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9 Attorneys for Real Party in Interest
10 MARK NEWGENT

11 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
12 **COUNTY OF ORANGE – CENTRAL JUSTICE CENTER**

14 DAN CHMIELEWSKI,
15 Petitioner,

16 vs.

17 MOLLY M. PERRY, etc. et al,
18 Respondents,

19 _____
20 MARK NEWGENT,
21 Real party in interest.
22 _____

) Case No.: 30-2020-01156399-CU-WM-CJC

) **DECLARATION BY REAL PARTY IN**
) **INTEREST MARK NEWGENT IN**
) **SUPPORT OF SPECIAL MOTION TO**
) **STRIKE COMPLAINT**

) **RELATED TO ROA # 2**

) (Assigned for all purposes to
) Hon. Nathan Scott, Dept. C15)

) RES ID: 73361205

) Date: December 11, 2020
) Time: 9:30 a.m.
) Dept: C15

) Case Filed: August 21, 2020
) Trial Date: None Set





1 I, Mark Newgent, declare as follows:

2 1. I am the named real party in interest herein.

3 2. I have personal knowledge of the truth and accuracy of the facts set
4 forth herein, and if called upon as a witness, I could competently testify thereto. I do
5 not intend to waive the attorney-client privilege or work product doctrine by making
6 any statement herein.

7 3. I am a candidate for Irvine City Council in the November 3, 2020
8 general election. My ballot designation is "Retired Army Captain."

9 4. I used that same ballot designation in a prior local election in 2018, in
10 an election for Irvine City Council. In 2016 my designation was "Army
11 Captain/Parent" for the Irvine Unified School District Board of Education as I was
12 still in the Army when I filed. In those two prior occasions, no election official ever
13 challenged my designation and no voter filed a lawsuit challenging my designation.
14 The first I learned of anyone's dissatisfaction with my ballot designation was a call
15 and email from attorney Chad Morgan. Notably, he did not ask me to change my
16 ballot designation. He simply informed me that I had been sued and must respond.

17 5. I grew up in a very impoverished area of northern California. Growing
18 up, most of the time my older brothers and I lacked basic necessities such as
19 electricity, transportation to school, food and clothing. At the age of 16, I found
20 myself alone and homeless until I graduated from high school. Then at 17 years old,
21 I immediately enlisted in the United States Army as an infantryman. After initial
22 training and U.S. Army Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia, I was assigned as
23 an assistant gunner in the elite 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg North Carolina.

24 6. In 2000, I attended Cavalry Scout Reconnaissance Advanced Individual
25 Training (AIT) and was subsequently assigned as a Scout Squad Leader at Fort
26 Irwin, California. Two years later, I attended Military Police AIT and was assigned
27 as a Military Police Customs Squad Leader in the 560th Military Police Company,
28 Mannheim Germany. I moved to Hawaii in 2005 and was assigned as a Military



1 Police Squad Leader at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and later in 2008, assigned as a
2 Military Police Platoon Sergeant at Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

3 7. In 2009, after 13 years of enlisted service, I received a very rare and
4 prestigious Presidential Direct Commission as a Second Lieutenant and served as a
5 Military Police Platoon Leader in the 368th Military Police Company. In 2011, I
6 graduated from Military Police Basic Officer Leader Course and earned a Bachelor
7 of Science in Management. In addition to serving as a Platoon Leader, I served as an
8 Operations Officer, Logistics Officer, Anti-Terrorism Officer, Aide-De-Camp and
9 security advisor for several US Army Generals. I achieved the rank of Captain and
10 was selected for a prestigious Command position of a large military unit. I
11 subsequently served as the Company Commander 740th Combat Support Company.

12 8. Over the past 20 years, I have had several deployments, received
13 numerous accolades and awards, including an award for heroic achievement for
14 thwarting a terrorist plan and was credited for “many lives saved and protected.”
15 Two years later, on the same project, I was given an achievement award from the
16 Commanding General which it was stated that my security plans were considered
17 the “gold standard” for US Army Pacific and also a commendation from the then-US
18 Ambassador to Indonesia, Scot A. Marciel, who said that I “significantly enhanced
19 security and safety of all participants, as well as solidified a critical relationship
20 with key Indonesian security forces.”

