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AND LAWNDALE NEWS

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Former Raytheon Remodeled



Newport Beach-based Bixby purchased the former single-tenant (Raytheon) building in 2013, investing a total of \$25 million to acquire, redesign and redevelop the project into a contemporary work environment. The fully-leased building is home to a mix of professional and creative tenants, including Sanrio (Hello Kitty) that occupies a full floor and a ground-floor retail showroom in the five-story building. Photo provided by Idea Hall

City Council Stalls In Special Meeting For Vacant Seat; English Speaks Out Against Voting Process

By Derrick Deane

Despite eight rounds of voting in a special election to fill a vacant seat on the City Council, there was still no majority decision made Tuesday night during a special meeting.

The evening began with the majority of residents endorsing Don Harris for the vacant seat.

"My mom told me once, be careful who you vouch for, because unless you worked with that person or broke bread with them, then you do not know them" resident Steve Kary said while endorsing Harris. "I've known Don for over 32 years and we have done both of those things together," he said as he laid out Harris' background of service to the city.

Alex Monteiro and Katrina Manning also had a handful of supporters on hand to recommend them to the council.

The evening progressed as the candidates once again had an opportunity to address the council before a maximum of eight rounds of voting commenced. The council voted in order of seniority.

In the first round of votes, Councilman Hadir Awad chose Neil Gafney, councilman Nilo Michelin chose Manning, Mayor Alex Vargas chose Harris, and as the most senior member of the council, councilwoman Angie Reyes English chose Jason Gromski.

With no majority, the council moved to a second round of votes.

Awad chose John Jefferson, Michelin chose Montiero, Vargas stayed with Harris, and English chose Manning.

The voting moved to a third round with Awad choosing Manning and Michelin and Vargas both selecting Harris.

If Councilwoman English selected Harris, the voting would be concluded and the vacant seat would be filled. Her vote instead went to former Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Valentine.

In the fourth round, Awad chose yet another different candidate in Gary Parsons. Michelin chose Jefferson while Mayor Vargas remained adamant with his choice of Harris. Regardless of

who English chose, the voting would continue to a fifth round. For the record, her selection was former mayoral candidate Amie Shepard.

In the fifth round, Awad led off the selections choosing Harris. Michelin followed with a nod to Gary Parsons. Mayor Vargas once again chose Harris and with the voting set to go to a sixth round, English once again chose Manning.

The sixth round began with Awad choosing Manning. Michelin chose Gafney, Mayor Vargas stayed with Harris and English chose Jose Gutierrez.

With only two voting rounds left, Awad began the seventh round by selecting Montiero. Michelin followed by selecting Shepard. Mayor Vargas stayed with Harris and English chose Manning again.

The Council entered into the eighth round with one final chance to fill the vacant seat.

Awad led off the final round by selecting his eighth different candidate in Jason Gromski. Michelin followed by selecting Shepard while Mayor Vargas stayed steadfast in all eight rounds with Harris. No majority meant that the vacant seat would remain empty, but councilwoman English chose Valentine to close out the process.

"We have the option of going to another special meeting to repeat this same procedure," Vargas said.

The Council will meet again for another special meeting on January 28 at 5:30 p.m. to hopefully come to a majority decision. The process will consist of another eight rounds of voting.

The final item on the agenda was voting on a resolution for the potential special election.

"This is just a precautionary resolution that needs to be voted upon in case we [can't come to a majority decision]," Vargas said.

City Attorney Russel Miyahara added that the county registrar needs to know if the city is going to proceed with the special election by the end of the month.

Miyahara added that if the Council comes to a majority decision on a candidate to fill the empty seat, they can repeal the resolution for the special election. The council has until February 8 to appoint someone to the seat.

In closing, English spoke out against the selection process saying that, "it's [been] a long time coming and I've waited long enough. It's in my opinion badly in how we are making this process of selection. Period."

"In my time as a City Clerk, it has always been the next vote getter. That's the democratic process. It's unfair in my opinion for the candidates that ran, and spent lots of time and money and resources," English continued. Manning totaled the third highest number of votes in last November's election.

English says that she has sat quiet but that she has received calls and complaints and, "a sense of disgust."

She followed her statement by giving direction to the City Clerk and City Attorney to have campaign signs in the city taken down.

"There is not an election taking place in Hawthorne," English said. "It's deceitful and it's unfair. There's an advantage to the candidates that are now in position looking for one seat."

English says that the process proceeded even though, "it was well known that I wasn't going to be here." She says that if she was present, "it would have been a different story."

Vargas however fired back through City Attorney Miyahara asking him to explain how the process came about. Miyahara answered that initially, the meeting was going to take place on a date when only English was available to meet. The meeting was then moved to an alternate date which English could not attend.

"It's not transparent. That's a real popular word going around right now," English said of the voting process. "I'm going through the process. I have no choice. We're going to continue and I'm going to continue to push."

English's statement was met with applause from the audience at the end of the meeting. •

Weekend Forecast

Friday

Partly
Cloudy
71°/52°



Saturday

Showers
62°/46°



Sunday

Mostly
Sunny
65°/45°



PETSPETS **Pets** PETSPETS

Purrrfect Companions



Abby Tabby

On February 13th/14th, join fellow animal lovers, as we raise money to save the forgotten felines of Los Angeles, by running or walking the LA Marathon (26.2 miles), the Charity Relay (share the Marathon with a friend and run 13.1 miles) or the Big 5k.

Email lamarathon@kittenrescue.org for more information on how to register with our special invitation code.

