sheriff's deputies responded just before 4 p.m. to the shooting in the parking lot of a shopping center at 8250 Day Creek Blvd., where they found the 2-year-old boy had been shot, according to the San Bernardino

County Sheriff's Department.

The two-year-old was immediately transported to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.



Lampkin Was Brought Into The Ontario Establishment Fold With The Honorific Of A Planning Commission Appointment

from front page

ers who on average enjoy larger salaries, personal income and household income than the residents of Ontario, the city governmental structure in Ontario – City Hall – takes in more money in the combined form of sales tax, property, fees and both state and federal subventions than does any other city or incorporated town in San Bernardino County. Indeed, Ontario is so far ahead of the curve in this regard that over the past decade-and-a-half, its municipal income level has been consistently more than double the income of the cities – varying between Rancho Cucamonga, Fontana and Victorville – that qualified in any particular year as the second wealthiest city. In practical terms, this has meant that Ontario has an annual budget that is more than that of its two closest municipal rivals in the county combined.

Multiple factors combine to give Ontario its financial edge over other cities.

Its sheer size at this point – 50 square miles – makes it larger than all but four of the county's 23 other municipalities. Of those, only the City of San Bernardino is substantially urbanized throughout its 59.2 square miles. The cities of Victorville, Hesperia and Twentynine Palms and the Town of Apple Valley, at 74.01 square miles, 73.1 square miles, 59.14 square miles and 73.19 square miles, respectively, all feature substantial expanses of what is essentially undeveloped desert land.

Ontario has ten separate highly concentrated commercial districts, consisting of the Holt and Mission Avenue corridors extending west from Montclair; along major portions of Mountain Avenue from its north end at its intersection with the 10 Freeway to its south end and its intersection with the 60 Freeway; on Euclid Avenue in its downtown

area; on Euclid proximate to the 60 Freeway on the south side of the city; along Fourth Street in the area where it intersects with both Grove Avenue and the 10 Freeway; near the interstices of Haven, Milliken, Grove and Vineyard avenues in proximity to the 60 Freeway; and the environs that includes and surrounds the Mills shopping mall is endowed with dense commercial uses, virtually any three of which equal or exceed the mercantile districts of ten of the county's smaller cities. In total overall, it substantially outdistances its closest competitors in that regard, including Victorville, Rancho Cucamonga, Fontana, San Bernardino, Chino, Redlands and Chino Hills.

At the same time, Ontario, with its population of 184,705, lags behind only San Bernardino and Fontana in terms of the numbers of people and therefore homes, while it runs slightly ahead of Rancho Cucamonga, with its somewhat pricier housing stock, in terms of sheer numbers. Because property values have taken a dip in the county seat of San Bernardino and homes in Fontana price-wise are slightly behind those in Ontario, Ontario runs relatively evenly with Rancho Cucamonga for the county lead in income from residential property tax.

Meanwhile, those areas of land within Ontario that are not developed are being rapidly developed, increasing the assessed value of that land, thus creating the prospect of enhancing the city's property tax revenue.

From 1965 until 1999, the Williamson Act prevented agriculturally-zoned land lying within what was designated as the Chino Agricultural Preserve from being developed. In 1999, with the break-up of the preserve while there were still 140 dairies operat-

ing in Chino Valley, the city of Ontario annexed nearly 8,200 acres or 12.8125 square miles of the 15,200 remaining acres or 23.75 square miles yet in the preserve. Chino laid claim to the other 7,000 or 10.9375 square miles. Ontario drew up master plans for development of 31,000 homes, 5 million square feet of retail space and 5 million square feet of industrial space on its portion of the preserve that had been annexed. As each year passes, more and more of that property is being developed. As a rule of thumb, those doing the development have accrued good will – lots of it – among Ontario city officials, most notably the ones with the ultimate power of decision on land use issues – the city council. That good will has been purchased through political donations to members of the city council. In particular, Councilman Alan Wapner, who has been in office consistently since 1994, has during his three decades in office, taken in more political donations than any other elected municipal official in San Bernardino County history - \$3.3 million. Mayor Paul Leon, who was appointed to the city council in 1998 and served continuously in that role until he was elected mayor in 2005, in his 26 years in office has received just over \$2 million in political contributions. Councilman Bowman, who served on the city council from 1986 until 1988 and again from 1990 to 1998, left that position to become Ontario fire chief. In 2006, he again was elected to the city council and has served continuously since then. He has collected over \$1.5 million in political donations his time in office.

Together with Councilwoman Dorst-Porada, who has been on the council since 2008, Wapner, Leon, and Bowman have evolved into a four-member ruling coalition who only rarely vote in opposition to each other and are in virtual lock-step with regard to land

use issues, approving the vast majority of the development proposals that come before them. The lion's share of money that has been donated to Wapner's, Leon's, Bowman's and Dorst-Porada's political war chests has come from individuals, entities, corporations, organizations, associations and/or unions which have a financial interest in the decisions made by the city council, ranging from the ratification of employment contracts with the various bargaining units for the city's employees, policeman or firefighters, approving contracts with vendors providing goods or services to the city, granting franchises to service providers, approving projects proposed by landowners or development companies, passing ordinances pertaining to many issues or setting policy through altering or augmenting existing, or creating new, municipal codes.

