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Vacant Seat

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STOCKTON --- TRT: 26:00

Fade from black.

Traffic passes a sign that reads "Welcome to Stockton." Music begins.

MALE ANCHOR (VO): There's a new list that no city wants to be a part of.

KCRA3 news graphic listing Forbes' most miserable cities in 2009.

FEMALE ANCHOR (VO): Oh boy, Forbes magazine came up with a list of the most miserable cities in the US and topping the list is Stockton.

Crossfade to man to high-angle shot of downtown Stockton. Tracking shots of man turning a corner.

FEMALE ANCHOR (VO): Not just struggling, not just a little depressed, but America's most miserable?

Shot of man pressure-washing sidewalk with desolate cityscape behind him.

FEMALE ANCHOR (VO): The city is bankrupt, and the crime rate is out of control.

FEMALE ANCHOR (VO): It's no secret, voters in Stockton want to see improvements.

Shot of man in front of pawn shop. Shot of man in electric wheelchair zipping by. Shot of Stockton City Hall complete with cracks and peeled paint.

FEMALE ANCHOR (VO): Residents have gone through bankruptcy and record homicide rates and now they have voted for a change.

TEXT CARD: In November 2012, Stockton voters ousted nearly half of the City Council.

MS of Stockton City Hall, paint around the word "Stockton" peeling.

TEXT CARD: A final council seat was left vacant when City Council member Susan Eggman won election to the State Assembly.

MS of pillars with peeling paint. Pan over front of City Hall. Cut to Scott Smith.

SCOTT SMITH: This is a vacant seat so basically anybody can from the district can apply, submit their name, they collect a certain number of signatures, basically go through an interview process before the city council who ultimately votes for the replacement.

Low-angle shot of banner that reads: "Stockton || All-America City || 2004 || 2009."

Susan Eggman interview.

SUSAN EGGMAN: So as usual, Stockton shows up. Stockton shows up. And so we had I think was it 12 people who applied to replace me?

Shots of applicants behind lectern in city council chambers.

EGGMAN (VO): A wide cast of folks showed up. People who were very serious and then, you know, those who were serious in different kinds of ways.

MICHAEL MARINO (VO): I think what people are looking for is with Obama. They're looking for somebody new. They're looking for a new perspective. They're looking for change.

MS Marino standing in kitchen with a glass of water.

MARINO: "Yeah, we can do that." Isn't that how he said it? Might've been... yeah...

PRODUCER: "Yes we can."

MARINO: "Yes we can," thank you. And yes we will, is my adaptation of that.

Christina Fugazi interview.

CHRISTINA FUGAZI: We're not going to put up with this any more. We want there to be something different for Stockton. And like I said, I'm just hoping I can be part of that.

Shot of banner on city hall that reads "Stockton || All-America City || 2004 || 2009."

WILLIAM MAXWELL (VO): Yeah, I can't understand why anybody would want that job.

Maxwell interview.

MAXWELL: There are those that, they just feel, you know, that's their duty.

TITLE CARD: VACANT SEAT. CU of current city council candidates official portraits with one frame empty.

Eggman interview.

EGGMAN: When I ran for office the first time, people asked "Why are you running?" I would say, "My question is not, 'why am I running,' the question is, 'why aren't you running?'"

Shot of Don Aguillard in urban garden.

EGGMAN (VO): Why aren't we all running? This is our community.

Shot of Vincent Sayles drinking coffee and walking.

EGGMAN (VO): This is where we live. Why don't we all want to see it done the best way possible?

Shots of Dyane Burgos walking up to various houses. Dog barking.

DYANE BURGOS (VO): Try this one. Hello, my name is Dyane. You know recently Susan Eggman, our city councilmember, got elected to state assembly so there's a vacancy on the city council and I'm running for her spot.

Shot of Burgos speaking with woman at door step.

BURGOS: Part of the application process is getting 10 signatures...

Cut to different house.

