

Fact Check #6

Current brand of leadership

(Click on the active Internet links for source documents.)

By Dr Bill Ullery

Current special brand of “political turmoil”

“You can't have a republic or a democracy without participants who can freely speak through voting.” [Jane Hampton Cook](#)

With that introduction, let's consider what happened when our city council's “royalty” filled two city council seats by appointment and not by an election. The Today's News-Herald opinion piece of 5/27/12 called it straight-up: [Nyberg, Borrelli shut out city voters](#) was the headline. “With their resignations, one-third of the council will be filled with members who are accountable, not to the public, but to other council members (the royalty) who appointed them. Council members are supposed to be elected by and accountable to the public save for the supposedly rare exception of short-term vacancies and temporary replacements.” “Regardless of motives, the end result is that the sitting council, not the voters, get to decide who'll occupy a third of the council seats for a good, long time.”

See also, [Two resignations, two vacancies, zero public say](#), By Greg Moberly, Today's News-Herald, 5/25/12. “With two Lake Havasu City Council resignations in the past week, there are two pending appointments that voters won't have a direct say about. And that's the way it's written in state law for general law cities. In order to change that, state law would have to be altered or the city would have to craft its own **charter** including different rules for council vacancies.”

How did they fill the two seats? See, [City violates open meetings laws](#), By Greg Moberly, Today's News-Herald, February 28, 2013. This was the first such Attorney General citation against Havasu officials in the history of our city! There were only two votes of council members that filled those seats. Imagine that...elected to a city council seats by two votes. And in an illegal vote at that.

And, who got appointed? Two Chamber of Commerce insiders (Coke and Alger) who were fiends of mayor Nexsen's wife, who was president of the Chamber board. And of course, her business partner Brister is now on the council.

So much for the current brand of “local political turmoil and personal agendas”

In any community with an entrenched political [oligarchy](#) based on [patronage](#), you get a corrupted government where power rests with a small clique of the friends and relatives of the leader. Such structures are always detrimental to progress, prosperity, and good government.

And, you can bet such incumbents will fight to stay in power in the upcoming 2014 election with backing from some wealthy Havasu elites.

I'd like to hear your opinions on such subjects and I need your help. Please contact me: Email dbu@dbuhomes.com Cell 928.716.3014