

Peter Blake October 18, 2019 At 5:22 pm

MJ Abraham AKA "MJ". I know what you did before I was elected. You ran a leftist organization in Riverside (Center for Social Justice and Civil Liberties) You were behind the unprecedented hit pieces against Steve Dicterow in 2016 which brought ugly and dirty trick politics to Laguna. The last election brought more DC style hit pieces when you and you lapdog Michael Morris "investigated" all of the candidates and published the results on your bullshit website. As far as my contributions, in 1995 I moved my gallery to North Laguna and created Gallery Row and started the Art Walk. Ask the property owners how well they have done as a result.

The house that Jon Madison ran his restaurant in was inhabited by addicts who were cooking meth. You probably don't remember the aluminum foil on the windows to keep light out. Do you? The apartments behind my gallery were occupied by criminal transients who were out stealing all day in a brown van and unloading their spoils in the courtyard when it was dark. The building that Sue Greenwood's gallery is in was occupied by a pager business that attracted drug dealers all day and night. The rest of the neighborhood was just as seedy. I didn't need facts and statistics to turn that entire neighborhood around and create the finest retail experience we have in Laguna. It, along with the Hip District, are examples of what happens when the marketplace is allowed to flourish without obstruction and restrictive policies that socialists like you and your squad favor. I find it interesting that downtown Laguna which has the worst retail experience is also the most restrictive.

Village Laguna has maintained its grip on the Conditional Use Permit process in an effort to save us from ourselves. Only they know what's right for our downtown. Right? Look at what a joke it's become and how low-end the visitors are. All of you have destroyed the downtown and now are fighting to maintain your grip on it. Fortunately, the Planning Commission isn't falling for it and moving forward to finally repair the broken Downtown Specific Plan. We will change the downtown and make it one that our residents will want to shop in. It will no longer be geared towards the Riverside crowd like yourself or the Timothy Leary hippies that make up Village Laguna. MJ, things are changing and you and all of the obstructionists in town can't do a damn thing to stop it. Oh, and btw the voters support my big ideas and know how hard I have to fight for them. Funny how you should bring up the Art Fairs that my gallery exhibits in. They happen to be the finest in the country.

I promote Laguna Beach along with the finest galleries in the world. We're no longer the laughing stock of the fine art world. I guess my "learning experiences" have done well by Laguna. Finally, I've wasted enough of my time responding to trash like you and will no longer be engaging in discourse with you online. See you at the next Council meeting!

MJA October 20, 2019 At 10:11 am

Peter Blake, you never disappoint. Your political ignorance and crudeness is why we are experiencing such a division in our city and for the first time in our history we require a code of conduct for a public official. That's a FACT!

RE: electing officials: I realize listening isn't your strong point but please try really hard to grasp how voter and political education works. All candidates and public officials personal and professional histories are subject to voter inquiries. It's not dirty politics as you are trying so hard to promote, it's reality and everyone who wants to be elected knows this except apparently you. It's called due diligence by the public and it's purpose is to keep from getting crooks and whack jobs in powerful positions.

As for CC Dicterow- he chose to keep financial concerns from the public during an election year. That's not acceptable. Elected's handle our ever-increasing city budget and their financial understanding and capabilities ARE the public's concern. How dare you suggest the public has no right to this information. Shows your complete ignorance and disrespect for residents of our city.

Regarding our budget, we are watching your over-spending. You were elected to reign-in city spending by your conservative base, not put us into more debt as you are doing. They should be the ones calling you out, not me.

It's clear why someone like you would not want people to ask questions though. You have no answers. This way, you can operate in your developer paid for bubble and build out and ruin our city before residents wake up. Oh yes, and get your newly acquired building downtown improved so you directly benefit as well. That was why you ran for office right? The homeless platform was the low-hanging fruit election clincher! We are seeing how ineffective you have been on that front. Guess your too busy paving the way for development.

You have shown us who you are. Thank you, if anything, you have proven how important it is that voters know everything they can about an individual they consider voting in to hold public office on our town. We could have dodged a bullet had voters known more about you than the little you offered during the election. Lesson learned voters – Vett candidates carefully!

Yes, see you at CC meetings. Residents should know that there's never been a more important time to get involved in our city government then right now. They should be aware that you are merely a pawn of developers and your pro-building agenda is dangerous for our city.

JP October 20, 2019 At 11:40 pm

So much for your being open to discussion with the public, as you previously claimed.

Who I am is of no consequence to this discourse. The topic is you. Quit trying to deflect. Since you are too afraid to respond to a complete stranger, this again demonstrates an inability and unwillingness to deal in facts instead of smears and personality assassinations.

I guess the public will just have to accept everything I've said above is correct: You prefer not to deal with unbiased, provable facts, but prefer to make up your own "facts" as you go along – which you've said can be wrong – and all 23,000 residents in Laguna should just shut up, suck it up, and placidly accept your great factless-based multi-million dollar decisions that can affect everyone for decades to come – no matter how misguided or wrong your "visionary" "facts" may be. Good plan.

JP October 20, 2019 At 11:51 pm

"... the voters support my big ideas..." – Peter Blake

Is that another one of you unsubstantiated "facts?" Or just another self-serving opinion you've derived from those few you're rubbing wallets with?

If you are all that well supported, why were you thrown off NextDoor TWICE? (Sorry – hiding behind your wife's name the second time counts ... and to think you're worried about others' identities!)

Plus a whole city council meeting was spent/wasted just dealing with a code of conduct regarding your volatile outbursts, abusive insults, intimidations and trash talk in chambers, online, and over the telephone with other residents.

Is that the kind of support you're talking about?  
Just asking.

# # #

Peter Blake November 8, 2019 At 5:37 pm

Cesar, I didn't diagnose Toni, I simply expressed my concerns that she may be dealing with Cognitive Impairment. The definition is: Cognitive impairment is when a person has trouble remembering, learning new things, concentrating, or making decisions that affect their everyday life. Cognitive impairment ranges from mild to severe.

It is my fiduciary responsibility as a Councilman to protect 23,000 residents. I expressed my concerns from that responsibility. I have spent the last year and half working closely with Toni and have known her for 20 years. It doesn't take a "miracle doctor" to assess someone who may be dealing with an issue like Cognitive Impairment.

As far as your son is concerned, I'm disappointed for him that he has a father that would not take the time to have his son diagnosed with an illness. Luckily for him

toenail fungus is self-diagnosable and can be treated without a medical professional. The problem is mostly cosmetic. I consulted an elder and she recommended Vicks Vapo Rub.

I hope that helps!

Cesar Ferrer November 9, 2019 At 5:57 pm

You have a responsibility to be civil to your fellow council members. That I do not see in you and you have disappointed me and many of your previous supporters with your behavior. You have many good ideas but no one can see them for your boorish behavior. It is only losing you support, not gaining it.

