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Attorney General Throws Lowry Vista And IRG Into Turmoil

Highly Controversial Development May Yet Fail: Neighborhood Groups Rally Johnson Admits To Rigged 'Courtesy Zoning' On Lowry Vista



by Glen Richardson

A memorandum dated November 15, 2013 by Assistant Attorney General for Colorado Jennifer Robbins has thrown the entire massive *Lowry Vista* development into doubt. Eight years ago *International Risk Group* (IRG) got the *City of Denver* and *Lowry Redevelopment Authority* (LRA) to transfer to an IRG affiliate, *IRG Redevelopment I, LLC* (IRG-I), 80 acres of land for nothing that was supposed to be used only as a park or open space. Months later IRG sought and was eventually given the right to put a massive mixed use development on the property even though the land was supposed to be so contaminated that even watering the property would present a substantial risk to the public. *Lowry Vista* is located on *East Alameda* across from *Windsor Gardens*.

Open Space To Massive Mixed Use Development

The *Denver City Council* approved the rezoning of *Lowry Vista* in January 2010 by a 12 to 1 vote despite adamant and overwhelming opposition from citizen and neighborhood groups. The push for the development by Councilwoman *Marcia Johnson* in whose district the project was located resulted in such an outcry that *Johnson* did not run for reelection in 2011 and her

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On-going Controversy: The *Lowry Vista* mixed-use development has been mired in controversy since *Denver*, through the *Lowry Redevelopment Authority*, gave what was supposed to be open space to the *International Risk Group* for \$10 in 2007 asserting its contamination made it a massive liability. In 2010 the city turned around without any additional remedial work undertaken and approved a rezoning for the approximately 80 acres as a massive mixed-use development despite overwhelming citizen and neighborhood opposition.

Raptors In Championship Finals May 17 At Infinity Park

by Scott Krieger

Writer for and on behalf of the *City of Glendale* on Saturday May 17 at 3 p.m. the *Glendale Raptors* will battle it out in all likelihood against strong rival *San Francisco Golden Gate Rugby Club* (SFGG) for the championship of the newly formed *Pacific Rugby Premiership* (PRP). The new league is composed of seven top clubs in *Denver* and the *West Coast* and is considered to have a lot of the top rugby teams in the nation. But the disbandment of the rugby *Super League* and then the *Elite Cup* has resulted in there being no national

championship this year containing all the top teams in the country. It is hoped that an *Atlantic Rugby Premiership* can be formed so all the top teams will vie for a national title next year, but there are no assurances that the same will occur.

In the meantime the *Raptor-SFGG* match is creating great anticipation. *Glendale* is on top of the *PRP* standing with only one loss but that loss was to *SFGG* out in *San Francisco* by the score of 31-26 in a seesaw match. A second regularly scheduled match between the clubs is set for May 3, in *Glendale* ending the 14 week regular season of the *PRP*.

The *PRP* is set up to be a pipeline for the *USA Eagles*. In years past in the *Super League*, the level of competition varied to the

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Brett Willis looks on as fellow winger Preston Bryant reaches over the tryline to score for the *Glendale Raptors*.

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Councilmember Doris Rigoni



Councilmember Joseph Giglio

Glendale Swears In Two New Councilmembers

by Mark Smiley

The municipal election set for April 1, 2014, in the *City of Glendale* was cancelled due to the exact amount of candidates vying for four open council seats. *Paula Bovo* and *Dario Katardzic* were re-elected and will each serve four year terms. *Doris Rigoni* and *Joseph Giglio* were newly elected to the *City Council*. They replaced *Ricky King* and *Pat Opper* who each served eight years on the council and were term limited. *Rigoni* will serve until 2018 and *Giglio's* term will end in 2016.

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Raptors In Championship Finals May 17 At Infinity Park

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point that many matches were decided by a large point margin. The PRP, more selective with its members, has reduced that component of the game and funneled both a great amount of talent and pointed coaching into each match, every week.

The premierships is still in the early stages of its existence, and plans to keep growing. It is already looking to integrate a new member, *Park City Haggis*, next season.

"The PRP has definitely proven to be the highest level of competition," Glendale captain and seven-time *Team USA* member Zach Fenoglio said. "Hopefully the PRP has learned from the things that made the Super League great and will only lead to more success and higher competition for years to come."

