



West Covina Mayor Pro Tem Tony Wu Served with Recall Papers



Corey Warshaw, former Councilman and Mayor of West Covina, serves West Covina Mayor Pro Tem Tony Wu with recall papers. (Photo by George Ogden)

By George Ogden

WEST COVINA - On Tuesday, February 6th, Corey Warshaw, a former Councilman and Mayor of West Covina, served recall papers to West Covina Mayor Pro Tem Tony Wu. The "Tony Wu Recall" Political Action Committee (PAC) gave notice that they are the proponents of a recall petition and that they intend to seek his recall and removal from the office of West Covina City Council. The recall process was started by a group of West Covina residents to remove Tony Wu from the Fifth District seat.

They allege that his misconduct and failed leadership has brought this action forward.

Elected back in 2015, he soon became the Council Majority Leader and basically called the shots for the city. He is next in line to be Mayor for the city.

Steve Bennett, treasurer of the PAC, indicated that they had more than enough signature for the for the service of the notification. They indicate Wu has caused major issues for West Covina which resulted in a \$4.1 million litigation settlement against the city. There are also other pending lawsuits as well. In fact, there may be other lawsuits filed for creating "hostile work environ-

ment" for a number of employees including a former City Manager where Wu threatened to punch him in the mouth in front of other staff members. He has gone through 3 city managers; a police chief and fire chief being fired after giving direction to the new city manager. Although there may have been some concerns with some issues, these terminations didn't come without lawsuits which cost the city plenty and there are still litigations in process that will more likely cost the city more.

Wu is being fingered in the collapse of the Amazon deal for West Covina when it appeared that everything was in place for the deal to go through, and during a council presentation at a city council meeting by Amazon, Wu did the unthinkable. During the final discussion, Wu tried to renegotiate the Amazon commitment with a "quid pro quo" action from the dais. Wu asked Amazon for another \$200,000.00 per year to be added to the projected contract to get his support. Although Amazon appeared to agree to this at the council meeting, they quickly terminated their deal with the city and moved on, costing hundreds of potential jobs. They apparently felt this was a shake-down or blackmail for his sup-

port and they were not going for it.

Wu stated that he had the trust of the majority of residents as shown in November 2022 when he was re-elected. That is not exactly true because only 1 fifth of the residents could vote for him because of the districting. He is in the 5th district and the results of the last election he did not have the majority of the votes, only the "most" votes. Wu had only 43.04% with Sykes having 38.45% and Reyes getting 14.86% and Rambod getting 3.645. If Reyes and Rambod would not have run, Sykes would have beaten Wu in that election with 56% of the votes.

With districting this is another example of failed representation of true population of the city of West Covina. This is a form of taxation without representation.

This recall action seems to have the support of residents outside of the 5th district, but they have "no say" in this process.

"Depending on the date that the city clerk gives the committee to move forward with circulating the petition, they will need to get 20% signatures from the registered voters in Council District 5, about 2,500 voters to get this on the ballot by November," according to Bennett.