

Single Top Officeholder Change Signals Voters' Satisfaction With The Status Quo

In five of the six San Bernardino County governmental constitutional positions up for election in the June 2 Primary, the incumbents prevailed.

Looked at in another way, in another way, in all six of those contests, the candidate favored by the county's social and political establishment won.

Up for reelection

this year were Sheriff/Coroner-Public Administrator Shannon Dicus, District Attorney Jason Anderson, Treasurer-Tax Collector/Auditor Controller Ensen Mason, Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk Josie Gonzales, Second District County Supervisor Jesse Armendarez and Fourth District Supervisor Curt Hagman.

On Tuesday night, af-

ter the ballots contained in the ballot boxes from all 2,065 of the county's precincts had been counted, which consisted of the votes cast by 224,573 or approximately 18.19 percent of the county's 1,234,386 registered voters, Dicus, Armendarez and Hagman had come out on top, having captured more than 50 percent of the votes cast in their

elections. Dicus, Armendarez and Hagman had come out on top, having captured more than 50 percent of the votes cast in their races to avoid having to take part in a run-off in November. Moreover, Anderson and Gonzales were reelected to upcoming four-year terms, essentially by proclamation, insofar as they faced no opposition.

Mason was the lone incumbent who failed to hold onto his position.

Of the 192,318 votes cast in the sheriff's race, Dicus claimed 126,186

or 65.61 percent, outdistancing Joe Silva, a former deputy, who registered 65,921 votes or 34.28 percent in his favor. In the district attorney's race, 164,066 or 99.76 percent of the 164,462 voters who participated in that vote marked their ballots in favor of Anderson, while 396 wrote in someone else. Mason logged 81,462 or 42.95

See P 3

Tuesday's San Bernardino Municipal Vote Closes Out Resistance To Mayor Tran

By Mark Gutglueck

"The close of an era" is how the outcome of Tuesday's voting in San Bernardino's municipal elections was described, with two of the members of the city council who have more or less been central players in the council's ruling coalition for the last six years having been shut out of office and the longest-serving member of the council who has been a mainstay on that ruling coalition being forced into a run-off in November where his chances of reelection appear to be at best fifty-fifty.

In the same contest, incumbent Mayor Helen Tran, whose first term has been marred by administrative faux pas beyond her control and the political resistance of the aforementioned ruling coalition, was reelected and by the outcome in the accompanying council contests strengthened considerably, having been given a council line-up for the next two years, at least, which will give her a shot at accomplishments in guiding and shaping city policy that has eluded her the last four years.

At stake in this year's election was whether Tran, who was formerly the city's human resources director and since 2022 mayor, was to remain in office in the face of challenges mounted by former Mayor John Valdivia, perennial mayoral candidate Rick Avila or relative political newcomers Amy Malone, Ivan Garcia and Ronnika Ngalande. In addition, there were contests in three of

See P 2

Prequel: The City Of Fontana And Its Half Of A Century Of Enduring Corruption

How Fontana and San Bernardino County built a machine that stole from taxpayers for five decades, and why no one was ever held accountable. It began with a casino credit line. It ends, if it ever ends, with an assistant city manager involved in the processing his brother's real estate applications and a planning commissioner whose brother is a member of the county board of supervisors and a principal in the city's preeminent real estate company who oversees and holds tremendous sway over the municipality's official land use decisions.

In between, the residents of Fontana and San Bernardino County have paid hundreds of millions of dollars to fund a corruption machine so durable and so patient it simply waited out every reform, replaced every actor who left or got caught, and kept running.

This is the story of that machine, how it was built, who built it, what laws were broken, and why, across five decades, four mayors, three county supervisors and a bribery prosecution, no one, at least from Fontana, has paid the price for their depredations.

By Carlos Avalos

Era One: The Ratelle Years (1973-1987)

The Man Who Built the Template

Jack Ratelle was Fontana's city manager for fourteen years, and during that time, he turned

a struggling Inland Empire city into his personal enrichment machine. The mechanism was not subtle. Developers who wanted entitlements, approvals, or public infrastructure money paid Ratelle through a credit

line at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas. Ratelle made weekly or bimonthly trips to collect, then returned to City Hall with stories about winning or losing at the dice tables. It was both his cover story and

his collection mechanism.

For council members, the bribes were tailored to circumstance: a city contract steered to one councilman's welding business; a no-show job created for another's un-

employed son-in-law; direct cash distributions to Mayor Nat Simon and others. The arrangement was institutional, not incidental. Everyone who mattered knew or chose not to know.

Law Broken: See P 4

Three Companies Settle Suit Over Smoke Bomb Sparking El Dorado Fire With \$4M Payout

An Ohio-based smoke bomb designer/importer and two other companies have agreed to pay more than \$4 million to the United States for costs and damages from the El Dorado Fire of 2020, which was ignited when one of the Ohio company's smoke bombs created flames when it was used as the culmi-

nation of a gender reveal party. The flames spread into what was a nearly 23,000-acre conflagration, which resulted in the death of a firefighter.

Wholesale Fireworks Corporation, which is located in Hubbard, Ohio, and its subsidiary, American Fireworks Wholesale LLC, agreed to pay \$4 million to set-

tle claims brought on behalf of the United States Forest Service.

A third defendant, Pink or Blue Gender Team Incorporated, a Florida-based company, has agreed to pay \$50,000 to settle claims related to the fire.

The fire was ignited on September 5, 2020, by a pyro- See P 3

Improper Disposal of Waste & Patient Info Nets LLU Health \$7.5 Million Fine

Loma Linda University Medical Center and Loma Linda University Health Care along with their affiliated organizations have agreed to pay \$7.5 million in civil penalties, reimbursements and fees in addition to implementing extensive compliance measures to resolve allegations that their employees unlaw-

fully disposed of hazardous waste, medical waste, and confidential patient information at facilities throughout Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

The \$7.5 million settlement was worked out between the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office, the District Attor- See P 3

State Solons Mulling Reintroducing Grizzly Bears Into Golden State's Wildlands

The last known sighting of a grizzly bear in San Bernardino County was in 1922 in Horse Canyon in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains. It was promptly shot and killed.

Six years earlier, in October 1916, the last known grizzly bear in Los Angeles County had been similarly dispatched.

In 1924, two years

after the grizzly end of grizzlies in Southern California in Horse Canyon, what was believed to be the last sighting of the species in California occurred in Sequoia National Park.

Now, more than a century later, California officials are considering re-introducing into the state's wildlands and protecting them within circumscribed areas to

be designated as their habitats.

A bill by California State Senator Laura Richardson, Democrat of San Pedro, would call upon state wildlife officials to determine whether it is possible to relocate some to grizzlies to California in an effort to re-establish the populations of the massive ursines to those areas of what was their

natural habitat which are at what is considered a safe distance from areas occupied by humans. If such an undertaking is determined to be "feasible and advisable," the bill outlines another set of steps by which the California Department of Fish and Wildlife would develop a plan or proposal to import bears from those areas of the country where they are,

San Bernardino's 1905 Charter Guided It Through An Era Of Growth & Influence In The 20th Century But Hamstrung City Officials Who Had To Deal With Financial Challenges During Lean Times *from front page*

the city's seven council wards. Tested in these was whether First Ward Councilman Ted Sanchez could hold off his predecessor as First Ward representative, Virginia Marquez and two others – Ron Alvarado and Omar Williams; Second Ward Councilwoman Sandra Ibarra's staying power against her predecessor in the position, Benito Barrios, and another hopeful, Christian Shaughnessy; and if the dean of San Bernardino's municipal politicians, Fred Shorett, who has been a member of the city council representing its Fourth Ward since 2009, would be able to withstand the onslaught of four of his constituents trying to unseat him. Those opposing Shorett were Erick Marquez, Jesus "Chuy" Medina, Vince Laster and Joe Salas.

San Bernardino, once the social, cultural, economic and governmental center of its eponymous county, has been in a prolonged and unrelenting state of flux for more than a generation. Throughout that time, its influence and prestige have diminished accordingly.

First established as a significant settlement by the Spaniards before it became a notable holding of Mexico following Mexican independence in 1826, it underwent an initial founding as a city under California statehood which did not last in 1854 and was first of the municipalities in San Bernardino County to formally come into being when it reincorporated 1869 as a town and reincorporated in 1886 as a city.

In 1905, the city adopted a charter that drew up the terms of the city's governance, which established an elected mayor and elected council, an elected city attorney, and elected city clerk and an elected treasurer. The 1905 charter infused in those elected officials, beyond their

political power, what was, even for that time and for what in more recent years was most certainly, an uncommon degree of administrative and actual control over the machinery of municipal government.

Under that charter, the mayor, city attorney and treasurer were given, if they indeed chose to exercise it, extensive control of their respective bailiwicks. In the case of the treasurer, he, as was originally the case and then he or she after the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920, was the titular treasurer, the elected official charged with overseeing the city's finances. In San Bernardino, the treasurer was empowered to serve in the capacity of what is now recognized as that of municipal finance director or finance manager. The elected city attorney was not merely the legal representative of the city as an entity and the mayor and council, but given further sway in serving as the legal advisor to the mayor and city council, enforcing/prosecuting violations of the law and city ordinances, both proposing and writing city ordinances and presenting items involving city policy to the city council for discussion and approval.

The mayor was given sweeping authority under the 1905 Charter.

While the mayor's political authority was somewhat attenuated in that he or she was not provided with a vote as a member of the city council on most routine matters, the mayor could vote with regard to appointments, legal issues, hirings and firings, as well as to break a tie-vote. Moreover, the mayor had the authority to unilaterally place an item on a council agenda for discussion or action through a vote of the council. The mayor also presided over the council meetings, wielding the

gavel, recognizing who was to have the floor during discussion and thus controlling the ebb and flow of discussion and debate. In addition, the mayor had veto power over any votes that ended 4-to-3 or 3-to-2. In this way, on matters when the council took action, the mayor had what was essentially two votes to countermand that action if it was not to his or her liking.

It was not as a political entities or functionaries, however, that San Bernardino mayors derived their greatest power, but rather on the basis of the significant administrative authority the position carried. The mayor in San Bernardino was established, in conjunction with the city manager, as the city's co-regent. In tandem, the mayor and city manager had the authority to hire and fire city department heads and employees, to monitor and enforce city staff's execution of the policies approved by the city council to, in essence, plan, organize direct and control municipal operations in accordance with their agreed-upon vision for the city. Whereas the city manager was, in theory, answerable to the city council or a majority of the city council at any point, the mayor was answerable only to the city's voters once every four years.

The 1905 Charter remained in place for over a century. During most of that time, San Bernardino grew, both in terms of land area to what is now some 64 square miles as well as in population to roughly 230,000 inhabitants today, making it the largest city in the county and the 18th largest in California, and the 104th largest in the United States.

In 1940, with the country's direct participation in World War II approaching, under the direction of the U.S. Army Air Corps, what was initially represented as a municipal airport was constructed on 900 acres on the east side of San Bernardino. By the summer of 1941, it was being used by the Army

Air Corps almost exclusively as a pilot training base, and in 1942, was renamed San Bernardino Army Air Field, at which the San Bernardino Air Depot, which was crucial to material supply work in conjunction with the Army Air Corps operations, most notably in the Pacific Theater during the remainder of the war. The Air Field was also lent crucial support to the metallurgic activity being overseen by Dr. Enrico Fermi in support of the Manhattan Project from 1943 to 1945. Eventually, the air field would be renamed Norton Air Force Base in tribute to Captain Leland Francis Norton, who was raised in San Bernardino while living at 716 Twenty-first Street. Norton, an Army Air Corps fighter/light bomber/attack aircraft pilot, was killed in action over Amiens, France on May 27, 1944. Following the war, Norton Air Force Base was host to the Army Air Corps and then after the creation of the Air Force in 1947, the Air Materiel/Air Force Logistics Command from 1946 to 1966 and then as part of the Air Forces Military Air Lift/Air Mobility Command from 1966 to 1994.

The presence of the Army Air Corps and the Air Force in San Bernardino was a major boon to the local economy. In 1994 Norton AFB was closed as a result of the Base Realignment and Closure Act of 1988.

That decision, made in Washington, D.C., had a deleterious impact on San Bernardino's financial sphere, reducing revenue into both the private and public sector of the city and its immediate environs, touching off a series of contractions in the local economy, closures of what had otherwise been successful retailers, declines in the real estate market, abandonments of properties and businesses which led to blight and a further downward spiraling in economic indicators, the migration of business owners who had been key to spending and investment to points else-

The San Bernardino County

Sentinel

Published in San Bernardino County.

The Sentinel's main office is located at 10788 Civic Center Drive in Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

A Fortunado Publication in conjunction with

Countywide News Service

Mark Gutglueck, Publisher

Call (951) 567-1936

to learn of locations where the Sentinel is available or to provide news tips

10808 Foothill Blvd., Suite 160-446

Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

SBCSentinel@yahoo.com

Legal Notice Department 951 567 1936

Message Line 951-567 1936

where and a resulting drop in both consumer and investment confidence. Simultaneously, economic expansion and development taking place elsewhere in the county, most notably on the west end among the cites of Rancho Cucamonga, Ontario, Fontana, Chino and Chino Hills as well as in the High Desert communities of Victorville, Hesperia and Apple Valley began a gradual movement of the county's financial center away from San Bernardino.

Over the course of the 20th Century, employees in the public sector, originally generally seen as denizens of the working middle class and lower middle class, began a steady albeit slow, progress toward the middle-middle and upper-middle class, brought on by both unionism uniting public employees and the wealth and prosperity in the American economy as a whole, which increased tax revenue that was the mainstay of government and which allowed many cities, including San Bernardino, to fatten its reserves. In San Bernardino, the 1905 Charter had been tweaked at various times to offer benefits and advantages to city employees in an effort to attract what were considered to be the "cream of the crop" among Southern California's experienced municipal employees. One of those was Section 186 of the charter which effectively locked in salaries for the city's public safety employees that were at par with or

greater than those salaries received by their counterparts in ten similarly-sized California cites.

While provisions such as Section 186 were considered advantageous to the city, its residents and the community and were more than sustainable when San Bernardino was an up and coming and then rising financial powerhouse, as the bottom was dropping out economically in the late 1990s and into the Third Millennium, they became a liability. Revenues were dropping and city officials, by virtue of the charter, were unable by fiat to impose employee salary reductions. Indeed, they were prohibited from asking that city employees not insist on pay and benefit increases that were in keeping with what municipal employees elsewhere. By 2011, the city had engaged in what was de facto deficit spending over 12 of the previous 13 years, having balance its annual budgets only by digging into the reserves the city had managed to accumulate over the last half of the 20th Century. Patrick Morris, who was then the city's mayor, was cataloging through one creative option after another in an effort to keep the city government together as a going concern. He was thwarted and flustered at numerous turns in that effort by then-City Attorney James Penman, who twice opposed Morris, unsuccessfully in mayoral contests. In March 2012, faced with dire

Continued on Page 5

Grizzlies To Be Reintroduced To Mountain Wilderness Areas? *from front page*

in the late 1880s or early 1890s. Nevertheless, biologists maintain that the California Grizzly, once scientifically referred to as *Ursus horribilis*, at one time had a population within the entire state that ranged to as high as 10,000. A fair number of those resided in the San Bernardino and San Gabriel Mountains, and were present as well in the lowlands, though likely in lesser numbers. That they proliferated

in the San Bernardino Mountains is attested to by the names given to Bear Valley and Big Bear Lake by Benjamin D. Wilson in 1845, when, during an expedition into that marshy area at an approximate elevation of 6,700 feet, he encountered several of the creatures, and the men with his party bagged 11 of them, retaining the pelts. In Southern California, grizzlies lived along the coast, near rivers, and in chaparral. Biologists say they would avoid entirely, or at least were far less fond of, the deserts and the coniferous forests associated with black bears today.

Opportunistic feeders, the grizzlies would eat whatever was available, including berries and roots, ground squirrels and fish. They were adept at digging in search of gophers, weasels, and other subterranean rodents. They did not seek out large prey, but would, if the circumstance presented them with the occasion, chase mountain lions and other smaller predators away from their kills. Grizzlies were essentially indigenous to Southern California, having come into the area around 12,000 years ago along with a host of large mammals from north of

the continent's ice sheet such as bison, elk, moose, wolf, and humans. For millennia, grizzlies coexisted with native Californians. The Indians were wary of the animals, which grew aggressive when startled or provoked, and proved dangerous because of their ferocity and willingness to kill humans to protect their territory and young. There is evidence that local Indians used brushfires to clear the landscape of places where bears could hide. Native Californians, however, did not engage in wholesale slaughter of the powerful animals, which

Continued on Page 20

Mishandling Of Medical Waste And Patient Records Costs Loma Linda University Medical Center \$7.5 M *from front page*

ney of Riverside County and Loma Linda University Health Care, following an investigation that was ongoing for nearly four years and a two-month long discussion between the party's with regard to the implication of the information obtained in the course of the probe.

The investigation began in April 2022 and focused on how waste generated at hospitals, clinics, and medical facilities

within the Loma Linda University Health network was being identified, handled, stored, and disposed of.

Investigators found numerous instances in which regulated waste was improperly disposed of into regular trash containers destined for municipal landfills. Items that turned up during inspections of landfills in both Riverside and San Bernardino included hazardous pharmaceuticals

waste, batteries, aerosol cans, medical waste, and documents containing protected health information. It was discovered during the course of that investigation that the health-care provider unlawfully disposed of hazardous waste, medical waste and confidential patient medical information into dumpsters and bins at Loma Linda health facilities in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, and those containers were emptied into refuse trucks and transported to municipal landfills by

the private sector trash haulers that have franchises in Loma Linda and Riverside. The trash handlers penultimately repositied the collected materials into landfills.

In Riverside County, the Loma Linda University Health network operates the Loma Linda University Riverwalk Clinic at 4244 Riverwalk Parkway, Suite 100, the Ear Nose Throat/Head & Neck Surgery Clinic at 4646 Brockton Avenue and a Behavioral Health Clinic at 4095 County Circle Drive.

