

From the Working Desk of Bert E. Perello

City Councilman

300 West Third Street, 4th Floor

Oxnard, CA 93030

(805) 240-6194

E-mail: perellobert@gmail.com



Councilman Perello's Opening Statement Before Today's Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Recall Election Candidates Debate (March 8, 2018)

Over the last 5 years, I have worked very hard to clean-up decades of neglect, corrupt practices, and poor city management.

A compelling example of that was my leadership role in persuading my Council colleagues to approve an Employee Whistleblower Policy that protects truth-telling employees as they expose waste, fraud, and abuse from the fear of unlawful managerial retaliation.

Sometimes I've had robust and spirited debates with my Council colleagues about the best approach to achieve the desired results, but more often than not, working together, we've achieved some hard earned progress in proper management of City operations at critical department levels.

More importantly, this Council has made and continues to make considerable investments in training city staff, rebuilding city infrastructure, and improving city public service performance; investments that will strengthen Oxnard for the long term. But these steps require tough decisions and more importantly, time.

Recall elections are meant to remove corrupt officeholders, not responsible representatives.

Based on extensive input from two volunteer resident ratepayer advisory panels, the City's experienced Public Works engineers, wastewater facility operators, and engineering and financial consultants, I made the best decision I could based on the information that I received, the financial conditions at the time, and my obligation to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of this city's 200,000+ residents.

By casting a tough, but necessary vote to raise sewer utility rates, I helped stop the bleeding in the City's wastewater enterprise fund, helped rebuild depleted utility reserves, and ultimately helped to stabilize the City's credit rating, thereby saving city ratepayers and residents of Oxnard millions of dollars.

Recent news of a clean audit, increased numbers of investment banks willing to underwrite the City's bonds, and today's Ventura County Starr Editorial are all positive signs that the Council's decisions are working. Let's not introduce unnecessary risk now and hurt the City's forward trajectory. Join with me on May 1st in **Voting No Perello Recall, Oxnard!** Thank You