

Desert Sun

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Your voice / Letters about Desert Hot Springs: Letters to the Editor for Sunday, April 10, 2005

Readers

The Desert Sun

Something's rotten at City Hall

The City Council members of Desert Hot Springs have lost their sense of smell. I say this because something really stinks in the city manager's office, and they don't seem to notice.

How does a previously unproven city manager obtain a contract with a \$220,000 severance package? Is this common practice for a public agency this small?

How does this same city manager convince the City Council to give him almost half of his severance package and still remain on the payroll? Isn't it possible that he could still do something illegal or unethical and, thus, void his contract?

And, here's the really smelly part: not only does this city manager stay on the payroll, but he negotiates a new contract that allows him to start working part-time, and to receive an extra \$40,000 in his retirement account which makes him eligible to retire early.

None of this passes the smell test. I question the timing considering the city only recently emerged from bankruptcy.

I call on the mayor to appoint an independent party to investigate this matter further or resign, and for the city manager to give the money back or quit.

- Daniel Scott

Desert Hot Springs

Too much power in one office

After reading in The Desert Sun that the Chief of Police Roy Hill was fired by the city manager, I concluded that Hill was well qualified for the position for any city of any size. But that is not the reason for this letter. No one in such a position should be fired by one person. It is a dangerous situation, giving too much power to one individual.

- Sgt. V.T. Moon, L.A.P.D. retired

Desert Hot Springs

Send 'em out a revolving door

I've been a very concerned citizen since I moved to Desert Hot Springs. We are looked on from the rest of the valley as a joke.

What has happened in my eight years has proven so. I thought, finally, we are on the road to having some sense. It's a manager, it's a police chief, it's a police chief, it's a manager. It's a?

If I were a rich man I would give our city a revolving door for our City Hall. Small-town politics are small and when we have shortsighted people running it this is what happens.

First you don't fire a man of Chief Roy Hill's stature, and then not let the citizens know why. This silly game up here has gone on too long and I hope when our citizens vote they will think of the past that doesn't seem to leave us.

Maybe the two departments should be split. Maybe so that when a city manager wants to fire a police chief, the City Council is the jury and does the firing?

Something has to be done.

We are an embarrassment to ourselves.

- Nicky R. Nichols

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