

## **BLUE FOLDER ITEM**

*Blue folder items are additional back up material to administrative reports and/or public comments received after the printing and distribution of the agenda packet for receive and file.*

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 20, 2026**

### **J.1 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

- PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

# PUBLIC COMMENT

To the Honorable Mayor and Members of the Redondo Beach City Council:

We write to formally clarify and expand upon a complaint concerning unethical conduct by members of the Redondo Beach Police Department and the Redondo Beach City Attorney's Office that appears to violate Police Department policy, California law, and California election law. This is not the first complaint of this nature concerning City employees, specifically police officers and demand that the complaint be investigated.

This complaint specifically concerns a political campaign mailer sent by then-Assistant City Attorney Joy Ford, entitled **"We Support Joy Ford."**

The mailer depicts two Redondo Beach Police Department officers in police uniform, with their badges and official City of Redondo Beach shoulder patches clearly visible. The reverse side of the mailer depicts then-City Attorney Michael Webb, appearing in what is reasonably understood to be an official City photograph, joining the officers in endorsing Ms. Ford.

To be clear:

We do not dispute that Ms. Ford had every legal right to seek endorsements. We also recognize that police unions, individual officers acting strictly in a private capacity, and City Attorneys may express political support as allowed by law.

What is impermissible—and what forms the basis of this complaint—is the implication created by deed, imagery, and official symbolism that City employees, while on duty or acting in their official capacities, endorsed a candidate using City resources.

The use of official police uniforms, badges, City insignia, and what appears to be City-funded photography creates a false and misleading representation of institutional endorsement by the City of Redondo Beach and its Police Department. This is precisely the type of conduct California law prohibits.

This matter is especially troubling given the positions held by the attorneys involved.

The City Attorney was an elected official at the time of the conduct, entrusted directly by the electorate with safeguarding the City's legal integrity. The Assistant City Attorney was herself seeking elected office. Both individuals knew—or unquestionably should have known—that their conduct would be scrutinized under election law, ethics rules, and statutes governing the use of public resources.

By virtue of their professional status as attorneys, their duties go far beyond those of ordinary City employees. City Attorneys are routinely called upon to provide legal advice on a myriad of issues, including election law, conflicts of interest, misuse of public resources, and ethical compliance. They also have immediate access to specialized outside counsel in areas of election law and government ethics.

JAN 7 2026 AM10:59  
RECD CITY CLERKS OFF.

Against that backdrop, it is not credible to suggest that these attorneys were unaware of the legal boundaries governing the use of official uniforms, insignia, City imagery, or the appearance of institutional endorsement in political campaigns. If anything, their roles imposed a heightened obligation to avoid even the appearance of impropriety.

The participation of City Attorneys in campaign materials that reasonably imply official City endorsement raises serious concerns not merely of error, but of disregard for legal and ethical constraints they are professionally obligated to enforce.

The mailer appears to violate multiple provisions of law, including but not limited to:

- A. **Government Code §8314**, prohibiting the use of public resources for political or personal purposes
- B. **Elections Code §18320**, prohibiting misuse of official authority to influence an election
- C. **Elections Code §18203**, prohibiting conspiracy to violate election laws
- D. **Elections Code §§20010 and 20202**, addressing false or misleading representations in campaign materials
- E. **Penal Code §115.2**, prohibiting false representations or instruments made or used in an official capacity

The three photographs used strongly appear to be official City photographs, taken in official settings and using official uniforms and insignia—resources paid for by taxpayers. Their use in a campaign mailer conveys an implied City endorsement and misleads the public.

Even if the City were to argue that the monetary cost of the photographs was minimal, the greater harm is the loss of public trust and the erosion of the firewall between government authority and political campaigning.

It is public knowledge that a formal complaint was submitted months ago against the two officers, the City Attorney, and the then-Assistant City Attorney. While the officers were investigated and allegedly disciplined internally—apparently only for policy violations—the City Attorney and Assistant City Attorney have not been held publicly accountable.

This disparity is particularly troubling given that City Attorneys are officers of the court. Unlike sworn officers, they knew or should have known that the conduct at issue implicated election law and potential criminal exposure. Their professional obligations required heightened caution, not participation.

It appears that the City Council initiated an “investigation” with the engagement of an outside law firm. Interestingly that particular law firm has previously represented the City which—particularly where the City Attorney controls outside counsel selection—creates a serious appearance of conflict of interest. More concerning, the firm investigating this matter knew or should have known that the allegations carried potential criminal implications.

