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City Council Meeting _____
Item No. _____
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**COMPLAINT, DEMAND FOR ACTION BY CITY OF MURRIETA CITY COUNCIL, AND
NOTICE OF POTENTIAL LITIGATION
REGARDING CITY OF MURRIETA CITY COUNCIL MEMBER LORI STONE**

DECEMBER 4, 2023

SUBMITTED BY:

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ON BEHALF OF:

CONCERNED MURRIETA CITIZENS

*Tiffany & Nalaboff Investigations handled the email transmission of this document and has not provided any investigation services related to this matter. Tiffany & Nalaboff did not participate in any way with the material expressed herein.

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TO: Tiffany Israel, City Attorney, City of Murrieta, email: tisrael@awattorneys.com
CC: Lisa DeForest, Mayor, City of Murrieta, email: ldeforest@MurrietaCA.gov
CC: Lori Stone, Mayor Pro Tempore, City of Murrieta, email: lstone@MurrietaCA.gov
CC: Cindy Warren, City Council Member, City of Murrieta, email: cwarren@MurrietaCA.gov
CC: Ron Holliday, City Council Member, City of Murrieta, email: rholliday@MurrietaCA.gov
CC: Jon Levell, City Council Member, City of Murrieta, email: Jlevell@MurrietaCA.gov

SENT VIA: Email Transmission

OVERVIEW

At this time, concerned Murrieta citizens request that immediate action be taken regarding Mayor Pro Tempore Lori Stone regarding her activities that violate the Murrieta City Council Code of Conduct.

In this complaint, we address a number of concerns regarding Murrieta's City Council Member and current Mayor Pro Tempore, Lori Stone. Our areas of concern may be generally described as:

- 1) Willful and wrongful activities that fall outside the California Franchise Board and the California Secretary of State mandates, as well as misconduct while holding elected office, with regards to a business entity owned by Mayor Pro Tempore Lori Stone.
- 2) Willful failure to uphold at least ten (10) foundational elements of the most recent version of the Murrieta City Council's Code of Conduct, as executed by Mayor Pro Tempore Lori Stone.
- 3) Failure to uphold the stated Murrieta City Council Goals of integrity, honesty, accountability, responsibility, respect, and fairness.
- 4) Appearance of conflicts of interest and/or potential conflicts of interest.
- 5) Actual conflicts of interest.
- 6) Actions that fail to be performed in a "good faith" manner.
- 7) Misuse of Murrieta City Council Mayor Pro Tempore Lori Stone's titles as an elected official, while performing off-duty political activities, that she pursues as a private citizen, for personal gain and that she performs under the guise of office as a Murrieta City Council Member and Mayor Pro Tempore.
- 8) The wrongful use of Murrieta City Council Member Stone Mayor Pro Tempore Lori Stone's official social media accounts, including Facebook, under the name of "Lori Stone Murrieta City Council District 4" to directly promote her political business clients for elected office, especially considering that she receives compensation for her professional services.
- 9) The wrongful use of Murrieta City Council Member Mayor Pro Tempore Stone's official social media accounts, including Facebook, under the name of "Lori Stone Murrieta City Council District 4" to promote her own 2024 reelection campaign.

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In brief, Mayor Pro Tempore Lori Stone's primary duty and responsibility is to the people of Murrieta, not herself.

As a sworn elected official, Mayor Pro Tempore Lori Stone is obligated to act as a steward and fiduciary on behalf of the people of Murrieta. We acknowledge that Stone's personal source of income involves political campaign consulting and vendor services. Nevertheless, Stone significantly fails to honor fundamental ethical thresholds as established in the Murrieta Code of Conduct.

Since being elected, Stone repeatedly demonstrates that she significantly and noticeably bypasses standard best practices and crosses ethical boundary lines in favor of her own personal and political gains.

In every way illustrated herein, Stone demonstrates poor judgement. Based on the evidence presented herein, Stone fails to err on the side of regularly honoring her ethical obligations. Based on the evidence presented herein, Stone has not demonstrated the ability to self-regulate in favor of transparency and accountability.

For the wrongful actions and activities described herein, Council must put consequences in place now.

At this time, critical mass, and a tipping point, has been reached by Stone's collective willful and wrongful actions and this is why we plead for the Murrieta City Council's intervention. Council must take immediate corrective steps.

You will find certain redundancies enumerated throughout this communication regarding Stone's actions and our concerns. Stone's actions and activities have been grouped into several sections of our complaint. This allows each section within this complaint to stand alone for your consideration, while still allowing you to consider Stone's repetitive patterns of wrongful actions.

Make no mistake, we would voice these concerns no matter who, on the Murrieta City Council, conducted themselves in the ways described in this complaint.

All individuals aside, this complaint directly impacts the City of Murrieta (hereinafter "City) and the Murrieta City Council's integrity. This complaint is being sent anonymously because the messenger does not matter; it is the message and what the Murrieta City Council does as a result of this complaint that matters most.

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BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

In November 2020, Lori Stone, also known as Laurene Stone, (hereinafter “Stone”) was elected as a Murrieta City Council, District 4, Member. In December 2020, Stone was sworn into office. In December 2022, Stone was appointed Mayor Pro Tempore, which is her current title.

Murrieta City Council Members pledge their “*commitment to uphold a standard of integrity and competence beyond that required by the law.*” Murrieta City Council Members are duty bound to comply with “*all local, state, and federal laws and regulations as an inherent part of their ethical behavior*” and to “*disclose suspected instances of corruption,*” be that deception, dishonest dealings, misrepresentation, or lawbreaking to “*the appropriate authorities.*”

Since assuming office, Stone repeatedly fails to adhere to the overarching ethical values and principles framed in the Code of Conduct (hereinafter “Code), which call for Murrieta’s City Council Members to perform their duties at the “*highest standards of behavior*” and to “*promote and maintain an environment which fosters the public’s trust and confidence in the city.*” Stone fails to adhere to, not only to the foundational principles in the Code that mandate the ethical behaviors for each Murrieta City Council Member, but Stone also falls short of complying with more than ten (10) specific elements, as set forth in the Code.

As a result of her willful misconduct and activities, Stone places the Murrieta City Council Members and the City of Murrieta in an untenable position. Stone’s willful misconduct and activities expose other Murrieta City Council Members and the City of Murrieta to the threat of litigation.

It is also important to consider the possible effect that Stone’s negative actions may have upon City staff. Stone’s actions appear to strain these working relationships, while also appearing to be toxic, demoralizing, possibly creating a hostile work environment, and may have an adverse effect upon employee performance and retention.

Further, Stone’s use of staff time and resources is tremendously excessive, according to City documents, and may be unjustifiably burdensome. Therefore, **Stone fails to be a prudent steward of public resources, which is required by the Murrieta Code of Conduct.**

The premise of the Murrieta Code of Conduct is that the Murrieta City Council shall conduct themselves with the “*highest standards of behavior*” and shall “*maintain an environment which fosters the public’s trust and confidence.*” Certainly, conducting herself with the highest standards of behavior and maintaining an environment that fosters trust and confidence must also apply to Stone’s interactions with City staff at all levels throughout the organization, including our police and fire departments.

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There are numerous items that the Murrieta City Council pledges to uphold. The Murrieta Code of Conduct includes four sections with specific elements that each Council Member agrees to follow:

1. Integrity/Honesty
2. Accountability/Responsibility
3. Respect
4. Fairness

In addition to the Murrieta City Council's official Code of Conduct, the Murrieta City Council establishes their goals. These goals reflect the City Council's expression of their collaborative and collective vision and values. Two of the established values also place a direct emphasis on accountability and transparency, especially as related to the actions of the City Council. Stone's continued and ongoing activities are inconsistent with the accountability and transparency values of the Murrieta City Council. Stone's actions, as described herein, do not support the Council's stated values of integrity, honesty, respect, and fairness.

In addition to Stone's continued and ongoing failures to adhere to the Murrieta Code, Stone knowingly and intentionally fails to operate within the legal requirements of the State of California.

Stone's willful misconduct gives others significant reasons to distrust her and her actions. Accordingly, Stone's actions may strain the working dynamic between Council Members and brings disrepute to the Council's and the City's reputation.

Stone's misconduct in office involves ethical violations and egregious wrongful and/or unlawful acts, lawful acts performed in a wrongful manner, acts taken in her official capacity and/or in relation to the duties of office.

We, as concerned Murrieta citizens, request that immediate action be taken by the Murrieta City Council regarding Stone's activities.

REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION BY THE MURRIETA CITY COUNCIL

The decision to make you aware of these matters was made after long and careful deliberations. In consideration of issues regarding public trust, accountability, transparency, integrity, and the Code, our expectation is that this communication will provide you with the abundant and reasonable information the Council needs to take immediate action.

While determining the consequences for Stone's intentional wrongdoings and actions, we respectfully request that the Murrieta City Council consider:

- 1) The number of violations.
- 2) The severity of the violations.
- 3) The repeated presence of any and all intentions to conceal, deceive, or mislead.
- 4) Upon previous notification(s) about various issue(s), whether or not significant corrective actions were taken to resolve the violations.

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- 5) Whether the violations were deliberate, negligent, or inadvertent, as there are greater implications for wrongdoing if the ongoing actions were willfully deliberate or negligent.
- 6) What the public's perception would be of these actions and violations, i.e., how would the public react if these issues were reported on the City of Murrieta's Facebook page, website, or the front page of newspapers.
- 7) Whether these actions were consistent with the Murrieta City Council's Code of Conduct and values, and, upon analysis, would the actions be consistent with "ethical" behaviors.
- 8) Whether the violations were one-time, isolated incidents or were ongoing and pervasive enough to establish a pattern of disregard for codes, regulations, requirements, laws, etc.
- 9) If you believe that Stone conducts herself in a completely transparent and accountable manner, as she declares during various Murrieta City Council meetings.
- 10) If you believe that Stone should be aware of the inappropriate nature of her actions, since Stone routinely and publicly recounts her decades long involvement in politics, election campaigns, and ethics training.
- 11) As officials and as members of the Murrieta City Council, who act in a fiduciary capacity to protect the residents and voters, what are the potential consequences of letting the actions, violations, and/or situations go unaddressed now that they have been brought to your and the Murrieta City Council's attention?

We love our City, as you obviously do. We do not want Stone's inappropriate misconduct and decisions to adversely impact our residents, businesses, City staff, or our City's respected reputation.

