

Next Meeting

Wednesday, August 26
7:00 PM

Clark Building, 861 Valley Drive
Hermosa Beach

(Note the change in venue for this meeting — we will not be at the HB Community Center! The Clark Building is less than half a mile south on Valley and should have plenty of parking for us.)

Our meeting will include several endorsement votes — come and meet and support your local Democratic candidates!

We will vote on possible endorsements in the following races:

- Hermosa Beach City Council
- Hermosa Beach School Board
- LA County Board of Supervisors

Bring along a friend or neighbor so they can meet the candidates! However, only BCD members of at least 30 days' duration will be eligible to vote.

Reports from County Committee, the 66th AD and other related Dem organizations.

Reminder of upcoming BCD meetings:
Wednesday, September 16, BCD eBoard planning meeting
Special Prop 13 panel on Thursday, 9/17 with Treas. John Chiang, Sen. Holly Mitchell!
November 18 election recap

Staffing for Fiesta Hermosa Labor Day weekend booth (9/5 - 7)
Planning for Manhattan Hometown Fair (10/3 - 4)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Meaningful Police Oversight Begins with Reporting



I think everyone reading this column has probably been dismayed by the now ubiquitous viral videos posted of police officers beating and sometimes killing unarmed citizens. The victims of these crimes are often non-white, frequently mentally ill, occasionally children. In many cases the original pretext for police involvement is highly questionable: a minor traffic violation, petty crime, or sometimes simply being profiled because they are black or Hispanic.

A friend asked me recently if I thought that there had been an upsurge in such abuses recently. While I know that there

is an argument that American police have become more militarized over time, I strongly suspect that the main thing that has changed is simply that these crimes are now exposed in an incontrovertible way due to the widespread ownership of cell phone cameras.

What used to be the police officer's word vs. the word of bystanders is now caught on tape. Sadly, it is becoming clear that our long national propensity to trust the word of police officers was often misplaced. I still believe that the majority of police are professional and reasonable individuals who enter the force to protect citizens from criminals. But it is now clear that there are quite a few officers who are bullies and tyrants who terrorize at will. It is also clear that neither their colleagues on the force, citizen oversight boards, or the courts are adequately protecting us from them.

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Our candidate Al Muratsuchi addresses the July meeting. Photo courtesy of Jim McGreevy

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Even gathering data on the frequency of police shootings is quite difficult. The Washington Post published an excellent article on May 30, 2015 titled "Fatal Police Shootings in 2015 Approaching 400." In it they mention the difficulty of compiling statistics on police shootings. Among those that the Post was able to research, 13% of the victims of a police shooting (49 people out of the 385 shot) were unarmed. Two-thirds of unarmed victims were black or Hispanic. Twenty-four percent (92 people) were identified as mentally ill. And according to the Post's analysis, "blacks were killed at three times the rate of whites or other minorities when adjusting by the population of the census tracts where the shootings occurred." In only three cases have officers been charged with a crime — and in all three, videos of the shooting existed.

What can we do about this issue? As we discussed with Rep. Ted Lieu's field rep, Joey Apodaca, at our July meeting, there are significant jurisdictional issues with providing effective nationwide police oversight. I would like to propose a minimum first step: mandatory reporting of all officer involved shootings in which the victim was unarmed to the FBI. As the Post reported, "As a start, criminologists say the federal government should systematically analyze police shootings. Currently, the FBI struggles to gather the most basic data. Reporting is voluntary, and since 2011, less than 3 percent of the nation's 18,000 state and local police agencies have reported fatal shootings by their officers to the FBI. As a result, FBI records over the past decade show only about 400 police shootings a year — an average of 1.1 deaths per day."

I am working with several BCD members to gather data to present to Rep. Lieu in hopes of seeing legislation drafted to this effect. Please send me any supporting data you may have and voice your support to our Congressman and other electeds for such oversight. While it is a minimal first step, I believe it is critical

to measuring and then criminalizing the abuse of unarmed citizens by police in our country.