An internal or contracted civil investigation does not have jurisdiction to investigate criminal violations. At minimum, the firm should have advised the City that the matter required referral to

appropriate governmental agencies for independent investigation. Continuing to expend taxpayer funds on an investigation that lacks jurisdiction, while criminal statutes may be implicated, is itself troubling.

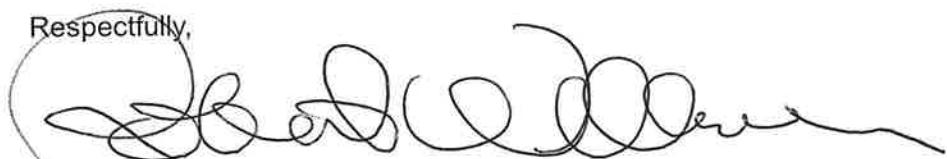
The prolonged delay—especially when contrasted with the timely police investigation—raises legitimate concern that accountability is being avoided through inaction and the running of statutes of limitation.

As a City Council, you have an affirmative duty to safeguard the City from liability and protect the integrity of public institutions. Accordingly, we demand that the City act in the following manner: Provide a public update, in open session, on the status of the investigation into the City Attorney and former Assistant City Attorney, Disclose whether potential criminal violations were identified and, if so, whether referrals were made to appropriate authorities, Explain the disparity in investigative timelines between sworn officers and City attorneys, Confirm that statutes of limitation are being preserved, Reaffirm, through written policy and enforcement, that City uniforms, badges, insignia, photographs, and official representations may never be used in political campaigning

We support City employees who act in the best interests of Redondo Beach—not those who leverage public office, authority, or taxpayer-funded resources for personal or political gain. Continued delay and silence only compound liability and deepen public mistrust.

This matter requires immediate, transparent, and decisive action.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Doe".

**For transparency, copies of this correspondence are being provided to:**

- Los Angeles County District Attorney – Public Integrity Division
- California State Bar
- Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC)
- Los Angeles Times
- Daily Breeze

**FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AT COUNCIL MEETING**

**PLEASE DISTRIBUTE A COPY TO INVOLVED PARTIES**

To the Honorable Mayor and Members of the Redondo Beach City Council,  
City Manager, Police Chief, City Attorney, and City Clerk:

We submit this letter as a formal complaint concerning the improper use of City resources, police uniforms, City insignia, and sworn personnel in campaign literature distributed in connection with the **March 2025 municipal election**. The conduct described below reflects clear violations of California law, City policy, and fundamental ethical standards applicable to elected officials and public employees.

What is especially concerning—and frankly appalling—is that this incident involves the **Mayor**, the City's highest elected official and the individual charged with representing the entire Redondo Beach community. The Mayor is not merely a participant in civic life; the Mayor sets the tone for lawful, ethical, and accountable governance.

When the Mayor appears in campaign materials alongside uniformed police officers and City equipment, the resulting message to the public is unmistakable: that City authority, resources, and personnel are being leveraged for political gain. This undermines public confidence not only in the election process, but in the integrity of City government itself.

Even more troubling is the fact that **to date, no visible or meaningful action has been taken** to address this conduct.

If an internal investigation exists, it has not been disclosed to the public, nor has any timeline or outcome been communicated. From the outside, it appears there may be a **concerted effort to stall or prolong any inquiry**, raising legitimate concern that delay is being used as a tactic to allow the **statute of limitations for potential criminal or election-law violations to expire**.

Such an approach—if occurring—would represent a profound failure of leadership and a breach of the City's obligation to act promptly when potential misconduct by elected officials and sworn personnel is identified.

Selective delay is not neutrality. It is complicity.

The City Attorney had—and continues to have—an affirmative duty to recognize when allegations extend beyond administrative or policy violations and into **potential criminal or**

**election-law territory.** In such circumstances, the City Attorney **must refer the matter to the Los Angeles County District Attorney** or another appropriate independent investigative authority.

This duty is especially clear here because **there is already a similar, pending complaint involving the police officers association and the City Attorney's Office itself.** Under those circumstances, any internal handling of this matter by City-selected counsel lacks credibility and independence.

The failure to refer this matter externally raises serious questions about whether the City Attorney is protecting the City—or protecting individuals.

For clarity, the conduct at issue occurred during the **March 2025 election cycle.** This is not a historical matter nor a technical oversight. Numerous public discussions, complaints, and prior incidents involving similar misuse of City resources were already known to City leadership.

Accordingly, the **City Council, City Manager, City Attorney, and Police Department leadership knew or reasonably should have known** of this conduct. If leadership was aware and failed to act, that failure itself constitutes neglect of duty. If leadership claims ignorance, that failure of oversight is equally alarming. Either scenario demands immediate scrutiny.

