

**Francisco J. Barragan** (*Spoke at City Council meeting in early November 2010.*)

*Note: ITEMS in **ITALICS** I did NOT read out at City council meeting– lack of time)*

**Business Leader / Community Volunteer**

<http://wespeakideas.com/index.php/about/>

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This is my opinion only and not that of any group

First of all congratulations, the election is over and you have my well wishes and **support** as you begin a new term, especially because many serious issues remain, and we must be focused on improving our City.

*We continue to have*

- *High violent crime rates;*
- *high drop-out rates by students;*
- *highest teen-age pregnancies;*
- *streets with potholes;*
- *high number of homeless veterans;*
- *high unemployment;*
- *the need to attract and retain more jobs in Santa Ana.*
- *And the need to work together as a community.*

And because of what I am going to say, I feel like an unwanted guest at a party.

But a new and troubling issue was created by Police Chief Paul Walters.

I have always had a deep respect for Chief Walters, and our brave police officers who put their lives on the line for our safety. And I have always seen Chief Walters as a good man, but even good men err. And I wish I was here today singing his praises – but unfortunately this is not possible.

*On Monday November 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:23 pm; 1 day before the elections, I received a troubling political robocall by Chief Walters, and I was immediately very disturbed*

**Go to YOUTUBE.com and search “Chief Paul Walters”**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9qcXj78EFo>

In the negative political attack-call Chief Walters identified himself as the Chief of Police; made it sound as if he had conducted an official investigation, and as if he was now reporting- and he never said that he was stating his personal opinion. Chief Walters also EQUATED and EQUIVOCATED on two terms (Endorsement vs Support) which have different meanings, and it seems with the intent of unduly influencing the race for Mayor.

We should all be concerned when an Officer, especially a Police Chief uses their Police Affiliation or Rank and engages in negative Political activity.

The robocall by Chief Walters is definitely

- 1) a breach of Ethics AND Professional Standards,
- 2) demonstrated a lack of sound judgment; and
- 3) is possibly illegal.

I served in the US Marines and the CA National Guard, and we always served for the right of every citizen to freely express their voice in public without fear of any retaliation.

However, **WE WERE PROHIBITED** for good reason, and we also learned to **keep our personal opinions to ourselves while in UNIFORM, and to NOT USE our MILITARY AFFILIATION, or RANK to state our personal opinions especially POLITICAL ones.**

1) **Chief Walter's call IS VERY TROUBLING** to me and should be to all Citizens because he used his role as a **PUBLIC Servant and his Police AFFILIATION and RANK to state his personal opinion in a very POLITICAL manner.**

2) *I know that AT A MINIMUM this a clear BREACH of ETHICS*

a) **This sets a very WRONG precedent which can SIGNIFICANTLY HARM and UNDERMINE his LEADERSHIP ability, and**

b) can also Significantly **DIMINISH HIS AUTHORITY and the trust** that *all our good Officers, our other elected leaders, and Citizens* have placed on him and on the power and authority of his office.

For example, [Per the California Police Chiefs Association – Code of Ethics](#) – they say:

- 1) “We must avoid any political involvement or partisanship which could impede or jeopardize a professional and impartial discharge of duties.”
- 2) *Responsibility to Enforcement Agency*  
“We recognize the need to conduct ourselves at the highest level of professionalism and ethical conduct: to provide leadership by example.”

Notice they do not say **LOWEST** levels of professionalism and ethical conduct; and since this is also about "Leadership by Example" - the lowest standard is NOT conducive to good leadership.

So I am definitely concerned about the unethical action by Chief Walters, because Good leadership and "Tone is always set at the Top!"...

3) This breach of ethics and trust *by our Chief of Police, and the abuse of his police Affiliation and Rank, might also border on ILLEGALITY – this is something that should be INDEPENDENTLY INVESTIGATED* to

a) **PREVENT RECURRENCE**,

b) **REBUILD THE TRUST** in the office of the Police Chief,

c) **ENSURE** our brave and dedicated Police Officers do **NOT** see this a “green light” to engage in same behavior, and

d) **PREVENT any chilling-effect this might have on Free-Speech or the Freedom of Assembly; or**

on the desires of future citizens who might wish to run for public office, but who might be afraid of doing so because of **FEAR OF BEING THE POLITICAL TARGETS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**.

iii) Chief Walters knew or should have known that his statement was an improper political statement and **ABUSE OF HIS OFFICE**, *because he also made it sound as if he conducted an investigation in his role of Chief of Police*

5) *ADDITIONALLY, it is interesting that Chief of Police Walters would take it upon himself to “investigate” and “clarify” certain political statements being made by one candidate while **IGNORING** the claims that VIOLENT CRIME HAS DROPPED By 64% for the last several years, while according to FBI Crime Statistics VIOLENT CRIME HAS ACTUALLY REMAINED UNCHANGED FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS AND AT VERY HIGH LEVELS.*

I am surprised that Chief Walters would run the risk of **TARNISHING** his own **LEGACY** by his clear unethical action, and likely illegal action.

Let us **NOT** let SAPD become politicized as OC Sheriff’s Dept under Carona.

*Now, If I am wrong about this being an unethical action or violation of the highest professional standards by Chief Walters; I will hold myself accountable and personally and publicly apologize to Chief Walters and volunteer to do at least 20 hours of community service with a not-for-profit of Chief’s Walters choosing; and if I am correct, I am wondering how will we hold the Chief accountable, because if the Chief can’t push back against political pressure or incentives by his superior (the Mayor), then what department head can? (I wish I had had time to add this last sentence - **Francisco**)*

I thank you for your time!