Continued on Page 15

Couple Celebrating Anticipated Birth Ignited Major Conflagration With A Gender-Revealing Smoke Bomb *from front page*

technic device manufactured by Wholesale Fireworks and altered by Pink or Blue Gender Team at a gender reveal party thrown by Refugio Manuel Jimenez, Jr. and Angelina Renee Jimenez in El Dorado Ranch Park in Yucaipa. The flames

from the device lit dry grass surrounding it, whereupon the couple, party attendees and bystanders sought to douse the flames with bottled water and called 911. The intense heat, the parched condition of nearby vegetation and winds caused the fire to quickly spread and move onto the mountainside, where the inaccessibility of the terrain in the fire's path resulted in the fire raging out of control. The fire migrated into the San Gorgonio

Wilderness Area of the San Bernardino National Forest, burning a total of 22,744 acres, damaging or destroying nine structures and 15 outbuildings, and killing firefighter Charles Morton. It burned for more than two months before it was fully eradicated.

The Jimenezes were criminally charged in 2021 with 30 felony counts involving 22 victims, extending to people who were injured or whose property was de-

stroyed in the fire, charges which conceivably could have netted them a maximum of nearly two decades in prison upon conviction on all counts. In February 2024, the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office arrived at a deal with the couple in which Refugio pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter and two counts of recklessly causing a fire to an inhabited structure. He was sentenced to

Continued on Page 5

Who Will Hold Six County Offices For The Next Four Years Was Decided Tuesday *from front page*

percent of the 189,665 votes cast in the head-to-head treasurer-tax collector/auditor-controller race, which translated into his being turned out of office as of early next

year, as his opponent, Rancho Cucamonga City Councilman Ryan Hutchison garnered 108,010 votes or 56.95 percent. Under the county's electoral standards, having secured more than half of the vote in the primary means there will be no run-off in November. Gonzales, with 162,762 or 99.65 percent of the 192,318 votes cast in the assessor/recorder/

county clerk confirmation in which 567 voters endorsed write-in candidates not on the ballot, will serve another four years.

Armendarez, staved off having to compete again in November by polling 24,347 votes or 58.63 percent of the 41,530 votes cast in the Second District supervisorial race, comfortably outdistancing Fontana

City Councilman Jesus "Jesse" Sandoval, with 10,132 votes or 24.4 percent, and Joe Alvarez, whose 7,007 votes or 16.87 percent was good enough for third place.

Hagman, who was first elected to the board of supervisors in 2014 after having served as a member of the California Assembly for six years and as a coun-

Continued on Page 15

Philosophically Speaking

Onward Christian Warmongers

Corrosive "Christianity" in the form of Greg Laurie and the "mega (but MAGA) churches"



If a ruler harken to lies all his servants are wicked.

—Proverbs 29:12

Whom would Jesus bomb?

—a popular bumper sticker

By Phill Courtney

It was 2004—the second year of George W. Bush's war on Iraq—and I was spending another Friday night on a corner at University Ave. and Iowa Blvd. in Riverside (where I lived at the time), not too far from my former college (U.C. Riverside), protesting a war that was both illegal and immoral.

Illegal because the U.N. charter is clear: one country cannot attack another that hasn't or isn't about to attack yours, and immoral because fabricated claims had justified an attack that was then still slaughtering tens of thousands of innocent Iraqis, most of whom did not and never had supported their dictator, Saddam Hussien, and his crimes.

One memorable member of our peace group was an older woman from Puerto Rico and was perhaps (at the risk of invoking a stereotype, but it was true) one of our most fiery and outspoken members opposing this war and George W. Bush. Although she was from the Christian community, she was now disgusted by how many fundamental and evangelical Christians were supporting the war.

Counted amongst those supporters, was a man who preached in what's now referred to as a "mega-church," with this one being right there in Riverside, and through his multi-media ministry dominance, had become one of the most famous men in the area to call himself a Christian. Yes, I'm referring to Greg Laurie, of the Harvest Church—famous for their crusades which often drew thousands to Angel Stadium in Anaheim.

In fact, our member had been to Harvest on a number of occasions; had heard what Laurie was preaching about this "righteous war;" and perhaps, knowing I'm a writer, had urged me to attend there at least once to hear, first-hand, the messages he was spreading.

To paraphrase it as best as I can from memory, here, in essence is what she said: Go, Phill. You should hear what this so-called Christian is saying. And he doesn't even live in Riverside. He has a million-dollar mansion in Newport Beach and bodyguards to protect him.

So, after both her urging and yet another experience I had near our protest corner, I decided I'd go. The other incident had happened not far from the corner when I'd encountered two young men, who, it turned out, were members of Harvest, and had come by to spread the word of salvation through Jesus.

"I'll tell you what," I told them. "I'll come to your church if you'll spend at least one night at the peace rally on that corner right over there," I said, pointing. "We're there every Friday night at six. Why don't you come by and join us? Then I'll go to Harvest."

Well, one of them said, quickly begging off: usually on Friday nights they were involved as youth leaders for some of the younger members of the church, but—they'd think about it—and while I wasn't holding my breath, I did give them several Fridays to "make good on their part of the deal," but—they

Continued on Page 14

Repetitious Pattern Of Violations Of The Public Trust In Fontana Goes Back More Than 40 Years from front page

Bribery of Public Officials — California Penal Code §68 / §85 / §86 — Ratelle's acceptance of payments through the MGM Hotel credit line in exchange for development approvals constitutes bribery of a public official. Any council member who received payments in exchange for votes similarly violated PC §85 (offering a bribe to a legislator) and §86 (legislator accepting a bribe). No charges were ever filed.

The Southridge Deal: A \$374 Million Gift to a Developer

The defining transaction of the Ratelle era was the Southridge development. Ten Ninety Corporation was building a 9,100-unit residential project in the early 1980s. Under normal California redevelopment law, a developer seeking public entitlements contributes to the cost of the infrastructure their project requires, such as streets, sewers, sidewalks, and storm drains. Under Ratelle, the opposite happened.

Ratelle arranged for the City of Fontana's Redevelopment Agency to pay the entire \$120 million infrastructure cost in 1982 dollars, on Ten Ninety's behalf. The financing came from \$55 million in loans from the Glaziers Union and \$65 million in certificates of participation: bond debt approved by a council vote, never put to the citizens of Fontana. The quarterly bond payments are \$3.12 million every three months, or \$12.48 million per year, running for thirty years, until 2013. Total taxpayer cost: \$374.4 million.

The quid pro quo, documented in the investigative record: Ten Ninety funded Ratelle's MGM Hotel credit line. Ratelle delivered \$120 million in public infrastructure to Ten Ninety's project. Fontana's residents paid the debt for

three decades.

Law Broken: Misappropriation of Public Funds, California Government Code §424 — Directing public redevelopment funds to pay infrastructure costs that should have been borne by the developer, in exchange for personal payments, constitutes misappropriation of public funds. The deliberate structuring of bond financing to avoid a public vote may also implicate Government Code §53511 and related provisions governing public debt authorization.

Law Broken: Conflict of Interest, California Government Code §87100/§1090 — Any official who voted to approve the Southridge infrastructure financing while receiving personal payments from Ten Ninety Corporation had a financial interest in the contract prohibited by Government Code §87100 and §1090. Section 1090 is a felony. No charges were ever filed against anyone.

The Ratelle era did not simply end when Ratelle was fired in 1987. The financial wreckage persisted for decades. A 1992 Owner Participation Agreement related to Ten Ninety's Southridge project continued to generate legal obligations. When California dissolved its redevelopment agencies in 2012, the state Department of Finance disallowed the Ten Ninety OPA, creating a \$2 million per year loss to Fontana's General Fund that the investigative record shows will continue until fiscal year 2032–33. Jack Ratelle left government in 1987. His deals are still costing Fontana money in 2026.

[Era Two: The Eshleman Years (1994–2002)]

David Eshleman, who had first been elected to the city council in 1990 and would eventually become mayor, enjoyed several advantages that had essentially been handed to him. Having come onto the council after the departure of Ratelle, he never understood nor came to fully appreciate the depth of damage that Ratelle, in

connivance with former Mayor Simon and with the acquiescence of some other city officials, had inflicted upon the city. Somewhat wrongheadedly, he championed removing John O'Sullivan, the reformist city manager who had replaced Ratelle, mainly because, under the influence of Simon, he believed that O'Sullivan was being too drastic and aggressive in his approach to righting the listing Fontana ship. In 1992, Simon's successor as mayor, Bill Kragness was forced by a deterioration in his health to resign his office, at which point he was succeeded by Gary Boyles, a member of the city council in the 1980s and early 1990s who had for years, to no real avail, vociferously warned his council colleagues about Ratelle's misadventures. In the more than five years following Ratelle's departure, the city burned through three city managers — O'Sullivan, Jim Grissom and Jay Corey. In 1993, in what was perhaps Boyle's most significant accomplishment as mayor, he promoted Greg Devereaux, who had been hired in 1992 as Fontana's redevelopment and housing manager, to city manager.

Upon becoming mayor in December 1994, Eshleman inherited Devereaux as city manager. Though Eshleman never fully recognized how Ratelle had denuded the city of revenue by diverting into the pockets of developers money that should have been used to build infrastructure to accommodate the impact of the subdivisions those developers were constructing, he recognized the financial challenges the city faced. He essentially allowed Devereaux to work his economic development magic on the city, which was not really magic but rather an approach that called for a permissive policy toward development, a philosophy that the city could grow its way out of the problems enveloping it. While Devereaux was proved correct, accompanying that fix were

all of the headaches that come with transforming what previously was an agricultural community that was hosting a steel mill into a 43-square mile urban landscape packed wall-to-wall with houses, factories and warehouses with little or no buffering in between.

Era Three: The Nuaimi Years (2002–2010)

Developer Money Obliterates What Little Reform The Shedding of Ratell Represented.

Mark Nuaimi's 2002 defeat of David Eshleman was not a grassroots insurgency. It was funded by a consortium of developers who understood that some of Eshleman's policies were constraining their ability to capture public resources. Nuaimi ran on accusations of conflict of interest against Eshleman, whose wife had accepted a planning commission appointment (she resigned immediately when the issue was raised) and who had declined to annex property he personally owned (correctly noting that annexation would constitute a conflict).

What Nuaimi did not disclose during this campaign: his own employer, a traffic technology company called Iteris, held a multi-million dollar contract with the City of Fontana. Nuaimi was a sitting city councilmember while his employer collected city money. He attacked Eshleman for conflicts he did not have while concealing a conflict he did. He won 47.4 percent to 41.6 percent, with a third candidate drawing 10.8 percent.

Law Broken: Conflict of Interest — Government Code §87100 / Failure to Recuse — Nuaimi's employment by Iteris while Iteris held a city contract created a direct financial interest in city decisions under Government Code §87100.

Any vote on Iteris-related items without recusal constituted a criminal violation. Government Code §1090 makes participation in a contract in which an official has a financial interest in a felony. Nuaimi

was never charged; the FPPC never acted.

The Double-Dipping Mayor

From March 2006 to December 2009, Mark Nuaimi simultaneously held two government positions: Mayor of Fontana and Deputy City Manager of Colton, an adjacent city whose planning and infrastructure decisions directly intersected with Fontana's. He drew salaries from both. Any coordination between Fontana Redevelopment Agency decisions and Colton development interests during that period represented potential violations of both Section 87100 and Section 1090 of the Government Code.

Law Broken: Dual Public Employment Conflicts — Government Code §87100 / §1090 — Holding executive positions in two adjacent cities whose jurisdictions interact raises conflict-of-interest liability under California Government Code §87100 and §1090. This arrangement drew public criticism for potential conflicts of interest at the time. No formal investigation was ever conducted.

The Redevelopment Agency: A Weapon of Financial Extraction

With Ken Hunt as his city manager and Executive Director of the Fontana Redevelopment Agency, Nuaimi chaired an agency that controlled five project areas and deployed hundreds of millions of dollars in tax increment financing. The agency's record across those eight years is a catalog of financial harm to Fontana's public institutions:

The Ventana Project Nuaimi championed this mixed-use development as, in his words, 'an entirely new type of development' for the city. The RDA acquired the Ventana property at \$43.4 million, a figure added to the city's capital assets in 2014. The city eventually sold it at a \$31.8 million loss. 'This has got to be a mistake,' said Finance Director Rachel Brown when she discovered the loss. It was not a mis-

take. No one was ever held accountable.

The Housing Fund Shortfall

California redevelopment law required agencies to deposit 20% of tax increment into a Low and Moderate Income Housing Fund. A lawsuit filed before 2012 alleged that the Fontana RDA owed \$27 million to its own housing fund money that should have been reserved for affordable housing and was not deposited. The shortfall accumulated primarily during Nuaimi's tenure.

The School District. A separate lawsuit filed around 2011–2012 alleged the RDA had failed to make legally required pass-through payments to the Fontana Unified School District. California Health and Safety Code Sections 33607 and 33607.5 require agencies to share tax increment growth with schools. The money was apparently kept by the agency.

The Illegal Transfers

The California State Controller's 2014 review found \$7.1 million in illegal cash transfers from the RDA to the city in 2011: \$1 million from the Downtown project area, \$2.28 million from the Sierra Corridor, \$3.84 million from the Ventana project area, all traced to Nuaimi-era operations. All were ordered returned. None were returned.

Law Broken: Misappropriation of Public Funds — Government Code §424 / Health & Safety Code §33607- The failure to deposit required tax increment funds into the Low and Moderate Income Housing Fund violates California Health and Safety Code §34176 and related provisions. Illegal transfers from RDA project accounts to the city's general fund violate Government Code §424 (misappropriation by public officer) and the specific dissolution requirements of California's Community Redevelopment Law. The State Controller found violations and ordered restitution. Fontana never complied.

Continued on Page 7

Recalibrating The City Charter In 2016 Substantially Reduced San Bernardino's Mayoral Authority

from page 2

financial reality, then-San Bernardino City Manager Charles McNeely tendered his resignation. In a desperate bid to save the city from the humiliation of disincorporation, Andrea Travis-Miller, the city's deputy city manager who gamely steeped into the interim city manager role upon McNeely's departure, worked with the city's finance director, Jason Simpson, prepared the city's application for Chapter 9 bankruptcy protection, which was filed in August 2012. The city spent five years in bankruptcy court, stifling one creditor after another by providing them with just a percentage of what they were owed, a stratagem which succeeded, but damaged the city's reputation to an even greater degree than it had suffered previously.

As mayor, Morris was succeeded by Carrie Davis, whom he had endorsed. Among a contingent of the city's most influential residents, business owners and citizens there was a belief that an element of the city's dysfunction was

that Penman, an A-type or alpha personality, had an inordinate degree of control on how the city was being run. They felt Penman's dictatorial approach in trying to force his perspective on city employees and the city council, taken together with his close connections to and support he received from the city's public safety employees' unions, made it virtually impossible to reduce the city's costs in terms of what it was paying to police officers and firemen, which constituted on an annual basis between 68 percent and 69 percent of the city's general fund expenditures. Simultaneous to a recall effort that removed Penman as city attorney, those individuals concerned about Penman making a comeback and reasserting himself as city attorney – including Morris, California State San Bernardino Economics Professor Tom Pierce and Jim Savage – proposed revamping the 2005 Charter. The city council as it was then composed signed off on creating a charter review committee come up with a new charter, which was then placed in front of the city's voters in the November 2016 election. It passed, with 27,478 votes or 60.57 percent in favor and 17,890 votes or 39.43% opposed.

In addition to consolidating city elections with presidential and gubernatorial primary and general elections held in even-numbered years, in effect, the charter eliminated the elected positions of city clerk, treasurer and city attorney, making them appointed posts. It further attenuated the power of the mayor. The new charter made no real alteration of the mayor's political reach, giving who ever held the position the power to vote along with the council as a single vote on appointments, hirings and firings of the city manager, city clerk, city attorney and department heads and the deciding vote in the event of a tie, as well as veto power on 4-to-3 and 3-to-2 votes. The mayor remained as the presiding officer at city council meetings, with the ability to put items on the agenda unilaterally and to, in essence, control the forum in which decisions relating to agenda items are discussed and voted upon. Though the mayor's political purview was left intact, the post's administrative authority was eliminated entirely. Those provisions of the mayor's duty and responsibility extending to control over day-to-day, week-to-week, month-to-month operations and making

personnel decisions and on-the-spot calls with regard to how the policy approved by the council was to be implemented were written out of the charter. Before the city-wide vote on approving the charter makeover was made there were a fair number of people, including some who were in favor of updating the manner in which the city was organized and run, who thought the reforms placed before the voters went too far or in some cases were unnecessary. One refrain was that the 1905 Charter was a good or even great document if the voters elected competent and good or great people into the mayoral, city attorney, treasurer and city clerk posts and it was a bad document if those elected turned out to be incompetent or greedy or insensitive. The voters ultimately decided by better than a 3-to-2 ratio to put the new charter in place.

In the 2018 election cycle, Carrie Davis was defeated by his primary challenger, then-Third Ward Councilman John Valdivia, who had been a Penman protégé. Also up for election in San Bernardino that year were the First Ward, Second Ward and Fourth Ward council positions. First Ward Councilwoman Virginia Marquez, who had been aligned, essentially, with Morris and then Davis from even before her 2009 election and did not get along well with Valdivia, opted out of running for reelection in the June 2018 primary, abandoning the field to four candidates who vied to replace her: Maggie Castaneda, Miguel Rivera, Gil Botello and Ted Sanchez. Sanchez was a 30-year-old energetic president of the Lytle Creek Neighborhood Association who had declared his candidacy before Marquez announced her decision against vying for reelection that year. Also up for election in 2018 was then-Second Ward Councilman Benito Barrios, who was aligned with Valdivia. Challenging him were two Second Ward resi-

dents, Sandra Ibarra and Cecilia Miranda-Dolan. Another incumbent seeking reelection that year was Fourth Ward Councilman Fred Shorett, who had been on the city council since 2009. Shorett was not favorably disposed toward Valdivia. He was opposed by two hopefuls, Jesus Medina and Alexandra Beltran.

In the four-way contest in the First Ward in June, Sanchez and Gil Botello qualified for the November final. Despite the overall favor the city's voters held Valdivia in that year, Barrios was unable to firmly grab his coattails to remain in office. Somewhat surprisingly, Ibarra and Miranda-Dolan both outpolled Barrios in the June primary, which qualified them for a run-off in November.