While the unions representing the city's employees have shown tremendous generosity toward most especially the city council's incumbents over the years, it is the major players in the local real estate and development industries that have proven the largest and most consistent donors to the council members. The amount of money pouring into the campaign coffers of Ontario's city council members has been so substantial that it has overwhelmed anyone challenging the ruling coalition. In this way, the stability on the Ontario City Council – as displayed with Wapner's 30 years in office, Bowman's 28 years in office, Leon's 26 years in office and Dorst-Porada's 16 years in office – has been equal to or exceeded that of virtually any other of the 21 city councils or two town councils in San Bernardino County. In return for that financial support that has allowed them to remain in office for so long and turn back any political challenge that comes their way, the grateful Wapner, Bowman, Leon and Dorst-

Porada have voted, uniformly and without any meaningful exception, in favor of their donors whenever an item impacting those donors' contracts, franchises or projects have come before them. Such preferences for those who have maintained a positive relationship with their political masters on the city council have been inculcated into the city's employees in all departments, such that recommendations provided in city staff reports that pertain to those items to be voted on by the city council – contracts, franchises or development proposals – predictably encourage the city council to contract with or franchise or give project go-ahead to their donors.

Unspoken but known and recognized widely is that Ontario City Hall is engulfed in a pay-to-play atmosphere.

If Lampkin ever mused about, mentioned, discussed or protested the pay-to-play ethos he had been thrust into as a member of the Ontario Planning Commission, he did not do so publicly. Essentially, the record shows, and the attitude evinced toward him by Wapner, Leon, Bowman and Dorst-Porada indicates, Lampkin went along and he continued to get along, for the most part, with the Ontario political and social establishment.

Indeed, for a combination of reasons – his status as a law enforcement officer and medical service provider facilitator, humanitarian rendering service through his foundation and the Los Angeles Region Community Recovery Organization and his community service on the Ontario Planning Commission in which he time and again demonstrated that he was on the same page as Ontario's powers that be – he was considered, by the circle of Ontario's politicians, movers and shakers, business establishment and its social elite, to be one of the city's A-Listers. The A List was a short roster of personages of substance, ones being seriously

considered as someone who might be supported in a run for a position on the city council were it to become available. That support, to be put up by the political donors who had thrown in their lot with Wapner, Leon, Bowman and Porada, would consist of an overwhelming amount of money to be used in an election campaign which would most assuredly result in Lampkin taking a place on the council dais.

In June 2021, revelations with regard to Lampkin began to bubble to the surface. That information was upsetting to a number of people within the circle of power and influence in Ontario, and for different reasons. The mayor and the council majority had at that point relatively recently before committed to bestowing upon Lampkin a four-year term on the planning commission, during the course of which he was to presumably support their developmental agenda to benefit their legions of campaign donors. In the six months Lampkin had been in place, he was working cooperatively with the Ontario establishment, projects were being given timely go-ahead by the planning commission or the city council with the recommendation of the city's planning division and the planning commission, campaign donors were pleased, money was flowing in the direction and channels that were to benefit the city's elite.

At that point, the more knowledgeable members of the circle were faced with a rather inconvenient police report pertaining to events that had taken place on January 8 and 9, 2019. According to that report, Lampkin had driven to San Bernardino on January 8, where he had made the acquaintance of a college student, a young man, whom he had enticed into accompanying him to his home in Ontario on Blue Fox Drive with an offer of dinner and drinks. According to the college student, Lampkin

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By November, The Mayor And SB Council Had Divided Into Pro-Clayton & Pro-Carvalho Factions, With Two Or Three Members Caught In Between *from page 2*

will be installed, with Kim Knaus replacing Reynoso representing the Fifth Ward, Mario Flores replacing Calvin representing the Sixth Ward and Ortiz replacing Alexander representing the Seventh Ward. Last month, Tran's, Reynoso's and Calvin's plans were coalescing around effectuating the promotion of Clayton, terminating Carvalho and freeing the new council of what they perceived to be her dysfunction, while enabling Clayton a free hand to move the city in a progressive direction. On November 20, they were looking to have their second-to-last hurrah, which consisted of an item on that day's regularly scheduled city council meeting agenda which consisted of the consideration of Carvalho's firing. That effort was boosted by a memo authored by Clayton which offered the conclusion that Carvalho's departure would be desirable.

Carvalho, however, had caught wind of what was coming and before City Clerk Genoveva Rocha finalized the agenda for the November 20 meeting, she slipped onto it an evaluation of her performance which was to take place during the closed session for that meeting. Rocha sought to confirm with Clayton whether to comply with Carvalho's instruction to schedule the evaluation, but was unable to reach her before the posting was made, so she included the closed session evaluation of Carvalho on the meeting schedule.

At the outset of the November 20 meeting, with neither Clayton nor Carvalho having arrived, Mayor Tran raised an objection to Carvalho having violated protocol by usurping Clayton's authority in controlling the agenda. She sought to remove the closed-door discussion of Carvalho's performance from the

agenda before the council adjourned into that closed session. The mayor wanted the discussion of terminating Carvalho and her firm to be conducted during the public portion of the meeting, which would include input from the public. She knew there were several city residents that were present who wanted to encourage the council to cashier Carvalho and Best Best & Krieger altogether and start anew with a different law firm. This was part of Tran's strategy to persuade Ibarra, Figueroa and Alexander to go along with the firing.

As it would turn out, however, through the use of parliamentary procedure, both Shorett and Sanchez, neither of whom were enthusiastic about getting rid of Carvalho, were able to thwart Tran's effort to hold the discussion of Carvalho's termination in public and bring the matter to a vote. A major factor preventing the action was Alexander's belief that any determination about the future composition of city staff – including keeping or dispensing with Carvalho or promoting Clayton to city manager – should be made not by the outgoing council but rather by the incoming council, which will have to work with the city manager and city attorney for the next two years.

