

Colton City Council Gearing Up To Provide Itself With A 400 Percent Pay Hike

The Colton City Council is fixing to give itself a 400 percent raise, a move which will make its five members the second-most financially burdensome set of municipal officials in San Bernardino County when the cost of their remuneration is considered from the standpoint of the per capita cost borne by city residents. The move comes three years after the council induced Colton’s voters to pass Measure S, which imposed on them and those shopping in the Hub City a one-cent per dollar sales tax. In the few days since the city council on a 3-to-2 vote on November 4 instructed city staff to ready a resolution and ordinance that will raise the \$400 per month stipend council members receive to attend two meetings per month to \$1,600, some

residents have expressed the view that the council, in particular those members who stumped for the approval of the tax measure, misled and misdirected the voters by promising the money would be used for “general municipal services and to ward off a budget deficit and service reductions,” rather than to line their own pockets. Some of those residents, while conceding the council for a considerable time had forgone a pay increase and was perhaps entitled to a modest stipend adjustment, were nonetheless taken aback by the way in which the three moved in to grant themselves the maximum increase they can claim under California law. The council did not take action to institute the increases Tuesday night, but directed city

staff to draft the documents needed to effectuate the change, including a payment schedule, a city code adjustment, an ordinance and resolution to do so at its next meeting. That direction came from council members Kelly Chastain, John Echevarria and David Toro. It was opposed by Councilman Gonzales and Mayor . Based on statements at the meeting and docu- See P 2

Documents
Withheld From
Two Dissident
County School
Board Members

Officials and personnel with the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Office withheld communications from the California Fair Political Practices Commission to at least two of the members of the San Bernardino County Board of Education.

In San Bernardino County, as in most of the other 57 counties in California, there are a multiplicity of entities and independently elected individuals who have stewardship over public education processes. Throughout the county there are 33 school districts, including 20 unified school districts, 11 elementary school districts and two high school districts. Each of those districts, which serve a localized area within the county, is overseen by elected board members, who have the authority to hire a superintendent to, essentially lead the district and administer its educational programs.

In addition, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, whose authority does not extend to the operation of the various school districts in the county but rather function as an intermediary between the state and the county’s school districts, and provide advocacy for the districts with regard to specialized requests for state and federal assistance, and to facilitate a wide range of services to support students, families, and educators. This includes monitoring educational programs, offering direct support through specialized programs like See P 2

San Bernadino Councilwoman Sues City Over PD’s Political Use Of Criminal Database

San Bernardino Councilwoman Treasure Ortiz on Wednesday filed a lawsuit against the City of San Bernardino, the union representing its police officers and five former city employees in Riverside Federal Court, alleging members of the San Bernardino Police Department used federal, state and local databases that are restricted to law enforcement activity for political purposes in an effort to prevent her 2024 election. Ortiz was elected to represent San Bernardino’s 7th Ward on the city council in 2024, capturing the top spot but less than a majority of the vote in that year’s March primary when she outpolled the incumbent, Damon Alexander, and former City Attorney

Jim Penman. Ortiz then prevailed in the November 2024 run-off against Penman, capturing 3,929 votes of 55.78 percent to Penman’s 3,115 votes or 44.22 percent. Ortiz previously competed, unsuccessfully, for mayor in 2022, finishing fourth in a field of 7, and came up short in 2019 when she ran to represent the city’s 3rd Ward. Those followed her unsuccessful bid in 2018 to obtain appointment to replace James Ramos as San Bernardino County Third District supervisor following his election to the California Assembly. Ortiz’s long-recognized political ambition has gone hand-in-hand with her criticism of the governmental and political establishment, characterized by her acerbic

observations about the integrity and wisdom of various officeholders and high-ranking governmental staff. Ortiz’s approach has had the effect of uniting sitting politicians and certain interest groups against her, in some cases consisting of unlikely coalitions of incumbent politicians who were not previously aligned or affiliated and in See P 3

Jake Haro Given 25-Years-To-Life In The Killing of Baby Emmanuel

Jake Haro, who on October 16 abruptly pleaded guilty to killing his 7-month-old son, was given a 25-years-to-life prison term for that crime at his sentencing hearing on Monday, November 3. Tacked on to that time will be 180 days for filing a false police report, which occurred when he and his wife initially contacted authorities about their child’s “disappearance” in August. The long arm of the law having at last caught up with him, he will also be required to serve the entirety of a 6-year sentence for having severely physically abused Emmanuel’s now 7-year-old half sister, as a result of his having violated the conditional See P 3

Saldivar Charged With 9 Felonies, Single Misdemeanor With 7 Enhancements For Killing Nuñez& Mad Flight

Angelo Jose Saldivar, who on October 27 gunned down San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Deputy Andrew Nuñez, on November 5 entered not guilty pleas on ten criminal charges and denied seven felony enhancements filed against him by the San Bernardino County District Attorney’s Office two days previously. Nunez was killed while responding to a domestic disturbance call involving Saldivar and his wife. Saldivar then led Nuñez’s sheriff’s department colleagues and other law enforcement officers on a harrowing chase sometimes reaching 150 miles per hour across six jurisdictions as he fled on a motorcycle.

On November 3, 2025, the San Bernardino County District Attorney’s Office charged Saldivar with one count of violating PC 187(a) – murder; one count of violating PC207(a) – attempted kidnapping; four counts of violating PC245(b) – assault with a semiautomatic firearm; one count of PC246.3(a) – discharge of See P 3

Death On The Morongo Valley Highway: Where Is The Line Between Mishap & Murder?

James Tappan and Christopher Garcia are dead. They might still be alive if others had been more careful or a bit less hotheaded. Were they killed unnecessarily? Most certainly. Were they murdered? Should those critically involved be held accountable? What will society – in this case the Morongo community – decide? Or will it decide at all? With what moral authority can it speak? On On October 31 at 3:01 p.m., Frank Stiffens, 68, of Yucca Valley was driving his 2009 Dodge Durango north and Tappan, 69, was driving a 2015 Fort Fiesta south on Yucca Mesa Road north of Sunflower Drive. From what California Highway Patrol investigators can piece together, the Durango drifted

across the solid double yellow line and the left front of Stiffens’ vehicle smashed into the left front of Tappan’s car, resulting in major damage to both vehicles. Stibbens was seriously injured. Tappan, into whom the driver compartment had folded, was killed. Stibbens, who was hospitalized, has, based on investigators’ conclusions, been charged with murder, gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and two counts of driving under the influence causing injury. Upon his release from the hospital, he was jailed at West Valley Detention Center, and is being held on \$1 million bond. Stibbens was arraigned before Judge Sarah Oliver on Wednesday morning November

5. Prosecutors presented a folder relating to Stibbens containing the CHP’s preliminary findings with regard to the October 31 collision and Stibbens driving/vehicle code/criminal history in San Bernardino County. Inn 2007, he was charged and convicted of violating PC273.5(A)-M: inflicting corporal injury on a spouse or cohabitant, a See P 2