Shorett came within a 22 votes among 4,092 cast in the June primary from winning outright. As it turned out, with 2,035 votes in that election against Beltran's 1,084, he was consigned to a run-off against her that November.

Though Valdivia had supported Barrios in the June election, he sent signals in the aftermath of the primary that he was leaning in favor of Ibarra in the November 2018 run-off and was looking forward to working with Sanchez as well. Sanchez and Ibarra, who had placed second in their June contests behind Botello and Miranda-Dolan respectively in June to qualify for their run-offs, each managed to prevail in November. Thereupon, Valdivia sought to, in his words, "show them the ropes and mentor them."

While Shorett had appeared to be a shoo-in in the November 2018 contest, Beltran made a tremendously strong showing, making up much but not quite all of the ground between her and Shorett, who was reelected on the difference of a mere 8 votes and 0.10 percent – 3,709 or 50.05 percent to 3,701 votes or 49.95 percent.

Valdivia blew into office like a conquering

hero. Of the six members of the council when he was sworn into the mayor's office in December 2018, four were in his camp. The following May, when a special election was held to fill the Third Ward council member position he had resigned to become mayor, voters selected Juan Figueroa, whom he had endorsed, as his replacement. Initially, Sanchez and Ibarra were aligned with the mayor and two others on the council, Fifth Ward Councilman Henry Nickel and Sixth Ward Councilwoman Bessine Richard. Upon Juan Figueroa's election, during the first year or most of the first year of his tenure as mayor, Valdivia held sway over the city by means of a ruling council coalition he led, which enabled him to overcome the dissent of the two councilors who did not see eye-to-eye with him, those being Councilman Shorett and Seventh Ward Councilman Jim Mulvihill.

With 2019's progression, however, a number of considerations became apparent. One of those was that Valdivia was intensely loyal to his perceived constituency, which was not the same as his elective constituency. Rather, his loyalty went to those who had supported him in his electoral drive to become mayor – the donors to his political war chest. In 2018, Valdivia started that campaign year with \$77,046.15 in his campaign fund and obtained \$485,550.40 in donations over the next 12 months, while spending \$551,796 throughout the year on his campaign. And he continued to raise money after he was elected and in place as mayor for his future campaigns. As of January 1, 2021, Valdivia had \$216,953.59 in his campaign coffer.

As mayor, he sought to return the favors those donors had bestowed upon him by facilitating their success in obtaining lucrative municipal franchises or contracts with the city to provide goods or services, or in

Manufacturers, Distributors and Users Of Gender Reveal Smoke Bombs Make Heavy Restitution When One Celebration Went Awry And Evolved Into A Major 2020 Conflagration from page 3

two years felony probation, 365 days in county jail and 200 hours of community service. Angelina pleaded guilty to three misdemeanor counts for recklessly causing fire to property of another. She was sentenced to one year summary probation, and 400 hours of community service. Together, they were ordered to pay victims' restitution of \$1,789,972.

Prior to those pleas being entered, in September 2023, the United States sued the three corporate defendants to

recover Forest Service costs for fighting the fire and the damage it caused to federal land.

The United States alleged that Wholesale Fireworks Corporation, American Fireworks and Pink or Blue were liable because the fire was caused by a smoke bomb they designed, imported, distributed, marketed, and advertised which ignited the dry vegetation.

"The defendants further allegedly failed to safely design and label the smoke bombs and failed to properly warn

customers about the fire risk of the smoke bombs, despite being aware of their dangers," according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. "These smoke bombs should never have been sold into California, where they are illegal."

Assistant United States Attorneys Yujin Chun and Katherine Hikida of the Civil Division handled this matter. Despite the settlement, the U.S. Attorney's Office stated the resolution of the matter with the \$4.05 million payout, the assertions in the lawsuits against the three companies, "are allegations only and there has been no determination of liability."

-Mark Gutglueck

Continued on Page 14

Do You Have Information Of Public Interest? Call the *Sentinel* at (951) 567 1936 The *Sentinel* is always looking for information to inform our readership and keep our readers abreast of newsworthy developments.

The *Sentinel* devotes itself to what is happening in and around San Bernardino County. Social events, political news, issues pertaining to education, medicine, industry, commerce, development, real estate, history, culture and entertainment are of interest to us.



San Bernardino County **Sentinel**

News of Note
from Around the
Largest County
in the Lower
48 States

Let us help you make our readers aware of what is happening in your corner of the world.

Do you have a news tip? Don't hesitate to pick up the phone or drop us a line at sbsentinel@yahoo.com to alert us to that fascinating tidbit.

Valdivia's Self-Destruction Paved The Way For Tran's Eventual Rise To Mayor *from page 2*

getting their applications for development projects within the city approved. Even more telling was his efforts on behalf of donors to his campaign fund who were seeking to obtain licensing for a commercial marijuana operation. After years of city officials, including Valdivia, opposing the presence of medical marijuana dispensaries being able to set up shop in San Bernardino, their hand was forced in 2016, when the city's voters approved Measure O, permitting such uses within the city. Thereafter, despite his previous resistance to allowing cannabis and cannabis products to be available for sale, Valdivia began taking money from those wishing to cash in on what they thought would be the marijuana bonanza. One story, perhaps apocryphal, was that Valdivia had made promises and commitments to over 20 would-be marijuana/entrepreneurs that he would ensure they would get permits to operate within the city when the city council had voted to limit the number of such shops to no more than 18.

What grew out of the way Valdivia was conducting himself was an understanding that San Bernardino government, through the mayor's office, was for sale to the

highest bidder and that the coinage of the realm consisted of political donations to Valdivia to assist him in his future electoral efforts, be those for reelection as mayor or higher office.

The problem was that Valdivia did not have a vote, as mayor, with regard to any of the promises he was making. Approval of contracts, franchises, projects or permits for marijuana operations was accomplished through votes of the city council. If Valdivia managed to keep his ruling coalition – at one time consisting of Sanchez, Ibarra, Figueroa, Nickel and Richard – intact, he conceivably could have delivered on those commitments.

But before the Summer of 2019 had concluded, his ruling coalition was falling apart. Valdivia proved insensitive to issues the individual members of the council were raising in response to the concerns of constituents in their wards while simultaneously militating both behind the scenes and publicly on behalf of his major political donors. He had the opportunity to seek to build a consensus among the members of the council he was counting on for support for his own initiatives to have them support the items they were individually passionate about but, strangely, he did not trouble himself to do that. He simply expected those he considered to be members of his team to hop to when he called

upon them. By the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020, one by one, Nickel, Ibarra and Sanchez became estranged from him, leaving him without the requisite votes on the council to effectively pursue his political and practical agenda in terms of exerting control over San Bernardino's municipal governance.

What was further driven home to Valdivia was that the administrative authority that had been entrusted to all of the mayors who preceded him was no longer a tool in his armory. Despite the 2016 Charter having divested the mayor of that power, he connived to artificially replicate it. In 2019, he moved, with the support of Sanchez, Ibarra, Figueroa and Richard to terminate Travis-Miller, who had returned to the city in 2017 to serve as city manager. Valdivia then arranged to temporarily move then-Assistant City Manager Terry Ledoux into the interim city manager post and then elevated her to the full-fledged city manager's post. Valdivia thought it to be understood that Ledoux would allow him to surreptitiously call the shots as the city's de facto administrator while she used her official status and station as city manager to order the city's department heads and line employees to do the mayor's bidding. To Valdivia's chagrin, however, when Valdivia sought to actuate this unspoken plan to put his policies, which

were never considered or voted upon by the city council, into play, she simply did not comply.

The unquestioned and unfettered ability to control the administration of civic authority Valdivia craved was intrinsic to his plan to meet the expectations of his donors so he could accumulate more and more money into his political war chest, increase his power and move onward and upward into even more impressive political positions. This play-to-play ethos, in which Valdivia was selling official municipal action for donations were a series of quid-pro-quo, some delivered upon and many that were not, action that was tantamount to bribery. While much of what he was seeking to carry off was done quietly and out of the limelight, before 2020 was over, it was well understood that Valdivia was out-and-out on-the-take. For all of the council's members except Richard and Figueroa, both of whom were dependent upon the mayor for much of their political fundraising, Valdivia was considered radioactive.

If Valdivia's propensity for bribe-taking was not enough to destroy his political prospects, his interaction with three women who had been members of his mayoral staff – Myrna Cisneros, Karen Cervantes and Jackie Aboud – would eventually seal his fate. Cisneros, Cervantes and Aboud, represented by attorney Tristan Pelayes alleged Valdivia per-

sistently propositioned them, seeking to pressure or lure them into having sex with him and then retaliated against them when they refused. Ultimately, the case Pelayes filed against Valdivia and the city were settled for a collective total of \$1.2 million.

In the 2020 election cycle, Mulvihill and Nickle, by that point two of the five of the council's members who were at odds with Valdivia, and Councilwoman Richard, one of the mayor's two remaining allies, were defeated in their reelection efforts. Mulvihill's, Nickle's and Richard's replacements were, respectively, Damon Alexander, Benjamin Reynoso and Kimberly Calvin. Those newcomers presented, at least ostensibly, an opportunity for Valdivia to construct a positive working relationship with all three, permitting him with the prospect of thereby again taking firm control of the city's political helm. Unfortunately for Valdivia, he was not able to close a political deal with any of those three, finding himself to be as much as at odds with both Reynoso and Calvin as he had been with Mulvihill and Shorrett. Alexander proved willing to work with and occasionally support the mayor, but only on a case-by-base and selective basis. In this way, throughout nearly three years of his term as mayor, Valdivia remained in place and was presenting to the outside world that he was among San Ber-

nardino County's most dynamic politicians, but the reality was that he was being frustrated at virtually every turn by five and then six of the seven officeholders he had to work with.

Helen Tran had been the City of San Bernardino's human resources director when Valdivia became mayor. Relatively early in Valdivia's tenure as mayor, the problems with Cisneros, Cervantes and Aboud created a profound difficulty for her. It has been reported that when she was approached about Valdivia's depredations with at least one of the women and then with another, Tran found herself in a deer-in-the-headlights moment. She had reason to believe at that time that Valdivia, as mayor, was in absolute control of the city and enjoyed the advantage of an alliance with five of the council's seven members. The report is that Tran told at least one of the women that there was nothing that could be done about the circumstance and that they would have to simply live with the circumstance. Subsequently, when the woman and other employees, including Valdivia's own chief of staff, Matt Brown, and a male employee in his office were in contact with Pelayes, it became clear to Tran that she was beset with a matter that could have a deleterious impact on her career as a municipal government personnel professional. When she was given the opportunity to jump to

Continued on Page 8

San Bernardino County Corruption Figure Postmus Has Resurfaced As A Player In Fontana Politics

from page 4

The Southwest Industrial Park Expansion: A Parting Gift to Warehouse Developers

In the final weeks of his mayoralty, Nuaimi pushed through Amendment No. 9 to the Southwest Industrial Park Redevelopment Plan, expanding its tax increment capture zone by 1,101 acres over community opposition. The expansion was approved in 2010 and took effect as Warren assumed the mayoralty. It benefited warehouse developers who needed public infrastructure funding. The same Southwest Industrial Park project area had been established in 1977, during the Ratelle era. It was now, under Nuaimi's final act of governance, the instrument of benefit for the next generation of developers.

The CityLink Revolving Door

In 2009, Nuaimi co-founded a nonprofit called CityLink with then-Councilwoman Acquanetta Warren and Pastor Dan Carroll of Water of Life Community Church. He then resigned the mayor's office six months before his term expired, citing a new full-time position. That position was Senior Director of Strategic Projects at Water of Life Community Church, the same institution he had just set up to receive public money through CityLink.

Warren became mayor in 2010. Federal ESG (Emergency Solutions Grants) funding began flowing to CityLink shortly after. Nuaimi now designs the grant applications that Water Of Life/CityLink submits to city and county officials, the same officials whose careers he helped build. He left government to take a private position at the institution he created to receive public money. The revolving door, in its

most complete form.

Law Broken: Federal Grant Fraud/False Claims Act 31 U.S.C. §3729- If grant applications submitted by Water Of Life/CityLink contain false statements about eligibility, program activities, or fund usage, each application constitutes a false claim against the federal government under the False Claims Act, carrying civil penalties of up to three times the amount of each false claim. The coordination between an official who co-founded the entity (Nuaimi), the official who controls the grant process (Warren), and the entity receiving the grants creates a textbook self-dealing structure subject to federal scrutiny.

The County Level: Paul Biane and The Colonies Chapter

The \$102 Million Vote

While Nuaimi was running Fontana's corruption machine at the city level, Paul Biane, as the county's Second District supervisor overseeing the western half of Fontana, entangled himself in a political corruption scandal that took him more than 11 years to extricate himself from, and then only by the application of millions and millions of dollars and at the cost of the utter destruction of his political career.

On November 28, 2006, Biane voted yes on a \$102 million settlement with Colonies Partners LP, a developer that had filed a lawsuit against San Bernardino County over a flood control easement dispute. The vote was 3-to-2. Without Biane, the settlement would have failed.

In 2011, the California Attorney General and San Bernardino County District Attorney jointly announced the issuance of a superseding indictment to an ongoing criminal case in which Biane was charged with misappropriation of public funds, filing a fraudulent tax return, perjury, and two counts of bribery. Three other defendants in the case which

also extended to accusations of conspiracy and extortion – one-time Sheriff's Deputy Union President Jim Erwin; San Bernardino county Fourth District Chief of Staff Mark Kirk and developer and principal in the Colonies Partners, Jeff Burum – surrendered the morning after charges were filed, and were dealt with relatively quietly.

Biane, who had been voted out of office in 2010 as unfavorable publicity about the 2006 vote mounted, was out of the state when the indictment was handed down. His image was seen everywhere, it seemed, on wanted posters issued by the district attorney's office in which he was described as a fugitive from justice. As he arrived at Ontario Airport to turn himself in after he learned of the indictment, he was subjected to the indignity of being photographed as law enforcement officers converged on him to place him in handcuffs.

The case hung in limbo for more than five years as pretrial sparring between the prosecution and defense attorney proceeded. The case went to trial in 2017 in the same courtroom before two juries, one for Biane, Burum and Kirk and another for Erwin, dragging on for eight months. Biane, Burum and Kirk were acquitted after a reported \$17.5 million was spent on their legal defense. Erwin's jury hung, failing to reach a unanimous verdict on any of the charges against him.

Bill Postmus, a county supervisor who had joined with Burum in the 2006 vote to approve the \$102 million payout to the Colonies Partners, was with Erwin one of the two original criminal defendants in the case before the superseding indictment of Biane, Burum, Kirk and Erwin in 2011.

Just prior to the superseding indictment was handed down in 2011, Postmus pleaded guilty to 14 felonies and confirmed in statements to investigators and

prosecutors that he had received money from Burum's company, the Colonies Partners in exchange for his November 2006 vote. That guilty plea remains in the public record.

Note on Postmus's current activities: Postmus operates Mountain States Consulting as a political consulting vehicle, with documented financial relationships connecting Alliance Building Solutions' kickback payments to Warren, current Fourth District San Bernardino County Supervisor Curt Hagman, current First District San Bernardino County Supervisor Paul Cook and current Third District San Bernardino County Supervisor Dawn Rowe. Postmus is a minority owner of Eagle Real Estate Group alongside Dino DeFazio, who was charged with perjury in a criminal case associated with the prosecution of Postmus, Biane, Burum, Kirk and Erwin. Charges against DeFazio were later dropped by the prosecution.

Postmus served as a lobbyist for Alliance Building Solutions and that company's owner, Brad Chapman. The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors approved providing Alliance Building Solutions a no-bid \$5.5 million project to upgrade county properties, which included a waiver of the requirement that the company comply with the State of California's prevailing wage requirement on that project.

Postmus from 2004 until 2006 served on the board of supervisors with Josie Gonzales, who prior to that was a councilwoman in Fontana. He served as her campaign advisor in the 2024 special election for San Bernardino County assessor/recorder/county clerk, which Gonzales won. He again advised her in her electoral effort to keep that post in this year's election. No opponents to Gonzales emerged. Gonzales, as the assessor-recorder-county clerk is the elected official whose office

now controls all property records and assessments for a county where Postmus's clients hold hundreds of millions of dollars worth of property interests.

Law Broken: Bribery - California Penal Code §68 (Public Official Accepting Bribe) Postmus's sworn guilty plea under Penal Code §68, accepting a bribe as a public official in exchange for the Colonies vote, is the permanent evidentiary record of what the three yes votes represented. Misappropriation of Public Funds — Government Code §424 / Penal Code §424- A vote to pay \$102 million to a developer in exchange for bribe payments constitutes misappropriation of public funds under California Government Code and Penal Code §424.

Ken Hunt: 29 Years, Three Masters and \$1.1 Million For Silence

The Man Who Knew Everything And Said Nothing

Ken Hunt joined the Fontana city government in January 1990. He worked under Devereaux, saw what recovery from the misapplication of municipal authority looked like, and understood in precise detail how completely the city's direction had changed when Nuaimi defeated Eshleman. He served as city manager for twenty years under Eshleman, under Nuaimi, briefly under Frank Scialdone, and then for nine years under Acquanetta Warren. He was simultaneously the mechanism through which Fontana's corruption operated and the man who discovered one of its most recent iterations.

In spring 2019, Ken Hunt reached a conclusion: Acquanetta Warren was on the take. The evidence was a pattern he had observed in how Warren helped Alliance Building Solutions, a contractor, obtain a no-bid contract in Fontana. It was not the only pattern he had seen. But it was the one that crystallized his judgment.

In July 2019, the city

council issued a press release announcing Hunt's sudden departure. His contract ran through the end of 2021. He left immediately.

