

# OFFICE OF THE CITY TREASURER

## Treasurer Report

June 30, 2020

Wanda M. Brown, City Treasurer  
City Council Meeting, June 30, 2020

### SUBJECTS;

1. Mayor James Butts out of control!
2. Inglewood gets Continued Deficient Evaluation of Internal Control!
3. Mayor Butts former Executive Asst, Melanie Mc Dade Dickens Termination.

### DISCUSSION: MAYOR BUTTS IS OUT OF CONTROL!

When I thought Mayor Butts had hit rock bottom, I arrive at June 30, 2020 city council meeting to learn that Mayor Butts has ordered the seating for the eight times city wide elected City Treasurer seating to be removed completely! Yes, City Attorney Artie Fields notified me the city wide elected Treasurer that Mayor Butts said I must sit in the audience with the employees he ordered to attend the council meeting. As I walked about the city, several employees stopped me and inquired, "has that man lost his blank-ety, blank, mind! As to why Mayor Butts took the action is a mystery to me. Clearly he appears to be going through some kind of melt down. At the June 23, city council meeting, Mayor Butts barred me from giving my Oral Report, for absolutely no reason whatsoever. I abided by his mandatory three minute rule to give my Treasurer Report. The council, city manager, city attorney sat in their respective seats like little boys and watched the debacle! Pitiful!

Mayor Butts has ordered the deactivation of my badge as well as the badges of my staff to enter the finance, 9th floor council chambers and several other city departments. What in our Charter gives him the right to arbitrarily do anything he wants! That is my question to the City Attorney Kenneth Campos and Mayor Butts self appointed City Manager! These are petty things little kids might do, not the Mayor of a city whom is almost 70 years of age!

Mayor Butts has no real power without the four member council support. The question is why do they give the power to him? What are they getting in return?! Oh, it is apparent why George Dotson and Alex Padilla does. He owns them lock stock and barrel. He put \$160,000 in Dotson's race and bought that seat! On one occasion I remember George made a comment at a council meeting as to what he wanted in his district. After that council meeting, it was said Mayor Butts went to George's office and told him, "who told you; you, can think?" Basically, he was letting poor George know, I own you and I will tell you what I want in your district. Likewise, he gave money to Alex Padilla also; no telling how much! Particularly after the exposure of Alex Padilla's nephew \$4,000,000 Inglewood real estate acquisition before others knew about the NFL stadium coming to Inglewood. Of course, Alex said, in a Daily Breeze article, I didn't tell him anything about the coming NFL stadium! Yeah!

But, let's get back to the question, why is Mayor Butts so very fearful of the Treasurer providing financial information to Inglewood residents about the financial health of the city? We know after my exposure he overpaid vendor Pinner Construction \$77,418,26 that has not been returned to the Bond Proceeds account. Life time medical benefits continues to be paid for certain former city council members whom have been out of office for more than 12 years. The State Controller has evaluated the city's Internal Controller System and has determined it to be seriously deficient! What else is Mayor Butts afraid of being uncovered?!

Is the City Council members, City Manager Artie Fields, City Attorney Kenneth Campos, David Esparza, Asst. City Manager/ CFO, Louis Atwell, Asst. City Mgr, Public Works and possible other executives helping him cover up questionable activities to being inappropriate or are in fact a conflict of interest and would be frown upon by the District Attorney's Office, SEC, FBI, or State Controller's Office? This City Treasurer seeks the truth for Inglewood residents.

It appears , Mayor Butts has a great deal of difficulty controlling himself! After his former Executive Assistant Melanie McDade Dickens allegedly rejected him by ending their relationship in 2018, he harassed, cursed, yelled, and stalked her! He allegedly, entered her home with a garage opener she had given him before the breakup at midnight frightening her teenage daughter! I've challenged him and immediately he ordered an audit of my chief assistant Marco Tan who has been employed with me for 11 years, belittled my office of City Treasurer, reduced my total time to give a Treasurer report from 8 minutes to three, enters my office with his badge when I am not there, removed the Oral Section for the Treasurer to speak from the council agenda during the first year or two after elected mayor, yells turn her microphone off if I go beyond the three minutes allotment of time he mandated, ordered deactivation of mine and my staff badges from all city offices including the 9th floor council chambers, and he hit rock bottom when he ordered my council seating removed! I now must sit with residents and employees. Resident Joseph Teixeira referred to Mayor Butts as a punk and a bully at a prior council meeting. However, I am not afraid of him, city council members, city manager, or city attorney ONE IOTA! However, if I arrived in the basement the same time as Mayor Butts, I would not exit my vehicle until I was sure he was no longer near me. That's called using good judgment. I question his judgment, mental and emotional stability. I am not alone! Let's not forget, he is still a cop and can legally carry a gun! I cannot!