At a minimum, please find that Stone's actions are unacceptable, and:

1. Find, in Closed or in Open Council session, that Stone violates the Murrieta Code of Conduct and the laws, codes, and requirements, established by the California Franchise Tax Board and the California Secretary of State, with regards to her current and ongoing operations under the business she owns, which is Innovative Political Solutions, Inc.
 - a. According to the City's website for Stone, Innovative Political Solutions, Inc. is a "political campaign management company for candidates running for various government positions."
2. Find, in Closed Session or in Open Council session, that Stone, for a significant number of years has, and continues to, deliberately circumvented and evaded California law by having her political campaign customers issue consulting or vendor fee payments to various entities such as "Lori Stone" rather than "Innovative Political Solutions, Inc."
3. Revoke, in Closed Session or in Open Council session, Stone's appointments to any and all legislative committees and workgroups.
 - a. Considering her ongoing and lengthy violation of California laws, Stone is in a poor position to represent or lobby locally, regionally, and particularly in Sacramento or Washington, D.C., on behalf of the City of Murrieta.
 - b. Stone cannot be trusted to fully limit her agendas or lobbying activities to topics solely to those on behalf of the City of Murrieta.
4. Revoke, in Closed Session or in Open Council session, Stone's appointments to any and all assignments, regional boards, collaboratives, federations, committees, workgroups, advisory groups, alliances, joint powers agency organizations, and sub-committees,

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- whether ad-hoc or standing, in which Stone would represent the City of Murrieta and/or the Murrieta City Council.
5. In Closed or in Open Council session, reduce Stone's standing on the Council to that of Council Member and remove her appointment as Mayor Pro Tempore.
 6. In Closed Session or in Open Council session, appoint a successor Mayor Pro Tempore.
 7. In Closed Session or in Open Council session, refrain from reappointing Stone as Mayor Pro Tempore.
 8. In Closed Session or in Open Council session, refrain from appointing Stone as Mayor.
 9. In Closed Session or in Open Council session, and by not publicly calling for Stone's resignation from office, require Stone to specifically comply, henceforth, and on a consistent basis, with the Murrieta Code of Conduct.
 10. In Closed Session or in Open Council session, as a condition for completing her current term of office on the Murrieta City Council, and by not publicly calling for Stone's resignation from office, require Stone's immediate compliance with the laws, codes, and requirements, established by the California Franchise Tax Board and the California Secretary of State.

The Murrieta City Council has a unique set of ethical obligations and principles that apply to each of you as elected officials. You, the Murrieta City Council, are only as ethical as your weakest link. Without accountability and transparency, trust is compromised. You have accepted great responsibility and must take immediate action. A city council is either honest, accountable, transparent, and upholds their values, or these characteristics mean nothing. There are no shades of grey. **Further, in areas of any potential uncertainty, we encourage your decision-making process to err on the side of protecting the citizens and businesses in Murrieta, along with the reputation of the City and the City Council.**

You, the Murrieta City Council, have a sworn duty to stop wrongful activities by other Council colleagues once you are made aware of their existence. We call upon you for immediate action. We deserve and demand good governance, transparency, and accountability. Please exercise your authority as the Murrieta City Council to take immediate corrective actions with your Council colleague.

You, the Murrieta City Council, are the primary enforcer for corrective action against another Council colleague. The Council has established a higher level of conduct to create an environment in which ethics are routinely and consistently practiced, to emphasize core values that mean something more than words, and, to increase the public's confidence in our City.

STATEMENTS OF FACT AND ALLEGATIONS #1:

- **Illegally operates a business entity.**

According to public records, Stone has officially operated Innovative Political Solutions, Inc. (hereinafter, the "Business") since January 2009.

The California Franchise Tax Board and the California Secretary of State maintain websites. These websites indicate that Stone's business, Innovative Political Solutions, Inc. has been in

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suspended status for years. When a business is in suspended status, these websites indicate that the business loses its rights, powers, and privileges to do business in California.

As of 12/01/2023:

The screenshot shows the California Secretary of State website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "innovative political solutions" and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar, the company name "INNOVATIVE POLITICAL SOLUTIONS, INC. (3176712)" is displayed. The main content area shows the following information:

01/01/2009	Suspended - FTB/SOS	Stock Corporation - CA - General	CALIFORNIA	LAURENE STONE
------------	---------------------	----------------------------------	------------	---------------

Below this table, there is a detailed status section:

Initial Filing Date	01/01/2009
Status	Suspended - FTB/SOS
Standing - SOS	Not Good
Standing - FTB	Not Good
Inactive Date	01/10/2013

Blue arrows point to the "Status" and "Inactive Date" fields. Yellow highlights are present under "Standing - SOS", "Standing - FTB", and "Inactive Date". A red circle highlights the "Status" field.

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As of 12/01/2023:



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Franchise Tax Board

If your business is suspended

You cannot:

- Legally do business
- Sell, transfer, or exchange real property
- File with an automatic extension
- Be issued a refund
- Start or continue a protest
- Legally close or dissolve your business
- Bring an action or defend your business in court
- File or maintain an appeal before the Office of Tax Appeals
- Maintain the right to use your business name

Overview

When your business has been suspended or forfeited, it is not in good standing and loses its rights, powers, and privileges to do business in California.

To revive your business and be in good standing, you must:

- File all past due tax returns
- Pay all past due tax balances
- File a revivor request form

Why is my business suspended

Generally, businesses are suspended when they fail to:

- File a return
- Pay
 - Taxes
 - Penalties
 - Fees
 - Interest

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For a number of years Stone has been aware, or should have been aware, that her ongoing business activities were, and continue to be, illegal. Yet, over the course of many years and to the present day, Stone has failed resolve the issues with the Agencies.

In fact, due to current public records, business activities, and events, it is clear that Stone continues to own, operate, and promote her Innovative Political Solutions, Inc. business despite the California Franchise Tax Board (FTB) and the California Secretary of State (SOS) instructing Stone to fully cease operations.

For example, Stone currently lists herself as the owner of Innovative Political Solutions in her biography on the City of Murrieta's website, as follows:

Currently, she owns and operates Innovative Political Solutions, a political campaign management company for candidates running for various government positions.

<https://www.murrietaca.gov/1094/Lori-Stone>

Stone currently lists Innovative Political Solutions on her advertisement for her 2024 reelection campaign website, as follows:

Dani. Lori currently owns & operates Innovative Political Solutions, a political management company.

<https://stoneformurrieta2024.com/>

Stone currently lists herself as the owner of Innovative Political Solutions in her LinkedIn profile, as follows:

[linkedin.com/in/lori-stone-919328a5/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/lori-stone-919328a5/)

Lori STONE · 2nd
Innovative Political Solutions-Owner

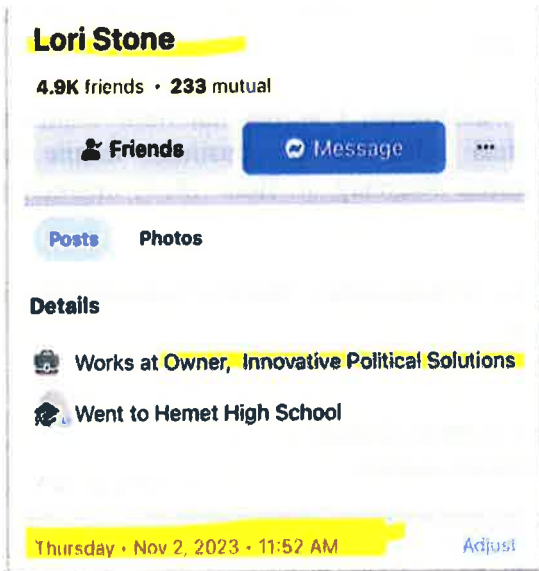
 Innovative Political Solutions

Experience

 **Owner**
Innovative Political Solutions
Jan 2009 - Present · 14 yrs 11 mos

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Stone currently lists Innovative Political Solutions on her Facebook social media profile.



As further factual proof of her ongoing and wrongful business operations, whereby Stone runs Innovative Political Solutions, Inc., Stone declares income received by “Lori Stone/DBA Innovative Political Solutions,” on her annual Fair Political Practices Commission (hereinafter “FPPC”) California Form 700, the Statement of Economic Interests, despite the California Franchise Tax Board and the California Secretary of State instructing Stone to cease operations.

As additional proof of her ongoing and wrongful business activities, Stone knowingly and intentionally accepts payments for services rendered to Innovative Political Solutions, Inc., as is proven through public records, as illustrated herein, despite the California Franchise Tax Board and the California Secretary of State instructing Stone to cease operations.

As further proof of her ongoing and wrongful business activities under the business name of Innovative Political Solutions, Inc., Stone has willfully published and provided, and continues to currently publish and provide, her contact email address as “lori@InnovativePoliticalSolutions.com.”

At all relevant times herein and by acting in a manner inconsistent with her Oath of Office and her pledge to uphold the Code of Conduct, Stone has repeatedly failed to resolve her issues with the California Franchise Tax Board, the California Secretary of State, and possibly the Internal Revenue Service, (hereafter the “Agencies”).

Stone willfully acts outside the ethics contained in the Murrieta City Council’s Code of Conduct and the laws of the State of California. **The wrongful acts, as brought to your attention herein, are ongoing and there is a strong likelihood of continuing, if left unchecked by Council.**

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STATEMENTS OF FACT AND ALLEGATIONS #2:

- Stone illegally operated a business, within the City of Murrieta, without a City business license.

Prior to being elected to Council, and as of the fall of 2019, Stone operated her business, Innovative Political Solutions, Inc., from her Murrieta residence without a business license. Further, after being elected to public office in Murrieta, Stone operated her business, Innovative Political Solutions, without a City business license, from November 2020 until January 3, 2023.

Business Search

Search By: Business Name Value: Innovative Political Solutions

Start Date Range From: 01/01/2000 To: 01/02/2023

No records found that match your search criteria.

bl.murrietaca.gov/hdlweb/Search/SearchBy



Home Report a Problem

Business Search

Search By: Business Name Value: Innovative Political Solutions

[Specify Start Date Range \(Optional\)](#)

Account #	Business Name	Start Date	Expire Date	Address
32085	Innovative Political Solutions	1/3/2023	1/3/2024	--ON FILE--

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Business Search

Search By: Business Name Value: Lori Stone

[Specify Start Date Range \(Optional\)](#)

No records found that match your search criteria.