BURGOS: And so I was hoping you could sign my nomination thing.

BURGOS (VO): I think I was really inspired by the previous councilmember, Susan Eggman.

BURGOS: I interned for her and it's the little things that people care about like I said before. And so you can work on little things to affect such big change.

Shot of Burgos' back.

BURGOS: And then when I get appointed you can be like, "I signed her nomination!"

WOMAN: OK

BURGOS: (laughs)

WOMAN: Well, good luck. Bye bye.

Marino walks across street with large map.

MARINO (VO): My name's Michael Marino. I am vying for the open city council position for this district.

Shot of Marino speaking with man.

MARINO: So in the next month or so, they're going to make a decision on who's going to fill it, and if I can get your signature that'd be really helpful and I could move into that position.

MARINO (VO): I've been a salesman my entire life.

Marino interview.

MARINO: And as a salesman, I can tell you I don't know the word 'no.' And that's what you need.

Shot of man signing Marino's petition for candidacy.

MARINO (VO): You need somebody that's not going to be stopped up by bureaucracy.

CU of man signing nomination paper.

MARINO (VO): What we have to do is be a can-do, not a can't-do society.

Marino interview.

MARINO: And I am that can-do guy.

MS of man and Marino talking.

MARINO: All we can do is go up from here.

MAN: Only way, only way is going up.

MARINO (laughing): There you go!

Fugazi walking down hall.

FUGAZI: So this is the high school wing. Down there is middle school.

Fugazi getting classroom ready, handing out graded tests to students.

FUGAZI (VO): I've always prided myself as not being necessarily political, that I kind of fly under the radar. I'm not out going to events, shaking hands, working on people's campaigns. Kind of how people think of attorneys.

Fugazi interview.

FUGAZI: Oh, and politicians. I don't want to be in that basket of eggs. I want to be the good egg.

Shot of Sayles unlocking door. He walks into apartment and turns off TV, which is the end credits of Hawaii Five-0.

SAYLES: Bye. I love you too, bye. Come on in. Hey, I'm moving stuff around. And last night I spilled a gallon of coffee.

SAYLES (VO): My purpose in City Council would be to kick ass, to get things done.

Sayles interview, cut to holding sign.

SAYLES: Reveal, and kick. For the sake of God's will, God's word, and God's eternal judgment.

Shot of Aguillard walking in garden toward volunteers.

AGUILLARD (VO): When you run for city council or any type of government office, you've got to have some money.

Aguillard interview.

AGUILLARD: So this is an opportune time that allows you to show your experience and what you're worth, in your mind and your heart, versus what's in your pocket. Because anybody can put out \$100,000, \$200,000 and get an office...

Shot of Aguillard helping kid plant vegetable.

AGUILLARD (VO): But can you really show the heart?

AGUILLARD: Right on, good job, good job.

Shot of Marino listening to man. Shot of Fugazi laughing.

SMITH (VO): People want to be a part in forming the new Stockton and help it emerge from these huge problems.

Smith interview.

SMITH: I think it's truly a time to leave your mark on the city if there ever were a time.

Shot driving down the highway into downtown Stockton. Shot of Welcome to Stockton billboard. High-angle shots of downtown Stockton with highway in foreground.

FEMALE ANCHOR: Forbes may call it one thing, but 300,000 people call Stockton home.

SMITH (VO): So Stockton is a community right in the heart of California, situated in the middle of an agricultural region but it's got a very much an urban feel.

Shots of shuttered business.

MAXWELL: We are in central Stockton. Downtown Stockton. And actually this was Susan Eggman's district before she got elected to the assembly.

More shots of shuttered businesses. Shots of Maxwell walking and pointing to boarded up buildings.

MAXWELL: There was a cafe. There was a bicycle repair shop. There was the Harvard bookstore. You know, the Golden Gate Bar and Grill was across the street. You know, and there was commerce.

