

## **PVP Watch Newsletter – February 6, 2010**

### To Our Friends & Supporters

#### **Peninsula Schools Parcel Tax**

For those Seniors availing themselves of the Parcel Tax exemption, it is time to file for the 2010 / 2011 property tax exemption. Current forms are now posted at [www.pvpwatch.com](http://www.pvpwatch.com) / PVP schools page as well as the PVPUSD website - <http://www.pvpusd.k12.ca.us/> & click on the Parcel Tax button in the right side column. All exemption requests MUST be received by PVPUSD by 4:00 PM on the last day in May, 2010. For those who do not like the Parcel Tax yet want to make a contribution to PVP schools, the Peninsula Education Foundation ([www.pvpef.org](http://www.pvpef.org)) is a tax free alternative.

#### **RPV**

Interesting at the February 2nd Council meeting was Councilman Doug Stern's caustic rebuke of Mayor Steve Wolowicz for his proposal (goal) to reevaluate RPV employee pension costs and other employee benefits. It seems that some RPV employees are distressed that the Council is planning (*January 23rd CC tactical goals workshop was to appoint two members of the Council to serve as an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to address Employee Compensation Policies*) to reevaluate employee pension / benefit costs.... About time!!! Current RPV budget has approximately \$2,000,000 for employee benefits in addition to salaries. Unknown are the employee salary plans for 2010. The past several years, the liberal majority of Larry Clark, Tom Long & Doug Stern have been extremely generous with taxpayer funds awarding excessive salary increases and bonuses under the guise of needing to pay competitive wages. In view of current economic times, we would hope that the new Council exercise some fiscal restraint and responsibility.

Another topic is new hire policies at RPV City Hall. Can the City Manager hire "at will"? or must there be an Council approved job description and approved budget authorization? There are unconfirmed reports that the new parking ordinances are generating significant demand that a staff person will be hired to administer the parking programs. City Manager Lehr, are these reports concerning the new parking ordinances accurate? If so, more unanticipated consequences.

Another action at the January 23rd goal-setting meeting was the approval of restriping of some / most of PV Drive East to condense / reduce auto travel lanes in order to create bicycle lanes. Also Councilman Tom Long instructed the Sheriffs office / Deputy Knox to be more aggressive in writing citations on PV Drive East. This means that RPV residents who travel PV Drive East every day will have to deal with reduced traffic lanes (and likely more citations) so that bicyclists (few are likely RPV residents) can roam RPV on weekends. Another Stern comment was that RPV

could do nothing as vehicle codes are State law. Mr. Stern, the Council can do what it previously did, before you and Tom Long decided to put on the "welcome mat" to weekend bicyclists, was to warn of dangers ahead, proceed at bicyclists own risk etc. Seems to some is that what you have done is to increase RPV's liabilities. Reportedly some 150 people attended meetings concerning this matter. We wonder if residents were aware of what the outcome would be?

### **RPV Storm Drains**

One of the issues from the February 2nd Council meeting was Mayor Wolowicz's request to staff for a Storm Drain repair / maintenance plan for 2010. What a novel idea, a work plan!!! Most will recall the hubbub of the 2005 storm drain crisis. Seems like a few "photo opps" and then the must have storm drain user fee (tax); there have been limited storm drain discussions since then. We are unaware of any reports that have identified which or how many storm drains have been inspected or repaired since the fee was enacted. No we are not forgetting the McCarroll canyon project where some \$7,500,000 was spend over building this particular collector / drain system. However, another critical drain system, Tarapaca canyon, was mostly ignored until this recent political season.

We do commend City Manager Lehr & staff for ensuring that storm drain collector basins were clean of debris during recent storms thus not allowing water runoffs to backup and seek unplanned routes. Too bad her predecessor, as well as the then Council, did not have similar foresight and we might have adverted the McCarroll canyon overflow situation.

### **RPV - Marymount College**

The latest Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) Appendix D was recently released and a copy is posted at [www.pvpwatch.com](http://www.pvpwatch.com) / Current Issues page. This DEIR was for Marymount's desire to conduct an Bachelor of Arts program as well as two alternatives for rearranging its athletic fields. RPV Council will conduct a hearing on the DEIR at its February 16th meeting.

The DEIR reports that the proposed Bachelor of Arts program has no impact (negative or otherwise) on anything related to the proposed modernization of the Marymount campus. In so far as the athletic fields are concerned, Marymount has stated that option I was their preference. Option II was a design "on the fly," as we recall, by Councilman Tom Long. We would hope that the RPV Council would soon recognize its responsibilities to **ALL** of the community and soon accept / approve the DEIR.

