



La Jollans for Clean Government, Inc.

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***PRESS RELEASE/ FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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## **LA JOLLA CITIZENS WATCHDOG GROUP INVESTIGATES PARKING BOARD**

**La Jolla, California-** La Jollans for Clean Government, Inc., a nonprofit corporation formed by concerned La Jollans to combat corruption and conflict of interest in local government boards and commissions, is investigating allegations of conflict of interest and disclosure violations associated with the La Jolla Community Parking District Advisory Board (“Parking Board”) and has requested that the City Attorney’s office assume responsibility for providing legal advice to the Parking Board.

Until this point the Board has been relying on private attorney Leslie Devaney for advice. Devaney is also the personal attorney of Chairman Peter Wagener as well as Promote La Jolla, Inc., the corporation that contracted with the City of San Diego to create and administer the Parking Board. In the past Promote La Jolla has refused to allow members of the public to review its financial documentation, stating that it is a “private organization” even though it is funded entirely by City business license fees.

The Parking Board is now considering a controversial plan to install parking meters in the village of La Jolla. The Chairman, and possibly other board members, own underground parking garages which would benefit from this plan. Nevertheless, the members have refused and continue to refuse to file disclosures required by applicable law, known as “Statements of Economic Interest” under the California Government Code. The Statements of Economic Interest oblige Board members to disclose their ownership of business and other interests that might be affected by decisions they make while serving on the Board.

Public service entails honor and trust. The Parking Board should welcome, not resist, disclosure requirements showing that they serve the public interest, not their own. If the Board members continue to oppose disclosure of their financial interests relating to the Board’s activities, the public will have no other impression but that the Board members have something to hide.

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