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INLAND EMPIRE HISPANICS HONORED ON NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

IN THIS ISSUE
MARIANNE MILLIGAN—A POSITIVE CANDIDATE FOR SAN BERNARDINO CITY ATTORNEY
DOBAN SAN BERNARDINO CITY ATTORNEY ABIDE BY THE GOVERNING CODE OF ETHICS
BILL BACA INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE TAX RELIEF TO VICTIMS OF WILDFIRES
STATE SUPERINTENDENT CALLS FOR CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP AT FIFTH ANNUAL RIVERSIDE COUNTY EDUCATION SUMMIT

BERNARDINO COUNTY, Arrowhead Credit Union, Univision KMEX Television Station, and Alycia Enciso & Associates.

Honorees are Muscoy residents Danny and Angelina Flores and Mario Mejia; Rialto residents Elyda Reyes-Gandy and Jim Redondo; Fontana residents, Lydia Gonzales, and Rev. David Zamora; San Bernardino’s Art and Lupe Solis; Dr. Ed Perez; Mrs. Jessie Gomez; Dr. Luis Gonzalez of Colton; and Violeta Bocanegra, executive director of Sinfonia Mexicana, State Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod, and 5th District Supervisor Josie Gonzales. Photo by IEHN

The award recipients have distinguished themselves through their work with youth, or their endeavors in promoting a greater understanding of the rich diversity of the Latino culture through cultural arts programs and activities.

State Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod, 32nd District, and 5th District Supervisor Josie Gonzales hosted the awards reception at the San Bernardino County Government Center, and have partnered with the Hispanic Employees Alliance of San Bernardino.

Gilberto Gil has followed in his father’s footsteps with involvement in community affairs: co-founder of the Northside Impact Committee, with its annual Latino/a Leadership and Scholarship Awards, candidates’ forums, and assists in the Annual Cesar Chavez Breakfast Celebrations.

He is currently vice president of the Parole Agents Association of California, with over 2,500 members, and affiliated with the California Corrections Peace Officers Association, with over 30,000 members.

Gil is ending his second nonconsecutive term on the city council. He is competing against six
MARIANNE MILLIGAN-A POSITIVE CANDIDATE FOR SAN BERNARDINO CITY ATTORNEY

Marianne Milligan portrays a strong person of integrity, assertiveness, legal knowledge and experience.

These basic attributes, among others, signify positive justification for the Inland Empire Hispanic News to endorse Nance Milligan's candidacy in the November 6 election. San Bernardino residents deserve a fresh approach in the administration of their city's legal office, and a positive departure toward the mayor and city council mission and goals.

In political forums throughout the city, Milligan has succinctly expressed specific legal responsibilities and methodologies of the city attorney: review of current ordinances to be concurrent with state law and advocate to the city council, review of current legal status (e.g. the long and expensive legal battle with the Flesh Club) for possible continuance in the office of the county district attorney, well written legal recommendations to the mayor and city council, and importantly, reexamination of the administration of the city attorney's office.

We also strongly believe Milligan's adherence to the Ethical Principals adopted by the City Attorney's Department of the League of California Cities (see article by Attorney Tim Prince).

The overwhelming election of Judge Pat Morris as mayor against Jim Penman guaranteed the constiuency of the previous Mayor Judy Valles' mission to turn the city around toward a viable program to counter the level of crime among Morris and Penman, among other issues. The result has been one of continual confrontations at council meetings, divided allegiances among council members, and deep divisions among city residents.

Mora was the crusading leader in the drive to desegregate and integrate the San Bernardino School District in the early 1970's. As a superior court judge, he was nationally recognized as a reformist judge by promoting successful drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs in the courts system, as opposed to direct jail time.

Penman is a long-time city resident, a former director of the Home of Neighborly Services, a Westside nonprofit social agency, residing on the site while attending law school. He practiced law before being elected city attorney 20 years ago.

He fought for the victims of the train wreck who exposed the "gang of four," personal involvement in code enforcement. Penman has created the role of the city's watchdog, while being employed throughout his 20-year tenure.

As an example, his irreverent treatment of Mexican immigrant tenants during an investigation of code enforcement regulations at a mobile home park in the city's Westside (there has been a question of his involvement in code enforcement operations, especially at election time), his support of proposition 187, while previously publicly stating opposition of the proposed legislation at a public function at a Westside restaurant (there is no connotation that he is racist), and continual combative professional display at city council meetings.

