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New Police Officers

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To: Dept - City Council <CityCouncil@newportbeachca.gov>

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All,

We are two billion dollars in debt, and we only receive about \$250m per year in revenue—most of it due to unfunded pension liabilities.

That's a debt-to-income ratio so poor that not only will we never be able to pay this off, but certain council members are actually proposing to make it worse by hiring more police.

The problem, though, is that we are not only an extremely safe city by normal standards—but we are actually the safest that we've ever been.

So unless we want to accuse the police department of lying to make crime seem lower than reality, what is being proposed here is to add more police during the lowest crime-rate years—ever. And in addition to that, hurling debt on top of our existing pile of debt for future generations to bear.

I have used the cliché for years, and perhaps you all have heard it over and over, but with a debt-to-income ratio like the one we have—if the city were a person, it wouldn't qualify for a home loan in Kansas.

“BUT WE HAVE ASSETS”, the spend-happy-group screams, as if that makes a difference. Assets only matter if you are willing to liquidate them. Are you, as councilmembers, prepared to scream “but we have assets!” when people call out the absurd debt we are in? Are you prepared to set up a situation where we liquidate parks and other city-owned property?

If you are not prepared to take these steps, then I propose we stop our spending spree, beginning with adding police officers in the lowest-crime-years in a low-crime city.

Did you know that we have more police officers per capita—by far—than any other city in OC? The reckless-spenders on council will say “because of tourists!”, but do we really believe that 7.3m tourists/year in our affluent Newport Beach comes anywhere close to the eye-popping 24.2million tourists that Anaheim is experiencing?

We need to stop smashing the “panic button” every time someone is running for a higher office and trying to get headlines.

We need to call this what it is.

We need to be fiscally responsible, not only because it is entirely rational, but because we are burdening our children with keeping up with the cost that we aren't bothering to budget for.

We are all familiar with people who create imaginary crises and then propose solutions for them in order to gain political capital on the backs of the dollars from taxpayers. In fact, Forbes just came out with an article on it, here: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/stephaniesarkis/2019/06/09/trump-and-other-gaslightersnarcissists-create-crises-and-then-act-like-they-solved-them/>

Don't be that person. You all proclaim to be better than that, I believe that all of you are better than that (yes, all of you) and I hope you vote like it.

This is an absurd proposal. Don't use Newport's tax dollars to fund a solution to a non-problem just so someone else can run for higher office. That's not what tax dollars are supposed to be used for.

Mike