Peter Blake November 10, 2019 At 6:29 am

Cesar, I know I have a responsibility to be civil and have maintained civility with all but one of my colleagues, Toni Iseman. Toni has shown unbridled incivility towards me. She's accused me of alleged Brown Act violations which she knew never happened, she's accused me of not telling the truth and has called me a bully on the Dais when I've stood up to her. I get along great with Bob, Steve, and Sue. We vote in unison more often than not.

I have an excellent relationship with the City Manager and the entire City Staff. Cesar, my supporters know what I'm up against and are understanding. They voted me in for change and that's what they're getting. They're not wavering and my support base has grown exponentially despite my opponents' attacks on me. I'm fighting hardened activists who've been in power for decades. My incivility is a byproduct of the ruthless nature of these activists. I have no choice but to stand up and fight. I will succeed in delivering on my promises to my constituents who voted for me! I'm sorry to have disappointed you!

Reply

JP November 12, 2019 At 10:59 pm

"I know I have a responsibility to be civil and have maintained civility with all but one of my colleagues, Toni Iseman." – Peter Blake

Mr. Blake, please tell that to Michele Monda ("Michelle, you dress like you rolled off the set of a Go-Go's video"), MJ Abraham (a liberal extremist, political operative, hippie, trash, Riverside trash, house-smock wearing polyester Betty, a left-wing activist, dirty politician, full of s\*\*\*, with cognitive problems) and Lorene Laguna, whom you've telephoned and left a phone recording that called her an f-ing bitch.

I'm sure they'll all be thrilled to know they're no longer on your hit list. Probably about as thrilled as all those residents you called liars at city council meetings.

Get a grip, sir, and practice some civility and decorum.

Bruce Bernstein November 14, 2019 At 2:27 pm

Am I mistaken but it appears many of the posted comments made to this letter are now gone including mine and Roger Butow to mention a few. Is the Indy censoring comments by removing posted comments made to it's Letter to the Editor (i.e. Letter: Seeking Blake's Medical Expertise)? Please advise. Thank you.

# # #

Three More Years of This? (November 2019 Indy Column  
By Billy Fried

We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. – Elie Wiesel

It didn't take me long to come out of retirement, because I could not sit idly by, week after week, and watch Councilman Peter Blake engage in such contemptible behavior. After all, he credited my radio interview as one of the reasons he was elected to City Council. Now I want to make amends to the community for the egregious mistake of giving him that platform.

Peter positioned himself as a righteously indignant reformer. We were rooting for him, and hoping that the occasional displays of incivility during the campaign were just anomalies – theatrics to get elected. But none of us could have known that he would play the victim over and over again, raining bile on anyone who dared voice a different opinion. He seems to see every criticism as a personal attack that somehow must be vindicated with cruel insults and unbridled smears.

Let's start with the police car flag graphic debacle, which he escalated to the national stage with his pandering on Fox News. Anyone who knows the "minimalist" Peter Blake knows that the over-the-top flag graphic is anathema to his aesthetic. But it gave him an opportunity to take down people who had challenged him in the past, and to smear our entire town, telling Fox viewers it was all because "Laguna is the most liberal town in the most liberal state." Yeah, we're just like Berkeley, Oakland and San Francisco. Thanks for bating the left-haters, who came out in droves to besmirch our town and threaten residents who spoke against the graphic.

When I informed Peter that I was having Carrie Woodburn on my radio show to share her experience of being victimized by such rhetoric, he listened in, and then texted me, "This is complete f\*\*\*ing bulls\*\*t. F\*\*\* both of you!" I allowed him to call in, and he bombed the show with apoplectic profanities. I had to cut him off. He made it clear that Carrie wasn't the victim. He was. It must be hard going through life with such a boulder on your shoulder.

But this pales compared to Peter's regular attacks on fellow Councilmember Toni Iseman's mental fitness, or wardrobe and face shaming members of the public who show up week after week to make their voices heard. They don't attack back, because they know that criticizing others is just crying over unmet needs.

But there he is, trolling the pages of social media and this paper, week after bloody week, calling anyone who disagrees with him “radical extremists” of the left or right, as if members of Village Laguna or the Republican Taxpayers Association are flame-throwing anarchists. And that he is taking the town back from the dreaded hippies or activists, as if there’s something wrong with that. I know public service is brand new to Blake, but hippies and activists got us out of Vietnam, and got equal rights for blacks, gays and women.

But the most surreal display came at the Council meeting when a full agenda item was dedicated to reigning in Peter’s behavior. There he sat for an hour and a half, listening to the public and his four colleagues recount episode after episode of vile attacks and reprehensible behavior.

He was advised by each councilperson before the meeting to be quiet and listen, and he almost made it, but at the last second, instead of showing one iota of remorse, he went on the offensive, shouting “I take back nothing and stand by every word I said.” This was the tipping point for me that clearly revealed he is unfit for office.

Here’s the thing, Peter. You can do whatever you want in the private sector. But there’s a reason they call it public service, and that you are called a public servant. It means that you can be criticized. In fact, I’ve challenged every single veteran councilperson on the dais over one decision or another, and never have they hit back with an attack of any kind. Because it comes with the job. But you are clearly incapable of the high moral and ethical grounds required of such a position.

You continually say you are representing the silent majority. I don’t believe you are. You got 25 percent of the voting public, and many of them are now repulsed by your behavior. The ones who still support you, while well meaning I’m sure, are simply ignoring how civil society works and the damage you are doing.

Why have I waited this long to speak up? I guess I was somehow hoping you would change. But I’ve now seen that asking you to get your impulses under control is futile.

Even though I can no longer vote in this town, I can still use my voice to encourage everyone else to remove Peter Blake from office. We deserve so much better.

Billy Fried hosts “Laguna Talks” on Thursday nights at 8 p.m. on KX93.5 and can be reached at [billy@lavidalaguna.com](mailto:billy@lavidalaguna.com).

Peter Blake November 8, 2019 at 1:20 pm

Thanks for coming out of retirement and engaging us in yet another one of your self-absorbed diatribes. I can’t say you, or your “column” was missed. Thank you for attempting to “make amends to the community for the egregious mistake to give me a platform” Yes, I do credit that interview for helping me win the election but you

shouldn't feel any remorse. It had nothing to do with you or your "radio show" It was the first time the community could hear from me what my views were and how I envisioned the future for Laguna. It was unrehearsed and raw. Not the usual political grandstanding that the residents were accustomed to.

They were yearning for honesty and transparency and a voice that represented their views. They heard one loud and clear and voted for me. The podcast was the most listened to in the history of the station. Wonder why? Sorry, but it wasn't because of you or your enlightened bigotry.

Yes, I positioned myself as a "righteously indignant reformer" and that's exactly what I am. You're wrong about my "displays of incivility during the campaign were just anomalies- theatrics to get elected" I was being myself and fighting back against ruthless political opponents. Their incivilities prompted my incivilities back in defense of my reputation. "Victim" I have never played a victim in my life and never will.

Maybe you're projecting?