Penman has extensively politicized the office of city attorney during his 20 years in office. A change is strongly recommended for the betterment of the City of San Bernardino.

If we desire respect for the law, we must first make the law respectable.

Louis D Brandeis

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

DOES SAN BERNARDINO CITY ATTORNEY ABIDE BY THE GOVERNING CODE OF ETHICS

By Tim Prince

"I ask that all Americans demonstrate in their personal and public lives... the high ethical standards that are essential to good character and to the continued success of our Nation."

—William J. Clinton, Forty-Second President

The incumbent candidate for city attorney argues that he properly has a leading role in city government, yet he bristles when citizens recognize that he is the only elected official whose tenure spans the 20 years this City has declined.

The incumbent shirks off the fact that during his predecessor's 28 years in office, wherein this City thrived economically, socially and culturally, achieved All America City status and was known as the "City on the Move," the City had an ethicial attorney who confined his function to upholding the law.

When former City Attorney Ralph Prince left office 20 years ago, he left a legacy of highest ethics. He spent his career upholding the law on behalf of the citizens, and he was tough as nails when a strong mayor wanted to violate the law. His integrity was beyond question.

Friendly demeanor and sense of humor were renowned at City Hall. The department heads, employees and politicians trusted his legal opinions because they knew they were motivated by the law and not politics. Unlike today, they also knew those opinions would be upheld by the city council and the courts.

Nobody disputes that City Hall changed the year Jim Penman took office. While some like the drama of politicians battling and some like anti-immigrant and anti-parolee policies, nobody can dispute that the rule of the city attorney changed dramatically. The last 20 years has demonstrated the effects of that marked change. Our City is consistently unable to tackle its most serious problems. City Hall is stymied by a combative culture marked by distrust. Department heads are caught in the crossfire, and politicians are making it difficult to free the city from constant conflict.

A city cannot function efficiently and successfully when its chief elected official refuses to define their own responsibilities based on political advantage and fail to follow a code of ethics, as this particular true when the elected officer is city attorney.

City attorneys in California are expected to abide by Ethical Principles adopted by the City Attorney's Department of the League of California Cities. The universally adopted Code of Ethics states: "... a city attorney occupies a position of trust and responsibility within city government... there is an expectation and commitment that city attorneys will hold themselves to the highest ethical standards."

The Code goes on further to state that there should be "NO POLITICALIZATION" of the office of city attorney and more specifically states "THE CITY ATTORNEY OR PERSONS SEEKING TO BECOME CITY ATTORNEY SHOULD NOT MAKE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS OR TO PARTICIPATE IN CAMPAIGNS OF THAT CITY'S OFFICIALS."

This Code states, "the city attorney should conduct himself/herself at all times in a professional and dignified manner, interact with all elected officials and city staff... with courtesy and respect... the city attorney should hold and role model of decorum and respect."

The Code also admonishes city attorneys "NOT TO SELF-AGRANDIZE THEMSELVES" and declares, "...the city attorney should discharge his or her duties in a manner that places the city's interest above self advancement."

Does Jim Penman abide by these ethical cannons? Let's see at what he does.

1. He regularly endorses and/or opposes city council candidates blatantly politicizing his office.

2. Hefunneled thousands of dollars into the campaigns of select city council candidates, including contributions to Wendy McCammack and Betty Dean Anderson.

3. In his campaign for mayor just 18 months ago, Penman raised and spent a fortune of dollars of campaign work to Ms. McCammack's business. McCammack then loaned thousands of dollars to the City Attorney's campaign. These ties clearly compromise the independence required of a city attorney.

4. By speaking during the "public comments" portion of the agenda, Penman has made the telephone city council meetings a political platform and political advertisement to sponsor his political agenda, once again compromising the independence required of an effective city attorney.

5. His lack of respect and civility toward others at City Hall is well known and documented. In an article published by The San Bernardino Sun in 2005, the former Executive Director of the San Bernardino Development Agency, Consuelo Ocelet, spoke of his seven years within city hall:

"Anyone who regularly watches our City Council meetings has observed Penman's temper as he riles, yells and red-faced to challenge those, on or off the council, who disagree with him. Penman saves time of his red-faced screaming tirades for department heads and other elected officials in meetings closed to the public. Penman's outbursts are so extreme as to shut down operation of city government... These unprofessional and unbecoming outbursts of anger against those who disagree with Penman or who act contrary to his wishes are legendary within City Hall. Penman's 'my way or the highway' approach is contrary to our democratic principles and has never been an effective management technique in business or government.