It may be asserted that this endorsement was made on behalf of the police association. That assertion is legally and ethically irrelevant.

Even when a labor organization endorses a candidate, **individual officers may not wear official uniforms, display badges, patches, or insignia, or utilize City equipment** in campaign materials. The wearing of a police uniform—particularly in public—creates an unmistakable impression that the officer is on duty, regardless of how the activity is later characterized.

The community is well aware of the Redondo Beach Police uniform. Even if badges or patches were obscured, the uniform itself communicates official authority. A reasonable person would conclude the officers were acting in an official capacity.

If the intent was private political speech, the officers should have appeared **in civilian clothing**, or the campaign should have included **clear, prominent disclaimers**. None were provided.

An officer operating a City-owned police motorcycle is considered **on duty for liability purposes**, regardless of post hoc explanations. The City cannot selectively redefine duty status to avoid accountability.

The conduct appears to violate, at minimum:

- Government Code §8314

- Elections Code §§18203, 18320, 20010, 20202
- Penal Code §115.2

The issue is not cost. The issue is integrity, legality, and public trust.

The City Council and City Manager must immediately:

- Refer this matter to the **Los Angeles County District Attorney**
- Publicly disclose whether any internal investigation exists and its status
- Preserve all evidence to prevent statute-of-limitations manipulation
- Clearly prohibit the use of City uniforms, vehicles, insignia, or property in campaigns
- Hold leadership accountable for failure to intervene

When the Mayor is involved, the standard must be higher—not lower. Silence, delay, and selective enforcement signal to the public that political power outweighs the rule of law. That perception is devastating to civic trust.

This matter requires immediate, transparent, and decisive action.

Respectfully,

Concerned Redondo Beach Citizens

Our concern of retaliation does not minimize the conduct

**Copies provided for transparency to:**

Los Angeles County District Attorney – Public Integrity Division  
Los Angeles Times  
Daily Breeze  
Social Media Platforms

## For Public Comment at the City Council Meeting

To the Honorable Mayor, City Council and Chief of Police,

We are writing as residents and Military Veterans, who strongly support our police officers and value the important work they perform every day. Law enforcement represents the City in every public appearance, and community members consistently look to our officers as symbols of professionalism, authority, and civic pride.

However, during the Veterans Day public event, several members of the Redondo Beach Police Department appeared in uniform in a manner that did not reflect the professional standards the community had come to expect. Multiple officers were noticeably overweight, and their uniforms lacked a sharp, polished, and clean appearance. While some may view these as small details, uniform presentation and personal bearing significantly influence the public's perception of the Department as a whole.

What is especially concerning is that some of the individuals were police supervisors. Supervisors set the tone and standard for the rank and file and represent the Department to the community. When leadership displays a lack of attention to grooming, physical fitness, and uniform standards, it sends a message that these expectations are not being upheld within the organization. Several Veterans and other people near me commented that this was not the first time they had observed obese and unkempt Officers, making this an ongoing concern rather than a single incident.

Professional presence is not simply about appearance—it represents discipline, readiness, pride, and respect for the badge, the uniform, the organization, and the community they serve. When officers present themselves in a manner that does not meet these standards, it undermines public confidence, especially among residents who view the Police Department as the first line of stability and security in the City.

This feedback is offered as a reminder that:

- The uniform is a symbol of public trust
- Every officer, at any rank and at any event, represents the entire Department
- Professional appearance affects morale, community confidence, and departmental reputation

- The public expects—and deserves—a high standard of presentation from those who serve in uniform

We respectfully request that the Department reemphasize the following:

1. **Uniform and grooming standards for all public events**, including maintained equipment and a professional, clean appearance
2. **Physical readiness and fitness expectations**, which affect public confidence, officer safety, and the physical health of the officer
3. **Supervisory review prior to reporting for duty**, ensuring the Department puts forward its strongest professional image
4. **Leadership accountability in addressing conduct and appearance issues**, regardless of rank

The men and women of the Redondo Beach Police Department carry significant responsibility, and maintaining high standards strengthens public support, enhances legitimacy, and reinforces the pride and professionalism associated with wearing the uniform. Numerous Redondo Beach officers hold themselves to extremely high standards, and they deserve better leadership that represents them accordingly.

The public deserves a police department that reflects competence, pride, discipline, and readiness at every level. At present, the image being presented does not communicate that—and many residents have noticed.

I hope this concern is taken seriously and addressed promptly.

