



CITY OF MONTCLAIR

Montclair Civic Center
5111 Benito Street
Montclair, CA 91763

August 23, 2012

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Edward C. Starr, City Manager

SUBJECT: CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT: August 17-23, 2012

➤ **CITY MANAGER/ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENTS**

- Yesterday, Senior Intern Mikey Fuentes and I attended the San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) Council of Governments Workshop in San Bernardino.

The SANBAG Board of Directors expressed interest in reinvigorating its role as a Council of Governments (COG). A brief history of SANBAG as a COG, COG functions performed by SANBAG, staff and funding resources, and SANBAG's role in the years to come were discussed.

SANBAG as a COG

SANBAG was created in 1973 as a Joint Powers Authority to act as a COG for San Bernardino County. The initial focus of SANBAG was to provide a forum to collectively work on issues that cross political boundaries and affect San Bernardino County and the region within.

In 1976, the State, through Assembly Bill 1246, created County Transportation Commissions (CTC) to coordinate Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) and to coordinate mass transit service. For San Bernardino County, the State designated SANBAG as the CTC. It was after this time local leaders realized the need for additional revenue to help meet the transportation and transit needs of the growing County.

In 1989, SANBAG became the County Transportation Authority with the passage of Measure I. Measure I supplied revenues to implement a large capital improvement program. While SANBAG has never stopped working as a COG and has always performed COG functions, the majority of SANBAG's resources and budget have focused on transportation issues.

Current and Pending COG Functions

SANBAG in the past several years has begun to focus its resources and budget on other non-transportation issues that serve its role as a COG.

Current COG Roles

- ✓ Intergovernmental Coordination offers a forum where cities, as well as the County, can discuss issues of mutual concern.
- ✓ The City/County Conference is an annual meeting where local officials discuss issues of mutual concern, topics of importance to the region, and new regulations affecting cities and the County.
- ✓ The *Inland Empire Economic Quarterly* provides a detailed economic analysis specifically for the Inland Empire Region.
- ✓ Growth Forecasting estimates future growth for the County and cities.
- ✓ Air Quality Planning offers assistance in air quality attainment efforts for the County and cities.
- ✓ Congestion Management provides countywide programs to evaluate development impacts on regional transportation systems.
- ✓ Sustainable Communities Strategy provides a regional Greenhouse Gas inventory and environmental document program that can be used by cities in the preparation of their general plans and in CEQA analysis for development projects.

Possible Future COG Roles

Currently the SANBAG Board of Directors is discussing the appropriate role of SANBAG as a COG in the following years to come.

Suggested Roles

- ✓ Countywide Vision Implementation to provide collaboration among cities, the County, water districts, school boards, and other governmental agencies.
- ✓ Legislative Advocacy to present a more unified voice on legislation affecting local governments and the region.

Expand beyond the transportation-related legislation and cooperate with the local divisions of the League of California Cities.

- ✓ Energy Leader Partnership to provide coordination with the identification of energy efficient opportunities in local government facilities and support the California Long-Term Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan.
- Moody's Investors Service, one of the nation's big three credit rating agencies, along with Standard & Poor's and Fitch Group, is predicting other California cities will follow Vallejo, Stockton, San Bernardino, and Mammoth Lakes in filing for Chapter 9 bankruptcy protection.

Moody's Investors Service provides international financial research on [bonds](#) issued by commercial and government entities; ranks the [creditworthiness](#) of borrowers using a standardized ratings scale which measures expected investor loss in the event of [default](#); and rates [debt securities](#) in several market segments related to [public](#) and [commercial](#) securities in the [bond market](#). Moody's and other credit rating agencies determine how much a municipal agency will pay in interest when it needs to borrow money.

According to Moody's, a growing number of stressed cities in California and across the nation have declared states of fiscal emergency or have taken equivalent measures in attempts to decrease fiscal operations and personnel-related costs. Since 2008, approximately 53 California cities declared fiscal emergencies. Severely distressed municipalities are looking to manage debt and other financial contracts through more aggressive steps such as receivership, mediation, bankruptcy, and default.

In the current environment, as more municipalities approach the economic or political limit to raising taxes or adjusting spending, Moody's anticipates an increase in defaults and bankruptcies over the next few years. The credit rating agency recently expressed concerns about Compton, Stanton, and Placentia. However, officials in each city are expressing confidence they will achieve objectives designed to keep them out of bankruptcy court.