Of course, you would bring up the flag on the police cars. Sorry, but even "minimalists" love their country and the flag that represents it. I know it was painful for you and others in your group to imagine the flag on a government vehicle, driven by government employees.

Left-wing extremists like yourself lost it over the thought of having the Stars and Stripes proudly displayed. Toni Iseman referred to the Council Chambers the night of the meeting as "Tyranny" She exclaimed that she warned her supporters to "stay home for their safety" Hmm... her political twin Anne Christoph was there all night and her boss Johanna Felder came by later. I guess it was safe enough for them? As far as me "bating the left-haters" to come out and threaten the residents, that's absurd! Billy, Laguna has changed over the last few decades. We're more moderate than we used to be. You wouldn't know that given you surround yourself with the radical left who share your socialist views.

You never informed me of your interview with Carrie. I happened to be listening to it and heard your outrageous lies. I called and texted and yes, they weren't friendly. I also had an attorney call me who also was less than impressed with your recollection of the facts. She threatened to sue you and the station removed your "interview" and we haven't heard from you on the air since. Sorry, I can't say I've missed your show.

My attacks on Toni Iseman? Are they one-sided? Toni revels in calling me a bully every chance she gets up on the dais. She has enabled this false narrative to resonate with her supporters who have bullied Council and City Hall for decades. They're just not used to the tables turning. They're grasping at straws to figure out how to maintain their stranglehold over Laguna Beach politics. I'm in their way and they're not having it. Too bad!

Here I am again “trolling the pages of social media and this paper” making sure that liars like yourself don’t slander and libel me unabated. I actually get to defend myself online while your bullshit “column” is being read in the paper by people who don’t know what you’re all about and how politicized your views are. Please spare me your virtue signaling about “hippies and activists” and everything they did in the past. I’m so tired of hearing about how Village Laguna has saved us from ourselves since the ’70s. This is 2019!

So the Code of Conduct meeting was surreal for you?

Yes, I sat through an hour and a half while Village Laguna and other political activists had their way with me. I listened to all of their bullshit and then proceeded to express myself the way the constitution of this country allows me to. I owned every word I’d ever said and apologized for nothing because I didn’t feel the need to.

Billy, you claim that “this was the tipping point for you that clearly revealed I am unfit for office” Really? Standing up for my constitutional rights to political expression and not allowing my political opponents to suppress me is a sign that I’m unfit for office? Are you really that big of an idiot?

Sorry, but I’m not the “public servant” that allows anyone to attack my reputation without a response. I made it clear during the campaign and will continue to defend myself as long as I’m an elected official representing this community.

You can continue to “challenge” any of my colleagues. Maybe they respect you enough to not respond. I don’t!

I do represent the “silent majority” They’re the ones who pay the bulk of the property tax that fuels our 100 million dollar budget. It’s not the Village Laguna activists that pay next to nothing and demand full control. I have not only lost very few supporters but have gained support exponentially since the election. These are the residents who feel that they finally have a say in how this community is run. They’re far from “repulsed by my behavior” and do not consider my efforts on their behalf as the “damage I am doing.”

They’re thrilled with having more respect at City Hall, no more disrespect from Design Review, no more coddling of the homeless, and property rights are becoming a given and no longer an option doled out to cronies of the established power brokers.

Why have you waited so long to express yourself? Is it because no one gives a shit about your views and opinions? As a nonresident who uses our natural resources for financial gain, you sure have a pompous view of your importance.

You’re also smart enough to know the 300 extremists and 30 gadflies that show up to every Council meeting can’t win a recall election against me. If you really believed they could, then all of you would have your pens and pads out collecting signatures and preparing a candidate to run against me. Why aren’t you? We both know the answer. Don’t we?



Keep wasting your time Billy. Go find a safe space, rub one of your crystals and dry your tears. I've got three more years and I'm not changing a thing about the way I govern and represent my constituents.  
Get over it!

Billy Fried November 9, 2019 at 9:05 am

Hey Peter the Patriot, wow I didn't see that coming. Triggering you is as hard as clubbing baby seals. And Roger, thank you for writing such a wonderful and detailed eulogy about my life. If I need a biographer, I know who to call.

Peter Blake November 9, 2019 at 10:36 am

Like I said Billy, no one gives a shit what you think!

Bruce Bernste in November 9, 2019 at 1:31 pm

Peter Blake continues to offer his diagnosis at City Council meetings of Councilwoman Toni Iseman's mental incapacity.

Well done Mr. Blake. You continue to show the citizens of Laguna Beach and your fellow City Council members, that there is no bottom to the depths that you are willing to sink to with your vile vitriol and behavior unbecoming a civil servant.

Mr. Blake, is not dispensing medical advise, in public no less, without a medical license, a crime in California?

Criminal Penalties in CA for Practicing Medicine Without a License (Business & Professions Code 2052)

1. Misdemeanor (summary) probation;
2. Up to one (1) year in county jail; and/or.
2. A fine of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

Your rude, crass, and disparaging public comments against Councilperson Iseman sure sound like slander to a layperson like me.

Perhaps she'll contact her attorney and take legal action???

I along with many others sure hope so.

#RecalPeterBlake

Peter Blake November 9, 2019 at 3:40 pm

Nice try Bruce! I never offered up a "diagnosis" or "dispensed medical advice" I simply mentioned that I believe that something isn't right. I have a right as a resident and a Councilman to express my concerns. Call them what you want. I could care less! I've known Toni Iseman for 20 years and have worked with her closely over the last year and a half and believe that something could be wrong. It is my fiduciary responsibility to protect the 23,000 residents of my community. I'd be remiss if I didn't voice my concerns. The definition of Cognitive Impairment is when

a person has trouble remembering, learning new things, concentrating, or making decisions that affect their everyday life. Cognitive impairment ranges from mild to severe. Maybe you should watch some Council meetings and see for yourself.

A 20-year incumbent and career politician should not be asking the questions she's asking and making the comments that she does. Maybe she's playing dumb as a political maneuver?

Michele Monda November 9, 2019 at 5:44 pm

Thank you Billy for finally nailing down what Peter is doing. He's playing the victim card. When you don't have any facts to back yourself up, you scream victim and lash out at anyone asking for facts. It's a good thing Peter is a white male or he would use whatever he was and accuse those of simply disagreeing with him as, pick the insult, racist, misogynist, homophobic etc.

At least he is the "minority class" and can only claim that we are unfair to actually criticize his lack of facts, details or knowledge other than his gut on a subject. Anyone who disagrees with the great Oz is subject to his onslaughts. Sad really, that a grown man needs to play victim. I await the attack back Peter because you just can't help yourself-----

# # #

Chris Catsimanes November 25, 2019 At 2:18 pm

Re: Blake's uncanny diagnosing ability.

Signs and symptoms of narcissistic personality disorder:

Grandiose sense of self-importance. ...

Lives in a fantasy world that supports their delusions of grandeur. ...

Needs constant praise and admiration. ...

Sense of entitlement. ...

