



CITY OF MONTCLAIR

Montclair Civic Center
5111 Benito Street
Montclair, CA 91763

December 13, 2012

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Edward C. Starr, City Manager

SUBJECT: CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT: December 7-13, 2012

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

- Beginning next year, millions of California homeowners can expect to see increases in their property taxes well above the 2 percent per year cap set by Proposition 13. The reason: Many homeowners in the state were beneficiaries of reassessments triggered by the plunge in home values that resulted from the housing market collapse.

County assessors around the state, including the San Bernardino County Assessor's Office, have, for the last several years, proactively conducted "decline-in-value" reassessments. These reassessments were conducted for property owners who realized home value declines below the purchase price—the base year value upon which property taxes are customarily based in compliance with Proposition 13. For these property owners, taxes were lowered to reflect the reassessed value. Depending on when the owner bought the property and for what price, tax reductions can be significant; e.g., someone who bought a home in San Bernardino County in late 2005 for \$630,000 could have realized an annual property tax reduction up to \$3,000 if the home's value was reassessed to \$325,000.

But now, with home values inching back up, homeowners who benefitted from a reassessment will discover that property taxes can rise to reflect market conditions, up to the purchase price of the home.

Since Proposition 13 was enacted in 1978, Californians have become accustomed to the fact that their property taxes can rise by no more than

2 percent per year. When home values dropped, current law appropriately allowed for taxes to be readjusted downward. But now, as home values rise, property taxes can go back up to reflect the percentage increase in the value of the home up to the base-year value, even if that increase exceeds 2 percent annually.

This growth in property taxes may substantially increase government revenues; however, it is likely to come at great surprise and distress to homeowners when they review their tax bills starting next fall, even though they realize commensurate increases in home values.

Homeowners who realized reassessed home values and the lower taxes they produced are likely to forget that reductions were temporary; and instead, when property taxes rise, may blame increases on local government adjustments in ad valorem taxes or changes to Proposition 13's formula provisions.

➤ **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

- Last Thursday, Mayor Paul Eaton; Mayor Pro Tem Bill Ruh; and Council Members Leonard Paulitz, Carolyn Raft, and John Dutrey joined more than 1,000 people at the City's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony and visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Children of all ages were delighted with the lighting of the community Christmas tree located in front of the Youth Center, the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus on a fire truck, and a pre-event outdoor musical performance by a children's choir from Our Lady of Lourdes School. Inside the Youth Center, the community was treated to a musical performance by the Montclair Walker's Choral Group, refreshments, and the letters to Santa station.

Special thanks goes to the Public Works Department for setting up, providing crowd control, and tearing down the entire winter wonderland and Santa sleigh/photo area; and to the IT Division for setting up and printing digital photos and overseeing the event's audio needs. Recognition also goes to the following for their assistance with this event: Police Officer Rob Pipersky and Senior Program Specialist Ester Vargas Pipersky for serving as Santa and Mrs. Claus; the Montclair Community Action Committee; the Montclair Fire Department; the Montclair Police Department; the Montclair Kiwanis and Key Club; the Montclair-Ontario Junior Women's Club; Human Services Division staff; and our wonderful volunteers!

A photo collage from the event is included on Page 9.

➤ **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

- Yesterday Mayor Paul Eaton, Council Member Carolyn Raft, and I attended the Police Department's 3rd Annual Holiday Potluck Luncheon at the Police Department. This year, the 2012 awards for Officer of the Year and Annual Achievement were announced at the luncheon.

The Officer of the Year is selected by the Sergeants and the award is presented each year to the Police Officer whose contribution to the Montclair Police Department and the community goes above and beyond that which is routinely expected. This year, the recipient of the award is Officer Dave Taylor.

Officer Taylor began his career with the Montclair Police Department on January 7, 1991. He has held a variety of assignments during his 22-year career. For the past six years, Dave's been assigned to Montclair High School as a School Resource Officer. Dave attended Montclair High School, and he has been able to give back to the school that helped mold him into the person he is today.

As School Resource Officer, Dave has familiarized himself with high school staff and policies. When he first took the assignment, Dave quickly learned how many incidents occur daily on the campus. He found he needed to take on the roles of teacher, counselor, and mentor to many students.

Officer Taylor's calm and even temperament makes him well-suited for the position. His demeanor allows him to build a climate of trust among the students and staff. Each group recognizes his genuineness and compassion in dealing with them, which has earned him their respect. At the end of the last school year, the students dedicated the 2011-2012 yearbook to Officer Taylor. They obviously value him as a member of their school.

Officer Taylor has proven over and over again to be a dedicated, hard-working employee who has gone beyond the call of duty on many occasions to bring credit to the Montclair Police Department. The staff and students at Montclair High School have recognized Dave's value to the community, and so have we. Officer Taylor truly stands out as this year's Montclair Police Department Officer of the Year.

Each year, Department personnel vote on who they would like to receive the Annual Achievement Award. The deciding factor lies with the past three years' recipients of the award. This year, the 2012 Annual Achievement Award went to Officer Amanda Holloway.

Amanda joined the Montclair Police Department as a Citation Clerk in June 2004. In October 2005, she was hired by the Department to attend the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Academy, and in March 2006, she graduated from the academy and was assigned to Patrol.

