

Date: 12/24/2025 7:50:47 AM
From: "Jim Vanderpool"
To: "Natalie Meeks" NMeeks@anaheim.net
Subject: Re: Potential Forthcoming LA Times Article

Thank you, Natalie. Really means a lot. I can't believe the story is going to surface five years later. Ridiculous.

I'm very concerned that certain people are trying to sabotage any Angels deal.

It won't stop me.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 23, 2025, at 9:07 PM, Natalie Meeks <NMeeks@anaheim.net> wrote:

You have my 100% support and you are doing amazing work for Anaheim.

Have a wonderful Christmas.

Natalie

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

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From: Jim Vanderpool <JVanderpool@anaheim.net>

Sent: Tuesday, December 23, 2025 6:18:37 PM

To: Jim Vanderpool <JVanderpool@anaheim.net>

Subject: Potential Forthcoming LA Times Article

Mayor/City Council-

Staff is aware of inquiries and pending L.A. Times stories on emails recently provided by Chamber of Commerce officials. Unfortunately, we expect to see significant mischaracterization and misrepresentation of events dating back more than five years now.

Allow me to take this opportunity to address some of the anticipated issues:

My joining Anaheim as City Manager

City of Anaheim officials or their representatives contacted me directly on three different City Manager vacancies dating back to 2015. The first was by retained recruiting firm CPS Consulting for a national executive search. I took part in the process and was a finalist interviewed in closed session by the entire City Council at that time (Tait, Brandman, Kring, Murray and Vanderbilt). I was notified the day after my interview that I was the runner-up and that the City would be offering employment to the in-house interim incumbent, Paul Emery.

About two years later, I was again contacted by the City of Anaheim seeking my interest in the City Manager position. This time by Linda Andal. She inquired about my interest, to which I again signaled I was. She indicated that there would be another executive recruitment, and that I would be contacted. I was reluctant to take part in another recruitment so soon after the recent process for two reasons: (1) My participation in 2015 "leaked" to the public, and I was criticized by some members of the Buena Park City Council. (2) The previous executive recruitment was still fresh, and I felt there was nothing more I could convey to the City beyond the recent recruitment process and my familiarity to Anaheim as City Manager of neighboring Buena Park. The City opted to move ahead with an executive recruitment. I did not engage.

I was contacted for a third time, by a range of stakeholders, in 2020 as Anaheim was again seeking a City Manager.

Having been previously vetted as runner-up, I stand firm that my selection in 2020 was strongly validated by: the outcome of a thorough executive recruitment by a reputable executive search firm; my eight years in the capacity as City Manager in Buena Park; and further confirmed by my reputation in the profession, both locally and statewide. Further, this issue was reviewed in the JL Group investigation, and very likely by the FBI as well, without issue.

My recruitment, qualifications, experience and performance as Anaheim City Manager speak for themselves. I reject any mischaracterization and misrepresentation we are likely to see in the stories.

If there are any questions or concerns on any of the above, I encourage you to speak directly with Linda Andal, who directly oversaw all three recruitments.

City Manager “Concurrence to Support Stadium Sale” as a Condition of Employment

My 2020 offer of employment was never contingent upon my commitment to support the Angel Stadium sale, which was already in an advanced stage at the time I joined. This concept was never discussed with me by any party.

“Mock” City Council Meeting

I did not attend and was not involved in any preparation for it.

Lake Havasu

Very early in my tenure with the City of Anaheim, my husband and I were invited to Lake Havasu by Todd Ament. Hernan and I went. Neither Jeff Flint nor Harry Sidhu were in attendance. It was a social gathering, not a “retreat,” as may be incorrectly characterized. I did not engage with any subsequent social or business travel with Todd Ament.

I thank you for this opportunity to address these issues. If I can answer any questions you may have, please reach out to me directly.