Exploits others without guilt or shame. ...

Frequently demeans, intimidates, bullies, or belittles others.

Let me say I am not qualified to make any kind of diagnosis but since councilman Blake may have hurt his sense of self by comments made by some citizens I am posting these traits in order to help him reestablish his well deserved confidence. With his extreme self awareness as he examines each of these symptoms he should surely realize that those who have put forth their obviously unqualified and erroneous hypothesis are totally off base. This should reinforce (should it need reinforcing) his self worth as well as his right to to demean those whom he calls idiots, fashion bunglers, liars and other names since they are all inferior to his vast intellect. Another benefit is that all those citizens that have made disparaging remarks as to his fitness to represent us will now cease to wonder.

# # #

Indy LTE Liza Stewart/December 2019:

(Blake attacks residents who have nothing to do with the LTE. Again, he's obsessed with MJ and Mike.) Scary.

In his spirited defense of Councilman Peter Blake in the pages of the Indy, columnist Michael Ray states: "It is the same 30 or so Village Laguna members who keep going after him, and it has gotten so repetitive it is boring. Their biggest—and really only—refrain is that Peter is a bully."

Let's see why so many in Laguna perceive Blake to be a "bully" by revisiting some of his own words as written in these pages, online, and spoken from the Council dais:

"A position on City Council does encourage respect for constituents who are worthy of respect. These two are worthy of nothing. My constituents require I stand up and fight those who oppose the changes I was elected to enact. They're only attacking me because of the votes I've won against them and their Luddite followers."

"Carol, is that you? Sounds like your psychobabble. I always enjoy your passive/aggressive posts. Please spare me your sanctimonious BS."

"I have to answer to you and a house-smock wearing polyester Betty like MJ? I should base my decisions on the internet studies of fools like Michael? Do I have to answer to people like you who are posting at 2am? Get a life "JP"."

"...Young minds are preferable to simple minds like yours."

"Oh Liza, you're such an incredible liar".

"Liza, the only accomplishments you've ever made were on the backs of your family name."

"The residents of this community are trying to live in 2019 and worried about fools like you... dictating their future."

"Dorothy, you're an idiot!?"

"You're just another gadfly who shows up at every Council meeting with their self-serving agendas in hand."

"You take to the podium frothing at the mouth and start screaming disparaging comments at Council and staff. Who do you think you are? M, let's face it, you use your husband's position with the Republican Party as a crutch."

Liza I. Stewart, Laguna Beach

# # #

2020

Peter Blake May 30, 2020 At 11:30 am

Here comes political predator MJ Abraham with her thousandth attempt at a takedown of a duly elected Councilperson. This left-wing extremist (previous Director of the Center for Social Justice & Civil Liberties in Riverside) introduced ruthless and ugly politics to Laguna in 2016 when she and her lapdog, Michael Morris launched personal attacks on Steve Dicterow to get their supported candidate elected.

She's shifted her focus onto me ever since I was elected. Yes, I advocated for the removal of criminal transients from our community (still do) Notice the patrols of Main Beach? The searching of ASL "clients" for drugs, alcohol and weapons before admission? Did I yank the welcome mat? Yes! She and her friends from the radical left could easily turn Laguna into a homeless shelter if they could. Comparing me to these thugs is just how low she'll go to stop the progress that I've initiated in our community since my election. Notice a new and friendlier DRB? Planners with vision?

City Hall treating residents with respect and welcoming their projects with a yes instead of the NO that MJ and Village Laguna prefer? Read her posts and gauge the vitriol. Is it surprising that I have to defend myself the way I do? If she and the rest of her gang of political operatives could only suppress me and keep me from voting and speaking my mind, they would. They comment about me interrupting "residents" Far from it! These pathetic gadflies show up to every meeting and demand their obstructionist agenda, dating back to 1971, still being adhered to. Well sorry MJ Abraham, Michelle Monda, George Weiss, Johanna Felder, Village Laguna and their newest proxy Laguna Residents First, and the rest of you who've had a stranglehold on Laguna Beach for decades. You all need to get out of the way! The next generation has taken control of Laguna and we're not giving it up! Toni has voted against the Council most of the time. What does that tell you about how out of step she and all of you are with our community? We want a retail experience commensurate with the sophistication of the current residents (polyester Bettys like you need not apply) We want a vibrant downtown, property rights, culture, safety from criminals and a quality of life second to none. We're almost there!

MJ, I could care less what you and the rest of you hypocrites think. I'll keep doing the job I was elected to do. I've kept promises to my constituents and will continue to do so for the next 2 1/2 years of my term. No, I'll NEVER resign and a censure from the Council is about as meaningless as your threats to recall me.

Please spare me your self-absorbed holier than thou BS and BTW, I plan on fighting harder than ever! -

Peter

MJ Abraham June 4, 2020 At 11:42 pm

Thank you Peter Blake for proving the comparison so well. Someone with your level of toxicity in our city government is showing us just how volatile we are. We deal with intimidation and fear by some of our homeless on our streets and experience the same type by you as you try to hide behind your public position. Sorry Peter, you're not fooling anyone. One coin-two sides. Keep trying to lock them up for their behavior Peter ...or just try looking in the mirror?

Michele Monda June 5, 2020 At 9:00 am

Interesting Peter how you missed the point of the letter. That your behavior is eerily the same as the homeless who you hate - intimidating (or trying to be), always angry (listen to the tone you have in your comment) and verbally abusive (insults which you repeat over and over - you need some new ones).

You don't interrupt residents, you scream at them. The next generation has taken control?? You mean the developers wanting to make money at the expense of our quaint town which was why most people moved here? Because it ISN'T Dana Point or Newport Beach. As more and more of your antics and bullying behavior is exposed you have lost that so called constituency except for the echo chamber with which you surround yourself. Maybe you should calm yourself down and try to be more effective and stop degrading the position to which many of us regrettably voted you in. It's better for your blood pressure too.

Trish Sweeney June 5, 2020 At 9:37 am

Councilman Blake's reply here seems to contradict his assertion about "city hall treating residents with respect."

Lolena Smiley June 7, 2020 At 2:05 am

City Council member Peter Blake targets city activists and insults resident(s) with the following slurs of impunity: "political predator" "left-wing extremist" "radical left" "gang of political operatives" "pathetic gadflies" "obstructionist" "You all need to get out of the way!

" Toni has voted against the Council most of the time" ?? Excuse me, for being blunt, but Toni is the longest standing City Council member elected for several terms by residents.

Peter Blake has lost his edge, lost his former constituency and Peter Blake will most certainly lose the next election.

"City Hall treating residents with respect and welcoming their projects" City Council member Peter Blake has proven himself incapable of respecting the voices of residents and is unfit to serve as an elected official and appears psychologically unfit to lead.