Moody's expects to downgrade the ratings of distressed California cities in coming months—which means it will be more expensive for those communities to borrow money because lenders are at greater risk of not getting repaid. Downgrading the creditworthiness of California's cities raises alarms, with local leaders believing it will create a crisis of confidence in the municipal bond market and hinder the ability of cities to borrow for needed projects. Every level of government borrows money, usually to build infrastructure. If the investment community perceives risk, fewer dollars will be available for public purposes.

Analysts attribute California's recent increase in municipal bankruptcy filings, defaults, and declarations of fiscal emergencies to a number of contributing factors including the state's boom-bust real estate economy and hands off 'home rule' policy, the ability of public sector unions to obtain generous wages and benefits during periods of prosperity, the inability to raise taxes without voter approval, and elimination of California's community redevelopment agencies.

➤ **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

- Yesterday, Mayor Eaton, Mayor Pro Tem Raft, Council Member Paulitz, and I attended the graduating ceremony for the City's 2012 Por La Vida Program. Seven women donned teal caps and gowns and received certificates for completing the City's free 16-week program.

The ceremony, held in the Council Chambers, was also attended by Supervisor Gary Ovitt, representatives from the offices of Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod and Assemblymember Norma Torres, and family members and friends of the graduates.

The Por La Vida Program, in its 12th year with over 185 graduates, teaches participants about how to live a healthier lifestyle by providing information on salt, sugar, fat content, physical activity, serving portions, self-esteem for the entire family, and visits to the supermarket (shopping on a budget). The Program is taught in English and Spanish and is funded by the Network for a Healthy California, Champions for Change.

Photos are featured on Page 9.

- The Montclair Youth Center (MYC) enjoyed another busy week. With an average daily attendance of 90 participants and a record-breaking 111 participants yesterday, staff was busy creating activities to keep everyone occupied. Some of the week's activities included dodge ball games, Just Dance tournaments, and extreme cookie making. Favorite craft projects included shaving cream art and craft wars. Participants were given an hour, a set amount of raw craft material, and instructions to use their imagination to produce art. The end results showed that MYC participants are very talented.

In addition to activities, staff has continued to remind participants about the importance of balancing fun and academics. Over the last few weeks, youth have continually used the study lounge and can be found completing homework and working with classmates on group projects.

A photo collage of this week's activities can be found on Page 10. For additional information regarding MYC activities, call (909) 625-9482 or (909) 625-9496.

- The City's new Yard Sale ordinance became effective August 1, 2012. Residents are now permitted to conduct yard sales only on the first full weekends (Friday through Sunday) of the months of February, May, August, and November.

Fifty-four yard sale permits were sold for the first "yard sale weekend" (August 3-5), which is about twice the usual amount of permits sold. Since the first weekend, there have been minimal inquiries about yard sales from residents who are not familiar with the new ordinance. Inquiring residents are provided with a bilingual flyer outlining the new guidelines. Similarly, when Code Enforcement staff encounters an unpermitted yard sale, the resident is advised of the new rules, provided with a flyer, and asked to cease the yard sale activity.

Information regarding the new yard sale regulations is available at City Hall and on the City's website. The next designated yard sale weekend is November 2-4.

- As I indicated in an e-mail message to all City employees on Monday, the Montclair family was saddened to learn of the passing of Planning Commissioner Maynard Lenhert. Mac, as he was known to friends, acquaintances, and his City family, passed away on August 20 at the age of 89.

Mac served on the Planning Commission for nearly 24 years, having first been appointed in October 1988. He was also an elected member of the governing board of the Monte Vista Water District and a trustee of the West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District.

Mac often mentioned he first became a resident of what is now known as the Inland Empire in 1945 and could recall in great detail the changes that he saw occur in the ensuing decades. Mac had a passionate enthusiasm for community participation and volunteerism, even as advancing age and occasional health maladies slowed him down. He was a past honoree of the City's Volunteer of the Year award, served as a reserve Code Enforcement Officer for a period of time and, as resident Loren Martens mentioned at Monday night's City Council meeting, he also served as a reserve Montclair police officer in the 1960s.

Mac's long-time presence and contributions to the City and community will be greatly missed. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the Lenhert family.