This behavior, these political entanglements, these ethical compromises, and these financial dealings are clearly improper and violate the City Attorney's Code of Ethics. The reason for the City Attorneys Code of Ethics is clear: City Attorney's must function properly only when it is served by a non-political, unbiased and uncompromised legal advisor.

Those who despair of the long-standing dysfunction in San Bernardino City government, must go further than the current City Attorney's violations of a fundamental Code of Ethics to find its root cause.

A lifelong city resident, Timothy Prince is a partner with Tomlinson, Nydam & Prince, LLP in San Bernardino. Over the past 17 years, his career has included investigations against which his father, former City Attorney Ralph Prince, was a founding member. Prince graduated with highest honors in political science from the University of California, Berkeley, and received his J.D. from U.C. Hastings College of the Law.
REP. BACA INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE TAX RELIEF TO VICTIMS OF WILDFIRES

Bill Would Provide Tax Relief to Help Those Who Lost Their Homes

Washington, DC – Congressman Joe Baca (D-Rialto) introduced legislation in the House of Representatives that would provide tax relief to the victims of the California Wildfires. The California Wildfire Tax Relief Act of 2007 has already garnered bipartisan support and would provide special exemptions to the more than 2,000 homeowners who had their houses destroyed.

"Nothing we can do will replace the losses suffered by too many Californians this past week," said Rep. Baca. "But we can help to make the rebuilding process as smooth as possible. Giving tax relief to those who have already suffered through so much is a good start in helping them return their lives to normal."

The California Wildfire Tax Relief Act helps wildfire victims by:

- Suspending the limitation on individual and corporate tax deductions to motivate charitable giving.
- Excluding from gross income certain non-business discharges of indebtedness of individuals — allowing people to not pay income tax on discharged debt from creditors.

"Our brave men and women on the ground did a great job in stopping the devastation of the wildfires, and sheltering and caring for those affected by this tragedy," added Rep. Baca. "It is now time for the federal government to ensure our recovering communities have all the resources they need. While this tax relief is on an individual scale, it will hopefully make the rebuilding process a little easier for our families and communities."

The wildfires that began on October 21, 2007, swept through San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego, Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara and Orange Counties. Recent estimates show that the fires destroyed 2,813 structures — including 2,007 homes. They are estimated to have burned 518,489 acres, killing seven people and injuring 113 firefighters and 26 civilians.

"After all the fires are out, and everyone is housed, fed, and clothed — we must craft a long-term solution that takes a realistic look at how to prevent future disasters of this magnitude," concluded Rep. Baca.

The California Wildfire Tax Relief Act currently is co-sponsored by seven Members of the House of Representatives. The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on the Budget to await further activity.

GILBERTO GIL-REDLANDS CITY COUNCIL ENCUMBENT CANDIDATE

Continued from page 1

candidates, including incumbent Pete Aguilar.

His platform includes safe streets and schools; prevention and intervention strategies including community based policing, economic development and increased public services. He also has stated his support for building low and moderate-income housing on the north side.

The crucial city problem is a five year over-expenditure of city funds, creating a budgetary fiscal problem. The new city manager, N. Enrique Martinez, has incorporated a balanced budget which Gil wholeheartedly supports, although he stands behind the previous budgets.

Gil is supported by the Greater Redlands Political Action Committee composed of fire, police and educators unions.

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SERGIO CARRERA JR. IS LAID TO REST

"I thought that he was really ahead of me and he said that he would be my training officer and I believed him until I found out we finished training at the same time." Carrera, Quarker also said that his police friend was a conscientious police officer, enjoyed police work and a strong family man.

Rialto Police Chief Mark Kling said at the eulogy that "I have the honor of talking about a hero, a modern day warrior." Kling told the officer's widow, Louise, children Sergio III and Izabella and the officer's family that he has officially retired Officer Carrera's badge to honor him and Sgt. Gary Wolfley, killed in 1986, on a future police station memorial.

After the Mass concluded with the blessing of the body of Carrera and the singing of "Amazing Grace", the miles-long funeral procession escorted by strings of patrol cars proceeded through three freeways, and arriving at the Montecito Memorial Cemetery with the entrance lined with American flags.

Monsignor Tomas Wallace performed the last rites of the Catholic Church, presenting a crucifix to Carrera's widow and his mother.

