

South Bay News

Inglewood May Annex a Part of Lennox in Effort to Reduce Crime

By MARC LACEY
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Inglewood hired a consultant this week to study the possibility of annexing part of Lennox, but community leaders in the unincorporated area said they oppose being gobbled up by their neighbor to the north.

Inglewood officials are looking into annexation as a way to reduce crime and blight they believe is spreading across the border from Lennox to Inglewood. But many residents of Lennox, a largely low-income, Latino community, fear that behind the annexation drive is a desire to turn residential neighborhoods into commercial developments, wiping out homes in their affordable community.

The Inglewood City Council voted Tuesday to pay the consulting firm of Christiansen & Wallace Inc. \$39,000 to study the costs and benefits of annexation and make a recommendation to the council. A draft report is due within five months.

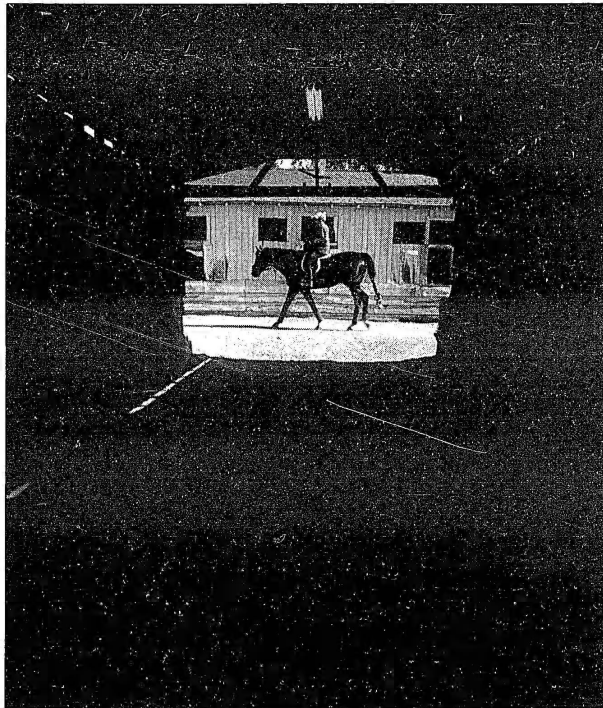
Along with an analysis of annexation options, the study will include a telephone survey to gauge residents' reaction in Lennox. An annexation proposal requires an election in Lennox if more than 25% of the area's registered voters were to oppose it on petitions. It must also win the approval of both the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Local Agency Formation Commission.

Lennox, bordered by Inglewood to the north and Hawthorne to the south, lies within both cities' "sphere of influence," a county planning term defining areas that local municipalities can attempt to annex. Inglewood may apply to annex the half of Lennox north of Lennox Boulevard, whereas Hawthorne would have a claim to the southern portion.

Hawthorne has put its annexation plans on the shelf because such a move would prove too costly, said City Manager Kenneth Jue. A city-sponsored study completed in 1988 found that annexation would cost \$1.2 million a year more in city services than it would bring the city in property, sales and other taxes.

"As it stands now, Lennox would be more of a liability than an asset," Jue said in an interview.

Please see LENNOX, B9



Bridled Passion

For those who love a stable environment, the perfect place to ride out the summer heat is on the back of a horse. Ericka Erlieben practices a jump with Switzer during a recent riding lesson, and Shannon Lynch cleans the dirt and debris from Sarge's hoof at Palos Verdes Stables in Palos Verdes Estates.



Photos by
ED COMPEAN
Los Angeles Times

Report Blames School Staffers for Walkouts by Students

■ **Centinela:** Trustees hired an investigator to determine whether students were responsible for the spring protests. Board critics say the claims in his report are unsubstantiated.

By KIM KOWSKY
TIMES STAFF WRITER

A report released this week concludes that student demonstrations this spring at Hawthorne and Leuzinger high schools were organized by teachers, administrators and security officers who were trying to prevent the newly elected school board from taking an active role in district business.

Although the report was hailed by Trustee Pam Sturgeon and the board's supporters as a first step toward getting to the bottom of what happened during the demonstrations, it came under immediate fire by board critics who said its allegations are unsubstantiated and that it unfairly targets blacks.

Nancy McKee, who has two daughters in the district, said she believes the report "is going to start the healing process" by rooting out those people who were responsible for the walkouts. "I think it's positive because they're going to be able to clean out the bad seeds."

But board critic Adrain Briggs disagreed.

"It was a waste of time and money, and all of it was focused on trying to find black folks in violation of something," said

"It was a waste of time and money, and all of it was focused on trying to find black folks in violation of something."

ADRAIN BRIGGS
Committee for Racial Free Education

Briggs, a spokesman for the Committee for Racial Free Education, a group of black parents and other community activists who have been critical of the predominantly Latino school board. "It doesn't have any validity whatsoever, and those charges wouldn't stand up in a court of law."