STATEMENTS OF FACT AND ALLEGATIONS #3:

- **Remuneration Issues and Compensation to Stone that appear to circumvent Stone's suspended operating status with the California Franchise Tax Board and the California Secretary of State.**

Based on current public records, other than the license for Innovative Political Solutions, Inc., **Stone does not have a license to do business under the names of Lori Stone or Laurene Stone, whether in the City of Murrieta or in the State of California.**

However, according to public records and despite the lack of a business license in Murrieta or the state, **Lori Stone and Innovative Political Solutions DBA Lori Stone have received consulting and vendor compensation during the last number of years.**

The California Franchise Tax Board and the California Secretary of State maintain websites. These websites provide public information records that indicate that Stone's business, Innovative Political Solutions, Inc., has been in suspended status for many years. **When a business is in suspended status, these websites indicate that the business loses its rights, powers, and privileges to conduct in California. Furthermore, and critically important, continuing to operate the business services by entering into additional contracts is likely fraudulent.**

More importantly, it is of great concern that during recent years, public records indicate that Lori Stone has received consulting and vendor compensation under the name of "Lori Stone." See evidence that follows below.

Further, it is of great concern that during recent years, public records indicate that payments have been accepted by Stone under either "Innovative Political Solutions" or "Innovative Political Solutions DBA Lori Stone." See evidence that follows below.

It is important to note that both the City of Murrieta and the State of California do not indicate that there are currently businesses registered or licensed to conduct business under the name "Lori Stone," "Laurene Stone," or "Innovative Political Solutions DBA Lori Stone."

[Note the name of the business that California has suspended is related to Lori Stone DBA (doing business as) Innovative Political Solutions. In other words, Innovative Political Solutions is the

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entity not legally able to do business under the name of Lori Stone. “Innovative Political Solutions DBA Lori Stone” appears to have been created as a fabricated payee name in order to further circumvent Stone’s suspended operating status (cease operations order) with the California Franchise Tax Board and the California Secretary of State.]

Stone’s unethical behaviors in these regards are willfully deceptive and wrong. Stone knowingly and intentionally fails to conduct her business activities in accordance with state, and possibly federal, laws and regulations. **Stone, as an elected official, fails to operate under laws she is sworn to uphold.**

If, in fact, Innovative Political Solutions is suspended by the California Franchise Tax Board, as has been demonstrated by the evidence presented herein, it is likely that Stone’s bank account or bank accounts have been levied by the FTB and/or the IRS. If so, it would appear accepting payment for professional services in any other name than Innovative Political Solutions would most likely be circumventing Stone’s FTB suspension status to bypass any levied account(s) for the consulting and vendor services Stone has rendered.

Conversely, if any bank accounts for Innovative Political Solutions have not been levied and Stone continues/continued to make deposits into a bank account for Innovative Political Solutions, those actions would clearly be done improperly based on instructions from the California Franchise Tax Board and the California Secretary of State directing Stone to completely cease her business operations.

Also, in the event that Stone recently took corrective measures to settle her suspended status with the California Franchise Tax Board and the California Secretary of state, the fact remains that for many years prior to 2023, Stone continued wrongful business operations.

Stone also appears to have circumvented the cease doing business orders from the FTB and SOS as she engaged in business activities and accepted compensation under the names of Innovative Political Solutions, Lori Stone, etc. See the examples that follow below.

See proof of these items on the screenshots of official public records shown immediately below. The representative samples shown below are for the years 2018-2023, however, there are similar public records for other payors and numerous previous years available as support documentation.

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PERIOD: 01/01/2023 – 06/30/2023

**Schedule E
Payments Made**

Amounts may be rounded
to whole dollars.

Statement covers period from <u>01/01/2023</u> through <u>06/30/2023</u>	SCHEDULE E CALIFORNIA FORM 460 Page <u>1</u> of <u>1</u> ID. NUMBER <u> </u>
--	--

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE
NAME OF FILER

CODES: If one of the following codes accurately describes the payment, you may enter the code. Otherwise, describe the payment.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| OMP campaign paraphernalia/misc. | MCR member communications | RAD radio airtime and production costs |
| CNS campaign consultants | MTG meetings and appearances | RFD returned contributions |
| CTB contribution (explain nonmonetary)* | OFC office expenses | SAL campaign workers' salaries |
| CVC civic donations | PET petition circulating | TEL tv or cable airtime and production costs |
| FL candidate filing/ballot fees | PHD phone banks | TRC candidate travel, lodging, and meals |
| FND fundraising events | POL polling and survey research | TRS staff/spouse travel, lodging, and meals |
| IND independent expenditure supporting/opposing others (explain)* | POB postage, delivery and messenger services | TRF transfer between committees of the same candidate/sponsor |
| LEG legal defense | PRO professional services (legal, accounting) | VOT voter registration |
| LIT campaign literature and mailings | PRY print ads | WEB information technology costs (Internet, e-mail) |

NAME AND ADDRESS OF PAYEE (IF COMMITTEE, ALSO ENTER ID. NUMBER)	CODE OR	DESCRIPTION OF PAYMENT	AMOUNT PAID
Lori Stone Murrieta, CA 92562	CNS	Campaign Management Deposit	

PERIOD: 07/01/2021 – 12/31/2021

**Schedule E
Payments Made**

Amounts may be rounded
to whole dollars.

Statement covers period from <u>07/01/2021</u> through <u>12/31/2021</u>	SCHEDULE E CALIFORNIA FORM 460 Page <u>1</u> of <u>1</u> ID. NUMBER <u> </u>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE
NAME OF FILER

CODES: If one of the following codes accurately describes the payment, you may enter the code. Otherwise, describe the payment.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| OMP campaign paraphernalia/misc. | MCR member communications | RAD radio airtime and production costs |
| CNS campaign consultants | MTG meetings and appearances | RFD returned contributions |
| CTB contribution (explain nonmonetary)* | OFC office expenses | SAL campaign workers' salaries |
| CVC civic donations | PET petition circulating | TEL tv or cable airtime and production costs |
| FL candidate filing/ballot fees | PHD phone banks | TRC candidate travel, lodging, and meals |
| FND fundraising events | POL polling and survey research | TRS staff/spouse travel, lodging, and meals |
| IND independent expenditure supporting/opposing others (explain)* | POB postage, delivery and messenger services | TRF transfer between committees of the same candidate/sponsor |
| LEG legal defense | PRO professional services (legal, accounting) | VOT voter registration |
| LIT campaign literature and mailings | PRY print ads | WEB information technology costs (Internet, e-mail) |

NAME AND ADDRESS OF PAYEE (IF COMMITTEE, ALSO ENTER ID. NUMBER)	CODE OR	DESCRIPTION OF PAYMENT	AMOUNT PAID
Innovative Political Solutions dba Lori Stone			

There is no legal entity with this name in Murrieta or in California.

**COMPLAINT, DEMAND FOR ACTION BY CITY OF MURRIETA CITY COUNCIL, AND
NOTICE OF POTENTIAL LITIGATION
REGARDING CITY OF MURRIETA CITY COUNCIL MEMBER LORI STONE
DECEMBER 4, 2023**

PERIOD: 01/01/22 – 04/23/2022

**Schedule E
(Continuation Sheet)
Payments Made**

Type or print in ink.
Amounts may be rounded
to whole dollars.

SCHEDULE E (CONT.)		CALIFORNIA FORM 460	
Statement covers period		Page	of
from	01/01/2022	[redacted]	[redacted]
through	04/23/2022	ID NUMBER	[redacted]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE

NAME OF FILER
[redacted]

CODES: If one of the following codes accurately describes the payment, you may enter the code. Otherwise, describe the payment.

CMP campaign pamphlet/misc.	MBR member communications	RAD radio airtime and production costs
CNS campaign consultants	MTG meetings and appearances	RFD returned contributions
CTB contribution (explain nonmonetary)*	OFC office expenses	SAL campaign workers' salaries
CVC civic donations	PET petition circulating	TEL tv or cable airtime and production costs
FIL candidate filing/ballot fees	PHO phone banks	TRC candidate travel, lodging, and meals
FND fundraising events	POL polling and survey research	TRS staff/spouse travel, lodging, and meals
IND independent expenditure supporting/opposing others (explain)*	POS postage, delivery and messenger services	TSF transfer between committees of the same candidate/sponsor
LEG legal defense	PRO professional services (legal, accounting)	VOT voter registration
LIT campaign literature and mailings	PRT print ads	WEB information technology costs (internet, email)

NAME AND ADDRESS OF PAYEE OR CREDITOR (IF CONTRIBUTOR, ALSO ENTER ID NUMBER)	CODE OR	DESCRIPTION OF PAYMENT	AMOUNT PAID
Lori Stone Murrieta, CA 92563	CNS		[redacted]

PERIOD: 10/18/2020 – 12/31/2020

**Schedule E
Payments Made**

Amounts may be rounded
to whole dollars.

SCHEDULE E		CALIFORNIA FORM 460	
Statement covers period		Page	of
from	10/18/2020	[redacted]	[redacted]
through	12/31/2020	ID NUMBER	[redacted]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE

NAME OF FILER
[redacted]

CODES: If one of the following codes accurately describes the payment, you may enter the code. Otherwise, describe the payment.

CMP campaign pamphlet/misc.	MBR member communications	RAD radio airtime and production costs
CNS campaign consultants	MTG meetings and appearances	RFD returned contributions
CTB contribution (explain nonmonetary)*	OFC office expenses	SAL campaign workers' salaries
CVC civic donations	PET petition circulating	TEL tv or cable airtime and production costs
FIL candidate filing/ballot fees	PHO phone banks	TRC candidate travel, lodging, and meals
FND fundraising events	POL polling and survey research	TRS staff/spouse travel, lodging, and meals
IND independent expenditure supporting/opposing others (explain)*	POS postage, delivery and messenger services	TSF transfer between committees of the same candidate/sponsor
LEG legal defense	PRO professional services (legal, accounting)	VOT voter registration
LIT campaign literature and mailings	PRT print ads	WEB information technology costs (internet, e-mail)

NAME AND ADDRESS OF PAYEE (IF CONTRIBUTOR, ALSO ENTER ID NUMBER)	CODE OR	DESCRIPTION OF PAYMENT	AMOUNT PAID
Innovative Political Solutions	CNS	Campaign strategy consultancy	[redacted]

**COMPLAINT, DEMAND FOR ACTION BY CITY OF MURRIETA CITY COUNCIL, AND
NOTICE OF POTENTIAL LITIGATION
REGARDING CITY OF MURRIETA CITY COUNCIL MEMBER LORI STONE
DECEMBER 4, 2023**

PERIOD: 01/01/2019 – 06/30/2019

**Schedule E
Payments Made**

Amounts may be rounded
to whole dollars.

