[MS-0398.040.009.010]

CITY-COUNTY REINVESTMENT TASK FORCE

Jim Bliesner • Reinvestment Director

September 17, 1991

TO: Maureen Stapleton
Assistant City Manager

FROM: Jim Bliesner

ATTACHED NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Attached is a newspaper article recently printed in the *San Diego Tribune* (9-9-91). It discusses the Bank of America/Security Pacific merger and the role of the Reinvestment Task Force. A primary thrust of the article is generated by City Economic Development staff (Mark Sullivan). Essentially, his orientation is highly critical of the performance of the Task Force.

As you are aware, the Task Force is a product of the City Council and the Board of Supervisors. It is chaired by a Councilman (Filner) and a Supervisor (Williams). It is funded by the Housing Commission and the County. It has five lenders and five community organizations on it. It has a budget of $70,000 with one staff person. No City funding is currently provided for Task Force activities.

The Task Force has an admirable record and is being used as a model in many other cities. The Task Force works with City agencies, community groups, County government, federal regulators and many banks. It has generated millions of dollars in lending and grants to City groups.

A public attack of a committee chaired by an elected representative with volunteer citizen involvement is a serious breach of appropriate public employee responsibility, manners and authority. It is particularly inappropriate on the heels of behavior by the same staff person in Task Force meetings that has been consistently abrasive, inconsiderate and discourteous to members. I have mentioned this on more than one occasion to his supervisor, but it has escalated. It now occurs in print on the financial page. In addition, it has come to our attention that Mr. Sullivan, representing the City Manger's Office, has attended many public meetings and criticizes the Task Force as part of his presentation.

I believe there is room for differences on strategy, priorities, etc. of public efforts. My previous experience with your office have left room for discussion and resolution of those differences. They do not show up in the press.

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I believe that Mr. Sullivan should be reprimanded and that an apology is due the Task Force for unwarranted criticism against its members.

Your consideration of this matter is appreciated.

JIM BLIESNER
Reinvestment Director

JB:dw

Attachment

cc: Councilman Filner
Supervisor Williams
City Manager Jack McGrory
Curt Chilcott

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