MJ Abraham June 7, 2020 At 5:25 pm

Trish – Peter Blake’s entire reply is an attempt to divert the attention away from the emotional and mental concerns that I found comparable. Other than our unhoused and some instances where addicts or mentally ill patients have escaped from the Mission Hospital near me, I can’t recall encountering someone with such aggressive and intimidating behavior other than Peter Blake in Laguna Beach. The man prides himself on bullying and having this title for goodness sake! What healthy person does this? I find his personal and professional attacks on residents highly disturbing and quite adolescent. And the way he can retell situations and stories, including playing a “politician victim” now is priceless. I believe Laguna locals are fed up with his bully tactics and just wish he’d go away.

MJ Abraham June 12, 2020 At 8:17 am

Thank you Ms. Smiley for speaking up. While I know many residents are not comfortable doing so in a public forum, they are sharing privately as well as to the city council their utter disgust for Peter Blake and the destruction of our once civil and peaceful environment. Poor Peter. He lashes out at locals because he has nothing else to offer. He’s brought nothing positive to our city and continues to fake his way through his leadership role. His vitriol is inaccurate and his name-calling and intimidation tactics are being exposed. I fully agree that he is unfit to lead. A good lesson learned for LB voters. Please VETT candidates personally and professionally before putting them in the highest office in our city. Know who their biggest supporters are.

In this case Liberate Laguna Developers. And don’t get sucked in to low-hanging fruit topics like Blake’s “I’ll get rid of the homeless” campaign rhetoric. As we can see, his attempts were cosmetic and he has completely failed us. Covid-19 city shut down did more on this front than Blake. He has been busy stacking our boards and commissions with pro-developer supporters to pave the way for development projects and giving away our tax dollars without regard though. As he says, he just goes along with Staff because they know best. Wow. Peter, ever met a government employee who doesn’t like to come up with big projects and spend other people’s money? It’s called job security. Your inexperience is costing us. Wonder how much by 2022?

# # #

Indy LTE; June 2020

Does Peter Blake get up on the wrong side of the bed every morning, or is it only when the City Council meets? His recent email to fellow council member, Toni Iseman, is not only mean and nasty, but completely wrong. Having a medical condition does not preclude one from serving in a civic capacity. After all, Franklin Roosevelt was an extremely effective president during both a major depression and a world war, even though he had polio and could not walk.

Toni is an extremely competent council member. She does her homework, asks good questions, responds to citizens requests, and conducts herself in an overall professional manner. I can't say the same for Peter Blake. He sits scowling during city council meetings. I expect him to growl or bark at any minute. Most of his verbal comments are to interrupt someone during public communications and say something nasty. City councilmembers do not have to agree on the issues, but they have the responsibility to do so in a civilized manner.

Councilmember Blake seems unable to conform to the city's code of conduct; which calls for officials to treat everyone courteously, listen to others respectfully, exercise self control, be open-minded to all views, avoid personalizing debate, and provide fair and equal treatment for all people and issues. Peter behaves like a bully and appears to have anger management issues. Perhaps he is the one who is unfit for civic responsibilities.

Peter, get professional help. You need it!

Anne Frank, Laguna Beach

India Hynes June 6, 2020 At 3:37 pm

Why are people upset with Peter Blake when he states a fact that Those complaining are ignoring? There is an issue here if this is true, aside from your outrage with him bringing it up, regarding Toni Iseman that should be addressed. When is someone ill enough that if they do not recuse themselves from holding a city council position the city steps in to replace that position? We do need an aware and competent city council person no?

MJ Abraham June 12, 2020 At 10:31 am

It's a FACT that Peter Blake has publicly targeted CC Iseman/Village Laguna since his 2018 campaign. Anyone who attended the candidate forums or attend CC meetings are well aware of Blake's efforts to discredit and eliminate her from public office. It's quite obvious to residents right now that he is desperate to accomplish his candidacy rhetoric and twisted obsession with her – thus he's stepping up his embarrassing public and private assaults. His recent intimidation efforts include emotional and childlike outbursts during the council meeting followed up by his inappropriate letter asking for her personal medical records, resignation and threats of a recall.

Talk about a medical concern. Just watching Blake screaming and yelling at people and sending emails to targeted residents he considers enemies is proof enough that he is the one with issues and is unfit to serve and should resign. If he expects residents to support such a request than any movement forward should include the same deliverables from him as clearly his emotional stability and anger issues are under question by his constituents. Maybe all CC members should be requested to participate/ After all, each one of them have appeared to be somewhat ignorant on issues and/or confused at times. Especially Peter Blake who seems to have nothing

to say and no depth-of-knowledge on topics during meetings. As for his health, I believe the city has received a record number of constituent complaints about Blake and city videos validate the anger and competency concerns.

# # #

Letter to CC from MJ Abraham - June 3, 2020 (emailed)

Mayor Whalen and CC Members,

This was a residents message in the Indy in response to the article about CC Peter Blake's COC violation. In case you don't know, similar messages are in the Indy, StuNews, Nextdoor and on local social media's.

Please Mayor Whalen and City Council members stand up and enforce the COC policy you adopted as well as respect and enforce our municipal code regarding public officials misdemeanor behavior.

I don't know Mr. Bernstein but if he is correct and this recall is moving forward it should be for all city council representatives who will not stand behind our laws while serving as the legislative body governing our city municipality.

Clearly, residents are concerned about the ongoing internal and external turmoil caused by CC Peter Blake and what appears to many to be a dysfunctional body.

Please act now. In the words of Blake, "it only takes three votes." Send your constituents a message that you are strong, sound leaders who will not tolerate this type of disregard and destruction of our city policies and our government.

Thank you for your time.

MJ Abraham

Laguna Beach Resident

Bruce Bernstein June 2, 2020 at 8:45 am

Once again, Councilman Blake's smugness, lack of decorum or civility, and his vile and highly transparent attempts to disparage fellow Councilwoman Toni Iseman, a longtime and honored city servant, with unsubstantiated claims of a cognitive impairment that in his opinion, makes her unfit for office. And he has once again put Mayor Whalen and the rest of the City Council in the position of once again being forced to satisfactorily address Mr. Blake's intentional misdeeds.

First and foremost, it's highly unprofessional for an elected official to comment on a colleague's health in a derogatory manner. Blake's claim that Iseman is "no longer fit to serve" is not only unprofessional, but it's also unsubstantiated. And any knowledge Blake may have on her medical history or condition, along with his



public sharing of that information, may be considered significant violations of HIPPA laws in California and carry criminal penalties for said violations.

In case you are wondering just what Mild Cognitive Condition is, here is a link to the Mayo Clinic that defines Mild Cognitive Impairment: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/mild-cognitive-impairment/symptoms-causes/syc-20354578>

Blake, after having been rebuked several times for his behavior on and off the dais, most recently by Mayor Whalen at Tuesday's council meeting, Blake made no apology. In fact, he chose to double down by adding that he did, in fact violate the Council's Code of Conduct and then described that code as a farce. He went on to further state that he will continue to violate the Code "as he sees fit."

