

Vernon Works!

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To: michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Much fuss has been made lately regarding the City of Vernon.

AB46, sponsored by Speaker Perez, is designed to dis-incorporate the City of Vernon. Why?

Perez calls the City a fiefdom its sole purpose that of enriching the select few who govern the City.

Fair enough. The City does have a history of enriching those in power.

Perhaps the enrichment is beyond what they deserve and in times of economic strife you would be hard put to justify six figure salaries that were increased while at the same time laying off those who did not reap huge salaries.

However that is the past. The current City Administrator has helped enact substantial changes to the way the City manages its payroll, they have also committed to a transparent government that will allow the true constituents a role in making decisions that will affect them; but that isn't really the point.

The City was founded as an industrial city. It started that way and it needs to remain that way.

Speaker Perez is clamoring for the demise of a city that is an oasis in the State of California.

California is undisputed as the least "business friendly" state in the nation; yet our politicians are bound and determined to continue pushing businesses out.

While Vernon is in California and businesses are still subjected to all California laws when operating in Vernon they are at least capable of working with a streamlined government that wants them to succeed.

Contractors who work in many cities espouse the virtues of Vernon's building department. Permitting is reasonable and workable. There are no shortcuts but if your project does not fit perfectly into the mold you are at least able to plead your case and work with an actual person to successfully complete a project.

The Health/Environmental department is well versed in food facilities and chemical plants. They work with the businesses and the consultants that support them. Rendering plants, battery plants, ammonia refrigeration facilities, chlorine plants etc require a specialized health and environmental department. Vernon provides that.

Vernon Fire Department: one of 66 "Class 1" rated fire departments in the country. Likely better trained and more experienced with the handling of chemical releases than any other fire department in the nation. Specifically trained to handle the needs of an industrial community.

Do we want an industrial city to rely upon Los Angeles County Fire Department (Class 5) in the event of a major catastrophe? Don't forget that in a time of need Vernon Fire travels to all surrounding cities to aid and assist.

Vernon Light and Power, which is one of the prime reasons so many businesses originally located in the five square mile City, provides electricity to its customers at a slightly more attractive rate than that which could be had in the City of Los Angeles. It is a considerably more attractive rate than that which can be had in an area served by Southern California Edison. This is one of the tenuous ties that keep many businesses in California. Cut that tie by increasing utility costs, which is guaranteed if the City is dis-incorporated and we will see further exodus from the state.

Texas, Nevada, South Carolina etc all beckon to the besieged businesses of California.

So why should we care? These businesses only care about their profits, right?

Well maybe Perez should think about his constituents that work in the City of Vernon.

Roughly 50,000 people travel to Vernon each day for work. 50,000 people rely on the businesses in this City to put food on their tables. Even if each worker represents just two people that translates to 100,000 people who have a stake in the well being of Vernon.

If the City of Vernon is dis-incorporated does that mean that 50,000 jobs will be lost? No, of course not; but a number of businesses have said that they would leave if Vernon was dis-incorporated; so it is probably fair to say that at least a few thousand jobs would be lost.

It is, however, guaranteed that the cost of doing business will increase.

For those business that stay behind, in the morass that was the City of Vernon, and are faced with

increased costs it is not likely that they will be looking to expand or hire and most definitely will not be looking at providing more (benefits and salary) to their existing workforce.

It is often joked that Vernon is a business pretending to be a city. Is it so bad that a city is run like a business? California is clearly not run like a business and look at the trouble the state is in.

There have been a few City Administrators in Vernon who were perhaps reaping much more than they should have but that doesn't mean that the City as a whole is bad.

Lets not throw the "baby out with the bathwater."

California needs the City of Vernon. Californians need the City of Vernon.

Please let Vernon take care of its issues.

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