However, Sturgeon said the report is preliminary and that she is confident the investigator who wrote it has evidence to back up his findings. She said the board will take no action on the report until the investigation is complete.

William Burnett, the private investigator who wrote the report, was hired by Centinela Valley Union High School District trustees to look into suspicions that students were not responsible for organizing the March 5-6 walkouts.

At the time of the demonstrations, several students said they decided to walk out of class to protest a spate of racially motivated incidents that had plagued the

Please see CENTINELA, B8

Private Meetings Force New Vote on Biltmore Site

By GEORGE STEIN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

An apparent violation of the state open meetings law has added yet another chapter to the long-running saga of Hermosa Beach's quest to find a new use for the Biltmore site on The Strand.

Mayor Roger Creighton, Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Sheldon and Councilman Robert Essertier took part in separate private discussions—what are sometimes called serial meetings—about a new proposal for the site, the three said at Tuesday's council meeting.

"Inadvertently and unintelligently, we have—as far as the public is concerned—a violation of the Brown Act," Creighton said.

Under the state Brown Act, closed meetings to discuss city business are prohibited except in special circumstances, including personnel matters and land acquisition. Such closed meetings may include serial meetings, in which enough council members to form a majority discuss city business in separate private discussions.

The flap about the private discussions comes two weeks after the council took steps to end a controversy that has dogged the city since the old Biltmore Hotel was torn down in 1965. The site, a little less than an acre on the beach between 14th and 15th streets, has become a weed-choked vacant lot.

On July 10, the council voted 3-2 to sell the lot for residential development and begin the uncertain process of applying to the Coastal Commission for the necessary permits. City officials estimated that the city would net between \$8 million to \$10 million from the sale. The plan was to use the money to buy parkland elsewhere in the city.

But the council decided Tuesday that the discussions

Please see BILTMORE, B8

Redondo Council Leery That Eyesore Bill Is Too Nosy

By GEORGE HATCH
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Peppered with complaints about neighborhood eyesores, the Redondo Beach City Council ordered the city staff last year to draft a comprehensive property maintenance ordinance.

But council members blanched when the proposal was unveiled Tuesday night and they found it would regulate everything from the pruning of trees to the placement of clotheslines.

"I'm very nervous about this ordinance," said Councilman Terry Ward. "We don't want something that is Big Brother looking down everyone's throat."

Said Councilwoman Barbara Doerr: "I want this ordinance burned as a public nuisance."

City leaders decided to table the measure and consult residents on what to do to deal with property maintenance problems. They did so sheepishly, admitting that the city staff had given them what they had asked for.

"They did exactly what we directed them to do," Mayor Brad Parton said. "But when we saw the direction we were going, we got a little nervous."

Tuesday's proposal would have prohibited a wide range of neighborhood "nuisances," untrimmed hedge-cut unpruned trees and grass that exceeds six inches in height.



HARRY CHASSE / Los Angeles Times

Assortment of old cars in driveway is the sort of condition that proposed ordinance would regulate.

It would bar residents from stringing clotheslines in front or side yards or on porches or balconies, and would require them to keep dirt, lumber, concrete, refrigerators, stoves and other "rubbish or junk" out of sight.

Inoperative automobiles, trailers, campers and boats would have to be stored in buildings. And auto repair work visible from roads or neighboring properties would be out of bounds unless done in an emergency or

for minor maintenance.

The city already has property regulations addressing such areas as public safety and health. For instance, roofs have to be cleared of combustible leaves and branches, and lots must be kept free of stagnant water where mosquitoes can breed.

City officials say many provisions of the proposed ordinance would involve them in purely aesthetic concerns, such as outdoor clotheslines and the dimensions of hedges.

City planning chief Paul Connolly said Tuesday the ordinance was modeled on laws used successfully in cities elsewhere in the state. But council members said they would have a hard time stomaching the wide-ranging measure unveiled Tuesday.

Several Redondo Beach residents warned that voters would take a dim view of it, too.

"This really raises hairs on the back of my neck," said Frank O'Leary, who lives on Prospect Avenue. "[This] is just another loss of individual liberty. This is another little forfeiture of our freedom."

The momentum for some form of property ordinance has been provided by a steady stream of complaints. Connolly said Redondo Beach last year received 1,600 property-related complaints, many of them concerning neighborhood eyesores of the type addressed by

Please see REDONDO, B5

Official Who Broke Permit Rules Censured

■ **Rolling Hills Estates:** City Council reprimands Planning Commissioner Donald Landauer for building a garage without obtaining city approval.

By TIM WATERS
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Rolling Hills Estates Planning Commissioner Donald Landauer was censured by City Council members early Wednesday morning for failing to obtain necessary city approvals before building a garage on his property.