Payment covers period from 1/01/2019 through 06/30/2019	SCHEDULE E CALIFORNIA FORM 460 Page 1 of 1 I.D. NUMBER
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE
NAME OF FILER

[REDACTED] 2018

CODES: If one of the following codes accurately describes the payment, you may enter the code. Otherwise, describe the payment.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| CMP campaign paraphernalia/misc. | MBR member communications | RAD radio airtime and production costs |
| CNS campaign consultants | MTG meetings and appearances | RFD returned contributions |
| CTB contribution (explain nonmonetary)* | OFC office expenses | SAL campaign workers' salaries |
| CVC civic donations | PET petition circulating | TEL t.v. or cable airtime and production costs |
| FL candidate filing/balot fees | PHD phone banks | TRC candidate travel, lodging, and meals |
| FND fundraising events | POL polling and survey research | TRB staff/spouse travel, lodging, and meals |
| IND independent expenditure supporting/opposing others (explain)* | POB postage, delivery and messenger services | TBF transfer between committees of the same candidate/sponsor |
| LEG legal defense | PRO professional services (legal, accounting) | VOT voter registration |
| LIT campaign literature and mailings | PRT print ads | WEB information technology costs (internet, e-mail) |

NAME AND ADDRESS OF PAYEE (IF COMMITTEE, ALSO ENTER I.D. NUMBER)	CODE OR	DESCRIPTION OF PAYMENT	AMOUNT PAID
Lori Stone [REDACTED]	CNS		[REDACTED]

PERIOD: 01/01/2019 – 06/30/2019

**Schedule E
Payments Made**

Amounts may be rounded
to whole dollars.

Payment covers period from 1/01/2019 through 06/30/2019	SCHEDULE E CALIFORNIA FORM 460 Page 1 of 1 I.D. NUMBER
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE
NAME OF FILER

[REDACTED] 2018

CODES: If one of the following codes accurately describes the payment, you may enter the code. Otherwise, describe the payment.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| CMP campaign paraphernalia/misc. | MBR member communications | RAD radio airtime and production costs |
| CNS campaign consultants | MTG meetings and appearances | RFD returned contributions |
| CTB contribution (explain nonmonetary)* | OFC office expenses | SAL campaign workers' salaries |
| CVC civic donations | PET petition circulating | TEL t.v. or cable airtime and production costs |
| FL candidate filing/balot fees | PHD phone banks | TRC candidate travel, lodging, and meals |
| FND fundraising events | POL polling and survey research | TRB staff/spouse travel, lodging, and meals |
| IND independent expenditure supporting/opposing others (explain)* | POB postage, delivery and messenger services | TBF transfer between committees of the same candidate/sponsor |
| LEG legal defense | PRO professional services (legal, accounting) | VOT voter registration |
| LIT campaign literature and mailings | PRT print ads | WEB information technology costs (internet, e-mail) |

NAME AND ADDRESS OF PAYEE (IF COMMITTEE, ALSO ENTER I.D. NUMBER)	CODE OR	DESCRIPTION OF PAYMENT	AMOUNT PAID
Lori Stone [REDACTED]	CNS		[REDACTED]

**COMPLAINT, DEMAND FOR ACTION BY CITY OF MURRIETA CITY COUNCIL, AND
NOTICE OF POTENTIAL LITIGATION
REGARDING CITY OF MURRIETA CITY COUNCIL MEMBER LORI STONE
DECEMBER 4, 2023**

PERIOD: 01/01/2018 – 09/22/2018

**Schedule E
(Continuation Sheet)
Payments Made**

Amounts may be rounded to whole dollars.

Statement covers period		SCHEDULE E (CONT.)	
from	01/01/2018	CALIFORNIA FORM 460	
through	09/22/2018	Page	1
		I.D. NUMBER	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE
NAME OF FILER

CODES: If one of the following codes accurately describes the payment, you may enter the code. Otherwise, describe the payment.

CAP campaign paraphernalia/misc.	MCR member communications	RAD radio airtime and production costs
CNS campaign consultants	MTG meetings and appearances	RFD returned contributions
CTB contribution (explain nonmonetary)*	OFC office expenses	SAL campaign workers' salaries
CVC civic donations	PET petition circulating	TEL tv, or cable airtime and production costs
FL candidate filing/ballot fees	PHO phone banks	TRC candidate travel, lodging, and meals
FND fundraising events	POL polling and survey research	TRS staff/spouse travel, lodging, and meals
IND independent expenditure supporting/opposing others (explain)*	POS postage, delivery and messenger services	TSP transfer between committees of the same candidate/sponsor
LEG legal defense	PRO professional services (legal, accounting)	VOT voter registration
UT campaign literature and mailings	PRF print ads	WEB information technology costs (internet, e-mail)

NAME AND ADDRESS OF PAYEE (IF COMMITTEE, ALSO ENTER I.D. NUMBER)	CODE	OR	DESCRIPTION OF PAYMENT	AMOUNT PAID
Innovative Political Solutions DBA Lori Stone	CNS			

There is no legal entity with this name in Murrieta or in California.

COMPLAINT, DEMAND FOR ACTION BY CITY OF MURRIETA CITY COUNCIL, AND
NOTICE OF POTENTIAL LITIGATION
REGARDING CITY OF MURRIETA CITY COUNCIL MEMBER LORI STONE
DECEMBER 4, 2023

ADDITIONAL COMPLAINTS AGAINST STONE
SUMMARY

- A. Stone performs off-duty activities as a private citizen and conducts these activities under the guise of her official office as a Murrieta City Council Member/Mayor Pro Tempore.
- B. Stone refers to her official title and/or position when conducting personal activities and for her own financial gain.
- C. Stone uses her position and title in a manner that could reasonably be construed to imply that the City of Murrieta and/or the Murrieta City Council sanctions and/or endorses her personal activities.
- D. Stone uses her position and title in a manner that could reasonably be construed to imply that special “favors” have been induced by Stone in order that her personal interests receive benefits, financial or otherwise, to herself, her affiliates, or to her personal clients.
- E. Stone regularly and routinely uses her official City title for personal and political purposes other than City identification. Stone uses her official title outside those required by her City activities and where she is not representing the City. This willful misuse of title occurs in situations where she may gain financially, may acquire personal benefits, or assists her personal clients and associates.
- F. Stone regularly and routinely uses her Facebook page, “Lori Stone Murrieta City Council District 4” as a social media platform to engage with Murrieta constituents. This same Facebook page is also used by Stone to promote her reelection campaign, her personal political clients, and for personal financial gain. This creates a conflict of interest.

Stone uses Facebook as a social media platform. Her Facebook page is named, “Lori Stone Murrieta City Council District 4.” Stone’s Facebook page is one of the main ways that Stone communicates with her constituents. In addition to engagement with constituents, Stone uses her Murrieta City Council Facebook page for personal, political, and her outside professional interests. According to Cal Cities, an educational based association for municipalities, this is a conflict of interest. Stone’s Facebook page is used to identify her as a government official and to address constituents. Stone’s Facebook page should not be used to promote herself personally, to promote her clients from her Innovative Political Solutions, to promote her own election campaigns, or for her own personal financial gain with her own for-profit projects. Stone mixes up and commingles the use of social media platforms without a clear separation between Stone’s public responsibilities and her personal interests. Even the appearance of a conflict of interest is sufficient to damage the public’s trust.



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Transparency and other values require a clear separation between Stone's public responsibilities, use of Stone's City title, and her personal interests and financial gains.

Even the appearance of a conflict of interest is sufficient to damage the public's trust. Stone willfully fails in these regards. As former Murrieta City Council Member and former Mayor, Jonathan Ingram, stated from the dais in January 2021, "Perception becomes reality."

An additional relevant concern centers around the possibility that Stone commits fraudulent misrepresentation. **Simply put, fraud may have been committed if and when Stone enters into client representation contracts for Innovative Political Solutions or provides those same business services under various aliases.** If contracts have been issued since the California Franchise Tax Board and the California Secretary of State ordered Stone to cease any and all business operations, as related to Innovative Political Solutions, it would appear that Stone willfully and deliberately fraudulently misrepresented herself to others. In any event, if this concern is factual, how can Stone be trusted with the people's business in Murrieta?

EVIDENCE ITEM #1:

- Stone performs off-duty activities as a private citizen and conducts these activities under the guise of her official office as a Murrieta City Council Member/Mayor Pro Tempore.
- Stone refers to her official title and/or position when conducting personal activities and for her own financial gain.
- Stone uses her position and title in a manner that could reasonably be construed to imply that the City of Murrieta and/or the Murrieta City Council sanctions and/or endorses her personal activities; personal business activities that financially enrich Stone's personal pocketbook.
- Stone uses her position and title in a manner that could reasonably be construed to imply that special "favors" have been induced by Stone in order that her personal interests receive benefits, financial or otherwise, to herself, her affiliates, or to her personal clients.
- Stone regularly and routinely uses her official City title for personal and political purposes other than City identification. Stone uses her official title outside those required by her City activities and where she is not representing the City. This willful misuse of title occurs in situations where she may gain financially, may acquire personal benefits, or assists her personal clients and associates.

In recent years, Stone performed political campaign consulting services for Matt Rahn. Matt Rahn (hereinafter "Rahn") served on the Temecula City Council. According to public records, Stone provided consulting services for Rahn's 2022 State Assembly Race in District 71. Public records also indicate that Stone received compensation from Rahn's State Assembly campaign committee. During 2022, and perhaps previously, Stone wrongfully operated Innovative Political Solutions as described within this complaint. Also, during this time period, Stone served as an elected official on the Murrieta City Council.

As support for the items of concern as described above, please consider the following actions taken by Stone. Stone is on record as stating that the "cancer center," which Matt Rahn is promoting, will be established in Temecula and that Michelle's Place is located in Temecula.

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Governing Body Announcements
December 7, 2021
Lori Stone, Council Member

EMAIL: LStone@MurrietaCA.gov

Attended a strategic meeting about the future of a cancer resource center in Southwest Riverside County with Matt Rahn, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Temecula and Kim Gerrish, E.D. Michelle's Place



Governing Body Announcements
October 17, 2023
Lori Stone, Mayor Pro Tem

EMAIL: LStone@MurrietaCA.gov

Various Dates

Attended a meeting with Chief Molloy, Assistant City Manager, & Matt Rahn.

