

## OFFICE OF THE CITY TREASURER

Wanda M. Brown, City Treasurer

September 03, 2020

**Mailed Certified & Regular Mail**

Mayor James Butts  
One Manchester Blvd  
Inglewood, Ca 90301

Artie Fields, City Manager  
One Manchester Blvd  
Inglewood, Ca 90301

Kenneth Campos, City Attorney  
One Manchester Blvd  
Inglewood, Ca 90301

Dear Mayor Butts:

I am outraged that you had the temerity to make verbal personal attacks about me at the August 18, 2020 City Council meeting, discussing my health, the fact that I am undergoing treatment for cancer from the dais, questioning my professional qualifications, and you went on to attack my character, saying I was providing false financial information about the City to residents, and I was attempting to "extort medical benefits." You stated you were going to take away some of my Inglewood City Charter given duties and "put them back in the finance department." You also stated you would reduce my salary. Article XXV, in the Inglewood Charter describe lawful Treasurer Duties. According to Article XX entitled Mayor's Authority in the City's Charter, you don't have the authority to change any of my duties or reduce my salary! Apparently you have never READ it! You must READ the Charter before giving yourself unlawful authority! I've also spoken to former Mayor Roosevelt Dorn who said, "I didn't have the authority to change your Charter given responsibilities or reduce your salary when I was mayor of Inglewood, and neither do Mayor Butts!" Also, I might add, your four City Council colleagues, AYE, Aye, Aye, and Aye, who vote lock step with you don't have the authority to give you that authority! You've given yourself certain authority never exercised by an Inglewood mayor during its entire more than 100 year history, such as signing for approval for the release of bond proceeds payments previously approved by the elected City Treasurer and eliminating the Treasurer's Investment Oversight committee established by the elected Treasurer and establishing your own oversight committee!

When Judy Dunlap was on the council, you had the Oral Comment section of the agenda removed for both the City Treasurer and City Clerk. The Treasurer's report was listed as Receive and File. This was done during the time I was attending an out of town Treasurer Conference. After two or three council meetings, I came to your office to talk with you to learn why you removed the Oral Section of the council agenda. you said you didn't think it was necessary that I give a Treasurer report at council meetings. I told you I didn't agree, and that the residents of Inglewood should be given an accounting of the investment portfolios. I mentioned that I had been given five (5) minutes under the administration of former Mayor Roosevelt Dorn and an additional three (3) minutes at the end of the council meeting to discuss any other topic. You replied that was him, and you don't think it is necessary. After much further discussion about the issue of your removal of the Oral section from the agenda, you said you wanted a larger salary. Larry Springer, one of your commissioners had spoken at council meeting on several occasions regarding increasing yours and the council salaries.

You said "I want my salary to match that of a superior court judge which has annual cost of living increases and for the council members' salaries to be raised to \$100,000."

You said if I was willing to organize a committee and collect the necessary signatures to put the item on the ballot you would restore the Treasurer Oral section to the agenda, and include raising the Treasurer salary to that of the city clerk and add lifetime medical benefits to the ballot item. You gave me a number of people you wanted on the committee. You named school board members Dionne Faulk, Carliss McGhee, each of your commissioner appointees, and Mari Morales who works for Republic Disposal. Regarding Carliss McGhee, you said "she loves me" and will be very willing to be on the committee. Mayor Butts you then then gave me a copy of a color 52 page power point presentation with your photo and name on the front cover entitled Inglewood Rises of your accomplishments to use when talking to voters. Copies were made in the City's print shop and charged to your account. Although I had NO intentions whatsoever to organize such a committee, I told you I would and you restored the Oral section to the agenda within one month! My eight (8) page memorandum to you and Artie Fields dated 11/25/2019 supports this account with my comment I spoke to a person who wanted to be on the committee. That person was your commissioner Larry Springs. It is further supported when I made a comment at a June or July 2020 city council meeting stating Mayor Butts want his salary raised to that of a superior court judge and the council salary raised to \$100,000. I also stated the same in the July 2020 Treasurer Report. I spoke to each council member regarding it Eloy said the timing was not good due to your upcoming election and other legal issues facing you. Council Member Padilla agreed. Your retaliation against me intensified after you realized I had no intentions to organize the committee to raise your salary. In addition, my complaint from the dais about being used to deceive the residents about the First Time Home Buyer Program, my financial reporting, namely the Negative Unrestrictive Fund Balance of (\$450,162,345) for fiscal year 2017/18 CAFR, your over spending according to our financial reporting system, and over payment of vendor Pinner Construction of \$77,418.26 approved by you utilizing bond proceeds, after you had your signature added to US Bank account. No former Inglewood mayor has ever signed for approval to use bond proceeds to pay vendors. My assistant Marco Tan, who lives in Arcadia informed me he was being followed about 4 years ago, after he prepared a power point presentation of crimes committed in Inglewood. He e-mailed it to a number of employees. I noticed after my 11/25/19 memorandum to you, men sitting in their vehicles near the end of my block. It is you, Mayor James Butts who attempted to EXTORT a salary increase for yourself to match that of a superior judge via coercion of the elected City Treasurer!

