



CITY OF MONTCLAIR

Montclair Civic Center
5111 Benito Street
Montclair, CA 91763

August 30, 2012

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Edward C. Starr, City Manager

SUBJECT: CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT: August 24-30, 2012

➤ **CITY MANAGER/ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENTS**

- On Tuesday, Governor Brown and legislative members released a major public employee pension overhaul package that would restrict benefits for new and current public employees. Brown hailed the pension overhaul as a landmark achievement, stating it will make pension benefits for public employees lower than they were in 1975—new public employees would receive pensions estimated to be 30 percent smaller compared to current benefits.

Brown and legislative members argue the reform makes fundamental changes designed to rein in costs and help ensure the public employee retirement system is sustainable for the long-term by saving state and local governments tens of billions of dollars over the coming decades. The Department of Finance notes that \$36 billion will be saved just by changing the retirement age.

The bill, which must be passed by Friday, is considered key to Brown's tax initiative that goes before voters in November 2012. Governor Brown, who introduced his own 12-point pension reform plan, vowed to sign the bill into law even though it lacks his proposed hybrid plan—a proposal that would have offered new employees a 401(k) style plan as a component of pension benefits. Other proposed changes not in the bill include changing the composition of the pension board to add two independent, public members, and reducing retiree health benefits to future employees.

One major feature of the reform proposal is a cap on the compensation amount that can be used to calculate a new employee's retirement pay. Currently, there is no limit on the pay. Under the proposal, the cap for public employees participating in Social Security would be based on the Social Security wage limit, currently \$110,100 per year. Public employees not paying into Social Security would be limited to 120 percent of the Social Security wage limit, or about \$132,000 per year.

The bill also eliminates double-dipping, bans employees from enhancing pension payouts by artificially inflating or "spiking" their final years of salary, prohibits retroactive pension increases, and eliminates buying pension credits or "airtime." Double-dipping is when an employee retires from public service and then returns to work while getting retirement pay as well as a new salary.

Public employee groups are calling the bill the largest rollback of retirement benefits in state history, stating it will hurt hundreds of thousands of low- and middle-income workers. Legislative members argue that public employees failed to agree to pension changes at the table, forcing the state to act.

Specific components of the proposed pension reform bill include the following:

For New Public Employees Hired on or after January 1, 2013

- ✓ Caps pensionable salaries at the Social Security contribution and wage base of \$110,100 (or 120 percent of that amount for employees not covered by Social Security)
- ✓ Requires new employees to contribute at least half of normal pension costs
- ✓ Permits local governments to develop plans that are lower cost and lower risk if certified by the system's actuary and approved by the Legislature
- ✓ Increases retirement age by two years or more for all new public employees
- ✓ Eliminates all "3 percent" formulas going forward:
 - For local miscellaneous employees: 2.5 percent at 55 changes to 2 percent at 62; with a maximum of 2.5 percent at 67
 - For local fire and police employees: 3 percent at 50 changes to 2.7 percent at 57
- ✓ Establishes consistent formulas for all new employees going forward
- ✓ Requires three-year final compensation to stop spiking for all new employees.

For All Current Public Employees

- ✓ Requires employees to contribute at least half of normal pension costs by January 2017, subject to collective bargaining.

For Both New (hired on or after January 1, 2013) and Current Public Employees

- ✓ Calculates benefits based on regular, recurring pay to stop spiking for all new employees
 - ✓ Limits post-retirement employment for all employees
 - ✓ Convicted felons will forfeit pension benefits
 - ✓ Prohibits retroactive pension increases for all employees
 - ✓ Prohibits pension holidays for all employees and employers—a pension holiday is a designated period when payment on the member contribution and/or employer rate is suspended
 - ✓ Prohibits purchases of service credit for all employees
 - ✓ Provides additional authority to local governments to require employees to pay for a greater share of pension costs through impasse proceedings if they are unsuccessful in achieving the goal of 50-50 cost sharing in five years
 - ✓ State public employees: Directs state savings from cost sharing toward additional payments to reduce the state's unfunded liability.
- On September 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Chino Basin Water Conservation District (CBWCD) and Montclair Relay for Life will host "Bark for Life" to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. The fundraiser will be held at the CBWCD office located at 4594 San Bernardino Street in Montclair. The life-long contributions of our Canine Caregivers will be honored.