21 9. In 2016, I voluntarily retired from the Army and received an honorable
22 discharge. I do remain a retired reserve member of the Army. My service as a
23 reserve member does not provide me a principal source of income. At the time of my
24 retirement from the Army, I had 20 years of honorable service in the military.

25 10. After retiring, I commenced receiving benefits based on my military
26 service and those benefits constitute my principal source of income. I have a vested
27 pension with the Army. After retiring from the Army, I have not held another full-
28 time job that provided me with a principal source of income. Instead, I have relied on



1 my income from my service in the military to support me. My wife works full time
2 and I am the primary caregiver for my children. My military benefits allow me to
3 stay at home, care for my children and volunteer for the community.

4 11. Although I have not had full time employment since leaving the
5 military, I have occasionally volunteered in the community. I have served as an
6 Irvine Investment Advisory Committee Member, advising the city on over one billion
7 dollars of city assets. I also served on the current Irvine Mayor's Advisory
8 Committee and previously served as an Orange County Commissioner on the Waste
9 Management Commission. None of the foregoing positions constitute full time
10 employment or provide me with a principal source of income.

11 12. I am aware of an allegation in the petition in this matter that I have
12 purportedly had "other intervening professions, including a business selling personal
13 protective equipment." (Pet., p. 7, li. 4-5.) That statement was verified by Petitioner
14 Dan Chmielewski and certified to this Court pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure,
15 section 128.7 by Big Bear Lake attorney Chad D. Morgan. I do not personally know
16 or socialize with Messrs. Chmielewski and Morgan and I have never shared with
17 either gentlemen information about my private financial affairs. Those two
18 gentlemen are speculating. I can say that the statement that I have had other
19 intervening professions is simply not true. Although I have had a smattering of part
20 time jobs since leaving the Army, none have provided me meaningful income. I
21 continue to rely on my military benefits for my principal source of income, including
22 the substantial legal fees needed to fight this lawsuit.

23 13. There have been media reports about my connection to Access
24 International, a medical supply company. That company does not provide me with
25 income. As of the signing of this declaration, I have never received one penny in W-2
26 wages, profit distribution, commission, compensation or other income from Access
27 International. My military benefits remain the principal income I use to pay for food,
28 housing and the other personal needs of me and my family. I am grateful to the



1 military for the benefits that allow me to remain at home and care for my children.

2 14. On my LinkedIn profile and other social media, I identify myself as
3 “Retired Army Captain.” In 2018, I walked door to door every day for about 60 days
4 straight to speak to voters. I told voters then about being retired and that being the
5 reason I am able to do this volunteer time on my campaign.

6 15. I am informed and believe that Mr. Chmielewski filed this action due to
7 feelings of ill will towards me. The source of my information and belief is that on
8 August 10, 2020, Mr. Chmielewski wrote a hit piece against me. A true and correct
9 copy of that article is attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit “1.”** The
10 article uses a pejorative nick name, “Mother Mark.” He brought up a bankruptcy
11 from twelve years ago to smear my reputation. He claims that my military record is
12 falsified. He disclosed to his readers personal and private information about a sexual
13 assault against my minor daughter. He accuses me of having delusions of grandeur.
14 One excerpt from Mr. Chmielewski’s missive against me is:

15 when Mother Mark has filmed himself several times three sheets to the wind
16 and has made fun of mental health and religion. Newgent has even verbally
17 attacked a 14-year-old kid, accusing that teen of being depressed. He has
18 demonstrated erratic and, frankly, frightening behavior more than once.

18 (Ex. 1.)

19 16. I do not know what I did to earn Mr. Chmielewski’s ire but that article
20 and this lawsuit suggest to me that Mr. Chmielewski is motivated by something
21 other than the fair enforcement of election law and is more motivated by Mr.
22 Chmielewisk’s personal animus and desire to destroy me and my family under the
23 cover of California law:

24 Oh, Mark, since you’re reading this piece please know it’s been vetted by two
25 lawyers...you’re a public figure –as a candidate and a public official as a
26 county commissioner – so standards for libel are very high and I have
27 documents backing up everything I’ve said and will say; the truth is my
28 primary defense. I have not libeled you even though you may believe I have;
look up the definition of a SLAPP suit; my lawyer is standing by).

