

City of Garden Grove
WEEKLY CITY MANAGER'S MEMO
January 28, 2016

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council FROM: Scott Stiles, City Manager
Members

I. PRIORITY AND COUNCIL AGENDA ISSUES

None.

II. DEPARTMENT ITEMS

A. LETTER IN SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 21

A copy of the letter sent to Assembly Member Rob Bonta in support of AB21 – Medical Marijuana Cultivation, is attached for your review.

B. CODE ENFORCEMENT REVIEW

Nida Watkins provides a review of Code Enforcement activities in 2015.

C. ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER ARTICLE

A copy of the Orange County Register article discussing the City of Costa Mesa's large increase in crime is attached for your review.

• **OTHER ITEMS**

– NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Copies of the local newspaper articles are attached for your information.

– MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Items of interest are included.



SCOTT C. STILES
City Manager



CITY OF GARDEN GROVE

January 26, 2016

The Honorable Rob Bonta
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol – Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814
Via FAX: (916) 319-2118

Bao Nguyen
Mayor

Steven R. Jones
Mayor Pro Tem

Christopher V. Phan
Council Member

Phat Bui
Council Member

Kris Beard
Council Member

**RE: AB 21 (Bonta, Cooley, Jones-Sawyer, Lackey, and Wood) – Medical Marijuana Cultivation (as amended January 4, 2016)
Notice of SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Bonta:

On behalf of the City of Garden Grove, I am pleased to announce our support of Assembly Bill 21 (Bonta, Cooley, Jones-Sawyer, Lackey, and Wood).

This measure addresses the need to remove from statute a provision that would harm cities by pre-empting them from enacting cultivation regulations if they do not have such regulations in effect as of March 1, 2016. The provision, Section 11362.777(c)(4) states:

If a city, county, or city and county does not have land use regulations or ordinances regulating or prohibiting the cultivation of marijuana, either expressly or otherwise under principles of permissive zoning, or chooses not to administer a conditional permit program pursuant to this section, then commencing March 1, 2016, the division shall be the sole licensing authority for medical marijuana cultivation applicants in that city, county, or city and county.

This provision is problematic and should not have been included in the final version of last year's Assembly Bill 243 (Wood), as it is inconsistent with other timelines associated with implementing the regulatory framework, namely launching the state cultivation licensing process.

In addition, the above provision directly contradicts the concept of local control, which for the League was a central theme of last year's historic Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act. It also conflicts with a critical component of AB 266 (for the League, the key measure among the trio of last year's bills enacting medical marijuana regulation), that of dual licensing. Dual licensing requires both state and local governments to authorize medical marijuana business operations in any specific jurisdiction, and is modeled after the regulatory structure in Colorado.

Without this legislation removing the pre-emption provision, a number of cities throughout California will suffer harm through the loss of their local regulatory authority after March 1st.

Many of them are now working to craft regulatory ordinances pertaining to medical marijuana cultivation, but need more time than that allotted by the March 1st deadline. Other cities are in the process of researching the issue to determine whether there is sufficient support locally for some form of local regulation of medical marijuana. Finally, this legislation will remove the motivation many jurisdictions have had in recent weeks to rush to enact cultivation bans as a means of preserving their local regulatory authority. Regardless of cities' reaction to this change in the law, the City of Garden Grove strongly desires to retain the ability to decide the rules within its own borders.

Once again, we are pleased to support AB 21.

Sincerely,



Bao Nguyen
Mayor
City of Garden Grove

cc: Senator Janet Nguyen
Assembly Member Tom Daly
Assembly Member Travis Allen
Colin Grinnell, Staff Director, Senate Governance and Finance Committee, via fax:
916-322-0298
Melanie Moreno, Staff Director, Senate Health Committee, via fax: 916-266-9438
Tony Cardenas, Public Affairs Regional Manager, League of California Cities,
tcardenas@cacities.org
Meg Desmond, League of California Cities, mdesmond@cacities.org
Garden Grove City Council Members

City of Garden Grove

INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

To: Scott Stiles From: Nida Watkins
Dept: City Manager Dept: Community Development
Subject: CODE ENFORCEMENT REVIEW Date: January 25, 2016
2015

OBJECTIVE

To transmit to the City Council the successes of the Code Enforcement Division in 2015.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

Code Enforcement Division is within the Community Development Department and is committed to working with residents in a joint effort to preserve and improve our neighborhoods. By doing so, we not only improve the quality of life for our families, we also protect our property values.

Code Enforcement uses various techniques to gain compliance with regulations related to land use and zoning ordinances, health and housing codes, sign standards, and uniform building and fire codes.

During 2015, the four officers in the Code Enforcement Division addressed almost 4,000 complaints throughout the City pertaining to property maintenance issues.

SUMMARY

Code Enforcement staff uses a number of techniques to gain compliance and resolve municipal code violations. Photos of some of our notable successes are attached.

Nida Watkins

NIDA WATKINS
Project Manager

Attachments: Photos

12632 Citruswood Avenue

This house has a history of more than a dozen code violations cases since 2007, including chronic debris, storage, lawn parking, commercial equipment storage, set back violations and others. Multiple notices and invoices were issued, several inspections were conducted, and discussions and meetings were held. The entire property has since been renovated and is in full compliance.

Before



After



11461 Westminster Avenue & 13931 Newhope Street

This property has been on the Code Enforcement radar since 2007 for several code violations, which included storage of inoperative vehicles, enormous amounts of debris, lawn parking, burned vegetation, unpainted buildings, vegetation encroachment in the public right of way, and graffiti, etc. In addition to the violations, there have been two fires due to squatters. Traditional means, such as notices, phone calls, discussions, and attorney compliance letters, were unsuccessful. Ultimately, we worked with the City Attorney's office to get a court appointed receiver to take responsibility for the property. The structures were finally demolished and the land looks clean.

Before



After



9922 Katella Avenue (Fresh Choice Market)

This business began operating in March of 2012. Since their opening, there have been regular complaints from customers, neighbors, and other tenants. Code violations included dangerous equipment around customers, excessive noise during quite hours, deliveries through the front door, crates of produce stored in parking areas, stacks of rotting food causing bad smells and rodent infestation, overloaded forklifts, excess trash, debris, pallets up over eight feet, abandoned vehicles, unpermitted permanent canopy, etc. Many of the violations were life threatening and had caused injuries to customers. We sent out numerous notices, however, when the business did not comply, Code Enforcement then coordinated inspections with the Orange County Health Department and the State Department of Industrial Relations to inform them of all the violations. This coordinated approach finally forced the business to conform to the municipal code.

Before



After



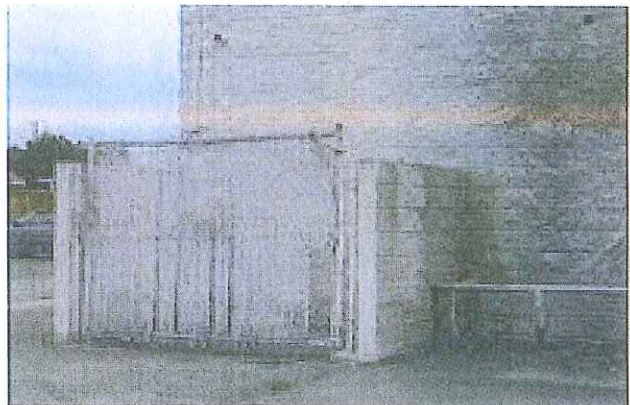
12101 Valley View Street

We have received many code related complaints since 2007 regarding this closed business. The West Garden Grove Facebook page is always filled with issues about this property. Complaints included related to debris, dumping, graffiti, improper boarding, broken front doors, illegal parking, people living in vehicles, homeless people living in the stairwell and old broken signage. After many phone calls, letters, notices, and meetings with the property owner regarding compliance, the property is finally in full compliance and the complaints have stopped.

Before



After



12572 Bartlett Street

In July 2014, this home went through foreclosure. When the owners left, squatters moved into the house and the condition of the property has been deteriorating ever since. Complaints received included inoperable vehicle, debris, lack of landscape maintenance, automobile repairs, drugs, prostitution, improper storage of trash cans, broken windows, and broken gate leading to swimming pool, etc. Finally, a coordination with the bank initiated an eviction process. The new owner is in the process of renovating.

Before



After



ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Crime rose 33% in Costa Mesa in 2015, the city's biggest increase in years

By JORDAN GRAHAM
2016-01-27 12:20:31



COSTA MESA – Crime jumped 33 percent in Costa Mesa last year – the highest single-year increase in at least a decade – with the sharpest rises coming in stolen vehicles, aggravated assaults, thefts and burglaries, according to police documents.

Costa Mesa isn't alone in its crime bump. All eight of Orange County's cities with populations over 100,000 saw double-digit jumps in serious crime through the first half of 2015, according to FBI data.

Some cities, such as Garden Grove, Orange, Irvine and Santa Ana, experienced increases comparable to Costa Mesa's. Other large cities in the county, such as Anaheim, Huntington Beach and Fullerton, saw milder surges. FBI crime stats were available only for the first six months of 2015.

Many cities around the state have reported an uptick in crime rates, which police officers and department leaders have publicly blamed on Proposition 47 – a referendum passed by California voters in November 2014 that downgraded some nonviolent felonies to misdemeanors, giving some offenders little or no jail time for drug possession and minor thefts. The proposition was passed partially in an effort to reduce the state's prison population.

Costa Mesa police Chief Rob Sharpnack said the downgraded penalties have made some criminals more brazen. He said his officers report seeing the same people committing the same crimes but are unable to get such offenders locked up for long periods.

"It has impaired our ability to keep criminals locked up and conduct proper enforcement," Sharpnack said. "There's no teeth to the bite."

In 2015, Costa Mesa saw automobile thefts rise 52 percent from 2014, with aggravated assaults up 37 percent, burglaries up 21 percent and thefts up 36 percent – the latter resulting in 916 more thefts citywide than the previous year. Though all of those categories have individually increased by a greater percentage during some year in the past decade, there has not been a single year in which they all grew so substantially, according to police records.

Through the first six months of 2015, property crime (burglaries, thefts and auto thefts) grew by 43 percent in Garden Grove, 35 percent in Orange, 30 percent in Irvine, 30 percent in Santa Ana and 19 percent in Anaheim compared with that time frame in 2014, according to FBI records. Those police departments did not immediately make yearlong stats available.

Santa Ana police spokesman Cpl. Anthony Bertagna said he had noticed the jump in gang and property crimes locally, but he said it would be speculation to attribute the change to Prop. 47, even though he believes it has contributed to the crime increase.

"There's not enough data to show at this time that it's a reason," Bertagna said. "And if it was a reason, it would be part of a reason."

Criminologists who have spoken out on the issue agree that data need to be released and evaluated at a statewide level before any conclusions are drawn about Prop. 47's impact on local crime. Others maintain that

the prison system shouldn't be locking up low-level drug offenders and have called for California to bolster rehabilitation programs, such as drug treatment, to compensate for the reduced penalties.

Sharpnack grants that there are other factors that have increased Costa Mesa's crime rate, but he said the department is well-equipped to keep the community safe.

He said the influx of sober-living homes to the city has brought in young drug addicts, who can become homeless if they fail out of the programs and resort to theft to feed their habit. The city's cheap motels lining Harbor and Newport boulevards also have attracted drugs and crime, he said.

The Police Department has tried to fight those causes in the past year through undercover operations, teaming up with probation and parole officers for sweeps and launching a bicycle unit to stealthily patrol parks and other removed areas.

