Council File: 20-0491

Community Impact Statement
As adopted by vote of the full SORONC governing board

Yes: | No: | Abstain: | Ineligible: | Recuse:
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Adopted: | 21 May 2020 |
Position: | For | For if amended | Against | Against unless amended | Neutral

SORONC is gravely concerned with CF 20-0491. In a recent article on Fox5NY, Councilmember Bonin told a news reporter that “the City Council supports the proposal and is looking to fast track it....” This statement suggests that Councilmember Bonin has been communicating, directly or indirectly, with other Councilmembers to build support without complying with the Brown Act. (See 216 Sutter Bay Associates v. County of Sutter (1997) 58 Cal.App.4th 860, 877 [holding that Brown Act prohibits serial meetings by majority of legislative body to engage in collective deliberation on public business].) Second, Bonin’s statements to the press suggest that he has already determined how he would vote on the issue of using federal funds to purchase distressed properties. To the extent that Bonin is ever asked to vote on whether to acquire distressed properties, he has demonstrated sufficient bias as to require his recusal. (See e.g., Woody’s Group, Inc. v. City of Newport Beach (2015) 233 Cal.App.4th 1012, 1021–1022 [holding that councilmember whose conduct creates probability of actual bias must recuse from land use decision].) SORONC finds it disgraceful that our local elected officials, who have had a hand in placing residential properties in a distressed condition, would consider a process to quickly identify residential properties for potential acquisition. SORONC recommends that the City Council create a motion to use stimulus funds for bridge loans for Angelenos whose homes have become distressed due to COVID-19 and would keep those Angelenos from becoming homeless and adding an additional burden to the taxpayer.


Submitted by: [Only Exec committee members are approved to submit CiSs]