28 (Ex. 1.)



1 17. Mr. Chmielewski is the publisher and Editor in Chief of the OC Liberal
2 Blog website in which the above article was posted. That website proudly boasts:
3 “We don’t take bullshit from conservatives.” (See the URL:
4 <http://theliberoloc.com/about-us/>.) Mr. Chmielewski is also a member of the
5 Democratic Party Central Committee, for the 68th Assembly District. I am informed
6 and believe that he is politically active and this petition by him is motivated more by
7 partisan politics rather than a belief in the enforcement of election rules. The source
8 of my information and belief is as follows:

- 9 a. January 4, 2019 statement that Mr. Chmielewski filing charges against
10 Greg Diamond (see this URL: https://mailchi.mp/bab7bddb4262/dan-just-cleaned-house-today?fbclid=IwAR1nPTBVSW_WCnaUNtZN79VfyMx71j_jOpFTPW-ccPgHD_Opcrp8onfLSpQ.)
11
12 b. Mr. Chmielewski has also called Irvine Mayor Christina Shea a bigot.
13 (See this URL: <http://theliberoloc.com/2020/08/14/irvine-police-patrolling-due-to-online-posts-from-council-candidate-mark-newgent/>.)
14
15 c. Mr. Chmielewski berates those who have simply pulled papers to run
16 for office, as in the piece published at
17 <http://theliberoloc.com/2020/07/23/late-breaking-irvine-city-council-candidates-pull-papers/> where Mr. Chmielewski refers to me as
18 “Mother Mark.”
19
20
21

22 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of California
23 that the foregoing is true and correct.

24 Executed this 24th day of August 2020, at Irvine, California.

25
26 

27 _____
28 Mark Newgent

Exhibit 1



August 24, 2020



Delusions of Grandeur, Lies and Threats: A Closer Look at Irvine City Council Candidate “Mother” Mark Newgent

BY DAN CHMIELEWSKI ON AUGUST 10, 2020



Mark Newgent with a cub scout in a photo from his campaign page. The Boy Scouts of America prohibit images of any kid in uniform being used in political literature which includes campaign websites.

“Mother” Mark Newgent, a Republican candidate for Irvine City Council who earned the nickname “Mother Mark” [after being exposed as the proprietor behind the “OC Moms 4 Truth”](#) Facebook page since renamed [OC Liberals](#), has been on the ballot twice before – IUSD trustee in 2016 and Irvine City Council in 2018. He’s a frequent public speaker at school board meetings, city council meetings, shows up in his military uniform on regular occasions at public events.

He also runs a company that is classified as managed by disabled veterans. The disability isn’t spelled out, but the more you speak with Irvine residents, the more you realize

something is not right. But hey, Newgent gets a handicapped sticker for better parking.

Over the past several months, Newgent has become a confidant of Irvine Mayor Christina Shea who placed Newgent on the Mayor's Advisory Committee advising the city on more than \$1 billion in taxpayer assets, which is odd because Newgent had a chapter 7 bankruptcy in Hawaii more than 10 years ago. As if Shea hasn't made enough bad choices lately.



Additionally, Newgent is an Orange County Commissioner for Supervisor Don Wagner's Waste Management Commission. An apt appointment, some would say.

He frequently posts videos where he makes an outrageous claim or two and then deletes them. [One he didn't delete](#) was Mayor Shea calling UCI students seeking rent relief or lease agreement flexibility due to COVID19 "spoiled kids." Newgent videoed the peaceful Black Lives Matter protest claiming, without evidence, that the protesters were paid agitators. The OC Moms 4 Truth site he's behind has outright libeled City Council member Farrah Khan, Mike Carroll and Patrick Strader, suggesting Khan was paid off for her vote to appoint Carroll to the city council. Newgent's current political behavior doesn't square with his version of his military record — the record he wants the public to see.

So, let's review.

Newgent is a former Army captain and lists a host of accomplishments on his campaign website. A fact check with the U.S. Army would only reveal some of the detail associated with Newgent's own description of his military service.