During the course of the meeting, Knaus, Flores and Ortiz addressed the council. While Knaus's comments were generic and upbeat, saying that she looked forward to engaging with her future council colleagues in a spirit of cooperation, she gave no precise indication of where she stood vis-a-vis either Carvalho or Clayton. Flores made no reference to Carvalho, but encouraged the council to promote Clayton, whom he praised and said he looked forward to working with. Ortiz,

whose loathing of Carvalho is no secret, like Flores made clear she wanted Clayton to be put into place as the city's manager going forward.

By the end of the meeting, what had emerged was that there was no clear consensus on whether to promote Clayton nor whether to keep or fire Carvalho on the current council and little prospect of a consensus on those issues once the new council is in place.

Unmistakably, the mayor and both Reynoso and Calvin are in favor of promoting Clayton and terminating Carvalho. Ortiz, who will replace Alexander, is similarly resolved. Flores is a vote in favor of hiring Clayton. By inference, based upon Clayton's memo supporting the firing of Carvalho, he is a likely vote to terminate her. He has not, however made any explicit statement to that effect.

Alexander will not support terminating Carvalho nor promoting Clayton. His sentiments at this point, however, like those of Reynoso and Calvin, are moot, since they are leaving office on December 18 and no opportunity for a decision impacting Carvalho's or Clayton's future with the city will take place while they are in office.

Sanchez is opposed to firing Carvalho and is opposed to promoting Clayton. Shorett is opposed to firing Carvalho and has not publicly committed one way or the other with regard to promoting Clayton.

Both Ibarra and Figueroa appeared, during the November 20 meeting, to be resistant to being stampeded into any action with regard to either Carvalho or Clayton, while both seemed to be leaning, at least slightly, against firing Carvalho. Figueroa did not come across as being disinclined to promoting Clayton, but was not pushing anyone in that direction. His decision to come across with a fifth or sixth vote in her favor may ultimately rest on his perception as to whether she will have ei-

ther four or five votes in her favor, in which case he will probably vote to promote her. Ibarra was, essentially, unreadable with regard to whether she will support Clayton's promotion. She strongly rejected Calvin's insinuation that the council majority was not acting to fire Carvalho because those members of the council were in some fashion corruptly aligned or entangled with the city attorney.

Given the enmity that now exists between on one side the city attorney and on the other side both the mayor and incoming Councilwoman Carvalho, there will be, at best, some degree of awkwardness in having Carvalho remain as the city attorney and the legal representative of and advisor to two people who can't stand her. Moreover, there is a slight but diminishing prospect that Clayton will yet be promoted to city manager, which would heighten that awkwardness toward unworkability, given the contents of the memo Clayton authored in which she essentially recommended that the city council end the city's relationship with Carvalho and her firm.

Things have evolved somewhat since November 20. Most notably, the last council meeting before the installation of the new council on December 18 took place on December 4. That meeting, as noted, was the last possible chance for Mayor Tran and the council as it is currently composed – Sanchez, Ibarra, Figueroa, Shorett, Reynoso, Calvin and Alexander – to promote Clayton and fire Carvalho. Neither took place.

As reported previously in the *Sentinel*, the council had moved toward having an independent and outside evaluation of the performance of the city manager, the city attorney and the city clerk. What has now been revealed is that the firm carrying out that examination is Jacob Green & Associates. The suggestion was previously that given the strong feelings on the

council – consisting of Sanchez and Shorett – in favor of Carvalho, the intense sentiment against Clayton by Sanchez, the vigorous opposition – by Tran, Reynoso, Calvin and soon to be Ortiz – to Carvalho and the passionate support evinced for Clayton from Tran, Reynoso, Calvin with that of Flores and Ortiz forthcoming, it might be best to allow those who have no prior prejudices one way or the other to do a dispassionate evaluation of both Clayton and Carvalho, with Rocha thrown into the mix. That analysis could be used, it was thought, provided the members of the council were able to set their preconceptions, expectations and opinions aside, to determine whether to promote or not promote Clayton, whether to stay the course with Carvalho or replace her, and whether Rocha should remain or the city should find someone else.

Things changed however, before the December 4 meeting got under way. And then, things changed again the day after. Around noon on December 4, Clayton informed the city council that while she remained interested in being appointed city manager, she was going to withdraw from her post as acting city manager and return to her role as deputy city manager as soon as the city finds someone else to move into the role of interim or acting city manager.

Clayton's move was a calculated one, born of her understanding that the city council's October 2 declaration that it was going to offer her the city manager contract is no longer operative and that the votes to again offer her the contract are either not there or are exceedingly iffy. If, as it appears, the city is to conduct a competition, statewide search, nationwide search or recruitment for the post, there is a better than average chance she would not be chosen, she recognizes. If she is at that point functioning in the capacity of acting city manager, the city could,

and probably would, let her go. If, however, she is serving as deputy city manager and she does not prevail in the city manager selection process, she would be able to remain as deputy city manager.

Her withdrawal as acting city manager has further implication as to Carvalho's survivability. While the sheer awkwardness of having a city manager who advocated in a memo that the city council terminate the city attorney and keeping that city attorney in place would likely prove unbearable, given the degree of coordination on issues of substance that must take place between a city manager and city attorney, by moving Clayton into the position deputy city manager reduces, considerably, the circumstance of incompatibility that has come about since the memo was written and Mayor Tran's November 20 putsch targeting Carvalho failed.

