

Campaign no place for trash talk

Mayor Frank Scialdone

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A recent political mailer that was sent to Rancho Cucamonga residents in support of 2nd District Supervisor Paul Biane is not only inaccurate but - and far worse than the inaccuracies - the authors felt the need to trash a community.

Why is pitting the outstanding residents of Rancho Cucamonga against the outstanding residents of Fontana necessary? Fontana, as is Rancho Cucamonga, is a great community.

Supervisor Biane has claimed he had nothing to do with the mailer, had no knowledge of the mailer, and did not approve it. In fact the mailer came from "Citizens Against Corruption Opposing Rutherford for Supervisor 2010" which is located in San Francisco.

If anyone believes that this group is not tied to Supervisor Biane and that he and/or his campaign was not aware of its activities and the content of the mailer, then I have a bridge to sell them.

The mailer leads one to believe that Fontana will "take over" Rancho Cucamonga. There is no logic to this statement. I guess because Councilwoman Janice Rutherford lives in Fontana, the Biane campaign feels Rancho Cucamonga will become Fontana.

The mailer goes on to claim Fontana has higher crime than Rancho Cucamonga. While this is true, a Sept. 14 article in The Sun that compared the crime rates of 12 cities in San Bernardino County found that Fontana has the third-lowest crime rate, right behind Rancho Cucamonga. I want to congratulate Rancho Cucamonga and its Police Department for this.

Fontana has continued to see reduced crime rates the past decade with a 12 percent reduction in crime through August of this year compared to last year. Fontana is a safe city.

The mailer claims higher taxes in Fontana - not true. Our tax rates and Rancho Cucamonga's are the same. It claims bond defaults - name one since the mid-1990s when we had a bond default on the Empire Center due to the developer walking away from the project. A workout was done on the project and today we have a bustling job center in the Empire Center.

The mailer states Fontana has traffic congestion. Please tell me one city in the region that is not affected by traffic congestion.

And then the last point - "Shady Developers." That makes me laugh, since the developers in Fontana all develop in Rancho Cucamonga. I guess they are calling the folks who develop in Rancho Cucamonga "Shady." I can tell you that this is not the case and that all my dealings with developers in our city has proven them to be highly ethical, as I am sure is the case in Rancho Cucamonga.

In closing, I would like to say thank you to Rancho Cucamonga for being a good neighbor and working jointly on many projects of importance to both our communities. Also, I want to thank them for being a regional partner, as is Fontana, who works diligently on regional issues.

Lastly, this whole incident leads one to seriously question the integrity of Supervisor Biane, and/or his campaign, and his desire to represent all of his constituents fairly and equally. Pitting one city against another, even if it is just for campaign purposes, is never acceptable. I hope the voters in the 2nd District take this into account when they cast their ballot for supervisor.

Frank J. Scialdone is mayor of Fontana.