The traditional police funeral ceremony concluded with the sorrowful notes by a bagpiper's playing "Amazing Grace", the firing squad firing three volleys, and the bugler in a far-off hill playing taps as a formation of five helicopters flew over the funeral site, with hundreds of policemen in row after row representing law enforcement agencies gave their last salute to a fallen comrade as the last of the helicopter pulled out of formation to fly into the horizon.

In a final gesture to a fallen comrade, officers touched the casket of Rialto Police Officer Sergio Carrera's casket to bid a final farewell.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY INVITES HONOR STUDENTS TO APPLY

Harvard University announced over the weekend that from now on undergraduate students from low-income families will pay no tuition. In making the announcement, Harvard's president Lawrence H. Summers said, "When only 10 percent of the students in elite higher education come from families in lower half of the income distribution, we are not doing enough. We are not doing enough in bringing elite higher education to the lower half of the income distribution."

"If you know of a family earning less than $40,000 a year with an honors student graduating from high school soon. Harvard University wants to pay the tuition. The prestigious university recently announced that from now on undergraduate students from low-income families can go to Harvard for free...no tuition and no student loans!"

To find out more about Harvard offering free tuition for families making less than $40,000 a year visit Harvard's financial aid website at: http://admis.fas.harvard.edu/FAO/index.htm or call the school's financial aid office at (617) 495-1581.
SAN BERNARDINO - Four San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools' educational assistants have been selected to participate in the Teachers for Tomorrow program. The quartet was recognized on October 1 at the monthly Board of Education meeting.

Teachers for Tomorrow provide up to $3,000 per year in financial assistance to County Schools' educational assistants who pursue their bachelor's degrees and teaching credentials. Selection of the participants is based on candidates' applications, letters of recommendation and an interview by a California School Employees Association representative and county administrators.

Since 1997, 26 participants in the Teachers for Tomorrow program have finished their education programs and been hired as teachers by County Schools.

The educational assistants selected for the program this year:
• Alberta Hamilton, who works out of the county's Desert Mountain Operations at Ranchero Middle School in Hesperia with students with severe disabilities; *Placitas Marcella, who works out of the county's West End Operations in Alta Loma with preschool children with multiple disabilities; *Diana Rogers, who works out of the county's West End Operations in Rancho Cucamonga; and *Judy Van Bittern, who works out of the county's West End Operations at Banyan Elementary in Alta Loma with preschool children with multiple disabilities; *Diana Rogers, who works out of the county's West End Operations in Rancho Cucamonga; and *Judy Van Bittern, who works out of the county's West End Operations with preschool students in the First Class Program at Mulberry.

SALUTE TO THE ROUTE

Saturday, November 11, 2007, will mark the 58th anniversary of Armistice Day, commonly called Veterans Day. It will mark the 81st anniversary of Hispanic Route 66. Both anniversaries will be honored with a ceremony at Plaza Park, 7th and Mt. Vernon Ave. in San Bernardino.

"Salute to the Route" will host its 8th annual ceremony to mark these two events. First, custom cars will cruise in to commemorate Route 66. A Veterans Day ceremony will follow, and presentations to honor all veterans in attendance will end the ceremony.

All veterans and members of their families as well as car enthusiasts are encouraged to attend. Custom cars will begin cruising in at 11 am. The program will begin promptly at 1 pm.
• Arroyo Valley High School Color Guard, 1st Sgt Alo, San Bernardino, California
• Invocation: Father Gomez, Church of the Immaculate Concepcion, Colton, California
• Pledge of Allegiance & patriotic songs, Audie Cowie, Highland, California
• Speakers & Presentations • 21 Gun Salute, V.F.W. Post 6421, Highland, California

Tickets are: Adults - $15, Children and Senior Citizens - $10
Ticket Sales and Info call: (760) 948-5110, or toll free No. (877) 932-6239, e-mail sbctayef@yahoo.com

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

Tuesday, November 6th

Join over 700 Riversiders in supporting Dom

San Bernardino County's Hispanic Employees Alliance celebrated the 10th Annual Scholarship Luncheon at the Villa's Restaurant, San Bernardino, with 65 members and guests in attendance. This year's scholarship recipients include (not in order):


