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September 8, 2015

Irvine City Council Members
1 Civic Center Plaza
Irvine, CA 92606

Ref: OCFA Lack of Public Information
Request for Change in Irvine's OCFA Director

Dear City Council Members:

I am referred to by members of the Orange County public as the Taxpayers' Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) Watchdog. Over the last four years, I have attended virtually all OCFA Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings. In fact, I have probably attended more OCFA meetings than any member of the current OCFA Board of Directors. In addition, I have made over 100 public comment presentations at these meetings. They have concerned such matters as:

1. Exposing internal OCFA scandals;
2. Revealing Procurement Department irregularities later confirmed by the OCFA's own CPA;
3. Calling for an investigation of the abnormal number of workers compensation claims;
4. Requesting major monetary structural reforms of the firefighters' union MOU;
5. Calling for reform of the OCFA pension contribution system;
6. Exposing the injustice of the City of Irvine sponsored equitable adjustment amendment to the OCFA JPA. This amendment not only affected the City of Irvine, but also resulted in major monetary inequity through 2030 to Villa Park, Aliso Viejo, Laguna Niguel and the County;
7. Wrestling control of the ambulance transport RFI from the OCFA back to the Orange County Health Care Agency, where it legally was required to be handled;
8. Bringing the problem of OCFA retaliation against ambulance operators to the attention of the State EMSA Director;
9. Fighting to obtain OCFA public records, which were denied public review by the OCFA;
10. Objecting to ambulance company rebates to the OCFA, which work to the major detriment of seniors, the working poor and other County residents;
11. Warning of OCFA member city liability for the UAAL of the OCFA, if the OCFA collapses; and
12. Working for complete openness, honesty and transparency at the OCFA.

Background

My efforts to institute needed reforms at the OCFA have been a failure. In my opinion the OCFA itself appears to be closely aligned with the firefighters union. Then the OCFA Board of Directors effectively "rubber stamps" their proposals. It is true that there now exists a handful of reform minded directors at the OCFA. However, this small group is vastly outnumbered by the other OCFA Directors interested in the firefighters union monetary and other campaigner support to advance their own political careers rather than the interests of the taxpayer.

With this realization now firmly affixed in my mind, I decided to take my reform efforts directly to the people to bypass the anti-reform efforts of the union and the OCFA itself. Accordingly that is why I am making this presentation to your city and other OCFA member cities.

In making presentations to each city, the following observations occur in every case:

1. Most City Council members are completely unaware of the major reforms that are needed at the OCFA.
2. The public is completely unaware of matters at the OCFA. They are shocked to learn of such things as:
 - a) The average firefighter total wage compensation is over \$230,000 per year.
 - b) Firefighters work a 24 hour shift; get paid for sleeping; and on average work two days per week.
 - c) All members of the OCFA executive staff make over \$300,000 in total yearly compensation.
 - d) Some firefighters receive over \$200,000 in retirement pension compensation each year.

In an effort to give City Council members and the public more information on the OCFA, I have assembled the following documents to provide public insight into some of the OCFA operations.

- A) Open letter from reform minded OCFA Director Rick Barnett calling for major needed reform measures at the OCFA.
- B) January 13, 2015 letter to OCFA Fire Chief Bowman calling for an OCFA attorney opinion on member city liability for the UAAL of the OCFA, if the OCFA collapses.
- C) February 19, 2015 letter regarding illegal withholding of public records for review.
- D) July 28, 2015 letter regarding OCFA ALS/BLS Rebate Misinformation.
- E) August 14, 2015 letter regarding OCFA Lack of Transparency.
- F) August 25, 2015 letter regarding ALS/BLS rebates to the OCFA (unknown to virtually all City Council members and the public).
- G) August 31, 2015 letter regarding illegal withholding of public records for review to an actual OCFA Board of Directors member.
- H) September 6, 2015 letter regarding the JPA Equitable Adjustment Amendment regarding the City of Irvine.
- I) September 6, 2015 letter regarding illegal "business pattern" withholding of public documents for review.

I myself believe that the residents of Irvine and possibly some of its own City Council members are uninformed of major potential OCFA impacts to its own liability for future UAAL liability. I believe from viewing various OCFA meeting votes, that your current OCFA Board of Director is not a reform minded director with the interests of the taxpayer foremost in mind. In addition, it is a puzzling circumstance that Irvine's OCFA Director was absent from both OCFA meetings, when the two latest union contracts over the past year, which I gave an "F" and "F" minus for taxpayer reform measures, were approved by the OCFA Board of Directors.

Recommendations

Based on all of the above, I provide a simple list of recommendations for your consideration.

1. Your City Manager is a member of the OCFA Technical Advisory Committee. He is given a copy of all letters that impact the OCFA. Have your City Manager distribute a copy of those letters as part of his City Council City Managers Report for a trial period of six months.

These upcoming six months are very critical to the OCFA, since during this period we will learn more about:

- a) Status of current union contract reform negotiations.
 - b) Other OCFA member city efforts to withdraw from the OCFA to escape future liability for the OCFA's UAAL, if it collapses.
 - c) Major reform measure efforts affecting union work rules.
 - d) Recommended changes to the existing OCFA Emergency Medical Services response model.
2. Have Mayor Choi serve as Irvine's Board of Director member for the next six months, or longer as needed.

Sincerely,

Stephen M. Wontrobski

E: irvinecitycouncil9-8-15

Cc: OCERS Board of Directors (w/o attachments)
Orange County Board of Supervisors (w/o attachments)
EMCC Committee (w/o attachments)