The 2-1 vote came after Councilwoman Jacki McGuire, who abstained from voting on the motion to admonish Landauer, repeated her earlier request that the 11-year Planning Commission veteran resign.

"He disregarded the rights of his neighbors, and he disregarded the rights of his community," McGuire said. "His credibility is just going to be shot to hell."

Mayor Warren Schwarzmamm said Landauer's actions had embarrassed the city. He said residents who hold public office should be "more moral and better than the rest."

However, Schwarzmamm added, "I would like to give him a second chance."

Landauer, who appeared at the meeting at the council's request, said he accepted full responsibility for the code violations but added that they were unintentional. He blamed the violations on a hectic work schedule and his own failure to make sure that the contractor he hired to build the 608-square-foot garage followed proper city procedures.

"It was a mistake," Landauer said. "It was an honest mistake."

Landauer was cited by the city for failing to obtain the building permits after his next-door neighbor, Barry Benowitz, alerted Los Angeles County officials that no permits had been issued for the garage. The city contracts with the county for building services such as issuing permits.

After inspecting Landauer's property on Empty Saddle Road next to a private equestrian club, the city also cited him for keeping five horses on his property. City law allows homeowners to keep a maximum of four horses.

Please see CENSURE, B6

SOUTH BAY NEWS

LENNOX: Annexation Studied

Continued from B3
Tuesday.

While Inglewood officials await the consultant's study, they remain convinced that annexation would bring benefits for residents in both communities.

Inglewood Councilman Garland Hardeman, whose district abuts the Lennox border, said annexation would allow Inglewood officials to address drug dealing, prostitution and other criminal activities that he said spill over into Inglewood from Lennox. Inglewood police are currently limited in what they can do in the area because of the different jurisdictions. Inglewood's code enforcement, graffiti removal and other services would also help to clean up Lennox, he said.

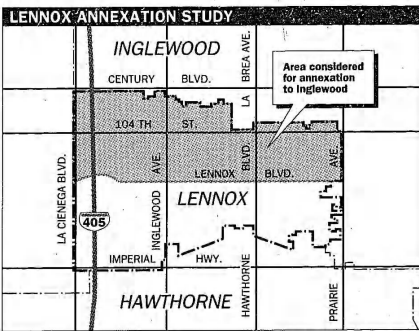
But some community leaders in Lennox, a 1.25-square-mile area east of Los Angeles International Airport, do not embrace that analysis.

"That rationale does not convince me," said Hector Carrio, a member of the board of the Lennox School District. "Inglewood is looking for a new source of revenue and [Lennox] is the best place. This is not what we want. We are looking for a way to improve our way of life. Inglewood is looking to improve its own city, not us."

Carrio acknowledged that crime has been a serious problem in Lennox, but he said Inglewood has not cleaned up its drug dealing or prostitution either.

Carrio predicted that after annexation Inglewood would be too busy with its own problems to address Lennox's needs. "We're an orphan community now, and under annexation we would be the poor relative."

James Kean, president of a neighborhood group called the Lennox Coordinating Council, said he fears that annexation of the area piecemeal would fragment the Lennox community. He said he prefers a



ANDERS RAMBERG / Los Angeles Times

recently released county redevelopment plan to annexation.

County planning officials say their plan to revitalize Lennox has two aims in mind: to upgrade residential neighborhoods through increased code enforcement, and to develop Lennox's prime location near the airport and the intersection of the San Diego and as-yet-unopened Century freeways.

The county plan was soundly rebuffed by Lennox residents when it was proposed last year. However, the opposition decreased earlier this month with the release of a revised version that scaled back commercial development in residential neighborhoods.

Despite the revisions, many in Lennox remain fearful that words such as "revitalization" and "annexation" mask plans for the wholesale replacement of residential areas by industry. They maintain that because the bulk of Lennox's population is disadvantaged and lacks political clout, the area is ripe for exploitation by commercial developers.

"Inglewood will probably tear out the whole area," said Joe Rudy, a longtime Lennox resident who opposes both annexation by Inglewood and the county's revitalization plan.

Inglewood officials maintain that they have no hidden agenda to wipe out Lennox's homes.

"We have no current plans for Lennox," said Councilman Jose Fernandez. "The council has not taken a position on annexation. We're just studying it."

Fernandez said the city will probably just attempt to annex small portions of Lennox to even out the jagged border in areas where the jurisdiction now changes in the middle of blocks.

In some areas along the Inglewood-Lennox border, Fernandez said, residents are not sure to which jurisdiction they belong.

"I don't see this as a major threat," Fernandez said. "It would be better for both sides if we have an even border and everyone knows on which side they live."

RED TAG SALE

Save 50% or More

On selected merchandise at our Downtown store only!