MAXWELL: The city's filed for bankruptcy so it doesn't have the money to even tear these things down.

Night falls on downtown Stockton.

"What a Wonderful World" trumpet solo gets louder. Shot of placard: "Stockton Golf & Country Club." People dance in a ballroom.

TEXT CARD: Starting in the late 90s, a booming housing market left Stockton flush with cash.

Man playing trumpet solo. People dance.

SMITH (VO): Like a lot of cities in the state, there was a lot of prosperity. Home building was going crazy. People were buying a lot of homes.

Cross-fade from dance to houses being built.

SMITH (VO): Lot of revenue coming into the city, and city leaders at the time thought it would be a good idea to really focus in on revitalizing downtown Stockton.

Cut to Stockton's waterfront.

SMITH (VO): ...which for years has really been ignored.

Music begins. Tilt up to Waterfront Hotel/University Plaza.

MAXWELL (VO): They all decided that they wanted to bring Stockton up to this next level. And that that would require this big event arena and a new ballpark.

Scenics of event arena, waterfront hotel and Stockton ballpark.

Maxwell interview.

MAXWELL: So what we had was, we had a mayor and a city manager and a compliant council that were willing to go into hock to build these structures.

TEMP: Stills of former mayor Ann Johnston cutting ribbon for Port of Stockton.

MAXWELL (VO): They were just kind of spending money like drunken sailors, and not really thinking that the gravy train was ever going to end.

Shot of a man and child in an electronic wheelchair roll by a building for lease.

MARINO (VO): You know, aren't we all really good Monday quarterbacks? To look back and see all the things. The reality of all those things... people don't know what the future brings.

Marino interview.

MARINO: And when times are good, I can tell you, people want to milk it. And they'll believe that it'll go on forever.

Fugazi interview.

FUGAZI: But they didn't have a contingency plan. I don't think it was maybe thought all the way through. I don't think they ever even thought something like this would happen.

Timelapse of stalled neighborhood development. A sign reads "END"

MAXWELL: Then when it did, when the housing collapse and all of a sudden property taxes drop, sales taxes drop and the income stream dries up, now they're stuck with this huge debt to pay.

Begin music. Timelapse of waterfront in Stockton as night falls.

FEMALE ANCHOR: Stockton's foreclosure rate is the worst in the country.

MALE ANCHOR: More than 8,000 foreclosures, one foreclosure for every 27 households.

TEXT CARD: Stockton's debt ballooned to more than \$120 million.

Cross-fade from night to shot of Stockton City Hall.

EGGMAN (VO): Then it was a time of radical, you know, what can we do without any money? And a series of difficult decision after difficult decision after difficult decision with cuts. And we cut over \$90 million out of a budget over a period of about three years. And last year we came to the point where...

Shot of Bank of Stockton clock, which reads "TIME TO SAVE." Eggman interview.

EGGMAN: Public safety and services to the community became such a critical issue that we could no longer cut. That's when we made the decision to go into bankruptcy.

Rack focus of Stockton City Hall, inscribed are the words "JUSTICE, TO SERVE THE PEOPLE."

NEWS ANCHOR: Stockton City Council made history and declared bankruptcy
NEWS ANCHOR 2: Right now Stockton stands as the largest US city to declare bankruptcy.

Shot of Stockton City Hall landmark sign.

MAXWELL (VO): There's a general feeling that the city council should've been paying more attention and should have been more of a watchdog

Maxwell interview.

MAXWELL: ...But they tended to be more of a rubber-stamp.

Cut to archive city council meeting. A woman is speaking during public comment.

WOMAN: You sit up there every meeting and you pat yourselves on the back over how brave you are, making these tough decisions, but you're not brave. You failed. You've failed this city and you failed all of these people.

Eggman interview.

EGGMAN: Nobody, nobody ever wants to take a city into bankruptcy and experience the kind of media frenzy that we experienced here.

