



January 9, 2014

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Edward C. Starr, City Manager

SUBJECT: WEEKLY REPORT: December 20, 2013–January 9, 2014

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

- Over the past week, media reports claimed that airlines were either pulling out of Ontario International Airport (ONT) or would drastically reduce offerings over the next three months. Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) officials have now gone on record to discredit the reports as incorrect. LAWA emphatically states that no airlines are pulling out of ONT, asserting instead that flights and airlines were added in 2013.

LAWA further states the projected decline in Ontario's total seats for the first quarter of 2014 is also not as dramatic as is being stated. LAWA places the number at -7 percent, not the -24.5 percent being reported. Each year, airport officials and airlines make adjustments to seasonal services based on seasonal travel patterns and changes in demand. LAWA anticipates seasonal demand will increase later in the calendar year—similar to what many other airports in the region can expect.

According to LAWA officials, the number of fewer airline seats at ONT is reflective of two things:

1. Airlines are using smaller aircraft to service scheduled routes
2. Some seasonal routes have been eliminated

LAWA officials state that when the spring schedule comes out, airlines will add seats back as demand increases. In April, Volaris Airline will begin new service to Guadalajara, Mexico.

As for nonstop fares, LAWA officials assert that if you compare ONT to its peer airports, John Wayne and Burbank, fares at ONT are extremely competitive and often beat John Wayne and Burbank airport fares to like markets.

ONT is considered a medium-hub airport with 7 carriers currently offering 60 daily flights, and 14 nonstop destinations to 13 major U.S. cities and Guadalajara, Mexico. ONT is also a major cargo hub, handling more than 447,230 tons of cargo in 2012.

➤ ***HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT***

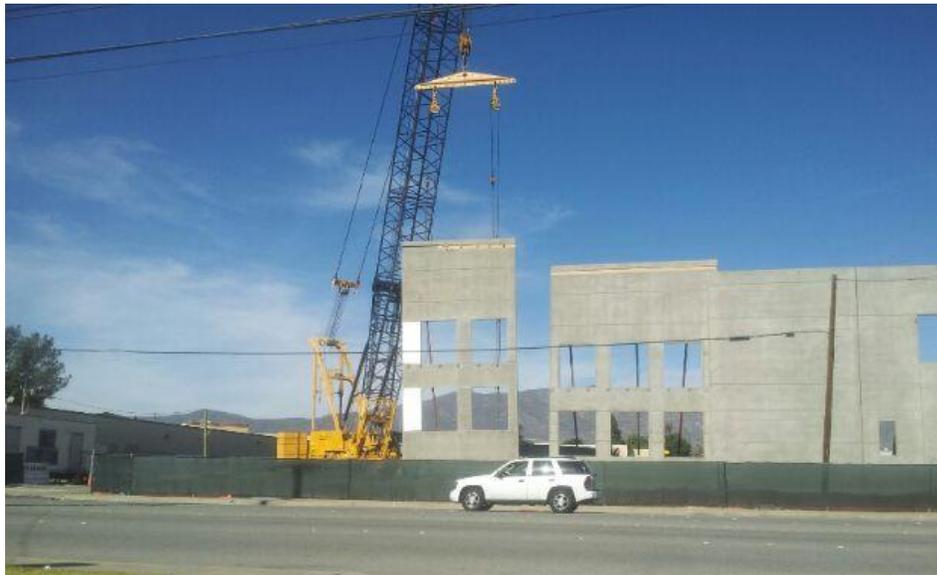
- The 2014 Montclair Basketball League started its league games last Saturday in the Montclair Community Center gymnasium. Approximately 190 children, ages 6-14 years old, are registered for the program that runs for 7 weeks, plus tournament play. Games are played all day on Saturdays with practices during the week.

Come check out Montclair's youth in action!

➤ ***COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT***

- Over the past week, visible work on a 98,500 square-foot industrial building at 5388 Arrow Highway began appearing over the screened construction fence east of Central Avenue as a large crane began setting concrete tilt-up panels into place. On Monday afternoon, Building Official Merry Westerlin took the sequence of photos below capturing a panel being lifted into place at the southwest corner of the building. The building should be enclosed on all four sides by week's end.





➤ **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- On January 1, Upland and Ontario Fire units and the Montclair Battalion Chief were dispatched to a residential structure fire on 3rd Avenue in Upland. Upon arrival, fire crews quickly extinguished the fire which involved the eaves and roof of a building to the rear of the residence.

This call for service was the first fire incident involving the shared Battalion Chief position since the commencement of the Command Staff Sharing Agreement between Montclair and Upland Fire Departments.