Respectfully,

William Colon

District 3 Residents

**For Public Comment at the City Council Meeting**

**From:** [Khatirah Nazif](#)  
**To:** [Khatirah Nazif](#)  
**Subject:** FW: PUBLIC COMMENT - PRIVATE CLUB NON-DISCRIMINATION ON PUBLIC COASTAL ZONE LAND Fwd: CPRA Request  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 20, 2026 12:59:25 PM

---

**From:** Mark Nelson (Home Gmail) <[menelson@gmail.com](mailto:menelson@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 17, 2026 1:21 PM  
**To:** CityClerk <[CityClerk@redondo.org](mailto:CityClerk@redondo.org)>  
**Cc:** Joy Ford <[joy.ford@redondo.org](mailto:joy.ford@redondo.org)>; mike.witzanzky@redondo.org; Scott Behrendt <[Scott.Behrendt@redondo.org](mailto:Scott.Behrendt@redondo.org)>; Zein Obagi <[Zein.Obagi@redondo.org](mailto:Zein.Obagi@redondo.org)>; James Light <[james.light@redondo.org](mailto:james.light@redondo.org)>  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT - PRIVATE CLUB NON-DISCRIMINATION ON PUBLIC COASTAL ZONE LAND Fwd: CPRA Request

***CAUTION: Email is from an external source; Stop, Look, and Think before opening attachments or links.***

Public Comment Mayor and Council:

I'm concerned that the private California Surf club's membership process may be in violation of California law and rulings. I'm even MORE CONCERNED that the City has NO documents that demonstrate that the Surf Club is fully compliant. I realize a number of lawyers have been spanked for using AI for legal research, but I'm a mere property owner and AI subscriber with no limitations on AI use. The way that I read this, the Surf Club seems non-compliant and the City caused the non-compliance by failing to enforce state law and legal precedents.

None of us like having the City get sued, so perhaps the City needs to take a more proactive approach on this contract and lease from the prior City Attorney.

A plain English reading of the arbitrary restrictions on membership (see below) in a Coastal Zone publicly leased facility appear to restrict access for membership to "south bay" residents and a host of other arbitrary conditions. First come, first serve must be required on Coastal Zone leases. Agree? And if not, what analysis does the City have to contradict Coastal Act by affirmatively allowing a lessee to limit coastal access?

In  
[California](#)

, a private club generally **cannot** use discriminatory or arbitrary membership selection processes if it utilizes leased public facilities, especially within the California Coastal Zone.

## 1. The "Business Establishment" Rule (Unruh Act)

The [Unruh Civil Rights Act](#) (Civil Code § 51) prohibits all "business establishments" from discriminating based on race, sex, religion, and other protected characteristics.

- **Expansion to Private Clubs:** The California Supreme Court ruled in *Warfield v. Peninsula Golf & Country Club* (1995) that most private clubs are considered "business establishments" if they engage in commercial activities, such as hosting non-member events or receiving significant revenue from business activities.
- **Arbitrary Selection:** The Unruh Act prohibits "arbitrary discrimination," meaning clubs cannot use subjective or "vague" criteria to exclude individuals based on protected status.

## 2. Use of Public Facilities and Land

Leasing public land or using government facilities triggers additional anti-discrimination mandates:

- **Government Code § 11135:** Prohibits discrimination in any program or activity that is conducted by the state, funded by the state, or receives financial assistance from the state.
- **State Action:** Under the "state action" doctrine, a private entity leasing public property may be legally viewed as an extension of the state. Because the state itself cannot discriminate, it cannot lease land to a club that does.

## 3. Coastal Zone Specifics (Jonathan Club Ruling)

The **California Coastal Commission** has specific authority to regulate membership policies for clubs in the Coastal Zone.

- **Development Permits:** In the landmark case *Jonathan Club v. California Coastal Commission*, the court upheld the Commission's power to require a club to pledge it would **not discriminate** as a condition for receiving a development permit on leased public beach property.
- **Public Access Mandate:** **The California Coastal Act mandates "maximum public access" to the coast. Any exclusionary membership practice on**

**public coastal land is viewed as a violation of this core mandate.**

## Summary of Legal Constraints

Factor	Legal Constraint
<b>Club Type</b>	Most social clubs are "business establishments" subject to the Unruh Act.
<b>Public Leases</b>	Leases often contain anti-discrimination clauses; even if missing, state law prohibits discrimination on state-funded/leased property.
<b>Coastal Zone</b>	The <a href="#">Coastal Commission</a> can mandate non-discriminatory membership as a permit condition.
<b>Arbitrary Committees</b>	Membership committees cannot use selection processes that result in arbitrary discrimination against protected groups.