- The L.A. County Fair opens on Friday, August 31 at Fairplex in Pomona and runs through Sunday, September 30. The Fair will be open on Monday, September 3 for Labor Day, but will be closed subsequent Mondays and

Tuesdays. Live thoroughbred horseracing will be held from September 7 through September 23—also dark on Mondays and Tuesdays.

City employees and the community may purchase discounted Fair tickets, good for any open day, at the Recreation facility and the Senior Center. Adult tickets are \$10 and child tickets (6-12 years old) are \$6. Children 5 and under are free. "Senior Wednesday" coupons, good for free admission for seniors on September 5, 12, 19, and 26, are also available for purchase at the Recreation facility and the Senior Center. Cash is the only payment method that will be accepted for the purchase of tickets.

Montclair Day at the Fair on Wednesday, September 26 will include a parade featuring Montclair groups and a special ceremony for Montclair's Community Heroes. Coupons for \$5 admission to the Fair on Montclair Day are available at the Senior Center, Recreation facility, and City Hall. These tickets must be purchased online in advance.

The Montclair Golden Express will provide free transportation for those 18 and older on Montclair Day only, beginning at 11 a.m. To make reservations, call Program Aide Martha Medina at (909) 625-9456. For more information on discount tickets, call (909) 625-9479.

➤ **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

- Last week, Police Detectives Gloria Perez, Ben Martin, and Raul Perez attended a three-day DNA Evidence for Investigators training class at LAPD's Elysian Park Academy. The course was funded by the National Institute of Justice and was provided by Oakland Police Department.

Biological evidence has played a major role in solving cold cases, identifying individuals, and providing leads in homicide, sexual assault, and burglary cases. Crime scene investigators, criminal investigators, and district attorney investigators play a vital role in the collection and/or presentation of biological evidence recovered in a criminal case. However, these different types of investigators are often compartmentalized and are not aware of the upstream or downstream role biological evidence plays in the overall investigation.

The Detectives learned the what, why, and how evidence is processed. Training also focused on various types of criminal incidents and how to more effectively use the laboratory analysis to further their investigation. The role biological evidence plays in a criminal investigation from crime scene to courtroom was also addressed.

➤ **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- This week, Fire personnel attended a fitness and nutrition lecture given by K.C. Kranz from Mt. San Antonio College Exercise Science/Wellness Center. K.C. focused her lecture on making time in your schedule for exercise and stress management. She also provided several on-line resources to assist with tracking food intake, estimating caloric intake needs, and preparing healthy meals.

Fire personnel appreciate K.C.'s knowledge and expertise in her field and look forward to attending her annual lecture.

- I am deeply saddened to inform you of the passing of John Pohl, son of Fire Captain David and Robin Pohl. John passed away on Friday, August 10. Funeral services were held this morning at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Rancho Cucamonga.

The Montclair City Council and City employees offer their sympathy and support to the Pohl family during this difficult time.

➤ **PUBLIC WORKS/SUCCESSOR REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

- With assistance from the Information Technology Division, the City Yard is now equipped with a high tech video surveillance camera system. Purchased through a local vendor, four motion-activated cameras now record all movements at the City Yard.

The surveillance camera system became necessary after the City Yard experienced two burglaries, one in June 2010 and again in January 2011. These were the first burglaries to occur at the City Yard since it opened in the 1960s. Both times, the thieves took more than \$13,500 in spray paint cans and metal materials.

During the economic crisis, many cities are still experiencing metal thefts. Multiple local and state agencies have already inquired about our new state-of-the-art system for possible installation at their facilities.

ECS:spa

*“Silence is golden when you
can't think of a good answer.”
~ Muhammad Ali*

AUGUST 2012

		
27	Planning Commission Meeting - Canceled	
28	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Council Chambers	9:00 a.m.

SEPTEMBER 2012

		
3	Labor Day – City Hall Closed	
4	City Council Workshop Council Chambers	5:45 p.m.
4	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
5	Community Action Committee Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
10	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
11	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
17	Code Enforcement Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	6:00 p.m.
17	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
20	Safety Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
20	Public Safety Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	2:00 p.m.
24	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
25	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
26	Montclair Day at the Fair	



Por La Vida Graduation Ceremony August 22, 2012



M.F.C. Week 3



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