

Friday, February 16, 2024 A Fortunado Publication in conjunction with Countywide News Service 10808 Foothill Blvd. Suite 160-446 Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 (951) 567-1936

Used Motor Oil Discarded On U.S. Forest Service Land Near Oak Hills & Cajon Pass

An individual or individuals at this time unknown disposed of a substantial quantity of motor oil on San Bernardino National Forest land at some point last month.

The United States Forest Service is networking with other federal, state and local authorities in trying to determine who is responsible for illegally dumping the used motor oil on the side of Forest Service Road

3N45.

Rangers are asking the public for help with any leads.

The oil was discovered on January 18. The site is accessible from the Oak Hills exit on Interstate 15, near the Cajon Pass.

Approximately 200 gallons of used engine oil in five-quart containers and five-gallon buckets were illegally discarded. Containers were labeled Exxon-

Mobil Oil Corporation and all the containers had barcodes. Some of the barcode numbers are: 7192444823, 2 1 4 0 0 4 0 4 4 4 , 7192444820 and 9236356611.

Anyone with information about the illegal dump can call USDA Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer Ishmill Lett at (626) 340-5587 during business hours and can call (909) 383-5594 after hours.

“Dumping is something we take very seriously,” Lett said. “It’s not only illegal in California, but it is a federal crime. Hazardous illegal dumping causes a tremendous amount of resource damage by polluting the environment, which simultaneously affects wildlife. We are asking for the public’s help in finding the suspect or suspects responsible for this violation.”

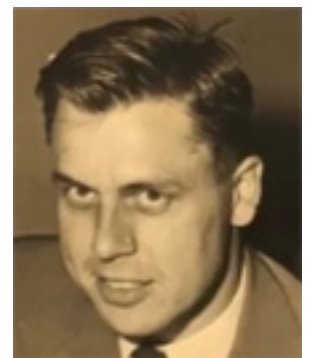
According to Lett,

the action violates California penal code 374.3, which makes it illegal to dump on public and private property punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000.

Also, pursuant to section 117555 of the California Health and Safety Code, a person who dumps illegally can be punished by up to six months in jail.

Photos of the dump site show containers stacked and See P 6

Dash Thirty Dash Mel Hodell, 102, SB County Newspaper Publisher



Mel Hodell

Mel Hodell, the former publisher of the *Montclair Tribune*, the *Upland News* and the *Cucamonga News*, has died.

One of the last of the generation of community builders in San Bernardino County’s West End who were shaped by their participation in World War II, Hodell was 102 when he succumbed from natural causes on January 31.

Hodell led a dynamic existence in more than one venue, those being as a U.S. Army Air Corps pilot providing crucial logistics support for Chiang Kai-Shek in his resistance of the Japanese invasion of China, his time as a young journalist, his raising of a family, then, penultimately, as a newspaper publisher and, ultimately, as a newspaper broker.

Melvin Ernest Hodell was born in Oak Park, Illinois in 1921. He and his younger sister were raised by his single mother, both in Chicago and Detroit.

Hodell acknowledged having developed a poor attitude as a kid, living in a residence with his mother, grandmother and sister that was the rear quarters to a hair salon where his mother worked.

See P 2

Teen Planned To Slaughter 5 Of His His Classmates & Perhaps Others, Police Say

An 18-year-old high school senior was on the brink of carrying out a shooting targeting an unknown number of victims at Ontario Christian High School and was amassing a small arsenal in furtherance of that goal when he was arrested by the Ontario Police Department on February 10, according to the Ontario Police Department.

The Ontario Police Department on February 8 was informed by an Ontario Christian High School faculty member that a student had expressed concern Sebastian Bailey Villaseñor, 18 of Eastvale, was making extensive plans to shoot several students at their school. Ontario investigators at once initiated a clandestine sur-

vey of Villaseñor and his various activities, social interactions such as they were, his social media accounts and his whereabouts by means of both physical surveillance and tracking of his cell phone, learning, according to Ontario Police Chief Michael Lorenz, that Villaseñor was “fixated on school shootings and had access to weap-

ons.”

Upon gaining access to internet searches Villaseñor had carried out along with other data contained on his communication devices, Lorenz said, it was determined the youth had “researched tactical supplies and was in the process of choosing a specific date to carry out the school shooting.”

Following a day-and-a-half of round-the-clock monitoring and further investigation which turned up that Villaseñor’s father owned several registered firearms, the Ontario Police Department’s investigative team obtained search warrants, including one for the Villaseñor residence, located at 7940 Tallow Tree Cir-See P 4

3 SBC Men Among 17 Charged in Fentanyl Smuggling Scheme

Three San Bernardino County men are among 17 named in a federal grand jury indictment that alleges a scheme to smuggle fentanyl, methamphetamine and heroin from Mexico into the United States.

Among those three is one of the defendants in the murder of six men gunned down on January 23 during what is

believed by investigators to have been a marijuana transaction gone awry.

Reportedly, the majority of the operatives in the syndicate are Mexican Nationals who made frequent trips across the border, typically smuggling substantial quantities of drugs in semi-trucks ostensibly transporting scrap metal or importing See P 3

Tension Over SB City Manager’s Commitment Toward Bond Financing On City Hall Retrofit

By Mark Gutglueck

San Bernardino City Manager Charles Montoya jumped ahead of himself and just about everyone else when he mapped out and then undertook the preliminary steps toward implementing a strategy to salvage San Bernardino’s dormant City Hall, which has been empty since 2017 over concerns about

its seismic stability.

The concept of retrofitting the building to make it once more safe for occupancy has remained alive since then-City Manager Mark Scott made the October 2017 decision to abandon the structure, but no substantive action in that regard has been taken by either of the three mayors nor the 11 members

of the council who have served since that time.

Montoya, without any publicly previewed or clear direction from the city council, sent instructions to Public Works Director Lynn Merrill, the city’s finance department and William Lampi, one of the analysts working in the city manager’s office to look into the task See P 3

Former ATF Agent Alexander Looking For 4 More Years As SB Ward 7 Councilman

Damon Alexander, who was first elected to the San Bernardino City Council in November 2020, is asking the residents of the 7th Ward to return him to office for four more years .

Competing against him in the March 5 race are former City Attorney Jim Penman and College Professor Dr. Treasure Ortiz. If one of the candidates does not poll a



Damon Alexander

majority of the vote on that date, the two top

vote-getters will compete in a run-off in November.

“I would like to continue collaborating with my colleagues to propel our city to new heights,” said Alexander. “I enjoy helping 7th Ward residents, residents of the city and community partners. I find value in San Bernardino when together we achieve our goals. I’ve successfully

introduced and implemented impactful policy ideas which benefit our residents. I want to see to completion several projects which I started or assisted in starting, paving the way for new businesses, affordable housing developments, restricted truck routes, the California Theater remodel, the Roosevelt Bowl remodel and others. I want to continue to

represent the city on regional boards to ensure that San Bernardino’s interests are effectively advocated for. I want to keep the progress and momentum going on economic growth, advocating for local vendor preference. Most importantly, I prioritize being in the community, ensuring the voices of the 7th Ward residents are not just heard See P 2

Alexander Makes Pitch To 7th Ward Voters To Retain Him As Their Councilman *from front page*

but actively represented in the decisions I make.”

The 7th Ward is located in the north central center of the city. It straddles the 210 Freeway, with a northern border of 40th Street, a southern border of Highland Avenue and irregular borders on its west and east sides, such that Del Rosa Aveu is priarily the eastern border on its south side, with the exception of a neighborhood that is north of the 21 Freeway near Del Vallejo Park. To the north, the eastern border is Harrison Avenue. On the west side, the southernmost west border is Musciabe Drive, the west H Street and the west border near the top of the district is H Street just before the district border makes an eastwrld jog along 34th Street to E Street, which then forms the western border until

it meets 37th Street before heading north along Palm to 40th Street.

During the three years and now nearly three months that he has been in office, Alexander said he has had a record of accomplishment.

