

## NEXT! &gt;&gt; SAN JOSE AWAITS VICE MAYOR PICK

The new City Council members have taken their seats. The inaugurations, swearing-in ceremonies and victory parties have come and gone. But there's still one big void at San Jose City Hall these days - no vice mayor.

Mayor Sam Liccardo, who's tasked with selecting his next-in-line, appears to be struggling with the decision. Liccardo's former vice mayor, Rose Herrera, termed out last year. And two weeks into the new year, there's still no word on who will replace her - though several council members are rumored front-runners.

Liccardo is tight-lipped about whom he'll pick - he's undecided and wrestling to secure a coalition.

But the clock is ticking. The mayor has until the second meeting in January to name a vice mayor, according to the city charter, and that's Jan. 24. Liccardo said - with an extra dose of suspense - that his appointment is coming soon.

"The week before, you should expect to see the puffs of white smoke emanate from the papal chimney, and I'll release a memo with my recommendation," Liccardo quipped. "As for the delay, I was really hoping that one of them would offer to wash my car or buy me lunch, so I'm holding out for something like that. Yes, I'm joking - and I dispute any rumors that I'm being advised by Rod Blagojevich in this matter."

The vice mayor role in San Jose is mostly ceremonial - there's no bump in salary, just the title and an opportunity to bang the gavel when Liccardo is out of town. But for Liccardo and his predecessors, it's a chance to secure an ally.

Among those rumored around City Hall to be under consideration:

- Councilman Raul Perez, who succeeded Liccardo representing downtown and who has ties to law enforcement and organized labor.
- Councilwoman Magdalena Carrasco, the East Side representative who has ties to Sacramento and labor, as well as newly elected Councilwoman Sylvia Arenas.
- Councilman Chappie Jones, representing west San Jose, a consensus builder who worked in tech.

## ELECTION INSPIRES EX-GOP STRATEGIST'S TEACHING GIG

Like many of us, former Republican consultant Dan Schnur watched the 2016 presidential election and tried "to figure out how our politics got so broken."

So after eight years as director of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics at the University of Southern California, Schnur has stepped down, but with a plan to search for an answer.

"After watching two remarkable populist uprisings against the political establishment - one led by Bernie Sanders on the left and the other by Donald Trump on the right - many of us realized for the first time how many of our fellow Americans had become so unhappy, so disillusioned and so resentful toward our political system and its leaders," Schnur says on his Facebook page.

Schnur is preparing to start a new campus leadership program for USC students, but with a twist: Rather than simply talking to students who have a pre-existing interest in politics and government, he says, the school must engage the entire campus in a discussion about the importance of civic leadership and community involvement.

"Our graduates may go on to become doctors and engineers and multi-media entrepreneurs, but they will also be citizens and voters, and we need to prepare them for those responsibilities regardless of their academic interests and professional aspirations," Schnur wrote.

While details of the public leadership program to prepare students for political and civic involvement are still coming together, Schnur - a respected source for many California journalists - will continue teaching this spring at both the Annenberg School for Communication and the Marshall School of Business.

## SANTA CLARA INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY HAS SAN JOSE TIES

Santa Clara's new interim city attorney has deep ties to San Jose, the big neighbor that Santa Clara is in a legal battle with over development.

The Santa Clara City Council this week appointed Brian Doyle to the interim city attorney job for six months. The appointment comes a week after City Attorney Ren Nosky announced he's leaving to take a job at a private law firm in San Jose.

So Santa Clara chose Doyle, who was serving as the Santa Clara County Housing Authority's lawyer. Doyle, who previously worked for San Jose for 21 years, made waves in 2012 when he rallied against a controversial pension reform measure.

Doyle was unavailable for comment.

Councilwoman Teresa O'Neill said she recruited Doyle to apply for the job. She called him a friend - they go to the same church - and often turned to him for advice, even though he wasn't the city's attorney.

"I know he cares a lot about the city and the issues we are facing," O'Neill told IA. "We would talk about all the various things going on, and we'd bounce ideas off each other because of his expertise. He has a lot of integrity and I respect his community involvement."

Doyle, who lives in Santa Clara and chairs the city's Civil Service Commission, was rumored to be Mayor Lisa Gillmor's top pick for several weeks. Gillmor and her council allies often sparred with Nosky over issues related to the San Francisco 49ers.

San Jose City Attorney Rick Doyle - no relation to Brian - wished his former employee the best. He joins other former San Jose employees, such as Rajeev Batra and Ruth Shikada, who left for opportunities in Santa Clara.

"We always appreciated his good work in San Jose and wish him the best in Santa Clara," Doyle said. "We obviously have issues with Santa Clara and hopefully we'll be able to resolve those."

O'Neill says Brian Doyle's experience and relationships with San Jose City Hall could give her city an edge in a slew of legal fights over development projects along city borders.

"It could be an extra benefit," she said, "but it's not the reason we hired him."

#### SANTA CLARA: NO LEVI'S CURFEW BREAK FOR BONO

In mid-May, the legendary rock band U2 is making the West Coast swing of its Joshua Tree World Tour 2017. Bono and company are scheduled to play a gig at Levi's Stadium on Wednesday, May 17. It's expected to be a very big deal.

But not even a man who has been talked about as a potential Nobel Peace Prize winner can escape the nitty-gritty of Santa Clara politics. On a 4-3 vote Tuesday night, the Santa Clara City Council rejected a proposal from Levi's Stadium management - aka the 49ers - to extend the ordinary weeknight curfew for the U2 concert from 10 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Why say no? Mayor Lisa Gillmor put it in terms of the council's commitment to preserving the quality of life for north-of-Bayshore residents.

"It's asking too much of the community to support late-night events weeknights at the stadium," she said.

#### COUNCILMAN TWEETS FROM OBAMA FAREWELL

San Jose City Councilman Lan Diep missed his first council meeting last week to attend President Barack Obama's farewell speech in Chicago.

As usual, he documented the adventure on his Twitter account. Among his observations: While leaving, he tweeted, "Kinda regret wearing thermals underneath my suit now."

Diep took note on a Seattle layover that their airport has "live music; spaces to lounge, eat, shop, pass the time, & spend money. Lessons for @FlySJC?"

And regarding his Milpitas counterpart Rich Tran, who drew plagiarism criticism for lifting some of Obama's remarks for his own inauguration, "Trip was inspiring but didn't get to tell Obama abt @mayor\_richtran. I tried Rich, I really did."

Internal Affairs is an offbeat look at state and local politics. This week's items were written by Ramona Giwargis, Tracy Seipel, Scott Herhold and Paul Rogers. Send tips to [internalaffairs@mercurynews.com](mailto:internalaffairs@mercurynews.com), or call 408-920-5782.

**CITATION (AGLC STYLE)**

Bay Area News Group, 'INTERNAL AFFAIRS', *Mercury News, The* (online), 15 Jan 2017 1B  
â€¹<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=news/1620BA4520150EF8>â€°

Copyright (c) 2017 The Mercury News