

PORSCHE

herself bonuses without authorization. Colvin allegedly embezzled from the restaurants between February 2019 and October 2020. The owner of Rangoon Ruby and Burma Ruby detected the fraud in November 2020 after noticing accounting discrepancies.

Among other thefts, Colvin had given herself a couple of \$15,000 bonuses.

Investigators noted that the defendant made a \$65,000 payment for a Porsche.

Checks and balances

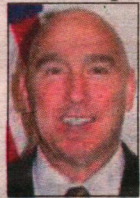
"This theft happened during the height of the pandemic, when local restaurants were already struggling," District Attorney Jeff Rosen said in a statement. "Please develop robust checks and balances for your business. Trust but verify. Your livelihood depends on it."

Rangoon Ruby, at 445 Emerson St., specializes in "relaxed Burmese" dining with exotic tiki cocktails. Burma Ruby, 326 University Ave., is a white tablecloth Burmese eatery.

COP

prisoner." In an email, Jonsen said the letter surprised him because he never had a negative interaction with Moore in his three years as chief. His retirement letter was the first to convey dissatisfaction, he said.

Jonsen said he followed up on the letter with a department-wide email expressing his appreciation for Moore's service and acknowledging his leadership on several specialty teams throughout his career.



JONSEN

Jonsen said the past 18 months have been incredibly challenging for law enforcement. During that time, officers have dealt with the pandemic and the racial justice protests in the summer of 2020.

"The stressors are being felt both professionally and personally for many employees," Jonsen said.

He said he has met with officers individually over the past three weeks to talk about the state of the department, and the conversations were productive. The meetings led to recommendations that will be developed by a new internal group focused on strategic solutions, he said.

Turnover in the department

Moore's letter comes amid an exodus from the department: At least eight officers including Moore have resigned or retired since April.

Moore is also one of five officers suing the city for harassment and discrimination over a mural in front of city hall that depicted Assata Shakur. Shakur is a Black Power revolutionary who was convicted of murdering a state trooper in 1977 and is living in Cuba as a fugitive.

Shakur was painted in the letter "E" of a 245-foot-long Black Lives Matter mural, which was paid for by city council in the wake of racial justice protests across the nation. The mural was removed in November 2020, and the lawsuit was filed this June.

The officers joining Moore in suing the city are Eric Figueroa, Michael Foley, Robert Parham and Julie Tannock. They are suing the city and police department for discrimination, harassment and retaliation.

In his letter, Moore said every member of the police union was asked to join the lawsuit, and many declined only to regret their choice.

"The reasons I was given ... fell into three main categories: cowardice, apathy or fear of department retribution," Moore said. "All three are concerning."

Moore attacked the chief for offering powerful speeches and sports analogies, but not giving patrol officers and dispatchers what they really needed: to be heard and supported.

He said Jonsen took a "sinking ship and shot holes in the bottom." The letter was printed over a watermark of the Titanic.

Moore mentioned that three officers were given intent to terminate for what he said was a petty offense.

He didn't say who was given the notice or for what incident. Jonsen also declined to give any details.

Personal references

Many of Moore's attacks were personal. He called Binder a disgrace and said nobody likes Wagner. He also said officers were joyous when Perron was in the news for saying the N-word.

Moore, who made \$224,399 last year, couldn't be reached for comment through his lawyers.

Binder, Wagner and Perron didn't respond to requests for comment.

Ken Kratt, the president of the police union, also didn't respond.

CENSURE

mostly symbolic. The council would pass a resolution describing the allegations of misconduct, and council members could be removed from committees.

Accountability

"It is necessary for the city to have a logical censure policy in order for the residents of Los Altos to know and understand that their elected officials are responsible and accountable," said Councilman Jonathan Weinberg, who has been leading the push for the policy.



WEINBERG

The new policy is a result of an 11-month saga that has divided the council, stemming from an exchange last November when Lee Eng read a text from an activist during a meeting that she said made her fear for her safety.

The text was from activist Kenan Moos, who said Lee Eng's name would be "all over the papers" because she didn't vote to hire a third party to collect complaints against the police.



LEE ENG

The council passed a resolution condemning Lee Eng in May and started working on a stronger policy for cell-phone use that was approved last month. The new policy clarified that council members can only look at electronic communications during a meeting when they believe there is a family emergency.

'Cancelling and vindictiveness'

Members of the public have mostly spoken against a censure policy at previous council meetings.

It would be used for "cancelling and vindictiveness," further dividing an already tense and easily offended council, resident Pat Marriott said.

"Make the norms reasonable so they ensure respect

for all. If anyone violates them, point it out. If anyone does something egregious, it will be obvious and could be turned over to the city attorney," he said. "Just discussing censure makes it clear that council needs more teamwork and mutual support. Implementing it would just make you and the city look bad."

Censures over policy differences?

Resident Roberta Phillips said there is already a process, a recall election, if a council member does something illegal or unethical. A censure policy gives the council unwarranted authority and would be used by people against those they disagree with, she said.

Weinberg said the censure policy has nothing to do with Lee Eng, and it brings the city into line with other jurisdictions, he said.

Los Gatos, Santa Clara and Stockton have approved censure policies, a report by City Attorney Jolie Houston said.

Weinberg said he has no concerns about the policy and its future uses.

"The voters have a history of electing officials to the city council who are responsible, who are honorable and who are accountable," he said.

Mayor Neysa Fligor and Councilwoman Sally Meadows joined Einberg in putting the policy on the agenda. Vice Mayor Anita Enander has defended Lee Eng, who could not be reached for comment yesterday.

HERO PAY

them." Canepa said he'd be "a little uncomfortable" with spending that much money.

"Our workers are valued," Canepa said. "But \$2,500? That's big."

Cost of bonuses

It would cost San Mateo County about \$14 million to give one-time bonuses of \$2,500 to its roughly 5,600 employees. It cost Santa Clara County about \$76 million for its 22,000 employees.



CANEPA

However, Santa Clara County Executive Smith told his supervisors that the source of the funds, the American Rescue Plan Act, requires that some be used for Hero Pay. Santa Clara County received \$187 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds. San Mateo County got \$74.4 million.

Canepa is not the only official to feel awkward about the high amount.

Hero Pay called 'overly generous'

Santa Clara County Supervisor Otto Lee abstained from voting on the Hero Pay, after saying the amount was "overly generous."

San Mateo County has earmarked most of its ARPA money. The county will spend \$20 million to replenish the funds of county departments that lost revenue during the pandemic. And the county will spend \$20 million on the homeless to build a shelter in Redwood City and buy hotels to use as shelters.

The county is also giving \$2.5 million in ARPA money to Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, a food distribution program, \$5.5 million to build business support centers, \$2 million for small business grants and \$5 million for vaccinations.

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