Amanda is one of those rare Officers who epitomize the highest standards of professionalism, loyalty, commitment, and dedicated service to the organization and to the community. Some of her assignments and responsibilities have included:

- ✓ Field Training Officer
- ✓ Department Range master
- ✓ Detective Bureau
- ✓ School Resource Officer

As the School Resource Officer for Serrano and Vernon Middle Schools, Amanda recognized the potential dangers of bullying which is effecting the youth of our community. Historically, children have teased each other with insults and bantering. However, the development of the internet, cell phones, e-mails, and the increase in social networking has brought about cyberbullying.

Amanda took the initiative to develop an Anti-Bullying Program at both middle schools. She obtained a buy-in from the schools' principals and teachers. She secured funding from the Montclair Police Department, the Montclair Police Officers Association, and businesses throughout the community. Amanda provided the week-long Anti-Bullying Programs in 2011 and 2012. Amanda's creative thinking and problem solving, organizational, and communication skills inspired the cooperation and confidence of Officers Courtnie Mair and Andy Graziano to support her with the program.

Amanda is a positive and powerful asset to our organization. She has displayed dynamic leadership qualities in herself, which has contributed to a favorable image of the organization.

Congratulations, Dave and Amanda!

- Reserve Officers conducted a Traffic Enforcement Program on Saturday, December 8. Fifty-seven citations were issued and two vehicles were impounded—the drivers were issued citations for Unlicensed Driver and Driving on a Suspended License. Officers also recovered an unoccupied stolen vehicle and responded to calls for service.

The next Traffic Detail is planned for January 14, 2013. Our appreciation goes to Reserve Captain Ron Foss, Reserve Sergeants Frankie Fonseca and Scott Stephenson, and Reserve Officers Randy Ortiz and Joe Kuskie for a great job, as always.

- Santa will ride his sleigh through the streets of Montclair on Sunday, December 16 to give Christmas greetings and candy to children. Montclair Police personnel will decorate the sleigh at the Police Department starting at 1 p.m. Santa is scheduled to depart the Police Department at 2:30 p.m.

City employees who would like to help decorate the sleigh and participate in this popular annual event are invited to show up at 1 p.m. on Sunday.

➤ ***FIRE DEPARTMENT***

- On Monday, December 10, ME151 and MS151 responded to a traffic collision in the 5600 block of Moreno Street. The involved vehicle collided into a parked motor home and sustained major front-end damage.

The driver was treated for trauma injuries by Fire Paramedics and was transported to Montclair Hospital Medical Center by AMR. Once the driver was stabilized and transported, Fire crews turned their attention to "Sheba," a 5-year-old German shepherd that was riding in the involved vehicle.

During the medical assessment of Sheba, she showed signs of acute respiratory distress. MS151 personnel sprung into action and provided her with oxygen through a special animal oxygen mask. Once Sheba was stabilized, she was transported to an emergency veterinary hospital for further evaluation and treatment.

➤ ***PUBLIC WORKS/SUCCESSOR REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY***

- Last Thursday, the City received and opened bids for the Northwest Montclair Street Rehabilitation Project. Seven bids were received, with bids ranging from \$776,636 to \$936,716. The City's estimate was \$860,000. The low bidder, Gentry Brothers, Inc., has constructed several projects in the City over the last few years, including several segments of the Mission Boulevard Corridor Improvement Project.

The project limits are generally north of San Bernardino Street and west of the San Antonio Channel within the City limits. Work includes tree removals; replacement of uplifted curb, gutter, and sidewalk; and pavement resurfacing of 28 residential streets.

The City Council will be requested to award this project to Gentry Brothers, Inc., on Monday night. Construction is expected to start on January 2, 2013, and construction should be completed by late winter.

Funding for the Northwest Montclair Street Rehabilitation Project is through Proposition 1B funds and the Gas Tax Fund.

- Thanks to Equipment Mechanic Mike Lawrence and his heavy equipment diesel qualifications and experience, the City has been able to perform a number of repairs in-house that historically were sent out to private vendors. Recently, Mike replaced an engine on a street sweeper that had a damaged cam shaft. The rebuilt International long block engine cost \$12,500, and the City saved \$5,000 in labor by having Mike do the job.

We owe the City mechanics a big "thank you" for their efforts, work ethic, and dedication to saving the City money on vehicle repairs.

Photos are featured on Page 10.

ECS:spa

"The joy of brightening other lives, bearing each other's burdens, easing other's loads and supplanting empty hearts and lives with generous gifts becomes for us the magic of Christmas."

~ W. C. Jones

DECEMBER 2012



17	Code Enforcement Meeting City Hall Conference Room	6:00 p.m.
17	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
18	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Council Chambers	9:00 a.m.
20	Safety Committee Luncheon Dolce Café & Bakery	11:30 a.m.
20	Public Works Committee Meeting - Canceled	
24	City Hall Closed through December 31 in Observance of Christmas and New Year's Eve	

JANUARY 2013



01	New Year's Day – City Hall Closed	
07	City Council Workshop Council Chambers	5:45 p.m.
07	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
09	Oversight Board Meeting Council Chambers	6:00 p.m.
14	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
15	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
16	Community Action Committee Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
17	Safety Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
17	Public Works Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	2:00 p.m.
21	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – City Hall Closed	
22	Code Enforcement Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	6:00 p.m.
22	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
28	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
29	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.



Equipment Mechanic Mike Lawrence contemplating his task of replacing the engine on the City's street sweeper