EGGMAN (VO): You know, we've made national news. Has it been fun? No. You know, from an academic perspective, interesting. Living it? Hell.

Shots of TV reporter holding up newspaper with headline: BANKRUPT! Shot of man walking down the street.

A man walks down the streets, alley cats linger in a lot, people walk downtown.

EGGMAN (VO): I think Stockton has always been a place where the community is very engaged. And I think in many ways it helped bring us closer.

Eggman interview.

EGGMAN: And I think it has spearheaded a lot of people to get more active than they were before.

Tracking shots of downtown Stockton.

Shot of Marinos' front door, Marino opening it.

MARINO: Well, greetings! Come in.

Shot of Marino on phone.

MARINO: OK, we're going to use today's new word: being rigorous. The act of rigor. And rigor is all about doing the detail, getting down to it, regardless of how much time and effort it takes, we should be doing it correctly and the correct thing is to use rigor.

MAN ON PHONE: ...OK

Shots of Marino doing business.

SMITH (VO): Michael Marino, I think, is an interesting candidate. It seems to me that he's emerging as a front-runner, sort of a newcomer. He's only been here a couple of years.

Marino interview outside house.

MARINO: What would I say to the people who say I haven't lived here long enough? OK, how long do you have to live here before you know enough about Stockton? What's the answer to that? The answer is: there is no answer. OK, that's a ridiculous statement. That I've lived here for two years or lived here for 50 years...

Marino walking in house.

MARINO (VO): I'm bringing to this town a perspective they don't have right now.

Marino interview outside house.

MARINO: My experience is really what I bring to the party. Not to mention my drive and my sense of humor.

Shot of a copy of The Record with the headline: Council forum draws dozen. Applicants file into auditorium.

MALE ANCHOR (VO): Tonight, members of the public can meet the 13 candidates who hope to fill the District 5 council seat, left vacant when Susan Eggman was elected to the assembly.

SMITH (VO): Yeah, so the 12 candidates are really a diverse mix of people, a diversity of experience from business backgrounds to educators.

Shot of Fugazi taking pen back from another applicant, Bob Hong.

FUGAZI: Nice try. Us teachers we have to keep our pens close.

Mostly empty auditorium, a woman speaks.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN REP.: The purpose of the event is to give the decision makers that are here in this room another opportunity to see applicants in action, hear their comments, and listen to their thoughts on the challenges they will face if they're selected to serve.

Shots of candidates speaking, councilmembers in crowd, Smith in crowd.

SMITH (VO): So I've spoken to some of the councilmembers who will be making the selection process and sort of the message I get is that they're really looking for someone...

Smith interview.

SMITH: Who's not going to be a maverick, a renegade on the council. They're looking for someone who's going to be a team player to help Stockton navigate through bankruptcy and its larger problems.

Shot of Don Aguillard at forum.

SMITH (VO): Don Aguillard runs these community garden programs so he's out there trying to do good where he can.

AGUILLARD (VO): People say, 'well, what if you win?'

Aguillard interview. Cut to shots of Aguillard working in garden with volunteers, then back to Aguillard in forum.

AGUILLARD: If I win, I win. I'm glad; I'm happy. I'm grateful. I'm blessed. But if I don't get appointed, I'm still going to be here. I'm still going to have the same enthusiasm, the same vigor, the same passion, the same love doing what I do. Encouraging our youth and our families, so that's what's important.

Shot of Michael Marino and Vincent Sayles at forum.

SMITH (VO): Vincent Sayles is a regular at city council meetings.

Archival footage of Sayles speaking during public comment.

SMITH (VO): And he talks about his reading of the Bible, and tries to convince the world that the answer to all ailments is basically using a trampoline.

Shots of Sayles preparing rebounder, jumping on trampoline/rebounder.

SAYLES: Very basically, for a person to be healthy, they must exercise. To oppose gravity, I must oppose gravity. So, this is what I've done since 1981.

Sayles interview.