From the Army: **"Capt. Newgent served with the military police in the Regular Army and Army Reserve from July 1995 to October 2016, deploying to Bosnia in 2003. He**

received the following awards: Army Commendation Medal (x2); Army Achievement Medal (x2); Army Good Conduct Medal (x3); National Defense Service Medal; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Kosovo Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (x2); Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon (x2); NATO Medal; Expert Infantryman Badge; Driver and Mechanic Badge; and Russian Parachutist Badge.”

That’s all the Army would confirm.

Newgent’s Military biography on his website makes several claims the Army was not able to verify.

From Newgent’s website, this:

After initial training and U.S. Army Airborne School at FT Benning, Georgia, Mark was assigned as an assistant gunner in the elite 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg North Carolina.

In 2000, Mark attended Cavalry Scout Reconnaissance Advanced Individual Training (AIT) and was subsequently assigned as a Scout Squad Leader at Fort Irwin, California. Two years later, Mark attended Military Police AIT and was assigned as a Military Police Customs Squad Leader in the 560th Military Police Company, Mannheim Germany. Mark moved to Hawaii in 2005, and was assigned as a Military Police Squad Leader at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and later in 2008, assigned as a Military Police Platoon Sergeant at Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

In 2009, after 13 years of enlisted service, Mark received *a very rare and prestigious Presidential Direct Commission* as a Second Lieutenant and served as a Military Police Platoon Leader in the 368th Military Police Company. In 2011, Mark graduated from Military Police Basic Officer Leader Course and earned a Bachelor of Science in Management from the University of Phoenix. In addition to serving as a Platoon Leader, Mark served as an Operations Officer, Logistics Officer, Anti-Terrorism Officer, Aide-De-Camp and security advisor for several US Army Generals. In 2013, Mark achieved the rank of Captain, and was selected for a prestigious Command position of a large military unit. He subsequently served as the Company Commander 740th Combat Support Company 2013-2015. Mark is now retired from the US Army and continues to advocate for the people of Orange County.

...

Over the past 20 years, Mark has several deployments, received numerous accolades and awards. *Including an award for heroic achievement for thwarting a terrorist plan and was credited for “many lives saved and protected”*. Two years later, *on the same project*, Mark was given an achievement award *from the Commanding General which it was stated that Mark’s security plans were considered the gold standard for US Army Pacific* and also a commendation from the US Ambassador to Indonesia, “significantly enhanced security and safety of all participants, as well as solidified a critical relationship with key Indonesian security forces” -Scot A. Marcial, US Ambassador.

We asked the Army for details on this award for thwarting a terrorist plan and their response was, “**Are you sure he is referring to an award issued by the Army?**”

Newgent says it was given by the Commanding General. There’s no name offered. But that’s an Army award, right?

So, if not issued by the Army, then perhaps by the US Embassy in Indonesia, right? I reached out to the Embassy there and Ambassador Marcial, who Newgent quotes, left that country to become Ambassador to Burma and has since left that service. A general inquiry for contact with this diplomat was not answered and the US Embassy in Indonesia had no details to confirm this particular event. Internet searches came up empty without more detail (what year did this happen? Many terrorist attacks and thwarted attacks seem to have occurred long before Newgent was in Indonesia or well after he retired to Irvine). **I’ll invite Newgent to provide details of this attack with links to news stories in the comments below as well as details on the awards he says he has received or copies of letters that attest to his claims.**

Last month, I placed a public records request with IUSD for all communication between Newgent, school board members and IUSD administration. The file was massive and themes emerge that ought to disturb anyone considering Newgent as a candidate for office this November. Or ever.

In a series of emails to IUSD administration and board members, it’s clear to Newgent that the district’s school safety plans, vulnerability assessments and risk analysis are very inadequate (they are perfectly fine for any school in Irvine) and he wants to be the person who manages school security or or makes policy. He’s advocated for all teachers to have security radios connected on Irvine PD’s secure radio network, no less, to communicate threats like school shooters, place armed guards on school grounds and tighter security at schools in the safest city in America. Issuing that many radios to that many people would actually hinder rather than enhance communications, especially in an emergency, [which is what happened at the Parkland shooting in Florida](#). His idea of adding thousands of radios

to the district's network would actually have a negative effect on security – creating way too much noise to be able to adequately communicate any sort of threat to first responders – and placing Irvine PD's secure network at risk, weakening public safety throughout the entire city. And Newgent positions himself as a security expert.