The City Council has sought to legislate a crime drop by submitting a plan to rezone certain motel plots, thereby increasing their value and enticing owners to convert the properties to high-density apartments.

The Costa Mesa Police Department has been understaffed for nearly five years and has remained so during the recent crime uptick – operating with only 112 of 136 sworn officer positions, despite the department's three-year-long unprecedented hiring spree. The city's patrol operations are fully staffed, but its detective bureau is short six positions.

Sharpnack said it would be difficult to determine what effect a fully staffed department would have on local crime, adding that he thinks some of the problems extend beyond the control of police.

"We can't arrest our way out of this situation," Sharpnack said.

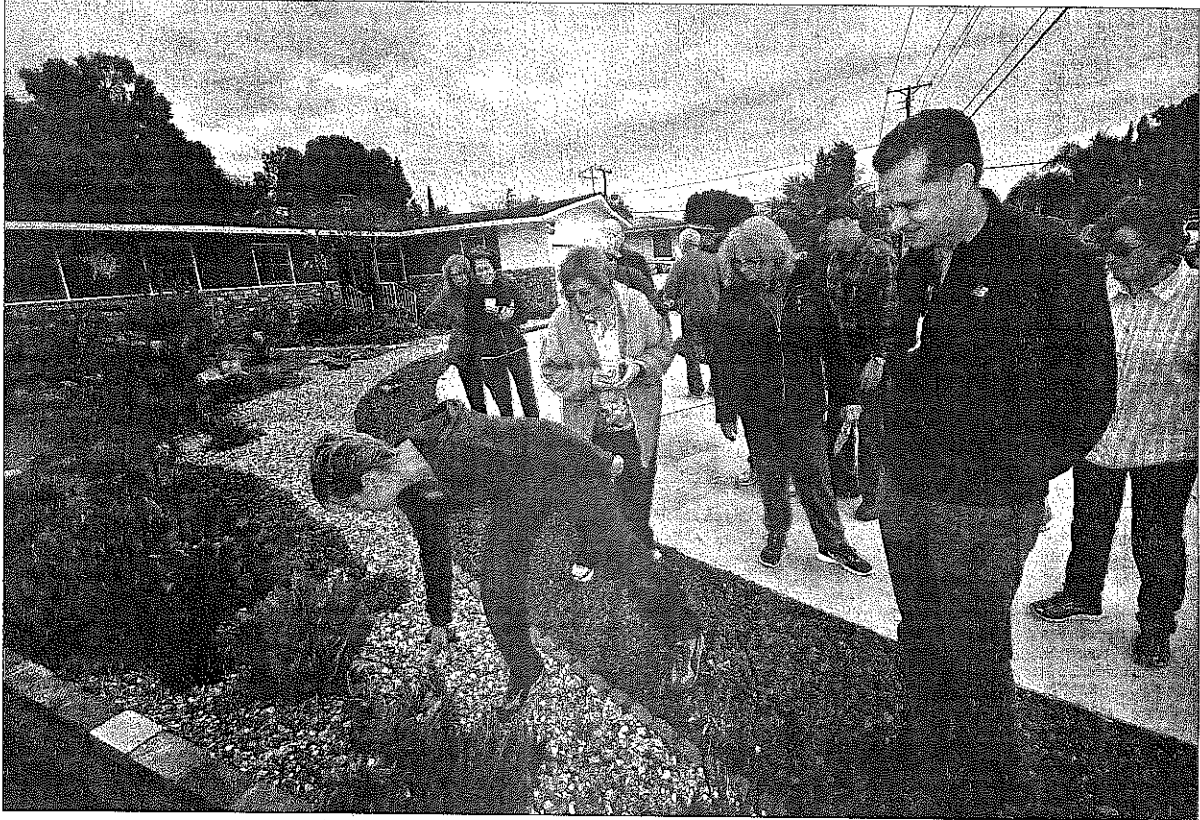
But he said he hopes that if his officers continue to patrol aggressively and engage known criminals that the constant contact might be enough to persuade them to go elsewhere, regardless of reduced penalties.

"Whether it's a citation or somebody going to be locked up in jail, it says to the offenders and the community, 'We care, and we're going to enforce the law, whether it takes us today or years to get there,'" Sharpnack said. "We're going to take a consistent approach, and we're going to keep hitting it and hitting it."

Contact the writer: 714-796-7960 or jgraham@ocregister.com

Weekly Memo 1/28/16

**NEWSPAPER
ARTICLES**



PHOTOS: STEVEN GEORGES, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Robin Marcario, who is locally famous for the mosaics she has created throughout Garden Grove, reaches over to point out to new City Manager Scott Stiles, front right, the drought resistant front yard she created at her house on Lampson Avenue during a walking tour of the neighborhood Saturday morning.

GARDEN GROVE WALKING TOUR ACCOMMODATES HARDY SOLES

A community group steps up to provide a ground-level view of city neighborhoods.

By CHRIS HAIRE
 STAFF WRITER

Garden Grove residents put on their walking shoes last weekend and got an up-close-and-personal look at one of the city's neighborhoods.

About 15 people, including City Manager Scott Stiles, participated in a walking tour of the Gilbert Street and Lampson Avenue area Saturday morning as part of an effort by the Central Garden Grove Neighborhood Association to showcase areas people normally see only through their car windows.

The 2½-hour tour highlighted the good aspects of the neighborhood as well as challenges, such as code enforcement violations.

SEE TOUR •



Darrel Blackmun cuts down a few bananas growing in his backyard for people on the neighborhood walking tour as John Wildsmith, right, catches them.

BY THE NUMBERS

15
 people who participated in the walking tour

5
 people who allowed the walkers to see their yards

4
 neighborhoods lined up for future walking tours, starting with the area around City Hall

3
 miles the walkers covered during the tour

2.5
 hours the walking tour lasted

TOUR

FROM PAGE 1

"The mission is to more or less see the neighborhoods at the ground level instead of driving through," said association President Maureen Blackmun. Her house on Meade Street was the starting point for the 3-mile tour. "The city manager also had an opportunity to talk to people he wouldn't normally see at City Hall."

Blackmun said she plans on organizing more tours in different parts of Garden Grove. She said she has about three or four neighborhoods in the queue, starting with the area around City Hall. That tour has not been scheduled.

Five residents opened up their homes to let the walkers see their yards, including prominent mosaic artist Robin Marcario.

Blackmun said the tour became more social than she thought it would, with Stiles chatting with residents about different aspects of the city. Blackmun said she made sure to keep political talk to a minimum.

"I think people were really impressed with (Stiles) for coming out on a Saturday morning,"



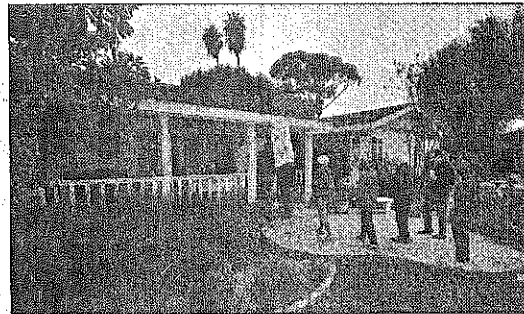
PHOTOS: STEVEN GEORGES, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Garden Grove City Manager Scott Stiles, third from left, walks along Meade Street in Garden Grove as local residents join the new city executive on a walking tour of a neighborhood Saturday.

Blackmun said. "It was good."

For more information, email Blackmun at maureen.ggna@gmail.com, or go to the Garden Grove Neighborhood Association Facebook page.

CONTACT THE WRITER:
714-704-3707 or
chaire@ocregister.com



Local residents visit a home on Lorealeen Street, one of their stops in a central Garden Grove neighborhood Saturday morning.

DID YOU KNOW ...

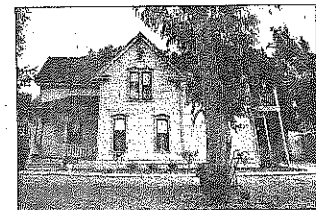
... that the Strawberry Festival was once a sports fan's dream?

It's true: Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, the Strawberry Festival in Garden Grove used to host several sports activities, including tennis and bowling tournaments, a hole-in-one golf contest and a women's individual track meet.

There was even a rodeo for a bit - until it came to an abrupt end after someone involved in the rodeo high-tailed it out of town with a bundle of cash, according to the festival's website.

This year, the festival is honoring its sports history; the theme for the 2016 Memorial Day weekend carnival is Celebrating Our Local Sports Heroes.

- Chris Haire



CHRISTINE COTTER, FILE PHOTO

The Ware-Stanley house, built in 1891, is open for a public tour Feb. 6.

GET A TOUR OF HISTORY

Here's your chance to get a free tour of history.

The Garden Grove Historical Society is hosting a public tour of the Ware-Stanley House at 1 p.m. on Feb. 6.

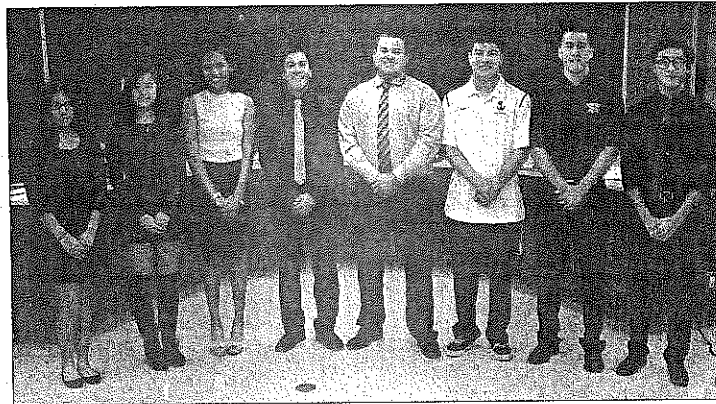
The Historical Society runs the Stanley Ranch Museum - which houses Garden Grove's original fire engine, Walt Disney's original Los Angeles garage studio and other relics from the city's past. The property is also the site of the 1891 Victorian-era house.

The house, 12174 Euclid St., belonged to the Ware-Stanley family for 80 years, until Emerson Stanley, the grandson of the man who built it, donated it to the Historical Society.

- Chris Haire

THE FIVE THINGS TO KNOW

THE GARDEN GROVE JOURNAL STAFF



COURTESY OF THE GARDEN GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.

The Garden Grove Unified School District's student-athletes of character for the 2015-16 school years, from left, are Lizbeth Jardon, Livia Nguyen, Hope Alvarez, Ivan Sanchez, Nate Garcia, Nicolas Garcia, Victor Lopez and Aaron Truong.

ATHLETES, COACHES OF CHARACTER RECOGNIZED

The Garden Grove Unified School District created the honor for students and faculty who are role models.

When it comes to being an athlete or coach of character, there's more to it than winning games.

Academic - and professional - success, ethical behavior and leadership have to count for something.

And that's why the Garden Grove Unified School District created the Students and Coaches of Character program, honoring those who exemplify strong

character.

In the program's first year, each school named a coach and athlete for the award - except for Garden Grove High, which named two athletes: Lisbeth Jardon (cross country) and Mark Van Grootheest (girls' cross country coach) from Bolsa Grande; Nate Garcia (football) and Livia Nguyen (tennis), and William Lou (tennis coach) from Garden Grove; Hope Alvarez (soccer) and Brian

Alcaraz (girls' soccer coach) from La Quinta; Ivan Sanchez (baseball) and Adam LaMendola (baseball coach) from Los Amigos; Nicolas Garcia (football) and Mike Caira (baseball coach) from Pacifica; Victor Lopez (baseball) and Greg Pines (baseball coach) from Rancho Alamitos; and Aaron Truong (swimming) and Cheryl Garcia (swimming coach) from Santiago.

