



CITY OF MONTCLAIR

**Montclair Civic Center
5111 Benito Street
Montclair, CA 91763**

April 12, 2012

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Edward C. Starr, City Manager

SUBJECT: WEEKLY REPORT: April 6-12, 2012

➤ ***CITY MANAGER/ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENTS***

- I reported last month the California Public Employee Retirement System (CalPERS) lowered the Fund's investment forecast from 7.75 percent to 7.5 percent. To address the concerns of local government officials, the CalPERS Board of Directors agreed to phase in the rate adjustment over two years to lessen the immediate budget impact on local governments. However, the bottom line is that contribution rates will increase at a time when local agencies are already facing cash-strapped budgets and are struggling to provide basic services.

Fitch Ratings has now released a report analyzing the pension fund's decision, concluding the change is positive for local government credit quality in the long term; however, in the short term, California's fiscally stressed municipalities, already reeling from the loss of redevelopment as a vital economic stimulator and component of funding for vital employment positions, will face additional pressure and weaker financial flexibility due to the lowered investment forecast.

Fitch's report indicates the reduction is arguably the biggest risk to municipalities and counties with minimal financial flexibility. Throughout the state, counties and cities have suffered tax base stagnation or losses and other economic deterioration affecting locally generated revenue; and many California agencies have already taken steps to reduce labor costs, the major cost driver for most local governments, through such methods as furloughs, wage freezes, personnel reductions, and pension cost sharing.

These same agencies now see the decision by CalPERS as further eroding local capacity to fund service obligations, and further impacting the employee-employer relation due to the additional stress it will place on employee compensation in order to accommodate the increase in contributions to CalPERS.

CalPERS has not yet announced the impact on agencies stemming from the decision to lower the investment forecast; however, Montclair projects the increase for miscellaneous members will be approximately 2 percent spread over the next two fiscal years. The projection for safety members is complicated by the various group plans in place, but may average approximately 4 percent, also spread over the next two fiscal years.

- The Joint Legislative Conference Committee on Public Employee Pensions, co-chaired by Senator Negrete McLeod (D-Chino), will be holding its fifth hearing tomorrow, winding down its examination of the Governor's Twelve Point Pension Reform Plan. Friday's hearing in Chino will focus on: (1) issues specific to the 1937 County Employees Retirement Law, which allows 20 counties to operate their own independent retirement systems; and (2) how pension benefits are currently structured for the various types of elected officials throughout the state.

Senator McLeod is on record in stating pension reforms are needed to stop abuses and close loopholes.

According to legislative members, the conference committee is seeking common sense solutions to achieve reforms without adversely impacting basic retirement security for workers or the financial stability of California's pension systems.

➤ **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

- The Senior Nutrition Program celebrated April birthdays yesterday at the Community Center. Themed "Easter Eggstravaganza," more than 230 seniors enjoyed a lunch of ham with all the trimmings, plus cake and ice cream for dessert. They colored eggs and participated in Easter bonnet and coloring contests. Winners were treated to special prizes.

A photo collage of the event is featured on Page 9.

- Last Thursday, Senior Center participants crafted holiday wreaths as part of April's Senior in the Spotlight Program with Theresa Midling. Each month since the facility opened, Theresa has decorated the Center with colorful paper wreaths. Many seniors had a desire to learn the art of making the paper wreaths, and Theresa was happy to share her talent. Each participant was able to make a wreath to take home. Everyone had a wonderful time and enjoyed delicious refreshments.

Photos are shared on Page 8.

- Council Members John Dutrey and Bill Ruh and I joined approximately 500 children and adults at the City's Easter Eggstravaganza and Pancake Breakfast held on April 7. Children played games and won candy-filled eggs as prizes. The "Easter Bunny" arrived in a fire engine and posed for the cameras with little ones on his lap.

Members of Montclair Kiwanis served 300 breakfasts of pancakes, sausage, orange juice, and coffee.

Our special thanks are offered to the following: the Information Technology Division for setting up the camera equipment; the Fire Department for delivering the Easter Bunny; the Montclair Police Officers Association for donating and presenting the special drawing gift baskets; the Montclair Kiwanis Club; the Montclair Ontario Junior Women's Club; the many community volunteers for their tireless efforts during the event; and, of course, the Human Services Division for coordinating the event.

Photos are featured on Page 10.

➤ **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

- At a general assembly of Police Department personnel held on Monday, April 9, it was my pleasure to swear-in to duty Chad Ebli as Police Officer. Chad was hired in January 2007 as a Police Cadet, and he has served in that position while working toward his goal of becoming a full-time Police Officer. Chad graduated number one in his class as San Bernardino Valley College Police Academy in August 2011. He has been in field training as a Reserve Officer since January 2012.

Danita Magsam was introduced by Lieutenant Reed as the City's new part-time Police Dispatcher. Danita brings many years of experience as a police dispatcher, most recently as a dispatch supervisor with the Ontario Police Department.

Finally, Captain deMoet announced the selection of Officer John Minook as the newest member of the Upland-Montclair SWAT Team.

