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## What to do?

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I think being a police officer in Vallejo is a very difficult job and I admire their courage and tenacity in staying with the department through extremely difficult times. I too have worked with the state attorney general's office and the California Highway Patrol for many years, and neither I nor any of the officers I worked with ever earned anything like the embellished benefits packages awarded to public union employees in Vallejo.

Are the 25-year veterans going to admit that the overly generous retirement packages of their former colleagues have left the cupboard bare? Before you trot out the conventional line about the failures of previous councils, how exactly do you negotiate against the likes of Henke and Riley? Negotiating with public service unions that have funded the majority of council incumbents leaves no one to represent the city rate payers, so public safety unions wrote their own tickets. The California Foundation for Fiscal Responsibility and the Cato Institute have produced some very well thought out studies of Vallejo's unsustainable situation.

Until the causes of the current situation are understood and rectified, nothing much is going to change. So what to do? Snipe from the sidelines or install great locks and burglar alarms. Form a neighborhood watch group, get to know your neighbors, re-introduce the Safe Streets program that worked so well. Support the council candidates who have shunned the union's largess.

I doubt that we will ever match

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the civic benefits of Benicia - we don't have the deep pockets of Valero's public relations office throwing money around to keep the locals happy.

I owned a major landmark building in Benicia and have chosen to live in Vallejo for 13 years. So obviously I am not of the opinion that no one wants to move here. However, I am sure if you promote it long enough and loud enough the idea will gain traction.

**Angela Sanders**  
 Vallejo

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