The financial information I've provided came directly from the City's 2017/18 annual CAFR, City issued budget, and the City financial reporting system, EDEN. Again, the City of Inglewood has some serious financial issues. My reporting is supported by (1) State Controller Betty T Yee's Internal Control Report (May 2020) which is devastating. (2) Article by State Senator John Moorlach's article, 10 Cities with Debt Management Problems. Inglewood is number five (5)! Senator Moorlach predicted the \$1.7 billion dollar bankruptcy

of Orange County. (3) Article by Robert Cole, "Telling The City To Get Real," 4/22/20 Pasadenastarnews, & L.A. Times 4/18/20 article. He is an exceptional city manager!

Let me also point out that one of the most important duties of the City Clerk's Office, is organizing the agenda items to be included in the weekly City Council Agenda Packet. This function has been performed on the 9th floor by a city staffer and of course controlled by you during the vast majority of City Clerk's career. You don't seem to have any issue with the clerk not only receiving a monthly salary of \$8,694 plus other benefits as well as life time medical benefits. You've never threaten to take away any of her duties or salary of that office! The elected City Clerk has "Oral Reporting" privileges denied the elected City Treasurer who has served the City for 32 years! You've mentioned to me multiple times you resent the Clerk's salary exceeding yours, and who essentially do next to nothing! The municipal elections had been conducted by an independent firm for over 50 years! As you stated, she is incapable of managing the office that was amply proven in the first year she held that office! But, to maintain her friendship, and to be given information regarding the number of absentee ballots received by the office, you gave her a staff that was doing very little work as you so amply put it, and gave her son a job in the ITC department. The staff there said the young man was so very incompetent he could not be taught the simplest of duties. Kenneth Campos office made certain all legal aspects pertaining to that office was handled properly! You also stated that when she leaves the office, you will reduce the salary to that of the City Treasurer. It is now obvious she will not run for reelection, let's see if you will carry out your threat. The deputy clerk has filed and you've endorsed her.

The Following Treasurer Responsibilities Are Performed By Treasurer Wanda Brown:

1. Invest City idle funds and idle funds of its entities
2. Treasurer Report designed
3. Investment Policy for City and its Entities
4. Review all applications for brokers desiring to do business with the City
5. Treasurer Oversight Committee organized
6. Was always a member of bond issuance committee
7. Track all payments of bond proceeds from 2007 issuance
8. Performed the RFP for selection of a bank for City
9. Regularly attend Treasurer conference for continuing education
10. Both Deputy Treasurers perform an array of duties to assist the Treasurer to avoid Internal Control Conflicts or actions which would be a conflict of duty for the Treasurer to perform.
11. Have not found it necessary utilized consultants to perform any Treasurer functions or responsibilities.

You know as well as I that the primary reason you threaten to take responsibilities, and reduce the Treasurer salary; (authority you don't have) is that you cannot control me! You don't approve of the comments I make about you or the financial reporting I make to Inglewood residents that is supported by our 18/20019 CAFR, Budget, EDEN, State Controller Betty Yee's Internal Control Report, May 2020, State Senator John Morlach article identifying Inglewood as number 5 of 10 cities with Debt Management Problems. In addition, my

