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VALLEY VOTE REPORT: November 21, 2016 MEETING

Minutes accumulated by Joe Vitti

Galpin Ford - 2nd Floor Meeting Room, 15555 Roscoe Boulevard, North Hills, CA 91343
Valley Vote meetings are held to address critical public policy issues impacting the San Fernando Valley. The next meeting will be January 16, 2017

Ron Galpern

The City Controller, Ron Galpern discussed Property Panel L.A. It is his latest effort of Control Panel L.A. that has been very beneficial to the citizens of Los Angeles. The City of Los Angeles, on behalf of its residents and taxpayers, owns a vast portfolio of real estate, encompassing nearly 9,000 distinct parcels located within the County of Los Angeles. These include parks; libraries; municipal facilities; parking lots, and commercial, industrial, retail, office and residential buildings and vacant land. Some are small; some are very large. L.A.'s real estate holdings also include land at and around our airports, the Port of L.A. and properties owned by our nation's largest municipally owned utility, the Dept. of Water & Power. The City has additional holdings in other California counties and outside the State. His slide presentation pointed out Property Panel L.A. has numerous examples of city owned properties all around the Los Angeles region including 17,500 acres in Palmdale that was originally planned for a future Palmdale Airport.

Under Galpern's leadership, the Controller's office has issued numerous financial and performance audits focused on improving the efficiency and accountability of City government and on delivering quality City services. Audits conducted by the Controller are helping to improve street services, how the City handles foreclosure properties, cable fees, funds for the arts, management of the city's special funds, worker's compensation costs, development fees, airport operations and much more.

One of the Controller's priorities has been to make the Dept. of Water and Power more transparent and responsive to ratepayers. Galpern created UtilityPanel.LA, a data portal featuring key financial data about DWP spending and payroll. The Controller's office conducted audits of the utility's Joint Training Institute and Joint Safety Institute and released an Industrial, Economic and Administrative Survey of the DWP, with specific recommendations for structural reforms and creation of performance dashboards.

Prior to his being elected as Controller in 2013, Galpern built a reputation as a leading voice for government reform. He is the first Neighborhood Council member elected to citywide office in Los Angeles. As an officer in his neighborhood council he advocated for quality of life improvements and more responsible neighborhood planning. He also developed and taught "L.A. City Government 101" to new neighborhood council members throughout the city and served as a council budget advocate. Controller Galpern has long promoted cutting waste and developing programs to help businesses create jobs. As Chair of the Los Angeles Commission on Revenue Efficiency, he worked to develop new revenue sources and budget savings to deliver core services to residents and businesses. He also served as President of the City's Quality & Productivity Commission. Galpern brings to the Controller job more than twenty years of experience as a transactional and litigation attorney and small business owner. He received his J.D. from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles and his undergraduate degree from Washington University in St. Louis.

He lives in West Los Angeles with his husband, Rabbi Zachary Shapiro, and their dog, Daisy. We are very pleased that the Controller has taken time from his busy activities to visit Valley VOTE.

Valley VOTE Member Reports

Funding the Underfunded - Victor N. Viereck

Locally and throughout the country pension funds are underfunded. Additionally pension fund income is lower due to low interest rates. Due to new local taxes approved in the November 8 election, funding the underfunded from local sources is even more difficult. Even IRA and other personal retirement accounts have some similar problems.

But due to the national election, there is a partial solution to the underfunding and low income of retirement funds. Not only would that solution substantially reduce the underfunding problem, it will stimulate the national economy and substantially reduce inversions.

That partial solution is the proposed reduction of the United States corporate income tax rate from 35% to 15%. That would directly increase the net income for corporations. Increasing the net income increases the per share valuation of the stock. It would motivate an increase in investment in corporate shares and stock market activity. Corporations would have more funds to invest in their business. It will be a benefit to the general public.

Victor Viereck [818-985-9174](tel:818-985-9174)

David DeVoss - Parks and Open Space

Everybody likes parks. That's why LA County in 1992 voted a temporary \$540 million tax to improve recreational space. Because the tax sunsets next year, the county asked for and was

granted a new \$319 parcel tax for parks on November 8. How much of that sum will be spent in the San Fernando Valley? It's a question surprisingly difficult to answer. The new property assessment will add \$7 to every household's annual tax bill, but the Mayor's office had no idea how much of the money raised in new taxes would go to the Valley. Neither did the Department of Parks & Recreation. One of Sheila Kuehl's assistants finally directed me to the *LA Countywide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment* (http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/dpr/243548_FinalReport.pdf). "You'll find everything you need to know there," she said.

Prepared at great expense over a 14-month period, the 350-page document divides the county into 188 districts. It recounts in great detail how 300 facilitators were hired to hand out manuals, templates, forms and posters all translated in to Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Armenian. Although the county does not contain a statistically significant number of Vietnamese and Japanese speakers, all the information was translated into these languages as well. The county spared no expense in its quest to not give offense. All 188 districts were given \$2,500 to complete their survey. Most spent the money on additional translations.

The survey concludes to nobody surprise that no district has enough parks. It requests an additional \$8.8 billion plus another \$12 billion to cover deferred maintenance. What it does not say is how the \$317 million resulting from the new parcel tax will be spent or what percentage will go to the Valley.