The Payment

In 2020, Ken Hunt received \$312,865 in 'settlement pay' — an extra payment not required by any provision of his contract; \$476,772 in leave payoff; and \$64,137 in a 'longevity' payment. Total: \$1,127,378.45. He became the highest-paid city employee in California for 2020 without working a single day. Under Hunt's contract, a voluntary resignation triggered zero severance. A termination without cause triggered twelve months of base pay. The city paid nearly three years of Hunt's salary. Robert Fellner of Transparent California stated plainly: the fact that Fontana paid more than required by Hunt's contract could be construed as hush money. If Hunt had resigned willingly, Fontana wouldn't have owed him anything. Warren initially said Hunt wished to retire. When pressed about the contract requiring him to remain until 2021, she adjusted her account to say he resigned. Neither explanation accounts for the above-contractual payment. The California State Auditor examined the circumstances of Hunt's departure with, in the investigative record's words, sophisticated, exacting, and intense focus.

Laws Broken: Obstruction / Hush Money — Potential Federal 18 U.S.C. §1503 / §1512 — A payment structured to prevent a witness from disclosing knowledge of criminal activity to law enforcement may constitute obstruction of justice under 18 U.S.C. §1503 (obstruction of judicial proceedings) or §1512 (witness tampering/intimidation). The above-contractual nature of the payment — paying significantly more than any contract provision required — is the documented signature of a payment made to secure silence rather

Continued on Page 16

Tran's First Term Was Marred By The Loss Of Mayoral Administrative Authority, Her Dearth Of Political Skill, Her Impatience & The Council's Unwillingness To Fulfill Her Agenda Without Question *from page 6*

the position of human resources director in the Los Angeles County city of West Covina, he resigned her post in San Bernardino and did so.

In 2022, Tran, a long-time resident of San Bernardino, jumped into the mayor's race. She was provided with substantial support by the California Democratic Party and other Democrats. Also challenging Valdivia was Penman, who was acutely aware that his support of Valdivia in his council and mayoral campaigns was detrimental to his reputation; Nickel, who was intent on making a political comeback; Treasure Ortiz, who had failed in her run against Figueroa to replace Valdivia as Third Ward council member in 2019 and had evolved into one of Valdivia's most vociferous critics, along with Gabriel Jaramillo and Mohammad Khan.

In the June 2022 primary, despite Valdivia's overwhelming fundraising advantage against everyone else in the campaign, he managed to place only a distant third in the voting, and was locked out of the November run-off, in which Tran scored a convincing win over Penman.

Tran, a darling of the Democratic Party establishment, is the first woman of Vietnamese extraction to become the mayor of a large American city. In this way, she is considered by the Democrats as "the great Yellow hope," a personage who in the next decade might accede to substantially higher office, beginning with the California legislature, perhaps Congress and maybe even the governorship, given her base in Southern California combined with her appeal to the Asian community in the Bay Area. Despite high expectations, Tran experienced rough sledding in her first two-and-a-half

years as mayor. A primary factor was the inability of the council to get on the same page and coordinated with regard to hiring a city manager. Bob Field, who had been hired by the city council as city manager essentially on the strength of Valdivia's recommendation and who had proved himself to be exceptionally loyal to Valdivia, resigned in the weeks just prior to Tran's swearing in. For two years straight, the Tran administration seemed to be cursed with an inability to achieve a managerial stasis, burning through no fewer than four city managers, including one who was paid \$870,000 without ever occupying the office in the city's administrative suite located outside of City Hall, which has been shuttered since 2017 because of seismic stability concerns. The shuttered City Hall has served as a metaphor for city government, which during Tran's tenure had very little in the way of tangible accomplishments, primarily because there was no management authority on staff to plan, organize direct and control city employees.

During her first two years in office, Tran was able to forge something of an alliance with Reynoso and Calvin and enjoyed a somewhat better relationship with Alexander than Valdivia did. Neither was she at odds with Figueroa, and she was able, at least initially, to get along with Ibarra. This afforded her an opportunity to form a ruling coalition on the council. That did not materialize, however, partly as a consequence of the lack of managerial cohesion at the staff level, which prevented any major initiatives from being brought forward, around which such a coalition could coalesce.

Early in her tenure, Tran got off on the wrong foot with both

Shorett and Sanchez, as both, despite their enmity with Valdivia and their preference for Tran, were unwilling to simply fall into line with her agenda.

A major complication for Tran was her increasing zeal to get a city manager in place, as administrative leadership in the planning, organizing, directing and controlling of city resources and employees was crucial. Tran accruing a record of accomplishment before her first term ended. In May 2024, there appeared to be virtually universal enthusiasm and support for Rochelle Clayton when she was elevated to the position of interim city manager when the mayor and council terminated Charles Montoya as city manager. That evolved to a strong consensus to promote her into the city manager's post in October of that year. By early November 2024, however, a majority of the council grew resistant to hiring her. Tran dug in her heels in attempting to get to get five members of the council as it was then composed to go along with installing Clayton in the city's top administrative post. This created a schism in which Sanchez, Ortiz, Figueroa, Shorett and Alexander were unwilling to commit to hiring Clayton.

In 2024, Reynoso, Calvin and Alexander failed to gain reelection. They were replaced by Kim Knaus, Mario Flores and Treasure Ortiz, respectively. Flores and Tran bonded early. There was some commonality of purpose with Tran, Knaus and Ortiz, but an early attempt to forge a consensus on the newly-composed council to confer the city manager promotion on Clayton came up short and by February 2025, Clayton took up on an offer from the City of Barstow to become city manager there.

Eventually, agreement on the council to hire Fullerton City Manager Eric Levitt manifested, and he was hired in June 2025. Even with that success, however, there was

a setback in that Ortiz cast the lone dissenting vote in the 7-1 vote to appoint him. This, among a handful of other issues, prevented the mayor and Ortiz from forming a reliable bond, which was somewhat paradoxical, as a loosely-knit council faction that formed which included Sanchez, Ibarra, Figueroa, Shorett and Knaus found itself sharply at odds with Ortiz. The Sanchez/Ibarra/Figueroa/Shorett/Knaus coalition found itself out of sync with Tran, who wanted and expected that the each of the council members, representing but one seventh of the city, would defer to her lead as the head of the entire city.

Tran, just as Valdivia before her, failed to fully anticipate or acclimate herself to a situation in which the city's leader had only limited political reach and virtually no administrative authority. What the 2016 Charter had created was a circumstance in which the ideal mayor possessed superlative political and networking skill by which he or she could assemble and maintain a council coalition that would be at least amenable and, more desirable still, enthusiastic about the governance strategy he or she was advocating. Tran, however, had, barely, enough patience to endure the formal meeting format of the city council's bimonthly meetings and had little patience or time for much beyond that. As mayor, like the members of the city council, she was given adjunct governmental assignments, ones that were both internal and external to the city. Those include being appointed as a member of a council subcommittee as well as appointments to serve as the city's representative on a number of regional governmental and joint powers authority boards, such as those for the League of California Cities, Southern California Associated Governments, the San Bernardino County Transportation Agency, Omnitrans, the Inland Valley Development Agency and the San Ber-

nardino International Airport Authority. Normally, politicians treasure such assignments, as they provide them with an opportunity to not only become intimately acquainted with issues of meaning and import to their constituents but to meet, work with, network with and form friendships or alliances with other politicians, who in the future can be called upon for advice, assistance or support, be that political in the form of endorsements or practical in the form of votes on issues of consequence to the politician's city or constituents. Tran, however, is not gregarious or socially-oriented. At best, she is superficially glib in a crowd but only in short bursts. Rather than utilizing the opportunity her presence at regional board meetings presented her to interact with other elected officials and key government employees, she was frequently observed engaged with her cellphone, either on calls or reading information available on the internet. She would often remain at such meetings until after roll was taken and media photographers left, at which point she would quietly duck out. She seemed curiously uninterested in the minutiae of governance. San Bernardino provides two directors for the board of the San Bernardino International Airport Authority and an alternate director. Since the authority's creation in reaction to the closure of Norton Air Force Base in the 1990s, its board, until Tran became mayor, included San Bernardino's mayor. Tran is not interested in participating in shaping the future of what many believe should become the major international gateway into the city. The Inland Valley Development Agency has existed since the 1990s as an intergovernmental entity intended to promote economic growth, job creation, and community revitalization in the region surrounding the former Norton Air Force Base. It has three representatives/directors

from San Bernardino on its board and an alternate representative/director from San Bernardino. Tran, unlike the mayors before her, is not participating as a Inland Valley Development Agency board member.

Tran's protégé on the council, Mario Flores, has remained loyal to her over the course of the last year-and-a-half. She has had a more nuanced relationship with Ortiz, who has antagonized the members of the council who are resistant to Tran's mayoral authority. In 2022, Ortiz was one of the candidates who challenged Valdivia for mayor, and was thus running against Tran as well. Ortiz has sided with Tran with regard to a number of initiatives the mayor was pushing, but has, in leveling charges of incompetence and poor policy against the city in general, included Tran in those criticisms. For her part, Tran has avoided openly associating herself with Ortiz because doing so would alienate Sanchez, Ibarra, Figueroa and Shorett even further.

It became the collective perception of the board majority that Tran essentially lacked the temperament needed by a successful politician that would allow her, no matter the degree to which she found doing so to be disagreeable, to engage with and indulge her constituents in learning about their needs and concerns and to spend even more time interacting with other politicians in learning their priorities in order to be able to engage in the necessary political horsetrading, back-and-forth, give-and-take, assertion and compromise to move government on toward specific goals.

Despite Tran's physical attractiveness, impeccable dress, articulateness and perfect conformance to the Democratic Party's ideal in terms of identity politics, Sanchez, Ibarra, Figueroa, Shorett and Knaus did not perceive her or respect her as a politician willing and able to do the trench

Continued on Page 17

Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BY THE GRAND TERRACE CITY COUNCIL

HEARING DATE: Tuesday, June 9, 2026

PLACE: Council Chambers, 22795 Barton Road, Grand Terrace, California

TIME: 6:00 P.M.
THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND TERRACE IS SCHEDULED TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING AT THE ABOVE TIME AND PLACE REGARDING THE FOLLOWING ITEM:

Levy and Increase (as previously authorized by property owners) of Annual Assessments for Fiscal Year 2026-27 for Landscape & Lighting Assessment District 89-1

Each year an Engineer's Report is prepared and considered by the City Council for the levy of annual assessments for maintenance and operation of the District. Assessments for each parcel are included and incorporated into the property taxes for each property.

At the Public Hearing, the City Council will consider all oral and written statements made or filed by any interested person at or before the conclusion of the hearing regarding the improvements, boundaries of the assessment district and/or any zone therein; the proposed diagram, proposed assessments, and/or the Engineer's estimate of the cost. The City Council will then consider and take final action on the Engineer's Report for District 89-1. If you have any questions regarding the assessments, the public hearing, or this notice, please contact Shanita Tillman, Senior Management Analyst with the Public Works Department at (909) 954-5191, or via email at stillman@grandterrace-ca.gov.

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on May 29, 2026 and June 5, 2026.

FBN20260004281

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

BETTER NAKED STUDIO BODY WAX AND AESTHETICS 2416 S GROVE AVE UNIT 33 ONTARIO, CA 91761: JESI LOVE T BALTAZAR

Business Mailing Address: 3721 COUNTRY OAKS LOOP UNIT A ONTARIO, CA 91761

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

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

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

/s/ JESI LOVE T. BALTAZAR, Owner

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 5/08/2026

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 K9236

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

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on May 15, 22 & 29 and June 5, 2026.

FBN20260003342

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

VICTORVILLE SENIOR SUNRISE LIVING 15628 MCCASIN CT VICTORVILLE, CA

Public Notices

92394: JESSIE A FLORES

Business Mailing Address: 7030 GASKIN PLACE RIVERSIDE, CA 92506

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: MARCH 10, 2026.

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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

/s/ JESSIE A FLORES, Administrator

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 4/13/2026

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 J1808

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

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on May 15, 22 & 29 and June 5, 2026.

FBN20260004108

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

4 RICH OR 4 POOR 8780 19TH ST #650 ALTA LOMA, CA 91701: S & M ACQUISITIONS, INC 8780 19TH ST # 650 ALTA LOMA, CA 91701

Business Mailing Address: 8780 19TH ST #650 ALTA LOMA, CA 91701

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

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: February 20, 2025.

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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER SHAWN GRAJEDA, Secretary

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 5/05/2026

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 K7325

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

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on May 15, 22 & 29 and June 5, 2026.

FBN20260004205

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

SOUR CELLARS BREWERY [and] SOUR CELLARS WINERY [and] SOUR CELLARS BARREL ROOM 9495 E 9th ST. UNITS B,C,D RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730: WIMS LLC 6209 WINCHESTER CIRCLE EASTVALE, CA 92880

Business Mailing Address: 6209 WINCHESTER CIRCLE EASTVALE, CA 92880

The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY registered with the State of California under the number B20250174391.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: May 4, 2026.

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 17913). I am also aware that all information on

Public Notices

this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

/s/ JOHN FLEMING, Manager
 Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 5/06/2026

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 K8168

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

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on May 15, 22 & 29 and June 5, 2026.

FBN20260004064

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

KIDS SPORTS NEWS NETWORK (KSNW) 11799 SEBASTIAN WAY, STE #103 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730: MICAH L GILES [and] JACOB E GILES

Business Mailing Address: 11799 SEBASTIAN WAY, STE #103 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730

The business is conducted by: A MARRIED COUPLE.

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

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 5/04/2026

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 K7211

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

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on May 15, 22 & 29 and June 5, 2026.

FBN 20260002752

The following person is doing business as: RE/MAX TIME COMMERCIAL. 10535 FOOTHILL BLVD STE #460 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730: [MAILING ADDRESS 10535 FOOTHILL BLVD STE #460 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730]: COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO HOUSEKEY REAL ESTATE CORP. 10535 FOOTHILL BLVD STE 460 RANCHO CUCAMONGA CA 91730 STATE OF INCORPORATION CA ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION 2955814

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

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

/s/ ELVIS A ORTIZ-WAYLAND, CEO

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: APRIL 10, 2026

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 B20250174391.

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

Public Notices

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 04/24/2026, 05/01/2026, 05/08/2026, 05/15/2026 CNBB17202608MT

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: DAVID ALEN CARTER

CASE NO. PRO-VA2600382

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

CARTER: a petition for probate has been filed by SHERRY BALLANTYNE in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO. THE PETITION for Probate requests that SHERRY BALLANTYNE be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

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

A hearing on the petition will be held July 1, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at San Bernardino County Superior Court Fontana District

Department F2 - Fontana 17780 Arrow Boulevard Fontana, CA 92335

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

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

Mathew Alden (California Bar Number 288429) 255 North D Street Suite 200 San Bernardino, CA 92401 (909) 414-0797 mralden123@gmail.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on May 22 & 29 and June 5, 2026.

NOTICE OF PETI-

Public Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JOSE CARLOS CONTRERAS

CASE NO. PROVV2600174

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of JOSE CARLOS CONTRERAS: a petition for probate has been filed by JOSE CARLOS CONTRERAS JR. in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO. THE PETITION for Probate requests that JOSE CARLOS CONTRERAS JR. be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

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

A hearing on the petition will be held June 25, 2026 at 9:00 AM at San Bernardino County Superior Court Victorville District

Department V15 - Victorville

14455 Civic Drive Victorville, CA 92392

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

R. SAM PRICE SB 208603/PRICE LAW FIRM, APC 454 Cajon Street REDLANDS, CA 92373 Phone (909) 328 7000 Fax (909) 475 9500 attorneys@pricelawfirm.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on May 22, 29 and June 5, 2026.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: MICHAEL WILLIAM GOERING

CASE NO. PRO-VA2600392

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

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

A hearing on the petition will be held June 15, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at San Bernardino County Superior Court Victorville District

Department V15 - Victorville

14455 Civic Drive Victorville, CA 92392

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

Mathew Alden (California Bar Number 288429) 255 North D Street Suite 200 San Bernardino, CA 92401 (909) 414-0797 mralden123@gmail.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on May 22 & 29 and June 5, 2026.

Public Notices

probate has been filed by TAMMYMAE LEWIS GOSHAY in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that TAMMYMAE LEWIS GOSHAY be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

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

A hearing on the petition will be held June 25, 2026 at 9:00 AM at San Bernardino County Superior Court Fontana District in

Department F3 - Fontana 17780 Arrow Boulevard Fontana, CA 92335

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

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

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

R. SAM PRICE SB 208603/PRICE LAW FIRM, APC 454 Cajon Street REDLANDS, CA 92373 Phone (909) 328 7000 Fax (909) 475 9500 attorneys@pricelawfirm.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on May 22, 29 and June 5, 2026.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: SHEILA MAE BARRIOS

CASE NO. PRO-VA2600385

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

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

A hearing on the petition will be held July 2, 2026 at 9:00 AM at San Bernardino County Superior Court Fontana District in

Department F2 - Fontana 17780 Arrow Boulevard Fontana, CA 92335

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

R. SAM PRICE SB 208603/PRICE LAW FIRM, APC 454 Cajon Street REDLANDS, CA 92373 Phone (909) 328 7000 Fax (909) 475 9500 attorneys@pricelawfirm.com

Public Notices

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

A hearing on the petition will be held July 2, 2026 at 9:00 AM at San Bernardino County Superior Court Fontana District in

Department F2 - Fontana 17780 Arrow Boulevard Fontana, CA 92335

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

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

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

R. SAM PRICE SB 208603/PRICE LAW FIRM, APC 454 Cajon Street REDLANDS, CA 92373 Phone (909) 328 7000 Fax (909) 475 9500 attorneys@pricelawfirm.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on May 22, 29 and June 5, 2026.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: MICHAEL WILLIAM GOERING

CASE NO. PRO-VA2600392

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

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

A hearing on the petition will be held June 15, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at San Bernardino County Superior Court Victorville District

Department V15 - Victorville

14455 Civic Drive Victorville, CA 92392

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing

Public Notices

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

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on May 29 and June 5, 12 & 19, 2026.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

Michael Jay Collier aka Michael Collier Case NO. PROVA2600152

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of Michael Jay Collier aka Michael Collier A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Maryann Briseno in the Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority., Maryann Briseno be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

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

A hearing on the petition will be held in Dept. F2 at 09:00 AM on 07/14/2026 at Superior Court of California, County of Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino Fontana Division, San Bernardino, 17780 Arrow Boulevard, Fontana, California 92335, Fontana Division

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

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

Public Notices

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

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

Kristine M. Borgia (SB#276777):

3963 11th St Ste 202, Riverside, CA 92501 Riverside CA 92501-3525

Telephone No: 951-823-5138

Published in the SBCS Montclair on:

05/29/2026, 06/05/2026, 06/12/2026

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: AGUSTIN NEGRETE HURTADO

CASE NO. PROVA2600393

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of AGUSTIN NEGRETE HURTADO: a petition for probate has been filed by YOLANDA CARRILLO in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that YOLANDA CARRILLO be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

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

A hearing on the petition will be held July 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at

San Bernardino County Superior Court Fontana District

Department F2 - Fontana 17780 Arrow Boulevard Fontana, CA 92335

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

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

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

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are

Public Notices

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

Attorney for Yolanda Carrillo:

R. SAM PRICE SB 208603/
PRICE LAW FIRM, APC
454 Cajon Street
REDLANDS, CA 92373
Phone (909) 328 7000
Fax (909) 475 9500
attorneys@pricelawfirm.com

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on May 29 and June 5 & 12, 2026.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JOYCE LETHENE COOPER

CASE NO. PROVA2600236

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of JOYCE LETHENE COOPER:

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by PAMELA JEAN SMITH in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that PAMELA JEAN SMITH be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

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

A hearing on the petition will be held in Dept. F-3 at 9:00 a.m. on August 20, 2026.