“I’ve actively collaborated with colleagues to propel our city forward. Over the past three years, I’ve achieved significant milestones such as the long-awaited demolition of the mall, facilitating new business and housing developments. Representing San Bernardino on regional boards ensures our interests are effectively advocated for. I’ve organized economic and homeless summits, facilitated small business grant forums, and overcome bureaucratic hurdles to kickstart stalled projects. Additionally, I’ve fostered a working relationship with the school district to address city issues jointly. Promising to double code enforcement officers, we now have 20 officers and a manager, with additional

parking enforcement of-ficers added based on community needs. I initiated negotiations with the county, advocated for a new economic development department, and established the San Bernardino Regional Housing Trust for future housing affordability. Implementing a graffiti removal program and supporting Spanish translation at council meetings demonstrates our commitment to community needs. Collaborating with Caltrans on homeless outreach and enhancing our police department’s quality of life team reflects our dedication to addressing city-wide concerns. These accomplishments were achieved through collective efforts of residents, community partners, and city staff.”

Alexander said he has further goals in mind if he is entrusted with the responsibility of remaining in office.

“Firstly, I aim to initiate an infrastructure street bond to kickstart a city-wide schedule of

repaving the streets of San Bernardino, pending voter approval. Additionally, I intend to complete and staff the new economic development department and establish a one-stop shop for residents, streamlining processes for home improvements and large-scale projects. Addressing homelessness remains a priority, and I’m committed to leveraging innovative strategies to continue making progress in this area. Given the regional nature of homelessness, my involvement in the continuum of care for the county allows me to contribute effectively to this effort. Moreover, with the successful razing of the Carousel Mall, it’s time to usher in mixed-use development downtown, featuring restaurants, boutique shops, and residential housing. I envision San Bernardino becoming a what I call a smart solutions city, leveraging artificial intelligence and city-wide broadband to enhance infrastructure. Ensuring neighborhood safety is paramount, and I plan to achieve this through the strategic hiring of more police officers. While challenges persist, I am ready to tackle them head-on, confident that together, we can make a difference.”

To achieve results, Alexander said, a cooperative effort among the city’s elected leadership is key.

“Building strong relationships with council members is crucial for passing policy and

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achieving our goals,” he said. “I’m proud to have a good working relationship with my colleagues on the council, which enables us to effectively collaborate and drive initiatives forward. Additionally, active engagement with regional leaders and community partners ensures that San Bernardino is adequately represented and advocated for in securing resources vital for our city’s momentum. Serving as a board member of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), I advocate for grant funding and policy initiatives that benefit not only our city but also the broader regional community. Through these efforts, we can continue to advance San Bernardino’s interests and foster positive growth and development.”

candidacies.

In sizing up the major issues and challenges facing the city as a whole, Alexander said, “Indeed, homelessness, the availability of affordable housing, and the retention and attraction of the business community are pressing issues facing the 7th Ward and San Bernardino, akin to challenges encountered by many large cities in America. However, we are actively addressing and resolving these issues through collaborative efforts with our federal, county, and community partners. By working together, leveraging resources, and implementing innovative solutions, we can make meaningful progress in tackling these complex issues and improving the quality of life for all residents of San Bernardino.”

Alexander said he respected both Ortiz and Penman and indicated he had no criticisms of them, their approach to public issues or their

Alexander said, “Together, as a collective effort involving the mayor, council, city staff, community partners, and res-

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Hodell Flew Supplies To Chiang Kai-Shek & Clair Chennault Before Embarking On A Career As A Publisher *from front page*

He eventually found purpose working as a teenaged copy boy and then copyeditor for the Detroit Times and Detroit News. In the role of a copy boy, he would pick up from this reporter or that a sheaf of carbon copies on butcher papers of his most recent tentatively typed story and run one of each to the copy editor’s desk, the sub editor’s room, the editor’s desk and to the editor, crying “copy” at each stop. Eventually, at the age of 17, he was promoted to the position of copy editor, leaving that post to become a student at Northwestern University.

At Northwestern he majored in liberal arts, with a minor in journalism. In June 1944, after graduating from Northwestern with a bach-

elor’s degree, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps as a second lieutenant. Following basic training



Army Air Corps Lieutenant Mel Hodell

and flight school, he was sent to the China Burma India Theater on December 9, 1944 as part of the Army Air Corps Air Transport Command’s India China Division, then commanded by General Earl Hoag, taking part in the effort to supply the Chinese forces under Chiang Kai-Shek as well as the United States Army Air Forces in China.

This required that the pilots take their planes, primarily DC-3s, C-39a, C-46s, C-47s and C-53s from their base in Assam, India over the “hump” that is, the Himalaya Mountains to Kunming, China.

The supply effort had undergone multiple permutations prior to Hodell’s arrival, having started out as an operation of the Assam–Burma–China Command in April 1942, when the Japanese blocked the Burma Road, followed by the mission carried out by the India-China Ferry Command of the Tenth Air Force, which initiated in July 1942,

and was superseded by the Air Transport Command’s India-China Wing’s effort as of December December 1942. When the Air Transport Command reorganized its China supply effort as a function of the India-China Division in July 1944, Hodell was assigned to its flight crews as a pilot.

The Himalaya range includes eight of the ten highest peaks in the world, including ones of 29,035 feet, 27,940 feet, 27,766 feet, 26,906 feet, 25,557 feet, 25,190 feet, 24,012 feet, 23,736 feet,

23,440 feet, 23,389 feet, 22,349 feet and about 16 others over 19,685. In making the flights, the pilots generally flew at about 18,500 feet through a “groove” between the surrounding peaks where the highest land was about 16,000 feet above sea level.

The C-47 “Goony Bird,” and C-46 “Dumbo” that Hodell flew were relatively reliable planes in the environment where they were developed – North America – but were put to the test flying at high altitudes over the Hi-

malayas, particularly during winter months, when the plane’s engines and other systems would freeze. Carrying heavy payloads that had to get off the ground and then climb to considerable heights put strain on the engines, which accordingly were in need of constant maintenance.

On occasion, Japanese fighter pilots eluded the American fighters seeking to prevent them from molesting the transport planes, and a few American transport pilots were sent to an

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Contemplated H₂O Routes To Indian Wells Valley Have Varying Financial & Environmental Impacts

Plans are advancing for importing water into the Indian Wells Valley. The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority is considering three possible pipeline routes to import water from the State Water Project to the region at the northwesternmost extreme of San Bernardino County and adjoining sections of Kern and Inyo counties.

The groundwater authority is a joint powers entity that has Kern County, Inyo County, San Bernardino County,

the Indian Wells Valley Water District and the City of Ridgecrest as its voting members and the United States Navy and the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management as non-voting associate members of its governing board. Last year, the authority's governing board consented to hiring Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group to carry out a study of the most efficient and economic way to convey imported water to the valley.

The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin Authority is proposing a \$200-million, 50-mile-long pipeline system that would traverse mountainous desert terrain to bring water from the California Aqueduct in California City to Ridgecrest in Kern County, where it would be held in a massive storage tank operated by the Indian Wells Valley Water District. The water would be used to recharge the groundwater basin beneath Indian Wells Valley, which

stretches across approximately 600 square miles of Kern, northeast San Bernardino and southeast Inyo counties.

The groundwater authority was formed in 2015, in the aftermath of a four-year running drought and a determination by the California Department of Water Resources that the Indian Wells Valley is one of the 21 basins throughout the State of California in critical overdraft. Previously, in 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed

into law the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, mandating water-saving measures throughout the state and requiring local agencies to draft plans to bring groundwater aquifers into balanced levels of pumping and recharge through the adoption of a groundwater sustainability plan. That balance is supposed to be achieved by 2040.

Based upon a survey of water usage patterns undertaken by an engineering consultant,

Carlsbad-based Stetson Engineers, the authority and the Indian Wells Valley Water District sought to derive a strategy for both reducing water use in the valley and increasing groundwater recharge to reach a balance of both that will end the overdraft.

