



Rift between Two Youth Clubs SB Official Rips Redlands Group

Andrew Edwards, Staff Writer
January 21, 2010

A room where school children do homework and play games is at the center of a disagreement between the Boys & Girls Clubs chapters in San Bernardino and in Redlands.

The room is in Waterman Gardens, a public housing complex with about 600 residents in San Bernardino.

For one year, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Redlands has been in that room, and the club reports that it has served about 140 children there.

But at least one prominent San Bernardino figure thinks the Redlands club is the wrong group to serve those children.

That figure is San Bernardino Councilman Rikke Van Johnson, who represents the city's 6th Ward, an area that includes much of the city's disadvantaged Westside. He is also president of the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Bernardino, which is based on the Westside.

Aside from its Waterman Gardens location, the clubs' Redlands chapter has stayed out of San Bernardino, offering services in Redlands, Loma Linda and Mentone.

Johnson thinks the Redlands club should stick to its traditional neighborhoods. The councilman pulled no punches in a two-page written statement that outlines his objections to the Redlands club operating in San Bernardino.

In Johnson's view, leaders of the Redlands branch took advantage of their relationship with the county Housing Authority to execute a "weasel move" wherein they moved to Waterman Gardens.

The councilman contended that the Redlands club moved into San Bernardino to increase the number of low-income children in its programs. In Johnson's judgment, the move could give the Redlands club an edge in writing grant proposals.

"This is nothing but exploitation in its worst form," Johnson wrote.

But leaders of the Redlands club and the Housing Authority said they do not understand why Johnson is so upset.

Housing Authority Executive Director Susan L. Benner said Wednesday she is very satisfied with the Redlands club's work at Waterman Gardens.

The Housing Authority openly recruited youth service providers and invited the San Bernardino branch to apply for a contract to work at Waterman Gardens, said Ana Gamiz, the Housing Authority's director of policy and community affairs.

The San Bernardino club did not apply, Gamiz said.

Johnson didn't accuse Gamiz of being dishonest, but said his club was not notified.

"We never received anything," he said.

The Housing Authority's board chose the Redlands club branch to manage youth services for children ages 6 to 13 at community centers at Waterman Gardens and in Redlands.

The two-year contract expires at the end of this year.

P.T. McEwen, director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Redlands, disagreed with Johnson's assertion that the Redlands-based clubs do not serve poor children.

"We already serve public housing," he said. "When he talks about doing low-income, we've been doing it for 18, 19, 20 years."

Another point that Johnson raised is his contention that the Redlands club applied to San Bernardino officials for a grant allocation that may not be spent in San Bernardino.

Redlands club officials acknowledged that they asked for a \$15,000 grant, but said the money would stay in San Bernardino to add teenager-oriented services at Waterman Gardens.

The services could include SAT lessons and advice on how to apply for financial aid for college.

"It's kind of the next step. Instead of doing homework, it's planning for what's after graduation," Waterman Gardens club site director Roberto Martinez said.

Nevertheless, Johnson said he would not apply for funds to do services in cities like Redlands or Fontana where Boys & Girls clubs already have a presence. He said he plans to take his concerns to higher authorities in the Boys & Girls Clubs organization.

"We'll have to get through to them to see if we can work on some boundaries, so this misunderstanding will never happen again," Johnson said.

Rift between Two Youth Clubs

SB Official Rips Redlands Group

<http://www.topix.net/forum/source/san-bernardino-county-sun/TEGK4FCMHJ990OUAS>

Comments

Showing posts as of 10:34am Friday, December 22, 2010

Get a Clue
[Highland, CA](#)

#1

Come clean Councilman Johnson. Regardless whether the Housing Authority invited the SB chapter to submit a proposal, the SB chapter doesn't have the financial stability to expand to a new location.

Arthur Anderson
[San Bernardino, CA](#)

#3

O contrar GAC. Redland's BG Club chapter officials snaked the location to increase their low income numbers. IT is exploitation of a financially disadvantaged location for grants that give money to locations that do not have financial stability. You sound like you simply feel that Redlands would do a better job. Why because they come from a "good" community?

Come clean Get a clue, your a tool for the "retarded for backward logic"

name
[Beaumont, CA](#)

#4

Wow, I guess there aren't enough poor kids in San Bernardino? Maybe I'm wrong but I thought San Bernardino was a crap hole with plenty of kids who arn't raised very well. I'm sure San Bernardino could use all the help they could get. Good job Redlands for helping out.

