



CITY OF COSTA MESA

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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

PRESS RELEASE

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Fact Check #3: The city's "jewel-encrusted nameplates"

COSTA MESA, CALIF.— In its continued effort to provide more clarity on city budget matters, the City of Costa Mesa's Fact Check offers some context and corrections to the e-mail ("Welcome to Waste Watchers") sent last week by the Orange County Employees Assn.

Orange County Employees Assn. Statement: "[W]hy spend \$425 on jewel-encrusted nameplates for City Council members when a large selection is available online starting under \$10?"

Fact Check: These were not "nameplates" but council badges that cost \$175 a piece. For decades, the City has given badges to all council members as ceremonial identification when they first take office. Two were ordered in February for the new council members.

Each badge has a single, tiny fleck of a red-colored stone that serves the eye of an eagle.

The City's vendor does have nameplates available for under \$10, but the badges cost significantly more.

Orange County Employees Assn. Statement: "The name plates were ordered on St. Patrick's Day – the same day the City handed out layoff notices."

Fact Check: The badges weren't ordered on St. Patrick's Day, the day layoff notices were handed out. They were ordered on Feb. 9, 2011 and shipped by the vendor to the City on March 17, 2011.