Reviewing dozens of emails since 2016 paints a disturbing portrait of a person who frankly uses his own children regularly as a political shield in an attempt for him to wield influence or authority over the school district in missives that range wildly from “please let me help you” and “let's partner on this” to disparaging comments on the professionalism and competency of school and district administration. At one point, he offered to help Trustee Ira Glasky get the full 40% federal funding for special education that Congress allocated for but has never fully funded. This is a fight going on for decades – in every school district in the country – that Newgent has no prayer of fixing himself. But he thinks he can.

Delusions of grandeur? Absolutely.

One example: Newgent's son was enrolled at an Irvine Elementary school and Newgent was sent an email on instructions for picking up his child at a particular location when class was over. It's the same set of instructions sent to every parent. Newgent, instead, went to the wrong location and for a matter of minutes, he claims his son was unattended or “lost.” As a parent of two kids who went from K-12 in IUSD schools from 1998 to 2017, I call bullshit. There is always some school employee who's watching for kids until they all get collected. But Newgent blamed the school staff for his own failure to follow their simple directions. I'm not exactly sure how Newgent's expertise in security assessments could correct **his mistake in going to the wrong place**. Instead, the incident proved to be another example of how he uses his children to berate school professionals who already do a stellar job for something that is completely his fault.

There's another incident where Newgent rescinded an IEP for his daughter, in which the district provides a personalized educational assistance plan to a student who has a physical or emotional issue, that might inhibit learning or classroom performance. He then insisted on it being restored immediately claiming he never rescinded the IEP despite the district providing him with actual records of his rescission. How very Trumpian. Newgent did something. He insisted on changing it back saying he didn't do it. He was shown evidence he did exactly what the district said he did. And was still a jerk about it to school administrators.

Lots of threats of legal action from Newgent. Lots. (Oh, Mark, since you're reading this piece please know it's been vetted by two lawyers...you're a public figure –as a candidate and a public official as a county commissioner – so standards for libel are very high and I

have documents backing up everything I've said and will say; the truth is my primary defense. I have not libeled you even though you may believe I have; look up the definition of a SLAPP suit; my lawyer is standing by). A common fallback for Mark is to say he has considerable communication from other parents who agree with his take on a situation, but no proof is ever offered up.

A review of Newgent's campaign website has some errors he isn't sharing with voters. He says he lives in Irvine with his wife and two kids. His daughter doesn't live here anymore. She actually recently moved to Ohio to be with her mother. This is the same daughter Newgent claims – in communication with IUSD school board members and administrators – was somehow sexually assaulted while at school and the district failed to report it. Further, investigations from IUSD and Irvine Police found no assault took place. Newgent, who's running on a platform where supporting Irvine PD is the number one bulletpoint, has called the district and the police liars.

Newgent frequent references his daughter's case in public comments which provides him a measure of free speech and privilege, but its similar to the drivel that comes out of William Fitzgerald in public comments at Anaheim City Council meetings where Fitzgerald personally attacks women on the council calling them all sorts of vile names, and uses anti-gay and anti-Semitic references.

In email communications (a link provided below), Newgent has actually accused Superintendent Terry Walker of being drunk and acting out against Newgent's political pursuits. It's ironic that Newgent tries to project what he does himself onto the superintendent by stating that must be drunk and is "unhinged," when Mother Mark has filmed himself several times three sheets to the wind and has made fun of mental health and religion. Newgent has even verbally attacked a 14-year-old kid, accusing that teen of being depressed. He has demonstrated erratic and, frankly, frightening behavior more than once.

Newgent sure likes his Pineapple vodka: <https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCCPxAs7Zx-vTBy4t1MaulDQ>.

There's no bottom with this guy.

