

Date: August 11, 2021
To: LACSD Board and LA County Supervisors
From: Friends of Wilmington Athletic Complex.

Dear LACSD Board,

This letter is from a community member, not from the WJF. Below are three texts that are representative of the undermining and ongoing abuse and obstruction by the so called "Friends of the Wilmington Sports Complex."

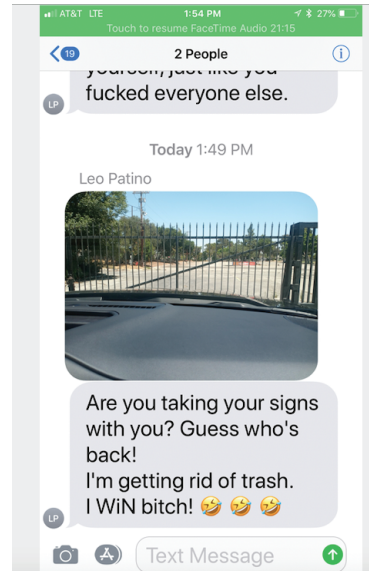
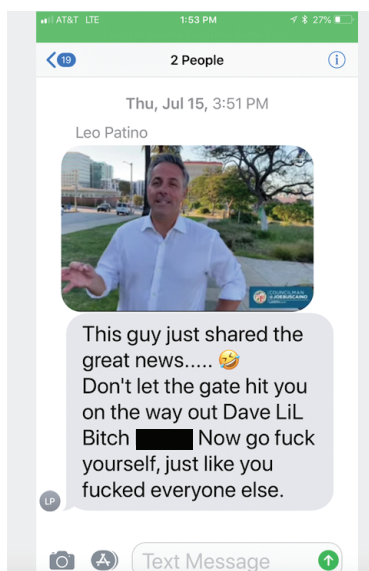
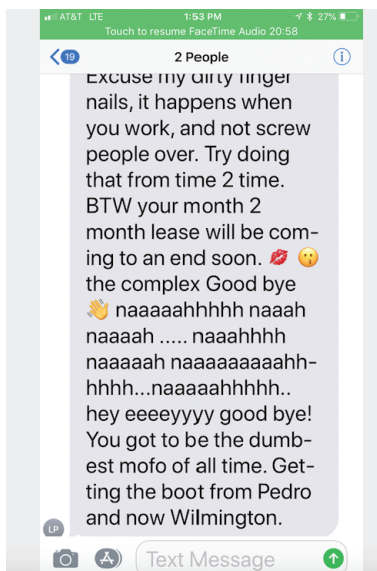
In this case below, one of many examples of one of the thieves being let back onto the property that the WJF had to remove as a result of compliance and theft, including filing police reports. Another tenant publicly claiming the WAC Executive Director is a racist - only to serve his narrative for the tenant benefit of his organization and the so-called Friends of Wilmington Sports Complex. LACSD Leadership has been extremely compromised and requires hearings and public discourse before any other decisions are made. This includes any Lease takeover. Dirty bathrooms, unfinished snackbar and any lack of improvements point directly to very provable City and County Government obstruction.

The integrity of your Board decision of approving a mismanaged property, not by the WJF, but by LACSD, and the pressure by the City of LA's Councilmember and staff in the 15th District will be challenged in Federal Court. Not by the WJF, but by the Wilmington Community who you supposedly serve. However, the Board - with the recommendation of Robert Ferrante and the Facilities team - including a renegade CAC Board member Norma Pedregon, and a fired USC Official has greenlit the Wilmington Athletic Complex to become a Political Platform, not a Recreational Platform. A generational issue has been created by Government employees in over their head, who have also taken advantage of the ill created by a Pandemic and illegal, manipulative behaviors - beyond the allure of a corrupt USC and "Throws Team" - Olympic hopefuls on location. What's net is NOT a win for Wilmington.

We already have Olympic hopefuls from the community on the grounds, WJF via the Vince Ferragamo Foundation already had the financial resources to make improvements, turf, light and build structures. My (proven) work for multiple Olympics runs circles around most of you. The WAC had a very capable individual leading the turnaround and development. You all play a role in the handcuffing of the positive progress.

Many organizations and individuals involved will face approximately 15 illegal counts that the Wilmington community is bringing. As for myself - I support this process of social injustice and I have been directly, negatively affected by this really bad process, and the current status that started before I became involved. And when thugs affect my family's livelihood and give back nature, well, game on. Enough is enough. Everyone gets exposed on this one, and hopefully brought to justice - and will have the chance to defend themselves. This text writer, a representative of the "Friends of" will be able to display his leadership on the witness stand, depositions, documentation and with any luck, a cross-examination - along with each of you.

Sadly, Board, you relied on the wrong, compromised sources for the best path to leading on the WAC matter. You have entirely missed the Wintegrity, Winspiration and Winvestment as it was clouded by your own members and tax payer funded thugs. Joe - you, Jacob, Fernando and Gabby really, really blew it on this one. Your best path is resignation, as you and "Team Buscaino" have now led Mayors of other cities down your path of corruption and liability, plus a County agency which could use some reform after your unfortunate, unmistakable leadership mistakes.



