

Mayor Gives In To Sons of Bitches

City Explodes With Dissension – Parks Loses Respect

Desert Hot Springs, CA – Last week it was a rancorous city council meeting announcing an important shift in leadership as the mayor Yvonne Parks was defeated by council members Russell Betts, Adam Sanchez and Jan Pye after a laboriously long council meeting leveraged by a filibuster to win a dispute over assignments.

What is normally a routine process was turned into a personal vendetta by the mayor against Betts and Sanchez as Parks continues to fan the flames in a losing battle attempting to hold onto her regal power that is slipping away.

At the previous city council meeting Parks said to Pye that Betts and Sanchez were “the sons of bitches” in a caustic remark recorded by council microphones, broadcast on television, immortalized on the video replay on the city website and replayed in the daily newspaper, The Desert Sun.

Although Parks offered an apology that her remarks went public, she seemed insincere, condescending, and only annoyed her remarks were caught by the microphone.

Continuing to pick at the sore – at the most recent council meeting – Parks further attempted to cripple Betts and Sanchez by withholding valuable committee assignments in an obvious disregard for egalitarianism.

Although the entire council, along with the city manager, had spent an entire day the previous weekend “goal setting,” and had agreed to work together without conflict, the mayor continued displaying a short-sighted selfish disregard for protocol, policy, and fairness.

Instead of magnanimously assigning committee assignments, Parks appeared to be trying to punish Betts and Sanchez for winning the November election.

With a new council leadership emerging as a result of the unholy alliance of Betts, Sanchez and Pye, in the end, Parks suffered a stunning and self-admitted defeat leaving her on the losing end with the lonely weak support of councilman Scott Matas. When push came to shove, it was the saving grace of swing vote council member Jan Pye scoring a victory for common sense.

It was a jaw dropping meeting as Betts used the tools of Roberts Rules of Order to move the ball towards the goal line. After four years playing on the defense, often alone, often right, and too often unfairly vilified, it was obvious at this meeting that Betts completely mystified councilman Matas while running circles around him with a mastery of meeting protocol. This left Matas fuming and whining like a spoiled child whose favorite toy had been taken away.

Unwavering in reaching his objective, naturally clear and concise, Sanchez emerged as a new civic leader with an unwavering vision introducing unity in bringing discernment to a council that has been bereft of common sense and rudderless in a sea of discontent. What was once a vacuum has been filled by a man exuding confidence and a sharp mind with attention to detail.

In the beginning, Parks said she wanted the meeting to end by seven. One hour and seven minutes into the meeting, Mayor Parks launched her arsenal of antagonism, exploding the bombshell of committee



The Royal Mayor Yvonne Parks on her throne for her 75th birthday party - a fundraiser for her recent re-election

assignments, leaving Betts and Sanchez out in the cold with either no committee assignments or weak ones.

Unfortunately for Parks she met a brick wall of resistance as Betts and Sanchez respectfully and smartly used the process of democratic principals to filibuster the meeting, wrangling concessions and achieving a victory over the iron rule of the mayor who has frequently referred to herself as a queen.

This left council watchers wondering if what happened at that meeting might really be a changing of the guard, the civic revolution long wanted, not an aberration, but signaling a real and enduring enlightenment, an embracing of justice, and a step in the right direction for a change.

Ultimately government leaders cannot forever withstand revolutionary reform. Although then it was a debate, today few argue against the wisdom of our founding fathers exiting "Good King George." So too must a queen one day resign herself to the fact that democracy prevails in America.

While the last meeting gave hope signaling the dawn of a new day for Desert Hot Springs, the endurance of that light is resting on the wise shoulders of Pye and those glorious "sons of bitches" Sanchez and Betts.

photo by Bruce Montgomery

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