It was clear from the beginning, by anyone with common sense and good judgment, that Marymount's addition of a 4 year Bachelor of Arts program would have no adverse impacts on anything related to the modernization program. The consideration of rearranging the athletic fields was an RPV Council idea that was of no interest to the college. This was, but another, delaying tactic used to placate the NIMBY's (not in my backyard). Oh yes, Councilmen Long & Stern will

likely again respond that they are duty bound to follow the law and therefore CEQA guidelines required the EIR. Reality is that they can declare a *Mitigated Negative Declaration* (MND) whenever City Hall so chooses such as what it did for parking at PVIC to accommodate the proposed Annenberg Dog & Cat Castle. Also interesting is that one of the Council's motivators for approving the Ireland / Nantasket Drive project at the February 2nd Council session was the probability of a lawsuit if the project was not approved. Wonder how long Marymount will continue to tolerate RPV's abuse before resorting to legal action?

RPV residents wishing to comment on the DEIR should respond to RPV Planner Ara Mihranian at [aram@rpv.com](mailto:aram@rpv.com) no later than 4:30 PM on March 8, 2010. The DEIR was some 590 pages and filled with questionable demands on Marymount. We shall subsequently comment on some of those issues.

### **RPV – Annenberg Dog & Cat Castle**

Silhouette flags have been in place at Lower Point Vicente (PVIC) for the Annenberg Dog and Cat Castle for several weeks and it seems neighbors are awaking to the negative impact that the Dog & Cat Castle will likely have on their properties.

February 9th the RPV Planning Commission will continue the Public Hearing for rebuilding the parking lot at the Lower Point Vicente facility / Interpretive Center. The staff report is posted at [www.pvpwatch.com](http://www.pvpwatch.com) / Current Issues page for those so interested.

The February 4th edition of the PV News contains a legal notice (pg 18) that an EIR (Environmental Impact Report) is being prepared for – "The Annenberg Project at Lower Point Vicente." The public notice solicits public opinion concerning the Annenberg project and comments are to be sent to Ara Mihranian at [aram@rpv.com](mailto:aram@rpv.com) and must be received no later than March 8, 2010. The RPV Planning Commission will host a meeting on the Annenberg project on February 23rd at Hesse Park at 7:30PM. All interested residents should make their comments known.

There are two other Annenberg related items posted at [www.pvpwatch.com](http://www.pvpwatch.com) / Current Issues page. One is the Oct 30th report and the other is a "link" to the RPV website. PVP Watch questions the proposed Annenberg dog and cat facility as misuse of public lands and public funds pursuing this very questionable endeavor. Some are of the opinion that residents would be better served by Annenberg giving the *reported* \$40,000,000 to Peninsula schools for educational programs including animals. This would undoubtedly result in better use of the funds for education rather than monuments.

As readers might expect, PVP Watch is not highly regarded by some RPV Councilmen as we strive to bring awareness and offer opinions of some Council actions. Recently we became aware that one committee candidate was reportedly ostracized in a hearing for supposedly being a PVP

Watch Member. In the sense that PVP Watch Newsletter readers, including RPV Councilmen and some staff members receive PVP Watch Newsletters I guess you could include all Newsletter recipients as PVP Watch members including the Councilmen who dislike PVP Watch.

### **Following are Reader Responses to the January 24th Newsletter**

Responses are encouraged and we will continue to post with no identifying names.

#### **Terranea**

I cannot believe how greedy people become. It seems it was yesterday when we were begging for a place to go when guests come and visit. It is crazy that Terranea in this bad economy has paid about \$1,000,000. My god where is Long's decency? We must forgive \$150,000 they owe, they are employing so many of our residents in their facilities.

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We are so fortunate to have such a beautiful Hotel on our peninsula. With the potential revenue it can bring in, why is Mr. Long giving them a bad time? Is he stupid or crazy? Maybe both! We need to support Terranea and do everything that we, as residents of this peninsula can do to encourage its existence.

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Terranea generates jobs and pays its shares of taxes to our city. Waive the \$150,000 fees and move on to more important issues. Stop harassing Terranea. As for our councilman Tom Long and the RPV Council, we voted you in to serve our city and us. Do your jobs and serve our city by assisting new businesses such as Terranea in being a successful one in RPV. In this tough economy, new businesses face overwhelmingly with obstacles and challenges. They don't need additional bureaucrats from your department. WAIVE THE FEES AND MOVE ON.

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Thank you for keeping us up to date on news of the Peninsula. I am a resident of PVE, but my opinion on the monies due RPV from Terranea is that writing off the \$150,000 in light of the revenue received via the TOT (and the financial climate to date) makes a lot of sense. I also detest the idea of an ocean front animal park. (love the idea of that money going to education) Thank you for your hard work on this.