- Chris Haire



ORANGE COUNTY COASTKEEPER

Santiago Canyon College and Coastkeeper are partners in a garden.

O.C. COASTKEEPER CAN HELP YOU GO DROUGHT-TOLERANT

Orange County Coastkeeper, a non-profit with a mission of protecting water resources, is expanding its efforts to encourage landscaping with drought-tolerant plants, and Anaheim and Garden Grove are in its sights. The group has the Coastkeeper Garden next to Santiago Canyon College in Orange - its school for this SmartScape Program, where people can get ideas and see how to maintain drought-tolerant landscapes.

It is partnering with Anaheim and Garden Grove to provide community events, training workshops and social-media outreach.

Events will be held both in cities and at the Coastkeeper Garden, which already holds regularly scheduled workshops on installing and maintaining water-conscious landscapes. Find out more at coastkeeper.org.

- Heather McRea

MEET THE MAYOR - FOR 15 MINUTES

The mayor of Garden Grove wants you to say hi - and talk to him about the city. Mayor Bao Nguyen is starting a new program designed to give residents 15 minutes to meet and discuss city issues with him.



Nguyen

The first "Meet the Mayor" is 5-6 p.m. today at the Buena Clinton Family Resource Center, 12661 Sun-swept Ave. Residents do not need to schedule an appointment ahead of time but will need to jot their name and a time onto a sign-up sheet at the center's reception counter.

Nguyen plans more of these meetings, at different locations. Information: 714-741-5200.

- Chris Haire

BE CAREFUL OUT THERE

Finally, we wanted to urge everyone to stay alert out there in our communities. It's almost certainly just a blip in the statistics, of bad people and bad events around town of lately.

You've no doubt been following the saga of the three escapees from the Orange County Jail this last week. While the odds are long that any of us will encounter Hossein Nayeri, Jonathan Tieu or Bac Duong before they are captured - which they hadn't been at the deadline for this piece - Tieu and Duong are alleged to have ties to street gangs in the Vietnamese community and law enforcement officers are spending a lot of man hours in our communities looking for leads to their whereabouts.

But beyond the high-profile jail break, there's other bleak news to concern of Brainiac. Garden Grove police asked for the public's help this week in the investigation of six gang-related shootings in the city so far this year.

And a week ago, the Westminster police were called to 21st and Hoover streets - just a block down from the DMV where Brainiac started out this piece all happy as a can be - to find a 23-year-old man had been shot multiple times by the railroad tracks that run that way.

As **Sgt. Phil Esterhaus** always told the crew in the squad room on "Hill Street Blues" back in the day, "Hey, let's be careful out there." It's still good advice.

SOCIAL MEDIA PLANS

The city of Garden Grove is looking to update the way it delivers city news on social media, but so far the city's Facebook followers aren't that thrilled.

On Monday, the Garden Grove City Hall Facebook page posted an invitation to its 5,138 followers: "Hey #GardenGrove, which social media platform would you follow us for the latest news, updates and information? We want YOUR opinion!"

Click on the poll and you get three choices: Periscope, the live video streaming app, Snapchat, the photo and video-sharing app, and Pinterest, another photo sharing app.

It's unclear how many people have voted for which apps, but the six comments were uniform in their position. "None of the three listed in your poll," wrote one commentor. "Facebook for me."

You can vote in the poll on the Facebook page through Monday.

Man confesses to hacking wife with meat cleaver

Wife is in critical condition; man arrested for attempted murder

On Jan. 19, the Garden Grove Police Department was notified by the Garden Grove Fire Department headquarters that a man was out in front wanting to turn himself in for murdering his wife.

Officers immediately detained the suspect, who was identified as Thang Van Nguyen, age 46, who said that he had stabbed his wife at home.

Thang Nguyen took officers to his home in the 12700 block of Flower Street. Officers found his

wife, Huong Nguyen, stabbed in the head with a large meat cleaver multiple times, but she was still conscious. She was immediately transported to UCIMC where she is in critical condition.

A 7-year old child was a witness to the incident and a 19-year child was home but did not witness the incident. The incident occurred because of martial problems the couple were having, Nguyen said.

Nguyen was arrested for attempted murder.



Courtesy photo

Thang Van Nguyen

Orange County News
Jan. 27, 2016

Register
Jan. 27, 2016

Stanton motorcyclist killed in head-on collision in Garden Grove

By **ALYSSA DURANTY**
STAFF WRITER

GARDEN GROVE • A 25-year-old man died Monday night after an Anaheim driver swerved into an opposing lane of traffic, causing a head-on collision.

At around 7:15 p.m. Woodrow Hall, 50 of Anaheim, was driving west on Trask Avenue when he told police he swerved from a left-side lane into the outside turn lane near Ontario Avenue to pass a vehicle ahead of him.

After he changed lanes, Hall said he thought he saw a person in a wheelchair in the roadway and then

swerved into the eastbound lane of traffic on Trask Avenue to avoid the wheelchair.

As Hall did that, he rode in front of Ronny Aparicio, 25, of Stanton, who was riding a motorcycle east on Trask Avenue.

Officials said a head-on collision occurred, and Aparicio was taken to Orange County Global Medical Center in Santa Ana, where he later died.

Police investigators are continuing to look into the incident, authorities said.

Anybody who witnessed the collision is asked to call Garden Grove police Officer K. Anderson at 714-741-5767.

GARDEN GROVE

Walking tour: Residents and City Manager Scott Stiles will take a tour of the neighborhoods around Gilbert Street and Lampson Avenue at 8:30 a.m. Saturday. The purpose of the tour, the organizer says, is to see the neighborhoods and a few backyards. The tour starts at 12381 Meade St.

Chris Haire, 714-704-3707
chaire@ocregister.com

Register
Jan. 22, 2016

GARDEN GROVE

District elections: The City Council today will receive an update on the process of mapping out the five voting areas that Garden Grove will use when it begins district elections in November. David Ely, the demographer for the map drawing, will discuss the input he has received from individuals and public meetings, and will detail the next steps.

Chris Haire, 714-704-3707
chaire@ocregister.com

Register
Jan. 26, 2016

GARDEN GROVE

Donation: The Vietnamese American Federation of Southern California will ask the City Council on Tuesday to donate five tables and 80 chairs to help furnish its newly opened offices in Garden Grove. The furniture is left over after the Senior Center acquired new furniture for its dining room. The value of the items is about \$260.

Chris Haire, 714-704-3707
chaire@ocregister.com

Register
Jan. 23, 2016

GARDEN GROVE

Nurse award: Marta Russell, a school-readiness nurse for the Garden Grove Unified School District's preschool program, has been named the Orange County School Readiness Nurse of the Year by the Orange County School Nurses' Organization. School-readiness nurses typically work with children ages 5 and under and their families.

Chris Haire, 714-704-3707
chaire@ocregister.com

Register
Jan. 27, 2016

GARDEN GROVE

Planning Commission: The City Council on Tuesday will consider appointing Michael Barker to fill a vacant Planning Commission seat. Baker, an architectural consultant who lives and works in Garden Grove, has a master's degree in architecture and urban planning from Syracuse University; he also has studied at French and Italian universities.

Chris Haire, 714-704-3707
chaire@ocregister.com

Register
Jan. 25, 2016

GARDEN GROVE

Fire station: The city's third public meeting to discuss the possible relocation or reconstruction of Fire Station No. 6, 12111 Chapman Ave., is at 6:30 p.m. today in Walton Intermediate School's multipurpose room, 12181 Buaro St. The station is a converted one-story, 1,200-square-foot, single-family home built in 1971.

Chris Haire, 714-704-3707
chaire@ocregister.com

Register
Jan. 28, 2016

ANAHEIM • The call came in for a man, clad in a red shirt, who fell from the 57 into the Santa Ana River, not far from Angel Stadium.

The swift-water rescue training exercise spurred 25 firefighters from Anaheim, Orange and Garden Grove into action, leading to partial closures

of nearby bridges spanning Orangewood and Chapman avenues.

Several firefighters quickly removed the heavy coats, boots and other protective gear typically worn to battle blazes. For this type of rescue, they slipped on lightweight sneakers, yellow bicycle helmets and life vests that would help them to move freely – and safely – in any fast-moving water.

On the bridges, about 25 feet above the riverbed, other firefighters rolled out inflated fire hoses that would serve as a lifeline for anyone who may be swept down the river.

“People are tired of hearing about El Niño, but it’s here and we need to be prepared,” said Battalion Chief Chris Boyd of the Orange Fire Department, who led the drill on a recent Friday morning.

Firefighters from throughout Orange County typically train at least once a year on how to rescue people who might fall – or jump – into the Santa Ana River, its tributaries and local flood-control channels.

After several years of drought, the refresher course is particularly relevant this season with the arrival of the storm system known as El Niño.



ART MARROQUIN
STAFF WRITER



Capt. Erik Nogle, left, leads fellow Orange City Fire Department members up the banks of the Santa Ana River during a swift-water rescue drill earlier this month in Anaheim.

Orange County typically averages about 13 inches of rain from October to May, but El Niño is expected to produce more than double that amount during the same time, according to the National Weather Service.

“The most challenging part is not knowing where the person is at,” said Capt. Aaron Mooney of the Anaheim Fire Department, who offers shoreside support to firefighters who get into the water.

“Sometimes you don’t know if they’ve already passed you or if they’re still coming to you,” Mooney said.

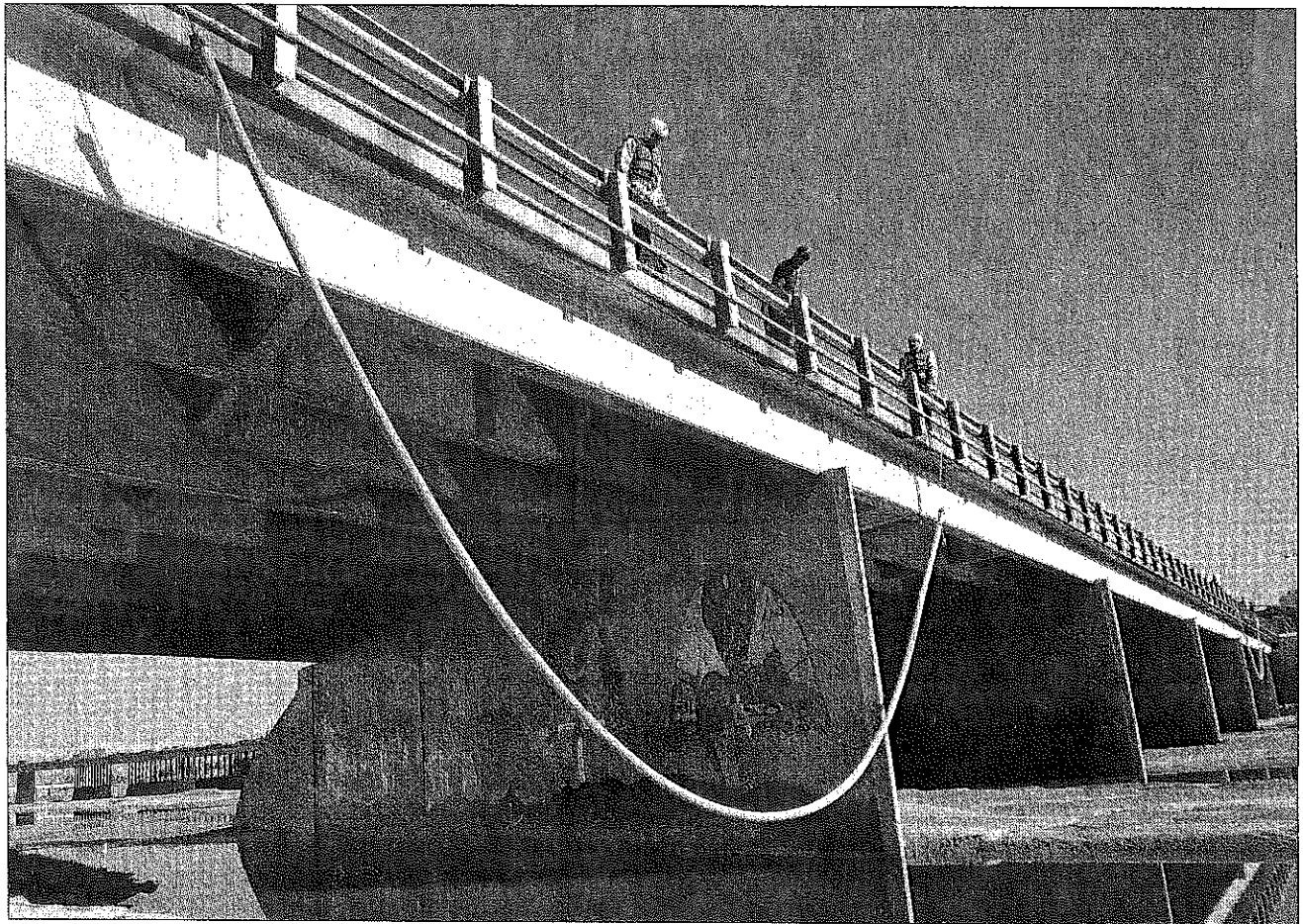
“Our training helps us prepare, but you never know what to expect,” he said.