Bill
[Redlands, CA](#)

#5

The Boys and Girls Club in San Bernardino is more interested in getting in on the CAPS (SBCUSD) after-school program. That is where the big money is! Why would they waste time on providing a program in Waterman Gardens (of all hell holes) for chump change, when they can score big on a government \$\$\$ sponsored program?

Wobbles
[Hesperia, CA](#)

#6

As much as he is making an issue of it, I kinda suspect he is getting a cut of the funding money. Maybe we should be looking into this further.

follow the money
[Hialeah, FL](#)

#7

sandboxing and local graft at its finest. If the children and the local authority figure at Waterman Gardens is content with service what is the issue? Oh yes, funds. Funny the YMCA seldom has these issues? Guess they don't spend enough cash for local graft to political hacks. This is shameful. Burdo is a PIT. From top to bottom the entire civic structure is a money grab.

really
[Yucaipa, CA](#)

#8

If the kids are being served who really cares which club is doing the serving. I think he needs to quit pissing and moaning. It just makes him seem like a loser.

#9

Lucifer
Peru, IN

There's no one competent enough within the San Bernardino City Council to operate this, so they HAD to look to outside agencies. Crooks teaching kids????? What's next, "How to hold your family hostage for a hotdog"? Get a clue, this tool probably has his own hidden agenda to steal money from the coffers.

#10

Bandit
Saint George, UT

really wrote:
If the kids are being served who really cares which club is doing the serving. I think he needs to quit pissing and moaning. It just makes him seem like a loser.
Exactly.

#11

spocalsaint
Montebello, CA

I don't get it. Are they bussing in kids from Redlands to S.B? I can't stand people who complain when someone else does something that they did not think of first. How about trying to better your area first, then deal with the generosity of other cities.
Unbelievable!!

#12

What a town
Highland, CA

Let me see if I understand...this guy doesn't apply for the program, and then he **** because another organization with a long track record of serving disadvantaged kids in housing projects gets the grant and does a great job!?! This guy claims to be a leader of this town? Sadly, this is the kind of leader that has driven this town into the pit that it is today. He doesn't care about the kids, only his own self interest.

#13

California Sun
Chino Hills, CA

What a Town, Sadly, you might be correct.

#14

spike10
San Bernardino, CA

what kinda money are we talking about here and where do it come from?

#15

Alice
San Diego, CA

Wow! You just can't be nice to some people. Johnson needs to get over himself, put his pride aside and accept the extra help. I'm sure that the children being served appreciate the service. Good grief.

#16

Unknown
Walnut, CA

Mr. Johnson needs to take his head out of his behind and realize San Bernardino is not doing what they are supposed to be doing. He should focus on bettering San Bernardino and collaborating with Redlands instead of his playground childish complaining. Who voted him council member???? Defenalty more voters are needed in San Bernardino. Its about the kids not our ego Mr. Johnson.

#17

Concerned Citizen
Placentia, CA

Lets look at what is important...the children. If it was really that important to San Bernardino, they should have been more proactive and found out when the contract was up and put a proposal in. I honestly don't care who provides the service, as long as it is a quality service for the children. They are the ones who are important.

#18

Just Some Guy
San Bernardino, CA

ALL after school programs are a waste off Tax dollars. Whatever happened to Parents raising their own children? Lids go to school 8-4 pm after school Program 4-6. 6-9 with parents, 3 hours a day with a parents? This is the reason Kids dont listen to their parents.

#19

Tax Fiend
Loma Linda, CA

So basically what Johnson doesnt want the Redlands Branch of Boys and Girls Club to do is say they have x amount of poor kids they are serving which may include San Bernardino children in the program. So Councilman Johnson wants OWNERSHIP of the # of poor children in San Bernardino to seek any type of funding for the San Bernardino Branch of the Boys and Girls Clubs. Seems more like lack of motivation and incompetence of Mr. Johnson's leadership at the San Bernardino Branch that has not provided services for those children in the Waterman Gardens. You know Mr. Johnson your Mayor's Operation Phoenix program also competes for funding and # of children they serve in that same area. Why are you not objecting to the Mayor's Operation Phoenix Outreach? Why are you not objecting to other outside groups, church groups, serving the children in that same area? Why dont you focus on finding economic solutions to getting those families/children out of the projects as a councilman and let the non-profits, whomever they may be, provide much needed services for the children!