David DeVoss - www.eastwestnewsservice.com

Ernie Hilger - VETERANS HOUSING - VETERANS HOMELESSNESS

I am a member of the Disabled Veterans of America (DAV) Chapter 13 Camp Kearney Van Nuys, CA (800 members) and the Legislative Chair for our chapter. Our chapter has been serving and protecting veterans for over 92 years in the San Fernando Valley. We are part of a nationally Chartered Veterans Service organization of nearly 1.3 million veterans across the country with 125,000 members in California. The DAV is an organization of veterans helping veterans. We receive no government funding and look out for our members 100% of the time. We are totally self-funded and take no money from the Federal Government.

The DAV does the following to achieve its mission: 1. Helps returning veterans transition back to civilian life by linking them with services that address their physical, emotional and financial needs 2. Provides free professional assistance to veterans of all generations in obtaining VA and other government benefits earned through service. 3. Fights for veterans' rights on Capitol Hill. 4. Links veterans to job training and job assistance programs. 5. Funds rehabilitation programs for veterans with severe disabilities, such as blindness or amputation.

President Obama signed on Sept. 29, 2016 the bipartisan/bicameral agreement into law to implement the Veteran Centric Master Plan for the West LA VA to provide a vehicle for private funding. This agreement is the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 (HR 5936). A Legally Required Public Hearing was held on Wednesday November 16, 2016 at the Wadsworth Theater 6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. • Welcome and introductions of responsible staff brought in from around the country-including Ann Brown, Director GLAHS ,Heidi Marston, Special Advisor VA Secretary Bob McDonald and numerous representatives.

They had a productive meeting. Plans are already in place to issue the Sealed Request for Proposal (RFP) soon to commence the first construction .for homeless female veterans with children and to rehab buildings to house veterans. Networking occurred after the Town Hall meeting and negotiations are continuing. Additional items discussed: the foot print of the public dog park appropriated by the city of Los Angeles on veterans land will be reduced by 50% shortly. The remaining foot print will be reviewed with the intention using the remaining foot print solely for veterans only service dogs and/or to support a veterans service dog training operation at some point in the future.

The legal requirements are now being followed closely to Correct the Less than Legal activities of the VA in the past. The VA envisions the development of supportive housing on campus pursuant to legislation Congress recently introduced in both houses. VA has a phased development plan of 1,200 supportive housing units on the campus. The estimated schedule for completion of the first phase is: “Specifically, after legislative enactment, the proposed timeline involves developing 490 units within the first 30 months, 280 additional units within 4 to 5 years, and 430 additional units within 6 to 10 years—all totaling 1,200 units.”

The goal will be to strategically locate units designated for those underserved populations, in a manner to provide convenient access to the pertinent care and services that they will need, in a safe setting and environment. Along with development of those units would be Veteran focused supportive service leases, geared towards Veteran Health and wellness, nutrition and spiritual wellness, education, vocational training, skills building, peer activities socialization, and physical recreation, assistance with legal issues and federal benefits, volunteerism, family support services, child care services, and transportation.
Ernie Hilger 818 926 6892

Ralph Kroy Sunshine Canyon Landfill

The landfill is located at 14747 San Fernando Road, West of the I5 and 14 Freeway intersection on the borders between the communities of Granada Hills and Sylmar. It is also one of the most cited landfills for odors in the state, if not the country.

The Landfill claims that it is doing all that is required in it's operation to control the landfill odors. It still stinks. The landfill makes a substantial profit at the expense of those living nearby. Yet they have not stopped their problem of repeated stench. BFI has finally gotten the attention of many in the City, and the County governments, and the south coast Air Quality Management District, to the point that there are ongoing SCAQMD hearings locally at Cal State University and at the SCAQMD office hearing board for legal action. The issue that is being proposed is an order of Abatement that would reduce the daily tonnage and the operating hours of the landfill. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors recently passed a motion requiring country agencies to look at ways to control the stench residents say has made sick or forced them to shut their doors. The

motion called upon county health officials to consider issuing notices of violation. It also directed county planners to review the landfill conditional use permit to identify " enforcement tools to eliminate landfill odors."

Republic Services ,BFI, is fighting the proposed air district regulations that would divert thousands of tons of Los Angeles trash each day to distant dumps via hundreds of trucks ,adding to the regions traffic and air pollution.

The hearings are still in process with a slight delay requested by BFI.

Ralph Kroy rekroy@aol.com

Valley VOTE is a 501c4 nonprofit with NO PAID STAFF. We need the ANNUAL dues payments from our members to continue to meet our goals. Member 25\$; Board Member - 50\$. Thanks!!! Mail your check to Valley VOTE - 14622 Ventura Blvd. #424 Sherman Oaks CA. 91403 If you have already paid your dues for 2016 we thank you for your support.

Valley VOTE Mission Statement

Valley VOTE is a diverse coalition of San Fernando Valley residents, business people, educators, community activists, 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. We meet monthly to address key policy issues and hear reports from our standing committee chairs. For additional information about Valley VOTE, for an upcoming meeting agenda, or for previous meeting reports and press releases, we encourage you to go to our web site - Valleyvote.org. The press and public are invited to attend our meetings. Our next meeting will be Monday evening, Jan 16, 2017