For the above item, please ask yourselves what this meeting had to do with the City of Murrieta, the Murrieta Fire & Rescue (although Stone omitted mentioning Murrieta Fire and Rescue in her Governing Body Announcements disclosure report), or the Murrieta City Council. Could the case be made that perhaps there is a pattern of behavior whereby Stone performs off-duty activities as a private citizen and conducts these activities under the guise of her official office as a Murrieta City Council Member/Mayor Pro Tempore? As proof of our concerns and in terms of "perception is reality," as well as for reasons of accountability and transparency, why didn't Murrieta Fire & Rescue Chief Molloy and Matt Rahn meet without Stone being present?

Stone refers to her official title and/or position when conducting personal activities and for her own financial gain. Stone regularly and routinely uses her official City title for personal and political purposes other than City identification. Stone uses her official title outside those required by her City activities and where she is not representing the City.

This type of willful misuse of title occurs in situations where Stone may gain financially, may acquire personal benefits, or provides tangible and/or intangible benefits for her personal clients and associates.

Further, while this particular meeting was partially disclosed on Stone's Governing Body Announcements, we have experienced significant reluctance when inquiries have been made about Stone's activities.

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During Murrieta City Council meetings, Stone routinely offers to provide information and answer questions regarding her Governing Body Announcements. However, to date, **Stone has failed to respond to our request that she provide the calendar dates missing from her Governing Body Announcements and has failed to answer any questions when clarifying information was sought.**

Why would Stone repeatedly offer, during City Council meetings, to answer questions when someone contacts her about her Governing Body Announcements, and then fail to provide information or answer questions when asked to do so? The main objective of the Council's Governing Body Announcements is to provide transparency and an opportunity for disclosures to the public about each Council member's activities. To ensure true transparency and accountability, which is the purpose of Council's Governing Body Announcements, Stone must freely cooperate with timely responsive details upon request.

Most significantly, one only needs to follow the chain of events and Stone's patterns of behavior to accurately evaluate if she is primarily acting for her own and/or her client's personal and financial gain regarding the ethical actions described within this Complaint.

We suspect that if the complete set of facts were brought to the light of day, Stone's actions and activities would fall outside the ethical parameters she promised to uphold.

EVIDENCE ITEM #2:

- Stone operated her business wrongfully, in 2022, under Innovative Political Solutions despite the California Franchise Tax Board and the California Secretary of State instructing Stone to cease her business operations.

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DECEMBER 4, 2023



This is just a representative sample of one of many such examples of the issues outlined in this complaint.

Used Innovative Political Solutions in May 2022

Note: Although Matt Rahn's name and images are presented herein, we wish to make it clear that we do not have issues with Matt Rahn or his activities.

EVIDENCE ITEM #3:

- Stone operates wrongfully, in 2022, under Innovative Political Solutions, despite the California Franchise Tax Board and the California Secretary of State instructing Stone to cease operations.
- Stone uses her official office, official title, and position when conducting personal activities and for her own financial gain. See the campaign advertisement for a candidate, who paid Stone for her campaign consulting or vendor activities.
- Stone uses her position and title in a manner that could reasonably be construed to imply that the City of Murrieta and/or the Murrieta City Council sanctions and/or endorses Stone's candidate, of whom paid Stone for her activities. Stone regularly and routinely uses her official City title for personal and political purposes other than City identification. Stone uses her official title outside those required by her City activities and where she is not representing the City. This willful misuse of title occurs in

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situations where she may gain financially, may acquire personal benefits, or assists her personal clients and associates.



This is just a representative sample of one of many such examples of the issues outlined in this complaint.

Note: Although Matt Rahn's name and images are presented herein, we wish to make it clear that we do not have issues with Matt Rahn or his activities.

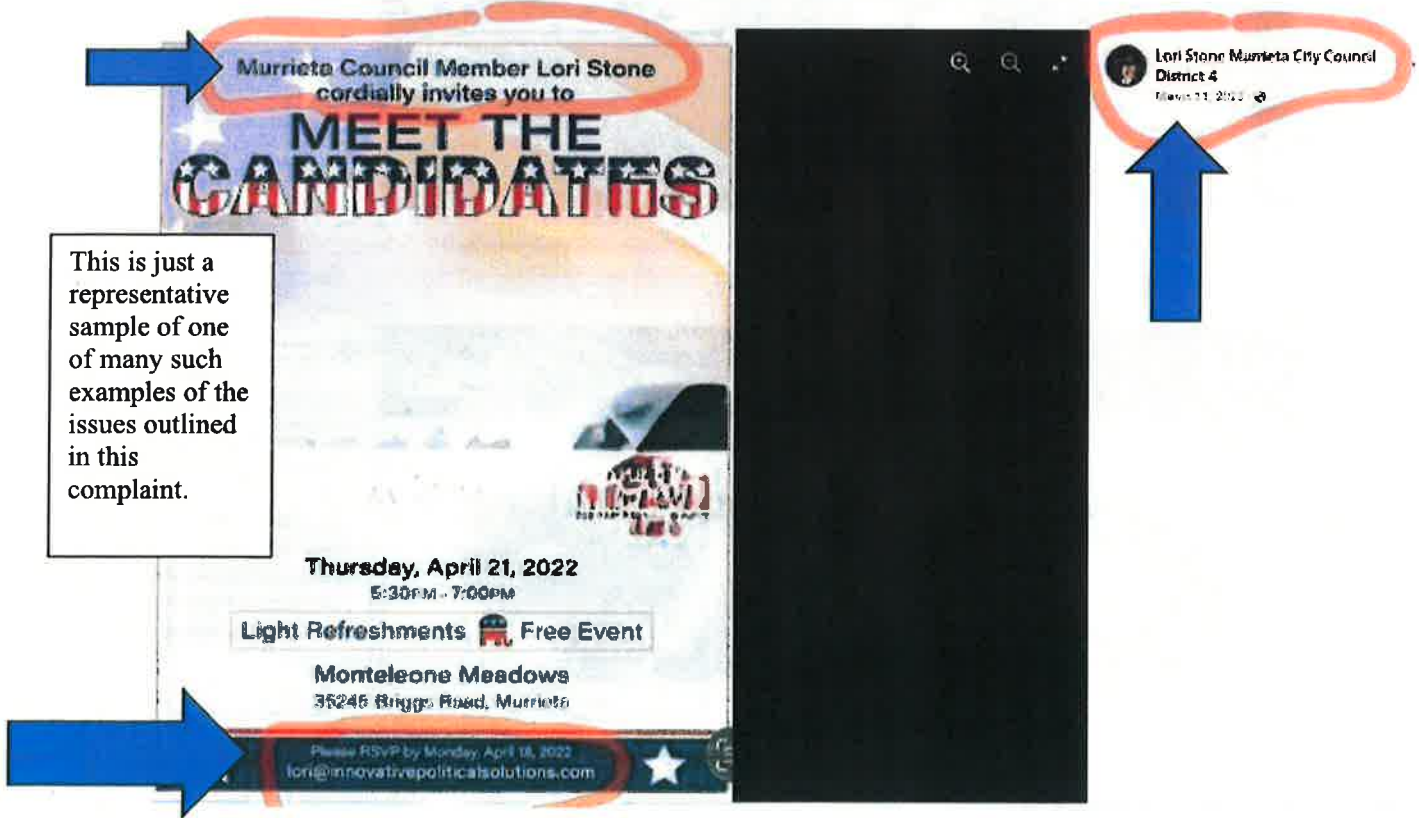
EVIDENCE ITEM #4:

- Stone operates wrongfully, in 2022, under Innovative Political Solutions despite the California Franchise Tax Board and the California Secretary of State instructing Stone to cease operations.
- Stone operates wrongfully, in 2022, under Innovative Political Solutions despite the California Franchise Tax Board and the California Secretary of State instructing Stone to cease operations.
- Stone uses her official office, official title, and position when conducting personal activities and for her own financial gain. See the campaign advertisement for a candidate, who paid Stone for her campaign consulting or vendor activities.
- Stone uses her position and title in a manner that could reasonably be construed to imply that the City of Murrieta and/or the Murrieta City Council sanctions and/or endorses Stone's candidate, of whom paid Stone for her activities. Stone regularly and routinely

COMPLAINT, DEMAND FOR ACTION BY CITY OF MURRIETA CITY COUNCIL, AND
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uses her official City title for personal and political purposes other than City identification. Stone uses her official title outside those required by her City activities and where she is not representing the City. This willful misuse of title occurs in situations where she may gain financially, may acquire personal benefits, or assists her personal clients and associates.

- Stone regularly and routinely uses her Facebook page, (hereinafter “Facebook”), “Lori Stone Murrieta City Council District 4” as a social media platform to engage with Murrieta constituents. Stone uses this Facebook page to promote her personal clients and for personal financial gain. This creates a conflict of interest.



EVIDENCE ITEM #5:

- Stone regularly and routinely uses her Facebook page, (hereinafter “Facebook”), “Lori Stone Murrieta City Council District 4” as a social media platform to engage with Murrieta constituents. Stone also uses Facebook to promote her reelection campaign. This creates a conflict of interest.

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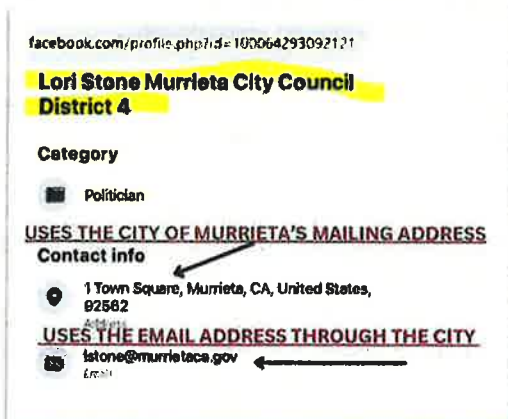
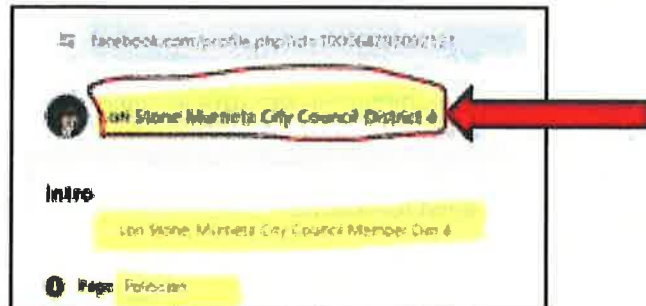
EVIDENCE ITEM #6:

- Stone regularly and routinely uses her Facebook page, (hereinafter "Facebook"), "Lori Stone Murrieta City Council District 4" as a social media platform to engage with Murrieta constituents. Stone also uses Facebook to promote her reelection campaign. This creates a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest.