CASUAL PANTS
Choose from plain front or pleats in 100% cotton & cotton blends in solids and fancies
Reg. \$37.00-\$55.00
SALE
\$17.70-\$26.70

Suits & Sportcoats from Famous makers such as Bill Blass, Palm Beach, Jaymar & Fulton Park
Suits
Reg. \$255.00-\$375.00
SALE
\$126.70-\$186.70
Sportcoats
Reg. \$150.00-\$255.00
SALE
\$74.70-\$126.70

Long Sleeve Dress Shirts
by Hathaway, Arrow, Enro & Douglas Scott
Reg. \$28.00-\$50.00
SALE
\$14.70-\$29.70

Sport Shirts
Reg. \$25.00-\$47.50
SALE
\$9.70-\$18.70

Famous Maker JEANS
Choose from stripes or 5 pocket models in either blue or black
Reg. \$34.00-\$47.00
SALE
\$16.70-\$22.70

Ties
Reg. \$18.50-\$29.00
SALE
\$9.70-\$14.70

Sale Starts Today! & ends this Sunday

EAGLESON'S BIG & TALL

Downtown Los Angeles Store
259 S. Spring Street
(213) 621-9340

HOURS:
Mon. thru Wed. 10-6
Thurs. and Fri. 10-9
Sat. 10-6
Sunday 12-5

EVANS RENTS FURNITURE

CLEARANCE SALE

FRI SAT SUN

GRAND OPENING

THIS WEEKEND ONLY

FREE LITHO ART WITH \$180 PURCHASE

BEDROOM SETS
FROM **\$199**

SOFAS
FROM **\$99**

WALL UNITS
FROM **\$39**

CHAIRS
FROM **\$49**

DESKS
FROM **\$49**

DINETTES
FROM **\$89**

EVANS RENTS IS HAVING A ONCE IN A LIFETIME WAREHOUSE SALE. 1,000'S OF NAME BRAND ITEMS HAVE BEEN DRastically REDUCED FOR THIS WEEKEND ONLY.

HOME

- LEATHER SOFAS
- WING BACK CHAIRS
- LIVING ROOM TABLES
- ELEGANT DINING ROOM SETS

OFFICE

- DESKS (ALL SIZES)
- PARTITIONS
- CONFERENCE CHAIRS
- FILE CABINETS
- CRENZENAS

Now, floor samples and previously rented.

EVANS RENTS FURNITURE CLEARANCE CENTERS

16496 Beach Blvd.
Westminster, CA 92638
(714) 848-1740

GRAND OPENING
1111 W. Artesia Blvd.
Compton, CA 90220
(Corner of Anderson & Artesia)
(213) 703-6920 (213) 604-4786

OPEN
FRIDAY - SATURDAY - SUNDAY
10 AM - 6 PM

CREDIT AVAILABLE

PACIFIC SALES

Your BIG SCREEN Headquarters

- BRAND NAMES
- LOWEST PRICES
- PROFESSIONAL AND KNOWLEDGEABLE STAFF

HITACHI ULTRAVISION

HIX
Hi-Resolution Technology

CU-5000K
50" Hitachi Big Screen Stereo TV

- Genius Remote
- Dolby, Hall, Matrix Surround
- On-Screen Menu

SONY

SONY 46" VIDEOSCOPE® Big Screen Stereo Monitor Receiver

- 46" image with 450 ft. Lambert brightness
- Advanced Digital Picture-In-Picture
- Two built-in TV tuners
- Split-screen image displays two programs
- Black & Oak Cabinet

CT4580K

HITACHI ULTRAVISION

HIX
Hi-Resolution Technology

CU-4600B
46" Hitachi Big Screen Stereo TV

- Genius Remote
- Dolby, Hall, Matrix Surround
- On-Screen Menu

MAGNAVOX

46" MAGNAVOX STAR Home Video Theatre

- Menu format tuning system • Universal Learn Remote • Smart Window (Color PIP) • 6-amplifier, 100-watt Magnavox/JBL Surround Sound three-way stereo system

\$1897

HITACHI

45" Hitachi Big Screen Stereo Monitor Receiver

- High performance projection system
- On screen picture/sound control

\$1547

MAGNAVOX

41" Magnavox Big Screen Stereo Monitor Receiver

- Menu format tuning system • Universal Remote • 160" wide-angle screen/500-foot lamports • 7" liquid-cooled tubes
- S-Video input
- Remote control convergence adjustment

\$1547

TORRANCE

PACIFIC SALES

2080 Washington Blvd., Torrance
Phone (213) 212-2700

HOURS: Tuesday - Friday 10 am to 6 pm • Saturday 10 am to 5 pm
We are closed on Sundays & Mondays
Limited Quantities on Some Items

Los Angeles Times

Recycling for an abundant future.