

# ***NEWS***

*From the Office of*

## **Brad Mitzelfelt**

Supervisor, First District  
San Bernardino County

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### **Statement by Supervisor Mitzelfelt Regarding Assessor Report**

SAN BERNARDINO – San Bernardino County Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt has issued the following statement regarding the recent report by Special Counsel John Hueston investigating alleged misconduct, abuse of public resources and mismanagement in the office of former County Assessor Bill Postmus:

“I absolutely condemn the alleged behavior detailed in Mr. Hueston's report. Based on advice of legal counsel and the consistency of information provided by a wide variety of sources, I believe the Board of Supervisors had no appropriate option other than to seek civil damages on behalf of the taxpayers.

“The Board had been made aware of some of the allegations raised in the report, which is why we began this investigation as part of an effort to remove Mr. Postmus from office.

“I believe the County's system of checks and balances is working in this case. That system not only includes the investigation conducted by the Board of Supervisors, but also includes actions by the District Attorney's Office, the Grand Jury and others, which collectively resulted in the exposure of inappropriate activities and the separation of all of the accused parties from County employment.

“Based on the information in the report, the behavior of Mr. Postmus and his staff was very different at the Assessor's office than the behavior I witnessed when he served as a County Supervisor.

“During the time when I served as a supervisorial Chief of Staff until now, I have always insisted, and continue to insist, that non-government work only be conducted on personal time and that public resources always be used appropriately.

“I never solicited, encouraged, directed or allowed staff in the Assessor's office to perform work on my political campaign while they were being paid by the County. Any work that is alleged to have been performed by such staff members would have been conducted under their own volition and should have been conducted during personal time. If they performed any work that may have been viewed as being supportive of my campaign, I had no control or knowledge about when they did it, what they did or where they did it.

“Unlike a criminal investigation, which when completed serves as a full and thorough statement of facts backed by evidence and intended to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, civil investigations

such as the type conducted by Mr. Hueston, a highly respected former federal prosecutor, are intended to provide the basic information necessary to support the initiation of litigation.

“The Hueston report is based solely on witness statements, and further inquiry into the accusations detailed in the report will occur during litigation.

“Some comments in the report, which were not part of the scope of the investigation, refer to the conduct of former staff members of mine. I have made further inquiry into that conduct and I am confident that they did not engage in any campaign activity on County time.

“Some references from the report have already been clarified by additional information not included within the scope of the report. One in particular referred to a request for public records made to the Assessor’s Office by a former employee of mine, Paula Nowicki. That activity has been investigated further by my office and we have determined that the request was made on a day when Mrs. Nowicki was on vacation from County employment. Further, there was nothing improper about requesting such records -- the Assessor is the custodian of the records and the records were available to the public.

“I would like to thank Mr. Hueston for his work in compiling witness statements and for his legal work in investigating, making findings and advising the Board of Supervisors in this matter.

"I would also like to thank the San Bernardino County Grand Jury for its work in investigating many of these concerns. And I look forward to the District Attorney’s Office concluding its investigation.

“Finally, I would like to thank the hard-working employees in the Assessor’s Office who have diligently fulfilled their duties and ensured a continuity of excellent service to the public.”