

## Milestones

By Miles H Bauber  
Publisher

Much ado about the mystical moments and memorabilia motivated by the minds of mental midgets might make mountains out of molehills.

The recent letter by the Police Officers Association comes to mind. This is the one where the POA states they may refuse to work at the Stadium if Colin Kaepernick continues to take a knee during the National Anthem.

The assignments at the stadium are voluntary and officers sign up to work there by choice.

In the absence of volunteer sign ups (which are plentiful), Chief Sellers would assign officers to work the stadium.

So, what's the issue? Nothing other than a political ploy produced by the POA which produced a poor response and negative press. The President of the POA happens to be running for the Chief's job which is the first time in three decades a residing Chief of Police has been challenged.

Is the Chief being challenged by a captain in the department? No. Challenged by a lieutenant from the department? No.

The Chief is being challenged by a sergeant who never finished college.

It is apparent in our "transparent" community that this is our Mayor's hand-picked candidate.

And, speaking of the Mayor, what's going on at City Council?

Remember the hoopla over the 49ers rent and the way our City was built? The 49ers own our city of San Jose, CA? Remember a few months ago the Council authorized more than \$200,000 to hire an auditor that would reveal "all the stink" of the alleged mishandling of the 49er contracts?

So, the Council assigned city staff to send out Request for Proposals to a number of auditing firms. After weeks of review, interviews, and investigation, the staff brought their recommendations to the Council.

## Class Notes

September is Attendance Awareness Month

They're baaaack - at school. Many parents, myself included, are very happy that the new school year has commenced. Although summer will be missed, costly summer camps, fluctuating schedules and restless children will not. For working parents, school is the best place for their kids to be. My mom worked nights and was thrilled to have all seven of her children at school so she could sleep. As a result, we didn't miss much school.

It turns out, that was a very good thing. Absenteeism is a clear-cut predictor of a bleak educational future, which - no surprise - leads to less than ideal career opportunities. By 6th grade chronic absenteeism (missing 10 percent or approximately 18 days of school) has a direct correlation to students dropping out of high school. By 9th grade, missing 20 percent of the school year is a better predictor of dropping out than test scores.

The good news is the converse is also true, especially for children raised in poverty. One of the most effective strategies for providing pathways out of poverty is to do what it takes to get kids to school on time, every day. This alone, even without all the school improvement efforts, will drive up achievement, increase high school graduation rates, and raise college completion

## To the Weekly

Your City Observer on Aug 31 belittled neighbor's concerns about 410-Lafayette Way. The City Code includes a clear, non-discriminatory prohibition of boarding houses in R1 neighborhoods which should protect homeowners from encroachment by developments that would reduce house values and quality of life. There is no mention of students in the ordinance. The city staff chooses not to enforce this ordinance and neither they nor any city council in the last 60 years has acted on any alternative that they would be willing to enforce. Once established the city does nothing about boarding houses. Thus, the only non-litigious recourse for homeowners to protect their property is to bring such anticipated cases before the city council. Once again, Councilmember O'Neill and others have voted to protect the rights of non-resident developers to violate our city ordinance at the expense of resident's rights to protection under the ordinance.

*Hudson Washburn*

## Correction

Gillmor and Nikolai Clarify Allegations

Mayor Lisa Gillmor and candidate for Police Chief Patrick Nikolai requested corrections to our Sept. 7 description of allegations they have made as "falsifying time cards."

In an email, Gillmor clarified: "Being directed not to report hours worked at Levi's Stadium and falsifying time cards are two separate things. There is no issue from the time cards or the hours worked. The only issue is which pot of money reimburses the officers for their work."

Nikolai explained in a second email, "I have stated that other Officers have come to me with concerns about possible Measure J violations. However, I have never described what those concerns were, as I am prohibited by Santa Clara PD Operations Orders."

Neither Mayor Gillmor or Patrick Nikolai used the words "falsifying time cards."