Here is what is included for running with Team Kitten Rescue!

- Locked in discounted race fee of \$160.00 (Marathon only)
- A Team Kitten Rescue t-shirt
- Dodger Suite on race day (must raise LA Marathon fundraising minimum of \$650.00)
- Family reunion suite at luxury hotel at the finish line for all team members.
- Raise \$1000.00 and you can opt to have your race fee reimbursed by Kitten Rescue
- Meet new friends!

Or, choose to support one of the Kitten Rescue team by making a pledge thru our website.

Now celebrate by making a purr-fect match when you adopt a new feline friend.

Abby Tabby is a remarkable cat in the prime of life, with an especially affectionate, alert, sweet, and companionable nature, calm yet curious, and very smart. She was turned into the shelter while pregnant and gave birth there to 3 beautiful kittens this past spring, and lovingly nursed them for 6 months. She was a wonderful and capable momcat. Now Abby Tabby needs a home of her own. She loves toys, treats, and sleeping on the bed with her family, and that could include another cat, although she would likely do fine as an only cat too. She can be vocal at times, with an endearing, little, unusual sound. Abby Tabby has another unique feature: her gorgeous kaleidoscopic

eyes, with many shades of green and gold.

Orlando was rescued by a good Samaritan after he showed up on their doorstep... skinny, cold, and hungry. Orlando is a total dreamboat with his soft, mildly fluffy fur and adorable markings. He loves little more than to cuddle on your lap and hang out. Orlando is a playful, fun loving kitty with a giant purr. He has made friends with his fellow foster kittens, especially the tortie Marilyn. Orlando would do best in a home where someone is home a lot because he loves human company more than anything in the world. He is great with kids and other cats once he knows them. Due to his age, he should be adopted with another kitty companion that will play and cuddle with him. Sweeter than sugar, this handsome boy



Orlando

is great for just about any family.

Marilyn was rescued with her siblings, Tom Kitten and Banshee, when she was just 3 1/2 weeks old. Her mother had left the trio under a BBQ, where they were fortunate to be rescued from. Since they were bottle fed until old enough to be weaned, these kittens are incredibly sweet, loving, and super people friendly. Marilyn is a dainty little fuzzball with the longest hair in her ears. She is mildly fluffy and so incredibly soft. She loves to be pet, cuddle, and basically spend her time hanging out with you. Marilyn enjoys playing with toys and wrestling with her siblings as well. She's a little more mellow than her brother Tom Kitten, but can also hold her own when he gets a bit rough. You could say, that she is the baby of this trio. Marilyn would make a fabulous companion for any young kitty or calmer kitten. She must be adopted either with a sibling, fellow young kitty, or to a home with a young resident cat who will wrestle and play with her when she wants.

Tom Kitten is your typical stereotypically male kitten - boisterous and fun with big paws and a lot of personality. He loves to cuddle on your lap and purr up a storm. Toys are a huge hit and he has yet to meet anyone he didn't like. He can get a bit rough with his sisters at times, but they can hold their own against him. He loves to burrow under blankets and tends to sleep sprawled out wherever he can fit on you. Tom Kitten would make a fabulous playmate for any young energetic kitty or kitten. He must be adopted either with a sibling, fellow young kitty, or to a home with a young playful resident cat who will romp, wrestle, and roll with him all day



Tom Kitten



Jem

Banshee is the talker of the group - never afraid to let you know if you've disturbed her sleep, or not been fast enough with feeding her. She isn't a chatter box or always making noise, but pick her up and she'll "cry", move her and she'll "cry", talk to her and she'll "cry". She is super affectionate and once she's comfortable you better not move or she'll give you an earful. Banshee is definitely the boss and a tiny Alpha personality in the making. This tiny girl is going to be in charge of whatever household she enters. Banshee would make a fabulous companion for any young kitty or kitten willing to let her be the boss. She must be adopted a young kitty, or to a home with a young resident cat.

Jem may be the most awesome kitty you'll ever meet. Or at least that's what the people who meet him at adoption events say. He gets a lot of compliments on his looks, but more importantly on his personality. Jem is a very loving, playful, energetic and outgoing boy who enjoys affection. He likes being petted and purrs very loudly to show you his appreciation. This sociable boy gets along well with other boy and girl kitties and adapts to new environments easily. His favorite games are kitty-soccer and trying to catch stringy toys. As a stray, teeny-tiny kitten all by himself on the streets of Istanbul, Turkey, Jem was rescued by a nice lady who brought him to Los Angeles. Jem is looking forward to finding his forever home and sharing lots of love and happiness with you.

These cats and kittens are available for adoption through Kitten Rescue, one of the largest cat rescue groups in Southern California. All of our kitties are spayed/neutered, microchipped, tested for FeLV and FIV, dewormed and current on their vaccinations. For additional information and to see our other kitties, please check our website www.kittenrescue.org or email us at mail@kittenrescue.org. Your tax deductible donations for the rescue and care of our cats and kittens can be made through our website or by sending a check payable to Kitten Rescue, 914 Westwood Blvd. #583, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

On Saturdays, we have adoptions from noon to 3:30 p.m. in Westchester at 8655 Lincoln Blvd. just south of Manchester Ave. and also in Mar Vista at 3860 Centinela Ave, just south of Venice Boulevard. Our website lists additional adoption sites and directions to each location.



Marilyn Tom, and Banshee (left to right)



Banshee

*Be kind.
Save a life.
Support animal rescue.*