The first round of El Niño-influenced storms roared into Orange County two weeks ago, leading to four calls for swift-water rescues, said Capt. Steve Concialdi of the Orange County Fire Authority.

Firefighters, faced with the arrival of El Niño, prepare for rescues.

Register
Jan. 25, 2016
1 of 2

Our training helps us prepare, but you never know what to expect.”
CAPT. AARON MOONEY
ANAHEIM FIRE DEPARTMENT



NICK AGRO, FILE PHOTOS

Firefighters from Anaheim, Orange and Garden Grove prepare their gear during a swift-water rescue drill from the Oranewood Avenue bridge over the Santa Ana River. More than two dozen firefighters participated in the training.

RESCUES

FROM PAGE 1

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Jan. 25, 2016
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In one instance, a man in his mid-40s was swept into Brea Creek on Jan. 5 and traveled about a mile down the water before he was able to pull himself out.

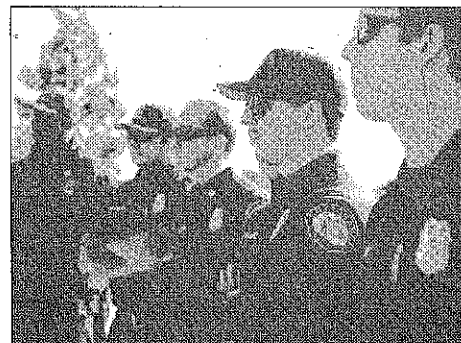
The following day, a homeless woman was carried away by fast-moving water in a draining ditch in Garden Grove.

Firefighters were called, but a Garden Grove police officer pulled her to shore.

"It's very challenging and it's very chaotic, but we do the best that we can to remember our training," said Garden Grove Fire Capt. Jim Gabbard, who responded to the swift-water call involving the homeless woman.

With the arrival of El Niño, Concialdi said that he expected to see at least a dozen more swift-water rescues through the spring.

OCCA firefighters who are trained for swift-water rescues work from stations in



NICK AGRO, FILE PHOTO

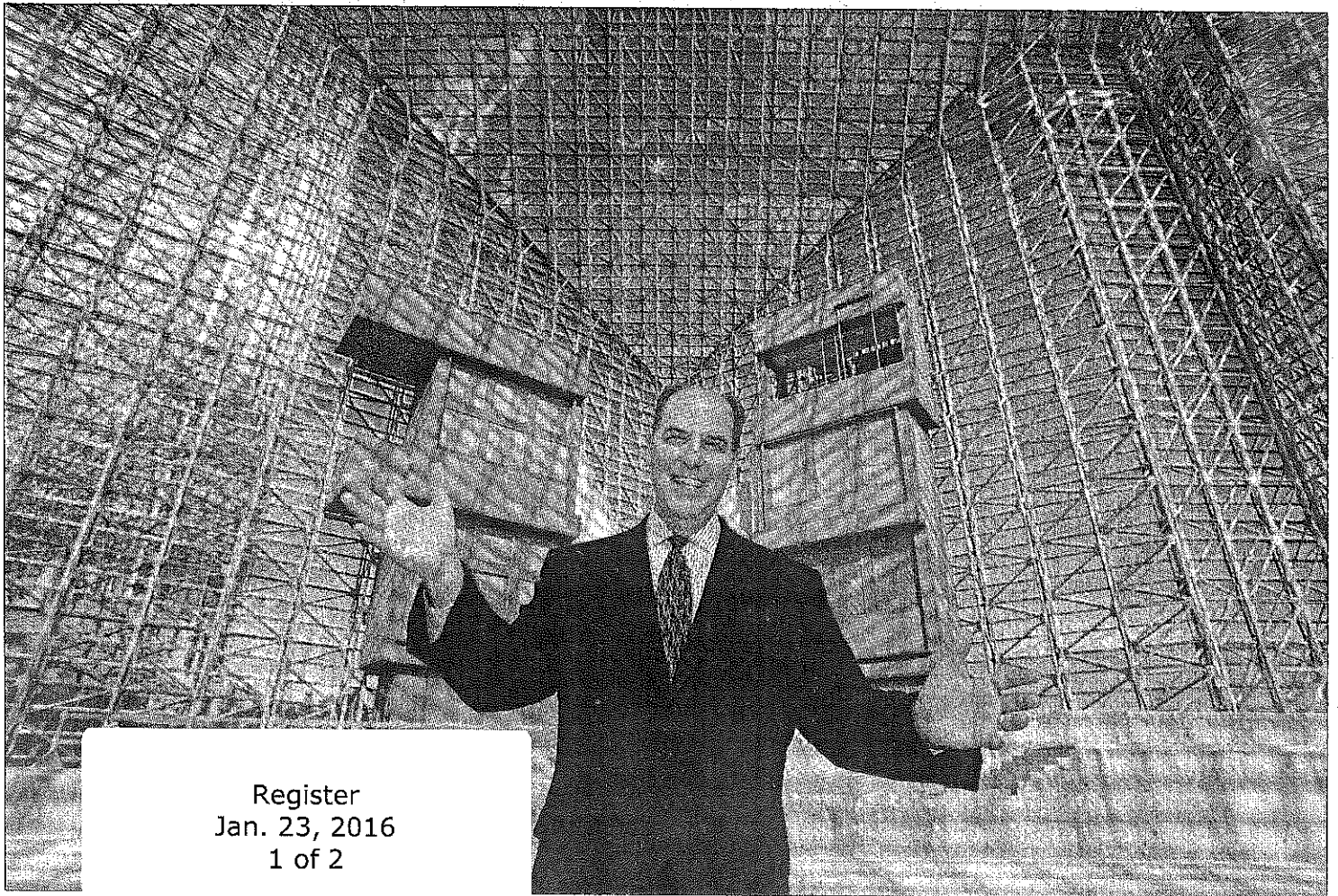
Firefighters representing Anaheim, Orange and Garden Grove fire departments listen in on a debriefing after a swift-water rescue drill at the North Net Training Center in Anaheim.

Irvine, Buena Park, Mission Viejo and Placentia.

"Even 1 foot of fast-moving water could catch you off guard," Concialdi said. "It doesn't take much."

CONTACT THE WRITER:

714-704-3769 or amarroquin@ocregister.com



Register
Jan. 23, 2016
1 of 2

MICHAEL GOULDING, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John Romeri, new music director for Christ Cathedral in Garden Grove, stands in front of part the organ that is being refurbished. "My hope is that everyone - Catholic or otherwise - can come to hear the finest of sacred music on our campus," he says.

Music director ready to make cathedral ring

John Romeri hopes to bring sounds from church's 2,000-year music tradition.

John Romeri can't wait to get his hands on Hazel.

"Hazel" is how he refers to the fifth-largest pipe organ in the world. And Romeri is the newly hired music director for Christ Cathedral.

When the \$29 million renovation of the glass cathedral, designed by architect Philip Johnson for Robert H. Schuller's mega-



DEEPA BHARATH
STAFF WRITER

church in Garden Grove, is complete in about two years, it will be the biggest Catholic cathedral in the United States, and the Hazel Wright organ will occupy the four corners of the 75,000-square-foot sanctuary.

Romeri, who left his job as music director at the Archdiocese of Philadel-

phia to take this prestigious position, is looking forward to the day when he and other churchgoers will get to experience Hazel's majesty.

"My hope is that everyone - Catholic or otherwise - can come to hear the finest of sacred music on our campus," Romeri said.

Romeri is the diocese's first director of music ministries at Christ Cathe-

John A. Romeri

Age: 65

Residence: Cypress

Education: Bachelor's degree in organ performance from the University of the Pacific in Stockton; master's in sacred music from Westminster Choir College at Rider University, Princeton, N.J.

Work experience: Served as organist and music director at the Diocese of Pittsburgh, the Diocese of St. Louis and most recently at the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Family: Wife, Karen, two children and four grandchildren.

ROMERI

FROM PAGE 1

dral, and his responsibilities will include developing Christ Cathedral Parish's music program, the liturgical music program supporting major diocesan celebrations such as ordinations, and overseeing the musical direction of parish choirs. He also will oversee the multilingual choirs within the diocese's fold, including the Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean and Chinese vocal groups.

Romeri is holding auditions for the cathedral's English choir, which will perform during Sunday morning Mass at the renovated cathedral. He also is forming a diocesan choir, which will perform during special occasions, and a children's choir, with participants from parishes countywide.

Visitors to Christ Cathedral, he said, can expect to hear a variety of music during Mass, from Gregorian



EUGENE GARCIA, FILE PHOTO

chants to folk and contemporary music.

"A majority of music in Catholic churches today is music from the last 15 or 20 years," Romeri said. "But the Catholic Church's musical tradition goes back 2,000 years. I hope to incorporate pieces from different eras because it's all beautiful."

Romeri said visitors should not expect rock music soon. But, he said, he'll consider contemporary music "with text that is appropriate" for Mass.

Monsignor Art Holquin, who was responsible for bringing Romeri to Orange

County, said the diocese is fortunate to have a music director of his caliber.

"He is a skilled organist, a choral conductor and exceptional musician," Holquin said. "On top of that, he's an excellent communicator. And he brings a sense of joy and exuberance to this position."

The sacred music performed under Romeri's leadership will reach millions across the world through programs broadcast by the EWTN Global Catholic Network.

This music ministry will serve the needs of not only the cathedral parish, but al-

so the greater Catholic Church. That's why it can't be developed overnight, Bishop Kevin Vann said in a statement.

"It is necessary for us to begin developing this program well in advance of the dedication and opening of the cathedral," he said.

Romeri started that process even before his first day at Christ Cathedral, Tuesday. A week ago, he was in Padua, Italy, visiting Hazel at the site where the Ruffatti company was repairing the organ pipe by pipe. The entire console also has been rebuilt.

