

The parachute route: out-of-towners swoop in on Stanton

Why is the Newport Beach-based Lincoln Club tinkering with Measure GG?



Tony on the Town

By Tony Cheong

There's a battle brewing in Stanton.

And, honestly, I don't get it. It looks to me like another case of politicians and lobbyists wasting time and money on a non-issue.

Here's the deal: Two anti-tax groups — one led by former mayor Sal Sapien and the other being the Newport Beach-based Lincoln Club — have gathered the required number of signatures to possibly repeal the city's one-cent sales tax at the ballot box.

The tax, called Measure GG, was passed by Stanton voters last year.

Since Measure GG passed, Stanton has used the increased revenue to beef up public safety.

If the tax is repealed, Stanton leaders say they will have no

choice but to cut about \$3 million in police services, fire safety services, code enforcement officers and crossing guards.

Stanton is not a big city and it's not a rich city.

Historically, it's been plagued by crime. High crime rates have made it difficult to lure businesses. Without a thriving business environment, city coffers suffer, which means city services suffer.

Moreover, it's tough to attract future residents and tourists.

I get it. Stanton has the high-

est sales tax in the county at 9 percent. Opponents of the tax say low-income residents can't afford it. They're also sick and tired of government taxing citizens for every little thing rather than show fiscal discipline.

But back to what perplexes me: 1) The voters have spoken. Absent a robust, grassroots effort by Stanton-ites to repeal Measure GG, why revisit the issue, and what does any of it have to do with the Lincoln Club, which is very wealthy and filled with out-of-towners?; 2) Increased funding

for public safety appears to be making a difference. Nobody wants more taxes, but is it a good idea to trash Measure GG at the expense of public safety?

How much does a one-cent sales tax really affect a household's finances? On a monthly basis, you're talking about a handful of dollars.

I rarely see a tax I approve of.

But this one makes sense.

Or am I missing something?

Do you have a question, comment or news tip for Tony? Email her at tonyontown@yahoo.com.