The seven clubs that make up the league already have a rich history in the development of the sport in the western United States, and ideally the PRP will only further that and continue the growth of the game.

Olympic Club traces its incredible roots back over 100 years to its founding in 1908. That year, they competed against teams from *Stanford, California*, and the *University of Pacific*. Not long after, they began an international search for more demanding competition. In 1913 they played a vaunted *New Zealand* club, and although they took the loss, it was much more of a match than even the *USA National* team put up against the *All Blacks*. In the 1960s, when most western rugby teams were just being formed, *O-Club* was reaching their peak of dominance, both domestically and overseas. The club has continued both touring and attracting new talent for the last 30 years. This season has fallen short of expectations, as the team is in seventh place with a record of 2-7.

Old Mission Beach Athletic Club (OMBAC) began playing rugby in 1954, initially only to satisfy the desire for organized competition. In 1966, team members were granted a petition to be sponsored in San Diego, and set off down the road of competitive play. Later in the 1960s, *San Diego State* graduates flocked to the club, instilling a new level of talent and athleticism. OMBAC was the first team to win both the 15s and 7s National Championships, and have done so many times over. The club took the full-side championships in 1988, '89, '91, '93, '94 and '96, and continue to compete with the highest level of rugby clubs in the country. OMBAC is 4-3-1 and in fifth place in the standings.

Known around Southern California as *Belmont Shore Rugby Club*, the club was originally formed in 1964 as the *Long Beach Rugby Club*. Original founders were comprised mostly of *Long Beach State* football players as well as members of the *United States Coast Guard*. The team first started thriving in the '80s, evolving then to be known as *Belmont Shore*. It was around this time they began to attract international talent and truly grew into a powerhouse. Belmont won its first National Championship in 1998, beating *New York Old Blue*. They used this as a springboard as they entered a decade of dominance, which has continued into their inception into the PRP. Shore is in third place in the PRP this year with a record of 5-4.

Founded a few short years after Belmont, the *Denver Barbarians* came to be in 1967. The first major post-collegiate rugby club in the region, the Barbos were initially formed by a collection of ex-college ruggers as well as lacrosse players in search of new competition. The club really did serve as pioneers for professional rugby in the region, as by the spring of 1968 three more teams had formed with more on the way. Denver won the National Championship in 1990 and has been competing at high levels both in 15s and 7s ever since. The Barbarians have fallen to fourth place this season after two recent losses to Glendale.

The early 1970s witnessed the birth of yet another powerhouse rugby club. *Santa Monica Rugby Club* was established in 1972 by graduates and rugby players of surrounding schools like *UCLA* and *USC*. The team found success almost immediately, traveling to a number of National Cham-



Glendale Raptors Center Justin Pauga breaks tackles against local rivals the Denver Barbarians.

pionships over the years, and taking home the title in both 2005 and 2006. Currently, they occupy sixth place in the league.

1988 brought forth the birth of *San Francisco Golden Gate* after the merger of two Di-

vision II teams, *Barbary Coast* and the *Castaways*. Throughout the '90s, the team was a staple in the Final Four, but never captured the National Title. Over the years, though, SFGG has pumped out numerous players

to both the USA Eagles as well as international squads. They have enjoyed sustained success so far this season, and sit in second place in the PRP with a record of 7-2.

Glendale comes in as the new kids on the block. Established in 2007, the *Raptors* have accomplished much in a short amount of time, serving as a benchmark for the sport and playing in *RugbyTown USA*. Winning the National Championship in 2011, the Raptors immediately made a name for themselves, and haven't looked back since. Led by Head Coach Andre Snyman, the club sits atop the PRP standings with a record of 8-1.

Three games remain before the finals at *Infinity Park*. The Raptors have vastly outperformed expectations thus far this season, displaying premier rugby week after week in their chase for a title. They will travel to California to play the next two matches, before returning home for the final week's match on May 3. "I want to keep the players focused and mentally sound by not burning them out with information overload but instead remaining cool, calm, and collected," Snyman said.

On a current six-game win streak, the Raptors hope to ride their success through the next three weeks and give the city of Glendale a hometown team to cheer for in the finals at *Infinity Park*.



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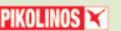
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