



## Santa Clause's

### OFFICIAL Naughty & Nice List

Naughty      Nice

Doug White,  
Deputy City Attorney

Nubia Goldstein,  
City Attorney



# SANTA'S NAUGHTY LIST: #1 IS WHITE BRENNER LLP

**Costly legal advice. Broken trust. Patterson families stuck with the bill.**

Santa keeps the score. And this year, Patterson's City Attorneys at **White Brenner LLP** are at the very top of his Naughty List.

- **Shutting Keystone out then falsely blaming them.** For months, White Brenner turned down multiple requests from Keystone Ranch to join key Development Agreement meetings, then allowed the Mayor to make the false claim that Keystone "excluded themselves," even though the City Attorneys knew it wasn't true.
- **Blowing through the legal budget.** Patterson set an annual legal budget of \$380,000. White Brenner charged way more, billing over **\$1,000,000 in just 5 months, including \$550,000 in September and October alone.**
- **Two years out of compliance — and counting.** Patterson is now two years late on its State-required Housing Element. State agencies have warned the City about enforcement, penalties, and funding losses — yet the problem has only grown. **Bad legal guidance or just plain reckless?**
- **Putting families on the hook for up to \$37 million.** If the City stays out of compliance and continues to violate state law, it could expose Patterson to as much as \$37 million in penalties — almost the size of the City's entire annual budget.
- **Even a judge called out White Brenner LLP's actions.** A Superior Court Judge called Patterson's handling of the fee process and nexus studies, under White Brenner's watch, "haphazard" and said it was "not designed to ensure transparency and public participation in government. In fact, it appears likely it ensured exactly the opposite..."

**Santa sees it all. And we hope Patterson residents care.** The Mayor and City Council can no longer claim ignorance. At this point, **not acting to correct these violations is a choice — and could be a costly one for the City of Patterson and its residents who will have to bail the City out.**

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