



I received several calls concerning the recent and obvious attempts by the Mercury News to influence the internal affairs of the POA. This falls on the heels of Mayor Reed trying to do the same thing during a recent KLIV Radio interview. Those lined up against us will do anything they can to facilitate dissention within our ranks. Many have expressed anger that outside forces are trying to manipulate our membership. We must be doing something right for our enemies to be trying so hard.

The last attempt to divide us came in the form of Sunday's Mercury News' Internal Affairs column. Let me do some fact checking... The Mercury story references an "email attack" by Jon Baker. Since I haven't seen the email, I can only reference what is in the column. It references the loss on binding arbitration and Measure B. I think we all know what the voters of San Jose did to us on Measures V & B. If Jon is intimating that he could have altered the outcome of those elections, why didn't he step forward? If he had a secret plan to upend two 70%-30% elections, he should be working at the national level making millions of dollars as a paid consultant. Any reasonable person understands that on Measure V we did everything we could to defeat it and on Measure B our best chances of a win are with the courts not the voters. As a side note, Measure V altered binding arbitration it did not eliminate it and we have and will use it when necessary to protect our membership's rights.

The 10% pay cut also heads the charts. I have heard a few officers in briefing try to reinvent history by saying that they were never told that the 10% would have to be resolved in arbitration. I don't even know how to respond to this. It was made clear to everyone, numerous ways, that the 10% issue would have to go before an arbitrator.

I'm not surprised to be attacked about the election results. No one wanted to beat Rose Herrera more than I. With the exception of our consultants, Tom Saggau and Dustin DeRollo, no one worked harder at trying to change the makeup of our City Council. In the end, we just couldn't overcome the advantage Rose held as an incumbent with the Mayor's and the Mercury's support. Demographics played a big role in this race as well. The Villages, a predominately fiscally conservative area in District 8, went overwhelmingly to Rose. As a side note to those who refuse to walk, Jimmy Nguyen won every precinct we walked, 17 in all.

As for the amount of money we spent supporting Jimmy Nguyen over Rose Herrera, we spent approximately, \$45,000. The rest came from a coalition of Fire, Police & Fire retirees, PORAC, CAHP (CHP), CCPOA (Prison Guards), Nurses, District Attorneys & Public Defenders, Rural Metro Ambulance, Local 21 and many members of the community. We were on the radio, TV and sent more mailers than I could keep track of. I am proud of all of the work and cooperation that went into our District 8 efforts.

As to the charge that we wasted money on a School Board race, involving Magdalena Carrasco, and didn't do anything to help Robert Braunstein, let me clear up a few points. We spent less than \$7,000 of our PAC money on a couple of mailers in an attempt to defeat the election of Magdalena Carrasco. She is the person who ran against Xavier Campos in the last District 5 election. She has support of the Mayor, Pete Constant and the Chamber of Commerce. We will see her again. By running for the School Board, she is setting herself up for another run at City Council. The best time to try to defeat someone is before they hold office.

As for not supporting Robert Braunstein, nothing could be further from the truth. Many mailers were sent out exposing his opponent's inability to handle his own finances and his extreme views. Had they come from the POA, it would have been a news story diverting from the issues of crime and staffing. They came from Fire instead. There was also a well-coordinated and financed plan with Labor and the Democratic Party.

The article also says that Jon Baker wants to fire political consultants Tom Saggau and Dustin DeRollo. This would be a mistake. Name me any other consultants who would stand in a deserted park on the eastside of San Jose at midnight so they could catch Rose's

husband stealing signs. And no, they weren't paid extra for that. They both gave up their weekends to coordinate our District 8 precinct walks. And no, they weren't paid extra for that either. Who do you think discovered the \$100,000 illegal transfer of money from the Mayor to Rose? In Tom and Dustin, we have two men who are fully committed to the fight and our wellbeing. We are fortunate to have them at our side.

The Mercury News article says that Jon wants to build a coalition on the council willing to challenge Mayor Chuck Reed. ??? Really? What does he think this last election was about? He also believes that the Measure B court fight is in the hands of the lawyers so they will handle all that. NO Jon, the POA leadership handles that. The lawyers carry out the direction given them by the POA. It is this simplistic, naive thinking that really worries me. I don't believe for an instant that Jon has any idea how big, complex and difficult this job has become.

Lastly, the article says that Jon wants to halt dues increases for political battles. Here, Jon is just showing how ill-informed he is on current POA direction. About two years ago, the members did vote to increase the dues for political purposes. As most of you know, except Jon, we have long since stopped adding any monies to our PIC or PAC accounts. We have shifted the bulk of our discretionary general fund budget to finance our legal expenses.

By writing this email, I have broken my own pledge to myself. I knew what kind of attacks I would see during this election. I have always believed, and still do, that the majority of our membership is mature, intelligent, reasonable and rational. I have always taken a fairly quiet approach to the criticism that comes my way while doing this job. My intentions were to remain quiet throughout this election and trust that the membership would see through the noise. However, with the addition of a concerted Mercury News attack, most likely coordinated out of the Mayor's office, I felt that staying quiet was no longer an option.

I question the honor and integrity of those who try so hard to divide us. Our solidarity is our strength. My proudest moment in leading this organization was when we stood united in our boycott of the PBID pay job. It is that solidarity that is being put to the test. Sadly, the challenge --- the attempt to divide --- comes from within our own

ranks. For me, no one who claims to have the best interest of the membership at stake would allow themselves to be used in such a divisive and destructive way. I believe Jon Baker lacks the necessary experience and the understanding of the very complex issues we face to run this Association.

I want to end this with an apology to John Robb. You do not deserve the criticism being thrown at you. When John Robb made it public that he would step down as vice president if Jon Baker were elected, he came under attack by Jon Baker and some supporting him. They tried to characterize John's decision as sour grapes as if he were, "taking his ball and going home." John Robb reached his decision because he and I believe in the direction we are headed. If the membership does not, then they will elect Jon Baker. John decided that if the membership wanted to go another way, he would step aside so that Jon Baker could pick a VP who would support him. For anyone to attack John Robb, to question his commitment and resolve is unconscionable. John Robb has worked tirelessly for the members of the POA. It is revealing to me how shallow Jon Baker's character, that he would attack a man who has done nothing to him. Whose only interest and concern is that of the men and women of the SJP. I am honored and thankful to have John Robb at my side.

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