comments regarding you **not** being responsible for bringing the RAMS to Inglewood seems to annoy you. It is well known that 30 acres of the land the magnificent NFL stadium now sit was purchased by Walmart Inc. under the administration of former Mayor Roosevelt Dorn. Stan Kroenke, multibillionaire owner of the Rams is married to a Walmart daughter. It was well known Stan Kroenke desired to bring his RAMS back to the Los Angeles area. Inglewood is less than 8 miles from their former home, Los Angeles Coliseum. Stan Kroenke is responsible for bringing the RAMS to Inglewood with the full support of NFL commissioner Roger Goodell and the other NFL team owners! You made multiple comments that when Mr. Kroenke called your office regarding his desire to build the stadium for his team in Inglewood, you didn't know who he was! You made the statement so many times, it was embarrassing! The entire executive staff and many residents are aware of the truth about the RAMS.

The Budget is greatly influenced by you, and reflects the numbers you want reported! I was complimentary during most of your administration in an effort to establish a good working relationship with you and your council colleagues. I tried my best to work with you. You are very intimidating and very difficult to work with. I made this comment in my eight (8) page memorandum to you dated 11/25/19! You immediately retaliated by ordering an audit of my 11 year staff member Marco Tan's desk, that resulted in no findings! I've met with you and discussed a number of financial issues of concern to me to no avail. You understand only one thing and that is to control by any means necessary! My last meeting with you in the 9th floor executive conference room; I prepared a number of reports for you to review. You never looked at a single one! I had another meeting with you after a council meeting with Artie present in February, 2020 as I best remember where again, I had prepared reports and you left them on the couch. During that meeting you loudly said "your job is keep us solvent." Again, you are a very intimidating person. It appears it is intentional!

Mayor Butts you have become a liability for the City and have cost the City's millions of dollars due to your mismanagement. The City paid Republic \$1,000,000.00 above the lowest bidder that could have serviced the City. However, because they were not willing to give your unemployed brother a job their bid was rejected. You ordered the City Attorney to file legal action against Joseph Teixeira because you didn't approve of his comments of you and his video of the council meeting. Cost to the City was over \$100,000. On another occasion ordered his removal from council chambers while exercising his freedom of speech. The District Attorney office informed you, you violated The Brown Act. Additionally, legal fees paid by the City to defend the problem you caused regarding MSG's claimed you "tricked them out of the land" they held a 10 year lease. They file legal actions against the City and you! The costly financial damages to the City you are directly responsible for never seems to end. You were involved in an automobile accident while in route according to you to speak at USC. Your daughter Ashley Butts criminal trial was scheduled that same day and time. She later pleaded guilty. Your former Executive Assistant Melanie Mc Dade will file a legal action for wrongful termination, harassment, stalking and an array of other charges against you for \$12,000,000.00! **No former mayor in the history of the City has caused the kind of financial damages and embarrassment you have!** I realized early your financial skills were very limited. You don't have a working knowledge of basic finance, budget or debt

management. \$18,000,000,000 given to MSG's billionaire owner for Forum renovations was a horrible decision! You've been in law enforcement all of your career, which is your strength. You are basically a cop or police officer with a very intimidating and bullying persona. Again, you lack hands on budget or debt management experience. The police budget officer managed the Santa Monica City budget during your chief of police tenure.

I shared that I had been diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer in October 2019 and I would be treated via chemotherapy, surgery, and radiation. From that day to this one, you never shown any consideration or compassion whatsoever! I also shared the same information to each member of the city council, city attorney, and city manager.

Again, I put forth my best effort to get you to address the financial issues that were of great concern to me multiple times to no avail. Artie suggested, I talk with each of the council members regarding my concerns. Council member Dotson and Franklin met with me. It was obvious they were not given financial briefing regarding City's true financial health.

I have the following questions for you Kenneth Campos, City Attorney and for you, Artie Fields, City Manager:

1. By what authority do Mayor Butts have to preclude me from attending city council meeting in the council chambers located on the 9th floor?
2. By what authority do Mayor Butts have to deactivate my employee badge that precludes my gaining access to all city departments as well as council chambers?
3. By what authority do Mayor Butts have to order essential employees not to assist the Treasurer to gain access to council chambers to attend city council meetings?
4. By what authority do Mayor Butts have to deactivate the badges of all City employees in an effort to preclude the Treasurer from gaining access to council chambers?
5. By what authority do Mayor Butts have to eliminate the "Oral Reporting" section in the Council Agenda for the Treasurer and discriminate and allow "Oral Reporting" for the City Clerk? The Treasurer abided within the three minute report ruling mandated.
6. By What authority do Mayor Butts have to confine the Treasurer to give financial reporting and the Treasurer Report from Community Room "A" located on the first floor that is reserved for the public to participate in city council meetings?
7. By what authority do Mayor Butts have to discuss my health, attack my character, make false statements about my attempting to "extort medical benefits" without any proof whatsoever from the dais?

