

## Desert Sun

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### The Desert Rat

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*The Desert Sun*

Face it, DHS, you're still in the bull's eye

It looks like Desert Hot Springs, the recent "corruption capital" of the Coachella Valley, has found a new city manager in Ann Marie Gallant, formerly of King City.

It would be nice to say that this big, long controversy in DHS is finally coming to an end. It would be nice to see Desert Hot Springs achieve some semblance of a normal city. It'd be nice to say that soon the Rat will no longer have a reason to call DHS names - but that's probably not the case.

Not while councilwoman Mary Stephens is still lurking in the chambers.

Few people would argue that Desert Hot Springs needs some new faces in its government, especially on the city council. Two down, several more to go.

Stephens, in her latest shenanigan, is allegedly making preemptive strikes against the new city manager. Add that to her constantly initiating bitter conflicts with Mayor Alex Bias and she's still a working recipe for disaster.

Think back a moment - don't worry, the Rat won't let you forget this: Stephens was one of the city council members who voted in a closed session to give former city manager Jerry Hanson a lucrative retirement package that Hanson himself drew up. That almost cost the city millions of dollars had it not been for a reversal of the vote.

Then, Stephens ran for mayor and lost to the man who signed a petition to have her removed from the city council. Unfortunately, that recall effort against Stephens and Councilman Hank Hohenstein failed when petitioners failed to collect enough qualified signatures.

Now it seems the mayor and Mayor Pro Tem Gary Bosworth think Stephens is striking out against Gallant out of bitterness she holds.

The Rat thinks it's a good thing that Stephens doesn't like the new mayor and the new city manager. If you're on the bad side of bad, then you must be good, right?

Time will only tell.

Stephens for mayor - not

More contempt? More bitterness. Say it isn't so, Mary.

Stephens announced last week a new boneheaded idea to get rid of the position of mayor in the city and instead rotate the duties and title amongst the city council.

If only Stephens, who's obviously bitter that she isn't the mayor, put as much effort into getting rid of Hanson back in the day as she has into trashing Bias now, maybe the Rat wouldn't think so little of her.