It is hard to go through communications after communications between the District and Newgent; the district has fully redacted Newgent's kids' names in every email and every letter where Newgent references them. My experience with IUSD with my own children was markedly different. I've had two issues with the district from 1998 to 2017' both issues resolved in emails over minor things compared to Newgent's regular demands for his children.

I'm not sure how old Newgent's son is, but when his son starts middle school at Sierra Vista and takes the same walking path my own kids did – from CanyonView Elementary to Sierra Vista (and eventually Northwood High), it won't be pretty. I'm sure Mother Mark will have a stroke when he sees the walking path to the middle school—which takes shortcuts through various gated communities — is lined with imaginary security concerns that he will insist the district address (walking on sidewalks and crossing streets in 7th and 8th grade isn't difficult).

Quite simply, Newgent is one of those toxic parents who questions the professionalism and qualifications of every person he interacts with from teachers to staff to school administration to district staff, district administration and school board members. Nothing is ever good enough because he wants that seat at the table and lacks the ability to actually work with those best positioned to address his concerns. I have the impression no one really wants to work with him.

See this email string (it's long): [Newgent6.22.2020 Fwd – District Prehearing Conference Statement and Motion to Continue](#)

The District has had enough. They recently sent Newgent a letter that threatens legal action for his continued defamation of district and school (and police officials) regarding the alleged sexual assault against his daughter. Newgent responded via a letter from a First Amendment attorney who claims his client is telling the truth. It's believed Newgent wants to sue the district and get a settlement from taxpayers. Since Newgent just donated \$100,000 of his own money to a city council race after two campaigns on a shoestring budget because he frequently claimed he was broke, maybe this is his way to augment his bank account to pay that mortgage in my neighborhood.

So Newgent has been sharing his letter to the district about his free speech rights but apparently doesn't want anyone to see the one the district sent him. As he's threatened to go to the media, by all means Mark – go to the media. And the district has the right to do the same thing. You can't use your children as a political human shield to attack the school district and then demand protection for them to keep your dirty laundry under wraps. We got a copy through a legal public records request.

Here are both letters for your review.

From IUSD to Newgent: [Newgent5.11.2020 051120 Newgent Cease and Desist \(002\)](#)

And his response from legal counsel: [Newgent5.19.2020 20200519 – Newgent – Ltr. to IUSD](#)

Additionally, Newgent has applied for the OC GOP party endorsement for City Council. The OC GOP rescinded their endorsement of Newgent for IUSD in 2016 over what they felt were shocking and inappropriate videos.

Here's the letter from OC GOP Chair Fred Whitaker:

Dear Central Committee Members,

Last week I notified you about my decision to suspend candidate aid to Irvine Unified School District Candidate Mark Newgent and Anaheim City Council District 5 Candidate Mark Lopez based on certain allegations made against them. After a careful review of the the available video evidence and facts surrounding the allegations, and in consultation with legal counsel and the Executive Committee, I've made a final determination.

Despite Mr. Newgent's honorable service to our country in the armed forces, it is clear that his video postings are ultimately a reflection of his own thoughts – as opposed to a character or persona as he had claimed. The content of the videos is unacceptable for someone running as the endorsed candidate of the Republican Party of Orange County, especially for a school board. As a result, the suspension of aid to Mr. Newgent remains in effect for the duration of the election cycle. For your reference, links to Mr. Newgent's video postings can be found below:

Mark Newgent Attacking 14 year old kid

Mark Newgent – “Scripture is crap political propaganda”

Mark Newgent gets drunk and posts videos online

Mark Newgent

With regard to the accusation against Mr. Lopez that he allegedly expressed support for the idea of “Sanctuary Cities” at a recent political forum, it is clear that his comments were taken out of context. A video recording of Mr. Lopez's comments at the forum, which can be viewed by clicking [here](#) and skipping to the 30 minute mark, demonstrates that he opposes the idea of having local police enforce federal law – which is substantively different than calling for Anaheim to become a Sanctuary City. It seems appropriate to note that there are many Republicans that advocate a similar position to what Mr. Lopez stated. Personally, I didn't find Mr. Lopez's statement on this issue any more objectionable than the statement from his Republican opponent – Steve Faessel – who declared his support for undocumented immigrants having access to higher education. Ultimately, Mr. Lopez's stated position does not contradict the party platform. Therefore, the suspension of his candidate aid has been lifted, restoring his access to the Republican Party of Orange County's resources for Member Communication efforts.