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- Stone's 2024 reelection campaign website directs traffic to her Facebook page. On the Facebook page, Stone's City of Murrieta email and mailing address are provided. This is a clear conflict of interest.
- This is the same Facebook page that Stone uses as her social media platform, which is her primary way of engaging with Murrieta constituents. This creates a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest.

stoneformurrieta2024.com/#top



EVIDENCE ITEM #7:

- Stone performs off-duty activities as a private citizen and conducts these activities under the guise of her official office as a Murrieta City Council Member/Mayor Pro Tempore.

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- Stone refers to her official title and/or position when conducting personal activities and for her own financial gain.
- Stone uses her position and title in a manner that could reasonably be construed to imply that the City of Murrieta and/or the Murrieta City Council sanctions and/or endorses her personal activities.
- Stone uses her position and title in a manner that could reasonably be construed to imply that special “favours” have been induced by Stone in order that her personal interests receive benefits, financial or otherwise, to herself, her affiliates, or to her personal clients.
- Stone regularly and routinely uses her official City title for personal and political purposes other than City identification. Stone uses her official title outside those required by her City activities and where she is not representing the City. This willful misuse of title occurs in situations where she may gain financially, may acquire personal benefits, or assists her personal clients and associates.

The Temecula Valley Republican Women (hereinafter “TVRW”) group is a quasi-political action committee. As a splinter organization who separated from another political association, one of TVRW’s primary goals for leaving the state organization was to be able to endorse political candidates.

As a private citizen and not in her official capacity, Stone serves/served as the TVRW Chairperson for their Public Safety Community Action Group. Stone used her official position and City Council title inappropriately with TVRW. TVRW is not an organization that is part of the various committees assigned to Murrieta City Council Members, who officially attend regularly scheduled meetings.

Stone’s relationship with TVRW, at the very least, creates the appearance of a conflict of interest. Stone uses her official title for purposes other than identification purposes, plus she uses her title and office to advocate her personal legislative and political positions. Stone should not use her title or position to advocate on behalf of proposed legislation. With TVRW, and perhaps elsewhere, Stone inappropriately conducts herself as if she is an authorized spokesperson on behalf of the entire City of Murrieta, the Murrieta City Council, and the Murrieta Police Department.

Stone’s public relationship with TVRW lacks compliance with Stone’s responsibility to maintain a bipartisan position that represents the entire, broadly based Murrieta community. TVRW is anti-Democratic, anti-liberal, anti-Newsom, and anti-Biden.

Stone’s past and ongoing relationship with TVRW includes using her official title and position as a Murrieta City Council Member for Stone’s reelection campaign.

In turn, TVRW promotes her by posting Stone’s own reelection campaign events, endorsements, and campaign advertisements for Stone’s personal events, such as A Day In Her Shoes, etc.

As Murrieta Mayor Pro Tempore, Stone appears to have created her own custom letterhead stationery for her use when advocating for legislation under her title on the Murrieta City Council. Stone demonstrates her inappropriate use of her City title and position by sharing her April 6, 2023,

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letter with TVWR, who then published the letter on their Facebook page. TVWR has posted Stone's letterhead on their Facebook page, with her title displayed, whereby Stone states that she "cannot sit back and not be a voice" legislatively. Stone agreed to adhere to the Murrieta City Council's Pledge that once a position has been agreed upon by the majority of the Council Members, any dissenting Council Members will adhere to the decision. However, there are examples below, whereby Stone uses her own Facebook page, as well as the TVRW Facebook page, to push forward with her own point of view and then disparages the Murrieta City Council by stating that Council denied her request to agendize her proposal for further legislative outreach.

March-2023-newsletter

PDF (tvrwomen.org)

tvrwomen.org

 tvrwomen.org / March-20...sletter

You can also click on our new TVRW logo above to access the 2023 membership application directly.


Introducing our Public Safety Action Group!

By: Lori Stone- Murrieta Mayor Pro Tempore

Temecula Valley Republican Women is very proud to announce our new Public Safety Action Group. The Public Safety Action Group will track proposed and pending legislation that pertains to public safety. With the

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Furthermore, Stone inaccurately disclosed information about TVRW on her March 21, 2023, Governing Body Announcements. See the evidence screenshot below. Without providing a transaction date, Stone imprecisely refers to the "Public Safety Community Action group (sic)," because TVRW has named the group as the Public Safety Action Group. More importantly, whether intentionally or unintentionally, Stone fails to disclose that the Group is part of the Temecula Valley Republican Women quasi-political action committee on her Murrieta City Council Governing Body Announcements.

 **Governing Body Announcements**
March 21, 2023
Lori Stone, Mayor Pro Tem

EMAIL: LStone@MurrietaCA.gov

03/16/23	Attended a Q&A with the residents of The Linden.
03/09/23	Attended a Welcoming Reception for the new Executive Director of the Metropolitan Water District.
03/17/23	Attended the VFW St. Patrick's Day event.
03/18/23	Attended the Empowered Women in Wellness event as a Keynote Speaker.
	Accepted a Chair position for the Public Safety Community Action group.

COMPLAINT, DEMAND FOR ACTION BY CITY OF MURRIETA CITY COUNCIL, AND
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DECEMBER 4, 2023



Temecula Valley Republican Women

April 7 · 16

Join our Public Safety Community Action Group and keep informed about pending safety related legislation. We will send out updates and instructions on how you, too, can contact elected officials and make your voice heard. Send an email to info@tvrwomen.org



Lori Stone, Murrieta Mayor Pro Tem, District 4

April 6, 2023

The Honorable Aisha Wahab
Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety

State Capitol Sacramento, CA 925814

Stone uses her title and quasi-official stationery, however, she indicates her "personal" advocacy on legislation?

Dear Senator Wahab:

I, personally are vehemently opposed to SB 94 which would allow a court to recall, resentencing and release cop killers and other heinous murders who have been convicted of first degree murder with special circumstances and sentenced to either death or life without the possibility of parole.

SB 94 essentially invalidates California's murder with "special circumstances" sentencing law and allows a judge to immediately release anyone so sentenced as long as they have served just 20 years.

SB 94 would allow for the release from prison of persons convicted of first degree murder with "special circumstances" which include the following (per current CA Penal code § 190.2) multiple murders; the murder of a peace officer; firefighter; prosecutor; judge; juror; an elected or appointed official; federal law enforcement officer; witness, or where the murder was especially heinous, atrocious, or cruel, manifesting exceptional depravity or where the victim was tortured. SB 94 would also allow for the early release from prison of persons convicted of first degree murder with "special circumstances" where the victim was intentionally killed because of his or her race, color, religion, nationality, or country of origin - or where the victim was under the age of 14, raped or sodomized and then murdered.

I recognize that SB 94 does not provide for the automatic resentencing and release of these first degree murderers, any mass, serial or cop killers who are denied their petition for such release. However, SB 94 grants these murderers the ability to reapply for release every two years, forcing their families, friends and fellow officers to relive the trauma and suffering caused by these callous killers of innocent victims.

Persons convicted of first degree murder with special circumstances and sentenced to death or LWOP including cop killers are the very "worst of the worst" in our society and should stay behind bars, for the reasons stated here. I strongly oppose SB 94 and respectfully request a NO vote.

Lori Stone
Mayor Pro Tem

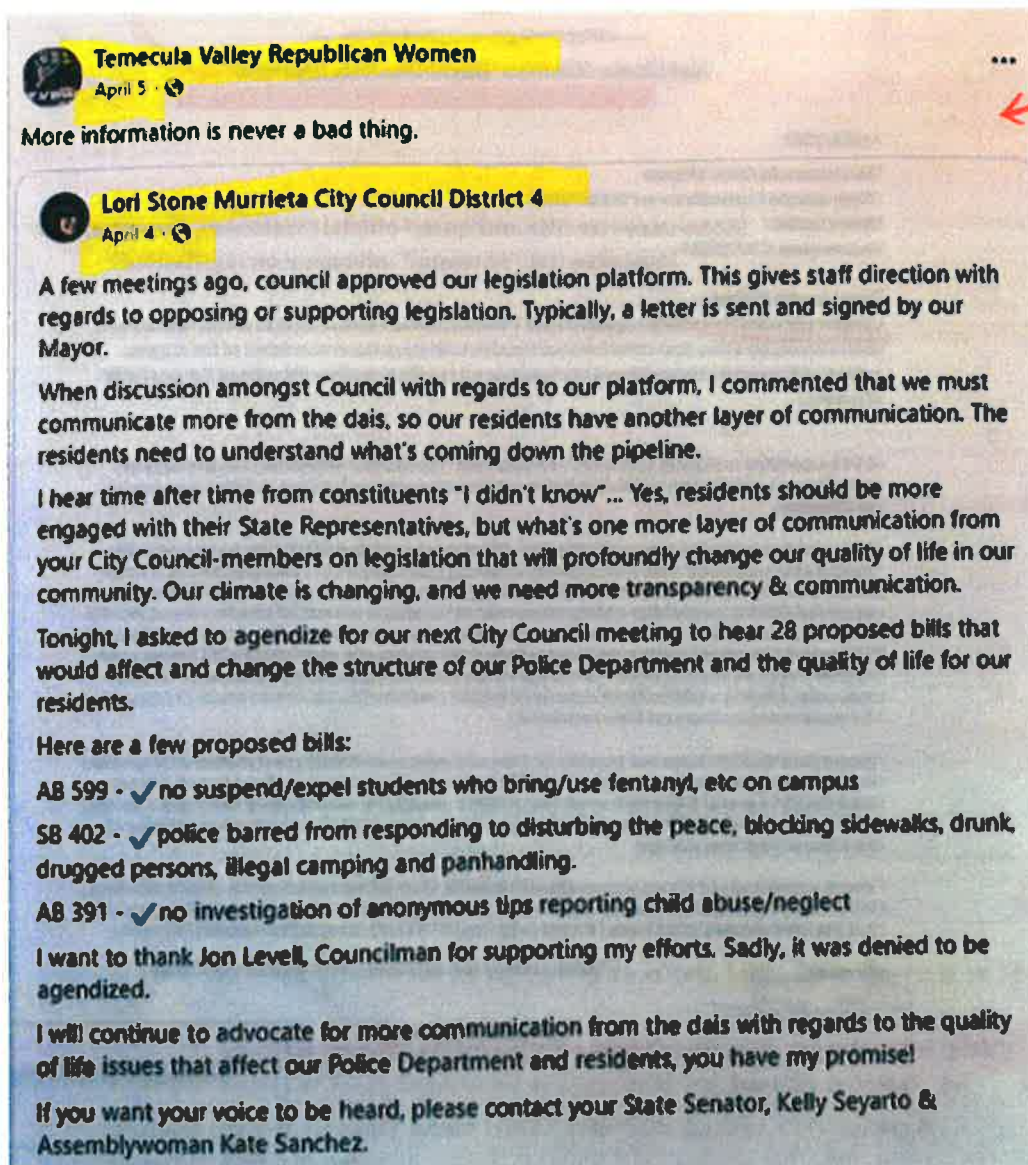
Stone uses her official City email address

lstone@murrietaca.gov

lstone@murrietaca.gov

COMPLAINT, DEMAND FOR ACTION BY CITY OF MURRIETA CITY COUNCIL, AND
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The Murrieta Code of Conduct includes this Pledge and Stone does not uphold it:
"Once Council approves a position, despite individual votes, all Council respects final decision." Stone uses her Facebook Page and the quai-political action group to advocate her personal views.



