

MYTH VS FACT

ALTHOUGH EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO THEIR OWN OPINION, PEOPLE ARE NOT ENTITLED TO THEIR OWN FACTS. FALSE AND MISLEADING STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING ABOUT THE CITY OF YUCAIPA, ITS MANAGER AND ELECTED OFFICIALS. TO HELP YOU FORM YOUR OWN OPINION, THE CITY HAS ASSEMBLED THE MOST COMMON FICTITIOUS STATEMENTS AND SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT WITH THE FACTS.



The City is cutting police and first responders.



False. The City has no plans to cut police, fire, or emergency medical services. The City Council adopted bolstering public safety as its highest priority goal.*

The City Manager is firing employees, and morale at City Hall is suffering.

False. The City Manager has not fired a single employee, and employee morale is higher than ever according to a statement shared by the Yucaipa City Employees Association (https://www.youtube.com/live/kXUQ_n0VRdc?feature=share&t=302).

The City is eliminating Mobile Home Rent Control.

False. The City is not eliminating Mobile Home Rent Control. In fact, the Council is actively taking steps to strengthen the City's mobilehome rent stabilization program, including enforcing the protections of AB 2782.

The City is taking away the Mobile Home Rent Review Commission and replacing it with a "single hearing czar."

Misleading. Previous City Councils have unsuccessfully attempted to generate interest in the Mobilehome Rent Review Commission. It has been difficult to find, fill, and maintain a commission of qualified candidates that understand the complexity of specialized rent adjustments. The City Council has directed the appointment of a hearing officer to solve this problem, a solution supported by both tenants of mobilehome parks and park owners, because it will ensure timely and fair resolutions to rent review appeals.

The City is cutting funding for infrastructure, streets, roads.

False. The City is working to increase resources to better maintain its roads, including contracting with on-call vendors to perform expedited pothole repairs.^^

MYTH VS FACT



The City Manager's contract allows him to work part-time.



False. City Manager is a full-time job - and then some. The City Manager's job requires extensive work outside of typical business hours, and the contract allows him to flex his hours accordingly. While the contract allows "limited outside activities," it clearly requires that he "devote his productive time, ability and attention to the City's business." This is common language in city manager contracts. The previous City Manager's contract had similar language.

The City Manager's contract provides exorbitant salary and benefits.

False. The City Manager's contract is typical for a city manager in California. In fact, the new City Manager's salary and benefits are significantly lower than those of the previous City Manager, with a base salary 20% lower than the previous City Manager's, which had been increased to \$299,400. The new City Manager's contract will save the City more than \$92,000 in the first 12 months alone.

The City Manager hired his own City Attorney.

False. The City Council hires the City Attorney, and chose to do so on January 9, 2023 (almost two months prior to the new City Manager taking office), when the City Council unanimously appointed Steven Graham of Cole Huber, an attorney who serves as city attorney to numerous cities and other government agencies and whose family has lived in Yucaipa for decades.

The City had to buy out the former City Attorney.

False. The City terminated the contract with the former City Attorney. There was no buy-out and no financial impact to the City.

The City has not explained the reasons for the previous City Manager's departure.

Partially true. The City has stated that the previous City Manager retired. Per the terms of a Separation Agreement between the City and the previous City Manager, neither side is permitted to discuss the matter publicly other than what information was included in a joint press release that was sent out at the time. This is a common clause in separation agreements, and was requested by the previous City Manager.

MYTH VS FACT



The City had to pay out millions of dollars to buy out the former City Manager.



False. The Separation Agreement with the former City Manager restated previously existing contractual entitlements, including a separation payment equal to 9 months of his base salary and payment of accrued leave time which is required to be paid under state law. The severance and leave time payout totaled \$283,979.

The City Council acted illegally and/or unethically in the hiring of the new City Manager.

False. This accusation was investigated and deemed unfounded as part of an extensive pre-employment background check process.** The City Manager works at the pleasure of the City Council. The Council has the right to hire and fire the City Manager for any reason, or no reason at all. The Council has the right to follow any process it wishes. While some residents may not agree with the Council's decisions, the Council was within their legal rights to take these actions. Further, as these types of decisions are personnel matters, they are almost always made in closed session and announced publicly after the fact. In fact, the former City Manager was appointed in a similar fashion.

The new City Manager is inexperienced and was given the job by a slim majority of his friends on the City Council.

False. The Council voted 4-1 to appoint the new City Manager, and his contract was approved unanimously after hours of extensive negotiations. The City Manager, who is a resident of Yucaipa, has 23 years of experience working in and with local government. He has been a Mayor, City Councilman, President of a water board, Analyst and Deputy Chief of Staff for a member of the County Board of Supervisors, and came to the City of Yucaipa after serving the last four years as City Manager for the City of Canyon Lake. In Canyon Lake, he was widely credited for turning around that City's finances, professionalizing staffing, improving public safety response times, etc. Canyon Lake's Mayor said, "I truly believe Chris Mann is simply the best manager the City has had in its 32-year history."^^

The City Manager is bringing his Canyon Lake team to Yucaipa.

Mostly false. Only one former Canyon Lake employee was hired. The City Council approved a budget update and reorganization that resulted in the creation and addition of one net new employee position.

MYTH VS FACT



By approving development projects, the City is using up Yucaipa's water.

Misleading. The Yucaipa Valley Water District (YVWD) is responsible for monitoring and managing the region's water resources, and for determining if sufficient water is available to serve a development project. Because of forward planning, state-of-the-art water treatment facilities, and an extensive recycled water system, YVWD has ensured that there is plenty of water to provide for current and future demands.

Developments are over-burdening Yucaipa Schools.

False. According to Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified School District (YCJUSD) officials, enrollment is actually down in our schools, which is negatively impacting the District's funding. YCJUSD has capacity, and is actively supportive of welcoming additional students.

The City Council majority and the City Manager are in the pockets of developers and have an agenda to approve development projects that will ruin Yucaipa's rural way of life.

False. The members of the City Council and the City Manager come from diverse backgrounds, including law enforcement, real estate, construction, sales, public relations, and local government administration. While some have worked with, and received political support from, developers and other businesses operating in town, this is common in local government and is in no way an indication of wrongdoing. In fact, these false allegations were submitted to the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), the District Attorney's office, and a background investigator, and no evidence of wrongdoing was found. All members of the Council and the City Manager live here in Yucaipa, want the best for our community, and are committed to protecting our unique, rural way of life.

Sources:

*Lopez, Michelle. "Yucaipa City Council Adopts New City Goals." News Mirror. April 14, 2023, Vol 110 edition, sec. No 15.

^"From the City of Yucaipa: Yucaipa City Council Works to Fix Potholes Faster." News Mirror. April 7, 2023, Vol 110 edition, sec. No 14.

**"Yucaipa Releases Its City Manager Background Check, Finds No Basis to Recent Allegations." News Mirror. March 10, 2023, Vol 110 edition, sec. No 10.

^^"City Manager Takes Job in Yucaipa." The Friday Flyer. January 13, 2023, Vol 43 edition, sec. No 2.