I am confident that we have reached a fair and reasonable conclusion on these matters and appreciate your patience as we worked through the process. Now that we are a week out from election day, I look forward to having you join me in stepping up the party's efforts to support our targeted candidates and ensure that they are successful on November 8th. Thank you for your service to the Republican Party of Orange County.

Sincerely,

*Hon. Fred M. Whitaker
Chairman
Republican Party of Orange County*

(Editor's note: I have no live links to these videos Whitaker mentions)

Now sources tell me Newgent ran for IUSD as an NPP in 2016; I can't find references to Party affiliation and even our friends at the very red OC Political blog weren't sure about Newgent as [they put a question mark](#) next to his name here. But he did get the party's endorsement until they yanked it. He did run as a Republican in 2018 using re-cycled signs from his school board race with a horrible sticker over his signs. Cheaper than new signs, but candidacy to represent voters or children's education should be a more serious choice than a toss of a coin, right?

Newgent has applied for endorsement by the OC GOP for City Council this year citing his closeness to Irvine Mayor Christina Shea; information on his application allegedly says the 2016 NPP affiliation was "a glitch" and that he has always been a Republican. If Shea endorses him, it ought to be another nail in her political coffin.

as I was writing this, I'd go back and re-read the emails, letters and communications from Newgent verbally beating up our school board, administration and staff. If you are a Republican in Irvine, there are better choices if you have to vote "Red."

I actually feel bad for his kids. His daughter has left the area and his son is little. For voters, they should know the sort of person he is based on a significant number of interactions with city and school officials. Newgent wants to sit on our city council and make decisions on how taxpayer money is spent. "Mother" Mark is the last guy who should be elected to anything. Republican candidates and officials who give him attention show a lack of judgement.

As I was fact-checking this, I had a phone with a friend who knows Newgent. I told him about the piece and how hard it was to track down factual details of Newgent’s claims on “thwarting terrorism in Indonesia” or “how a security plan he wrote was a standard.” My friend said he was worried about Newgent’s reaction to this story and offered to let me borrow his gun. “He’s nuts” — referring to Newgent. I thought he was joking about the gun. He wasn’t. I’m not worried. What this post has done is given Mark Newgent exactly what he craves — political attention. Not the kind he wants, but political attention all the same.

Dan Chmielewski

6 Comments

Ayn Craciun

AUGUST 10, 2020

Wow. Very disturbing. I’m glad to see that the OC GOP did the right thing in rescinding their endorsement. This part from OC GOP chair Fred Whitaker speaks volumes:

“Despite Mr. Newgent’s honorable service to our country in the armed forces, it is clear that his video postings are ultimately a reflection of his own thoughts – as opposed to a character or persona as he had claimed. The content of the videos is unacceptable for someone running as the endorsed candidate of the Republican Party of Orange County, especially for a school board. As a result, the suspension of aid to Mr. Newgent remains in effect for the duration of the election cycle. For your reference, links to Mr.

Newgent’s video postings can be found below:

Mark Newgent Attacking 14 year old kid

Mark Newgent – “Scripture is crap political propaganda”

Mark Newgent gets drunk and posts videos online

Mark Newgent”

Thanks Dan for your reporting and research – great to see the source material. I don’t see how anyone could credibly refute this.

[Reply](#)

Dan Chmielewski

POST AUTHOR | AUGUST 10, 2020

That was for 2016, not 2020

[Reply](#)

Dan Chmielewski

POST AUTHOR | AUGUST 11, 2020

Mark has cut a couple of videos calling me a stalker, suggesting that the district gave out personal private information and has left Facebook comments on the video suggesting I have been paid. Hysterical. 1. My understanding is his daughter — a minor — is not enrolled in an IUSD school this fall and that she has moved to Ohio; looks like she's here for a visit. 2. In researching the story, I'm just someone who's watched every public comment video he has made at IUSD meetings since 2016 and reviewed all his communications with the district since 2016. That's not stalking. 3. I'm not paid. If Mark doesn't want his children brought into this election campaign, then perhaps he needs to police himself and stop bringing them into it. Mark has released the letter from his attorney to the district where he describes alleged crimes against his kids — he's the one who's made them public, not me. I just dropped the other shoe in sharing the letter that started it. You can't use your kids as a political human shield when it suits you and then ask for privacy when you have already surrendered it. He's not protecting his kids; he exploits them. Everything I've learned of his kids came from his mouth and his written words in communications with the school district. Glad his daughter is here for a visit. My understanding is only one of kids is enrolled in IUSD for the fall.