The city council postponed going into closed session until the end of the meeting, during which it was slated to discuss the dismissal of the city attorney and the appointment of an interim city attorney. Participating in that closed session was an adjunct attorney, who was referred to as Theodore Stream, referred to as "independent counsel." Upon emerging from the closed session, no indication was given as to the action taken with regard to the dismissal of the city attorney and the appointment of an interim city attorney. Mayor Tran did say that during the closed session, the council voted 6-to-1, with Councilman Shorett dissenting to have Jacob Green & Associates carry out an evaluation of Carvalho, Clayton and Rocha during a special meeting scheduled for 2 p.m. on December 11. At that point, however, Carvalho stated that she might not attend the meeting on December 11. 'I'll let you know if I'm available,' Carvalho said. I wasn't consulted on the time or date, so *Continued on Page 12*

The Ontario Establishment Made A Substantial Investment In Lampkin, Providing Him With Authority & Credibility *from page 4*

had apparently drugged him, and he woke up in bed the following morning, naked with Lampkin penetrating anally with an unknown object. The college student, according to the report, disengaged from Lampkin and hastily dressed and fled from his house, going to the Mills shopping mall, where he contacted the Ontario Police.

Over the next several months, the college student, conscious of the attention and potential glare of publicity that was likely to result from pressing charges, was less than fully cooperative with the follow-up investigation. By July of that year, however, he contacted the Ontario Police Department, stating he wanted the department to pursue an investigation into the matter. Detectives with the department initiated an investigation but encountered difficulty in getting Lampkin, an experienced law enforcement officer himself, to cooperate. At one point, investigators, after on multiple occasions having failed to catch him at home or get him to answer the door, finally encountered him at his residence. When they made clear that they wanted to question him about the events of January 8/9, 2019, he gave no substantive response and stepped into his home, closing the door behind him.

The college student, meanwhile, having grown impatient, began pressing the Ontario Police Department with regard to what action it was going to take. When he learned that the investigation had stalled out, in an alcohol-fueled rage, he obtained a gun and was driving to Ontario in what seemed to be an ill-advised move to exact revenge on Lampkin. Before that occurred, however, he

was involved in a traffic accident, at which point the gun in his possession was discovered. A statement was obtained from the college student in which he enunciated his intent to harm Lampkin and the reason why. The Highway Patrol informed both the Ontario Police Department and Lampkin's employer, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, about the situation it had encountered with the college student and the college student's statements.

Thereafter, the Ontario Police Department redoubled its investigation into the matter, succeeding, at last, to interview Lampkin. Lampkin acknowledged that the college student had indeed been at his home on the evening/morning of January 8/9, 2019, but that it was the student who had raped him, not the other way around.

Having obtained statements from both parties and some limited evidence or information in other regards, the report on the matter, bearing the Ontario Police Department nomenclature of 190200478, was completed and filed with the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office.

At several turns, the confidentiality that normally attends police investigations as well as the interests of the Ontario politicians and politically well-connected in that community redounded to Lampkin's advantage insofar as a wide exposure of the matter relating to the college student. Routinely, in Ontario as most places elsewhere, police reports are kept under wraps pending some further action or development with regard to the matters they pertain to, such as the filing of criminal charges against an alleged perpetrator of a crime or crimes the report documents or some public statement is made by the district attorney's office or some other prosecuting agency such as the California Attorney General's Office of the U.S. Attorney

that no charges will be filed. Even then, police reports are not automatically released and may be withheld or redacted for a number of reasons, though an involved party can generally obtain a police report by going through proper channels.

The Ontario establishment by 2021 had made a substantial investment in Lampkin. It has installed him in a position of trust, credibility and authority as a decision-maker on the planning commission. That trust was far more nuanced than the concept of public trust normally accorded to public officials in which there is an expectation that they will do what is right and best for the community. The trust involved in this case was that Lampkin would do what was best for those who had installed him into his position on the planning commission, that he would make decisions on the City of Ontario's land use policy that would involve giving approval to the projects being proposed by those who had donated substantial amounts of money to the city's elected leaders so they could win the elections that put them into office and kept them in office. It was a majority of those elected officials who had appointed Lampkin to the planning commission. In a good number of cases, development projects were not subjected to city council approval but were given go-ahead by the planning commission. Thus, it could be, and often was, asserted that the decision-making on the aggressive development that was taking place in Ontario was not being made by the city council, which was collectively taking, on a yearly basis, tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars from the developers profiting by those projects. Instead, it was said, those decisions were being made independently of the council, by the planning commission. And, it would be noted, the planning commission was composed of honorable and honest, experienced and

qualified individuals of good character and sound judgment, indeed, people like Lampkin. This undercut, considerably, that Ontario was ruled by the pay-to-play ethos that so many people decried. The people getting money from the developers – the city council members – were not passing judgment on the developers' projects – it was the planning commission doing that. Even in those cases where the city council was required to provide that approval because it alone has the authority to make a zone change or grant a variance in the city code that some projects require, those matters were first considered by the planning commission, which would make a recommendation to the city council about what it should do. In such circumstances where the city council would vote to approve a project that resulted in a donor who had given the individual council members \$1,000 or \$5,000 or maybe \$10,000 for their campaigns getting clearance to build an apartment complex or residential subdivision or shopping center in which that developer stood to make a profit in the hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars, the council members could say that they were merely following the recommendation of their "trusted" planning commissioners.