Blake has become a prime example of a virus that has permeated the body politic at the highest levels, and he has intentionally patterned himself after the one sitting in the highest office in the land. Blake seems hell-bent of undermining and damaging whatever is left of the integrity of our City Council.

It is clear to most of the residents here in Laguna Beach, along with the casual observers, that Mayor Whalen has lost all control pertaining to Councilman Blake. And after ongoing public outcries by residents, Whalen's refusal thus far, to censure Blake demonstrates the lack of leadership necessary to hold the position of Mayor. It is for that reason alone that I ask that Mayor Whalen voluntarily step down from his current position as Mayor, and a vote of censure be held at the next city council meeting.

And just in case the Mayor or others on the Council think that they can kick the Blake can down the road to the next election, the resident of Laguna Beach are facing some of the most important issues this City has faced in decades. And we will not tolerate Blake shenanigans any further.

A Recall Referendum is well on its way, and much further along than Blake is willing to believe. So Mr. Blake had better have an epitome and change his evil ways and change them fast, or the citizens of Laguna Beach will number his days and change his seating arrangement permanently.

# # #

Indy June 2020

To say that the horrible turmoil in our nation is extremely distressing is a colossal understatement. I feel such sorrow and total impotence. Regrettably, we have turmoil and disrespect right here in our little town. This is something I can weigh in on.

The story about Peter Blake asking for Councilwoman Toni Iseman to render her resignation because of what he perceives as a medical and mental impairment was cruel and inappropriate, to say the least. If anyone is impaired, I would guess it to be Mr. Blake.

In council meetings that I have watched, I'm impressed at the homework Toni does prior to each meeting. I assume this comes from her training as an educator at the college level. She asks pertinent questions and it's quite obvious to me that she has researched issues and discovers how such issues will impact the community and neighborhoods. She's the councilperson that always considers the residents. Blake, on the other hand, rarely engages unless it's to hurl an insult or bully a speaker. The lack of preparation on his part is quite obvious. It would seem to me that Peter Blake is the one that needs to render his resignation for a lack of civility and the ability to serve us adequately. - Trudy Josephson, Laguna Beach

# # #

Peter Blake September 9, 2020 at 10:16 pm (Indy)

Here comes David Raber the sanctimonious moralizer and founder of Political Action Committee Laguna Residents First, to Ruben's rescue. David, Ruben's "sidewalk issue" has been around for years, not months (nice try!). Ruben's pathetic nursery looks like a third-world bazaar. Retail items with price tags dangling being marketed on the edges of the sidewalk and property line. Heavy outdoor vases precariously placed on the roof. No handicapped access and the entrance to residential units on the property blocked. The use of a garage for parking as an office, non-payment of rent since December 2019, and late payment of rent spanning years before that. David, please stop using COVID which began in March as an excuse for Ruben's financial and ethical indiscretions. We know you're lying!

Ruben's landlord Mo Hanarkar did make a contribution to Liberate Laguna years ago and hasn't since then. He has the right to ask current market rent and doesn't have to sign off on a TUP with a tenant who has slandered him and his family for years and has refused to vacate the premises at the request and demand of the property owner.

Yes, Liberate Laguna did raise \$153,000 and spent some of it on marketing both for me and against Toni. In 2018 it was obvious to most non-Village Laguna supporters that Toni's cognitive impairment had reached a level that would preclude her from being fit to govern. She was re-elected only to continue to be a pawn and mouthpiece for them. She relies on her handlers to script her opinions. She reads their marching orders from her phone throughout the Council meetings. I have requested her resignation and will continue to do so.

Liberate Laguna has NOT turned their attention on Ruben. He's not worth spending a dime to fight against. Everyone in town knows what a fool he is. Residents had a chance to watch him in action during the first debate while he straddled the line

between stoned and stupid. His partner in the “Dumb and Dumber 2020” campaign, George Weiss, revealed just how absurd their candidacies are. Village Laguna and their newest proxy, Laguna Residents First, have endorsed these two losers. You’d think they’d have better options but obviously they don’t.

Thank you, Ruben Flores, for running for City Council! Thank you, George Weiss, for running for City Council. This will make for quite an entertaining election season.

# # #

Peter Blake September 11, 2020 At 7:02 pm

Now Gene Felder, husband of Johanna Felder who is the President of Political Action Committee Village Laguna, comes to the rescue of their endorsed candidate. Gene plays loose with the facts in the hope to spin Ruben’s unethical behavior. Sorry Gene, but Ruben’s bad business dealings date back years both from his current landlord and his previous one. Late and non-payment of rent, code non-compliance, and botched landscaping deals are par for the course. Sorry, no one is “confused” here. It’s Village Laguna realizing that their endorsed candidate’s skeletons just blew the closet door open. Why don’t all of you “supporters” answer the questions asked by the article? Ruben is, after all, going to “bring integrity back to Laguna” lol Did he stop paying rent because of COVID, or did the non-payment of rent start in 2019? Did the code non-compliance start during COVID or years ago? How is the landlord to blame? He asked for fair market value rent? It’s not fair for him to evict a deadbeat tenant? He didn’t want to get fined by the City for Ruben’s flaunting of code?

Maybe the title of your LTE should be “Village Laguna lies to save their endorsed candidate”

MJ Abraham September 17, 2020 At 8:33 pm

For LB CC member Peter Blake to go to this degree to publicly attack a LB resident/constituent to seemingly disgrace him and influence people is a new low, even for him. Especially since Blake so adamantly denounced the release of public financial information for his buddy CC Steve Dicterow (ran in 2016 CC election) when his bankruptcy status and financial issues were provided to voters during the candidate vetting process. I believe he referred to this action as being a “political predator.” Gee, didn’t take Blake long to earn a Political Predator title did it? Blake’s has changed his tune and he seems to have time to dig deep into city documents and a developers private business activities to get dirt on a constituent. I think he should resign. He’s showing us just how unfit he is to serve LB constituents.

# # #

Peter Blake October 4, 2020 At 2:20 pm

As expected, Village Laguna Board member Charlotte Maserik is playing the holier-than-thou, passive/aggressive hypocrite that she’s skillfully has played for decades. Charlotte neglects (intentionally) to mention that she and her fellow Luddites were

planting signs throughout the town (Stop Peter Blake), posting horrendous and slanderous cartoons depicting me in the pockets of developers counting cash and writing disparaging statements alluding to me being corrupt. Does she want sympathy? This is what local politics circa 2020 in Laguna Beach look like. Is anyone wondering why there are 5 people running and all of them are political activists or incumbents?

Who would want to endure this level of character assassination? The pathetic and radical political predators that make up Village Laguna and their proxy groups are losing their stranglehold over Laguna and will resort to lying, cheating, and doing anything they need to do to maintain their grip over us. Sorry Village Laguna but 50 years is long enough! Take your draconian restrictions and obstruction elsewhere. We're taking a hard pass!. BTW, do you really think that we're gonna fall for it and vote in George Weis and Ruben Flores (Dumb and Dumber) Seriously? You're underestimating the new Lagunans. We're the ones who pay the bulk of the property tax that fuels our hundred million dollar budget and we're done with you polyester Betties and your mouthpiece on the Dais (Toni Iseman) making all of our decisions for us. Yes, we're more than capable of moving Laguna into the future and we'll enjoy better restaurants, a better retail experience, property rights, and we won't look back.