Yours,
Kathryn E. Campbell
President, Beach Cities Democrats
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July Recap

Minutes courtesy of Secretary Tom Cares

President Kathryn Campbell opened the meeting, inviting first time guests to introduce themselves.

Treasurer Edna Murphy reported \$1,816 in the federal account and \$560 in the state account. The federal account expended \$40, with no deposits. The state account expended \$15, with \$50 in deposits.

Al Muratsuchi addressed the club, asking for club's endorsement. He recounted his 2012 election against Craig Huey, and subsequent legislative successes regarding higher education, balanced budgets, and climate change.

Ted Lieu's representative Joey Apodaca spoke about climate change, federal spending conflicts, and the Iran deal. He conveyed that Congressmen Lieu will comb through the Iran deal and give his evaluation on whether the deal makes us safer. He then spoke about the Office of Personnel data breach and Lieu's initiative to discharge OPM of the responsibility to safeguard such data, possibly placing it on the Department of Homeland Security instead. Apodaca concluded by announcing Lieu's competition for best photos taken in the 33rd congressional district.

A speaker from California Clean Money campaign spoke about AB 700, the California Disclose Act, and urged the club to contact Asm. Hadley seeking his support on the bill.

Hermosa Beach Mayor Nanette Barragan spoke about her campaign for Congress. She conveyed a need for support and disappointment that institutional party figures tell her it's "not your turn." She contrasted special interest connections with her main opponent

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Ted Lieu's Representative Joey Apodaca presenting Lieu's position on climate change and the Iran negotiations.

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 (whom she resisted naming) and

lamented that there are “different types of Democrats,” specifically referencing her opponent’s position on the Keystone Pipeline. She concluded by taking questions.

Joe Galliani spoke about Community Choice Aggregation. He rejoiced that the South Bay is a hotbed on this issue, and that efforts here are positively cited around the state. He explained CCA and some of the likely logistics of how it would work in the South Bay. He noted that South Bay Edison has not been the unco-operative opponent PG&E has been in Northern California and that the County believes CCA in the South Bay could be up and running in 12 months.

Subsequent to the discussion on CCA, President Kathryn Campbell invited a motion for the club to state support for Community Choice Aggregation. Ray Waters made the motion to support CCA. Motion was seconded and passed.

Secretary Tom Cares spoke about the consequences of endorsing early as something to consider in endorsement practices. Concerns expressed were:

1. Candidates may be less likely to revisit the club once they have its endorsement, limiting our ability to influence them to be better representatives;
2. If it has the effect of dissuading additional, and perhaps less-institutional, democratic candidates, it hinders the evolution of the party;
3. Should additional candidates emerge after we endorse, the good faith validity of that endorsement is somewhat corrupted, since, likely unbeknown to the electorate, those candidates were not considered; and

If a superior candidate emerges, we might regret the endorsement.

The scheduled endorsement vote for Al Muratsuchi was then cast. Muratsuchi

was endorsed with only one vote against.

The club moved to support a letter from Food and Water Watch opposing fracking.

President Kathryn Campbell spoke about the past fundraiser for Al Muratsuchi and announced a Prop 13 reform event on 9/17 in Culver City. The club authorized spending \$100 for the event.

Vice President Dency Nelson spoke about holding September’s meeting at a larger venue.

At President Campbell’s urging, the club passed a motion to contribute \$50 to the LACDP’s presence at the County Fair.

Ray Waters proposed endorsing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action nuclear agreement with Iran.

Dency Nelson discussed the Special Olympics in Hermosa Beach. He congratulated and thanked the Beach Communities for their participation in the



Joe Galliani speaking to the club about Community Choice Aggregation

individual “Host Town” opportunities where each community hosted and entertained visiting teams of Special Olympians who were with us the week before the “Special Olympics World Games Los Angeles 2015” that were held here in L.A. from July 25 thru August 2.

Motion to adjourn passed [with many members staying long after to discuss Democrats’ positions on the Iran Nuclear Agreement, among other things].



Al Muratsuchi addressing the members in our new, spacious meeting room. Photos courtesy of Jim McGreevy

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