

Valley VOTE

Valley Voters Organized Toward Empowerment



Community VOICE

October 20, 2014

by

Denny Schneider & Michelle Dornfest

Los Angeles City Councilmember, Bob Blumenfield

Upcoming Guest Speaker – 11/17/2014

L.A. COUNTY SHERIFF ELECTION 2014:

CANDIDATES, JIM MCDONALD AND TANAKA TANNAKA

PRESENT THEIR POLICY PLATFORMS to the Community on 10/20/2014

The candidates for L.A. County Sheriff, Jim McDonald and Tanaka Tannaka, presented their policy platforms to the community at the October 20, 2014 Meeting. The Valley VOTE Committee Transportation and LAX Airport expert reports, were presented by Bart Reed and Denny Schneider.

Valley VOTE addresses critical public policy issues, which significantly impact the San Fernando Valley, and influences decision making in the entire Los Angeles region. Public officials and residents speak their voice, at monthly meetings. Nearly all of the Los Angeles City Council members, and Los Angeles County Supervisors in the region, speak directly with the community, and engage in discussions about current affairs.



JIM MCDONNELL, Guest Speaker
JOE VITTI, President, Valley VOTE

JIM MCDONNELL

Guest Speaker

Official Candidate for Los Angeles County Sheriff

Chief of the Long Beach Police Department

McDonnell's goal is "one team, one mission". His top priority is to ensure that the nearly \$3 Billion Annual Budget of the Sheriff's Department, operates more efficiently.

McDonnell began his law enforcement career in 1981, as a twenty-one-year-old graduate from the Los Angeles Police Academy. Over nearly three decades, he held every rank in the LAPD, including First Assistant Chief and second in command to Police Chief Bill Bratton. He served as Chair of the Law Enforcement Advisory Committee for the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). Since 2010, he has served as the Chief of the Long Beach Police Department.

McDonnell addressed the diversified department enforcement strategies; which include specialized policing, specifically the operations of the L.A. County Jail.

In 2012, Supervisor Knabe appointed McDonnell to the Commission on Jail Violence. He learned that as many as twenty percent of the incarcerated, have been diagnosed with specific mental health issues. His goal is he to fight for health care treatment, instead of following the traditional approach to law enforcement.

McDonnell stated that the Sheriff Department patrols approximately 4000 square miles in the County. "Community Based Policing" is critical to crime reduction.

He noted that as high as seventy (70%) of the inmate population is considered to be illiterate. McDonnell will work with schools to develop new youth programs, to encourage intensive education. He said that "bullying" is an ongoing critical issue. He supports a "Citizen Oversight Committee".

McDonnell said that he will institute stronger internal review policies, to ensure that "no problem is ever missed".

McDonnell was asked by the community members about, officer involved shootings, in Long Beach. He noted that incidences of "shootings", were substantially lower this year.

PAUL TANAKA , Guest Speaker



PAUL TANAKA

Guest Speaker

Official Candidate for Los Angeles County Sheriff

Mayor for the City of Gardena

Mayor Tanaka has, for over 34 years, fought against crime as a Police Officer, Deputy Sheriff, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Commander, Chief (Administrative Services Division), Assistant Sheriff, and in the position of Undersheriff with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. He officially retired from the Sheriff's Department on August 1, 2013.

Tanaka is concerned with the changes in AB1109, which re-classified certain crimes from a "felony" to a "misdemeanor". He stated that this policy, has caused the release of alleged "criminals" from jail, and has resulted in measurable increase in crime. To address overcrowding of our jails, he would like to see that the mentally ill inmates, are more appropriately treated for their illnesses, by providing for intensive treatment by health care professionals. Tanaka said that it's time for improved mental health services.

The City of Gardena decided to install camera systems in public areas, which were viewable by the Police Department. This system seriously reduced crime. Tanaka supports "permitted concealed weapons". During his leadership in Gardena, a new facility is being built for the police department.

Tanaka holds an accounting degree from Loyola Marymount University, is a Certified Public Accountant, and has over 25 years of experience working with a Gardena accounting firm. He notes that his finance experience is critical to overseeing the Sheriff Department's approximately, \$2.9 Billion Budget.