Any realistic assessment of the existing population, industrial, agricultural and commercial operations in the area and the decreases in the drafting of wa-

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Without Consulting The City Council, San Bernardino Manager Lined Up \$80M In Bond Funding For City Hall Siesmic Retrofit from front page

of fully assessing the building's engineering/structural shortcomings, determine whether they can be redressed and at what cost, make a determination of whether it is financially reasonable to undertake such a project rather than razing it and building a new structure from scratch and prepare the means for financing that undertaking. In doing so, he directed the finance department to work with the bond underwriting firm of Stifel, based primarily on his past dealings with the firm when he was city manager in Watsonville, as well as in Florence and Avondale, both in

Arizona, and while he was the finance director and treasurer with the Town of Castle Rock and the chief financial officer for Centennial, both in Colorado.

San Bernardino's misfortune with its City Hall might have been avoided but for what in retrospect know comes across as shortsighted and irresponsible action on the part of a past city council.

In 1971, the City of San Bernardino was moving toward building a new City Hall in Downtown San Bernardino, on property reclaimed from a longstanding historic section of the city, where nearly a score of buildings had been demolished to undertake an urban renewal effort that was to include government-sponsored capital improvements entailing a new civic center. To design City Hall, the city commissioned

César Pelli, a highly accomplished Argentine American architect who emigrated to the United States in 1952, married Diana Balmori, a landscape and urban designer, and became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1964. Pelli established himself as one of the world's leading architects, particular with regard to designing majestic buildings as well as some of the world's tallest structures, including the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur, which were for a time the world's tallest buildings, as well as the World Financial Center complex in downtown Manhattan, Salesforce Tower in San Francisco, the Sao Paulo Corporate Towers, Xuzhou Central Plaza in Xuzhou, the Unicredit Building in Milan, and scores of others around the world. In the early morning of February 9, 1971, the

San Fernando earthquake also known as the Sylmar earthquake, occurred in the west foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. The unanticipated thrust earthquake had a moment magnitude of 6.5 to 6.7 on the Richter Scale. The quake did damage to the San Fernando Valley and other densely populated areas north of central Los Angeles, causing several buildings to collapse. This demonstrated the inadequacy of the building standards that had been put into place in California following the Long Beach Earthquake of 1933. California lawmakers acted quickly to develop legislation related to seismic safety, tightening construction standards. Already at that point, architects and engineers had introduced the concept of incorporating rollers into the foundation of high rise buildings, which

would allow the foundation to roll or shift with a seismic disturbance. Two decades later, rollers would be replaced by massive vertical springs in the foundations of large buildings. But San Bernardino City Hall had neither of those features. What is more, it would utilize pilotis, i.e., pillars or columns composed primarily of concrete, to support the building, including a major portion of the upper stories on the building's east side, an overhang which was architecturally striking. Because of this, the easternmost portion of the building – all five of the upper floors, are not supported by a ground floor. Seismic integrity calculations done three decades later would determine that under the stress of a major earthquake, those pilotis would be very likely to crumble.

City Hall that Pelli

envisioned and which the city built is a six-story building, 115 feet tall and 217 feet long by 68 feet wide, in the modernist style, which includes a mezzanine and basement that do not count toward the six floors. It has curtain walls, and is clad in glass, which forms 90 percent of its exterior entailing 6,000 windows with slim aluminum mullions. City leaders of two generations ago instead of delaying the project by another 12 to 24 months and working to incorporate California's updated seismic standards into the design for the edifice, elected to rush the timetable on the completion of the \$4,950,579 City Hall project using Pelli's original design and its accompanying specifications. The result was that City Hall, which was supposed to have a life of as long as a cen-

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Band Of Mexican Nationals, Masquerading As Truck Drivers, Imported Dangerous Narcotics Into The USA from front page

fire extinguishers manufactured in Mexico into the United States. Many of the fire extinguishers were filled with drugs, according to court documents.

Authorities became aware approximately two years ago of the drug trafficking activity involving some of the

participants charged in the indictment approximately and had been tracking them through various means both north and south of the border, learning of the participation of others.

During the investigation, dubbed Operation "Smoke Jumpers," authorities made 13 seizures that yielded approximately 680,992 fentanyl pills, 3 kilograms of fentanyl powder, 17 kilograms of heroin, and 10,418 pills containing methamphetamine.

Nine of the defendants were arrested during law

enforcement operations that began on February 8 and continued through Monday. One defendant, Toniel Baez-Duarte, 33, of Apple Valley, was already in the custody of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department as of January 28, when he was rolled up with four others, including his brother, on suspicion of murdering six others involved in drug trafficking on January 23 in a remote area of the Mojave Desert east of the Shadow Mountain Ghost Town.

The nine defendants

arrested beginning on February 8 are Oscar Ahumada Leyva, 43, of Mexico; Miguel Antonio Rabago Valenzuela, 42, of Mexico; Gustavo Rivero Rodriguez, 39, of Mexico; Carlos Espinoza, 38, of Alhambra; Erick Roque Angeles, 39, of Fontana; David Sanchez Balderas, 26, of Denver; Fernando Salgado, 36, of Riverside; Rocio Guadalupe Acevedo Tonche, 32, of Ontario; and Efren Quibrera Espinoza, 29, of Cudahy.

Six of the defendants were taken into custody in the Los Angeles and

Inland Empire regions. Five of those defendants have been arraigned, entered not guilty pleas, and ordered to stand trial on April 2. Erick Roque Angeles was arraigned on Thursday in United States District Court in Los Angeles later today. Arrangements for the arraignment of Baez-Duarte, who is in state custody, are under way. Valenzuela, Rodriguez and Balderas are being arraigned elsewhere.

There are seven additional defendants, who are now considered to be fugitives for

justice. They are Victor Daniel Meza Ortiz, Alfredo Araujo Algardar, Francisco Fabian Torres Gaona, Juan Carlos Moreno Flores, Victor Ignacio Beltran Audelo, Nery Alvarado Alvarado and Domingo Ruiz Soto. All are believed to be in Mexico.

"These defendants used a sophisticated network to smuggle immense amounts of fentanyl into our country," said United State Attorney Martin Estrada. "We know that every fentanyl pill can kill, but these

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DA Hits High School Student With 5 Attempted Murder Charges In Ploy Some Defense Attorneys Say Might Be Hard To Make Stick *from front page*

cle, in Eastvale.

Upon the serving of the search warrant at the Villaseñor home, a 5 bedroom, 3,201-square foot home located at a quiet cul-de-sac, Ontario Police found three handguns, seven rifles, a shotgun and more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition, according to Lorenz.

The police chief said Villaseñor had engaged in painstaking research and was choreographing a precisely calculated hit involving five specific individuals that could be effectuated within a strict timeframe and in a way that he could elude arrest or having to deal with the police response.

“He was so obsessed with our response times that he Google-mapped how far it would be from the Ontario Police Department for our response time to the school,” Lorenz emphasized.

“Villaseñor had every intention of carrying out a school shooting at Ontario Christian High School,” the chief said.

Without explaining how investigators knew, Lorenz stated that Villaseñor was neither a loner nor bullied but was challenged when it came to forming relationships or interacting with other students.

Lorenz had delved into other school massacres and how they had been carried out, including the February 14, 2018 shooting at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida and the April 20, 1999 shooting at Columbine High School in Colorado. There was reason to believe Villaseñor was militating to carry out his attack on the anniversary of one of those, most particularly April 20, which is also Adolf Hitler’s birthday, a personage in whom Villaseñor had expressed an interest.

Villaseñor may not have had plans for mayhem as grandiose as that of the Stoneman Douglas High School

shooter, Nicholas Cruz, who killed 17, and himself survived, or the Columbine High assailants, Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris, who killed 12 and one teacher and then killed themselves. Villaseñor was focused in particular on five of his classmates, consisting of four girls and a boy with whom he had, for him, unsatisfactory interactions, according to investigators.

Furthermore, according to the San Bernardino County District Attorney’s Office, Villaseñor, a five foot, nine-inch-tall Hispanic male, disliked minorities and was hostile to homosexuals and, in particular, transsexuals.

According to investigators who had access to Villaseñor’s internet activity going back at least six months, he came by his anti-social attitudes on his own and had not been indoctrinated by any particular person or group.