SAYLES: Very basically, there is a benefit to me being on city council is because there's so much I want to say about the benefits of rebounding to the total physiological being of a person. But there's so much more I want to say about the spiritual benefit to the City of Stockton, the state, the nation.

Shots of Sayles getting hat and sunglasses, walking outside. Sayles tying shoe on his truck.

SAYLES: I just put stuff on primarily to make people think. This makes you think, hey.

Sayles drives into the sunset.

FUGAZI (VO): ...pull factors that might bring people in or push people out.

Fugazi explains class exercise to students.

FUGAZI: And then I want you as a group to determine what do you think here in Stockton might be one of our push or pull factors.

Students using iPads to research Stockton.

STUDENT: Oh, put the bankruptcy thing.

Fugazi behind desk, typing students' answers.

FUGAZI: OK, Stockton? Push?

STUDENT: The push factor is unemployment rate is at 14.4 percent. That was the closest one we found.

FUGAZI: And your pull factor?

STUDENT: It has good weather most of the time.

SMITH (VO): Christina Fugazi is, as far as I understand her, her family's been in town for generations. She is an educator, a high school teacher.

Fugazi interview. Cut between shots of her interacting with students, giving back tests, talking with them.

FUGAZI: I've had students whose parents have lost their jobs, they've lost their homes. They have friends who've been killed. So being on city council, you're looking at making sure that the promises the city makes to its residents actually happen. I have an opportunity now to be a part of that process and what's most important to me, is my students, because they are my children. I don't have children of my own. I see all 200 of them right now as my children. I want to ensure their future and part of ensuring their future, and them having a wonderful childhood, is making sure the city that they live in, is a place they can build those memories and those dreams upon.

FUGAZI (VO): Because if Stockton continues down this path, there's not going to be...

Fugazi interview.

FUGAZI: Anything left here for anybody.

Fugazi ends class.

FUGAZI: Thank you and we'll talk more about this tomorrow.

Shot of Burgos walking to night classes.

SMITH (VO): Dyane Burgos is a, she's a social worker, a county social worker. And she's also a law student. She's finishing up her law degree here in town, and, interestingly,

Smith interview.

SMITH: ...had an internship with Councilwoman Susan Eggman, whom she seeks to replace.

BURGOS (VO): Susan Eggman encouraged me to apply. But she encouraged many people to apply because the more competitive the progress...

Burgos interview.

BURGOS: ...the process, probably the more likely a good candidate would come out of it to represent our district.

Smith interview.

SMITH: There's a close connection between Susan Eggman and Dyane Burgos. There's ties there.

Burgos at night school.

EGGMAN (VO): As somebody who is my neighbor, who is my friend, who was an intern with me...

Eggman interview.

EGGMAN: That was my advice when people... People asked did I pick anyb- I didn't pick any... My advice to the council was, I think it would be best to have a woman, if there is a qualified woman. Because otherwise you're going to be six men, one woman, and that is not reflective of the community.

Current city council, male-dominated, at a meeting. A man in an electric wheelchair moves across a crosswalk.

Shots of US, California and Stockton flags.

SMITH (VO): There's obviously a stigma going into bankruptcy. It's really manifested itself in the crime issue I think.

Smith interview. Cue music.

SMITH: The number of police officers has dwindled over the years and simultaneously crime has spiked.

Fugazi interview.

FUGAZI: In five months last year, in a five-month period, I was robbed four times. It was horrible.

Fugazi in home, walking to den.

FUGAZI: And they broke into this window here, and you know, shattered it, came into my house. They took my TV, they took my Wii...

FUGAZI (VO): So I called the police.

Fugazi interview.

FUGAZI: OK, we'll send somebody out. I'm waiting. They said don't touch anything. I'm waiting. Two hours. Three hours. Four hours. I call. "Listen, we have to deal with violent crime first. There are things that are much higher priority than yours." And I realize that. Of course I

want you to deal with people that are potentially hurting somebody else, but I was hurting at that moment.