Under his tenure, the City of Gardena not only became solvent, but has generated surplus budget funds. Gardena businesses are again flourishing. Gardena's bond ratings accelerated from junk status, to an "A+" rating. The Gardena city police department increased from approximately 66 to 99 officers, under his leadership.

Tanaka plans to schedule many community public forums throughout his service.

THE REGIONAL AIRPORT REPORT - CALIFORNIA

By DENNY SCHNEIDER, PRESIDENT

The ALLIANCE FOR A REGIONAL SOLUTION TO AIRPORT CONGESTION ("ARSAC")

Denny Schneider reported that the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) were acknowledged for expertise in running airports, when LAWA took control of the Los Angeles Ontario International Airport (LA/ONT), in the 1970's. However, it is critical to focus on the fact that LA/ONT has lost approximately 45% of its passenger traffic, in recent years.

Schneider said: "The practice of relying on LAX exclusively, for airline transportation, is a high risk venture for the community."

He said that the total regional economic benefit to Los Angeles County is reduced by concentrating operations exclusively in LAX. Specifically, job concentration is occurring in only one location, LAX, which causes high vehicle traffic congestion costs in all areas.

The LA/ONT passenger usage decline has significantly impacted local economic health. As a result, the tax base is reduced.

He reported that residents of Ontario and the Inland Empire, have stated that LAWA has harmed its relationship to the citizens, and apparently lawsuits have been filed. Instead of decentralizing airport service to bring passengers closer to a local airport; he said that LAWA has centralized high level transportation concentration primarily into LAX.

As a result, LAX now manages over 95% of all flights in the region. LAWA demonstrated its interest in inhibiting smaller airport usage, by its lack of action, in regard to support of the development of LA/ONT.

Schneider reported that re-directed traffic from LA/ONT, adds at least 1.6 million more cars into the Westside traffic areas, and increases transportation costs and delivery delays. Individuals suffer, in terms of transportation expenses, stress from traffic jams, and unhealthy pollution impacts.

Contact for further information: Denny Schneider, President, Alliance For A Regional Solution to Airport Congestion ("A.R.S.A.C."). www.RegionalSolution.org.

The *TRANSIT COALITION* Report

By BART REED, PRESIDENT

Bart Reed said that the current public policy issue he is presenting to the community is the “discouragement” of the operations of the rail car construction giant, Kinkisharyo, from establishing a local railway construction factory in Palmdale, California.

He reported that local unions filed several California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) demands for the planned factory. MTA has a “buy American requirement” in its contracts for rail cars that could have been fulfilled locally. As a result, Kinkisharyo has now decided to operate in another location, in the United States.

Several new MTA lines are being seriously considered for implementation, throughout the region, to improve mass transit. The proposed plans include an MTA line from the Valley along the 405, to the Westside.

The Transit Coalition (TC) has conducted several research studies, which show that there are significant additional transportation requirements from Santa Clarita into the San Fernando Valley, in order to provide for people to travel efficiently to their job site, and health care facilities.

Without implementation of the TC’s recommended “expanded transit service area”, the current transportation system, will not support the critical and efficient transportation needs across the region.

The Transit Coalition focuses on congestion relief opportunities and mobility alternatives, which allow for the region to move forward, to reach its fullest potential as a dynamic world-class area.

Contact for further information: Bart Reed, President, the Transit Coalition. • info@thetransitcoalition.us.

Valley VOTE Mission Statement

Valley VOTE is a diverse coalition of San Fernando Valley residents, educators, community members, and organizations; committed to exploring and fostering the implementation of programs that empower the people of the San Fernando Valley and the City of Los Angeles, to improve local governance, education and public participation on policy matters. Valley VOTE meets monthly to address key policy issues and listen to reports from committee chairs. For additional information about Valley VOTE: for upcoming meeting speaker agendas, meeting reports, and press releases; we encourage you to visit the Valley VOTE website: www.ValleyVote.org.

NOVEMBER, 2014: Los Angeles City Councilmember, Bob Blumenfield – Upcoming Guest Speaker

Monday, November 17, 2014, 6:30pm. Valley Vote Community Forum.