Insofar as available records show, according to a faculty member at Ontario Christian High School, Villaseñor had not met with any major discipline as a student, such as suspension, removal from any specific class or expulsion.

According to an inventory of the weapons seized from the Villaseñor home, all of them were owned and properly licensed by his father, 56-year-old Jose Villaseñor.

Sebastian Villaseñor was arrested on February 10 on suspicion of having violated PC 422(A) – engaging in threats of violence.

He was charged, however, with far more serious crimes by prosecutors.

“On February 14, 2024, the San Bernardino County District Attorney’s Office charged Sebastian Villaseñor (18) of Eastvale with multiple felony charges after a thorough investigation into a reported plan to carry out an ac-

tive shooter attack at Ontario Christian High School,” the district attorney’s office stated in a press release. “Our office has filed the following charges against Defendant Villaseñor:

One count of PC664/422 – Attempted Criminal Threats

Five Counts of PC664/187 – Attempted Murder.”

At his February 15 arraignment in Rancho Cucamonga Superior Court before Judge Arthur Benner II, Villaseñor was not present but appeared via video from where he is being held, at the West Valley Detention Center. The overwhelmed Villaseñor, who is being represented by the San Bernardino County Public Defender’s Office but has not had direct access to any attorney, did not make any cogent response to the charges lodged against him. Judge Benner entered not-guilty pleas on his behalf to five counts of attempted murder and one count of attempted criminal threats.

Villaseñor is being represented by the San Bernardino County Public Defender’s Office. The next hearing was scheduled for Feb. 20.

Judge Benner at this point indulged Supervising Deputy District Attorney Joe Gaetano in his assertions that Villaseñor had attempted to murder four young women and one young man, while attempting to threaten another young woman and that Villaseñor should continue to be held without bail. Villaseñor, Gaetano said, “poses a great danger to the community.”

Gaetano hinted that there were other possible victims being targeted by Villaseñor.

Those within the law enforcement community have demonized Villaseñor and lionized the unnamed student who came forward to tell a member of the Ontario Christian High School Faculty about Villaseñor’s designs.

“Thanks to the swift and thorough response of Ontario Police De-

partment, and the bravery of the student who voiced concerns, tragedy was avoided and potentially lives were saved,” the district attorney’s office said in a statement. “Our office wants to remind everyone in our communities across San Bernardino County that active shooter threats are always considered serious, and if you see something, say something.”

Villaseñor, who has eclipsed his 18th birthday, is considered to be of the age of majority and his identity and multiple of his personal particulars have been publicly released, information that would not have been made available if he were still a minor. In addition to releasing his mug shot, the Ontario Police Department has made available various photographs of Villaseñor, the exact provenance of which – ranging from social media postings in public domain or ones contained in a private and nonpublic file – is uncertain. One of them, which appears to be a photo Villaseñor took of his image in a bathroom mirror shows him dressed in black clothing and wearing sunglasses, holding in one gloved hand the cellphone he used to snap the photo and in the other gloved hand what looks to be an automatic or semi-automatic assault rifle with a magazine engaged.

Judge Benner fell in line with the district attorney’s office’s narrative and Villaseñor remains jailed.

Legal professionals, however, say that based upon the known facts, the district attorney’s office has overcharged Villaseñor, which is borne out, they said, by the consideration that the police did not arrest him on attempted murder charges but on threats of violence.

“Based on what I have seen, we have a young man with some severe psychological challenges, and it is very fortunate he was stopped before he hurt anyone,” one lawyer said. “I don’t see any overt acts. This has been a well publi-

cized case and we have learned more in two days than you see with many cases over the course of months. Unless there is more that is not being disclosed, there was no actual attempt on anyone’s life that I can see.”

According to several attorneys the Sentinel spoke with, attempted murder consists of a failed attempt at killing someone, involving physical action taken in which the explicit intent was to kill but which failed, such as a perpetrator shooting, stabbing or unleashing what could be deadly force upon someone, irrespective of whether the intended victim or victim is actually shot or stabbed or hit or not, where the target yet survives. Planning a murder does not suffice as attempted murder until such a plan is actuated, the lawyers related. In the early going of the case, the Sentinel was told, a judge, as in this case Judge Benner, may accede to the prosecution’s representations of sufficient evidence to support such allegations and may succumb to political pressure and prove at least initially reluctant to demur in such a situation where there is an indication of intended mayhem. Nevertheless, lawyers the Sentinel consulted with, including former prosecutors, said unless the prosecution provides evidence that Villaseñor engaged in physical action that potentially had deadly consequence, a so-called

995 motion will almost certainly result in a judge’s ruling that the case against Villaseñor is missing basic elements of attempted murder.

Moreover, that the weapons in question are ones owned by his father and were found on his father’s premises offers little basis for any sort of weapons case against the younger Villaseñor. That his son is over the age of 18 would also remove any possibility that the elder Villaseñor might be prosecuted for not having properly secured the firearms.

“I understand that the district attorney wants to stop heinous acts, which is commendable, but unless it can be established that this defendant took substantial and actual steps toward committing the crime of killing someone, the charges fall down,” one of those lawyers said. “Planning something is not acting. Realistically, what you have here, even if he harbored murderous intent, at best is engaging in criminal threats.”

Charging Villaseñor with five attempted murder counts might provide prosecutors with a strategy option of negotiating a plea short of a conviction at trial, but any bargaining of that sort done by a competent defense attorney representing the defendant, lawyers said, would result in a sharply reduced sentence, which would put Villaseñor back on the street in a relatively short period of time.

Alexander Seeking Reelection In SB 7th Ward *from page 2*

idents, we have achieved significant progress over the past three years. Our collaborative endeavors have resulted in a noticeable decrease in crime rates across all areas of the city. Moreover, we’ve cultivated an environment conducive to new business growth by establishing an entrepreneurial business center to support both new and existing ventures. Additionally, I am committed to continuing my advocacy for fund-

ing our award-winning parks and recreation department, ensuring that our residents have access to quality recreational facilities. As I seek my constituents’ support and vote on March 5, 2024, I am confident that with continued collaboration, there is no limit to what we can achieve together.” He called for “keeping the momentum going and striving for an even brighter future for San Bernardino.” He said he wanted to thank his constituents for their ongoing support of his efforts as their representative.

-Mark Gutglueck

With City Hall Having Lain Fallow For 6 Years, Montoya Has Leapt Straight Into The Breach, Assuming The City Council Wants To Preserve Rather Than Raze It

from page 3

ture or a century-and-a-half, had come to represent a potential hazard to those who worked within it or citizens who came to it for municipal services or to pay municipal utility bills. A structural engineer brought in by the city in 2008 to examine tell-tale signs of instability and aging that were manifesting in various spots around the 104,000 square foot building came to the conclusion that it would in no case be able to withstand a locally-based temblor greater than 7 on the Richter scale and would likely collapse in the face of a 6.5 scale quake. The building's hopes would be marginal if shaken by a 6.0 event, the engineer prognosticated. The city, which had been facing progressively harder financial challenges going back two decades until it sank into the economic abyss and filed for Chapter Nine bankruptcy protection in 2012, did not have the means to tackle the issue and so it went unaddressed.

The issue was forced to a crisis point in September 2017 when a succession of minor but recurring earthquakes, referred to as a swarm, were registered near the Salton Sea. Afterward, the California Office of Emergency Services put out a warning that the chances of a magnitude 7.0 or greater earthquake was slightly greater than normal. Upon doing his due diligence, Scott concluded that it would be best to move all of the city's offices out of City Hall.

Thereafter, the lion's share of the city's departments took up residence in the Vanir Tower located next to City Hall, as well as in a number of smaller locations within the downtown area.

Montoya, after arriving in October, became aware of the constant drain on the city's budget represented by paying for office space

that otherwise would be available to the city at far less cost if it had its own quarters.