July 13, 2021

Los Angeles County Sanitation District Board of Directors

Reference: Wilmington Athletic Complex, the LA Park of Champions

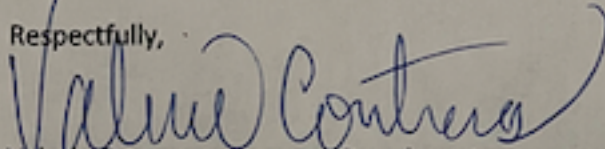
Honorable leaders,

Thank you for your service to our area.

I write to urge you to please extend the public comment period regarding the Wilmington Athletic Complex to allow for greater community engagement.

I served on the Wilmington Neighborhood Councils for 5 years and as the former President and representative of Wilmington, I know how important it is to get public input on large scale community projects. Please consider holding a meeting at a time that is more suitable to engage the stakeholders. Our community is a union community who work mostly in the field with no access to computers for day meetings.

Respectfully,



Valerie Contreras, community advocate

USC Trojans

USC reportedly fires Steve Lopes, other athletic department officials



By Alicia de Artola
Jan 14, 2020, 4:25 AM PST



Alicia de Artola/Reign of Troy

Petition to oppose “Friends of the Wilmington Sports Complex”

**Petition in favor of continued lease for the Wilmington Jaycees and/or Vince Ferragamo Foundation
Wilmington Athletic Complex, 1700 South Figueroa Street, Wilmington, CA, 90744**

1. For the last 40 years the Wilmington Jaycee Foundation successfully ran the WAC facility. The first lease was a 30- year lease. Currently, the Jaycees are 7 years into the second 30- year lease with the Los Angeles County Sanitation District.
2. LA County Sanitation District who owns the buffer zone property, wants to terminate the lease. This was primarily due to the pressure by LA City leaders and Council District 15 Staff. The same people who obstructed high level funding and ability to maintain the Complex by the WJF, *adding pressure during the Covid19 Pandemic, and increased LA County Health Orders.*
3. RFP (Request for Proposal of the site) Opportunity involved three groups. Each RFP response included a large investment for improvements.
 - i. “Friends of Wilmington Sports Complex”/ USC Alumni funded non- profit for Track & Field “Throws” competition, They brought in their tenants to replace current tenants, such as Wilmington Juniors Soccer Club (LA Monsters)
 - ii. Vince Ferragamo Foundation, the legacy of the Jaycee Foundation (Vince is our native son)
 - iii. Kix Soccer Centers
4. CD 15 Council member sits on the LA County Sanitation District Board so he proposed that this field be given over to the LA City Recreation & Parks. That way he can have more control and so he can hopefully gain Mayor votes. CD 15 staff member Fernando Navarrette sits on the “Friends of” non-profit, helping push the undermining process and is a **conflict of interest.**
5. USC and CD15 misconduct cannot be adopted in Wilmington. Don’t forget the National Media covered scandals of USC
 - i. Remember the \$1.1-billion-dollar settlement of sexual misconduct involving HUNDREDS of female students.
 - ii. “Friends of” leader Steve Lopes, CAUGHT / FIRED in the USC Varsity Blues scandal- These are the same people behind and leading this proposed takeover of our WAC / Wilmington Jaycees field.
6. What about the future uses of this property once in the hands of the corrupt USC and the Councilman / MAYORAL CANDIDATE? Once the agreement is signed, can they repurpose the land for housing according to the Coastal zone? What kind of housing? What limit to your access, the sports, besides taking away fields? What will our community be left with?
7. Joe Buscaino has already given our Harbor College Sports field parking lot to TINY HOMES for the homeless.
8. Wilmington has no open space for sports and USC wants it for investment? For profit and to raise money for the University?

LA County Sanitation District, We the undersigned, are concerned Residents & Stakeholders who urge you to act now: We oppose the “Friends of the Wilmington Sports Complex lease. Please continue the lease with the Wilmington Jaycees and/or Vince Ferragamo Foundation and save the park for our children!!! They already have a sound community plan. Don’t give in to corrupt politicians, special interests and greed!!

NO!! TO HANDING OFF THIS FIELD TO A CORRUPT NON-PROFIT FOR POLITICAL GAIN!!

NO!! TO THOSE WHO STOPPED THE JAYCEES FOUNDATION DEAD IN THEIR TRACKS FROM MAINTAINING THIS FIELD BY OBSTRUCTING FUNDING, FOR UPGRADES !!!

NO!! TO USC, ROLLING HILLS PREP, BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS, AND THOSE WHO WANT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE WHAT LITTLE WE HAVE FOR THIS COMMUNITY AND GIVE IT TO SOMEONE ELSE FOR UGAIN!! WHAT ABOUT OUR CHILDREN???

NO!!! TO BIG POWER POLITICIANS NO!! TO USC SCANDALISTS!!! NO!!! TO THOSE WHO WANT TO SELL THIS AS A NEW MAKE OVER FOR THE PARK AND NOT FOR WHAT IT REALLY IS!!!!

THE COMMUNITY OF WILMINGTON DESERVES BETTER, IT DESERVES PRESERVATION OF WHAT HAS WORKED AND HAS BENEFITTED THE COMMUNITY FOR DECADES. REMOVE THE HANDCUFFS!

Print First & Last Name: _____ Phone _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Home or E-mail _____ E-mail Address _____

Please drop off or pick-up petitions at 1742 N. Wilmington Blvd. M-F 10-6pm and Sat. 9:30-2:00pms