San Bernardino County Superior Court Fontana District

Department F3 - Fontana 17780 Arrow Boulevard Fontana, CA 92335

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

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

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

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special

Public Notices

Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Pamela Jean Smith:

ANTONIETTE JAUREGUI (SBN 192624)
1894 COMMERCENTER WEST, SUITE 108
SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408
Telephone No: (909) 890-2350
Fax No: (909) 890-0106
aprobatelaw@gmail.com
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on May 29 and June 5 & 12, 2026.

SUMMONS - (CITACION JUDICIAL) CASE NUMBER (NUMERO DEL CASO) CIVSB2526672 NOTICE TO Jakkrit YUANGYAI; DOES 1 TO 10, INCLUSIVE. (AVISO DEMANDADO): YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): Keneta LEMIRE

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons is served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. ¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una repuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no le protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted puede usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas información en el Centro de Ayuda de las

Public Notices

Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida si secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de referencia a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov), o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación da \$10,000 o mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso. The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y la dirección de la corte es): Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino

San Bernardino Justice Center
247 West Third Street
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0210

The name, address and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Chloe McGrath Wright
State Bar #329699
Inland Counties Legal Services
1040 Iowa Avenue, Suite 109
Riverside, CA 92507-2106
Phone: (951) 248-4537
DATE (Fecha): September 19, 2025
Clerk (Secretario), by Indian Cuen Rubio, Deputy (Adjunto)
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on May 29 and June 5, 12 & 19, 2026.

FBN20260004394
The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

ROYAL CREST ESTATES
7484 KICKAPOO TRAIL YUCA VALLEY, CA 92284: ROYAL CREST MHP, LLC 10201 WHITETAIL DR. OAKDALE, CA 95361

Business Mailing Address: PO BOX 1548 OAKDALE, CA 95361
The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY registered with the State of California.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: MARCH 2, 2012.
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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.
/s/ DUANE BRAZIL, Manager
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 05/12/2026
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 K3379
Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of

Public Notices

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

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on May 29 and June 5, 12 & 19, 2026.

FBN20260004210
The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

IE- INLAND EMPIRE 14647 GROUSE RD VICTORVILLE, CA 92394: ROBERT L PHIPPS
Business Mailing Address: 14647 GROUSE RD VICTORVILLE, CA 92394

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: MAY 6, 2026.

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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.
/s/ ROBERT L PHIPPS,
Owner
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 05/06/2026

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 K9232
Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on May 29 and June 5, 12 & 19, 2026.

FBN20260004298
The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

THE SOLID ROCK CHURCH 13032 RANCHERO RD OAK HILLS, CA 92344: ABUNDANT LIFE OF OAK HILLS 13032 RANCHERO RD OAK HILLS, CA 92344

Business Mailing Address: 13032 RANCHERO RD OAK HILLS, CA 92344

The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION registered with the State of California under the number 1876668.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: OCTOBER 14, 2016.

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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.
/s/ JONETTE MCLOUD,
Secretary
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 05/08/2026

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 J6838
Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on May 29 and June 5, 12 & 19, 2026.

FBN 20260004230 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as: REDVO INSURANCE SOLUTIONS. 16515 SONNET LANE FONTANA, CA 92336; MAILING ADDRESS 16515 SONNET LANE FONTANA, CA 92336; COUNTY OF SAN BER-

Public Notices

NARDINO REDVO, INC. 16515 SONNET LN FONTANA CA 92336 STATE OF INCORPORATION CA ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION 4724654

The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: MAY 07, 2026

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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.
s/ FADI R FARAJ, CEO
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 05/07/26

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 05/08/2026, 05/15/2026, 05/22/2026, 05/29/2026 CNBB19202601MT

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: MICHAEL RAKETICH aka MICHAEL GARY RAKETICH

CASE NO. PROV2600023

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of MICHAEL RAKETICH aka MICHAEL GARY RAKETICH: a petition for probate has been filed by JOSHUA RAKETICH in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN BERNARDINO. THE PETITION for Probate requests that JOSHUA RAKETICH be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

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

A hearing on the petition will be held September 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at San Bernardino County Superior Court Victorville District Department V-15 - Victorville 14455 Civic Drive, Suite 200

Victorville, CA 92392 CA 92335

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you

Public Notices

of a notice under Section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Joshua Raketch, In Pro Per jraketich@gmail.com Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 5, 12 and 19, 2026.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

CASE NUMBER CIV SB 2616458

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner MELISSA HERNANDEZ filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows: MELISSA ALVARADO HERNANDEZ to MELISSA LOPEZ ALVARADO

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

Notice of Hearing: Date: 07/16/2026, Time: 08:30 AM, Department: S30 The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, San Bernardino District-Civil Division, 247 West Third Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415, IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order be published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Filing Date: June 4, 2026 Judge Joseph T. Ortiz Gabriel Mendoza, Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on April 24 and May 1, 8 & 15, 2026.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE

NUMBER CIVBA 2600357,

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Brian Israel Andrade, filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Brian Israel Andrade to Brian Israel Andrade Dominguez.

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show

Public Notices

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: 07/14/2026, Time: 01:30 PM, Department: B1The 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 ? Rancho Cucamonga in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Dated: 05/28/2026 Judge of the Superior Court: JAMES R BAXTER Published in the SBCS Rancho Cucamonga on 06/05/2026, 06/12/2026, 06/19/2026, 06/26/2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE

NUMBER CIV SB 2615768,

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: Jeff Andrew O'claray, filed with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Jeff Andrew O'claray to Jeff Andrew Oclaray.

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

Notice of Hearing: Date: 07/13/2026, Time: 08:30 AM, Department: S31The 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 ? Ontario in San Bernardino County California, once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing of the petition.

Dated: 06/01/2026 Judge of the Superior Court: Joseph Ortiz Published in the SBCS Ontario on 06/05/2026, 06/12/2026, 06/19/2026, 06/26/2026

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT AN ATTORNEY

Sara Maria Flores, 9342 Shadowood Dr #C, Montclair, Ca, 91763, Telephone No: 909 286-5611, CASE NUMBER FAMS B 2601480, Sara Maria Flores, SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO, San Bernardino Superior Court, 351 North Arrowhead Ave, San Bernardino, California, 92415, BRANCH NAME: Historic District

CITATION - FREEDOM FROM PARENTAL CUSTODY AND CONTROL

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, To and to all persons claiming to be the father or mother of said minor person(s) named, David Flores

By order of this Court you are hereby cited and advised

Public Notices

that you may appear before the Judge Presiding in the above-entitled court on -, at - of that day, then and there to show cause, if any you have, why said person should not be declared free from the control of (his/her) (their) parents according to the petition on file herein.

If the Court finds that the interest of the minor(s) requires his or her protection, the Court shall appoint counsel to represent the minor(s). Such counsel shall be appointed whether or not the minor(s) is able to afford counsel. If you appear without counsel and are unable to afford counsel, the Court shall appoint counsel for you if you request appointed counsel.

The purpose of this action, to free the minor(s) from the custody of (his/her) (their) parent(s), is to permit the adoption of said minor(s) to a suitable adopting parent.

The Court may continue these proceedings, not to exceed thirty (30) days, as necessary to appoint counsel and enable counsel to become familiar with these proceedings.

Given under my hand and seal of the Superior Court of the County of San Bernardino, State of California, this 03/10/2026 day of --.

By Dawn Santos Published in the SBCS ? Ontario on 06/05/2026, 06/12/2026, 06/19/2026, 06/26/2026

FBN20260004577 The following entity is doing business primarily in San Bernardino County as

ETERNAL LOVE CREATIONS 2025 11707 CLOVERLAWN CT. ADELANTO, CA 92301; MAYELA MURO VILLAGRANA Business Mailing Address: 11707 CLOVERLAWN CT. ADELANTO, CA 92301

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: MAY 14, 2026.

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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

/s/ MAYELA MURO VILLAGRANA

Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 05/15/2026

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 J9676

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

Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel on June 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2026.

FBN 20260004228 The following person is doing business as: THE WELCOME HOUSE. 13558 DELUVINA CT VICTORVILLE, CA 92392; MAILING ADDRESS 28416 FRESSIA DR WINCHESTER, CA 92596; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO CANDICE M CALDWELL

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and

Public Notices

correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ CANDICE M CALDWELL, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: MAY 07, 2026 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 05/15/2026, 05/22/2026, 05/29/2026, 06/05/2026 CNBB20202601MT

FBN 20260004249 The following person is doing business as: CLEARPATH PSYCHIC TAROT AND PALM READING. 1813 S TIPPECANOE AVE SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408; MAILING ADDRESS 1813 S TIPPECANOE AVE SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO KIMBERLY T LEE

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: MAY 07, 2026 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 05/15/2026, 05/22/2026, 05/29/2026, 06/05/2026 CNBB20202602MT

FBN 20260004291 The following person is doing business as: DIGONZA SOCCER. 17542 VALLEY BLVD STE B-C BLOOMINGTON, CA 92316; MAILING ADDRESS 17542 VALLEY BLVD STE B-C BLOOMINGTON, CA 92316; PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS SAN BERNARDINO GONZALEZ SISTERS CORP 17542 VALLEY BLVD STE B-C BLOOMINGTON CA 92316 STATE OF INCORPORATION CA ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION 5500372

The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.

/s/ ROSA I. GONZALEZ, C.E.O. Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: MAY 08, 2026 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 05/15/2026, 05/22/2026, 05/29/2026, 06/05/2026 CNBB20202603MT

FBN 20260004502 The following person is doing business as: JP JUNK REMOVAL. 1088 NESTHORN DR CRESTLINE, CA 92325; MAILING ADDRESS 1088 NESTHORN DR CRESTLINE, CA 92325; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO JESSE PADILLA

Public Notices

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ JESSE PADILLA, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: MAY 14, 2026 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 05/15/2026, 05/22/2026, 05/29/2026, 06/05/2026 CNBB20202604MT

FBN 20260004450 The following person is doing business as: EVOLUTION DENTAL. 941 W FOOTHILL BLVD RIALTO, CA 92376; MAILING ADDRESS 941 W FOOTHILL BLVD RIALTO, CA 92376; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO EVOLUTION DENTAL, PC 941 W. FOOTHILL BLVD RIALTO CA 92376 STATE OF INCORPORATION CA ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION B20260110931

The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ RAFAEL POU, PRESIDENT Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: MAY 13, 2026 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 05/15/2026, 05/22/2026, 05/29/2026, 06/05/2026 CNBB20202605MT

FBN 20260004448 The following person is doing business as: H&R GARDENING AND LANDSCAPING; H&R GARDENING; H&R LANDSCAPING; H&R SPRINKLER SYSTEMS; H&R TREE TRIMMING SERVICE; H&R DUMSTER AND HAULING SERVICES; H&R LAWNSCAPING 3949 MODESTO DRIVE SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92404; MAILING ADDRESS P.O. BOX 2344 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92406; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO HUGO R MORALES

The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ HUGO R MORALES, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: MAY 13, 2026 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 05/15/2026, 05/22/2026, 05/29/2026, 06/05/2026 CNBB20202606MT

Public Notices

FBN 20260004479 The following person is doing business as: BELLUX BODY SCULPTING AND WELLNESS. 11083 CATAWBA AVE FONTANA, CA 92337; MAILING ADDRESS 3949 MODESTO DRIVE SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92404; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO BRENDA ARIAS ALVAREZ The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JAN 15, 2026 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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ BRENDA ARIAS ALVAREZ, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: MAY 13, 2026 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 05/15/2026, 05/22/2026, 05/29/2026, 06/05/2026 CNBB20202607MT

FBN 20260004402 The following person is doing business as: KINGDOMCUTZZ LLC. 710 E FOOTHILL BLVD RIALTO, CA 92376; MAILING ADDRESS 991 WEST MARSHALL BLVD SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92405; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO KINGDOMCUTZZ LLC 991 WEST MARSHALL BLVD SAN BERNARDINO CA 92405 STATE OF ORGANIZATION CA; 710 E FOOTHILL BLVD RIALTO, CA 92376

The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: FEB 01, 2021 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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ DANNY SALAZAR, CEO Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: MAY 12, 2026 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 05/15/2026, 05/22/2026, 05/29/2026, 06/05/2026 CNBB20202608MT

FBN 20260003952 The following person is doing business as: THE GLOSSY CART. 2060 S MOUNTAIN AVE ONTARIO, CA 91762; MAILING ADDRESS 2060 S MOUNTAIN AVE ONTARIO, CA 91762; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO GLORY O MBAGWU The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ GLORY O MBAGWU, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 04/28/2026 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 05/08/2026 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 05/08/2026 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Public Notices

Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 05/15/2026, 05/22/2026, 05/29/2026, 06/05/2026 CNBB20202609MT

FBN 20260004313 The following person is doing business as: WISDOM TREE COUNSELING. 10630 TOWN CENTER DR. SUITE 105 RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO JERALEEN M PETERSON The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: MAR 15, 2013 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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ JERALEEN M PETERSON, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 05/11/2026 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 05/15/2026, 05/22/2026, 05/29/2026, 06/05/2026 CNBB20202610MT

FBN 20260004333 The following person is doing business as: V-LINK. 2542 E HARPER ST ONTARIO, CA 91762; MAILING ADDRESS 2542 E HARPER ST ONTARIO, CA 91762; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO ZHIXIN CHEN The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: MAY 11, 2026 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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ ZHIXIN CHEN, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 05/11/2026 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 05/15/2026, 05/22/2026, 05/29/2026, 06/05/2026 CNBB20202611MT

FBN 20260004264 The following person is doing business as: FORGEX TRAILERS. 917 W FLORA ST ONTARIO, CA 91762; MAILING ADDRESS 917 W FLORA ST ONTARIO, CA 91762; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO FORGE X TRAILERS LLC 917 W FLORA ST ONTARIO CA 91762 STATE OF INCORPORATION CA The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: MAR 30, 2026 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 17913). I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ VLADIMIR VALDEZ, MANAGING MEMBER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 05/08/2026 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 05/08/2026 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy

Public Notices

s/ MAYNOR H. TUN-CHEZ OSORIO, OWNER
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: 05/28/2026
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

Public Notices

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.,

Public Notices

Business and Professions Code).
Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 06/12/2026, 06/19/2026, 06/26/2026, 07/03/2026
CNBB232605MT

FBN 20260004959
The following person is doing business as: VICTOR AND CAROLINA 11760 CENTRAL AVE

Public Notices

SUITE 125 CHINO CA 91710;
MAILING ADDRESS 5466 GOLF ST RIVERSIDE CA 92509;
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO VICTOR PRIETO;
CAROLINA PRIETO
The business is conducted by: A MARRIED COUPLE.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or

Public Notices

names listed above on: N/A
By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing.
s/ VICTOR PRIETO, HUSBAND
Statement filed with the County Clerk

Public Notices

of San Bernardino on: 05/28/2026
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

Public Notices

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 06/12/2026, 06/19/2026, 06/26/2026, 07/03/2026
CNBB232604MT

Would Jesus Make War If The Cause Were Just? *from page 3*

never did. Nevertheless, I decided that I would.

So, one Sunday morning, I headed over to join a rather impressive turnout at a church which can accommodate flocks of up to 5,000 at a pop (and often does), after successfully tapping into some of the secrets of the “Christian youth market,” beginning in the early 1970’s, with rock music to lure in the youngsters; a Starbucks-like coffee bar; and a complimentary lunch afterwards. What more could one ask to satisfy the “weaknesses of the flesh”?

After parking in the large lot, I entered the foyer, walked by the coffee bar, then trudged up the stairs to the balcony where I found one of the few remaining empty sections near the back wall, then settled in for the music. After that interlude, Laurie bounced onto the stage wearing a buttoned-down tan shirt, which was square cut below, and not tucked in. Laurie was and still is a virtual personification of today’s “no ties” church.

So, here’s what I remember most about that morning. Before Laurie launched into his free-flowing sermon (which, basically, I don’t remember), he mentioned that he’d been invited to give the opening invocation during an upcoming day at the Republican National Convention in Madison Square Garden that August, which would soon give its “seal of approval” to George W. and his vice president, Dick Cheney, by then deep into the depths of their administration’s criminal invasion of Iraq.

Then, and much to my somewhat shocked surprise, as soon as Laurie shared that information with his congregants, the entire room (with at least one exception) burst into a spontaneous and thunderous ovation, which lasted for some time. I was stunned to say the least.

Then Laurie followed that up with a further comment which stunned me even more. Of course, to paraphrase him over twenty years later, he also said with a smirk that he would have gone to the Democratic Convention too, but, pausing dramatically, he wasn’t invited; a comment which then elicited yet more applause and cheers, mixed with a fair amount of knowing laughter.

At a time when religious institutions were not allowed to endorse candidates for office without the danger of losing their tax-exempt status (a restriction since lifted by the Trump administration), Laurie had found an extremely smooth means of dodging that restriction in the way he had worded his convention invitation. He hadn’t said he was giving W. his support, but he’d left us with little doubt as to where he stood, and for that, I’ll give him some credit—for cleverness, anyway.