After hearing back from Merrill and Lampi, Montoya determined that the renovation of City Hall would run from somewhere between \$75 million and \$82 million. Without money in the city's budget to pay for the makeover, he explored financing options, having already been half-convinced that issuing bonds to generate the proceeds for the project was the most likely way forward. After speaking with Sara Oberlies Brown, the managing director for Stifel in its San Francisco Office and Mark Reader, Stifel's managing director in its Phoenix office, he sighed a letter of intent with Stifel to have it serve as the underwriter on the issuance of \$82 million in bonds.

At the city strategy session on January 30, Montoya had Lampi and Merrill brief the council on the situation with regard to City Hall, while both Brown and Reader were on hand to educate the council on its bond financing options.

Brown explained that the city was challenged with regard to its financing options because for the city to enter into any type of indebtedness exceeding annual revenues including bonded indebtedness, the city would need to obtain two-thirds voter approval of a tax or assessment to service that debt. She said, however, that the city could bypass the requirement for a vote of the city's residents by entering into "long term leases subject to annual appropriation by the city council as part of the budget process." She assured the council, "That concept has been leveraged by cities and counties throughout the State of California on a regular basis to provide infrastructure that is

considered to have general benefit to the community.

In the instant case, Brown said, this would call for the issuance of "lease-revenue bonds or certificates of participation, both having this common structure of lease-financing." The strategy would entail, Brown said, "a lease-lease back structure," one in which the city leases one of its assets to a financing authority – a parallel or ghost entity to city government which would have as its board of directors the city council – for an nominal amount, such as one dollar. The finance authority would then "rent" the asset back to the city, with the value amortized over a given period of time. The city's lease payments transfer to the trustee, who uses the incoming money to pay down the debt, that is, make payments to the bondholders. This debt servicing would require "use and occupancy" of the leased asset. "The trustee can re-enter and relet the asset if the issuer doesn't make payments," Brown said.

In practical terms, what the city would do is issue the bonds, take the proceeds from the sale of the bonds and use them to seismically retrofit City Hall, at which point the city could move all of its departments out of the Vanir Tower and other locations around downtown back into City Hall. The money that the city was otherwise paying to lease the office space to house its departments and employees would then be used to pay back the bondholders.

Brown said the city had set up financing authority's previously, as was the case with the city housing authority and before the State of California in 2012 closed out all municipal and county redevelopment agencies statewide, its redevelopment agency. The city council in all such cases acts as the governing body or board of the financing authority.

The asset to be leased to the financing authority

could be any of a number of city assets such as the existing City Hall, a park, the city's corporate yard, or its police station. Such assets have served as the subject of the lease payments in other cities, Brown said. The bonds issued could be structured to refund the bondholders in as short of a span as 10 years or up to 30 years or more, she said, with the standard or typical time being 30 years.

Without being specific, Brown indicated the city could structure its lease payments on the asset to be entrusted to the finance authority to be roughly equivalent to what the city is paying to lease the existing substitute City Hall facilities in the Vanir Tower and elsewhere. facilities

Brown then somewhat aggressively laid out a schedule by which the city would "kick-off" the concept of doing the lease lease-back financing, draw up the legal documents relating to the bond issuances and educate all of the participants – i.e., the city council and city residents – about what is to occur in January and February of this year, draft credit and marketing materials in March and April and award a construction project contract to whatever company is to do the work on City Hall, present the city's credit rating to a bond rating agency, post offering document and market the bonds in May and June. In July the city would then use the incoming proceeds from the bond sales to begin construction, that is, the retrofitting of City Hall.

Ultimately, Brown said, the city council would "act as the play caller," while her suggestion was that it was understood a bond issuance was the city's best option.

After listening to the presentation, Councilwoman Kimberly Calvin, without engaging in any direct criticism, probed how it was that the city was on a trajectory to make an \$82 million expenditure toward retrofitting

City Hall, committing the city and its residents to debt service of something approaching \$180 million over the next three decades.

Calvin inquired about Stifel's role as the city's bond underwriter. When Montoya indicated that was the case, Calvin asked, "So, you've already hired them?"

"We already have a letter of intent with them and all the project personnel put on this will go ahead and be reimbursed through the bond proceeds," Montoya responded. "So, we need to start moving ahead. And they're one of the top companies in the United States."

"If you don't mind my asking, what was that cost?" Calvin inquired.

"We're still working on that," said Montoya. "It's not a final cost yet. We will know as soon as we know what the bond issuance is and what the market rates are and those type of things. So, we don't have a final cost yet but that will be rolled into the bond proceeds."

"So, we just opened up a contract but we don't have any idea of the number?" Calvin asked.

"When you do bond proceeds, this is how that process works, nationwide," Montoya said.

"They've already been identified, though?" Calvin pressed.

Yes," said Montoya.

"So, we didn't need to go out for an RFP [request for proposals, i.e., seek bids] for that?" Calvin asked.

"No, we did not," said Montoya.

"And why was that?" asked Calvin

"We do not because they are one of the top people in the marketplace, one of the top ones in California," said Montoya, meaning Stifel. "It is relationship-based, people that we trust, that we know, that we work with."

"They have worked with us before?" Calvin asked.

"They have worked throughout California," said Montoya. "They have worked with me in several different states,

as well, and other individuals."

Montoya at one point indicated his belief that the salvaging of City Hall was an important enough undertaking that the city should commit to it. He evinced the attitude that the council should not dwell unnecessarily on financing options after staff had already carried out such evaluations or involve itself in an intemperate debate over which bond underwriter to utilize.

"Why are we doing this?" Montoya asked, rhetorically. He said, "I think why are we doing this [is] over the number of years the council and the community have been given an empty bag of happiness to do this and it hasn't been done yet. This building is iconic. It is not only iconic to this community but to the state and the United States. It still sits in historic books everywhere. This building has not been upkept. It needs to be done. It needs to be retrofitted and brought up to today's standards but it is still a beautiful building. In the meantime, the city has been paying lease rates in a building next door where we can be paying the bond rates to pay for that building and just get it done and get back in there, which is your building, the community's building, for the city council and everything else. That's why we're doing this move forward. If we don't do this now, sooner or later that building's just going to become a gigantic doorstop."

Calvin sought to pursue why the city has not sought from either or both the state and the federal government money or economic support in the form of grants or subsidies to preserve the building. Montoya said efforts had been made in that regard but that so far no progress in that regard had been made. Calvin pressed the city manager to have the city's lobbyist angle toward freeing up any available funding that could come into play

Continued on Page 12

Among The Suspects Using Fire Extinguishers To Smuggle Fentanyl, Heroin & Methamphetamine Into California Was Man Already Arrested As One Of Five Involved In January 23 Slaughter Of Six Others Involved In Illicit Marijuana Cultivation & Distribution *from page 3*

defendants did not care about the widespread destruction they were causing. Our office will continue to work intelligently and aggressively to bring international drug-trafficking organizations to justice.”

“Law enforcement continues to meet the challenges presented by drug trafficking organizations whose members constantly find novel ways to hide the poison they’re importing from Mexico to U.S. towns and cities,” said Amir Ehsaei, the acting assistant director in charge of the FBI’s Los Angeles Field Office. “The FBI and our partners on the

strike force are seeking seven fugitives in this case and ask that anyone with information as to their whereabouts contact the FBI.”

The 15-count indictment unsealed on February 8 charges the defendants with participating in a drug trafficking and money laundering conspiracy.

According to a warrant to search a phone seized when Carlos Espinoza was arrested last week, the investigation focused on Carin Trucking, a San Diego-based outfit owned by Leyva that operated at least six semi-trucks that regu-

larly entered the United States from Mexico to deliver suspected narcotics to the Los Angeles area. The drugs, including counterfeit pills containing fentanyl, were concealed in fire extinguishers initially disguised as scrap metal and later in extinguishers that appeared legitimate, according to the search warrant filed Monday.

“Investigators have observed multiple drug transactions involving truck drivers and their semi-trucks,” according to the affidavit in support of the search warrant. “The truck driver would drive into the United States from Mexico, and cross the border usually carrying a load of scrap metal, and concealed inside will be a scrap metal fire extinguisher containing drugs. The truck driver would then make his way up to Los

Angeles, to meet a courier, who would pick up the drug packed fire extinguishers for further distribution.”

