



## CITY OF MONTCLAIR

Montclair Civic Center  
5111 Benito Street  
Montclair, CA 91763

July 25, 2013

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Marilyn J. Staats, Acting City Manager

**SUBJECT:** CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT: July 19-25, 2013

---

➤ **CITY MANAGER/ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENTS**

- Amid an outcry from worried retirees, a lawsuit threat, and talk of legislative action, the California Public Employee Retirement System (CalPERS) is delaying plans to launch a website that would disclose pensioners' names, their retirement allowances, and other public pension information. The pension fund had intended to start the searchable database this month, but applied the brakes after government retiree and employee groups said they will ask lawmakers to narrow public information laws to shield some retiree pension data. The groups, worried that a searchable pension website would expose vulnerable elderly retirees to scammers and identity thieves, are proposing legislation to redact the names of pensioners, beneficiaries, and survivors.

In early July, CalPERS announced plans to launch a searchable pension database in an effort to demonstrate transparency to the public. Once launched, the database would provide retiree information considered public, including a pensioner's name, monthly gross pension payment, base allowance, Cost of Living Adjustment, years of service, date of retirement, pension benefit formula, final compensation, and last employer.

Approximately one-third of CalPERS' 1.6 million members are either retirees, beneficiaries, or survivors who receive a monthly allowance. However, for the present, the new database was to include only retiree information.

CalPERS annually receives and fills many requests for public information, including comprehensive inquiries from news organizations seeking information about every retiree in the system. CalPERS officials made the decision to go public, believing member data would receive greater protections on the pension fund's website as opposed to external databases. However, CalPERS' plan to launch a website disclosing pensioner information does not prohibit external requests for information. One of those external organizations is the California Foundation for Fiscal Responsibility and its ["\\$100,000 Pension Club"](#) website.

The emerging effort to alter the 45-year-old California Public Records Act comes just a few weeks after the Legislature proposed relaxing the Act's requirement for local governments to provide public records as part of a move to cut \$20 million in state funding to reimburse cities, counties, and other public agencies for costs to comply with public records requests.

Legislative leaders and Governor Brown backed away from the plan after good-government groups and media outlets blasted the plan as essentially gutting the state's transparency law. Instead, the Governor and Legislature now plan to propose a Constitutional Amendment requiring local governments to comply with the Public Records Act. A Constitutional Amendment would free the state of reimbursement obligations.

The effort to curb the release of data may be thwarted by a series of court rulings requiring local government agencies to disclose compensation costs, including employees' names, job titles, and compensation. Courts have not mandated releasing Social Security Numbers or birth dates. CalPERS does not distribute that information about its members now, nor would its website include that data.

As it stands, California's employee pay and retiree pension disclosure laws are some of the most wide-ranging in the nation. Nevada's pension system, for example, forbids any disclosure of individual member accounts. In contrast, Oregon's pension fund disclosure rules are much like California's, but also include the dollar amounts of benefits paid to survivor beneficiaries and alternate payees of members (former spouses), but not the names of those recipients.

➤ **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

- Tuesday night was the fourth of five weekly nights in July that featured live bands in the park. The Silverados, a country band, played to a crowd of 200 people, including county music fan Council Member Carolyn Raft, at Alma Hofman Park. Next to the stage, a group from the Senior Center's line dancing class got into the groove. In the children's craft area, kids made cowboys on a stick, paper bag cows, and western vests.

Photos can be found on Page 8.

Join us next Tuesday at 7 p.m. for the final concert by the popular classic rock band, The Ravelers. Bring your friends and family, blankets and lawn chairs, and a picnic dinner for a fun evening in the park. The Splash Pad will remain open until 8 p.m., refreshments will be for sale, and there will be free activities for kids.

- The Montclair Medical Clinic recently received a \$500 donation from the Soroptimist International of Montclair/Inland Valley. The funds are designated to help support medical clinic expenses.

The City of Montclair is grateful to Soroptimist International of Montclair/Inland Valley for its generous donation.