8. **By what authority do Mayor Butts have to order that notifications not be provided to the Treasurer for meetings related to bond issuance or refinancing, claims review and license and permits meeting that I served on prior to his election of mayor?**
9. **By what authority do Mayor Butts have to enter my office when I am not there?**
10. **By What authority do Mayor Butts have to intimidate my staff member Hasan Kahn by ordering him to leave the 9th floor? His job eliminated after he worked for one week.**
11. **By what authority do Mayor Butts have to order surveillance of me and my staff member Marco Tan? We both noticed young men sitting in a car near our home.**
12. **By what authority do Mayor Butts have the authority to deny additional time to the Treasurer, yet give others and himself more time to speak?**
13. **By what authority do Mayor Butts have to precluded me from interacting with both my Deputy Treasurers located on the first floor due to my badge was ordered deactivated by him?**
14. **By what authority do Mayor Butts have to simply skip asking if anyone is present in Community Room "A" who desires to speak on any item on the agenda? He did so at the August 12, 2020 city council meeting, violating The Brown Act! Since my participation in council meeting has been restricted to Community Room "A" by him, I was present and asked custodian Mark Conley to call the 9th floor and inform Mayor Butts the Treasurer is present. Mark Conley made the call. Mayor Butts purposely omitted asking for those in Community Room "A", thereby violating The Brown Act.**
15. **By what authority do Mayor butts have to reduce the Treasurer salary and remove some of the Treasurer responsibilities. Duties provided by the Inglewood Charter. Mayor Butts said he would reduce my salary and remove certain duties and responsibilities at the August 18, 2020 city council meeting and "put them back in the finance department." Again, how can Mayor Butts violate the Constitution of Inglewood provided by the Inglewood Charter?! Please explain City Attorney!**

**Mayor Butts harassing, bullying, and intimidating behavior has never occurred by any other Inglewood mayor against another elected official during the 32 years I have been blessed to served as the Treasurer of Inglewood. Sadly, his four member council colleagues who vote lock step with him for every agenda item and supports his inappropriate and unprofessional behavior.**

**Mayor Butts controls every department with the exception of Treasurer. He has successfully utilized the general funds to pay excessive salaries and give annual bonuses that State Treasurer Betty Yee said in her Internal Control Report dated May 2020 are unjustified! Mayor Butts has essentially purchased employee loyalty! City employees are in dire fear of him knowing their jobs could be in jeopardy. Five female executives were fired or forced out at his directions, that includes his former Executive**

Assistant Melanie Mc Dade who has filed a claim for \$12,000,000. Former Captain Martin Sissac was fired; and filed a lawsuit for wrongful termination and other charges and won! As he was being escorted from the building said "I am going to be rich!" Kenneth Campos, as City Attorney, is the oath of office you took have any relevance to anything you've read in this correspondence, my 8 page memorandums dated 11/25/19 and 01/28/2020 given to you, or any of my Oral Treasurer Reports I was forced to put in written form due to Mayor Butts restricting my Oral Report time to exactly three minutes? Effectively, in the month of July 2020 Oral Reporting by the Treasurer was eliminated altogether without any cause given? I would also like an explanation as to by what authority can Mayor Butts allow the Oral Reporting for the elected City Clerk and deny or discriminate Oral Reporting for the elected City Treasurer who abided by his mandated three minute time limit? Please explain!