The indictment alleges two narcotics conspiracies and 12 drug possession offenses, each of which carry a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison and a potential life sentence. Count 15, which alleges a money laundering conspiracy, carries a statutory maximum penalty of 20 years in prison.

Operation Smoke Jumpers was led by the FBI Los Angeles Strike Force, which is part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces strike force initiative and provides for the establishment of permanent multi-agency task force teams that work side-by-side in the same location. Accord-

ing to the Department of Justice, “This co-located model enables agents from different agencies to collaborate on intelligence-driven, multi-jurisdictional operations to disrupt and dismantle the most significant drug traffickers, money launderers, gangs, and transnational criminal organizations.”

In addition to the FBI, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the South Gate Police Department, IRS Criminal Investigation, and Homeland Security Investigations participated in the investigation.

The Drug Enforcement Administration, the California Highway Patrol, the Pasadena Police Department, the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department’s Inland Regional Narcotic Enforcement Team, the Alhambra Police De-

partment, the Rialto Police Department, and the Fontana Police Department provided substantial assistance.

The Justice Department was tight-lipped about any assistance that had been provided by Mexican authorities.

The Justice Department was unwilling to say whether the arrest of Baez-Duarte, which was well-publicized beginning on January 29, influenced the decision to move ahead with the unsealing of the indictment and initiation of arrests.

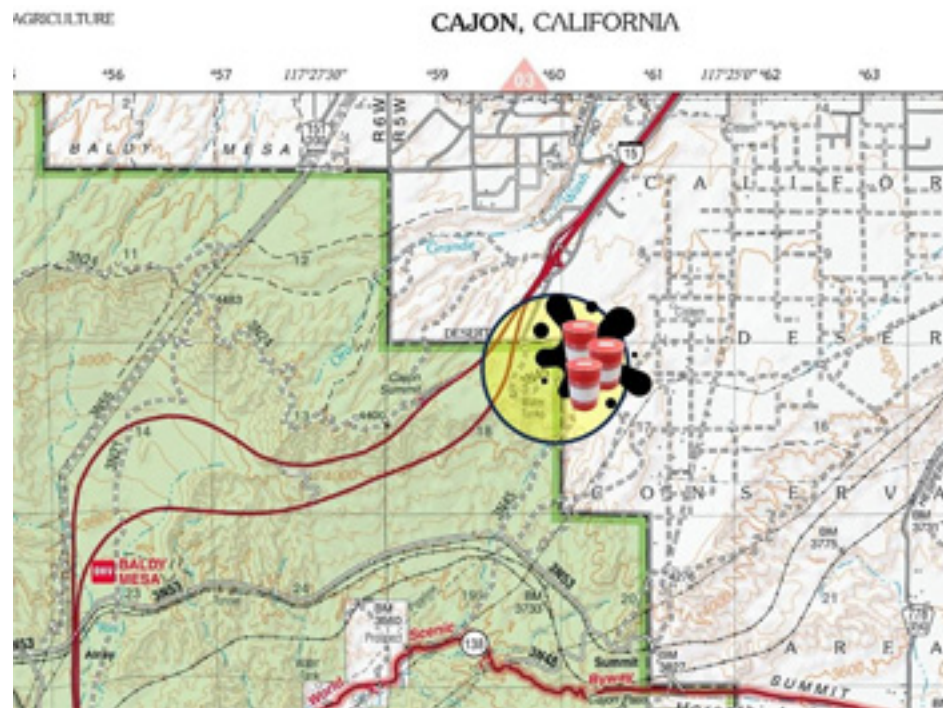
Assistant United States Attorneys Christopher C. Kendall and Jehan Pernas of the International Narcotics, Money Laundering, and Racketeering Section are prosecuting this case.

-Mark Gutglueck

Used Motor Oil Discarded On National Forest Property Near Cajon *from front page*

strewn in a pile; oil contaminated the ground and other trash was discarded as well. The site had to be cleaned up by a contracted hazardous material crew, who completed the job February 15.

It appears the contaminants were discovered and removed from the site in time to prevent any significant migration downward into the aquifer, preventing any impact on the local water table.



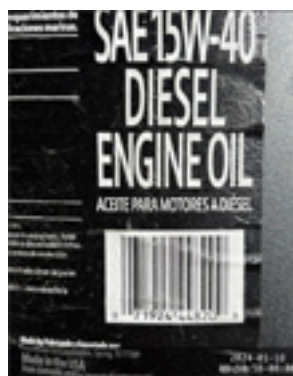
The map shows the location of an illegal oil dump on Forest Service Road 3N45, which is near the Oak Hills Road exit on Interstate 15 at the Cajon Pass. USDA Forest Service photo



A contracted hazardous material worker had to clean up illegal dumped oil on Forest Service Road 3N45 on February 15. USDA Forest Service photo



Used engine oil contaminated the ground at a site of an illegal oil dump on Forest Service Road 3N45 in January. USDA Forest Service photo



One of the containers of oil that was illegally dumped on Forest Service Road 3N45 is labeled ExxonMobil Oil Corporation and has a barcode number of 7192444820. USDA Forest Service photo



Approximately 200 gallons of used engine oil in five-quart containers and five-gallon buckets were illegally discarded on Forest Service Road 3N45 in January. Containers were labeled ExxonMobil Oil Corporation and all the containers had barcodes. Some of the barcode numbers are: 7192444823, 2140040444, 7192444820 and 9236356611. USDA Forest Service photo

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Deputy Court Clerk. IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under Section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Christopher Whitton:

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The following person is doing business as: ABEJAS PEINTING. 225 S. ELK ST. SPC 84 HEMET, CA 92543225 S. ELK ST. SPC 84 HEMET, CA 92543

FBN 20240000982
The following person is doing business as: GOLD COAST SOLUTIONS. 1164 MONTE VISTA AVE STE 9 UPLAND, CA 91786

FBN 20240001423
The following person is doing business as: INLAND INVESTMENTS IDG. 3602 E DELIGHT PASEO UNIT 85 ONTARIO, CA 91761

FBN 20240001399
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The following person is doing business as: NATIONWIDE MO-

BILE HOME SERVICE. 7786 CALLE CLARIN RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730

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The following person is doing business as: JJ'S CLEANING. 1883 E VICTORIA AVE SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408

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FBN 20240001304
The following person is doing business as: DIVERSE. 26242 REDLANDS BLVD APT 78 REDLANDS, CA 92373

FBN 2024000188
The following person is doing business as: DOUBLE OR NOTHING PIZZA AND PASTA. 9565 CENTRAL AVE MONTCLAIR, CA 91763

FBN 20240001137
The following person is doing business as: FOREVER SUNRISE. 850 ETIWANDA AVE RIALTO, CA 92376

FBN 20240001427
The following person is doing business as: MARIAM HURTADO CALDERA. 1736 W HIGHLAND AVE SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92411

FBN 20240001321
The following person is doing business as: MANUEL HURTADO CALDERA. 1736 W HIGHLAND AVE SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92411

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corporation 5957248
The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A

FBN 20240001136
The following person is doing business as: RAMOS FLOWERS. 3055 N GOLDEN AVE APT #18 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92404

FBN 20240001336
The following person is doing business as: LAURA A RAMOS, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: FEBRUARY 06, 2024

FBN 20240001195
The following person is doing business as: GAGE TRANSPORTATION. 1010 W 2ND ST SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92410

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The following person is doing business as: NATIONWIDE MO-

date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 02/16/2024, 02/23/2024, 03/01/2024, 03/08/2024

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The following person is doing business as: JMI FLOORING. 1164 MONTE VISTA AVE, SUITE 9 UPLAND, CA 91786

FBN 20240001423
The following person is doing business as: INLAND INVESTMENTS IDG. 3602 E DELIGHT PASEO UNIT 85 ONTARIO, CA 91761

By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ JUSTIN D PARAMO, OWNER Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: FEBRUARY 06, 2024

FBN 20240000878
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The following person is doing business as: RAMOS FLOWERS. 3055 N GOLDEN AVE APT #18 SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92404