Please join me in welcoming Danita Magsam to the Montclair City family and offering congratulations to Officers Ebli and Minook.

The Police Department has shared photos on Pages 11-12.

➤ **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- On April 5, the Fire Department's Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Team and on-duty crews conducted low angle rope rescue operation (LARRO) training at Chino Basin Water Conservation District's Brooks Street basin. Office of Emergency Services (OES) 331 engine and its equipment were used for the drill, which simulated an injured/unconscious subject located down an embankment. Team members used a series of natural and man-made anchors to attach the necessary rope systems used to lower rescuers and the appropriate equipment to the injured subject. Once the patient was "packaged," the rope systems were used to raise the rescuers, patient, and equipment up the embankment to safety.

A photo collage is featured on Page 13.

➤ **PUBLIC WORKS/SUCCESSOR REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

- On April 6, Economic Development Coordinator Miguel Garcia attended Inland Empire Economic Partnership's 2012 State of the Region. A diverse group of speakers was featured from the manufacturing, residential construction, healthcare, commercial real estate, and local government job sectors. Also featured was Economist Dr John Husing's presentation, "*At Last, Inland Empire Economic Growth...Will it Take Off?*"

Dr. John Husing's presentation on the current economic state of the Inland Empire included the following highlights:

- ✓ After losing 8.78 million jobs, U.S. job creation is beginning to improve
- ✓ In late 2011, California seasonal jobs adjusted from irregular to positive
- ✓ After three consecutive years of job loss seen in the Inland Empire (2008: -47,600 jobs; 2009: -90,000 jobs; 2010: -8,800 jobs), the job market experienced growth in 2011 with the creation of 3,700 new jobs
- ✓ Excluding construction jobs, in 2011-12, the Inland Empire outperformed coastal counties (Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego) in job creation
- ✓ In February 2012, the Inland Empire's unemployment rate was 12.4 percent compared to the state rate of 11.3 percent
- ✓ In order to decrease the Inland Empire's unemployment rate and create a healthier job market, Dr. Husing stated that more

Inland Empire residents need to obtain a higher education. San Bernardino County's current percentage of adults with at least a bachelor's degree is 18.6 percent, the lowest in Southern California when compared to the other six counties

- ✓ Lastly, job sectors that experienced growth in 2011 included logistics and manufacturing.

Dr. Husing's final prediction: By the end of 2012, the region will create 16,300 new jobs across both San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. This dramatic increase in jobs will result in a regional unemployment rate of 11.5 percent, an improvement compared to the current rate of 12.5 percent.

- I previously reported that a lawsuit involving a property owner in Monrovia and the Gold Line Construction Authority had been resolved, allowing the Authority to secure a significant portion of the property required for a maintenance facility for the future Gold Line extension to Montclair. Last month, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Michelle Rosenblatt issued an Order of Pre-Judgment Possession in an eminent domain case with the City of Monrovia and the Successor Agency to the Monrovia Redevelopment Agency, affording the Authority control over more than 50 percent of the land needed for the project's maintenance facility. This action allowed the Construction Authority to meet the final condition of the funding agreement with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and issue a Full Notice to Proceed (NTP) to the Kiewit Parsons Joint Venture contractor for the Pasadena to Azusa Alignment project. Now, with Full NTP in hand, the Joint Venture has the authorization necessary to implement all elements of the design-build project for an on-time construction completion in late 2015. The team continues to complete design and preconstruction activities and anticipates full construction to begin in late 2012.

Also last month, crews completed the temporary support structure (falsework) over the eastbound lanes of the I-210 Freeway in Arcadia and began erecting the formwork (which is effectively a mold into which concrete will be placed to shape the bridge). Most of the formwork takes place directly above the I-210 Freeway (on the falsework platform), as can be seen in the latest picture on Page 5. For safety purposes, the eastbound lanes of the I-210 Freeway will continue to be partially and completely closed periodically during this period of construction. Traffic will be detoured onto Foothill Boulevard.



July 2011 looking west along eastbound lanes



March 2012 looking east along eastbound lanes

ECS:spa

"A man should never neglect his family for business."

~ Walt Disney

APRIL 2012



16	Code Enforcement Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	6:00 p.m.
16	Reception Honoring Montclair's Volunteers City Hall Foyer	6:00 p.m.
16	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
19	Safety Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
19	Public Works Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	2:00 p.m.
22	Earth Day	
23	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
25	Legislative Action Days, April 25-26 Sacramento	
27	Arbor Day	



Senior Center Senior in the Spotlight Presentation “How to Make Holiday Wreaths”



Montclair Senior Birthday Party

April 11, 2012





Easter Egg Hunt & Pancake Breakfast

April 7, 2012



Pictured left to right: Lieutenant Jason Reed, Chief Keith Jones, Officer Chad Ebli, Captain Mike deMoet, Lieutenant Robert Avels



Pictured in the center: Part-time Police Dispatcher Danita Magsam



Pictured in the center: Officer John Minook



US&R Drill
April 5, 2012