The Hazel Wright organ has 270 sets of pipes - from 4 inches to 32 feet long - five keyboards and the largest draw-knob console in the world to control its sound.

Holquin said the tab for resuscitating this masterpiece is about \$2 million. It will be in pristine condition when shipped to Orange County in a couple of months. The parts will remain in storage until they can be assembled, he said.

Pipe organ builder Piero Ruffatti, left, and former organ curator Brian Sawyers stand amid the Hazel Wright organ's 270 sets of pipes.

Lender sues 'rusty skeleton' land owner

GARDEN GROVE • The lender for a proposed development of the long-dormant, so-called "rusty skeleton" is suing the property owner



**CHRIS
HAIRE**
STAFF
WRITER

for breach of contract and fraud - asking for more than \$4 million in damages and a court order to jump-start the project.

Cathay Bank filed the suit in Orange County Superior Court on Friday, saying property owner Hoag Foundation isn't living up to its end of a 2014 contract to work with Cathay and its developer, Brooks Street, to convert the 90-foot-tall steel structure on Garden Grove Boulevard and Brookhurst Street into a mixed-use development.

The unfinished structure visible from the 22 has been untouched since 2009.

"It has the chance to renovate that area of Garden Grove," said Hang Chen, chief financial officer for Cathay. "It has the potential to be very good for the city."

In a statement, Cathay also said: "We cannot continue to accept the landowner's efforts to hold this project for ransom. Garden Grove deserves better."

Hoag did not return calls for comment.

Cathay Bank and Hoag, a nonprofit organization supporting the Boys & Girls Clubs of Garden Grove, have had tense confrontations in recent months, some in front of the City Council and the public.

Hoag's representatives have said at past council meetings they no longer will negotiate with Cathay; they say moving forward with the project is no longer financially sound - and they want the city to tear the structure down.

Garden Grove has had a demolition order in place since 2013 but has yet to execute it. In December, the council opted to extend the order to May.

Register
Jan. 23, 2016
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Wrong side of future history

Garden Grove latest to reflexively ban pot.

The dominoes continued to fall last week as Garden Grove became the most recent Orange County city to approve an ordinance banning local cultivation and delivery of marijuana, in preparation of new state rules going into effect March 1.

Under those new rules, according to current readings of the law, local jurisdictions without their own rules on the cultivation of marijuana by that date would forfeit regulating authority to the state of California.

As a result, cities are scrambling to double down on their pot bans. But while Garden Grove was just the most recent example of that regulatory expediency, there also appeared to be reason for optimism. Some council members also took the opportunity to make it clear that the ordinance was a stopgap measure, and that they would be willing to revisit the city's ban, originally instituted in 2008.

That was certainly refreshing to hear, considering that, after nearly 20 years since California voters approved the medical-marijuana measure Proposition 215, city councils across the county still seem to be acting out of a moralistic, not-in-my-backyard disdain for marijuana than actual concern for the well-being of residents.

Prohibition has proven for decades that making something illegal doesn't end demand for it and, while clarification of the new state rules seems increasingly necessary as the parade of knee-jerk bans continues, we would encourage more cities to follow Garden Grove's lead and at least show a willingness to consider more thoughtful policies on medical marijuana.

After all, with nearly a dozen statewide propositions fully legalizing marijuana out for petition circulation, at least one will likely qualify for the November ballot. Fully legal marijuana may soon be a reality, especially as perceptions continue to change on the subject.

Cities have had two decades to come to terms with medical marijuana and generally have failed. But some, like Garden Grove, Costa Mesa and Santa Ana, which is gradually legalizing a few dispensaries, appear to be coming to the sensible conclusion that now is the time to carefully craft policies that allow access while maintaining the character of their communities.

We encourage other cities to join them.

Firefighters pull woman from flipped car



Courtesy photo

Firefighters were dispatched to the intersection of Chapman Avenue and Diane Street in Garden Grove for a two-vehicle traffic collision this week. Crews arriving on scene reported a traffic collision with one vehicle rolled over and a trapped adult female driver. Firefighter/paramedics initiated advanced life support to the driver while more firefighters utilized the "Jaws of Life" to remove her. It took firefighters approximately 10 minutes to pull the driver out of the vehicle. The driver was transported to a trauma center for further care. Her condition is unknown.

New business opens in GG



Photo by Dave Smithson

Dunn-Edwards Paints held a grand opening and ribbon cutting last week at its store at 13011 Brookhurst St. in Garden Grove. From left, are Art Burrola of Dunn Edwards; Laura Jung of Dunn Edwards; Martha Ramirez of Dunn Edwards; Carl Altergott, Dunn Edwards CEO; Giang Parrish of Dunn Edwards; Garden Grove Mayor Bao Nguyen; Nick Hess of Dunn Edwards; Congressman Alan Lowenthal; Tina Tran, representing State Sen. Janet Nguyen; Kevin Wen, representing Assemblyman Travis Allen; Susan Tran of the Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce and Luis Partida of Dunn Edwards.

Longtime GG Bishop known as selfless

By Loreen Berlin

The Latter-day Saint Church members in Garden Grove will miss long-time resident and former Bishop of the Garden Grove 6th Ward, Russell Keith Mackay, who served as Bishop for many years.

Mackay died on Jan. 10 after a lengthy illness. A memorial service was held at the LDS Valley View Building in Garden Grove on Jan. 16.

Along with serving as Bishop, Mackay also held various other church positions during his lifetime.

Mackay was described by family as patient, calm, quiet, persistent, determined, easy-going, humble, gentle, selfless, funny and long suffering.

see BISHOP, page 3

BISHOP:

Continued from page 1

And those are the very attributes by which he lead his congregation and why he was so beloved and revered.

His son, Howard Mackay, reflected on his father's life: Born Oct. 8, 1932, in Artesia, he was a child of the Great Depression, the youngest of seven boys who grew up in a two-bedroom, one-bathroom house in Cypress.

He attended Cypress Elementary School along with his older brothers Warren and Sherman and several cousins.

"During this time, his favorite hobby was building airplane models with his brothers and playing cops and robbers in the abundant orange groves," Howard Mackay shared. "My father's fourth-grade year of school was one that left a great impression on him, as that was the year WWII began. Three of his brothers went off to war and two of his best friends were sent to Manzanar Internment Camp because of their Japanese heritage."

Mackay attended Anaheim Union High School, where he enjoyed playing baseball, along with playing in city and church baseball leagues.

He also worked at Knott's Berry Farm's Steakhouse for \$1.05 an hour, followed by attendance at Whittier College. He and then girlfriend and then wife of 61 years, Lovice, drove from Fullerton to Long Beach and Hollywood to dance to the sounds of the Big Bands of the time.

After college graduation, Mackay worked for General Telephone for 35 years for \$1.50 an hour.

Their son shared: "My parents married Aug. 1, 1954, and four months later, dad received a draft notice to report for Army duty two weeks later, being sent to England six months later and after that

my mom followed, sailing on the Queen Mary."

While in the Army, Mackay earned an "Expert Marksman" badge and two years later, received an honorable discharge and returned to the U.S.

"Fortunately, General Telephone held his job while he served his country and so he returned to work there, while continuing to complete his college degree in Business Administration at Chapman College," his son said.

"In 1974, 15 years after starting his bachelor's degree, my dad went to the registrar to discuss his graduation from college. After verifying his records, the registrar told him he was 18 units short, but my dad reminded him that he entered college under the 1959 catalog and had completed his requirements, and after the registrar checked the library's catalog, sure enough dad was right and through his persistence, he finally graduated."

After retiring from General Telephone, Mackay took a job with Xerox for the next eight years, where his son also worked.

"Though dad had the opportunity to travel the world, his favorite place was always home."

Mackay enjoyed reading, building model airplanes for his grandchildren, jigsaw puzzles and golf and spending time with the entire family at Laguna Beach during the summers for 28 years.

Mackay is survived by wife Lovice; children Kim Crummett, Marlen Egbert and Howard Mackay; 12 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father and five of his brothers. He is well-loved by all of his family and friends and will be greatly missed.

A memorial website has been set up for Russell Mackay to view photos, make comments and share memories. Visit Westminstermemorial.com.

Orange County News
Jan. 20, 2016

ORDINANCE NO. 2863
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDEN GROVE APPROVING AMENDMENT NO. A-015-2015 AMENDING TITLE 9 OF THE GARDEN GROVE MUNICIPAL CODE TO UPDATE THE CITY'S LAND USE REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO CANNABIS DISPENSARIES, DELIVERY, AND CULTIVATION, AND TO CONFIRM THAT USES NOT SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED IN A ZONING DISTRICT ARE PROHIBITED IN THAT DISTRICT

City Attorney Summary

This Ordinance approves a text amendment to Title 9 of the Garden Grove Municipal Code to update and revise zoning regulations pertaining to marijuana dispensaries and other commercial cannabis activity. Consistent with the recently enacted Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act, this Ordinance clarifies that the establishment, maintenance, or operation of marijuana dispensaries and related commercial cannabis activities, including the distribution, manufacture, cultivation and delivery of cannabis and/or cannabis products, continues to be prohibited throughout the City. In addition, the text amendment confirms that any use not specifically identified as a permitted use, conditionally permitted use, or incidental use in any zone or planned unit development area is a prohibited use in that zone or planned unit development area.

The foregoing Ordinance was passed by the City Council of the City of Garden Grove on the ____ day of _____.

ATTEST:

MAYOR

CITY CLERK

STATE OF CALIFORNIA }
COUNTY OF ORANGE } SS:
CITY OF GARDEN GROVE }

I, KATHLEEN BAILOR, City Clerk of the City of Garden Grove, do hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced for first reading and passed to second reading on January 12, 2016, with a vote as follows:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: (5)
BEARD, BUI, JONES, PHAN, NGUYEN
NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: (0)
NONE
ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS: (0)
NONE

Garden Grove City Council
Ordinance No. 2863
Page 2

1132295.1

Orange County News
16-50945

Publish Jan. 20, 2016



CONTACT:
Dan Carlsson (949) 559-9382
Carlsson Public Relations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Thursday, January 28, 2016

CITY CELEBRATES NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMUNITY

*Jamboree Partners with Garden Grove Methodist Church to Build a
Multigenerational Campus on Excess Church Land*

On Tuesday, January 26, Garden Grove Mayor Bao Nguyen, along with members of the Garden Grove City Council, joined Jamboree Housing Corporation and the Garden Grove United Methodist Church as they broke ground on Wesley Village. Wesley Village, located on the Methodist Church grounds, is an innovative, multi-use urban development for low-income families and seniors.

A public/private venture, the campus is being developed on 2.2 acres of the church's excess parking space and vacant land that, together, create the site for two, three-story multifamily buildings that will include 47 affordable apartments for 31 working families and 16 senior households.

Wesley Village residents and the community at large will benefit from a third building within the campus that will house a Head Start Learning Center, adult day care, and after-school activities, as well as a range of behavioral health services.

"With the development of Wesley Village, we are witnessing the creation of something truly unique and progressive," said Mayor Nguyen on Tuesday. "Not only will this pioneering campus bring new revenue to our City and the church, but it will provide multigenerational housing for families and senior citizens, as well as important social, education and health services designed specifically to meet the needs of its residents and the surrounding community."

-more-

City Celebrates New Affordable Housing Community
2-2-2

Developed in a unique public/private partnership between the City, Jamboree, and Garden Grove United Methodist Church, Wesley Village features 10,000 square-feet of active open space. Amenities include a community center that will house a health clinic, library, and multipurpose rooms accessible to local community service providers. Outdoor amenities feature a barbecue area, tot lot, and landscaped community spaces for outdoor fitness and activities.