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The following person is doing business as: DRIPPYS MOBILE DETAILING. 1580 POEMA DR COLTON, CA 92324; MAILING ADDRESS 311 W CIVIC CENTER DR STE B SANTA ANA, CA 92701; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO ANTHONY M VALDEZ
The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ ANTHONY M VALDEZ, OWNER
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JANUARY 18, 2024 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 02/16/2024, 02/23/2024, 03/01/2024, 03/08/2024 CNBB7202417CV

FBN 20240001012
The following person is doing business as: MINONA GARDEN RESIDENTIAL SENIOR CARE. 22854 MINONA DR GRAND TERRACE, CA 92313; MAILING ADDRESS 22854 MINONA DR GRAND TERRACE, CA 92313; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO ELIZABETH COLUNGA
The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or

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names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ ELIZABETH COLUNGA, OWNER
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: FEBRUARY 01, 2024 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 02/16/2024, 02/23/2024, 03/01/2024, 03/08/2024 CNBB7202418MT

FBN 20240001074
The following person is doing business as: AXIOM DENTAL HYGIENE PRACTICE OF JOSE PONCE RDHAP. 11275 PRICE DR LOMA LINDA, CA 92354; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO JOSE E PONCE
The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ JOSE E PONCE
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: FEBRUARY 02, 2024 I hereby certify that this copy is a

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correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 02/16/2024, 02/23/2024, 03/01/2024, 03/08/2024 CNBB7202419MT

FBN 20240000862
The following person is doing business as: SUPRAMA DENTAL HYGIENE PRACTICE OF MONTRA RAMA RDHAP. 277 COWAN STREET COLTON, CA 92324; MAILING ADDRESS 277 COWAN STREET COLTON, CA 92324; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO MONTRA S RAMA N/A.
The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: JAN 24, 2024 By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ MONTRA S RAMA
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: JANUARY 29, 2024 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 02/16/2024, 02/23/2024, 03/01/2024, 03/08/2024 CNBB7202421MT

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FBN 20240001198
The following person is doing business as: ASA FONTANA PACK. 7420 LOCUST AVE FONTANA, CA 92336 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO THE ALLEGIANCE PARENTS AND COMMUNITY FOR KIDS-FONTANA 7420 LOCUST AVE FONTANA, CA 92336 STATE OF INCORPORATION CA ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION 5997394
The business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ CLAUDIA THOMAS, TREASURER
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: FEBRUARY 07, 2024 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 02/16/2024, 02/23/2024, 03/01/2024, 03/08/2024 CNBB7202422MT

FBN 20240001286
The following person is doing business as: C&C JANITORIAL. 12829 12TH ST APT 5 CHINO, CA 91710; MAILING ADDRESS 12829 12TH ST APT 5 CHINO, CA 91710; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO CECILIA CORREA
The business is conducted

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ed by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: OCT 22, 2018 By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ CECILIA CORREA, OWNER
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: FEBRUARY 09, 2024 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 02/16/2024, 02/23/2024, 03/01/2024, 03/08/2024 CNBB7202423MT

FBN 20240001167
The following person is doing business as: LUX REMARKETING. 14770 FOOTHILL BLVD FONTANA, CA 92335; MAILING ADDRESS 14770 FOOTHILL BLVD FONTANA, CA 92335; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO CHRISTOPHER L LUCERO N/A.
The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: FEB 06, 2024 By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ CHRISTOPHER L LUCERO, OWNER
Statement filed with the Coun-

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ty Clerk of San Bernardino on: FEBRUARY 06, 2024 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 02/16/2024, 02/23/2024, 03/01/2024, 03/08/2024 CNBB7202423MT

FBN 20240001147
The following person is doing business as: PREMIER LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT GROUP 3210 EAST GUASTI ROAD ONTARIO, CA 91761; MAILING ADDRESS 310 EAST GUASTI ROAD ONTARIO, CA 91761; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO PREMIER LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT LLC 3210 EAST GUASTI ROAD ONTARIO, CA 91761 STATE OF ORGANIZATION CA ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION 202460811668
The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: FEB 06, 2024 By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ JEREMY MICHALSKI, MANAGING MEMBER
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: FEBRUARY 06, 2024 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name state-

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ment expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 02/16/2024, 02/23/2024, 03/01/2024, 03/08/2024 CNBB7202424MT

FBN 20240001141
The following person is doing business as: ACE EASY CLEAN SERVICE. 1555 ORANGE AVE UNIT 1003 REDLANDS, CA 92373; 1555 ORANGE AVE UNIT 1003 REDLANDS, CA 92373; COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO ANGELICA CASTANEDA N/A.
The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: FEBRUARY 05, 2024 By signing, I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime (B&P Code 179130. I am also aware that all information on this statement becomes Public Record upon filing. s/ ANGELICA CASTANEDA, OWNER
Statement filed with the County Clerk of San Bernardino on: FEBRUARY 06, 2024 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office San Bernardino County Clerk By:/Deputy Notice-This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Published in the San Bernardino County Sentinel 02/16/2024, 02/23/2024, 03/01/2024, 03/08/2024 CNBB7202425MT

Three Options On Importing H₂O To Indian Wells Valley from page 3

ter from the regional aquifer that could be achieved through efficientization, conservation, increased recycling of water and perhaps the minimization of evaporation demonstrated that it would not be possible to achieve by the target year of 2040, as is mandated by the state, a balance of natural water recharge to the region from rainfall and the amount of water usage, such that the depletion of the aquifer will end. According to the surveys completed to provide the data needed to formulate the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan, the average natural annual recharge in the basin is 7,650 acre-feet while the annual drafting of groundwater in the region by all entities is three to four times that amount.

Accordingly, staff and the board of the Indian

Wells Valley Groundwater Authority long ago concluded that the sought-after goal of bringing the region's water table out of a state of overdraft can only be achieved by the importation of water from outside the valley and injecting it deep into the ground to avoid evaporation and replenish water lost from excessive production.

Three years ago, after the survey of water use by well owners both collectively and individually was made, the authority assigned water use allowances to the region's well owners. Excess use fees, referred to as augmentation fees, were formulated for application to those well owners who pump above their allowances as well as on farmers who go beyond their respective share of the water supply set aside for agricultural usage. The authority intends to use money generated in this way to purchase imported water and pay for the infrastructure needed to bring

in the imported water. That water is to come from the State Water Project, imported to the southern part of the state by the California Aqueduct.

At present, however, there is no means of conveyance of water that would come out of the California Aqueduct to Indian Wells Valley, meaning a pipeline will need to be constructed.

Provost & Pritchard provides civil engineering, water resource management, environmental, structural engineering, hydrogeologic, GIS, surveying, caves and tunnels expertise, planning, and construction management consulting services. According to the company's principal engineer, Jeff Davis, the authority has essentially three options with regard to the route the pipeline should take from California City to Ridgecrest, one of which he termed a west alignment, a second he called a central alignment, and a third he referred to as an east alignment.

Given geographical and topographical factors, the difficulty of the terrain to be encountered, along with the pre-existence of certain infrastructure and utilities in some areas and the lack of such necessities in other others along with complications or a lack thereof with regard to securing right-of-way along certain paths, Davis said there are relative advantages and disadvantages in multiple respects to each of the three paths the pipeline might take.

In each case, the pipeline will need to traverse the Rand and El Paso mountains. Of consideration is that the pipeline might end up disturbing critical habitat for certain species which dwell in the desert, Davis said, requiring care in how the pipeline is designed, placed and constructed.

The west alignment would run north from California city on land next to Neuralia Road and bend west through Jawbone Canyon and resume a northerly direc-

tion crossing U.S. Route 14 to Ridgecrest. An advantage to this course is that it would replicate in spans an existing pathway for a large Los Angeles Department of Water and Power water pipeline and not conflict with any critical habitat for the endangered desert tortoise. Nevertheless, the west alignment would require bringing in electricity or other utilities to areas where lifting stations are needed as well as traversing no fewer than four major roads or rail lines.

The center alignment similarly goes north on Neuralia Road but cuts east between the Rand and El Paso mountains, continuing until U.S. Route 395, at which point it makes a 90 degree turn north all the way to Ridgecrest.