The fundraiser will offer the opportunity for people to be empowered through their canine companion partnerships and to contribute to cancer cures through the mission of the American Cancer Society. Canine Caregivers are companion dogs, guide dogs, service dogs, rescue dogs, therapy dogs, police dogs, cancer survivor dogs, and diagnostic dogs who, with their owners, are joining the American Cancer Society as relay teams. They participate to celebrate cancer survivorship, to honor lives lost to cancer, and to fundraise in support of the American Cancer Society mission of eliminating cancer through research, education, advocacy, and service.

The event is hosted by the American Cancer Society's Montclair Relay for Life team with all the funds supporting the cause. A flyer with additional event information is included on Page 8.

➤ **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

- The Senior Center continues to bustle with activity. Last Wednesday, the Senior Center hosted a "Ladies Day Out" presentation, courtesy of Montclair Plaza's Nordstrom. Nordstrom representatives discussed the importance of skin care, and a few lucky ladies were selected to assist with make-up demonstrations and to receive full makeovers. All of the women received a gift bag with Clinique and Estee Lauder skin care products, perfume, and make-up samples; and were treated to refreshments. A photo collage of the presentation is shown on Page 9.

The next day, the Senior Center hosted a "Gentlemen's Day Out." The men enjoyed sixties music, hot dogs, non-alcoholic beer, and chocolate cigars while playing the dice game LCR (left, center, right), poker, and Blackjack. Senior Center volunteer Trisha Martinez dealt cards, and winners were able to choose from a variety of prizes. Pictures are included on Page 10.

Yesterday, the Senior Center held its monthly birthday party at the Community Center. More than 270 seniors attended the luau-themed event, received leis, and enjoyed Hawaiian entertainment. Lunch included Hawaiian chicken and side dishes, tropical smoothies, ice cream, and birthday cake. A photo collage of the event is featured on Page 11.

- The Montclair Youth Center (MYC) during week three saw an average of 90 participants a day. Activities included unique crafts such as hour glass making and soap sculptures, and game tournaments such as Street Fighter, pool, and foosball. A favorite tournament of participants was the whipped cream/gummy bear relay race. Friday night at the MYC was Casino Night. The weekly food craft was Oreo-stuffed cupcakes.

A photo collage of the week's activities is included on Page 12.

- The L.A. County Fair opens tomorrow at 3 p.m. at Fairplex in Pomona and runs through Sunday, September 30. The Fair is open on Monday, September 3 for Labor Day but is closed subsequent Mondays and Tuesdays. Live thoroughbred horseracing will be held September 7 through September 23—also dark on Mondays and Tuesdays.

City employees and the community may again purchase discounted Fair tickets from the Recreation facility and the Senior Center. Tickets are good any day the Fair is open. Adult tickets are \$10 and child tickets (ages 6 to 12) 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 from the Recreation facility and the Senior Center. Tickets must be purchased with cash.

Montclair Day at the Fair is Wednesday, September 26. The day's activities will include a parade featuring Montclair groups, and a special ceremony for Montclair's Community Heroes, Ron Foss and Hollis Judkins. Ron, Reserve Police Captain, is celebrating 32 years as a Police Department volunteer, and Hollis served many years as a member of the City's Community Action Committee. She also volunteers in a variety of roles at the Senior Center.

Coupons good 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 discounted tickets, call the Recreation facility at (909) 625-9479.

➤ **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

- No items to report.

➤ **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- On Monday, staff assigned to the Operations section of the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) met to review a newly developed digital tactical board and provide input on the system's features. The digital tactical board is a web-enabled crisis information management system that uses Geographical Information System software to provide a common operating picture and track real-time disaster information. It was developed through a cooperative effort between the City's Information Technology Division, the Montclair Fire Department, and Redlands University and was purchased with Emergency Management Performance Grant Program funds.