#20

California Sun
Chino Hills, CA

Tax Fiend wrote:

So basically what Johnson doesnt want the Redlands Branch of Boys and Girls Club to do is say they have x amount of poor kids they are serving which may include San Bernardino children in the program. So Councilman Johnson wants OWNERSHIP of the # of poor children in San Bernardino to seek any type of funding for the San Bernardino Branch of the Boys and Girls Clubs. Seems more like lack of motivation and incompetence of Mr. Johnson's leadership at the San Bernardino Branch that has not provided services for those children in the Waterman Gardens. You know Mr. Johnson your Mayor's Operation Phoenix program also competes for funding and # of children they serve in that same area. Why are you not objecting to the Mayor's Operation Phoenix Outreach? Why are you not objecting to other outside groups, church groups, serving the children in that same area? Why dont you focus on finding economic solutions to getting those families/children out of the projects as a councilman and let the non-profits, whomever they may be, provide much needed services for the children!
Excellent post.

#21

Luvin Berdoo
San Bernardino, CA

Sad that the two related organizations cannot collaborate for the greatest amount of good to kids in both cities. That should be the goal.
This type of in-fighting is well established within the SB City Council. It's entirely unproductive at any level.

Kids First
Walnut, CA

#22

Kids have a safe place to go after school AND get help with their homework. I am glad someone is filling this need. Good job Redlands Boys & Girls Club!

Deb
Glendale, CA

#23

I would suggest to Mr. Johnson that he just relax. It seems to me that he is out of sorts because the Redlands chapter seems to be doing a great job where he should have been in the first place. All of our disadvantaged children deserve these great opportunities. We should be grateful that Redlands is reaching out to all the children of the County, not just their own. Boundaries, are you serious? Shame on you Mr. Johnson! Perhaps the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Bernardino should consider a new president. A President, who is willing to accept help and work hand in hand with all of who/what is available to our children.

cynthia
United States

#24

well I lived in san bernardino many years ago....I believe waterman garden is the best place for the kids....the resources are good..the children are their!

Truly Amazing
AOL

#25

Whatever happen to City Council wanting the best for their community in which they reside? Whatever happen to allowing others to help those in need? Why is it now that the Boys & Girls Club of San Bernardino feels a wanting need to serve a Waterman Gardens community that has been there for over 20 years and is upset at the fact another agency is doing what they should have been doing over 20 years ago. Mr. Councilman with all due respect and with all the issues the city of San Bernardino has why are you making this an issue. Instead of complaining, you should certainly welcome the opportunity to help those in need, support those who are helping, and create an opportunity of HOPE for those youth and teens who need it the most. It seems the Housing Authority according to Susan Benner is happy with their performance and since that is the case I believe you should be happy as well, and I hope that your lack of wanting to not serve kids in a community that needs it, does not back fire on your next coming election. Great job Boys & Girls Club of Redlands and keep up the great work that you do.

James

harley dog
United States

#26

when i was a kid i did not get any help from anyone but my parents i would gladly have accepted help maybe i would not have been running the streets instead of doing all my homework. i gotta ask are these kids learning something are they staying out of trouble if so what is the big deal there are plenty of kids out there who need help as long as the kids are being properly taken care of shut up, can't they all get along for the best of the kids. They are both crappy cities without a lot of hope if the kids get smarter won't the cities have a better future in the long run. Seems to me he does not care about the kids as much as he cares about the money. funniest thing to me is the words in the title-----councilmen thinks ha ha lol can't and never will trust any politician!!

#27

harley dog
United States

sorry one more thing i also wonder what the rest of the clubs think of this guy trying to change what may be working for the good of the kids, just because they go to another place in redlands does not mean they are getting a quality of help that they may be getting there. good luck to the kids that are being used as a tug of war rope.