➤ **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

- Officer Eric Ruziecki received the 2013 Officer of the Year award on December 19, 2013, in a presentation made by Chief Mike deMoet. The recipient of this award is selected by the Sergeants based on an Officer's above-and-beyond contribution to the Montclair Police Department and the community.

Eric had just graduated from Golden West Police Academy when he was hired in May 2010 as a Police Officer. He has a Bachelor's degree in Communication Studies from Cal State Long Beach.

After spending three years in Patrol, Eric was selected for a position in the Crime Suppression Unit (CSU). As a CSU Officer, he is responsible for identifying and arresting taggers and gang members for criminal acts, educating the public on graffiti and gangs, and working with local schools and businesses to combat graffiti. Eric also assists the Detective Bureau with investigations ranging from graffiti, gang violence, homicides, burglaries, auto thefts, rapes, crimes against children, and other in-depth investigations. In addition, Eric conducts warrant sweeps regularly by utilizing the assistance of the Reserve units and Patrol Officers, and he works closely with our in-house county probation officer.

Last November, Eric was tasked with coordinating and planning a S.M.A.S.H. (San Bernardino County Movement Against Street Hoodlums) operation. S.M.A.S.H. operations provide a resource for specifically trained law enforcement personnel from agencies within San Bernardino County to combat street gang violence and criminal activity. Eric researched and targeted probationers living in Montclair and set up multiple teams of officers to conduct compliance checks on those individuals. The operation consisted of approximately 100 personnel from 12 law enforcement agencies within San Bernardino County and netted 36 arrests; plus narcotics, cash, and a handgun were seized. Shortly after, Eric earned a formal commendation for his efforts in planning and coordinating this operation.

For three consecutive years, Eric has received the MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) award for his efforts in apprehending drug- and/or alcohol-impaired drivers.

Congratulations, Eric, and thank you for your commitment to the community and the law enforcement profession.

➤ **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

- Copper thieves continue to steal and destroy lighting systems throughout the region. During the Christmas holiday season, they stole copper wire from the light poles on the Central Avenue overpass, south of Holt Boulevard. The cost to replace the stolen wire is estimated at \$5,000. The recycled value is estimated at \$40.

On December 2, 2013, the City Council approved the purchase of devices to deter this type of theft; unfortunately, at that time, the manufacturing process was not yet complete and the devices were received after the theft. However, the devices have since been installed and the wiring will be replaced soon.

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

- This week the online publication, *Business Insider*, reported that during the holiday season, many traditional brick-and-mortar retailers had to work much harder to persuade Americans to open their wallets. Many stores had to discount heavily to eke out a modest increase in sales. Some improvements in the economy and declines in unemployment are failing to resonate with many Americans whose incomes are struggling to catch up where they were before the financial crisis. But to many retail experts and economists, there are other less cyclical factors at play. Consumers are spending more. Government figures show monthly personal consumption has risen for seven straight months, with November's outlay marking the fastest increase in five months. Consumers are just not spending money in shopping malls like they used to; so, even if the economy picks up significantly, retailers of many products could still struggle.

"We are in something of an evolutionary process," said Bill Martin, founder of ShopperTrak, a data firm that monitors foot traffic in approximately 60,000 retail stores. He also said Americans are spending more online and becoming more careful about what they buy.

Some of this has been unfolding over a long period, although the changes might be picking up pace. For example, department stores have found themselves on the wrong end of the trends for some time. According to data compiled by Reuters, they now capture just \$3.37 of every \$100 of U.S. retail spending, the lowest since records began in 1992, when the number was nearly \$9. Some of this is explained by the rise of big-box retailers and internet sales.

But the problem is twofold. The middle class consumers, to whom the likes of JC Penney and Kohl's cater, have struggled with stagnant wages and a payroll tax rise, prompting people to reduce spending on apparel. Secondly, people have gravitated toward spending money on services such as travel—airline tickets and hotel room rates are up—as well as movie downloads and other content for televisions, smart phones, and tablets. Prices to attend live sporting events, theme parks, movies, and concerts have also been rising. In addition, increasing health care costs have been eating up discretionary income, with many employers requiring higher contributions from their employees.

"There was a day when you bought your television, refrigerator, furniture and everything else in a department store. Today, it is really just about apparel and maybe jewelry," said Stuart Hoffman, an economist from PNC Financial Services Group in Pittsburg. Data last week from MasterCard showed it took deep discounts and promotions to spur a 2.3 percent rise in holiday sales between November 1 and December 24, compared to a year earlier.

ECS:spa

"A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination."

~ Nelson Mandela

JANUARY 2014



13	Planning Commission Meeting - Canceled	
14	Strategic Planning Session – Rescheduled	
16	Safety Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
16	Public Works Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	2:00 p.m.
20	City Hall Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	
21	Code Enforcement Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	6:00 p.m.
21	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
27	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.