This route does not entail having to deal with the Rand and El Paso mountains, a striking advantage. Moreover, it parallels existing roadways. The downside is that it interferes with the critical habitat of

some species of animals that live in the desert and will require bringing in utilities to certain portions of the route.

The east alignment follows 20 Mule Team Parkway out of California City and towards U.S. Route 395. It then follows U.S. Route 395 north all the way to Ridgecrest.

This pathway is advantageous from the standpoint that it parallels existing infrastructure virtually the entire distance, such that the construction can be readily undertaken. It would, however, require two sets of lifting stations, one to boost the water up one steep incline over the Rand Mountains, at which point it would then follow a downgrade into a valley between the Rand and El Paso Mountains and then climb once more over the El Paso Mountains. Like the center alignment, it would entail some interference with critical habitat for certain desert species.

-Mark Gutglueck

After Concluding His Role As An Army Air Corps Flyer, Mel Hodell Made His Way In The World As A Newspaperman

from page 2

early grave as a result. Navigation was a particular problem. Given the terrain the planes were flying over and the sudden onset of the war, many of the charts used by pilots as drafted were unreliable. There were no radio navigation facilities to speak of and meteorological data in that day and age was nonexistent or of questionable validity. In certain frigid conditions, turbulence experienced while flying over the Himalayas resulted in wings falling off of the planes.

Planes and crews involved in the Assam-Burma-China Command, India-China Ferry Command, India-China Wing and India-China Division, all of which were cargo planes, suffered the highest rate of losses among any non-combatant air fleets of the war. In total, the effort resulted in 594 aircraft lost, missing, or written off, with 1,659 personnel killed or missing, such that one out of three pilots involved in the missions perished.

The planes delivered

all order of equipment, armament, weapons, ammunition and bombs, as well as troops, beasts of burden and food. The most hazardous payloads – ones which were frequently carried – was aviation fuel, high octane kerosene intended to keep Claire Chennault's "Flying Tigers," and later the U.S. 14th Air Force fully engaged against the Japanese in China. The fuel was of such high-octane that it could ignite or explode very readily. On the 625 mile flights, the pilots and co-pilots had to withstand severe cold, indeed freezing temperatures for more than three hours of the flights as the use of the only available source of warmth, propane-fueled open flame heaters presented too great of a danger, given the cargo they were carrying.

Aluminum Dreams offers a description of one flight in which Hodell, co-piloting a C-46, was told by the pilot of the no longer climbing aircraft that he should ready himself to bail out before the plane flew into the side of an oncoming mountain. The plane, with its propellers and wings iced over, was certain to crash, as it could not power itself over the 16,000-foot altitude it needed to achieve. Yet jumping from the plane offered little more pros-

pect of survival than staying in the plane, as Hodell would most certainly find himself in an unknown and uncharted spot in the snow covered Himalayas upon para-



Mel Hodell, about to use a pica pole to measure column lengths in the days before newspaper production became digitized.

chuting to the ground. As it turned out, the door out of which they were to exit or jettison the cargo in a desperate ploy to lighten the craft was also sealed in ice, and would not open. As if by divine providence, the plane encountered a warm air updraft, lifting it to an altitude that allowed it to clear the pass through the mountains and which caused the ice to slide off the propellers.

The atmosphere in which the planes flew was in stark contrast to the oppressively sultry

heat in Assam during the late spring and summer months.

Hodell flew 65 cargo delivery trips from Assam to Kunming, logging 553 air hours over

at Medill, he began as a reporter and then became the night editor and ultimately the managing editor at the *Daily Northwestern*, where Virginia Gum of Mississippi, another journalism student, was writing.

Hodell and Gum graduated from Northwestern in 1947 and married, embarking on professional journalistic careers together. They were stringers at first with the *Chicago City News* and then moved into writing positions with the *Wisconsin State Journal* in Madison. After a year there, they moved to Merced, California in 1949 and remained in the Golden State for nearly three years, during which time they started a family. In 1952, they moved to Naperville, Illinois, where Hodell bought that city's newspaper, the *Clarion*.

After publishing the *Clarion* for six years, Hodell sold it and moved his family to California in 1958, to the Inland Empire and ultimately to Upland. The family would ultimately take up residence in a grand Spanish Colonial style home located at 1388 North Euclid Avenue.

Hodell bought the *Upland News* from Vernon Paine on October 1, 1958. On September 1, 1960, he acquired the *Montclair Tribune*. He founded the *Cucamonga*

News on December 10, 1961. In 1967, he sold the three newspapers to the Bonita Publishing Company. In the latter years of Hodell's ownership of the *Upland News*, he employed Jack Harper as the paper's editor.

The *Upland News* ceased publication in 1974. The *Montclair Tribune* ceased publication in 1977. The *Cucamonga News* was subsumed by the *Highlander*, which discontinued publication in the 1990s.

Subsequent to his sale of the *News*, the *Tribune* and the *News*, Hodell became a newspaper broker, representing both buyers and sellers of newspapers during the next 23 years, as the printed newspaper industry was contracting. He retired following the death of Virginia in 2001.

He maintained an active interest in journalism and was a *Sentinel* subscriber.

In 2009, the Department of Defense, some 64 years late, conferred upon him the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service during the war.

In 2010, the California Newspaper Publishers Association bestowed upon Hodell the Philip N. McCombs Achievement Award and named him as a member of its hall of fame.

-Mark Gutglueck

City Manager's Decisiveness Runs Into Six Years Of City Council Indirection Over City Hall Dilemma

from page 5

since City Hall has status as an historic building.

This week, the *Sentinel* spoke with Calvin, who said she found the manner in which Montoya was pushing ahead with preparations on a project that had not been fully deliberated upon by the mayor and council nor yet given approval by a council vote somewhat disconcerting.

"I think when Mr. Montoya referenced the

letter of intent is when my ears perked up," Calvin said. "He seemed to be saying he did not need advising on the bonds and that he would be utilizing the same bond broker or underwriter he has used in other other cities, that there was already a letter of intent, which had never been mentioned to the council before. He said there would be no RFP. This to be another example of sole sourcing on our city contracts. The city council is to have no say, apparently, on the commissions this bond broker is to receive. He seemed to be saying he did not need the council's permission to proceed. In our city, the city manager has spending discretion on contracts up

to \$100,000, but this supersedes that. I thought I heard \$80 million, which supersedes that \$100,000 threshold on what he can spend without first getting council permission not by just a little but by a lot. I'm not sure how a city manager who has only been here three or four months can start dictating to the council what we are going to do even before we vote on it. He has at least tentatively committed us with this letter of intent to issue \$80 million in bonds. I don't know how things were done in the cities where he was before, but that's not how we handle things here. I am concerned about where that direction came from. I know it didn't come from a council vote. At

the very least there was confusion about this and I am a bit taken aback that none of my council colleagues had the same level of concern about the direction we are headed in without close monitoring by and the consent of the council in a formalized decision-making process and vote."

Calvin said, "The idea just popped up during a strategy meeting like it was a done deal, without any previous discussion. I am not saying I am totally opposed to reclaiming City Hall or maybe using bond financing as a way of financing the City Hall project or other important public improvements, but that is something that is going to be labored over

and closely considered and labored over by all my colleagues so we can work through what has to be done."

Councilman Damon Alexander told the *Sentinel* that Montoya had moved a little too quickly with regard to the City Hall retrofit, and had not gotten the city council into the loop before taking important preparatory action.

"I don't know how he could have moved ahead with the letter of intent without getting getting authorization from the mayor and council first," Alexander said.

Alexander said he did not see Montoya's premature action as anything that will endanger his status as city manager, but rather a jog in the

highway as Montoya and the council learn where their respective lanes are. The councilman said it is well established that the council is the final authority on how the city's money is going to be spent.

"When bonds were issued for the city's housing authority, the council approved the arrangements at every step in the process," he said. "Issuing bonds for any purpose should follow the same protocol. Simply for the sake of consistency, we need to be in on all decisions relating to bonds, including whether we are going to issue them and how they are going to be issued."

