



QOL-Ventura.org presents

Ventura, California State of the City Address, 2017

In his 2016 State of the City speech, Ventura's Mayor used the imagery of Ventura as a "City at a crossroads". Continuing with this metaphor, the past year has seen our City Council ignore the warning lights, drive blindly through the intersection, smash through a guard rail, and start dragging our community over a cliff."

Is that too much hyperbole for Ventura's current situation? Not when you consider the fact that in our County, Ventura has earned the right to proclaim:

We are #1!



Ventura is #1 in Lack of Public Safety

When competing for tourists or new employers, our Chamber of Commerce can factually claim that Ventura has the highest violent crime rate of any city in the County: earning a national grade of

“D”. 73% of the cities in the US are safer than our community.

Ventura is #1 in Tolerating Crime

No other city’s Municipal Code allows chronic vagrants to commit up to 25 misdemeanors before they’re arrested.



Ventura is #1 in Homelessness

How did our City Council make only the fourth largest city in the County, tie for First Place in per capita homeless population?

First: They ignored all of the sober-living options for the homeless that are

private and no cost to taxpayers.

Second: They chose to spend local tax dollars, give up local control to Federal government policies and institute the failed “wet house” approach to solving homelessness.

Third: They required our police officers to practice baby-soft law enforcement with chronic homeless offenders.

Not surprisingly, the Council’s approach has made Ventura one of the top destinations for vagrants, nation-wide.

Ventura is #1 in Wasting Water Resources and Ruining Our Water Quality



The degree to which the Council has allowed our water situation to be mishandled, is obscene. The City has over-pumped our reservoirs and thus unnecessarily lowered our water quality. The Water Department has manipulated water-level figures to justify raising our water rates. Ventura is the only major city in the County not connected to the failsafe State Water Project, and continues to deny the voters' desire to build a desalination plant.

Ventura is #1 in Wasting Taxpayers' Money

This year saw our City Council waste \$2.3 million on the Harbor Church fiasco. This was followed by another \$1 million loss on the mismanaged Brooks College project. The Council apparently learned NOTHING from either incident, because most recently, they wanted to sell public property downtown for \$24/foot, and purchase comparable land nearby for \$64/foot.



THE BROOKS INSTITUTE IS NO MORE & CLOSES A 70 YEAR CHAPTER IN FORMAL PHOTOGRAPHY EDUCATION



Ventura is #1 in Failing to Maintain Road Construction



Ventura’s version of “carmageddon” will ignite this year on the East Side, when hundreds of new housing units are completed, and thousands of new residents and vehicles move into town. The 2-lane roads surrounding these new developments are already crowded.

The Council has no plan for widening the roads before the gridlock arrives, and no explanation for how a housing boom - and a water shortage will be compatible.

Ventura is #1 in Failing to Complete Public Projects

NO city in the County has spent 12 years (and counting!) to complete its highest profile city park. More than a decade after it opened, one third of Community Park remains unusable weeds and rocks, and the City Council offers no explanation or projected completion date.



Finally, Ventura is #1 in Promoting Alcohol Abuse

Among all County cities, Ventura sponsors the most public drinking activities. The City Council believes that encouraging people to drink excessively while wandering around downtown is a classy and effective way to promote our community, and raise money. The Council must have missed the National Center for Disease Control report that shows every alcoholic drink consumed in a community COSTS that community \$2.05 in lost productivity and extra costs for public safety and social services.



SUMMARY

Last year's State of the City speech rightly declared Ventura's need for a "long-term plan to provide fiscal stability" and maintain our quality of life for generations to come.

The question is, can these goals be accomplished by a City Council whose leadership has resulted in fiscal waste, increased crime and homelessness, mismanaged water resources, inadequate road construction and a steady decline in our quality of life?

Can these goals be accomplished by a City Council that allows unsupervised City Hall managers to operate their departments like private kingdoms?

The answer, emphatically, is NO. The same thinking that CAUSED Ventura's problems will not SOLVE them.

A total change in City leadership is urgently needed. To paraphrase our incoming President-elect Trump, the swamp that is Ventura's City Hall, needs to be drained.

Toward achieving this goal, QOL-Ventura will soon be unveiling "Operation Clean Sweep" – a way to get Ventura the competent and morally strong leadership it needs. With community support, "Operation Clean Sweep" will ensure that NEXT year's "State of the City" Address" will NOT read like THIS one.

Details will be forthcoming.

**Work with QOL-Ventura to
restore Ventura's Quality of Life**

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