The goal of this project was to develop a system that could provide a visual representation of what is occurring in the City during a disaster situation to assist EOC staff in making effective and efficient decisions. The tactical board can track resources; display road closures, damaged infrastructure, and shelter locations; and prioritize incidents.

- On Tuesday and Wednesday, Secretary Angelic Bird attended a class offered by the California Specialized Training Institute on integrating access and functional needs into Emergency Management. Training was focused on disaster planning, response, and recovery efforts for people with disabilities and those with access and functional needs. The subject matter included laws and regulations, whole community planning, communication issues, sheltering, evacuation and transportation, and training and exercises.

This course was funded by the San Bernardino County Fire Department/Office of Emergency Services under the Fiscal Year 2010 Homeland Security Grant Program.

➤ **PUBLIC WORKS/SUCCESSOR REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

- Beacon Economics is forecasting the unemployment rate in the Inland Empire will drop below double digits near the end of 2014, and the total number of non-farm jobs should return to its pre-recession level in early 2015. Despite high general unemployment, more executives are saying skilled talent is hard to find. Nationwide in July 2012, the unemployment rate for professional and skilled technical workers was only 4.8 percent versus the 9.8 percent for production workers.

According to the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate in the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario metropolitan area was 12.7 percent in July 2012 (down 1.6 percent from the July 2011 unemployment rate of 14.3 percent). The unemployment rate for San Bernardino County was 12.4 percent. Year over year, the region grew 23,100 jobs, marking a 2.3 percent increase. Professional and business services posted the greatest year-over gain, adding 16,200 jobs.

- On Monday, Governor Brown signed AB1600 into law, amending the Gold Line Construction Authority's enabling legislation to extend the Gold Line Foothill Extension project boundaries to Montclair. The changes also make Montclair an "Extension city" and the San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) a non-voting member of the Authority board of directors. This is good news—and very timely—following last week's publication of the Draft EIR for the Azusa to Montclair segment for public review and comment. Click [here](#) to view the Draft EIR.

Various newspaper editorials, including one from the *Inland Valley Daily Bulletin*, have been written in support of this legislation following the Senate's approval earlier this month. Editorials have expressed the benefits of extending the line past an arbitrary county border and note that "traffic is not a respecter of county lines." The editorials also highlight the tremendous relief that would come from even a few thousand commuters exiting the 210 Freeway for the Gold Line. Of course, with the Draft EIR estimating nearly 18,000 daily boardings on the Azusa to Montclair segment by 2035, that relief is real.

AB1600 was introduced by Assembly Member Norma Torres, who is an ardent supporter of the project. The legislation was coauthored by Senators Huff, Hernandez and Lui; as well as Assembly Member Portantino.

ECS:spa

*"Don't cry because it's over;
smile because it happened."
~ Dr. Seuss*

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.
6	Memorial Service for Maynard Lenhert Bethany Baptist Church, Reception to follow at the Montclair Community Center	1:30 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	

Bark For Life

Relay for Life of Montclair

Chino Basin Water Conservation District
and the Montclair Relay for Life
invite you to join us to celebrate
Relay for Life with our four-legged loved ones!

Bark for Life

September 22, 2012

Registration starts at 9:00 a.m.
Opening Ceremonies, games and fun
from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Registration is \$20 for the first dog and \$10 for
each additional dog (per owner). Owners receive
a free raffle ticket for each dog registered.

-  Activities and Contests
-  Vendors and Workshops
-  Exercise and Fun



Celebrate.
Remember.
Fight Back.

Animals also get cancer - We FIGHT BACK for them too!



Location: Wilderness Park / CBWCD
4594 San Bernardino St.
Montclair, CA 91763

More Info: dfigoni@cbwcd.org / 909-626-2711
www.RelayForLife.org/barkmontclairca

RelayForLife.org | 1.800.227.2345



Senior Center Presentation Ladies Day Out



★ Skin Care ★



Senior Center Event Gentlemen's Day Out





**Montclair Senior Citizens
LUAU PARTY
August 29, 2012**





Montclair Youth Center



Arts & Crafts

M.
Y.
C.

R
O
C
K
S
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It's Time For...DODGEBALL!!!