Artie Fields, as City Manager, do you feel you have any responsibility to inform Mayor Butts when his behavior is essentially unprofessionally, outrageous, unfair, and out of order? You had a Resolution in the March 10, 2020 council agenda package to dissolve the prior Investment Committee and to establish a NEW Investment Committee. The correct name of the committee is Investment Oversight Committee that was organized by Treasurer Wanda Brown. The NEW committee with Mayor Butts, Artie Fields, David Esparza a council member selected by Mayor Butts, and oh the City Treasurer, the only person with municipal investing, accounting, and finance education and experience will also be a member. Artie, you cited the reasons for the NEW investment Oversight Committee is "It has been determined that the current Investment Committee has not convened in some time and has not provided the level of fiduciary oversight and strategy recommendations which are required for the implementation of and compliance with the City's Investment Policy." Artie, you were present at the council meeting when I announced the Treasurer Oversight Committee will not be meeting due to COVID 19. California State Government Code Section 53600 don't require an Investment Oversight Committee! The Investment Oversight Committee established by Treasurer Wanda M. Brown is the only one the City of Inglewood has ever had; so how could a committee that never existed before be out of California State Government Code 53600 compliance, Artie? Please explain?

How can you allow yourself to be so pathetically used by Mayor Butts and just LIE! Where is your sense of honesty and integrity? You allowed yourself to be used to allow Mayor Butts to take over the Investment responsibility given to the Treasurer by the Inglewood Charter! Apparently neither of you has ever READ it the Inglewood Character! The Mayor don't have the authority to take away this particular Charter given responsibility and neither do you Artie Fields! READ the Charter!

I remain quite concerned regarding Mayor Butts approval of Pinner Construction overpayment of \$77,418.26. David Esparza who heads up all financial operations of the City didn't request the return of the overpayment by vendor Pinner after finance department discovered overpayment three months later in January 2018 in the following year. These funds were ultimately missing from the bond proceeds account

for three years. **Only after the persistence of Treasurer Brown were the funds restored on June 16, 2020. General Fund Sec. 108 funds were utilized by the Finance Dept. to balance the transaction that this Treasurer believes is NOT appropriate!**

**THIS TREASURER STRONGLY QUESTIONS:**

- **Why did it take three years to deposit overpayment of \$77,418.26 to the bond proceeds account? Why did it take David Esparza three months of the following year 2018 to learn that the overpayment occurred? Why was the over payment not returned by the vendor Pinner Construction Inc?**
- **Were all projects funded by Tax Exempt and non Tax Exempt bond proceeds eligible for utilization of bond proceeds? Over \$2,032,549.00 of bond proceeds were utilized to repair Parking Structure II built in about 1970. Work began by public works and stopped for nearly two years. Suddenly, bond proceeds were utilized to repair Parking Structure II that essentially consisted of clean up, cement repair patch work, cosmetic decoration to outside of structure, and new entrance and exit device.**
- **A \$2,049,372.84 gross misallocation error by Public Works Director and Asst. City Mgr. Louis Atwell. LACMTA rejected cost reimbursement for Call For Project funding due to this gross error. Although the departments has a large budget and staff and employed consultants to facilitate project management, Louis Atwell made this serious miscalculation. He had not managed such a large project during his entire career. I insisted on a e-mail from him admitting how and why the miscalculation occurred.**

Mayor Butts you didn't respond to prior memorandums dated 11/25/2019 and 01/28, 2020. If I don't hear from you by 09/10/2020, I will assume no response will be forthcoming. I will make this a public document to anyone who requests it. The same applies to Artie Fields and Kenneth Campos. You have essentially utilized your four member city council colleagues and selected staff members such as Artie Fields, Kenneth Campos, David Esparza, Sharon Koike, the Human Resource department as weapons against me. You are an embarrassment and liability to the City! **Again, your arms are too short to Box with God!**

In an effort to block the Treasurer and all in person participation to council meetings, Mayor Butts announced on 09/01/20 Community Room "A" will be closed due to COVID 19! Residents were coming to meetings to complain about the lack of COVID 19 City support!

**Mayor Butts, I demand access to City Council chambers so I can attend City Council meetings, my employee badge be activated to all floors as before your order of deactivation, my staff members Marco Tan, Hasan Kahn, Deputy Treasurers badges be activated, and stop police surveillance of me and my management assistant Marco Tan immediately!**

Sincerely,

Wanda M. Brown, Inglewood City Treasurer  
CC: Congresswoman Maxine Waters  
Senator Dianne Feinstein

**Senator Kamala Harris/Vice President Nominee  
Council Members G. Dotson, A. Padilla, E. Morales, R. Franklin  
Jackie Lacey, District Attorney of Los Angeles County**