#### ➤ **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

- Tuesday morning, among family members and peers, Brandon Kumanski was sworn in to duty as Police Lieutenant by Police Chief Mike deMoet. Brandon's promotion to Lieutenant completes the Police Department's Command Staff. Brandon's duties will include supervision of Patrol's 4-10 Officers, the Field Training Program, the Reserve FTO Program, the Major Accident Investigation Team, and Mobile Field Force.

At the swearing-in ceremony, Chief deMoet announced the Command Staff have reorganized their assignments to include a new division, Community Relations. The primary goal of the Community Relations Division is to improve the quality of life for residents and to maintain an environment in which commerce can thrive. To facilitate this goal, the Community Relations Division will work to educate the public, reduce crime, reduce the fear of crime, and increase public awareness.

#### ➤ **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- Suppression crews received beneficial training on electrical emergencies on July 23-25 from Scott Brown of Southern California Edison (SCE). The Fire Department often responds to high-voltage power lines that have detached from power poles during high winds. Firefighters can also come into contact with exposed electrical wires while extinguishing a structure fire.

Scott discussed the various dangers of coming into contact with energized electrical lines, such as burns, loss of arms and legs, and death. Other topics covered included identifying the downed or exposed wires, shutting down the power, denying access to the area, and waiting for a SCE employee to arrive.

➤ **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

- In a Department Head staff meeting several weeks ago, we discussed ongoing problems with violations of the Splash Pad rules and the effect these problems are having on maintenance. I requested increased Police patrols, using Reserve Officers, and a temporary implementation of Splash Pad monitors. The monitors from the Human Services Department are on the job daily and can be easily identified by their stand-out red vests and wide-brimmed hats. Since the monitoring started a few weeks ago, breakdowns are less frequent and maintenance has become much easier.

Prior to having the park monitors, maintenance staff was backwashing the filters every other day. With the park monitors in place, backwashing is now done once every seven to ten days because there is much less debris in the basket strainers. Debris, such as water balloons, Styrofoam and cardboard cups, plastic bags, cardboard, paper, etc., together with lint from non-swimming attire, often clogs the filtration system, requiring more frequent backwashing. Cleanliness of these basket strainers is crucial to the operation of the Splash Pad.

When debris accumulates in these strainers, the volume of water sent to the spray features is diminished. Poor water circulation throughout the system, in turn, causes the system to shut down. On an average, the pump circulates as much as 220 gallons per minute (gpm) throughout the system. Of this 220 gpm, there is approximately 170 gpm being fed to the spray features and 50 gpm being fed to the chemical feed/return line. When debris fills the strainer basket, the flow drops to 150 gpm, causing very little water flow at the spray feature and, in some instances, shutting down the system completely.

Thanks go to all of the park monitors for jobs well done!

➤ **SUCCESSOR REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY/MONTCLAIR HOUSING CORPORATION**

- A striking and positive transformation continues throughout the San Antonio Gateway area—located between Holt Boulevard, Mills Avenue, and Kingsley Street—as the fourth affordable housing development project has started construction. In May 2011, National Community Renaissance of California (National CORE) received approval to construct an 18-unit residential project to house developmentally disabled individuals. The development will include a community room for residents, as well as common outdoor spaces, such as a ground floor patio, a courtyard, and a second-level roof deck over the community room for passive recreation activities. These areas are intended for use by residents and will support the needs of the physically disabled.

The project was delayed nearly two years as a result of the State Legislature's and Governor Jerry Brown's decisions to eliminate redevelopment agencies throughout California. Redevelopment dissolution forced National CORE to seek and secure tax credit funding because the Redevelopment Agency was unable to provide the assistance previously pledged in its Memorandum of Understanding with National CORE.



*"Courage is not the towering oak that sees storms come and go; it is the fragile blossom that opens in the snow."*

*~ Alice Mackenzie Swaim*

## **JULY 2013**



30	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
30	Concert in the Park Alma Hofman Park	7:00 p.m.

# AUGUST 2013



5	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
12	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
13	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
14	Oversight Board Meeting Council Chambers	6:00 p.m.
15	Safety Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
15	Public Works Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	2:00 p.m.
19	Code Enforcement Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	6:00 p.m.
19	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
26	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
27	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.

# City of Montclair Summer Concert Series