Sorry, Charlotte and Village Laguna but the days of you controlling the residents of Laguna are over! -  
Peter

Dan Kenney October 9, 2020 At 2:30 pm  
Laguna, do you long for a day when council members didn't mimic the traits of the current president? Terms like Dumb and Dumber have no place in any discussion. Peter Blake exemplifies the worst. Shame on you.

Peter Blake October 10, 2020 At 7:49 pm  
Dan, I can assure you that Laguna doesn't "long for the day" when visionless obstructionists like you and your colleagues Gentry, Lenney, and Fitzpatrick lead our town. Thankfully, I will never "mimic the traits" that fools like you exemplify. I feel shame for those who voted a City Council into power like the one you served on.

James Dorf October 16, 2020 At 6:29 am  
Peter Blake,  
"Dumb and Dumber" ... "Polyester Betties"  
On what planet is such language from an elected official to his constituents appropriate.  
Deplorable!

# # #

Peter Blake November 28, 2020 At 11:36 am

Kiku Terasaki, here's your harsh political lesson for the day – demonization is normal and expected between two PACs during an election. Maybe in the land of Kumbaya, PACs get together and recite poetry? Not in Laguna. Sorry!

Steve demonized Liberate Laguna and it was understandable and expected. Nice shout-out about his affiliation with Rohrbacher. We all know Steve is a Republican. He never hid it. A little passive/aggressive knock-down via association with his previous employer to keep things in check? Oh, and your claim of “internecine warfare” between Republicans (Dicterow and Liberate Laguna) shows just how ignorant you are. Liberate Laguna's founders are liberal Democrats. Michael Ray, Sam Goldstein, and Cindy Shoppoff are NOT Republicans.

But you really scored the idiot of the week award with your comment about Liberate Laguna buying my seat on the Council. I announced my candidacy in May, they endorsed me in September. By then everyone knew I had the election won. I ended up beating 3 candidates who had already served on Council and I received more votes than Toni, a 20-year incumbent. Do you think some glossy fliers of me in a suit accomplished that? Is that how easily you think the residents of Laguna can be swayed?

You actually got one thing right in your letter when you stated that we would have no incivility problem at all if it weren't for me. Obviously you'd prefer that Village Laguna would continue to maintain the unchallenged control they've had over our community since the 70's. Well, sorry! the silent majority elected me to be their voice (a loud one) and to fight for them. I suggest you find your safe space and grab a box of tissues, the next two years and the 2022 election will get even uglier. Promise!

Finally, you return to the D word (you must have demons on your mind) to describe the “large cross-section” of Laguna that gets their feelings hurt over Michael's mean and insensitive comments. You question the “merits” of his column just because you disagree with him. So much for the 1st Amendment if it doesn't please your leftist sensibilities. How bout we remove Anne Christoph's column while we're at it. Would you miss the sanctimonious rants from her weekly bully pulpit for Village Laguna and their lapdog on the dais?

Kiku, please spare us your self-righteous virtue-signaling. No one's falling for it. Civility begets civility!

# # #

2021

Peter Blake January 30, 2021 At 7:10 pm

Armando, this is one hell of a letter! You sure are a skilled liar aren't you.

So, Village Laguna has joined forces with two other groups and have filed a lawsuit against our community and now you have to mop up the mess? One group is the “Laguna Beach Historic Preservation Coalition” Who are they? No website or information online. Who are their board members? Legal form of organization? Their address according to Village Laguna is Laguna Royale, a building as irony would have it, underwent a very incorrect remodel with no respect for it’s mid-century heritage. The address also happens to be where your fellow activist Cathy Jurca has a weekend condo (she lives in a mid-century house in Glendale full time) Hmmm.... The other group, Preserve OC, just like Village Laguna, hide their political activities while calling themselves a charitable non profit organization. All three of you have a lot in common in terms of imposing your obstructionist agendas on the residents of Laguna. Property rights be damned!

Armando, no one thinks Village Laguna is a “Tony Iseman group”. Everyone knows that Toni is Village Laguna’s lapdog and mouthpiece. She clearly lacks the experience and the legal knowledge to be involved in lawsuits against cities given their complexity. She can barely read her marching orders from her computer and then lip-synch them during Council meetings. She’s a mess! She’s also no fan of property rights.

Oh, and Larry’s doing just fine! He ran a clean and honest campaign and did well. He obviously didn’t follow my successful political strategy. He lost the election because he took the high road against ruthless political predators like yourself. I wasn’t foolish enough to do that. I was happy to fight at your level and even lower. Maybe that’s how I got the most votes in the last election? Maybe that’s why you wont even try to recall me? We both know that my constituents will vote me back in again should I choose to run. They see how hard I fight for them. They know I’m good like that.

Please spare us your fear mongering and self-righteous BS! Village Laguna’s “50 years of accomplishments” have left Laguna in the mess that it’s in. Don’t feel so emboldened because 5,500 useful idiots that Village Laguna’s been mining since 1971 voted in your candidate. Hardly impressive!

Armando, mark my words. We’ll make it voluntary!

# # #

Peter Blake February 27, 2021 At 2:01 pm

Here comes Village Laguna board member Chris Catsimanes with his weekly attack LTE. As usual, hypocrisy levels are extended and facts are non-existent.

For starters I have mentored Michael’s children and many others via internships in my gallery. I teach young people how to run a business. I am currently mentoring a recent college graduate on how to to be a politician in today’s brutal political

climate. I use LTE's from political predators like you, MJ Abraham and Johanna Felder as an example of how low some activists will go to achieve their goals.

I have sparred with Toni Iseman in response to attacks that she herself has launched against me and also the attacks she's choreographed with others. She's a ruthless adversary and was described perfectly by ex-Mayor Kelly Boyd who served with her for years. He commented that "her knife was dull from stabbing so many people in the back". I have asked her to resign because I believe that she has a cognitive impairment that keeps her from fulfilling her duties as a Councilperson. She was barely qualified to run a small seaside village, she's NOT qualified to run a city with a 100 million dollar budget. As far as my comment about her being Village Laguna's mouthpiece, she is, and you as a board member know that.

I did refer to Toni as a "sycophantic slag" but was taken out of context. For the record the definition of sycophantic is "behaving or done in an obsequious way in order to gain advantage" and slag is "waste matter separated from metals during the smelting or refining of ore" In the art world slag is a phrase we use when corrupted metal rises up to the surface of a cast sculpture and destroys the surface. My point was that she's a bootlicking and corrupted politician. You and your colleagues claim the word slag refers to a "slut"? I guess that definition worked better for your false narrative. I suggest you use Google or Wikipedia when seeking the definition of words you don't know. It works better than English dictionaries that are hundreds of years old.