#28

todd
Grand Terrace, CA

it appears we have a hater on the san berdo council, the voters who elected this moron need to un-elect him next election, its all about the kids not your own agenda

#29

POLITICANSSUCK
Steamboat Springs, CO

"This is nothing but exploitation in its worst form," NO YOU COUNCIL PEOPLE ARE EXPLOTATION IN ITS WORST FORM

#30

Joe
Washington, DC

Shouldn't the article read, "City leader thanks outside help". If San Bernardino community organizational chapters are not savy enough to obtain funding then they should go to outside sources for help. Give me a break, it sounds like Waterman Gardens would of have nothing if it was not for the other chapter.

#31

Igoods
Highland, CA

What should matter is that the young girls and boys are getting the service that the Girls and Boys club give. If Redlands is showing more initiative to help the young people in San Bernardino God Bless them and Shame on the San Bernardino for not, and then complaining about it. Shame shame

#32

"This is nothing but exploitation in its worst form," Johnson wrote.

David
Redlands, CA

I couldn't agree more. However, I'm looking at who's doing the exploitation and it would lead me to believe that person would be Councilman Johnson. He sounds like an ****. What's his real motive? It's not helping the kids, otherwise he would be doing his best to open a dialog between the Redlands and San Bernardino chapters and figure out how to combine and share resources. This is exactly the kind of person we DON'T need in public office or working for a non-profit organization.

#33

David
Redlands, CA

And what's with censoring the comments? That's a bunch of bull-sh it too.

#34

Onterrible
Ontario, CA

Johnson is p i s s e d because the Redlands group does a better job then his organization. Sour grapes is all it is. Boo-hoo-hoo, what a crybaby Mr. Johnson, keep your side of the street clean, and stop blaming others for your own shortcomings. No ONE is taking anything away from you. If they can do a better job, then let them do it.

spike10
San Bernardino, CA

#35

this has to be about money.again ,any body know how much and where it comes from?

Full Statement
Redlands, CA

#36

This appears to be the full text of the written statement from Mr. Johnson as referred to in the article.
<http://www.blackvoiceneews.com/commentary/more-commentary/43921-weasel-moves-of-the-boys-a-girls-clubs-of-redlands.html>

moron
Los Angeles, CA

#37

councilman: " redlands, there racist" "i want to run the city to the ground" "they should stay out because it will actually improve students"
me: do i hear someone taking your position of power. oh thats right the councilman is dictator. only wants power for himself

Marco
Redlands, CA

#38

Sounds like Johnson is upset about being left out when offered a chance to serve some kids. Weasel.

California Sun
Chino Hills, CA

#39

Truly Amazing wrote:

Whatever happen to City Council wanting the best for their community in which they reside? Whatever happen to allowing others to help those in need? Why is it now that the Boys & Girls Club of San Bernardino feels a wanting need to serve a Waterman Gardens community that has been there for over 20 years and is upset at the fact another agency is doing what they should have been doing over 20 years ago. Mr. Councilman with all due respect and with all the issues the city of San Bernardino has why are you making this an issue. Instead of complaining, you should certainly welcome the opportunity to help those in need, support those who are helping, and create an opportunity of HOPE for those youth and teens who need it the most. It seems the Housing Authority according to Susan Benner is happy with their performance and since that is the case I believe you should be happy as well, and I hope that your lack of wanting to not serve kids in a community that needs it, does not back fire on your next coming election. Great job Boys & Girls Club of Redlands and keep up the great work that you do.

James

Exactly! This councilman doesn't appear too bright or he'd realize how selfish and stupid he comes off.

follow the money
Hialeah, FL

#40

Accorn has nothing on this civic leader?
Burdo has numerous problems maybe pick one that a recognized organization isn't already providing service. I am sure he could skim some cash in a gang abatement or diversion program for youth in his HOOD. The Boys club in any town isn't getting rich tending to underserved at risk minors. He hates legit organizations because they get grants and can self-fund raise. Civic leaders like this clown have never actually worked legit private sector gigs and made \$\$ so they skim the public coffers. Its not about geography, race or contracts its about his cut of the action,that is SAD.

spike10 wrote:

this has to be about money.again ,any body know how much and where it comes from?

Funding/Money can come from any source designated to help children/youth. It can from private or public sources. All legitimate non-profits with a 501 c3 IRS tax designation may apply for funding if they fit that funding sources criteria to be funded. The funding is not guranteed and it is competitive based upon the ability and track record of the non-profit that is applying. Since the SB Branch apparently does not have a good track record why wouldn't funding go to the Redlands branch that does to provide the services in SB? Seems like Johnson oversees a nickel and dime operation and has to divert attention from that. Now I understand why people call San Bernardino the " Armpit of California" because of the stink of politicians like this. SHAME!