Shot of Travis Teel pulling gun from safe, putting gun in holster.

TEEL: Here are the firearms. We got Sigs [Sauers].

Shot of Teel getting into car.

NEWS ANCHOR: Stockton police say their main priority is to protect against violent criminals and gang members...

NEWS ANCHOR 2: So they actually do encourage homes and business owners to hire security guards.

Teel interview in car.

TEEL: There have been a few calls I've been to, where I've asked them, "Have you contacted PD [police department]?" And they say, "Yes, I have. I contacted PD. You guys got here first."

Side of security car.

SMITH (VO): In 2011, we had a record high number of homicides in Stockton and that was 58. In the subsequent year,

Stockton police question suspect on street.

SMITH: 2012, we topped even that for a new all-time high, 71 homicides in Stockton.

Tracking shot of Teel's security car patrolling open-air mall. Shots of Stockton at night.

FEMALE ANCHOR: Nine homicides in just the past three days in Stockton.

MALE ANCHOR 1: The 55th homicide..

MALE ANCHOR 2: The 64th and 65th homicides...

MALE ANCHOR 3: Record for the most murders in a single year.

Shot of Teel walking in parking lot. A train horn blares in the distance.

TEEL: It's like the old, wild, wild west days.

Cut to Smith interview.

SMITH: I think when you say, what does it mean to live in a bankrupt city, I think practically speaking it comes down to life and death. The primary job of government really at all levels is to provide some civil stability. And in Stockton, right now is not able to do that.

A man walks through a cemetery. Wind blows over a roadside memorial. Cut to shots of City of Stockton employees pressure-washing graffiti off cement pillar, bricks.

MAXWELL (VO): You know, there's crime everywhere. It's not just Stockton. I've lived in Central Stockton practically the entire time I've lived here. And I love my neighborhood.

Maxwell interview.

MAXWELL: I get a little bit tired of hearing gunshots.

Graffiti clean-up.

MAXWELL: Like I said, there's this weird civic inferiority complex. We've got to get over that.

Pan up to mural that has a smiling face and the words "Dear STOCKTON, SMILE, You ARE LOVED!"

MAXWELL (VO): We've got to sell Stockton's qualities to Stockton first and foremost. Then other people will come after that.

Marino walking out of his house.

MARINO: Two-hundred days a year of sunshine. Great place to live. Stockton. This is the place to be. There's no reason not to be here. There's food, there's fun, there's culture, there's everything. I can't describe it any better than that.

Man signing Marino's nomination.

MARINO: Thanks, Mike, I appreciate your signature, and rest assured I'll do the very best I can.

Marino walking downtown. Cut to Marino in kitchen.

MARINO: At the end of the day, I feel pretty good about my opportunity here. I do. I feel like I'm going to be in the top five; I don't know where it'll go from there. But I would venture to say I'm going to be in the top five, without being arrogant. That's just my feel.

Burgos speaking.

BURGOS (VO): I'm confident in myself, but at the same time, now it's in the hands of only six people on the city council. It's hard because you're going up against people with connections, people older, younger. We'll see.

Burgos walking with petition.

BURGOS: Some people have their preferreds, or the people they've encouraged to apply. Or whatever.

Burgos looking at petition.

BURGOS: OK, that's 10.

Fugazi walking into lab to have lunch with students.

FUGAZI (VO): When I think about it, I do think that I have a good chance. I absolutely, like I said, if I didn't think that I had something to offer, I'd have no business putting my name in there.

Fugazi hanging out with students during lunch.

FUGAZI: I am nervous. Am I sweating? (laughs) But I, it's a good nervous.

FUGAZI (VO): It's a nervous just because I'm so passionate about it and I want to make sure that people understand where I'm coming from and that there are no questions

Fugazi interview.

FUGAZI: ...when I leave the room whether or not I am committed to this.