#### **STATE CONTROLER FOUND SERIOUS DEFICIENT INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEM:**

According to the letter sent to Artie Fields, City Manager, the "State Controller's Office reviewed the City's controls for conducting operations, preparing financial reports, safeguarding assets, and ensuring proper use of public funds." Controller Yee's office found serious deficiencies in the city's internal control system.

Jim Spano, CPA and Chief Division of Audits found of the 48 controls attributes evaluated, found 15 or 31% were present but not functioning, and 33, or 69%, were present and functioning. He went on to say that the City should develop a plan to address the deficiencies. The City Council should require periodic updates at public meetings of the progress in implementing the plan.

Unfortunately, the five member council including the mayor has never done this during their entire tenure! Sadly, council member focus is on community events, such as chili cook outs, car shows, document shredding for residents, block party attendance, and Christmas toy drives. Then again, the deficiencies in the finance department are not surprising. Mayor Butts appointed David Esparza, Asst. City Manager/CFO. He has no accounting or finance education or experience. He is a former police officer from San Jose.

His most recent municipal experience is with the Housing Authority of Los Angeles. That agency was under FBI investigation during his tenure. David Esparza has had more grievances filed against him by his subordinates than any executive staff member of the city during my entire tenure of 32 years with the city. His annual salary with benefits is \$368,069 plus Christmas bonus of \$26,000, 2018. His Asst. Finance Director Sharon Quoike applied for the position of Finance Director about 10 years ago and was interviewed by Jeff Muir, former Chief Financial Officer/Asst. City Administrator. He didn't hire her for that position because he determined her to be unqualified! She was hired as an assistant finance director. She earns \$228,135 plus benefits, 2018. The city was in dire need of someone to fill both positions. Ten years later, Sharon Quoike remains an assistant finance director! She gained the vast majority of her municipal experience from the city. Her former employment was with West Basin Municipal Water District. Mayor Butts allows the finance department to utilize consultants extensively to fill the void in experience that David Esparza and Sharon Quoike lacks. The finance department is blessed that most of the employees on the accounts payable side are long termed employees and many have earned accounting degrees. Unfortunately, that is not the case for the revenue side of the finance department. Both revenue supervisors have high school diplomas only and favored By the boss David Esparza!

#### **MAYOR BUTTS FORMER EXECUTIVE ASST. MELANIE MCDADE DICKENS TERMINATION**

Melanie McDade Dickens is expected to file her wrongful termination and a litany of other charges against the city before the July 01, 2020 deadline. **I firmly believe Mayor Butts this case will not go to trial!** Mayor Butts don't want his former assistant revealing information about certain activities regarding his handling of Inglewood business. **Melanie McDade Dickens so to speak, know where all the bodies are buried. She has admitted she lied for Mayor Butts 148 times in her deposition taken under oath!** Mayor Butts will order City Attorney, Kenneth Campos to settle this case! As in the case where Mayor Butts ordered Kenneth Campos to sue Joseph Teixeira and he followed his bosses orders exactly. Kenneth Campos does what he is told to do! He wants to keep his \$411,443 salary plus benefits and Christmas bonus of \$26,000 flowing into his bank account for as long as possible!

City Clerk Yvonne Horton, please include this Treasurer Report in your documents for this council meeting taken place on June 30, 2020. Mayor Butts has not only barred me from giving an oral report, he has ordered my seating removed from the city council chambers. No reasons were provided by him for his actions. The City Charter does not support his actions!

**Wanda M. Brown**

**City Treasurer**

Treasurer Report 6-30-20 Out