After the sermon, I walked by the coffee bar to the outside area where I took one of the complimentary plastic boxed lunches (hey, what can I say?—they were free), ate, then left, but not before I’d spotted one of the young men I’d invited to the peace protest corner several weeks earlier, and reminded him of my invitation. Well, he said, leaving the door slightly ajar, so far, too many Friday commitments. He’d have to see.

Which raises this important question then about the fundamentalist and evangelical Christian communities in America (still does), and their relationship to the latest American war: why hadn’t the millions who profess to follow a man who preached peace, found the time to pour into the streets protesting our latest war? As far as I can remember, no

“Bible-believing” Christians could be found on our peace corner except for one Baptist minister; his wife; and occasionally their sons. Once again, the question was: where were the Christians?

When it came to Laurie, the answer was clear: based on what I’d heard that morning, he wasn’t opposing the war from the pulpit (or, for that matter, from a street corner) because he supported it, which isn’t surprising when it’s noted that one of his spiritual inspirations was apparently America’s most famous “Bible-based” Christian preacher: Billy Graham, who, by that time, had never met, and in the future would never meet an American war he didn’t like and couldn’t bless.

Fast forward from 2004 to 2026. On Sunday, March 1st, 2026, a day after Trump began his internationally and domestically illegal attack on Iran in conjunction with Israel (some say at the behest and insistence of Israel and Netanyahu), Laurie was at it again, and it was there for everyone to see (and hear) on YouTube.

That morning when Laurie announced the successful “decapitation” of the Iranian ruler (or, as Trump’s press secretary, Karoline Leavitt, who’s another “good Christian” and always wears a sparkling crucifix on her chest, put it in a tone that seemed almost giddy: Trump had cut off “the head of the snake”—along with, it might be added, basically his entire family, including his granddaughter), Laurie said it like a color commentator during the final game-winning touchdown in a football game, and, just like I’d heard in 2004 about his appearance at the Republican convention, the congregation burst into enthusiastic applause.

Yes, they applauded. This huge room of “Good Christians” burst into applause when they heard that an 86-year-old man and his family had been obliterated. Again, I’ll give Laurie credit for this: steadfast consistency. Over the years he’s proven to be a reliable warmonger and a supporter of any war as long as it’s ours.

Meanwhile, that same morning, I had gone to a Science of Mind church in another city to join a friend who attends there. The Science of Mind theology (or philosophy, depending on one’s point of view), first presented in book form just over 100 year ago by founder Ernest Holmes, is the only church I’ve joined as an official member (when I was 39), because it’s a teaching that supports both science and believes that everyone has their own mind and should use it—therefore the name.

Consequently, taking into consideration those principles and what happens in other “faith-based” places of worship, Science of Mind is a rather “niche” market when it comes to religion. In other words: we don’t fill Angel Stadium, and while we do have members who think literal angels are real, there’s a place for those of us who think science is, and not the supernatural.

Another reason I stick with Science of Mind is because it has been (at least recently) an opponent of American wars (and wars in general), and I was pleased to discover that the minister at the other church (as well as the one at my home church in Redlands) came out that Sunday in full-throated opposition to Trump’s supposedly pre-emptive war on Iran waged to “protect us.”

Then, on Thursday, March 12th I was the representative of my Science of Mind center (where I’m a board member) at the meeting of RAIC (the Redlands Area Interfaith Council) where some 20 people from various faith-paths in Redlands had gathered for

their monthly meeting, and because I was emotionally raw and churning about what was going on with the war and its widespread support by fundamentalist and evangelical Christians in both the Trump administration and with many Christians nationwide (although by no-means a general consensus), I stood up and made a passionate statement towards the end of the meeting.

Although I did not mention Laurie by name, I alluded to a mega-church in Riverside (letting them fill in the blank) and how I’d heard that applause on YouTube, saying that even if you think an elderly man (admittedly an odious elderly man who’d recently had thousands of his protesting citizens slain in the streets) and his “collaterally damaged” family needed to be executed (which I believe most of RAIC did not), you should never applaud the death of any human being if you claim to “believe” in a man who was also executed 2,000 years ago and his messages of non-violence.

In conclusion I mentioned that I knew full well that my church is not considered “Christian” by many Christian churches (for one: we view Jesus and his life as portrayed in the Gospels not as the great “exception,” because he, and he alone was God and how can anyone else even hope to approach that standard? but as the great “example” who called us all to follow in his footsteps), but, I said, if what I’d seen at that mega-church in Riverside is part of what Christianity’s about today, you can count me out!

I sat down to silence, so if the RAIC members did approve of what I’d said, they did not show it outwardly, and the only one to indicate even the slightest support was a Baha’i woman sitting to my right who nodded briefly. Her support was perhaps telling in light of this war on Iran because the Iranian man who’d founded the Baha’i faith there in 1844, advocating the universality of all religions, was executed six years later by the Islamic clergy for advocating such a “heresy.”

Sadly, while the Baha’is continue to face some Muslim persecution in Iran, it was perhaps a sign of hope that day at RAIC when I later approached the Muslim man conducting the meeting and he shared his support for what I’d said.

However, I guess I shouldn’t have been surprised at the lack of other support. Way back in 1991, I’d discovered how difficult it is to stick one’s head above the herd and make clear your opposition to another American war. That year only Phill Courtney and one other English teacher at Perris High School out of a staff totaling well over 100, were willing to openly speak out against the U.S. bombing of Iraq. Yes, a two-man support group that continues today.

As for Laurie—here’s what seems to be going on. Although I can’t confirm it, and while I’ve seen no documented evidence to support it, the circumstantial evidence seems to indicate this: Laurie long-ago embraced a form of what’s called Christian Nationalism which manifests itself in unquestioning confirmation of this country’s government (as long as it’s Republican, and Christian, that is) and that whatever it does must also be “blessed by God.”

Beyond that mindset, Laurie seems to also espouse many of the Apocalyptic messages in the Gospels as set forth primarily in the Book of Revelation, and how this war on Iran is showing Christians like Laurie “the hand of God” in action working through Trump to expunge (or, preferably, if they can) convert unbelievers (particularly Muslims) and how this is the war that may “hasten” the Second Coming of

Continued on Page 16

Despite Real Questions Over Whether A Three Four-Year Term Limit Applied To Him, Hagman Ran For, And Won, A Fourth Term *from page 3*

cil member and mayor of Chino Hills prior to that, ran for reelection as supervisor in the county's Fourth District for the third time this year. Despite the consideration that at the time he was first elected to the board supervisors he was bound under the terms of Measure P, put in place by the voters in 2006, to a term limit stipulation of three four-year terms, Hagman ran in Tuesday's race and was elected to what will be his fourth term as supervisor. Hagman's defiance of the terms of Proposition P was justified by the consideration that the county's voters, in 2020, voted to pass Measure K, which called for reducing the supervisors to a single four-year term. Measure K passed by an overwhelming margin of more two-to-one, with 516,184 votes or 66.84 percent in support to 256,098 votes or 33.16

percent opposed. Instead of allowing Measure K to go into effect, the board of supervisors directed county counsel, the county's top attorney, to challenge it in court. While the case against the measure was pending, the enforcement of its provisions were suspended.

In the meantime, an alternative initiative pertaining to supervisors' term limits, Measure D, was placed on the 2022 ballot. It reestablished the number of terms a supervisor could serve to three four-year terms. It passed by a margin of 241,894 votes to 173,582 votes, or 58.22 percent to 41.78 percent.

Ultimately, after two years of being held in abeyance 2020 Measure K and its single term limitation was determined by the court to be valid in all respects. Despite the courts ultimately determining that Measure K, as passed by the voters in 2020 was valid and that it had passed by far more votes and by a greater percentage than Measure D, Measure K was never put into effect.

No one disputed the legality of Hagman seeking reelection this

year. It appears that he will begin to serve his fourth consecutive term later this year.

The most fiercely contest county position up for election this year was that of treasurer.

Unlike Dicus, Anderson, Gonzales, Armendarez and Hagman, as treasurer and particularly as auditor, Mason does not fit comfortably within the county political or social establishment.

In 2021 and carrying over into 2022, Mason began focusing on three issues which did not endear him to others at the county level holding high political office.

One such matter was that of the county recorder's office imposing a fee of \$10, the proceeds from which then passed along or made available to the district attorney's office to be used to fund real estate fraud investigations and prosecutions. Under California Government Code § 27388, the district attorney's office is to log the money coming in, how it is used and what cases the money is used toward and is also to submit an annual report delineating that. Mason noted that the

district attorney's office for nearly two decades had failed to meet the § 27388 requirements and had not an annual report as to the outcome of any real estate fraud cases the office took up for at least 19 years. Mason's public statements about this situation and his insistence that no more of the funds collected upon property sales at the recorder's office would be passed along to the district attorney's office until the required reporting was completed going forward cast District Attorney Anderson and his predecessor, former District attorney Mike Ramos, in a poor light.

Around the same time, Mason brought to general public attention that a significant number of those who had purchased from the county properties seized in tax lien sales were not recompensing those homeowners or landowners who had lost their homes or properties as a result of those tax foreclosures for the equity they had accumulated in those homes or properties minus the money from the sales used to satisfy their tax debt. Chapters 7 and 8 of the California

Revenue and Tax Code delineates a precise process by which properties that have more than five years of tax delinquencies are subject to seizure by the county and sale to the highest bidder for the purpose of satisfying the payment of the property owner's past due taxes. Mason noted that according to Chapter 7, under the tax lien/foreclosure process, a property owner losing his house or land is, at least theoretically, entitled to all proceeds from the auction sale that exceed taxes/penalties due plus costs. In pointing this out, Mason engendered the enmity of some of the members of the board of supervisors who had received hefty contributions from those who were engaged in obtaining properties through the tax foreclosure process and who were engaged, it appeared, in some order of a ruse with county officials to keep the foreclosed-upon homeowners from receiving recompense for the equity they had accumulated through their ownership of the properties they lost.

Mason characterized what was taking place as

an abuse of the governmental process and the authority of the board of supervisors.

The degree to which Mason managed to disengratiated himself with the political establishment by dwelling on issues relating to the district attorney's office's failure to make a strict accounting of some of the revenue provided to it and the way in which those obtaining real estate in tax liens and the county itself was holding onto money that should have rightly gone to those who had lost their homes or property was insignificant in comparison to the bitterness he engendered by inserting the treasurer and auditor's function into what he perceived as a conflict of interest between the board of supervisors and the union that represents the county's sheriff deputies.

In 2021, that union, the Safety Employees Benefit Association, known by its acronym SEBA, sought to create a medical care trust for retired deputies. The county's deputies and higher ranking officers already receive a pension – calculated at 3

Continued on Page 18

Simply Not Monitoring Or Controlling What Went Into Its Trash Cost LLUMC \$7.5 Million In Fines *from page 3*

As part of the settlement Loma Linda has agreed to take significant steps to prevent future unlawful disposals.

The cavalier dispensing of hazardous medical waste is a glaring departure in the protocol observed by the operations associated with Loma Linda University Medical Center and Loma Linda University Health Care, associated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, extending to Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, Loma Linda University Medical Center – Murrieta, Loma Linda University Shared Services, Loma Linda University

Health, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center, Inc., Faculty Physicians and Surgeons of the Loma Linda University School of Medicine. The doctors and other health professionals associated with the university pride themselves and the system they are associated with as embracing a lifestyle or lifestyles that emphasize healthy living and life decisions. Moreover, the professional standards relating to patient confidentiality within the medical community have been codified in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act's privacy rule, referred to colloquially by the acronym HIPAA, which carries the weight of law, requiring that nothing related to an individual's medical condition

or treatment be revealed without the patient's explicit, written consent or a court order.

According to prosecutors with both counties, documents found at the landfills contained patient health information, and those documents should have been shredded, erased, or otherwise rendered unreadable before disposal.

Under the settlement, Loma Linda University Health will pay \$7.5 million, including \$6.75 million in civil penalties, \$500,000 to reimburse investigative and enforcement costs, and \$250,000 to fund environmental projects that benefit California communities.

As part of the settlement, Loma Linda University Health must comply with a permanent injunction prohibiting future violations of

California laws governing hazardous waste, medical waste, and the protection of confidential medical information. The settlement also requires the health system to maintain and enhance a comprehensive compliance program. In addition, a \$1 million penalty will remain suspended for five years and may be imposed if the health system fails to spend at least \$3 million on required compliance measures.

The settlement resolves the allegations without trial and is intended to protect public health, safeguard patient privacy, and ensure compliance with California environmental and healthcare laws. Another consideration in the civil settlement was that it avoids hauling employees with the Loma Linda University Medi-

cal, Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, Loma Linda University Medical Center – Murrieta, Loma Linda University and Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center, Inc., ranging from relatively low-standing grounds staff, orderlies, nurses, professors, physicians, surgeons and hospital administrators, several of them held to be pillars of the Loma Linda community into court and charging them criminally.

"During the investigation, Loma Linda University Health cooperated with prosecutors and undertook significant corrective actions, including a system-wide overhaul of its waste management program, modifications to employee training, and improvements to waste handling procedures," the River-

side County District Attorney's Office stated.

"Loma Linda remains an excellent community partner in our county, particularly as it pertains to their care, treatment, and expertise in pediatric cases," San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office Public Affairs Officer Jacqueline Rodriguez said. "We appreciate their cooperation with the district attorney's offices throughout the investigation."

This case was handled for Riverside County by Riverside County Deputy District Attorney Lauren R. Martineau of the office's the environmental protection team. San Bernardino Deputy District Attorney Stephanie Weissman worked in conjunction with her office's consumer environmental protection unit in pursuing the case.

-Mark Gutglueck

Two Sets Of Brothers Are Involved In Development & Overseeing That Development In Fontana *from page 7*

than satisfy a legal obligation.

Misuse of Public Funds— Government Code §424 — Paying public funds to a departing employee above and beyond any contractual or legal obligation, for the purpose of purchasing silence about criminal activity, constitutes misappropriation of public funds under California Government Code §424. The city council members who approved the settlement payment may bear personal criminal liability.

“The fact that Fontana paid more than required by Hunt’s contract could be construed as hush money. If Hunt had resigned willingly, Fontana wouldn’t have owed him any severance.” — Robert Fellner, Executive Director, Transparent California, 2021

The Federal Theory:

RICO And The 50-Year Pattern

The legal significance of documenting five decades of corruption is not, primarily, historical. It is structural. The federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations statute 18 U.S.C. §1961–1968 was designed precisely for situations like this: not isolated corrupt acts, but a continuing enterprise in which corruption is the operating principle, actors rotate in and out, and the institution persists.

RICO requires proof of an enterprise affecting interstate commerce, with which defendants are associated, through a pattern of racketeering activity, meaning at least two predicate acts within ten years. The predicate acts documented in this investigation include: the Alliance Building Solutions kickback scheme (approximately 2017–2019); the illegal RDA asset transfers found by the State Controller (2011); the Water Of Life/CityLink sole-source funding pipeline

(2009 to present); and the ongoing affordable housing financial irregularities (2020 to present).

The historical documentation—the Ratelle casino credit lines, the Southridge infrastructure giveaway, the Nuaimi-era RDA misappropriations, and the Colonies bribery establishes the pattern. RICO does not require convicting Ratelle or Nuaimi for the predicate acts they committed. It requires demonstrating that the current actors are operating within a continuing criminal enterprise with a demonstrable historical pattern. That pattern is now fully documented.

Laws Broken: RICO -18 U.S.C. §1962(c) and (d)

Section 1962(c) prohibits conducting the affairs of an enterprise affecting interstate commerce through a pattern of racketeering activity. Section 1962(d) prohibits conspiring to violate §1962(c). Predicate acts may include mail fraud (18 U.S.C. §1341), wire fraud (§1343), bribery

of public officials (§666 where federal funds are involved), money laundering (§1956), and obstruction of justice (§1503/§1512). The ten-year window for the pattern is satisfied within the Warren era alone.

Federal Program Bribery — 18 U.S.C. §666

Section 666 extends federal bribery and theft statutes to any state or local government that receives more than \$10,000 in federal funding in one year, a threshold Fontana and San Bernardino County far exceed. Kickbacks paid to local officials in connection with contracts or grants at a federally funded agency constitute federal crimes, regardless of whether the specific contract involved federal dollars.

The Circle Completes: Fontana In 2026

In 2021, Phil Burum, brother of Jeff Burum, the developer charged and ultimately acquitted in the Colonies bribery prosecution, was installed as Fontana’s assistant city manager. In

2022, Jesse Armendarez — Acquanetta Warren’s political protégé, a member of Water of Life Community Church, and holds a stake in Sierra Realty, one of Fontana’s premier real estate companies, which generates for him income of over \$100,000 per year — was elected to the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors’ 2nd District seat: the same seat previously held by Paul Biane.

In 2025–2026, Diversified Pacific, Jeff Burum’s company, filed a 393-unit development application with the City of Fontana. Joe Armendarez, Jesse’s brother, chairs the Fontana Planning Commission. Phil Burum processes his brother’s company’s entitlement application. Joe Armendarez chairs the commission that approves it. Jesse Armendarez controls the county funding that surrounds it. The machine is fully operational.

From Jack Ratelle’s MGM Hotel credit line in 1973 to Phil Burum’s management of his

brother’s development applications in 2026: fifty-three years of continuous institutional corruption. Three distinct eras, multiple mechanisms, one consistent principle: public money flows to those who pay the officials who control it. The machine works because it is patient. Because it replaces its actors while preserving its structure. Because the local oversight bodies have been captured at every level. Because the people who discovered the corruption were paid to stay silent. Because the prosecutions that reached court were defeated on evidentiary technicalities.

The only path to accountability that remains open runs through federal agencies: the FBI, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Central District of California, the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Office of Inspector General, and the Department of Justice’s Civil Rights and Public Integrity Section.

The Latest Crusade *from page 14*

Jesus. Hence, perhaps, that applause heard throughout Harvest.