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Of further concern is the fact that TVRW works with Stone on Stone's personal business activities, perhaps including Innovative Political Solutions, because Stone's clients for political office have been featured speakers, as has Stone, for various TVRW political events. Stone personally benefits financially from these types of activities, as these speaker forums are part of the service provided by her personal business, Innovative Political Solutions. These speaker forums for Stone's clients occurred during 2022 with TVRW political events. These blurred lines add to the conflict of interest issues discussed herein. **The reciprocal, quid pro quo relationship between Stone, her personal clients, and TVRW, inappropriately and ultimately benefits Stone's personal finances.**

Temecula Valley Republican Women
May 2 - 6

←

Come out and support Murrieta City Councilwoman Lori Stone in her run for reelection

You Are Cordially Invited
To A Fundraiser In Support Of
LORI STONE
MURRIETA CITY COUNCIL ★ DISTRICT 4

Thursday, May 18th
5:30pm-7:00pm

WEST COAST | KARMA
BY BRC CURRAN
26900 Jefferson Avenue
Murrieta, CA 92562

\$1000 Gold Sponsor
\$500 Bronze Sponsor
\$250 Per Person

Full Name _____ Signature _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home/Cell Phone _____ Office Phone _____
Fax _____ Email _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: LORI STONE FOR MURRIETA CITY COUNCIL 2024
MAIL TO
Lori Stone C/O Vona Copp
9221 Silverbell Lane
St. Johns, CA 92624

FOR CREDIT CARD DONATIONS, PLEASE VISIT
<https://www.murrietarepublicanwomen.com/LoriStone>

Thank you for your support!

This is just a representative sample of one of many such examples of the issues outlined in this complaint.

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EVIDENCE ITEM #8:

- Stone performs off-duty activities as a private citizen and conducts these activities under the guise of her official office as a Murrieta City Council Member/Mayor Pro Tempore.
- Stone refers to her official title and/or position when conducting personal activities and for her own financial gain.
- Stone uses her position and title in a manner that could reasonably be construed to imply that the City of Murrieta and/or the Murrieta City Council sanctions and/or endorses her personal activities.
 - **Stone uses her official City title on her promotional and sponsor solicitation materials. Stone's personal, for-profit business endeavor has nothing to do with the City of Murrieta or the Murrieta City Council.**
- Stone uses her position and title in a manner that could reasonably be construed to imply that special "favours" have been induced by Stone in order that her personal interests receive benefits, financial or otherwise, to herself, her affiliates, or to her personal clients.
- Stone regularly and routinely uses her official City title for personal and political purposes other than City identification. Stone uses her official title outside those required by her City activities and where she is not representing the City. This willful misuse of title occurs in situations where she may gain financially, may acquire personal benefits, or assists her personal clients and associates.
- Stone regularly and routinely uses her Facebook page, "Lori Stone Murrieta City Council District 4" as a social media platform to engage with Murrieta constituents. This same Facebook page is also used by Stone to promote her reelection campaign, her personal political clients, and for personal financial gain. This creates a conflict of interest.


Stone violates the aforementioned protocols with her personal, for-profit business venture, which is titled "A Day In Her Shoes" and/or "A Walk In Her Shoes." **Stone declares that a portion of net proceeds will be provided to a local area nonprofit. Nevertheless, this small aspect of Stone's wrongful actions and activities does not alter the critical nature of the complaints outlined throughout this document.**

By way of background information and reference for this particular example of Stone's wrongdoings, three of the current Murrieta City Council Members, as individuals and by their own admissions, own one or more businesses. These three Council Members have not used their Murrieta City Council Governing Body Announcements or Facebook pages to promote their private business enterprises; businesses where the Council Members achieve financial gains.

If Council Members DeForest, Warren, or Levell included items on their Governing Body Announcements or on Facebook pages to increase sales revenues for their own personal, for-profit business ventures, we believe that immediate corrective actions would be taken by their Murrieta City Council colleagues to stop them from using City time and resources for personal gain.

However, during the past seven months, Stone uses her Murrieta City Council Governing Body Announcements during City Council meetings to promote her personal, for-profit business venture, which is titled "A Day In Her Shoes" and/or "A Walk In Her Shoes."


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Governing Body Announcements
March 7, 2023
Lori Stone, Mayor Pro Tem

EMAIL: LStone@MurrietaCA.gov


Attended Walk In Her Shoes meeting.



Governing Body Announcements
August 1, 2023
Lori Stone, Mayor Pro Tem

EMAIL: LStone@MurrietaCA.gov

06/21/23 Attended A Day In Her Shoes meeting.



Governing Body Announcements
October 17, 2023
Lori Stone, Mayor Pro Tem

EMAIL: LStone@MurrietaCA.g

Attended A Day In Her Shoes meeting.

The California Secretary of State does not show a business entity for Lori Stone, A Day In Her Shoes, or A Walk In Her Shoes.

The City of Murrieta indicates that there are no business licenses shown for Lori Stone (as an individual doing business in the City), A Day In Her Shoes, or A Walk In Her Shoes.

Therefore, since Stone lists her contact information through her own personal, for-profit business entity, Innovative Political Solutions – an entity that the California Franchise Tax Board and the California Secretary of State have demanded to cease operations – it is reasonable to presume that Stone has, and continues, to operate A Day In Her Shoes or A Walk In Her Shoes in a wrongful manner.

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12 www.TheValleyBusinessJournal.com THE VALLEY BUSINESS JOURNAL October 2023

MARCH 8, 2024
A Day in Her Shoes

Join the following sponsors in supporting and participating in this innovative and immersive experience. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Contact Lori Stone at lori@innovativepoliticalsolutions.com or call (951) 265-0981.

Gold Sponsors

- Watermark Associates
- Murrieta Hot Springs Resort

Iridium Sponsors

- Loma Linda Hospital
- Kaiser Permanente
- Diversified Pacific
- Crowd Theory
- Transtech

Bronze Sponsors

- CR&R Environmental Services
- Maryann Edwards
- State Farm - Julie Ngo
- Athens Services
- United University of Nursing
- Ivory Lace Candles
- LaPointe Wealth Management
- Riverside County Economic Development
- First Integrity Title
- Escrow Leaders

Friend Sponsors

- SoCal Gas

<p>Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Contact Lori Stone at lori@InnovativePoliticalSolutions.com or call (951) 265-0981.</p>	<p>Gold Sponsors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watermark Associates • Murrieta Hot Springs Resort <p>Iridium Sponsors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loma Linda Hospital • Kaiser Permanente • Diversified Pacific • Crowd Theory • Transtech 	<p>Bronze Sponsors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CR&R Environmental Services • Maryann Edwards • State Farm – Julie Ngo • Athens Services • United University of Nursing • Ivory Lace Candles • LaPointe Wealth Management • Riverside County Economic Development • First Integrity Title • Escrow Leaders <p>Friend Sponsors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SoCal Gas
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- A. Stone uses her position and title in a manner that could reasonably be construed to imply that the City of Murrieta and/or the Murrieta City Council sanctions and/or endorses her personal activities.
- a. **Stone uses her official City title in her promotional advertising, as well as her sponsor solicitation materials. Stone's personal, for-profit business endeavor has nothing to do with the City of Murrieta or the Murrieta City Council.**
- B. Stone uses her position and title in a manner that could reasonably be construed to imply that special "favors" have been induced by Stone in order that her personal interests receive benefits, financial or otherwise, to herself, her affiliates, or to her personal clients.
- C. Stone regularly and routinely uses her official City title for personal and political purposes other than City identification. Stone uses her official title outside those required by her City activities and where she is not representing the City. This willful misuse of title occurs in situations where she may gain financially, may acquire personal benefits, or assists her personal clients and associates.



adayinhershoesca.com
<https://adayinhershoesca.com>

A Day in Her Shoes – Event

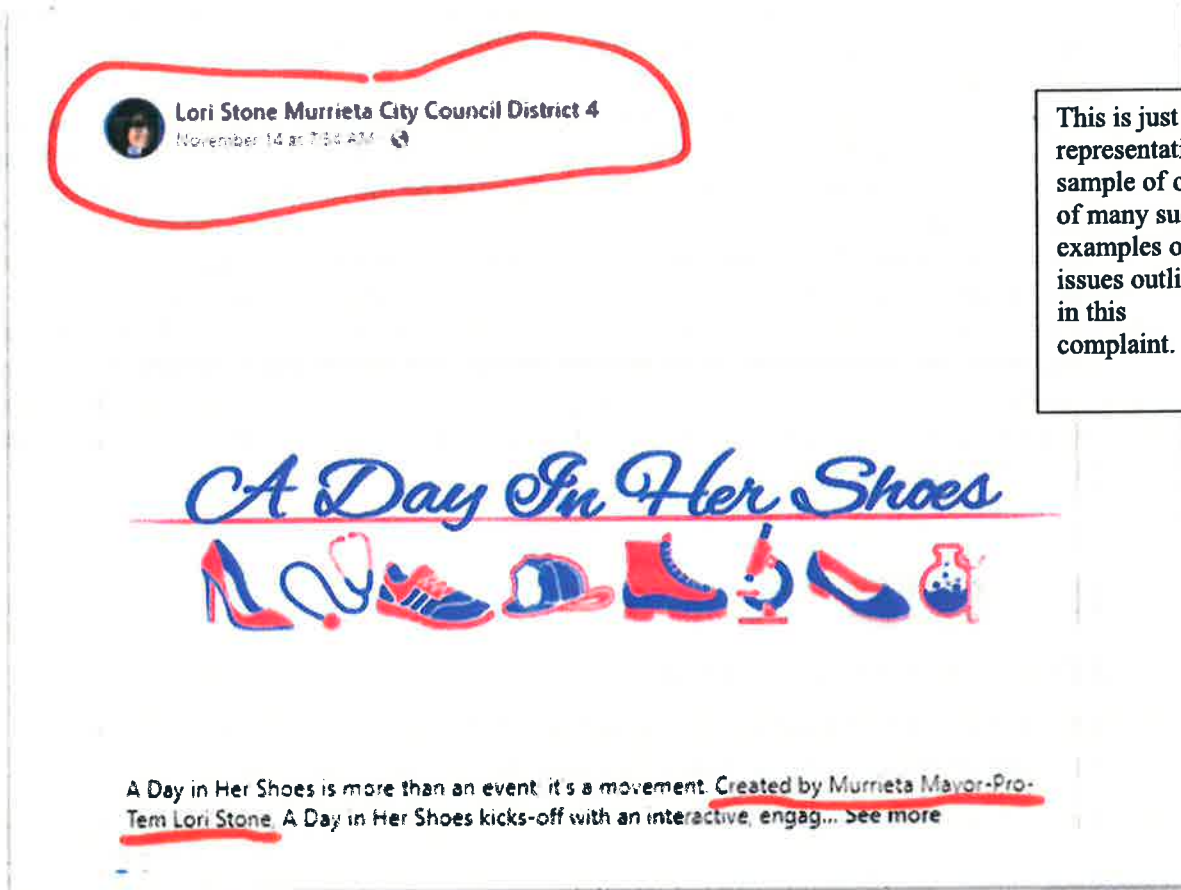
Created by Murrieta Mayor-Pro-Tem Lori Stone, A Day in Her Shoes kicks-off with an interactive, engaging, regional, inspirational experience. Held on March 8th, ...