To secure the development site, Jamboree entered into a 60-year ground lease with the church, which will provide ongoing financial support for the church's charitable activities.

The completion of this project is anticipated for September 2016.

Total development cost is \$26 million from which \$3.1 million was provided by the City through HOME Funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and a housing authority loan.

For photos of the event, visit the City's Facebook.

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CITY OF GARDEN GROVE **NEWS**

CONTACT:
Kim Huy, Director
Community Services Department
(714) 741-5200

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

TECHNOLOGY, ECONOMY, QUALITY OF LIFE HIT HIGH MARKS IN MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Speaking before a sell-out audience of nearly 400 attendees, Garden Grove Mayor Bao Nguyen gave high marks to technology, the economy, and quality-of-life, among other achievements, during today's State of the City address.

Using one, large-screen television monitor that would serve as a visual backdrop during his speech, the program opened with the "Signs of Compassion" video, honoring the arrival of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama to Garden Grove last July. The Mayor began his speech by recognizing the important roles of his City Council colleagues.

"The opportunity to work with such a diverse group of leaders has been invaluable to me. We all strive for excellence in our own way even though we may not always agree on everything. In the end, we are here to work together as a Council and we all keep the interests of our great city in mind," he said.

The Mayor called 2015 the "Year of New Leadership," pointing to last year's addition of a new mayor, city manager, police chief, and fire chief to the City.

Crediting technology as the catalyst to achieving one of his main priorities: enhancing transparency and efficiency, the Mayor praised a number of technologically-driven programs and tools introduced in 2015.

-more-

Technology, Economy, Quality Of Life Hit High Marks
2-2-2

These included re-designed websites for both the City of Garden Grove and the Grove District – Anaheim Resort; Google’s “Let’s Put Our City on the Map” program designed to assist businesses with their online presence; and Start-Up Weekend, teaching potential entrepreneurs about business startups.

Complementing the use of technology in transparency, the Mayor spoke about technology in communication. Specifically, the Open Government webpage, which allows users to access City finances, salaries, and other public information. Also, the Citizen Requests and Public Records online tools to instantly request services from a computer or mobile device. And, the re-designed Garden Grove Mobile App for the latest news, business discounts, and emergency alerts.

Information on the City’s district elections mapping process was updated to include the recent approval by the City Council to split the City into six voting districts and return to a directly-elected Mayor.

The Mayor pointed to tourism and sales taxes as fueling Garden Grove’s economic growth.

TOT, or hotel bed tax, went from \$11.4 million in 2005, to \$19 million in 2015. Planned openings of new hotels—including a new 750-room high-end hotel on Harbor Boulevard, south of Target—could boost TOT revenues to over \$25 million in 2017. The Great Wolf Lodge Southern California alone is estimated to bring in \$8 million a year, the most of any hotel in the city.

According to the Mayor, sales tax revenues went from \$14.1 million in 2009, to \$20.5 million in 2015.

Technology, Economy, Quality Of Life Hit High Marks
3-3-3

Quality-of-life included new, affordable housing developments, such as a 47-unit facility for low-income families and seniors which broke ground this month. The project, Wesley Village, is a collaboration between the City, Jamboree Housing Corporation, and the Garden Grove United Methodist Church.

The Mayor closed his address by bringing the entire Garden Grove City Council on stage to congratulate the community on its 60th Anniversary this year, along with other milestone City anniversaries.

“After 60 years of growth and change, the city remains embodied in that local spirit, as we enjoy a great quality-of-life because of the amenities that surround us, like parks, schools, public safety, local events, and lots of things to do!” he said.

The program ended with a special 60th Anniversary video produced by the City’s GGTV3 news team.

To view the Mayor’s complete speech, along with accompanying videos and photos, visit the City’s website at www.ci.garden-grove.ca.us, Facebook and Instagram.

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Contact:
Scott Stiles (714) 741-5100
City Manager

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Tuesday, January 26, 2016

**CITY APPROVES ELECTED MAYOR, SIX DISTRICTS
FOR 2016 DISTRICT-BASED ELECTIONS**

Following tonight's Closed Session meeting of the Garden Grove City Council, the City announced that a new settlement had been reached in the lawsuit brought against the City in July asserting that the City's current "at-large" method of electing City Council members violates the California Voting Rights Act. Pursuant to the new settlement, a stipulated judgment will be entered requiring the City to replace the current at-large election process with six Council districts, and preserve an at-large elected Mayor.

The new terms are the result of an Intervention action, filed earlier this month, by the Central Garden Grove Neighborhood Association (GGNA) against an October 23, 2015 settlement between the City of Garden Grove and local resident Rick Montoya. The GGNA's complaint focused on the original stipulation that the Mayor would no longer be directly elected, but instead, appointed by the rest of the City Council.

In addition to the preservation of a directly-elected Mayor, the City will be divided into six electoral districts, four of which, will be electing a new City Council member in 2016. Of the four City Council members, one will be elected for an initial term of two years, and three others to a regular term of four years. This allows for three districts to be up for election at the same time, in 2018.

-more-

The new settlement also stipulates that one of the four districts elected this year, must be one with the highest proportion of residents of Latino background.

The City will continue working with the demographics firm, Compass Demographics, to assist in developing the district maps and will continue to facilitate community meetings and public hearings to obtain community input before finalizing the district maps.

Mr. David Ely of Compass Demographics will hold a second round of Meet the Expert meetings on January 28, 29, 30, and February 1 and 2, 2016 and a second round of community meetings will occur on March 2, 5, 9, and 12, 2016. These meetings will give the public another opportunity to provide input on discussion map proposals, which will now reflect six Council districts.

In establishing districts, the City Council may take into account topography, geography, cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity, and compactness of areas, as well as community interests of the district. The size of the districts must be as nearly equal in population as is reasonably possible.

The City has also agreed to pay the GGNA's attorney's fees in the amount of \$18,000. Under the original settlement, the City agreed to a payment of \$290,000 to Montoya for costs and attorney fees.

#



CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

Contact:
Maria Stipe (714) 741-5106
Deputy City Manager

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Friday, January 22, 2016

DISTRICTING PROCESS CONTINUES WITH PUBLIC HEARING, COMMUNITY MEETINGS

The process of determining City districts for the 2016 elections continues with the first public hearing on Tuesday, January 26, at 6:30 p.m. The hearing takes place during the regular Garden Grove City Council meeting, at the Garden Grove Courtyard Center, located at 12372 Main Street.

At the hearing, a report will be presented to the City Council on the first-round of individual and community meetings on the district mapping process that took place in November and December of last year. The report will also include a review of sample voting district discussion maps.

The public is invited to participate in the public hearing, or can submit their comments or questions to Garden Grove City Clerk Kathleen Bailor. The City Clerk's telephone number is (714) 741-5040; the email address is kathyb@ci.garden-grove.ca.us; or by mail or in-person at 11222 Acacia Parkway, Garden Grove, 92840.

Following the Public Hearing on January 26 will be the last round of individual meetings with Mr. David Ely from Compass Demographics, the firm overseeing the districting process. The meeting dates and locations are: January 28, 29, February 1, 2, 2016; 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Garden Grove City Hall, 11222 Acacia Parkway. Also on January 30, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Garden Grove Courtyard Center in Village Green Park, 12732 Main Street.

-more-

DISTRICTING PROCESS CONTINUES WITH PUBLIC HEARING
2-2-2

Reservations for the individual meetings must be made at least three business days in advance by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (714) 741-5035 or by email at districtelections@garden-grove.org.

Visit the City's district election mapping webpage under the Open Government menu on the City's website, at www.ci.garden-grove.ca.us, for updated information.

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MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

January 28, 2016

1. Calendar of Events
2. A copy of the email from the OCTA discussing a change to bus route 64 to fulfill requests for faster travel options along major arterials.
3. Copies of emails from Josh McIntosh and Andrea Perez in support of an at-large elected Mayor position.
4. Notice of the Special Meeting of the Planning Commission on January 28, 2016 and a cancellation notice for the February 4, 2016 meeting.
5. League of California Cities, "CA Cities Advocates" dated January 22, 26 and 28, 2016.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 28, 2016 – February 15, 2016

Thursday	January 28	9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting City Hall, 3 rd Floor Training Room CANCELLED
		5:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.	Meet the Mayor Buena Clinton Family Resource Center 12661 Sunswept Avenue
		6:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.	Community Meeting to discuss a New Location for Fire Station 6, Walton Intermediate School Multipurpose Room, 12181 Buaro Street
		7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Special Meeting Courtyard Center
Saturday	January 30	8:00 a.m.- Noon	Project "GO" Graffiti Off, Municipal Service Center
Thursday	February 4	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Courtyard Center CANCELLED
Friday	February 5		City Hall Closed
Tuesday	February 9	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, Courtyard Center Activity Room Successor Agency Meeting, Courtyard Center City Council Meeting, Courtyard Center
Wednesday	February 10	10:00 a.m.	Valentine Celebration hosted by the Senior Center H. Louis Lake Senior Center Dining Room
		2:00 p.m.	Oversight Board Meeting, Courtyard Center
Thursday	February 11	9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting City Hall, 3 rd Floor Training Room CANCELLED
Friday- Sunday	February 12- 14		One More Productions presents "Funny Girl" Gem Theater
Monday	February 15		City Hall Closed

Changes to OCTA Bus Route 64

From : Melanie Valdes <melaniev@ci.garden-grove.ca.us> Mon, Jan 25, 2016 08:52 AM
Subject : Changes to OCTA Bus Route 64
To : Melanie Valdes <melaniev@ci.garden-grove.ca.us>

Subject: Changes to OCTA Bus Route 64

Dear City Managers,

I wanted to provide you with advance information on a scheduling change that will be implemented on February 15, 2016 to Route 64 which operates in your city via Bolsa Ave/1st St. The change is intended to reduce travel time for those Route 64 passengers traveling longer distances and responds to requests we have received for faster travel options along major arterials. The Route 64 weekday schedule will be revised to incorporate limited-stop trips that will by-pass selected stops served by the local bus.

Called the 64X, riders may experience a travel time reduction of up to 15-percent compared to local bus travel. The new Route 64 weekday schedule will be changed to offer 64X service between the hours of 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM. During that period, every other trip will alternate between the local and limited-stop trips. However, all 64 trips operating west of Westminster Mall will continue to serve all stops.

Enclosed is a map of Route 64 highlighting the limited-stop section of the 64X route segment between Westminster Mall & Larwin Square. The limited stops were selected based on high rider usage, and connectivity to other bus service and community activity centers. OCTA is conducting a public outreach program targeting Route 64 users to alert them to the changes. Outreach will include: bus ads (interior and exterior), signs at all Route 64 bus stops, newspaper ads, brochures aboard the buses, targeted community outreach, etc. If you'd like us to provide your city with materials to have available at key community locations, please let us know and we can make arrangements. Should you have any questions or comments regarding the project, please contact me.

Thanks!

****Andrea West****

OCTA, Government Relations
714.560.5611 office
714.402.3520 cell
awest@octa.net

RECEIVED
CITY OF GARDEN GROVE
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

District Elections

2016 JAN 12 A 9:19

From : Josh McIntosh / DJ Gummo

Tue, Jan 12, 2016 07:53 AM

Subject : District Elections

To : Kathy Bailor <kathyb@ci.garden-grove.ca.us>,
Scott Stiles <sstiles@ci.garden-grove.ca.us>

Reply To : Josh McIntosh / DJ Gummo

Subject: Redistricting Garden Grove

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Community Involvement for a Vital and Inclusive City Garden Grove (C.I.V.I.C.GG) a group comprised of residents and concerned community members interested in empowering the community to be engaged, and involved in the city of Garden Grove. We are writing this letter supporting for continued progress to have district elections in the City of Garden Grove. District elections are viewed to give underrepresented communities a greater opportunity to have a voice and play a greater role in local government.