In a spirit of cordiality and camaraderie, Kiwanis Club of Greater San Bernardino scheduled dual celebrations, the 40 anniversary of its charter and annual installation of officers at the Gents Center, San Bernardino. Kiwanis Club is one of the most active service club in Division 36, with involvement in the Inland Empire Future Leaders, Health Fair at Lytle Creek School, adopt a school program (five schools), Sinfonia Mexicana, Christmas Toy Giveaway, School of Hope, K-Kids, Circle K, among other activities. Kurt Myer, incoming lieutenant governor, installed the new officers for 2007-2008: (front row) Dr. Nena Torrez, president, Don Oroso, president-elect, Dr. Ladan Ask, vice president, Karla Diaz, secretary, Claudia Lopez, treasurer, (back row) Henry Calderilla, Lucia Negrete, Rosemary Armendariz, Hiram Diaz and Dr. Frank Rincon, members, board of directors, Juan Luna, past president at right. Photo courtesy of Rosanne Rios.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT CALLS FOR CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP AT FIFTH ANNUAL RIVERSIDE COUNTY EDUCATION SUMMIT

Kenneth M. Young, Riverside County Superintendent of Schools, welcomes Senate Majority Leader Gloria Romero to the Fifth Annual Riverside County Education Summit.

Gloria Romero, Senate Majority Leader, and Jack O'Connell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, were among the state and local education leaders who gathered at the Fifth Annual Riverside County Education Summit.

More than 350 education leaders gathered October 18-19 at the Summit in Palm Desert.

Romero recounted growing up in a poor Hispanic neighborhood in Barstow where she had to overcome low expectations and even discouragement from some educators in the local K-12 schools and colleges. She eventually obtained her doctorate, taught at a university and become an elected leader.

“Education, she said, was her “exit” from the neighborhood where she grew up. She credited her mother with making education an important part of her life.

“There was always room at my mother’s table for my books and homework,” she said.

O’Connell also touched on the “achievement gap” between African-American, Hispanic and white students. He said closing the gap should be a focus for California educators if schools are going to produce graduates who are highly skilled and able to compete in a world economy.

“Scores are going up for all students for the last five years,” said O’Connell. “But the gap (between ethnic groups) remains.”

O’Connell said finding ways to improve scores for Hispanic and African-American students will be the focus of a statewide summit in November.

He said the gap remained even when the social and economic status of students improved.

The Riverside County Education Summit was sponsored by the Riverside County Office of Education and the Altura Credit Union.

The Summit was designed to bring together individuals in order to build relationships and focus on strategies to improve achievement for all students, enhance services to districts and schools, and increase public awareness of educational issues at the national, state and local levels, said Riverside County Superintendent of Schools Kenneth M. Young.

Young said Riverside County is growing rapidly while other areas of the state are seeing a decline in student enrollment. “We have more than 430,000 students and in the next few years we will be the second largest county in the state in terms of enrollment.”

Educators honored Ellen Larson with the Summit’s Educational Leadership Award for her 23 years of service to the PTA. Larson was a PTA pioneer in Murrieta, founded the Murrieta Valley Unified School District Parent Center, and served as President of the countywide Twenty Third District PTA.

Bob Wells, Executive Director, Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), Scott Plotkin, Executive Director, California School Boards Association (CSBA), and Rick Simpson, Deputy Chief of Staff, California State Legislature, presented a panel discussion on education issues in Sacramento.

Other presenters discussed topics ranging from the conversion of the Regional Occupational Program/Vocational Education Program to Career Technical Education, “Capturing Kids Hearts,” a program to help students succeed in school, and AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) which helps students finish high school and enter college.

SALE REP WANTED

The IEHN is seeking assertive persons as sale representatives within the INLAND EMPIRE. GOOD commissions. Call (909) 381-6259 for appointment.

Feliz Día de Muertos.
CONGRESSMAN JOE BACA SCHEDULES
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARDS
With a tribute to World War II veterans
and honoring community leadership, including:
• Judith Battey, community volunteer
• Anthony Bocanegra, executive director, Sinfonia Mexican
• Fey Coates, official soloist, City of Rialto
• Dr. Arlene Piazza, school board member,
  Fontana Unified School District
Frank Reyes, executive director of Government Relations
San Bernardino Community College District
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689 South "E" Street • San Bernardino, CA 92408
Friday, November 16, 2007

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WARD 4
Board of Library Trustees
WARD 5
Community Police Review Commission
WARD 6
Metropolitan Museum Board
WARD 7
Planning Commission
CITYWIDE
Airport Commission
Commission on Disabilities
Human Relations Board
Metropolitan Museum Board
Parks and Recreation Commission

Application deadline is
Monday, November 19, 2007, for March 2008 appointments.
Riverside residents only.
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