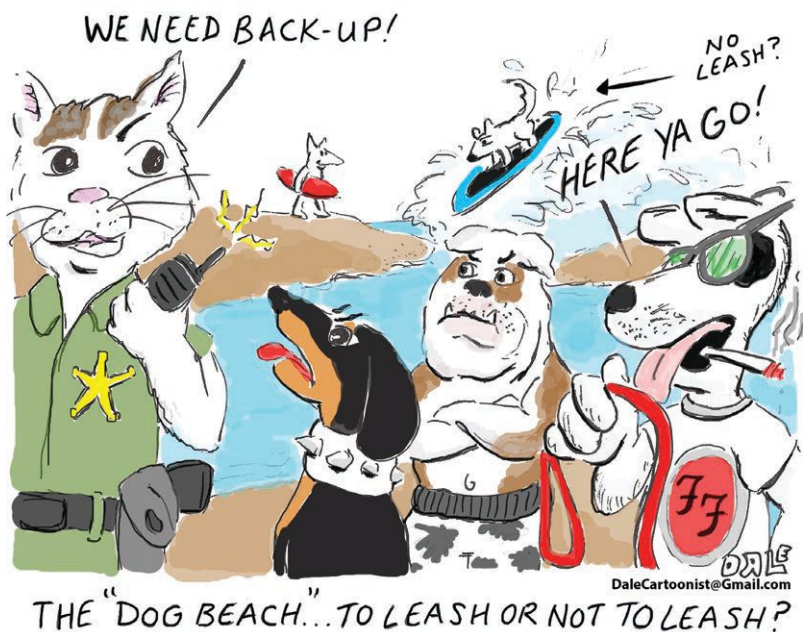


# FORUM

OPINIONS ON LOCAL ISSUES



## JUST SAY NO TO CONDO TOWERS

Once again, the residents of Newport Beach are at odds with our own city.

This time, the Planning Department is advancing a 26-story condo tower in Newport Center that will be the highest residential tower in Orange County.

This project could be the poster child for a city that just doesn't get it. Despite multiple elections in which residents have decisively rejected development on this scale, we keep fight this battle.

After Measure Y was decisively defeated in 2014, one might expect city leaders to respect the desires of their constituents, but here we are again looking at yet another insanely large proposal.

In 2000, residents approved Greenlight, a smart growth initiative that requires a vote of the people for certain large projects. Greenlight respects existing property rights but requires a vote for developers who seek to increase their development limits in a way that will impact residents.

This is exactly the type of project that would require a vote, except that our city has made an end run around Greenlight and claims that a vote isn't mandated. This isn't the first time our city has done this.

Newport Beach zoning laws allow certain transfers of development rights as long as there is no increase in traffic trips or intensity of development. By converting hotel rooms about the size of my master bedroom to "dwelling units," the city claims to have the right to approve condos in the Museum House project that will be up to 4,900 sq ft, or twice the size of my whole house.

The power to defeat this project lies with us. The Line In The Sand political action committee was formed in response to tone-deaf city leadership that has not yet heard the voice of the people crying out that enough is enough. We need a paradigm shift in Newport Beach away from accommodating developer requests.

If the City Council follows their expected path of approving this enormous construction and denying the residents a voice through a Greenlight vote, the Line In The Sand PAC will seek to qualify a referendum against it.

Melinda Seely  
Board Member of SPON and LITS  
Newport Beach

## INBOX

EMAIL TO  
EDITOR@NEWPORTBEACHINDY.COM

### SOUR APPLES AND OSCARS

I'm aghast at Dr. Akire's "take" on the state of our country ("Apples and Oscars," March 11 Forum). Does she honestly believe that lack of Oscar diversity and the FBI v Apple dispute are "...as important to our country's future as the presidential election?"

We are in the midst of the most divisive, violent and consequential campaign in generations. Not just America, but the world, is bracing itself for the potentially shattering effect that our next election may visit upon them.

To place Oscar diversity on the same footing as the election of our next President is stunningly naive.

In summing up Apple's dilemma, she posits that "The real question is whether Apple is taking its position based on what is best for its customers or what is best for their business."

Only someone who has forged a career in academia/government would think that there's an inherent corporate conflict between what is best for customers and what is best for business. Corporations cannot survive without honing their product towards satisfying their customers. Otherwise, we'd be driving Edsels.

Doctor Akire then laments that "Our freedoms seem to continue to support corrupt behaviors..." She frets, for example, that the right to privacy has limited schools in investigating children's home lives.

Thus, we had Columbine where, "...the privacy of one may take the life of others."

I am not so eager to sacrifice our freedoms. The "privacy of one" that she's referencing is really the right of all parents to raise their children with a minimum of government intrusion.

Yes, there is always a cost to be assessed against all of our precious freedoms, and we must balance the two. And, yes, sometimes freedom does "...support corrupt behaviors." But, we don't ban cars because they've been used as getaway vehicles by bank robbers. And we don't invite government into our homes because of Columbine.

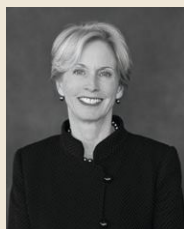
Akire goes on to tout as strategically sound her decision to silently accept rampant gender discrimination and stoically seek out a nonsexist employer. To do otherwise, she argues, would be to divide people.

Huh? Society must cull out the racist, the sexist, the anti-Semitic, the anti-Muslim, the anti-Catholic, by shining the light on them, by shouting their names and deeds for all to see and hear.

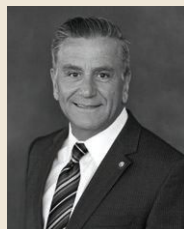
Ralph Sims  
Newport Beach

## HOW TO CONTACT THE CITY COUNCIL

\* indicates term limit



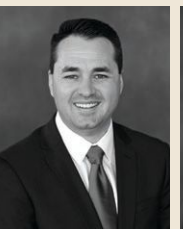
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