We support the actions our city has taken the last couple of months to begin the process of having a series of discussion with the community regarding the development of district maps.

We want to remind the Council they voted last year to approve district elections as part of the settlement agreement to replace the City's "at-large" method for selecting Council members that violates the California Voting Rights Act. We simply want District Elections in our city to move smoothly and have ample time for a system to be in place prior to the 2016 elections.

We urge the Mayor and Council members to continue and support progress for the city of Garden Grove to have district elections in 2016.

C.I.V.I.C.GG

Sincerely,

Joshua Z McIntosh

Zimbra

kathyb@ci.garden-grove.ca.us

District Elections and Mayor at Large

RECEIVED
CITY OF GARDEN GROVE
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2016 JAN 12 A 9:19

From : Andrea Perez

Tue, Jan 12, 2016 08:24 AM

Subject : District Elections and Mayor at Large

To :

Good Morning,

I am writing to you today to ask you to take into consideration my right, as a Garden Grove resident.

I have been a Garden Grove resident since 1994. As a Garden Grove resident and registered voter, I would like to be included in the decision regarding how our Mayor is chosen; even if that means a special election.

I understand that with districts I get to choose one person to represent me and my district. While I am not a fan of this process and given that fact that our city has no choice but to move in this direction, I would like to see six (6) districts with a Mayor at Large. With this process in place, my right to choose more than one candidate has been taken away, so please allow me and the residents of Garden Grove the right to choose a Mayor by election.

By having the right to VOTE for the Mayor, I know that my voice has been heard and should my candidate of choice win the election, I would be represented by more than one person on the City Council.

Please choose to let the residents decide our Mayor, it's our right and our City and we should have a say in WHO our Mayor should be.

Thank you for taking to read my email and consider my request.

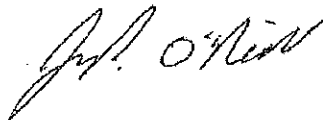
Sincerely,
Andrea Perez

NOTICE AND CALL OF SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special meeting of the Garden Grove Planning Commission is hereby called to be held on Thursday, January 28, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Courtyard Center, 12732 Main Street, Garden Grove, CA 92840.

Said Special Meeting shall be held to discuss the attached Agenda.

DATED: January 21, 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John O'Neill", written in a cursive style.

John O'Neill
Chair



A G E N D A

GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING

JANUARY 28, 2016

COURTYARD CENTER
12732 MAIN STREET

REGULAR SESSION – 7:00 P.M. COURTYARD CENTER

ROLL CALL: CHAIR O'NEILL, VICE CHAIR KANZLER
COMMISSIONERS MAI, MARGOLIN, PAREDES, ZAMORA

Members of the public desiring to speak on any item of public interest, including any item on the agenda except public hearings, must do so during Oral Communications at the beginning of the meeting. Each speaker shall fill out a card stating name and address, to be presented to the Recording Secretary, and shall be limited to five (5) minutes. Members of the public wishing to address public hearing items shall do so at the time of the public hearing.

Any person requiring auxiliary aids and services due to a disability should contact the City Clerk's office at (714) 741-5035 to arrange for special accommodations. (Government Code §5494.3.2).

All revised or additional documents and writings related to any items on the agenda, which are distributed to all or a majority of the Planning Commissioners within 72 hours of a meeting, shall be available for public inspection (1) at the Planning Services Division during normal business hours; and (2) at the Courtyard Center at the time of the meeting.

Agenda item descriptions are intended to give a brief, general description of the item to advise the public of the item's general nature. The Planning Commission may take legislative action it deems appropriate with respect to the item and is not limited to the recommended action indicated in staff reports or the agenda.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- A. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - PUBLIC
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 3, 2015
- C. PUBLIC HEARING(S) (Authorization for the Chair to execute Resolution shall be included in the motion.)
 - C.1. CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. CUP-058-2016

APPLICANT: REGAL CINEMAS, INC.

LOCATION: THEATER BUILDING WITHIN THE PROMENADE SHOPPING MALL, NORTHWEST OF THE INTERSECTION OF BROOKHURST STREET AND CHAPMAN AVENUE AT 9741 CHAPMAN AVENUE

REQUEST: Conditional Use Permit approval to operate an existing theater, Regal Cinemas, with an original Alcoholic Beverage Control Type "47" (On-Sale, General, Public Eating Place) License. The site is in the NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) zone. The project is exempt pursuant to CEQA Section 15301 – Existing Facilities

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval of Conditional Use Permit No. CUP-058-2016, subject to the recommended conditions of approval.

- D. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS
- E. MATTERS FROM STAFF
- F. ADJOURNMENT



GARDEN GROVE

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION

OF THE

GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 4, 2016

REGULAR MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Meeting of the Garden Grove Planning Commission scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. at the Courtyard Center, 12732 Main Street, Garden Grove, is hereby cancelled pursuant to the attached Cancellation Notice.

DATED: January 28, 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John O'Neill', written in a cursive style.

JOHN O'NEILL
CHAIR



Jan. 22, 2016

Issue #7

IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 3: Save Your Spot for the 2016 Public Works Officers Institute and Expo in March

Page 4: Registration for Feb. 5 Municipal Law Symposium Remains Open

Senate Health Committee Passes Medical Marijuana Clean-up Bill

Wednesday marked the next stage in the progress of AB 21 (Wood), the medical marijuana clean-up legislation that would eliminate the March 1, 2016 cultivation deadline, when the Senate Health Committee passed it on a 7-0 vote. The League appreciates all the letters cities have sent to legislators on this important issue. *For more, see Page 2.*



Education and Training Starts 2016 for 200 Newly Elected Mayors and Council Members

Three-Day League Conference Includes Briefings on Advocacy Tools, Municipal Finance, Ethics and More

The League launches its extensive educational programming for city officials each January with a conference in Sacramento for the recently group of mayors and council members. This year 200 city officials attended the annual three day event designed to give newly elected city officials the information and skills they need to successfully lead their cities. *For more, see Page 2.*



League Urges FAA to Adopt Stronger Drone Registration Regulations

The League of California Cities® on Jan. 15 issued comments to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regarding its new regulations requiring registration by drone owner/operators, released in mid-December. The League's letter cites multiple incidents of the abuse of drones endangering public safety and commercial aviation in calling for stronger FAA registration protocols.

'AB 21' Continued from Page 1...

Six committee members joined Committee Chair Sen. Ed Hernandez (D-Azusa), who supported the bill as proposed to be amended, with amendments negotiated by the League and ACLU, with the California State Association of Counties, California Police Chiefs Association and Drug Policy Alliance also on board.

The Senate Committee's action on Jan. 20 follows the Senate Governance and Finance Committee last week, which also approved Assembly Member Jim Wood's (D-Healdsburg) legislation. The League is cautiously optimistic that the March 1 deadline that will pre-empt local governments on cultivation ordinances and is on its way to being lifted.

The bill currently has no opposition. Senate Health Committee Member Sen. Jim Nielsen (R-Gerber), who opposed all three bills in the regulatory package last year, abstained from voting. He voiced his philosophical objection to a regulatory structure that he said he believes is still far too loose. Sen. Janet Nguyen (R-Garden Grove) was absent from Wednesday's hearing.

SB 435, which was also amended with the League-ACLU compromise language, but did not contain the removal of the March 1 deadline, was set to be heard in the Assembly Health Committee as a fail-safe. That hearing, however, was cancelled when it became clear that the Senate Health Committee passed AB 21.

The language being struck from AB 21 (bottom of page 5) would have shut down some of the litigation against cities regarding medical marijuana regulation. However, ACLU and the Senate were determined to strike the key final sentence from a Health and Safety Code statute in its entirety, which might have been harmful to cities in that it would have allowed advocates to argue that the Legislature did not intend for local governments to regulate patient and primary caregiver activity.

The amendments taken in the Senate Health Committee reflecting the League-ACLU deal instead remove reference to explicit local authority to regulate and ban and alter the key sentence so that it is now simply a recitation of existing constitutional police power. While the League conceded a clear-cut advantage in future litigation against cities that the Legislature found unpalatable, it did not affirmatively give up any actual land use authority — such as losing the ability to regulate indoor cultivation by patients/primary caregivers, which ACLU initially sought. The language added to AB 21 guarantees that California cities will continue to face litigation in court brought by ACLU and others — but with no clear tactical advantage for either side.

Next Steps

AB 21 will next go to the Senate Floor for a full vote and may be eligible for a vote as early as Monday, Jan. 25. It will then go to the Assembly for consideration.

'New Mayors' Continued from Page 1...

The conference covers a wide range of policy topics and city council procedures as well as the state-required AB 1234 ethics training. Other sessions focused on:

- Land use planning;
- Legal powers and obligations;
- City council/city manager form of city government;
- Effective meeting running techniques;
- Communications and the new media; and
- Local government finance.

League Senior Director of Legislative Affairs Dan Carrigg welcomed the gathered members on Wednesday morning, introducing them to the League's advocacy efforts. "You are the cornerstone of our organization and our success politically relies on your engagement," Carrigg told the audience.

Each of the League's lobbyists provided a brief overview of their areas, emphasizing the key issues the League sees as priorities for 2016.

League Executive Director Chris McKenzie delivered remarks on how city officials can become part of the League and how League services can help them more effectively serve their communities. "Our prime directive is local control so at the end of the day that is the frame through which we look at all issues."

The newly elected mayors and council members also learned about the California Road Charge Pilot Program from former League President Jim Madaffer who chairs the California Transportation Commission's Road Charge Technical Advisory Committee, which is studying a road usage charge as an alternative to the gas tax. He laid out how the current revenues that fund California's aging transportation system are inadequate and urged the audience to volunteer for the pilot program that will help the state determine if a road user charge would work in California.

Thursday's mock city council skit is always popular with attendees. Expert city attorneys hold a session called City of Dysfunction Junction — How to Conduct an Effective and Respectful City Council Meeting.

League President and Rancho Cucamonga Mayor Dennis Michael addressed the mayors and council members Friday morning. He spoke about his own experience becoming engaged in the League and encouraged the attendees to get involved. "I commend you for your commitment to your city, your attendance at this important training program and your strong support for local control and the values that make our League strong."

The conference closed Friday with AB 1234 ethics training. Newly elected and appointed city officials are required to receive this training within a year of being elected and then they must go through it every two years following.

League Policy Committees Hold First Meetings of 2016

Also this week in Sacramento, the League's eight standing policy committees held their first meetings of the year. League policy committees meet at least three times annually, with some committees meeting during Annual Conference to review proposed resolutions for the General Assembly.

League President Dennis Michael started each day's joint legislative briefings held before the individual committees took up their business. Welcoming the committee members, President Michael thanked them for their contributions to the League. "The work you do here and the expertise you bring to bear in helping shape policy is deeply valued by me and the other members of the League board of directors."

The briefings also included a legislative and state budget update by Senior Director of Legislative Affairs Dan Carrigg and Michael Coleman, the League's fiscal advisor.

Actions taken by policy committees this week will next go to the League board of directors for review and action. Agendas are available on the League website.