Of course, we’ve been here many times before with countless dates set for the “Second Coming,” which (in case you haven’t noticed) have all proven incorrect—and, no matter how many times it’s happened, hasn’t helped to put the kibosh on all the prognosticators, including Hal Lindsey and his multi-million-dollar selling series of books (The Late, Great Planet Earth, etc.) in the ‘70s and ‘80, whose predictions did not, as the Bible says, help pave the way for the “end of times,” but did help his bank account.

Meanwhile, although I, of course, can’t see into his heart and his true motivations, the same seems to be true of Laurie. After his 1952 birth in Long Beach, he had a rather chaotic upbringing with an unstable, single mother who’d married seven times and was not religious, but he soon found a way out of that mess through his own style of Christianity. His selling points of impending doom, combined with another “way out” of that rather inauspicious origin story came through the greatest “product” of all: eternal life for believers, which has proven quite lucrative.

Towards the end of one internet post by a Laurie-friendly site, with its accounts of, yes, the often-beneficial help his church has given many people, it seems that going hand-in-hand with that help, is the “help” Harvest has also given Laurie, since his worth approaches some \$20 million today.

Now, whether he truly believes in all that he preaches (with those terrors of the “many-headed beast”), or has simply found his brand of preaching a path to a comfortable life-style (although, to his credit, and unlike several other mega-preachers, he’s wisely avoided those “offensive optics” of pri-

vate jets), or perhaps it’s a combination of the two, I’ll leave that between Laurie and his God.

Of course, Laurie has also accumulated his own collection of carping critics within the ranks of Christianity itself (as fame tends to do), with many seeing him as just another persuasive “prosperity” preacher espousing his own form of false Christianity—along with other multi-millionaire mega-ministers like Joel Osteen—with plenty of hits on YouTube explaining Laurie’s abundant apostasies.

But this has always been the case with Christianity (and plenty of other religions, too), who have repeatedly rounded up the firing squads in a circle, with literally hundreds of separate churches each preaching their own version of the “one and only truth.”

Laurie also made the news recently with a decidedly secular scandal at Harvest involving one of his right-hand men, who apparently groomed young, rootless boys from eastern Europe, luring them in with promises of a place to stay and guidance in the future, only to find themselves trapped in cycles of physical and emotional abuse.

No, Laurie is not accused of direct participation in those alleged crimes himself, but the pending lawsuit has implicated him in a cover-up. In other words; his own version of the Catholics’ pedophile priest atrocities. But this column is not about that, and I do support “innocent until proven guilty,” so I’ll make no “call” on what Laurie did or did not do, and instead just say this for now: “the truth will out.”

However, I will also say this about what I do know first-hand to be “the truth” because I witnessed it both in person and via video: that this self-proclaimed “biblically, faith-based Christian”—this “believer” in “The Prince of Peace”—is totally “out” in one sense: he’s a supporter of America’s illegal and immoral wars, and is not a follower of the Jesus I see in the Gospels.

It’s the Jesus who renounced materialism and the

acquisition of precious “treasures on Earth”—it’s the Jesus who renounced those who “live by the sword,” and kill by the sword (which today are called Tomahawk missiles), and would weep to see people celebrating any execution—it’s the Jesus who instead spread the message to love our neighbors and our enemies and not blow them to bits, followed by enthusiastic applause.

As for the many attempts to find the “real” Jesus in general, it’s basically impossible because we don’t have any contemporary, historical records of his life, only what are obviously literary “constructs” written decades later by converts, and while there are scholars who even doubt he actually existed, what does come through in the Gospels is a man who admirably (and fatally) did take some righteous stands against the religious hypocrites and authorities of his time and would undoubtedly renounce America’s military machine and endless wars today.

Finally, I suspect that if this Jesus was able to “return again,” he would weep on the steps of America’s many mega (and MAGA) churches, who have helped not just once, but twice to put a ruler who harkens “to lies” back on the throne. Jesus, out on the steps because the security guards have escorted this scruffy and smelly “radical, left lunatic” out through the doors.

However, despite all the deep despair some of us are experiencing today, remember this: we can always help push those doors back open again, as I hope I have here.

Phill Courtney has been a high school English teacher (which is one reason he’s not a millionaire today), and twice a candidate for Congress with the Green party. He’s also been a member of the Redlands Center for the Realization of Spirit since 2017, and a follower of Science of Mind since the early 1980s. His email is: pjcourtney1311@gmail.com

Developer Beard Threw Beaucoup Bucks Into Influencing This Year's SB City Election Outcome *from page 8*

work in order to be a credible advocate for the citizens she represented or for the city. This lack of respect, while unspoken, was obvious. It was exacerbated in 2024 and 2025 when, in politically tone deaf fashion, Tran, in a way she thought would remain secret but which did not, began encouraging groups of individuals in the First and Fourth Wards which were pursuing ultimately unsuccessful recall attempts against Sanchez and Shorett. That destroyed to the foundations whatever broken bridges between her and the two councilman which might have been repaired.

As a consequence, despite having, at last, a competent and experienced professional city manager in the personage of Levitt in place, Tran had not been able to string together a meaningful set of accomplishments during her time in office.

Tran's inability to get on track induced three relative newcomers to politics – Ivan Garcia, Amy Malone and San Bernardino Planning Commissioner Ronnika Ngalande – and two old hands – Valdivia and Rick Avila – to throw their hats into the mayoral ring.

Sanchez in the First Ward drew three opponents, most prominently Virginia Marquez, whose departure from the council cleared the way for his entry into politics in 2018, along with Ron Alvarado and Omar Williams.

Third Ward incumbent Ibarra was faced with a challenge by Benito Barrios, whose political career she truncated in 2018, and Christian Shaughnessy, a self styled "housing advocate" who proved to be highly supportive of Ortiz when she was subject to criticism by Sanchez, Ibarra, Figueroa, Shorett

and Knaus, which resulted in the council voting to censure her in March.

In the Fourth Ward, Shorett found himself up against Vincent Laster and Jesus Medina, both of whom had run against him unsuccessfully in the past, as well as Erick Marquez and Joseph Salas.

After the dust had cleared on Tuesday night and all 164 of the city's precincts had reported, Tran was safely reelected to another four years in office and the political careers of Sanchez and Ibarra had been brought to a close, if not permanently, then for a while. Shorett was left in political limbo. He had not lost but had not won either, and was going to have to go to a run-off, a not unfamiliar experience for him.

Tran captured 7,760 of the total 14,214 votes cast and counted as of that evening in the six-way race, giving her 54.59 percent. Over the next several days to a week, mail-in ballots are to come into the county registrar of voters office, so it is conceivable, though not likely, that Tran's margin above the 50 percent threshold would be eliminated. Far more likely, based on statistical probability and past electoral results, is that the pattern of vote distribution among the candidates with any mail-in ballots will resemble the ratio exhibited in the voting at the polls. Indeed, as of today, Friday June 5, at 4 p.m., the number of votes logged in the mayoral race had increased to 22,325 while the number of votes for Tran were recorded as 12,165 or 54.49 percent, a minuscule drop which foretells her eventual victory. The runner-up on Tuesday night in the mayor's race was Avila, who logged 1,525 votes as of that point or 10.73 percent. Avila was yet in second place today, having brought in 2,308 or 10.34 percent. Of note was the overall poor performance of John Valdivia, who finished dead last with 1,007 votes or 7.08 percent as of Tuesday

and 1,412 vote or 6.32 percent at 4 p.m. today.

In the First Ward, Virginia Marquez marked a triumphant return to politics by capturing, after all 22 of the precincts in the ward had reported Tuesday night, a convincing 452 or 34.42 percent of the 1,313 votes cast. In second was Ron Alvarado, with 369 or 27.8 percent of the vote. This shut out Sanchez, but not by much, as he claimed 365 votes or four fewer than Alvarado, which put him at being favored by 28.1 percent of the ward's voters. A four vote deficit was not impossible to overcome, but two-and-a-half days later, by 4 p.m. today, the trending was not in Sanchez's favor. Another 615 ballots had come in and were counted. Marquez's count was boosted by 215, such that she now has 667 of the 1,928 votes counted so far, for 34.6 percent. Alvarado claimed 210 of the votes on the newly arrived ballots, sending his total vote count so far to 579 or 30.03 percent. Sanchez in the same span was endorsed on 133 of the incoming ballots, putting his total votes as of today at 498, which means that he actually lost ground to both Marquez and Alvarado, which is clearly reflected in his current percentage of 25.83 percent of the vote.

In the Second Ward race on Tuesday, Barrios and Shaughnessy did to Ibarra what Ibarra and Miranda-Dolan did to Barrios in 2018. Ibarra as of the closing on Tuesday night, with 18 of 18 precincts reporting, had 374 votes or 29.29 percent of 1,277 votes cast in the three-way contest. Shaughnessy was on top with 457 votes or 35.79 percent and Barrios was in second with 445 votes or 34.85 percent. As of this afternoon at 4p.m., after another 677 votes had arrived and been counted by the registrar of voters, Shaughnessy had improved to 38.28 percent of the 1,954 votes now received by adding another 291 to his tally. Barrios between Tuesday and today gained 204 votes but still

dropped to 33.21 percent of the current 1,954, while Ibarra's addition 187 votes left her with 557 as of today, an overall percentage of 28.51 percent, putting her in a distant third place.

Shorett, of the three incumbents, fared the best. Tuesday night, with 43 of the 43 precincts in the Fourth Ward having reported and 3,121 total votes having been tallied, he was on top with 1,148 votes, a respectable 36.78 percent of the vote in a five-way race. Nipping at his heels, however was Salas, with 1,129 votes or 36.78 percent. Their closest competitor was Jesus Medina, with 14.74 percent, a clear indicator Shorett and Salas were bound for a run-off. As of today at 4 p.m., after another 1,757 ballots have come in and been counted, Salas has overtaken Shorett. Having brought in another 558 votes, Shorett's total now stands at 1,706 votes or 34.97 of the current 4,878 votes cast and counted. Over the same two-and-a-half days, Salas added a whopping 730 votes, zooming his total to 1,859 or 38.11 percent.

Of note is that Scott Beard, a developer with multiple interests around the city who has been active in supporting political candidates in San Bernardino and elsewhere in San Bernardino County in the past proved to be a major factor in how the election went on Tuesday. Two years ago, Beard emerged as the primary backer in Treasure Ortiz's successful 2024 election to the council in the Seventh Ward.

This year, Beard worked in tandem with Jim Erwin, who controls the independent political expenditure entity Committee for Effective Government, in an effort to unseat Sanchez, Ibarra and Shorett. Over the course of less than two months, Beard endowed Committee for Effective Government with \$94,700, at least \$62,917.94 of which was used to derail Sanchez's, Ibarra's and Shorett's political aspirations.

Between April 26 and

April 30, the Committee for Effective Government spent \$192.06 on data to form the basis of a mailer attacking Sanchez, \$500 to design the piece, \$5,012.31 to print it and \$2,140.16 to mail it. Over the course of May 14/15, the Committee for Effective Government paid \$500 to design, \$2,232.18 to print and \$875.63 to send by post a second attack mailer against Sanchez. Thereafter, the Committee for Effective Government expended \$2,174.19 to print a third hit piece discrediting Sanchez, and \$718.11 on postage to deliver it. In the final week of the campaign, the Committee for Effective Government delivered what it hoped would be the coup de grâce, via a mailer that involved spending \$411.78 on research, covering the \$1,000 cost of its design, laying out \$2,189.63 to print it and expending \$794.36 on postage to send it to a select group of First Ward residents. The Committee for Effective Government thus expended \$18,740.41 in its blitz against Sanchez.

Between April 26 and April 30, the Committee for Effective Government spent \$206.76 on research, \$500 on the design and \$5,108.47 on the printing of a hit piece targeting Ibarra, capped with the payment of \$2,318.86 to the U.S. Post Office to deliver roughly 3,000 of the mailers to Second Ward households. On May 14/15, the Committee for Effective Government spent \$500 on mailer design, \$2,308.07 on printing and \$911.49 toward postage for another attack on Ibarra. From May 22 through 26, the Committee for Effective Government spent \$411.78 to research, \$1,000 to design, \$2,259.73 to printing and \$808.34 to mail another handbill savaging Ibarra. The Committee for Effective Government spent \$2,244.62 to print a final mailer casting Ibarra in a negative light and spent \$740.67 on postage to send it to the highest propensity voters in her district, timed to land in mailboxes on Saturday,

May 30 and Monday, June 1 just before Tuesday's polling. The Committee for Effective Government spent \$19,318.79 on its mail campaign to destroy Ibarra's reputation.

In a two day period between April 29 and April 30, the Committee for Effective Government spent \$251.31 to research, \$500 to design, and \$5,677.29 to print an attack mailer against Shorett and then spent \$2,785.49 to mail it to his constituents in the Fourth Ward. On May 14 and 15, the Committee for Effective Government spent \$500 to design, \$3,189.19 to print and \$1,621.30 on postage for another hit piece targeting Shorett. From May 22 through May 26 the Committee for Effective Government shelled out \$411.78 on research, \$1,000 on design and \$3,065.04 on printing for a mailer that demonized Shorett before devoting \$1,485.59 toward postage to put it before the voters most likely to vote in the Fourth District. On May 26 the Committee for Effective Government spent \$3,013.08 on a final handbill to trash Shorett, which was then delivered to Fourth Ward voters at a cost of \$1,358.88. The Committee for Effective Government's mail campaign against Shorett cost \$24,858.74.

Three entities controlled by Scott Beard – Rialto-based Gerald W. Beard Realty Inc., Rialto-based Legendary Enterprises and Rialto-based S.C. Beard Enterprises – respectively on April 13, April 13 and May 7 provided the Committee for Effective Government with \$50,000, with \$19,600 and with \$24,900.

A common theme in the mailers was tying each of the three to Valdivia. This was done despite the clear enmity that had always existed between Shorett and Valdivia from the time Shorett beat Valdivia in the special election in 2009 when Valdivia was living in the Fourth Ward and the intense estrangement that existed

Continued on Page 20

Fastidious Reporting Of County Financial Issues By Incumbent Made This Year's Treasurer's Race Hotly Contested *from page 15*

percent of each retired deputy's/officer's highest annual salary times the number of years the deputy/officer was employed by the department. Those pensions are paid through the county's retirement system, SBCERA – the San Bernardino County Employees' Retirement System. What the Safety Employees Benefit Association was attempting to do was to create what is known as an "other postemployment benefit," referred to by the acronym OPEB, which would pay for the health plans for those retired sheriff's department employees in addition to their pensions.

The board of supervisors, all of whom have received substantial political contributions from SEBA and who were also endorsed by the deputies' union in their run for office, were in favor of simply approving the creation of the other postemployment benefit for retired sheriff's department employees. In gearing up to approve the other postemployment benefit for the Safety Employees Benefit Association, the board of supervisors made no arrangement for funding the program, deferring into the future the provision of money that would be used to pay for the health insurance the retired sheriff's deputies/officers were to receive. This meant that ultimately the money to pay for the medical care trust program, instead of being defrayed by contributions from deputies/officers who were still working, would come out of the county's general operating budget or the county's financial reserves.

Mason, in looking to what the proposal would entail, the projections of what it would cost and what funding at that

time was available and what future funding was projected to become available, calculated the actuation of the program would create what would amount to a liability, i.e., debt, of over \$1 billion that the county would be saddled with in the future. Mason informed then-County Executive Officer Leonard Hernandez and Assistant County Executive Officer Diane Rundles, who oversaw the county's human resources division, that he believed the requirements of his job as county treasurer/tax



Ensen Mason

collector/auditor/controller required, at the very least, that he make a report, entailing a full public disclosure of that future debt/liability prior to the board of supervisors' consideration of the approval of the creation of the medical trust program for retired deputies/officers.

This greatly complicated the proposal to approve the program, making it impossible for the board of supervisors to simply rubberstamp it.

His insistence on making a report of the liabilities of the program and its financial consequences prevented the creation of the other postemployment benefit and resulted in the Safety Employees Benefit Association and its members perceiving the board of supervisors as having double-crossed them by not rewarding the deputies with the creation of the medical care trust program to benefit them in return for the hefty political contributions the deputies' union had made to the supervisors to assist in their election campaigns. In fact, Mason said, what the board of supervisors was attempting to do with the

postretirement medical care trust program for the county's sheriff's employees involved the supervisors in a classic quid-pro-quo – a kickback, a payoff, bribery, corruption – a conflict of interest of the first order.

Mason managed to achieve reelection in 2022 without SEBA or the members of the board of supervisors reacting to his action in quashing the postretirement medical care trust program for the county's sheriff's employees, largely because that action had taken place too late for them to coordinate a campaign against him that year.

This year, however, it was different. There was networking among sheriff's deputies, the Safety Employees Benefit Association, members of the board of supervisors, the supervisors' political supporters and to county administration to organize a campaign against Mason. Central to that effort was Hutchison's candidacy, which was perceived by the lion's share of those who lined up behind the Rancho Cucamonga councilman's campaign as an effort to make Hutchison treasurer-collector/auditor-controller as it was a means of removing Mason from the office.

Throughout 2025, Hutchison collected \$269,584 in donations, such that he started this year with \$264,747.69 in his electioneering fund. The donors he tapped into were a comprehensive combination of the politicians at the apex of San Bernardino government, such as members of the board of supervisors, and the donors those politicians have consistently relied upon virtually from the time they came into office.

That money was far in excess to what Mason had collected into his campaign coffers going into 2026.

The forces arrayed against Mason then seized on the Mason's longstanding professional experience as a financial professional

before and after he was elected to choreograph a coordinated attack on him. Beginning in January, individuals associated with the members of the board of supervisors – in the main businessmen with companies or interest in the county – lambasted Mason, a licensed certified public accountant, for having retained ownership of his company, Mason Financial Services, which he founded in 2014 and provides clients advice with regard to money/wealth management, and investing, after he was elected county treasurer in 2018. Those speaking to the board, using prepared statements, questioned whether or outright alleged Mason's functioning as a financial advisor in the private sector presents a conflict of interest with his role as county treasurer and auditor. They charged that this constituted something tantamount to insider trading and that Mason was manipulating the value of stocks by his control of the county's \$17 billion plus investment pool, whereby he would counsel his private sector clients to invest in a given stock ahead of his shifting of county money into those very stocks, boosting their value. Mason denied the accusation, pointing out that the county did not deal in the volatile stock market, where the potential for profit is high but there is tremendous risk, but maintained its wealth by purchasing far more secure but less profitable bonds. Despite his denials, the board of supervisors, in a prepared response to the accusations made against Mason, called upon the office of county counsel, county government's stable of in-house attorneys, to undertake an investigation into the circumstance involving Mason. That investigation, though completed by mid-May, has not yet been summarized into a report. From January 1 through May 16 of this year, Hutchison collected another \$366,871.76 for use in his campaign,

spending \$336,581.87 during that same span. A good deal of that campaign consisted of attack mailers targeting Mason, several of which alluded to the county's investigation of him and the accusations that had triggered the investigation.