WEBSITE:

adayinhershoesca.com

A Day in Her Shoes is more than an event; it's a movement. Created by Murrieta Mayor-Pro-Tem Lori Stone, A Day in Her Shoes kicks-off with an interactive,

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Murrieta City Council we urge you to consider this critically important fact about Stone's use of her elected position and title for personal and financial gain.

Succinctly put, Stone had the option to promote her personal event project using other title options.

Rather than incorrectly using the "Murrieta Mayor-Pro-Tem/Murrieta Pro Tempore" title in her personal promotional advertising materials, she could have used "Businesswoman," "Entrepreneur," "Political Consultant," "Political Vendor," etc.

Further, by choosing to include "Murrieta" in Stone's personal promotional advertising materials, Stone willfully implies that the City sanctions, is involved with, and/or endorses Stone's event.

Therefore, it should be clearly evident that Stone's willful misuse of her elected position and title is an egregious ethical error that must immediately be corrected.

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We have significant concerns about Stone's use of her status on the Murrieta City Council with regards to the sponsors Stone has acquired, or worse, leveraged for her personal, for-profit business venture.

A question that begs to be answered is how will these sponsorships best be unraveled? We would like to specifically know what Council's decisions will be in this regard.

The image shows a newspaper advertisement for an event titled "A Day in Her Shoes" on March 8, 2024. The ad is from "THE VALLEY BUSINESS JOURNAL" dated October 2023. A red arrow points to the "Gold Sponsors" list. The sponsors are categorized into Gold, Bridium, Bronze, and Friend Sponsors.

THE VALLEY BUSINESS JOURNAL
October 2023
www.TheValleyBusinessJournal.com

MARCH 8, 2024
A Day in Her Shoes

Gold Sponsors

- Watermark Associates
- Murrieta Hot Springs Resort

Bridium Sponsors

- Loma Linda Hospital
- Kaiser Permanente
- Diversified Pacific
- Crowd Theory
- Transitech

Bronze Sponsors

- CRAR Environmental Services
- Maryann Edwards
- State Farm - Julie Ngo
- Athens Services
- United University of Nursing
- Ivory Lane Candles
- LaPointe Wealth Management
- Riverside County Economic Development
- Fleet Integrity Title
- Escrow Leaders



Friend Sponsors

- SoCal Gas

Join the following sponsors in supporting and participating in this innovative and immersive experience. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Contact Lori Stone at lstone@innovativepoliticalsolutions.com or call (951) 265-0991

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Here is a brief outline of a few of our concerns with regards to Stone’s wrongful actions and the sponsors she has solicited, at this time. This list does not identify all of the conflict of interest items under scrutiny.

SPONSOR for EXAMPLES https://adayinhershoesca.com	CONCERNS:
Murrieta Hot Spring Resort @ \$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone’s connection to Murrieta Hot Springs Resort is 100% based on her position on the Murrieta City Council. • What “in-kind” or other services are being provided to Stone’s personal, for-profit business venture? • Heavy speculation might occur about City favors that will be, or are being, traded in exchange for permits, certificates of occupancy, or other “discretionary influence,” etc. for this \$10,000 sponsorship.
Transtech @ \$2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone’s connection to Transtech appears to be based on her position on the Murrieta City Council, whereby Stone attends the League of California Cities, aka Cal Cities, events and met individuals such as Melissa Demirci. • Transtech is out of the City of Chino and they provide municipal engineering services to public agencies.
Diversified Pacific @ \$2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversified Pacific is a residential home builder/developer. • Diversified Pacific has two projects in the City of Murrieta, including a Development Plan/Tract Map application currently under review! • Reasonable speculation might occur about City favors that will be, or are being, traded in exchange for this \$2,500 sponsorship.
Website: diversifiedpacific.com/portfolio/upcoming/	
Website: 	Website: 
CR&R @ \$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CR&R hopes to be awarded the next contract for waste hauling from the City of Murrieta.
Athens Services @ \$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athens Services hopes to be awarded the next contract for waste hauling from the City of Murrieta.
United University of Nursing @ \$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone’s connection to United University of Nursing is 100% based on her position on the Murrieta City Council. • United University of Nursing worked very closely with the City’s Economic Development Department.

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FURTHER COMPLAINTS AGAINST STONE:

As addressed in the introductory section of this complaint, since assuming office, Stone repeatedly fails to adhere to the overarching principles framed in the Murrieta Code of Conduct (hereinafter "Code), which calls for Murrieta's City Council Members to perform their duties at the "*highest standards of behavior*" and to "*promote and maintain an environment which fosters the public's trust and confidence in the city.*"

Stone fails to adhere to the foundational principles in the Code that mandate the ethical behaviors for each Murrieta City Council Member, but Stone also fails to comply with more than ten (10) specific elements, as set forth in the Murrieta Code of Conduct:

1. Fails to agree that compliance with all local, state and federal laws and regulations is an inherent quality of ethical behavior. Such laws govern... conflict of interest and criminal misconduct in office.
2. Fails to be honest with fellow officials, the public and others.
3. Fails to take responsibility for "her" actions, even when it is uncomfortable to do so.
4. Fails to disclose suspected instances of corruption to the appropriate authorities.
5. Fails to provide accurate information.
6. Fails to hold "herself" to high standards and fails to be accountable to the public, stakeholders, and other institutions.
7. Fails to be an agent of the democratic process, thus receiving input... accepting the result of the body's decisions and to engage in continuous improvement.
8. Fails from using "her" office or the resources of the city for personal or political gain.
9. Fails to be a prudent steward of public resources, including others' time.
10. Fails to support the public's right to know.

PRECEDENTS AND HISTORY

- **2006** – Murrieta Council Member Jack Van Haaster was formally admonished by Murrieta City Council for violating Council rules and policies by voting on a shopping center development that employed his son as a subcontractor.
- **2006** – Murrieta Council Member and Mayor Kelly Seyarto was formally sanctioned by the Murrieta City Council for violating Council rules and ethics policies by engaging in a confrontation with two City residents. The Council voted 3-1 to sanction him for his actions where he told a resident to "go home and clean (her) house" and told another resident to get his "ass out of the building."
- **2013** – The Murrieta City Council adopts a Code of Conduct establishing standards and behavior expected of City Council Members.
- **2015** – The Murrieta City Council voted unanimously to remove Harry Ramos as mayor after a report provided details regarding code of ethics violations.

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CONCLUSION AND DEMAND

The basic ethical values that govern your decisions regarding Stone wrongful actions are not complex. The Murrieta City Council's Code of Conduct was designed to incorporate numerous application examples (rather than being a one page document) that offer illustration points in order to assist with interpretation and evaluation of what is right and what is wrong. We urge you to take immediate action in this matter because you desire to set things right and it is your responsibility to act as a fiduciary on behalf of those in Murrieta.

You, the Murrieta City Council, profess your dedication to transparency and accountability. As Murrieta City Council members, how would you answer to the public if you ignored or dismissed Stone's wrongful actions? How would each of you individually answer to your own ethical compass if you choose to overlook Stone's ethical violations?

In the future, would you be able to look the citizens of Murrieta in the eye and profess your belief in the Code of Conduct, state that you uphold your Oath of Office, as well as affirm that transparency and accountability actively applies to you and each Council member?

Please ask yourselves:

- Will you choose to honor your pledges to uphold a standard of integrity and competence beyond that required by the law?
- Will you choose to perform your duties at the highest standards of behavior and require the same from your Council colleagues?
- Will you choose to promote and maintain an environment which fosters the public's trust and confidence in the city?
- Will you choose to do what is ethical, even when the situation might be uncomfortable?

Considering the complaints outlined herein, we request that, during the next few months, the Murrieta City Council develops new ethics policies so these wrongful actions and activities aren't likely to occur in the future. We specifically request that a new policy be put in place whereby an affidavit would be signed by future Murrieta City Council candidates when they "pull their papers" with the Murrieta City Clerk. The signed affidavit would state that the candidate declares that he/she/they are current, in good standing, and in full compliance with the California Franchise Tax Board, the California Secretary of State, and the Internal Revenue Service mandates and laws.

We strongly wish to avoid taking further action, including, but not limited to, legal recourse. We reserve all legal rights and remedies with respect to this matter. Nothing stated, or not stated, herein shall waive or be construed as a waiver of any such legal rights.

We hereby place you, the Murrieta City Council, on notice to take immediate action regarding Stone's unethical actions, as described herein. We request your written response within fifteen (15) days. In the event that you, the Murrieta City Council, fail to address our concerns, as outlined herein, further actions, up to and including any and all legal remedies, will be vigorously pursued.

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In light of the aforementioned facts, evidence, and pleadings, we pray and trust that the Murrieta City Council will take immediate action and not “look the other way.”

Yours respectfully,
Concerned Murrieta Citizens

