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Three high-ranking city officials have proven their loyalty to citizens

City Manager Scott Mitnick, City Attorney Amy Albano and Assistant City Manager Candis Hong have taken a bold step in the wake of declining revenue for the city of Thousand Oaks.

They've declined to accept their pay raises this year.

In this day and age when citizens gleefully and openly criticize people who work in government—when more than a few pampered politicians take cheap shots at the very people who've given their careers to making elected officials look like geniuses—Mitnick, Albano and Hong are doing something amazingly unselfish.

Despite hard work and positive performance reviews, they're turning down substantial pay raises for the better good of the city of Thousand Oaks.

They deserve praise for their integrity.

As three of the highest ranking executives in city government, their decision was probably greeted by a few grunts and groans in other offices.

Nobody wants to turn down a pay raise. But in their hearts, Mitnick, Albano and Hong knew the city wasn't rolling happily on a tidal wave of revenue.

There was never a better time to say, "Thanks, but no thanks."

Ask yourself the following question: "How many Wall Street firms and financial institutions have executives who would decline to accept pay raises, cash bonuses and stock options because their companies were facing negative cash flow?"

It's safe to say the answer is "Very, very few."

Thank you, Scott Mitnick, Amy Albano and Candis Hong. You've done something that wasn't easy, which makes it all the more admirable.