From the Surf Club membership publications

A social club designed for work and play.

Home  
Reservations  
Menu  
About  
Values  
Membership  
Events  
Contact

Please find the available memberships below, along with corresponding amenities, rates, and privileges. Please note that Memberships may be limited due to a maximum quantity of memberships set to ensure the tranquility and comfort of the California Surf Club. For this reason, all membership applications will be time-stamped and considered as such.

131443787\_m\_normal\_none.png

Classic Membership  
Standard Membership

The Classic Membership is our standard membership package, which is currently on Waiting List Status. This membership is for those that want to participate in the energy and stoke of the club,

and enjoy the amenities of membership. Classic Memberships Phase I & Phase II are both Sold Out, and Phase III Membership is currently in Waiting List Status. Thank you for your patience as we begin to open membership approvals up this month.

[Apply Now](#)

[See Amenities & Pricing](#)

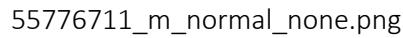
[JUNIOR Membership](#)

[Accepting Applications](#)

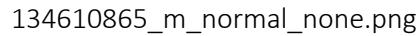
Very important to the value system of the California Surf Club is the sense of tribe & community, and without young people to carry on our values & traditions, we have nothing. For this reason, we have decided to open up a new class of memberships to young beachlife individuals under 34 years of age that are making their way in the world, building their lives, but are not quite ready for the financial commitment of belonging to a club. Club membership will include significant rate reductions, and allow us to build and foster the next generation of ocean-loving individuals doing good things at the California Surf Club. Coming November 1st, 2025.

[Apply Now](#)

[See Amenities & Pricing](#)



[NEW](#)



[Ambassador Membership](#)

[Community Leaders](#)

In every community, there are individuals that stand out as leaders, exemplifying the values that we strive to live by. It is those individuals that we as a community desire to surround ourselves with, to make ourselves better, to reach a little higher, to accomplish a little bit extra. We have chosen several individuals in our community to be Ambassadors to the California Surf Club, such as USA Gold Medalist Eric Fonoimoana, surfer Chris Frohoff, and legendary local Annie Seawright. If you know someone that fits this description, we'd love to consider them as an Ambassador to our club & culture.

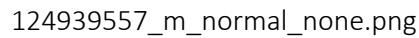
[Apply or Refer Someone](#)

[Groundswell Membership](#)

[Exemplary Community Members](#)

At California Surf Club, we are committed to building a vibrant community that lives and demonstrates our values, and our goal for this program is to offer membership to people within the Redondo Beach area who may otherwise may NOT have the means to join.

[Apply Now](#)



The Groundswell Membership candidate lives the California Surf Club values, they demonstrate the following attributes, and all applications will be considered based on the following criteria:

- > Candidate lives the beach lifestyle, and embrace the unique culture, spirit, and activities that come with living near the ocean.
- > Candidate is inclusive and curious, looking to learn from, collaborate with, and celebrate others.
- > Candidate is deeply rooted in the community and actively give back.
- > Candidate possesses unyielding integrity. Honesty, transparency, and ethical behavior are a must at CSC.
- > Candidate is a steward of the environment and are committed to participating in CASC philanthropic and environmental events.

Groundswell memberships have the same rights and privileges as a Classic Member, but are limited to the Individual membership type, and will be chosen on application merit through an application process. Memberships are valid for 12 months, renewable annually only through the Membership Committee. Requirements for a Groundswell membership are that the applicant is:

Over the age of 21

Lives in the South Bay

From RB CPRA Response Unit

Good afternoon,

In response to your California Public Records Act request received by the City of Redondo Beach on January 12, 2026, **there are no responsive records.**

This notification is autogenerated; please do not respond to this email.

Please respond directly to Laura Diaz at [Laura.Diaz@Redondo.org](mailto:Laura.Diaz@Redondo.org) or via phone at (310) 697-3181.

Best regards,

Valentine Gonzales  
Program Coordinator  
City of Redondo Beach  
(310) 697-3179

Valentine.Gonzales@Redondo.org

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mark Nelson (Home Gmail)** <[menelson@gmail.com](mailto:menelson@gmail.com)>

Date: Sat, Jan 10, 2026 at 2:17 PM

Subject: CPRA Request

To: Eleanor Manzano <[cityclerk@redondo.org](mailto:cityclerk@redondo.org)>

Please provide documents or links to documents that demonstrate that the California Surf Club which leases public, coastal zone land from the City is fully compliant with all required non-discriminatory requirements and oversight in its private membership selection process.