A question yet stands as to how it was that Lampkin was granted one of the keys to the Ontario Kingdom with the matter relating to the San Bernardino college student hanging over him. The events of January 8/9, 2019 occurred well prior to his appointment to the planning commission in December 2020. The answer to that mystery appears to lie in the confidentiality that is maintained with regard to police reports. Many of his most ardent supporters knew nothing about the matter involving the college student. There is a strong suggestion that for some, at least, Lamp-

kin's secret, his Achilles heel, rendered him more valuable than he would be otherwise because it gave those who knew something about it a means by which he could be controlled, as long as, of course, it remained secret. Moreover, the intense degree of positive publicity that the D'Andre D. Lampkin Foundation had garnered with regard to its COVID-19 assistance heroics throughout the latter three-quarters of 2020 overwhelmed and drowned out any potential bad-mouthing that might have been vectored in Lampkin's direction.

By mid-year 2021, however, word had reached some members of the Ontario community, including those who have long questioned whether the direction the longstanding ruling coalition on the city council is taking the city in is in the best interests of those who do not have a financial stake in the aggressive development agenda that predominates at City Hall, that Lampkin's too-good-to-be-true image as someone who walks on water indeed was too good to be true. Questions were asked. Documents were examined. Representations that Lampkin was bankrolling his philanthropy with his own money was given close scrutiny. That, it turned out, was a myth. It was shown that one of the primary assets the D'Andre D. Lampkin Foundation had at its disposal – its headquarters, offices, conference room, pantry and classroom in the Frontier Building – were the product of Previtti's generosity in providing them at little or no charge. Indeed, Lampkin could be credited with sparking the enthusiasm and providing some of the direction for what his foundation was undertaking, but the work and heavy lifting was actually done by those whom he had inspired. And then came an anonymous tip: Someone should look into a certain police report relating to Lampkin and a

college student who was said to have had a rather unpleasant experience at the future planning commissioner's house.

A request, filed under the California Public Records Act, was made to the city with regard to a police report or any police reports pertaining to D'Andre Lampkin.

At the pinnacle of the Ontario political establishment, it was recognized that Ontario Police Department Report 190200478 represented a monumental threat to the grand castle of corruption in which the city's elite lived their opulent existences. Throwing Lampkin to the wolves was, at that point, not an option. He had already been abstracted into the establishment. As a member of the planning commission, someone who had already been called upon and was still being called upon to rubber-stamp the projects being proposed by the city council's deep-pocketed political donors, he knew too much. He could go out and unload an eighth of what he had been made privy too and severely embarrass the city; he could expose one-fourth of what he knew and cause two or three people real heart-ache; if he gave up half of what he knew, some powerful people could well end up in prison; and if he told the whole story, he could bring the entire edifice of Ontario city government down.

At the center of the scandal was how and why he was in place on the planning commission, who knew what, when did they know it and to what purposes was the knowledge they had being put. All lines in this regard led to City Councilman Alan Warner, who through his political war chest is bound to virtually everyone engaged in developmental activity in the city. Warner was, before he was first elected to the city council in 1994, a police officer with the Ontario Police Department. A graduate of the University of Southern California, he also obtained a

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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: 01/29/2025, Time: 08:30 AM, Department: S33 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: 09/20/2024 Judge of the Superior Court: Gilbert G. Ochoa Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on December 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2024

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FBN 20240009745 The following person is doing business as: TOWNSEND ENTERTAINMENT. 1463 W 15TH STREET SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92411; MAILING ADDRESS 1463 W 15TH STREET SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92411; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO RONALD V TOWNSEND The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: OCT 07, 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/ RONALD V TOWNSEND Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: OCTOBER 22, 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 11/08/2024, 11/15/2024, 11/22/2024, 11/29/2024 CNBB44202410MT

FBN 20240009968 The following person is doing business as: IMPECCABLE DESIGNZZ. 11798 WHITE AVE UNIT 8 ADELANTO, CA 92301; MAILING ADDRESS P.O. BOX 3496 VICTORVILLE, CA 92393; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO ARTYONA ROSE A R A Y N O L D S - H A R D Y The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: OCT 21, 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

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law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 11/08/2024, 11/15/2024, 11/22/2024, 11/29/2024 CNBB45202409MT

FBN 20240010134 The following person is doing business as: SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TECHNOLOGIES. 7687 MASSACHUSETTS PLACE RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730; MAILING ADDRESS 7687 MASSACHUSETTS PLACE RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO MARIA E. SALAS The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: NOV 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/ MARIA E. SALAS, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: NOVEMBER 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 11/08/2024, 11/15/2024, 11/22/2024, 11/29/2024 CNBB44202410MT

FBN 20240009968 The following person is doing business as: IMPECCABLE DESIGNZZ. 11798 WHITE AVE UNIT 8 ADELANTO, CA 92301; MAILING ADDRESS P.O. BOX 3496 VICTORVILLE, CA 92393; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO ARTYONA ROSE A R A Y N O L D S - H A R D Y The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: OCT 21, 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

Lampkin Has Transformed From The Toast Of The Town To An Insider Fast Headed Toward Being An Outsider

from page 6

law degree from Whittier College. During his sixteen years with the Ontario Police Department, he promoted to detective and then retired as a sergeant of detectives. He retains contacts within the department, trafficking in information that is of value to him in his role as an elected official. While Leon as mayor is widely publicly perceived as the city's political leader, it is understood by those truly knowledgeable about the city and its operations that Wapner, by virtue of his control of Councilman Bowman and through Bowman his control of Councilwoman Dorst-Porada, is the de facto political leader of the city council. As the head of the city council's ruling coalition, which includes, essentially, Leon, Wapner is the City of Ontario's shot-caller. In this capacity, it is said, he "owns" the planning commission, as is demonstrated by how he has historically manipulated it to serve the interests of the political donors who have sustained him in office. Given all of these considerations, the *Sentinel* was told by a reliable source within Ontario City Hall, it is "inconceivable" that Wapner did not know about the contents of Ontario Police Department Report 190200478 prior to Lampkin's appointment to the planning commission.

