Lance MacLean Sets The Record Straight

Lance MacLean has prepared the following detailed responses to the allegations being thrown about by the political malcontents orchestrating the recall effort. An effort that is costing Mission Viejo taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars! Lance's response, with a number of links to actual public record and original media reports, gives the full and truthful story behind the Recall's many falsehoods.

Allegation: MacLean, unprovoked, told fellow Councilmember Gail Reavis to "Shut Up".

FACT: I did tell Ms. Reavis to "shut up" during a closed session meeting in response to her condescendingly calling me "sweetie" several times. A recording of the exchange can be heard using the link below and has previously been released to the public proving unequivocally the exaggerations of her claims. While the exchange was unprofessional on my part, it was not unprovoked (as Ms. Reavis claimed) and is being viciously mischaracterized by my opponents to impugn my character.
Click Here to Hear Audio*
*(*Note: The following link will open a PDF file. From there you can click the Speaker Icon and the audio should play on your computer's media player.)*

Allegation: MacLean has shown "hatred and disrespect...calling residents racist."

FACT: This is a blatant fabrication based on a quote from a media story in the Los Angeles Times. The article, from April 2004, concerned a Mission Viejo Planning Commission Meeting at which public discussion was held about a possible affordable-housing project. Responding specifically to several public speakers whose comments were, I felt, mean-spirited and derogatory, I was quoted as saying: "Apparently, Mission Viejo was too busy developing its master plan in 1965 and missed the civil-rights movement….I'm embarrassed and disappointed that so many people in the community would engage in such exclusionary politics that border on bigotry and racism."
Click Read LA Time Article

Allegation: Lance MacLean has unreasonably increased his pay as a member of the City Council at taxpayer expense.

FACT: In August 2008 the City Council approved by a 4 -1 vote a cost of living and inflation adjustment to their stipend that had remained unchanged for 20 years. California Government Code 3651(c) outlines modest pay increases for council members that is done by city ordinance, prohibits city councils from receiving the increase during their current term and increases become effective only after the next general city council election. The stipend was first established in 1988 at $500 ($6,000 per year) and when adjusted for cost of living and inflation is now $1,000 per month ($12,000 per year).

Select A Supporting Document to View or Download
Council Compensation Report - October 6, 2008

City Council Minutes – October 6, 2008

Adoption of Compensation Report Recommendations - October 20, 2008

City Council Minutes – October 20, 2008

Allegation: Lance MacLean will benefit if he continues his term, or is re-elected, as a member of the Mission Viejo City Council by receiving Lifetime Medical Benefits.

FACT: Lifetime Medical Benefits were established by the Mission Viejo City Council prior to Lance MacLean's tenure – a city council that including JP Ledesma. For the record, I voted to ***rescind*** lifetime medical benefits and the council

was advised by the city attorney to return to the status quo on threat of a lawsuit by Gail Reavis. In keeping with my stance on this issue and in accordance with my voting record, I irrevocably rescinded and forfeited lifetime medical benefits.
View the MacLean's Irrevocable Certification

Allegation: Lance MacLean and the Mission Viejo City Council have been fiscally irresponsible and now the city is in a deficit spending scenario totaling $11.6 million.

FACT: This is patently untrue and is easily refuted in public record. The council did not deficit spend $11.6 million a fact which was verified at a recent council meeting. Minutes of that meeting as well as the City's Annual Budget document this allegation (a cornerstone of the Pro-Recall group) to be untruthful. In fact, Mission Viejo's 2-year budget was under spent in Year 1, when large projects like the Crown Valley Widening and Murray Senior and Community Center expansion were begun, then paid out upon completion in Year 2. This gives the appearance of overspending in Year 2 while in fact all expenses were budgeted and accounted for over a two-year period. A classic example of cutting the truth to fit, this misrepresentation by the Recall advocates is childish and ridiculous. Furthermore, The Murray Center's expansion was not over budget. The City Council decided in favor of project enhancements that would further benefit the community and voted for numerous budget amendments to cover those enhancements, not because the original project was over budget.

Allegation: Lance MacLean and the Mission Viejo City Council are raising your taxes.

FACT: Sadly political opponents who are banking on people's unfamiliarity with the tax process use this untruthful allegation quite often. The City Council of Mission Viejo ***DOES NOT*** have the power to raise taxes. Period. Taxes can only be raised by the state legislature and/or by a vote of the people. As a council we discuss many issues and fiscal possibilities as we work to steer our city government. If any of these issues result in a proposed tax increase we cannot take any action without the consent of our citizens. A good example of this is 2004's Measure K. The City Council at the time proposed raising the City's hotel tax, but they could not arbitrarily do so. The issue was put before the citizen's of Mission Viejo during the regular election cycle of that year. In November 2004, the residents of Mission Viejo were asked to decide if the City's Hotel Bed/Visitor's Tax should be raised from 6% to the county average of 8%. The voters rejected the ballot measure and consequently taxes were not raised.
Mission Viejo Election History (Measure K located on page 2) - Click to View PDF

Allegation: Lance MacLean has increased traffic and housing density by supporting Affordable Housing Projects.

FACT: There has been **NO NEW HOUSING** in Mission Viejo for nearly 20 years. In fact the last housing development completed in Mission Viejo was Painted Trails constructed in the late 1990's. These false allegations stem from MANDATORY compliance issues set up by the State of California. According to the State, the City of Mission Viejo is currently out of compliance in the number of affordable units (homes or apartments) currently available within the city. The City is therefore required to identify sites where potential new developments that meet the state's affordable housing laws could constructed – typically these developments are of higher density because they are apartments or condominiums. Not, as some have characterized them, inner city government-run housing projects. While the city has reviewed and discussed several possible developments that bring it into state compliance, to date, NO residential housing units have been built and hence no additional density or additional traffic has been generated.

Allegation: MacLean has a history of violence as evidenced by an incident with a UCI co-worker.

FACT: This is a painful episode and one that I am quite disappointed, but not surprised that my opponents are trying to use against me. While I worked at UCI, one of my responsibilities was to ensure the safety of the students on campus – a role I took very seriously. The incident in question took place during an on-campus concert event attended by approximately 3,000 students. During the concert, a co-worker had locked the venue doors creating a very dangerous situation by trapping the students in a confined space. Realizing that there was an imminent danger of potential injury to the students, I repeatedly sought the help of this co-worker to rectify the situation. I was continuously ignored. Reacting out of fear for the students' safety, I made a snap decision and grabbed my co-worker' shoulders to gain his attention. In the heat of the moment, but with good intentions I reacted inappropriately and for this isolated incident I have paid a dear price. The fact is I was never arrested and the DA dismissed the case, as the accusations were unfounded.