Birds fly around the Stockton city center.

MAXWELL (VO): It's going to be interesting to see who they pick and it's going to be interesting to see how the new players on the council get together and how they all work together. But, you know, change is good. And I'm happy to see some new faces up there.

Man opens Council Chamber doors.

MAYOR ANTHONY SILVA (VO): Good evening, everybody, and welcome to the Stockton City Council, Jan. 9, 2013.

Public access footage of councilmembers and citizens reciting Pledge of Allegiance.

CITY CLERK BONNIE PAIGE (VO): We are here this evening to fill the vacant seat that was left by our former councilmember Susan Eggman for District 5. We have 12 applicants vying for the seat of councilmember.

Shots of various applicants before the meeting begins. Shot of applicants on TV set outside council chambers.

APPLICANT DUANE ISETTI: Really knowing the community...

APPLICANT GARY MALLOY: I like politics.

APPLICANT LACRESIA HAWKINS: Giving people something to do at the same time giving them education.

SAYLES: Very basically, I'm a builder, I love to build.

AGUILLARD: A big part of what I'm doing is not just working with District 5, but programming within the whole city.

Public access footage of Marino.

MARINO: I'm willing to commit whatever it takes to do my job appropriately.

Cut to profile.

MARINO: So my commitment is literally unlimited in that sense. And I want to also state that what I do, I do with rigor.

Public access footage of Fugazi.

FUGAZI: I am willing to roll up my sleeves. I am prepared; I am 100 percent committed.

Profile of Fugazi.

FUGAZI: I'm 100 percent committed to this city. I'm not going anywhere. And I'd be 100 percent committed sitting in this seat up there with you.

Public access footage of Burgos.

BURGOS: I envision a city that's very careful about this city from here on out, a city that's learned its lesson.

Profile footage of Burgos.

BURGOS: We can put this behind us, move on economically with crime, bring jobs into Stockton. Make downtown a lively, vibrant city.

Music plays as newspapers print and camera focuses on headline “No more vacancies.”

Burgos opens newspaper.

BURGOS: Best picture of me ever. Oh.

Marino shakes Burgos’ hand. Fugazi shakes Paige’s hand, leaves council chambers.

MARINO: My name is Michael Marino, and congratulations, and I know you’re going to do a great job.

MARINO (VO): I can say that have zero, absolutely nil on the regret side.

Marino interview.

MARINO: It’s a great education, and I can tell you, on my next pass, you’d be hard to stop me.

Fugazi interview.

FUGAZI: I was bawling outside of the city hall. I was crying. “I gave it my all.” And I... you know... my heart’s in the right place and it wasn’t what they wanted. I said from the get-go, I’m not really a politician. And that became apparent last night.

Shots of Burgos taking oath. Burgos with fiancé.

SMITH (VO): Obviously politics were at play behind the scene. I think I’ve asked, you know, both of them...

Smith interview.

SMITH: Is that why? Did you pull strings, Susan, to get Dyane on the council? And she says absolutely not. This was their selection process. I didn’t have anything to do with that.

Eggman interview.

EGGMAN: Yes, I think it’s a fine choice, and I think she’ll do very well. I feel very confident that the city is in very good hands. And I think this is the right council to rebuild the city in a very positive direction.

Machine engraves placard, man putting it into place. Burgos walks up City Hall steps.

FEMALE ANCHOR (VO): Stockton now has a full council to face the challenges ahead for the city. The first council meeting with all the new members will be on Tuesday. The city goes back to bankruptcy court next month.

Burgos at her first meeting.

PAIGE: Councilmember Burgos?

BURGOS: Present.

TEXT CARD: On April 1, Stockton's bankruptcy was approved by a federal judge.

Shot of voting indicator; all members vote yes.

TEXT CARD: Council member Dyane Burgos has voted with the majority 100% of the time.

Fade to black. Woman stacks chairs. Credits.