#### **Traffic Citations**

As far as Deputy Knox is concerned, he should be sent to Compton or somewhere in Downtown where he can truly act as a detective. I cannot believe he sits on PV drive with his binoculars and tickets people. WHY??? Let's get this problem fixed. RPV needs to become part of 21st century. 40-year residence of RPV.

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I have been observing for the last year how the police have been giving tickets out to our residents. Are they trying to fill their quota and feel that we can afford to pay better than other communities that have worse driving violations? Of course they do! Why don't they go after the REAL criminals that are killing each other instead of ticketing us for driving too slow? Are they AFRAID of the Lomita, San Pedro, etc. areas and pounce on us with their intimidating badge? I say they go intimidate the gangs in the aforementioned cities and leave us alone!!

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I too got a ticket for allegedly driving with my bright lights on and not dimming on PV Dr. West. I took the case to Traffic court & the presiding Commissioner did not even let me question the officer and denied my request to enter an exhibit in my case. Clearly a case for appeal, but not worth it for a \$ 200.00 fine.

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In response to one person's opinion of Officer Knox. I have talked with him on numerous occasions and he is a very nice person. Hey folks, he is doing his job.

### **Annenberg Dog & Cat Facility**

Why is the city involving public lands with a private foundation? The Annenberg Project at Lower Point Vicente website states the following: "Wallis Annenberg believes in the power of education to bring people closer together. Her commitment to this project is simple: She feels that through education about the natural world – the land, the ocean and the creatures we love – we will build support for preservation of our resources and understanding of our four-footed friends."

The picture (artist rendering) shows a wonderful "monument to Annenberg." The City of Rancho Palos Verdes was formed to preserve the rural life style not to build monuments to privileged people and their special causes.

I agree with those who say: "that residents would be better served by Annenberg giving the *reported* \$40,000,000 to Peninsula schools for educational programs including animals." Establish an endowment with the Annenberg name to for educational programs including animals. An endowment of that size would fund educational programs forever, recognize the philanthropy of Wallis Annenberg, and cost the city zero dollars. I can't help but wonder if some of the politicians are supporting the project to get their names on the Memorial.

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What is the best way to let City Council know of our opinion regarding Dog and Cat Castle? What a waste! Thank you PVP Watch for keeping me informed.

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Some reaction to the proposed Annenberg dog and cat "castle." I believe the city council is again finding themselves with an idea with no requirement and they are searching for a problem to solve. There is no need for such an animal facility on the peninsula. The limited amount of shoreline property in the city of RPV should not be given over to an obscene misuse of public land for the aggrandizement of an individual with too much money and wanting to build her own memorial edifice.

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The Annenberg Animal educational facility posed for RVP surely has some unknown perks for someone, somewhere. My question is, how is this proposed land use a benefit that surpasses the now open space which we (RPV residents / tax payers) value, enjoy and boast as reason enough to live in this beautiful area? Simply put, why is the RPV city council doing this?

### **Other Issues**

A few years back, Mayor Wolowicz, had a brilliant idea as to how to bring a new Civic Center / pool / gymnasium facility to the city at very low cost. Partnership with the YMCA.

The Y would be a contact vendor providing the facilities and staffing. Unlike the proposed Annenberg Dog and Cat Center, this is a partnership between public and private sector which makes sense. If you haven't done so, take a look at the first class facility the Y built in Torrance. Now that would make sense on the land behind City Hall. Anyone at City Hall talk to the Y recently?

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The RPV city council agenda to include military students into PVPUSD is not new news. The subject matter raises its face from time to time. Fact remains, the military families don't want to attend LAUSD. In any event, keep in mind that RPV city council has NO legitimate BUSINESS interfering in PVPUSD matters. If my view is wrong, please otherwise explain RPV city council's interest?

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As to the assertion by Tom Long about aerospace engineers "living off the largess of the government," let me remind Mr. Long that aerospace engineers produced many worthwhile products, used by many people, contrast that with lawyers who trade in the misery of individuals and companies for profit. I think his cheap shot at aerospace engineers is his usual nonsensical way of trying to obfuscate the real issues at hand as only a lawyer would.

### **PVP Watch – Newsletter List**

A reminder to ALL PVP Watch supporters. Should you change your e-mail address, don't forget to advise PVP Watch of your new address. We suggest that pvpwatch.com be added to your computer address book to assure delivery of PVP Watch Newsletters.

### **Subscribers**

The PVP Watch e-mail list continues to grow. For those who wish their addresses removed, please send notice to [info@pvpwatch.com](mailto:info@pvpwatch.com).

PVP Watch strives to bring current issues to [www.pvpwatch.com](http://www.pvpwatch.com). Those who have topics of community interest are encouraged to bring those issues to PVP Watch.

The Editorial Committee