

OFFICE OF THE CITY TREASURER

Treasurer Report

September 01, 2020

City Council Meetings 08/25 and 09/01, 2020
Wanda M. Brown, Inglewood City Treasurer

SUBJECTS: (1) DR-2 & CSA-2 Public Works Department Payment of invoices for AECOM for services rendered August 01, 2019 through September 27, 2019 in the amount of \$ 11,614. (2) Payment of invoices for AECOM for services rendered October 01, 2019 through November 01, 2019 in the amount of \$ 1,468.87. Grand total \$!3,082.87 DATES OF INVOICES HIDDEN - REVEALED ONLY IN DEPARTMENTS REPORTS NOT IN DR-2 & CSA-2!

(2) Initiative by Mayor Butts recommending ratification of Executive Order No. 20-08 extending the Tenant Eviction Protection, provided for during the COVID 19 Emergency to September 30, 2020.

DISCUSSION: (1) PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT Louis Atwell, Public Works Manager/Asst. City Mgr. submits documentation to pay invoices that should have been submitted for payment nearly one year ago for consultant AECOM whose contract is \$ 883,552. In addition to a \$ 12,327,910 fiscal year 2019/20 budget, large staff of engineers, technical support, and office personnel, AECOM and an array of other consultants were retained by Mr. Atwell with the approval of Mayor Butts and the City Council to assist him in managing Century Blvd P212 and other projects. Mr. Atwell had not managed a large project the size of Century Blvd P212 during his professional career. His annual salary is over \$409,430 plus an annual bonus of \$23,947.09 given in December in time for Christmas shopping.

I met with Mayor Butts to discuss the numerous calculation errors and huge misallocation error of \$2,049,372.84 made by Mr. Atwell apparently not understanding LACMTA contract regarding their reimbursement requirement. Mayor Butts response was, "so what, I discover errors all the time." Of course, his statement is not true. I realized during Mayor Butts first year as mayor his budget, debt management, and basic accounting skills were deficient. The primary reason to hire competent executives over the city finances and public work projects is to have capable people in charge! David Esparza, Asst. City Mgr./CFO is void of accounting and finance education and experience. He is a former police officer from San Jose. His most recent relevant municipal experience is with the City of Los Angeles Housing Department, that was under investigation during his tenure. Mr. Esparza's assistant, Sharon Quoike, when she interviewed for the position of Finance Director, was determined to be unqualified by former Chief Financial Officer/Asst. City Administrator Jeff Muir. Mr. Esparza earns over \$427,573 plus bonus of \$26,452.48 given in December in time for Christmas shopping!

12 years later, she remains Assistant Finance Director. Sharon is called upon to explain financial transactions with the aid of Mayor Butts. Mr. Esparza, Asst. City Mgr./CFO who heads the finances of the City is NEVER called upon! Although the Finance Department has a budget of \$ 7,818,300 it is essentially managed by consultants with the approval of Mayor Butts and the City Council Members. Similarly, Public Works utilizes significant consultants in managing projects due to the inexperience of Louis Atwell. However, even with consultants and large staff no one was able to comprehend the LACMTA contract limitation regarding reimbursement limitations causing the **\$2,049,372.84** misallocation error! This Treasurer required an e-mail explanation from Mr. Atwell regarding the huge error!

(2) At the September 01, council meeting, Mayor Butts extended the eviction protection by allowing 30 more days for tenants to sweat out before being evicted from their homes! This Treasurer spoke on the item and said, that 30 days was essentially shameful and should be extended to March 31, of 2021. Near the end of the year it is unlikely that most of the tenants that are unemployed and or had their hours reduced by their employer will find suitable employment between the months of October to January 31, 2021. This Treasurer also stated that the City should provide assistance to tenants regarding the repayment of rent not paid. It is likely that tenants will owe tens of thousands of dollars, that is equivalent to owing \$10,000 to 20,000 on a credit card. This would be an additional burden and hardship for tenants. This Treasurer feels the City should provide 75% of the rent liability assistance to tenants. Mayor Butts and the city council don't have any problems finding funds for Mayor Butts friends like Brian Walker, the former LAX Assistant Police Chief who resigned amid corruption. Mayor Butts and the city council members approved a \$1.69 million dollar budget for a created department, Office of Emergency Services! As a matter of fact, one of those employees got the house for First Time Buyer Program! Then again, Mayor Butts friend from the Chamber of Commerce got a job for \$68,000 annually. Oh, no need to interview, Mayor Butts said hire her! Then the other one in legal who did a small amount of consulting for the City, now earn \$104,000 annually! Least not forget the \$263,786.54 in bonuses given to executives in December in time for Christmas shopping! **Mayor Butts, you and your four aye, aye, aye, & aye council colleagues FIND the money to help Inglewood residents that are badly in need of assistance due to COVID 19! YOU FIND MONEY FOR EVERYBODY ELSE!**

When the mayor spoke at the end of council meeting, he abruptly announced, Community Room "A" will no longer be available to participate in person for council meetings due to COVID 19. Mayor Butts saw that this Treasurer was organizing those residents and decided to put an end to the use of Community Room "A". He and council member Padilla had people viewing the meeting! **The REAL reason is City Treasurer Wanda M. Brown 19!**

This Treasurer informed the residents attending the council meeting, they don't have take the inadequate help the mayor & council members are doling out, there is something called **RECALL!** This Treasurer proceeded to the City Clerk's office and requested **RECALL PETITION PROCESS!** A number of calls have been received. Anyone interested call the Treasurer at **213-709-3333.** We will start with the **RECALL OF MAYOR JAMES T. BUTTS JR.**

Wanda M. Brown, Inglewood City Treasurer

