

OFFICE OF THE CITY TREASURER

Treasurer Report

June 09. 2020

Wanda M. Brown, City Treasurer
City Council Meeting - June 09. 2020

- SUBJECTS:**
1. Resolution to Establish a new Investment Oversight Committee
Council Agenda: City Manager's Office March 10, 2020 DR-1
 2. City funds support Inglewood Today and Los Angeles Business Journal.
 3. City Expenditures to support the law firm Kane, Ballmer, & Berkman who employs City legal consultant Royce Jones.
 4. The City of Inglewood leads in Corona Virus cases in the South Bay!
 5. Bonds Proceeds overpayment of \$77,418 approved by Mayor James Butts remains outstanding.

DISCUSSION: NUMBER 1.

City Manager Artie Fields agenda item DR-1 March 10, 2020, citing primary role of the Investment committee, fiduciary oversight and strategy not provided, requirement for the implementation of and compliance with the City Investment Policy, is erroneous and fabricated in its entirety! Sadly, Mr. Fields who has no knowledge of the function of an investment oversight committee (which is not required) has allowed himself to be manipulated and used by his Boss Mayor Butts in any way he chooses in order to protect his unearned and undeserved \$477,000 annual salary and his yearly Christmas bonus check of \$36,000! Mr. Fields has no real power or authority and is the most ineffective city manager during my 32 year tenure! The City's audit firms has never cited any compliance issues whatsoever pertaining to the Treasurer fulfilling the responsibilities of the office of Treasurer.

NUMBER 2.

Under Mayor Butts administration, the city had paid more than \$243,000 at April 2020 to Inglewood Today, a strictly local throw away free news paper. Without the City's financial backing, the paper would go belly up! Even with the City's financial support it is struggling. The name of the paper should be changed to Butts Today! Articles praising Mayor Butts appears in the paper practically every other week! At \$243,000 and often more annual support, the articles are in all likelihood written by none other than Mayor Butts! It is Butts primary campaign piece during an election year for himself or his candidates. Then too, the City has paid over \$19,719 to the Los Angeles Business Journal. Five praise articles for Mayor Butts has appear in that publication. Now, consider newspapers where zero articles of glorification is directed to Mayor Butts, The Daily Breeze, and the Los Angeles Times. No you don't see his shiny grinning face praising himself!

NUMBER 3.

Royce Jones is employed by the Law firm of Kane, Ballmer, & Beckman. He has done work with the former Inglewood Redevelopment Agency, sits in bond issuance and bond refunding committees, and successor agency meetings, etc. He actually has a small office on the 9th floor. He often attends numerous city events, kind of like employees do. Under Mayor Butts administration lucrative business contracts has been awarded to this particular firm to the tune of nearly \$700,000 annually! No other law firm has come close to getting this kind of business under Mayor Butts. As a matter of fact, Royce Jones has brought in such huge consulting legal fees from Inglewood alone they made him a partner in the firm! Kane, Ballmer & Beckman didn't get this kind of action under Mayors Dorn or Vincent!

NUMBER 4.

My heart goes out to those throughout our nation who have been inflicted with the Corona Virus and the families that has lost love ones. Sadly, a family in Inglewood lost four members of the same family in one week reported in the Los Angeles Times. Regrettable, according to the County of Los Angeles Public Health Department as of June 07, 2020 Inglewood leads the South Bay with the most cases of 703, 57 deaths, and has the highest death rate of 50.18%. Torrance 414 cases, 46 deaths, death rate 3082, Hawthorne 456 cases, 18 deaths, death rate 2027, Carson 480 cases, 25 deaths, death rate 26.64, Gardena 316 cases, deaths 26, death rate 42.41, Redondo Beach 150 cases, 7 deaths, death rate, 10.19.

NUMBER 5.

Mayor Butts decided he desired to be a signer for the release of Request for Payment of Bond Proceeds. My deputy, Debra Crenshaw has always prepared the documentation to add individuals names to the bond account held by US Bank. Mayor Butts went around her and had Assistant Finance Director Sharon Quoike prepare the documentation to enable him to be a signer. Previously, the Treasurer was the only signature US Bank would accept. The Treasurer had signed off on nearly 90% of previous Requests for Bond Proceed payments. Mayor Butts signed off on an approval for Pinner Construction Company. 10% of the contract is withheld until the contractor completes the job. Pinner Construction was paid the 10% retention with the regular payment and when the job was completed, Pinner Construction was paid another 10% retention resulting in an overpayment of \$77,418. I notified finance of the overpayment and they acknowledged the company was overpaid by \$77,418. I was told by Sharon that funds for the overpayment would be withheld from another contract of inner Construction. However, I don't believe that is the correct way to handle that matter. If that was done, \$77,418 never found its way back into the US Bank Bond Proceeds bank account! Mayor Butts continued to say there was no overpayment. He is 100% wrong! The Treasurer wants to know, who has those funds, Mayor Butts!

City Clerk, Yvonne Horton, please include this Treasurer Report in the documents for today's City Council Meeting. In all probability, Mayor Butts will not allow me to give my full report.

Wanda M. Brown, Inglewood City Treasurer