[Reply](#)

Some Dude, Safer at Home

AUGUST 11, 2020

Another interesting photo of what appears to be Mark can be seen at http://www.oc-breeze.com/2019/12/21/149760_raucous-orange-unified-board-meeting-results-in-split-vote-to-approve-charter/, where he was attending a December 2019 Orange Unified school board meeting concerning the approval of charter school petition. He is accompanied in this photo by Mari and Jeff Barke, who are ideological charter school advocates. Since this December 2019 meeting, they have become widely known for their pandemic denialism via the Orange County Board of Education's July vote to recommend opening of schools without social distancing or mask requirements. Mari is an elected county school board member and Jeff is a physician who has received widespread attention for his protests of pandemic mitigation measures. They were both out protesting in Santa Ana last week to reopen schools (<https://www.ocregister.com/2020/08/04/these-o-c-parents-have-a-message-for-gov-newsom-teachers-unions-open-up-the-schools/>)

[Reply](#)

[Irvine Police Patrolling Neighborhoods Near Two Irvine Council Members Homes Due to Online Posts from Council Candidate Mark Newgent – The Liberal OC](#)

AUGUST 14, 2020

[...] has taken to social media after our post on Monday to push a false narrative that the post attacked his underage children and that somehow Council [...]

[Reply](#)

Steven Carter

AUGUST 24, 2020

Articles like this is why many people choose not to participate in local politics. I don't know if all your accusations are accurate, but I tend to give parents the benefit of the doubt if they say that their daughter was sexually assaulted. Why would someone lie about that.

Don't get me wrong, I won't be voting for Mark or any Republican in this election. His alliance with Mayor Shea and Col. Raths is another reason.

I wish you could footnote your claims, so that others could confirm them, if they so desired, but I realize that's not normally done in an article.

I just wish that politics in Irvine did not have to become a contact sport.

I'll be supporting the candidates endorsed by DGI, not because they endorsed them, but because I think they are the better candidates, especially former Mayor Agran, with whom I have the highest regard.

I've met Mark and kind of like the guy on a personal basis. His service to our country is far more than I've ever done. However, I cannot excuse faking a web site for political purposes.

[Reply](#)

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PROOF OF SERVICE

Chmielewski v. Perry, et al.

Orange County Superior Court Case No.: 30-2020-01156399-CU-WM-CJC

I, Jason R. Ebbens, declare that I am over the age of 18 years, employed in the County of Los Angeles, and not a party to the within action; my business address is 609 Deep Valley Drive, Suite 200, Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274.

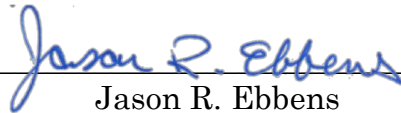
On **August 24, 2020**, I served the foregoing: **DECLARATION BY REAL PARTY IN INTEREST MARK NEWGENT IN SUPPORT OF SPECIAL MOTION TO STRIKE COMPLAINT** on the interested parties in this action by placing the original a true copy thereof, enclosed in a sealed envelope with postage pre-paid, addressed as follows:

** See Attached Service List **

BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE. I served the foregoing document(s) on interested parties by using the electronic filing service ONELEGAL to serve and file documents electronically as mandated by the Orange County Superior Court. The documents were electronically transmitted to the e-mail addresses of the persons set forth the above.

(STATE) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on **August 24, 2020**, in Rolling Hills Estates, California.



Jason R. Ebbens



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SERVICE LIST

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Orange County Superior Court Case No.: 30-2020-01156399-CU-WM-CJC

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