Nice try!

Note: This wasn't my LTE. I don't even have to be involved and Peter Blake drags me in and gets verbally abusive. Clearly, Blake is obsessed with me. Creepy. MJ Abraham

MJ response to Chris. C LTE on Peter Blake and Blake exchanges.

February 25, 2021 At 10:17 am

Mr. Catsimanes, honestly it doesn't take a psychologist for LB residents to see through Councilman Blake's behavior. IMO, the defiant announcements at CC meetings, press and social media attacks on constituents who disagree with him as well as resorting to name-calling are just childish attempts to strike back. This is what bullies do when they feel powerless. Bullying behavior is always concerning but when a public official proclaims to be a bully and constantly behaves in such a destructive manner as we are witnessing now. Locals - especially those who voted for him and the LL PAC group whose money secured him a CC seat really need to take a big step back and examine just what type of individual they have supported.

I can't believe respectable LB residents would settle for being associated with this type of person. And the serious name-calling posted by Blake is getting worse as we see here with the calling of our City Council member Toni Iseman a "sycophantic slag." It's absolutely shocking and unacceptable. Look it up folks. This is thug-like gutter talk as far as I am concerned. Ladies and gentlemen of Laguna Beach...I ask

you, would you accept your mother, daughter, granddaughter, sister, aunt or niece being publicly called a name like this? I sure hope not.

My suggestion for any Peter Blake supporters left (I've been told by folks who voted for him in 2018 that he's a one-term CC member) is DISTANCE yourselves. If you continue to support him, you are saying you condone crass and unprofessional city leadership. This is not what LB should be known for. We need city officials who show respect to others by acting in a civil manner at all times and do not use their elected position to fulfill their own personal interests nor as a release for insecurities. I have faith that LB voters will correct this situation in 2022. Thank you.

Peter Blake February 27, 2021 At 7:32 pm

MJ, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that you're nothing more than a professional complainer who has accomplished nothing in your life and spends your days attacking those who are working for the betterment of our community. You float from Nextdoor, Stu News, Facebook and this publication spinning your false narratives while disparaging anyone who doesn't buy into your personal politicized agenda. If you're so convinced that my supporters have dwindled then why don't you initiate a recall?

Surely you can do it. Cant you? Maybe you know I have too much support from the residents of our community after years of being pushed around by political predators like you and Village Laguna? Maybe I'm the voice of the residents who've moved here in the last couple of decades and want representation? After all, they play the bulk of the property tax that fuels our 100 million dollar budget. You and the rest of you Luddites pay next to nothing and want total control. Maybe property rights, Law and Order and a better dining and retail experience are important to them? Maybe they dont want a polyester Betty like yourself dictating their future? Maybe they can read your LTE's and see who the true bully is? Sorry, but I'm not putting up with any of your BS and I will get 100 times worse than ever over the next half of my term. Better start collecting those signatures or just keep wasting your time engaging in psycho-babble while playing armchair City Manager. BTW, have you ever run a city? Are you qualified to opine on running a City of 23,000 and 6 million visitors?

Are those Crickets I'm hearing?

MJ Abraham March 2, 2021 At 4:22 pm

Well Laguna Beach, I guess we have been put on notice by Peter Blake that his attacks and vitriol are going to continue and get worse (100 times worse at that!) if we disagree with him on his public behavior as our city representative. What I would suggest to Mr. Blake is that he look into anger-management support through the city. I believe he may receive such benefits paid for by the public. This may help him understand what appears to be a need to fight, degrade others and puff his chest out all the time. As far as crickets...I don't hear all of those mass supporters he boasts about publicly defending his behavior. He seems to be the lone voice. I trust LB voters have wisened up and in the next election will move towards electing



respectful, healthy-minded and balanced individuals to represent and lead our city. I'm looking forward to positive leadership changes in 2022.

Peter Blake February 27, 2021 At 6:35 pm (Indy)

Johanna, I thought you retired? Isn't Anne Caenn a skilled enough liar to take over the reins of Village Laguna's propoganda? Maybe she needs more training? How bout a mind-numbing monotone voice like yours?

We all know that Village Laguna has held power in Laguna for the last 50 years. Between your lapdogs on City Council, henchmen on appointed commissions like DRB, Planning and Heritage, and your iron-fisted grip on the staff at City Hall, you've enjoyed a monopoly on all decision making for decades. This fall, 5,500 of the useful idiots you've been mining since the 70's came through and now your vote tally on Council is now back to two. Vote-splitting and ruthless attacks on Larry Nokes and Steve Dicterow sealed it. They took the "high road" against political predators and lost a race they should have won. You claimed your anointed candidates won on "grassroots" campaigning" but we all know how much was spent behind the scenes. Through your fancy bookkeeping it looked like the "gardeners" spent next to nothing. Monies were moved around from individuals to groups. Even Toni, a retired school counselor could afford to buy multiple full page ads? Hmmm... Hell, you had so much money you could afford to fly planes with your attack banners (I know, you have no idea who paid for them)

You claim that you didn't take a position on the theater? I guess your new bestie Catherine Jurca worked the appeal on her own? Oh, and somehow George Weiss was negotiating the compromises and he never mentioned it to you? Yeah sure! Maybe while all of you were suing our city over the preservation ordinance you never discussed it? That suit with the shadow group that doesn't exist online and no one knows who runs it? The one with Catherine's address? I bet that's where your "membership increases" came from right? Your new friends from Glendale and Preserve OC that you worked with against the interests of Laguna's residents? BTW, how many members do you have? I bet you dont have 300? Your Zoom debate for Council candidates had 33 people watching. Hardly the audience participation for a group given the exponentially larger influence you yield over 23,000 residents. A vocal minority is an understatement!

Johanna, just so you know, we want more out of life than you and your tasteless frumps at Village Laguna can begin to imagine. The Promenade is the first step towards realizing a town square that can work towards elevating the dining and retail experience for us locals. I'm downtown every day. Funny, I never see you or any of your sycophants shopping or dining? Anne Christoph mentioned that "Forest Ave needed hanging flower baskets" Is that's what was missing? Are you seriously going to lie about your support for the Promenade? Village Laguna was adamantly opposed to it and still is. You went to a fine dining restaurant (Marche Moderne) in Newport Beach rather than celebrate its grand opening. Hardly supportive wouldn't you say?

We know you think “you’re not going anywhere” but your influence will be further diminished and will eventually go away. You are made up of aging, long-term residents but there are new residents who pay the bulk of our city’s 100 million dollar budget with their property tax and they want a say. Many of them individually pay more than your entire board combined yet you want all of the control. Isn’t it ironic that the people who’s property rights you fight made all of you Luddites millionaires by valuing up your property over the years? (I know, not you. You live a 5 star lifestyle with no apparent income)

Please Johanna, spare us your self-righteous BS. The spin-cycle is no longer working!