In response to the public records request, the city stalled and obfuscated. City officials seized upon even the flimsiest rationale to avoid disclosing anything that might prove problematic. One thing that was of help in this regard was that over at the district attorney's office, the matter with regard to Lampkin was yet pending. No decision to prosecute him with regard to the college stu-

dent's accusations had been made, while no decision to not prosecute him had been arrived at. Similarly, the office was yet undecided with regard to whether a prosecution of the college student should be initiated, based on Lampkin's allegation that the young man had raped him. This provided the city with grounds to hold off on complying with the public records request, initially in whole and ultimately in part. Prior to the city providing what it characterized as its "completed" response to the request, according to a high ranking city official, Lampkin met with City Manager Scott Ochoa. During that meeting, according to the official, Ochoa permitted Lampkin to determine what in the report, which was authored by Sergeant David Newland, was to be redacted. The result was that roughly 84 percent of the three-and-one-third page report was redacted. Only then, on July 8, 2021, was the report released.

Reportedly, the report to the district attorney's office was routed to the desk of District Attorney Jason Anderson. In this way, the matter was not channeled, as is the standard practice, to the filing district attorney who reviews those police reports coming into the office to determine if the cases as outlined in the report and the available evidence and potential testimony referenced would form the basis of a case that would be sufficient to obtain a conviction, i.e., prove the case beyond a reasonable doubt in a jury were to be impeached to hear it. The report, as was related to the *Sentinel*, remained on Anderson's desk.

Of note, well prior to his election as district attorney in 2018, Anderson was, from 2004 until 2008, an elected member of the Ontario City Council. During those four years, he was a colleague of Leon, who during that time served as both a councilman and mayor; Wapner, who was a councilman all four years Anderson remained on the council;

and Bowman, who was a councilman two of the four years Anderson was on the panel. In 2008, Anderson was replaced on the council by Dorst-Porada. While Anderson was on the city council, he was a deputy district attorney. In 2014, at which point Anderson was in private practice, he had been retained by the Ontario City Council to represent Wapner, against whom a restraining order had been granted. In addition, Anderson, particularly in his 2018 run for district attorney, was heavily supported by many of the same donors who have contributed heavily to the political war chests of Wapner, Leon and Bowman. Consequently, despite the consideration that Anderson and his wife since his time on the Ontario City Council have relocated their domicile from Ontario to Upland, Anderson is yet considered to be a member of the Ontario political and social establishment.

In the intervening time while the report relating to the January 8/9, 2019 incident involving Lampkin and the college student remained on Anderson's desk, the statute of limitations on sexual assault lapsed. Nevertheless, Ontario Police Department Report 190200478 as authored by Sergeant in its original unredacted form remains in the possession of Ontario city officials.

In 2022, Ontario officials began discussion of a major expansion of the Ontario Convention Center as part of what they said was their commitment to transform that facility, which is proximate to Ontario International Airport, into the economic and entertainment centerpiece of the Inland Empire. Simply as a matter of course, those talks involved Jeff Burum, who is currently the most prolific donor of money to the campaign funds of San Bernardino County's elected officials, a primary member of the Ontario political and social establishment and the owner of the property immedi-

ately east of the convention center. As those discussions evolved, a plan by which the city committed to undertaking a \$400 million renovation of the convention center and Burum agreed, in principle, to constructing a five diamond hotel on his adjacent property to augment that effort. The city intends to expand the convention center to cover the area now occupied by the facility's existing parking lot. In preparation for doing that, the city arranged to purchase from Previti the Frontier Building, in which the D'Andre D. Lampkin Foundation was located. The intention is to eventually raze the Frontier Building and install in its place a parking structure to accommodate the vehicles of those attending events/conventions at the convention center and those staying in the hotel. Previti has partnered or joint-ventured with Burum on projects in the past.

The city's acquisition of the Frontier Building made the D'Andre D. Lampkin Foundation the City of Ontario's tenant. Given that it is a public agency, Ontario was and is required to lease any property it possesses at market. Providing space in the Frontier Building to the D'Andre D. Lampkin Foundation at no cost or a discounted rate, as Previti had been doing, is prohibited, as a gift of public funds, under Article XVI, § 6 of the California Constitution. Information available to the *Sentinel* is that over the course of the last year-and-a-half, the D'Andre D. Lampkin Foundation has experienced financial challenges. Shortly after the city's acquisition of the Frontier Building, the *Sentinel* is reliably informed, the foundation fell into arrears on its lease payments to the City of Ontario for the space it occupied there. Accordingly, Lampkin and members of the foundation's board, which included Michael Portogathright, Marcellus McMillian, Tywana Hill, Tom Burciaga and Marcus King, prevailed

upon the city to allow the foundation to remain in place, asserting that while it was not able at that point to remain current on its lease payment obligation, that an infusion of money within the following four to six months was anticipated which would allow it to make the city whole. More recently, with that hoped-for money not having materialized, the *Sentinel* is informed that Lampkin has been "begging" the city to convert the arrearage to a loan after the fact and that it be forgiven. The *Sentinel* is told that with toundation's debt having grown to over \$22,000, the organization is now exiting the premises.