Save Your Spot for the 2016 Public Works Officers Institute and Expo in March *Register by Feb. 16*

The League of California Cities® recently announced its keynote speakers for the 2016 Public Works Officers Institute and Expo scheduled for March 9-11 at the Hyatt Regency Sacramento. This conference is for professionals of all career levels and offers education on the latest developments in public works, leadership, managing transportation, infrastructure, water, waste programs and more.

Keynote speakers for this event are:

Wednesday Opening Keynote: Journalist Dan Walters

Start the conference off with Dan Walters as he discusses the State of California: Past, Present and Future, with a spin towards the daily dealings of those in the public works profession. Mr. Walters has been a journalist for more than half a century, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers. He is certain to bring some new insights to the challenges your jurisdictions face.

Friday Closing Keynote Speaker: American Physician and Retired NASA Astronaut, Story Musgrave

Experience the evolution of Story Musgrave's personal and professional life in terms of unpredicted opportunities and challenges. How does throwing hay bales and fixing farm equipment as a farm kid lead to a full college scholarship, fixing aircraft and tanks as a Marine mechanic in Korea, to fixing broken people as a trauma surgeon, to being the chief mechanic on the Hubble Space Telescope? One little step at a time. It is about preparing for the unknown, acquiring the tools and skills for when the unknown happens and doors open, you can jump into the appropriate opportunities, meet their challenges and obtain your goals. It is about growing such a diverse set of cross disciplinary skills that you not only respond to the future but you are able to create the future for yourself using forward looking forensics.

View the [announcement and full agenda](#) for more information about the Public Works Officers Institute. If you have any questions, please contact [Brian Sanders](#) at (916) 658-8238.

Registration for Feb. 5 Municipal Law Symposium Remains Open

Ensuring Integrity in 21st Century California: Water & Public Works in Our Arid State

Scheduled for Feb. 5 in Sacramento, the 2016 Municipal Law Symposium will focus on the challenging issues public agency attorneys face in the areas of water and public works.

Panels will focus on: water rights, drought, and enforcement; water issues related to CEQA and land use; alternative water supplies, including storm water, groundwater, and recycled water; water and public works finance issues including those related to Proposition 218; and conflicts of interest, including an update on the new FPPC Regulations and conflict of interest issues relevant to public works projects.

Titled "Ensuring Integrity in 21st Century California: Water & Public Works in Our Arid State," the symposium will be held on Feb. 5 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento. The cost to participate is \$175.

[Register online.](#)

This annual event is co-sponsored by the Municipal Law Institute of the League of California Cities®, McGeorge School of Law, the County Counsels' Association and the State Bar of California Public Law Section.

Jan. 26, 2016
Issue #8

IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 3: Registration Deadlines for Upcoming Planners and Public Works Officers Conferences Looming
NLC's 2016 Congressional City Conference Scheduled for March 5-9

Senate Passes League-Supported Medical Marijuana Clean-Up Legislation, Bill Moves Back to Assembly for Action

Monday afternoon the Senate voted 35-3 to pass AB 21 (Wood), the medical marijuana clean-up legislation that would eliminate the March 1, 2016 cultivation deadline. *For more, see Page 2.*



Governor Brown Delivers Short State of State, Continues to Caution Fiscal Restraint, Highlights Dire Need for Road Funding

Gov. Jerry Brown urged fiscal caution in his 2016 state of the state address to the jointly assembled Senate and Assembly last Thursday, while highlighting the state's progress recovering from its most recent fiscal deficits, and increasing funding for schools and health care. The Governor did not propose any new policy proposals; instead he told lawmakers that California must prepare now for the inevitable recessions that occur frequently in the economic cycle. *For more, see Page 2.*



California Transportation Commission Defunds Projects Worth \$754 Million For Next Five Years

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) on Jan. 22 took action that approved a drastically reduced estimate of available funding for California's State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in the next five years. The action slashes estimated funding by \$754 million, a hit that comes as California's state and local street, road and highway system is already crumbling under inadequate funding. *For more, see Page 2.*

'AB 21' Continued from Page 1...

AB 21 will now return to the Assembly, where the Assembly Local Government Committee will hear it this coming Wednesday. Assuming the bill is not amended further, it could be on the Assembly Floor for a final vote of the full body as soon as Thursday of this week. From there it will go directly to Gov. Jerry Brown's office for his consideration. As an urgency measure, it will take effect immediately upon the Governor's signature, lifting the March 1 deadline for local jurisdictions to have medical marijuana cultivation bans in effect.

Sen. Mike McGuire (D-Healdsburg) presented his colleague's bill on the Senate Floor. The senator is the author of last year's SB 643, one of the bills that comprise the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act.

The Senate's action Monday followed the Senate Health Committee's passage of Assembly Member Jim Wood (D-Healdsburg) measure on Wednesday, Jan. 22.

'SOS' Continued from Page 1...

The Governor stressed the need for the state to focus on keeping existing funding commitments and repairing deteriorating infrastructure. "According to economists at the Department of Finance, the next recession, even if it were only of average intensity, would cut our revenues by \$55 billion over three years," said Brown. "That is why it is imperative to build up the Rainy Day Fund — which was recently overwhelmingly approved by the voters — and invest our temporary surpluses in badly needed infrastructure or in other ways that will not lock in future spending."

The Governor's remarks built off of the fiscally-cautious tone he set several weeks earlier when introducing his proposed FY 2016-17 budget on Jan. 7, but he also reiterated the need for California to invest in its deteriorating roads.

"We have no choice but to maintain our transportation infrastructure," said Brown. "Yet, doing so without an expanded and permanent revenue source is impossible. That means at some point, sooner rather than later, we have to bite the bullet and enact new fees and taxes for this purpose. Ideology and politics stand in the way, but one way or another, the roads must be fixed."

The Governor's budget release and state of the state remarks set the tone for upcoming discussions with the Legislature over the budget. The Legislature is expected to propose expanded spending in various areas. Legislative hearings on the budget will continue into the spring, and be further informed when the Governor issues his revised FY 2016-17 budget proposal in early May. During this time, the stock market and the global economy will be closely monitored for signs of economic slowdown which could dampen the financial outlook at the state and local level.

The League's analysis of the Governor's proposal outlines significant proposals affecting programs of interest to cities. The League will continue to monitor state budget discussions and developments.

'Transportation' Continued from Page 1...

Like local governments, the CTC is struggling to meet transportation needs with less funding. The action last week comes after the CTC conducted thorough analysis anticipated additional reductions in a portion of the gasoline excise tax, the main source of state funding for the program. The tax dropped from 12 cents per gallon from 18 cents per gallon a few years ago. Under this next STIP, the price is anticipated to drop an additional 2 cents per gallon in FY 2016-17.

The reduction in the STIP will require the CTC to rescind funding previously committed and will have significant impacts. Projects included in the STIP include state highway, intercity rail, and transit improvements. The loss of funding from this one source will jeopardize billions of dollars of projects that rely on multiple funding sources. Projects improve traffic and air quality, and are major components of regional planning.

The State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is the CTC's five-year plan of future state highway, intercity rail and transit improvement programs. The CTC updates it every other year in even number years. CTC reports that a 1 cent reduction in the gas tax equates to \$140 million annually less to fund the local and state road system.

Registration Deadlines for Upcoming Planners and Public Works Officers Conferences Looming

Registration deadlines are approaching quickly for two of the League's premier educational events: the Planning Commissioners Academy, March 2-4 in San Ramon, and the Public Works Officers Institute & Expo, March 9-11 in Sacramento.

The registration and housing deadline for the Planning Commissioners Academy is Feb. 2, while the deadline for the Public Works Officers Institute is Feb. 16.

This year's Planning Commissioners Academy will feature sessions on fundamentals, for new commissioners, as well as sessions spotlighting emerging issues, intended for more experienced commissioners and city staff. Planned fundamentals sessions include findings and conditions of approval, civic engagement, demystifying CEQA, recognizing good design, a social media survival guide and how to conduct an effective planning commission meeting.

Emerging issues sessions will include streamlining the development review and permitting process, the future of water for California cities, complete streets, infill projects and autonomous vehicles. Other sessions will include looks at what planners need to know about municipal finance, California's growth patterns and making smart use of data.

[Register online.](#)

The Public Works Officers Institute & Expo will again mix practical and aspirational sessions. The schedule includes sessions on sustainable pavement, saving money through LED conversions, public outreach, solar PV and recycled water.

Attendees will also hear from astronaut Story Musgrave, Sacramento Bee political columnist Dan Walters and part of the team that helped the City of Napa respond — and rebuild — after the region's biggest earthquake in 25 years.

[Register online.](#)

NLC's 2016 Congressional City Conference Scheduled for March 5-9 *Early Bird Registration Ends Jan. 31*

The National League of Cities (NLC) is holding its annual Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C. from March 5-9. Participants nationwide will engage and meet with U.S. Senate and House of Representative members and their staff to discuss federal policy issues of great importance to cities and local governments.

Similar to last year, the League will host a special briefing for U.S. House of Representatives staff on the League's Federal Priorities with a focus on Water Infrastructure. As the House will not be in session during the conference, the League encourages all California attendees to attend the briefing and connect with the staff of the representative. The time and place of the briefing will be announced in a future edition of CA Cities Advocate.

California attendees registered for the NLC Congressional City Conference are invited to attend the following events hosted by the League of California Cities:

League of California Cities Reception
Monday, March 7
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Thurgood Marshall East
Marriott Wardman Park Hotel
2660 Woodley Road, NW
Washington, D.C.

Request meetings with your legislators and their staff during your visit in Washington, D.C.
Visit the [Congressional City Conference](#) website for the latest information on this year's conference.

Register [online](#).

Jan. 28, 2016
Issue #9

Medical Marijuana Clean-Up Bill Heads to Governor *League-Supported AB 21 Eliminates March 1 Cultivation Deadline for Local Governments*

The Assembly today unanimously passed AB 21 (Wood) on a vote of 66-0, sending the bill to Gov. Jerry Brown for his expected signature. As an urgency measure, it will take effect immediately upon the Governor's signature. This important League-supported legislation removes the March 1, 2016 deadline for cities and counties to pass cultivation ordinances or face state pre-emption. Introduced on Jan. 5, the final action on AB 21 late this week culminates a mere 24 days of legislative work by Assembly Member Jim Wood (D-Healdsburg) with the strong backing of the League of California Cities, the California Police Chiefs Association, patient advocates, industry and other stakeholders.

League Executive Director Chris McKenzie acknowledged Assembly Member Wood's leadership on quickly addressing this pressing issue. "As a former city council member, Dr. Wood truly understands how state action affects local government, and that is why his commitment to pursue a legislative fix on this provision was so strong. The League commends him for his outstanding leadership and diligence in securing prompt legislative action as he promised last year when the mistaken deadline was discovered in the medical marijuana legislation. The full Legislature should be commended as well for acting promptly to preserve this essential element of local control in the state's medical marijuana legislative program."

This development will remove the threat of state pre-emption, and consequently the urgency many local governments have felt to enact cultivation regulations, following the approval last year of the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act. It will allow ample time for cities and counties to engage in thoughtful research, deliberation, and debate on the local regulations that best reflect the priorities and needs of their respective communities in this area without the pressure of the need to act hastily to preserve their local regulatory authority.

AB 21 also provides cities that have already adopted medical marijuana ordinances the time to consider the advisability of any possible refinements or amendments to those local laws now that the unfortunate pre-emption deadline has been removed from state law.

Materials available on the League's medical marijuana webpage (www.cacities.org/MedicalMarijuana) can assist cities that may desire to reconsider their prior ordinances or enact new ordinances concerning the cultivation of medical marijuana.