Tax Fiend
Loma Linda, CA



Rikke Van Johnson

Weasel Moves of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Redlands

Wednesday, 20 January 2010

The City of Redlands has a rich history and is affectionately known as the Jewel of the Inland Empire. It is blessed with a myriad of people who are warm and hospitable with the ability to make you feel welcome anytime you enter into their community. Redlands is a safe community filled with people who will seek to help you, not seek to harm you.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Redlands (BGCR) was established in this community in 1967. BGCR's past leadership did well in emulating the fundamental nature of the city in which it was founded. Since their inception BGCR has expanded their operation into the surrounding communities of Loma Linda and Mentone, effectively bringing programs to communities that were previously underserved.

But, there have been some recent choices made by the present leadership of the BGCR that strays from the roots and values of the city in which it was launched. Also, these choices, I'm certain, are in opposition to the integrity of the organization they supposedly represent, the Boys & Girls Club of America (BGCA).

The present leadership of BGCR embarked on some questionable decisions with little or no regards to the organization that exists directly to the west, the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Bernardino (BGCSB). BGCSB was also founded in 1967 by Jack Brown, C.E.O. of Stater Bros; Patrick Morris, Mayor of San Bernardino; the late Art Townsend, founder of the Precinct Reporter; and Bruce Varner, attorney and member of The Regents of the University of California.

Motivated by their desire to obtain funds at any cost, the BGCR decided to make a few weasel moves.

A weasel move by definition is an action that is treacherous, underhanded or sneaky in manner.

Weasel move #1. Because of the past association with the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino (HACSB) through the Brockton site in the Redlands Public Housing area, the BGCR opened up a site in the Waterman Gardens with the assistance of the HACSB.

Why would an organization which serves three communities with a population of around 100,000 including 26,000 kids under 18 want to expand into a city that is already being served by another area club? Why would an organization which serves households with a median income of about \$50,000.00 choose to expand into a neighboring locality without notifying the local area club of their intent to set up shop in their city? The

answer is simple, greed. Weasel move #2. On the BGCR website homepage they display serving the communities of Loma Linda, Mentone, Redlands, and San Bernardino. If you go to the BGCA website and go to the 'Find a Club' page, then enter 92410, the zip code for Waterman Gardens, the nearest site will be the BGCSB. The Waterman Gardens site is not recognized as an official site of the BGCA. Yet they shout it out loud and clear on their homepage – very deceitful.

- Please note: During construction of the BGCSB webpage it mistakenly stated 'serving the county' instead of 'city of San Bernardino'. BGCR was outraged and contacted BGCSB. Shortly thereafter, the word county was corrected to read city.

- Also note: The BGCSB was contacted to expand into the city of Riverside. The organization declined due to the natural county boundaries.

Weasel move #3. The Inland Empire is made up of numerous Boys & Girls Clubs in a multitude of cities. Yet if you go to www.bgcie.org, www.bgcie.net or www.bgcie.com all of these sites will refer you to the BGCR webpage. Some call this a shrewd move. In light of all the other weasel moves, I call it very underhanded. Weasel move #4. Boys & Girls Clubs count on the generosity of foundations, corporations, businesses, individuals and the community for their support. They also receive grants from various sources. The BGCR has the audacity to apply for a Community Development Block Grant from the City of San Bernardino. Where are they going to use this money? Not in San Bernardino! Waterman Gardens is wholly funded by HACSB!

The true reason the BGCR is in Waterman Gardens is to use the median income numbers from the low housing development to strengthen grant proposals that they intend to write. This is nothing but exploitation in its worst form.

The Boys & Girls Clubs mission is "To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens." What kind of example is the BGCR setting to its young people by seeking to obtain the all mighty dollar through any means necessary, no matter what person or group they use, step-on or abuse to get it?

Rikke Van Johnson
Chairman of the Board
Boys & Girls Club of San Bernardino

Pulled from the internet (January 21, 2010)

<http://www.blackvoicenews.com/commentary/more-commentary/43921-weasel-moves-of-the-boys-a-girls-clubs-of-redlands.html>