On election night, with all of the ballots from the county's total 2,065 precincts counted, Hutchison emerged as the clear victor. The Rancho Cucamonga Councilman had 108,010 of the 189,665 votes cast in the race up to that



Ryan Hutchison

point, or 56.95 percent, to Mason's 81,462 votes or 42.95 percent. As of Wednesday June 5, 2026 at 4 p.m., the counting of the incoming mail-in ballots put the count at 133,977 votes for Hutchison or 56.83 percent of the 235,753 ballots at that point counted to Mason's 101,776 votes or 43.17 percent. As of 4 p.m. today, Hutchison stands at 59,020 or 57.17 percent of the 278,157 votes cast and counted so far to Mason's 119,137 or 42.83 percent.

Mason told the *Sentinel* he has accepted what has happened.

"I'm a mathematician and enough of a realist to know that an aggregate 10 point or more spread is too much to overcome," he said. "I was pretty bitter the first two days. I've taken a few days off for some rest. I'm resigned to it."

He added, "It is a corrupt system. I did everything I could. It was \$2 million from everyone that has a stake in that corrupt system against my \$100,000. They used that \$2 million to put out things that were irrelevant to the real issues and to make things up about me that were completely untrue. Their 'facts' were entirely fab-

ricated. They violated just about every rule in the book. I think what they did was immoral, but that is what happens, I suppose, when you crooked people who are in control."

Hutchison was unperturbed by Mason's take on what had happened. He took pride in having been endorsed by Sheriff Dicus, District Attorney Anderson, Assessor Gonzalez, all five members of the board of supervisors, Barstow Mayor Tim Silva, Rancho Cucamonga Mayor Dennis Michael, Grand Terrace Mayor Bill Hussey, Montclair Mayor John Dutrey, Chino Hills Mayor Brian Johz, Upland Mayor Bill Velto, Fontana Mayor Acquanetta Warren, Victorville Councilman Bob Harriman, Rancho Cucamonga Councilwoman Lynne Kennedy, Hesperia Councilman Josh Pullen, Apple Valley Council members Cut Emick and Keri Leon, Ontario Councilman Alan Wapner, Rancho Cucamonga Councilwoman Kristine Scott, Victorville councilwoman Corrine Mora, Rancho Cucamonga Councilwoman Ashley Stickler, Rancho Cucamonga City Clerk Kim Sevy, Fontana City Councilmen Phil Cothran Jr and John Roberts, Upland Councilman Carlos Garcia, Grand Terrace Councilman Jeff Allen, Chino Hills Councilman Ray Marquez, Hesperia Councilwoman Allison Lee and Highland City Councilman Larry McAllen. He had the endorsement of the Safety Employees Benefit Association, the San Bernardino Police Officers Association, the Redlands Police Officers Association and the Rancho Cucamonga Firefighters Association as well as former Assemblyman Thurston Smith. It is inconceivable, his supporters said, that the corruption Mason referenced was real, given the support evinced for Hutchison by so many august, accomplished, honorable, honest and respected entities.

San Bernardino County Coroner Reports

Coroner's Case #702603261: On Saturday, 05/09/2026, at 00:05 a.m., the San Bernardino Police Department responded to W Baseline Street west of University Parkway in San Bernardino for a traffic collision. Pedestrian, Martha Dominguez-Munoz, a 47-year-old homeless resident of San Bernardino, was pronounced dead at the scene. For additional information contact the San Bernardino Police Department. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/15/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603249: On Friday, 05/08/2026, at 04:28 p.m., the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department responded to Sixth Street and D Street in Victorville. Juacell Britt, a 64-year-old male resident of Gardena, was pronounced dead on scene. For additional information contact the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/18/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603248: On Friday, 05/08/2026, at 02:08 p.m., the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department responded to the area of Beech Avenue and Whittram Avenue in the city of Fontana. Kevin Eric Roberts, a 57-year-old resident of Highland, was pronounced dead on scene. For additional information contact the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/09/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603232: On Friday, 05/08/2026, at 02:30 a.m., the Ontario Police Department responded to the intersection of Francis Street and Milliken Avenue in Ontario for a traffic collision. Driver, Jonthan Gaxiola, a 28-year-old resident of Rancho Cucamonga, was pronounced dead on scene. For further information contact the Ontario Police Department. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/09/2026)

702603222: On Thursday, 05/07/2026, at 05:53 p.m., the Chino Police Department responded to the 14000 block of Yorba Avenue in Chino. Seroj Bidrousian, a 64-year-old resident of Lancaster, was pronounced dead on scene. For additional information contact the Chino Police Department. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/09/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603198: On Wednesday, 05/06/2026, at 08:47 p.m., the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department responded to the 9300 block of Pinon Avenue in Hesperia for a traffic collision. Driver Christopher Ybarra, a 27-year-old resident of Hesperia, was pronounced dead at the scene. For further information contact the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/09/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603190: On Wednesday, 05/06/2026, at 10:51 a.m., the California Highway Patrol responded to State Highway 247 and Stony Ridge Road in Lucerne Valley for a traffic collision. Driver ShanShan Li, a 39-year-old resident of Los Angeles, was pronounced dead on scene. For further information contact the California Highway Patrol. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/09/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603183: On Wednesday, 05/06/2026, at 07:09 a.m., the California Highway Patrol responded to Eastbound I-40 at mile marker 52 in Ludlow for a traffic collision. Passenger Christian Joel Pantoja Sanchez, a 40-year-old resident of Orlando, Florida, was pronounced dead on scene. For additional information contact California Highway Patrol. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/09/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603182: On Wednesday, 05/06/2026, at 07:09 a.m., the California Highway Patrol responded to Eastbound I-40 at mile marker 52 in Ludlow for a traffic collision. Driver Keilamarie Duran San Miguel, a 36-year-old resident of Orlando, Florida, was pronounced dead on scene. For additional information contact California Highway Patrol. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/09/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603133: On Monday, 05/04/2026, at 10:22 a.m., the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department responded to Cienaga Road and Big Bear Boulevard in Big Bear Lake for a traffic collision. Passenger Sandra Senft, a 64-year-old resident of Big Bear Lake, was pronounced dead on scene. For additional information contact the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/09/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603099: On Saturday, 05/02/2026, at 04:56 p.m., the Colton Police Department responded to a traffic collision to the 2500 block of S. La Cadena Drive in Colton. Kenneth Sotelo, a 71-year-old resident of Riverside, was confirmed dead at the scene. For further information contact the Colton Police Department. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/04/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603089: On Saturday, 05/02/2026, at 07:45 a.m., the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department responded to the 13000 block of Begonia Road in Victorville. A 50-year-old male resident of Adelanto, name being withheld pending next of kin notification, was pronounced dead at the scene. For further information contact the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/2/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603087: On 05/02/2026 at 02:58 a.m., the California Highway Patrol was called to Neilson Road and Sheep Creek Road in Phelan. Linda Teyechea, a 38-year-old female and resident of San Bernardino was confirmed dead at the scene. For additional information contact the California Highway Patrol. (SDCI E. Fleak, 5/2/26)

Coroner's Case #702603085: On 05/02/2026 at 12:56 a.m., the California Highway Patrol (CHP) responded to a solo vehicle accident at the south I-15 and I-215 southbound truck bypass in Devore. The driver of an SUV, 20-year-old male, McKenzie Santos from San Bernardino, was pronounced dead at the scene. For additional information, please contact the CHP. (SDCI E. Fleak, 5/2/26)

Coroner's Case #702603083: On Friday, 05/01/2026 at 8:15 p.m., the California Highway Patrol responded to a single motorcycle accident at State Route (SR)-18 and Descanso Road in the Pinon Hills. Motorists called 911 when the motorcycle rider had struck an animal and was ejected from the motorcycle. Arturo Villanueva Rivera, a 39 year-old male from Victorville, was pronounced dead at the scene. For more information contact the CHP. (SDCI E. Fleak, 5/2/26)

Coroner's Case #702603036: On Wednesday, 04/29/2026, at 07:13 p.m., Upland Police Department responded to 1100 E. Foothill Boulevard in Upland. Andrew Godoy, a 63-year-old resident of Upland, was pronounced dead on scene For additional information contact Upland Police Department. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/2/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603033: On Wednesday, 04/29/2026, at 04:29 p.m., the California Highway Patrol responded to Westbound Highway 58 north of Exit 206 in Boron. 52-year-old Alex Jurado, a 52-year-old resident of Victorville, was pronounced dead on scene. For additional information contact the highway patrol. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/2/2026)

Coroner's Case #702603029: On Wednesday, 04/29/2026, at 01:44 PM, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department responded to the 15000 block of Dos Palmas Road in Victorville. Paul York, a 72-year-old resident of Apple Valley, was confirmed dead on scene. For additional information contact San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. (Supervising Deputy Coroner S. Hill, 05/2/2026)

Coroner's Case #702602998: On Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 4:45 a.m., California Highway Patrol responded to the area of Jurupa Street and the I-15 South in Ontario for a traffic collision. The driver, 52 year-old, Ismael Ramirez from Rialto, was pronounced deceased at the scene. For further information, contact the California Highway Patrol. (SDCI E. Fleak, 5/2/26)

The Coroner Reports are reproduced in their original format as authored by department personnel.

Based On Tuesday's Election Results, Mayor Tran Appears Poised To Log The Accomplishments That Eleuded Her In Her First Term *from page 17*

between Valdivia and Sanchez and between Valdivia and Ibarra during the last three years of Valdivia's mayoralty. All three were attacked in one of the mailers against them for having voted to settle the lawsuits brought against the city and Valdivia by Cisneros, Cervantes, Aboud and others. The attack pieces did not mention that all of the other members of the council, including Ortiz, whom Beard had bankrolled into office, likewise voted to settle the case.

The bottom line at present is that without question Tran has captured reelection and the relatively predictable five-member line of opposition to her that currently exists on the council will be decimated, with at least two of its members consigned to San Bernardino's political dustbin.

Marquez is the odd-on favorite to prevail over Alvarado in November run-off to replace Sanchez. Marquez endorsed Tran in the just concluded race and Tran transferred money from her political war chest to Marquez to assist her in her electoral effort. It would appear that Marquez will fall in line with the mayor's agenda, if and when she gets into office.

Tran similarly transferred money from her campaign account to Barrios earlier this year to assist him in his effort to defeat Ibarra. Barrios is likely to assist her go-

ing forward if he gets past Shaughnessy in November. At the same time, Shaughnessy is close to Ortiz. On multiple elements of Tran's game plan for the city, she is in lockstep with Ortiz. Thus, no matter which way the Second Ward election goes later this year, Tran is likely to have a far less hostile council member in that position to deal with than she does now.

Shorett has had close scrapes in his previous elections, yet managed to come through and remain in office as the dean of the council, having now been in place for 17 years. Salas represents a serious challenge for him, and with Beard and others who are in Tran's corner willing to throw big money into a campaign against him, he has at best, an upward battle. When the *Sentinel* spoke with him this week, asking him if he was scared by what was going on, he responded, "Scared? I'm not scared. I went to Viet Nam when I was 19 and came through that. I've been divorced twice. I've been on the city council, on top, on the bottom and in between where I wasn't sure which way up was. There is not a whole lot that is going to scare me.

"The better question might be, 'Am I concerned?'" Shorett said. "Hell, yes, I'm concerned. I've been concerned all along. I wasn't blindsided by this. From the beginning, I thought this was going to be a

tough race, probably way tougher than any I've had or had in some time. Now I'm up against opposition from the mayor and her machine. I always felt I was the right person for this job. I still believe I am, and I still think I can win this thing. I knew it was going to be tight. I think, basically, I fit the voters in this district better than Joe Salas does. He is – let's call it the way it is – a socialist. He doesn't fit the temperament or the philosophy of the Fourth Ward. But with the money being put up by Scott Beard and the attack pieces put together by Jim Erwin, they did a pretty good hatchet job on me. Does it make me nervous that there will be more of the same as we get closer to November? Yeah, it does. But other candidates are out of the way and the race is defined now: Joe Salas or me. I know what case I have to make and I am going to stay focused, put my philosophy up against the socialistic alternative the voters have now. If I win, I win. If I lose, I've had a good run – 17 years."

If Salas can vanquish Shorett, Tran should be able to compile a record of accomplishment that will erase the frustration she has had over spinning her wheels during her first four year term. With Salas in place along with Marquez and either Barrios or Shaughnessy, she will be able to add three votes to the one certain vote that Flores provides and Ortiz's vote on the issues where they are in substantial agreement to form a 5-to-2 ruling majority. Under such

a scenario, both Knaus and Figueroa, who at any rate were not as stridently out of synchronization with Tran as Shorett and Sanchez have been, might see the wisdom of making common cause with the mayor, indeed, as to be able to serve the constituents in their respective wards, they will need to give a little to get a little, and the council could become a panel that consistently agrees unanimously rather than gets mired in differences. Even if Shorett is able to remain in office, the effective five-member council opposition that is in place now will be entirely compromised, and Tran will still be able to get her way on the vast majority of initiatives she is likely to pursue.

Based upon Tran's known priorities and wish list, which she has conveyed to her allies and even her rivals at times, it appears that within the first six months to a year after her second term begins, several things will be in the office.

Among those will be a move to confer on the mayor a substantial raise. At present, the mayor is provided with \$ 51,923 per year stipend/salary. That is augmented with some \$9,036 she gets for attending meetings as a city representative or board member of regional agencies or joint powers authorities, 22,030.99 in perks and other add-ons as well as \$29,034 in benefits for a total yearly compensation of \$112,050.99. When Tran left as human resources director of West Covina in 2022, she had to give up a position that paid

her roughly \$142,000 in salary and provided another 18,000 in perquisites and pay add-ons together with 37,732.30 in benefits for a total annual compensation of around \$197,732.30. What Tran wants to do, and what the newly formed council will likely go along with is to split the difference between where she was as human resources director in West Covina and as mayor now in terms of total annual compensation. This means, essentially, that her annual stipend as mayor would be increased to \$94,790.66 so her total annual compensation would be, roughly \$154,891.65.

A second priority for Tran is that she be provided with a staff approaching if not comparable to what Valdivia had before the scandal involving Cisneros, Cervantes and Aboud resulted in the council reducing it to just a skeleton crew. This would entail hiring at least two more workers into the mayoral staff answerable directly to her.

Another move will be to give an assignment to the city's Charter Review Committee to examine or contemplate restoring the strong mayor system that existed under the 1905 charter whereby the mayor is given, at least in theory, the administrative authority lost with the 2016 charter change or that a hybrid of the strong mayor and city council/city manager model of governance be examined as to whether it would be suitable for the city.

Tran is also contemplating overhauling the

current roster of appointments of council members to the governmental adjunct committees, regional boards and joint powers authority to give her greater indirect control of how the city is represented on those panels.

Tran will seek to have the council revisit a proposal to terminate the city's contract with the law firm of Best Best & Krieger to serve as the office of city attorney, or, in the alternative, undertake a bidding process by which Best Best & Krieger will have to respond to a request for proposals from a wide variety of law firms whereupon a competition among the respondents will be carried out.

Tran wants to usher the new city council toward settling a \$2 million pending lawsuit brought against the city by Councilwoman Ortiz for a proposed \$50,000 and coverage of her lawyer's costs.

Tran believes the city should hasten the retirement of Police Chief Darren Goodman, believing his retirement within the next five years to be an inevitable eventuality that would be better taken care of while she is still in the mayor's role and before she moves on to a higher political office.

The mayor also remains committed to installing Rochelle Clayton as city manager and believes Clayton can be induced to leave Barstow to come to San Bernardino by offering current City Manager Eric Levitt a golden parachute.



Golden State Grizzly Bears Repopulation Contemplated *from page 3*

could stand as tall as 9 feet and weigh from 400 to 750 pounds. Local bear populations remained stable for centuries. The eighteenth-century arrival of Europeans upset that equilibrium. Grazing cattle and sheep destroyed the region's native prairies and thus

many of the bear's natural food sources, but they also represented easily obtainable meat. Grizzly populations for a time boomed where livestock ranged. Ultimately, however, the newcomers brought doom for the grizzly as they expanded into areas in proximity to the bears. Ranchers, miners, and farmers all saw the bear as a menace, particularly when venturing into previously unsettled areas. Grizzlies

do not usually antagonize humans but will more than stand their ground. While unarmed humans could find themselves at the mercy of a grizzly bear, the predominant hostility in the long haul went the other way. Beginning with the Spanish settlers in California, the bears were hunted for sport or were captured and then put in rings with their hind legs staked to the ground, so that bulls could be sent charging in

at them. A typical bear would vanquish a half dozen bulls before succumbing to a repetition of gore wounds. Eventually the object of most human-bear encounters became extermination. In 1859 while in Los Angeles, William Holcomb and a companion, Jack Martin, heard of the Bear Valley diggings in the San Bernardino Mountains. They set out to make a try at working claims there. Forcing their hors-

es through deep snow to get to the diggings, they reached Bear Valley, which had been dubbed "Starvation Flatts" by its discouraged group of miners, who were finding little. Like the others, Holcomb suffered from the lack of supplies and minimal gold finds in the rural mountain community. Called "the best sharpshooter west of the Mississippi," Holcomb, two of whose descendants would serve as

mayor of the City of San Bernardino, was asked by the miners to shoot some of the grizzly bears living in the area for their meat. Holcomb was able to bring back dead bears to feed the starving miners. He was nicknamed "Grizzly Bill" because he was known to have killed many bears. Over the next 30 years, he was said to have finished off all of the bears in Bear Valley.

-Mark Gutglueck