Hard feelings have ensued, with Lampkin at one point having reportedly stated that he and the other board members and volunteers who have done so much for the community are being shabbily treated by the city. Suddenly there is a divide between those associated with the foundation one side and on the other side those considered to be the pillars of the Ontario community – elected official, city employees and the vast reservoir of those with deep pockets who have been sponsoring community programs and charities while bankrolling elected officials with major donations to their political war chests. Lampkin, having seen his foundation in a very short period of time go from a dynamic tool of social assistance to a nonentity, an organization without so much as an address, is acutely conscious that the unredacted version of Ontario Police Department Report 190200478 is yet in the possession of the city and that at any moment the city council could vote to remove

him as a member of the planning commission. He is not sure what might come next. At the same time, Ontario's political and social establishment is on edge, because Lampkin, someone who was welcomed into the inner sanctum and is now armed with knowledge of who is pulling

the strings and levers and who is beholden to whom and how is on the brink of renegade.

Lapkin, who not too long ago was thought of as one of the city's political A-listers, was ignominiously moved to the B list and, more recently, was placed on the C list.

Mayor Leon sought to put the best face on things.

"We'd like to keep the foundation alive," Leon said. "We really would. We want to help D'Andre, but it is a question of: 'How do you help a good guy and not violate the rules?' Unfortunately for him and for all of us, he is a planning commissioner, so, to a certain extent, he ends up with a golden rope. Being a planning commissioner puts him into a position so that we cannot give him help in this way, showing him some favoritism [i.e., allowing his foundation to function out of a city owned building at no charge.] He knows that. Unfortunately for him, by becoming a planning commissioner he tied his own hands."

That does not mean that someone officially unaffiliated with the city cannot step in, the mayor said. He called upon someone, anyone, to do so.

"Since we cannot do that, I'm calling on the community to give him some help," Leon said.

There is no hard feeling on the part of the city toward Lampkin, Leon said.

"We are not trying to hurt him, but by being above board and honest and doing it by the book, we – and by 'we' I mean the city – are just not in a position to do that for him," Leon said. "Other people can help him, just like he has helped a ton of people."

Leon said the foundation losing its quarters was an unintended consequence of the effort to expand the convention center and bring in a top-of-the-line hotel.

"The plan is to make vast improvements to the convention center, so that it expands into all of the parking lot that is

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Realtor® & 2nd District 3rd-In-Command Stoffel Reappointed To The County Planning Commission

Without batting an eye, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors this week approved the reappointment of Michael Stoffel, who for last 22 months has served as Supervisor Jesse Armendarez's deputy chief of staff to another four-year term on the county planning commission.

That appointment came less than a month following Stoffel's third-place finish in the race for two positions on the East Valley Water District's board of directors.

In addition to his two county positions, Stoffel is a Realtor® at Century 21, a company with which he is categorized as being a "top producer."

While some county officials acknowledge that Stoffel may have involved himself in a triple conflict, those being between his function as a planning commissioner and his involvement in the real estate industry and his employment as a senior echelon county official and a member of the county planning commission, the county made no official notation of any possible clash that has previously or might come about in the future

as a consequence of his holding the posts of Realtor®, deputy chief of staff and commissioner.

Stoffel was initially brought into Armendarez's office shortly after the supervisor's November 2022 election. On January 24, 2023, the board of supervisors ratified his hiring under a contract to serve as Armendarez's "Principal assistant to the chief of staff," in which capacity he was to "oversee a major functional area within the supervisor's district, coordinate the work of office staff, and advise the supervisor on legislative, policy, and regional district issues" and "act as chief of staff in his or her absence."

Stoffel's contract, under the heading "Conflict of Interest," stated, "As a condition of employment, contractor does hereby agree to follow and uphold the conflict of interest policy of the county's personnel rules as follows: No official or employee shall engage in any business or transaction or shall have a financial or other personal interest or association, direct or indirect, which is in conflict with the proper discharge of official duties or would tend

to impair independence of judgment or action in the performance of official duties. Personal as distinguished from financial interest includes an interest arising from blood or marriage relationships, or close business, personal or political associations. This section shall not serve to prohibit independent acts or other forms of enterprise during those hours not covered by active county employment providing such acts do not constitute a conflict of interest as defined herein. Contractor is also subject to the provision of California Government Code Sections 1090, 1126, 87100, and any other conflict of interest code applicable to county employment."

Stoffel's hiring was retroactively applied to January 14, 2023. The contract stated it and its terms "shall remain in effect until the end of the term of the Second District supervisor, or when the supervisor otherwise leaves office." The contract also specified that Stoffel was to "be considered a contract employee in the unclassified service" and that he was to be paid "\$63.47 per hour, which is equivalent

to Step 11 of Range 73B of the current exempt salary schedule."

In relatively short order, Stoffel was provided with a raise, which was ratified by the board of supervisors on May 23, 2023, when that panel approved the first amendment to Stoffel's employment contract, which provided that he is "to continue to provide support services to the Second District supervisor as a deputy chief of staff, changing the salary range, effective May 20, 2023, for an estimated annual cost of \$245,791 (Salary - \$156,000, Benefits - \$89,791). Contractor shall be compensated for services at a rate of \$75.00 per hour, which is equivalent to Step 1 of Range 89B of the current exempt salary schedule."

In 2023, Stoffel was provided with \$129,705.86 in salary, \$21,032.40 in perks and pay add-ons and \$63,570.79 in benefits for a total annual compensation of \$214,309.06.

Contractor shall be compensated for services at a rate of \$75.00 per hour, which is equivalent to Step 1 of Range 89B of the current exempt salary schedule.

A 1995 Redlands

High School graduate, Stoffel later attended the University of Phoenix, obtaining a degree in business management. He earned his real estate license in 2001.

A resident of the City of Highland, Stoffel was appointed to the Highland Design Review Board and later was appointed to the Highland Planning Commission. It was partially based upon his experience in that venue that he was appointed to the San Bernardino County Planning Commission, on which he is the vice chairman.

At present, Stoffel is a board member of the Inland Valleys Association of Realtors. He was and past president of that organization. He is also a member of the board of directors for the California Association of Realtors and a committee member at the National Association of Realtors. He is now and has been for the past 12 years the chairman of the political action committee of the Inland Valleys Association of Realtors®.

The merging of his professional activity within the real estate industry, politics and his function as a public of-

ficial has caught the attention of at least some members of the public. It is of note that Armendarez is himself a Realtor®, a profession in which he was successful and which provided him with some of the money used to bankroll his successful run for supervisor. On his resume, Stoffel states that his value to the Inland Valleys Association of Realtors® is his expertise in politics.

In this regard, it is of significance that Stoffel made his own venture into politics this year when he ran for one of the two seats up for election in the East Valley Water District, competing against six other candidates. In doing so, he garnered the endorsements of San Bernardino County Third District Supervisor Dawn Rowe, Highland Mayor Penny Lilburn, Highland Councilman Larry McCallon, Fontana Mayor Acquafredda Warren, as well as endorsements from first responders including the Sheriff's Employees' Benefit Association (SEBA) and San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters Local 935.



Convention Center Expansion & Major Hotel Are Coming Soon, Mayor Says

from page 11

now there," Leon said. "The building we bought from Jim Previti will be torn down and the parking structure put in its place. Jeff Burum, who is his partner sometimes, is going to build that hotel on land he already owns in the vacant lot southeast of the Convention Center. Then then there will be a bridge connecting the hotel and the convention center and the convention center to the parking lot. As far as I know, I don't think that Jim Previti is part of the hotel project."

Of the convention center expansion, Leon said, "We all think it is a much-needed asset in the Inland Empire, not

just Ontario. This area, this region has lost out on hosting some important conferences because the convention center we have is too small and because we have no five diamond hotel. We want it to go in because that is to be the future hotel for the convention center, and Jeff Burum is the caliber of builder that can do something that. The current hotel for convention center is the Double Tree, which is quite nice, actually, but Jeff Burum is going to give us a major step up from that. We're talking about a pretty good-sized hotel. There is nothing being held back on the city's end, but we are not the ones building it. Jeff has said he wants to build it, and we're waiting on him. He has to get to where he needs to go in terms of financing. He and his

people have to talk to the banks. They have to find the money. If there is a place where we can help by assuring whatever banks or lending institutions or what have you that this project is going to go all the way, we will do that. This is a private enterprise undertaking, but we're happy to look into doing whatever we can. The construction phase just isn't here yet."

Asked if the project could be under way by 2026, Leon reacted, "I hope it is not a year away before we start striking ground. I want to break ground sooner than that, as soon as everything is taken care of. But as of now, there has not been a shovel stuck into the ground yet."

Leon acknowledged it was clearing the way for the convention center expansion, Burum's hotel and the parking

lot structure that had resulted in the D'Andre D. Lampkin Foundation being pushed out of its quarters and the crises that has ensued. He said the city would do what it could for the foundation but would need to remain within the framework of the law.

"Yes, D'Andre and his foundation are out of, or he is starting to get out of, the lease arrangement," Leon said. "He is a great guy who has done a lot of great stuff for the people of Ontario. But we can't just give free space to him, so we are trying to figure out a way we can peacefully coexist with a very active nonprofit. During COVID he was the best thing we had going. Right now, we are trying to make this a soft landing for him. That's the story. I feel very bad we cannot underwrite him.

It isn't that we don't want to. It is just that we cannot."

Leon dismissed the allegations contained in Ontario Police Department Report 190200478 as false and inaccurate and not reflective of who D'Andre Lampkin is.

"If you knew D'Andre like I know him, you would know that whole thing is a fabrication," Leon said. "I think he is a totally great guy, and I don't believe any nonsense gossip that you might have heard."

Leon said the insinuations about Lampkin's sexuality that follow in the wake of the accusations in the police report and the efforts to discredit him in that way are beyond the pale.

"I, as a pastor, do not determine anyone's relationship with Jesus," Leon said. "I do not judge people on their

private lives or on their relationships. I know he has a relationship with Jesus. I know he goes to church and is a good person. He is someone who has values we all share. Someone is always going to gripe about somebody. I don't believe he would ever do anything like that, and I hope you wouldn't believe anything like that. That's ridiculous. I certainly wouldn't buy it. Someone is going to have to prove that one."

Efforts by the Sentinel to obtain Lampkin's version of events with regard to the range of issues swirling about him, including emails with specific questions and phone messages seeking a return call, did not garner any response.

