



March 13, 2014

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Edward C. Starr, City Manager 

SUBJECT: WEEKLY REPORT: March 7-13, 2014

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

- Last week, Finance Director Don Parker, Personnel Officer Gary Charleston, Administrative Analyst Mikey Fuentes, Benefits Coordinator Leslie Phillips, Junior Accountant Liz Lew, and I attended the annual Southern California Public Retirement Seminar.

Of particular interest to public employees is an initiative statute known as the Reed Initiative, currently in circulation. As drafted, the Reed Initiative proposes to eliminate constitutional protections for vested pension and retiree healthcare benefits for all current public employees, including teachers, nurses, and public safety employees, for future work performed. Public employers would be permitted to reduce employee benefits and increase employee contributions going forward if retirement plans are substantially underfunded or a government agency makes a fiscal emergency declaration. The initiative would also require government employers whose pension or retiree healthcare plans are less than 80 percent funded to prepare a stabilization report specifying non-binding actions designed to achieve 100 percent funding within 15 years.

The California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) has already announced its intent to eliminate unfunded pension liabilities over the next three decades, with pension increases for state and local government employers scheduled to start in Fiscal Year 2015-16, and continuing through 2019-20, when they are expected to stabilize and adjust annually based on funding requirements. Montclair anticipates related employer increases in excess of 20 percent.

A summary of the initiative statute by the state Legislative Analyst and Department of Finance indicates the Reed Initiative would have the potential to produce millions of dollars in annual savings for state and local government pension costs, long-term. However, actual net savings would depend on how much governments reduce retirement benefits and increase salary and other benefits. Participating government agencies would realize significant increased costs over the next two decades as they struggle to pay down unfunded pension liabilities, develop retirement system funding reports, and modify procedures and implementing technology.

Sponsors of the initiative have indicated disagreement with the summary provided by the Legislative Analyst. Any court action related to the language of the summary would probably result in failure of the sponsors to secure sufficient signatures in time to place the initiative on the November 2016 General Election Ballot.

A second initiative in circulation and watched closely by local governments would restore redevelopment agencies—the measure would repeal current statutory law that eliminated redevelopment agencies in February 2012.

If the initiative secures the required signatures and receives voter approval, it would provide for the following:

1. Allow local governments to reestablish redevelopment agencies and resume redirection of certain local property taxes to redevelopment projects
2. Remove prior redevelopment law requirements for redevelopment plans to have certain dollar and time limits and caps on redevelopment agency debt
3. Expand the definition of blight to allow whole cities and counties as redevelopment areas if a county's unemployment rate exceeds the statewide or national average
4. Reduces and makes optional the prior law's minimum affordable housing component
5. Extends the prior law's time limit for using eminent domain.

Voter approval of the initiative would increase local fiscal resources for local redevelopment activities, acting as an engine for economic development, job creation, and an improved economic environment in California.

- On March 1, Dennis V. Arriola, president of Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) assumed the role as the company's Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Arriola succeeds Anne Shen Smith who retired after 36 years with SoCalGas. The appointment of Arriola to CEO and Smith's retirement were announced in September 2013.

Mr. Arriola has spent the past 20 years in a broad range of leadership roles for the Sempra Energy Companies (of which SoCalGas is a regulated subsidiary). Based in San Diego, Sempra Energy is a Fortune 500 energy services holding company and has operations throughout North and South America.

Mr. Arriola joined Sempra Energy in 1994 as treasurer for Pacific Enterprises/SoCalGas. From 1994 to 2008, he held a variety of leadership positions within the Sempra Energy Companies. He served as vice president of communications and investor relations and regional vice president and general manager of Sempra's South American operations. From 2006 to 2008, Arriola was senior vice president and chief financial officer of both San Diego Gas & Electric and SoCalGas.

In 2008, Mr. Arriola left the Sempra Energy Companies to become executive vice president and chief financial officer for SunPower Corp., a Silicon Valley-based solar panel manufacturer. In 2012, he returned to Sempra Energy Companies and served as president and chief operating officer of SoCalGas.

Mr. Arriola is active in the community, serving on the board of directors for the American Gas Association, United Way of Greater Los Angeles, Western Energy Institute, California Business Roundtable, Latino Donor Collaborative, and Southern California Leadership Council.

He has a master's degree in business administration from Harvard University and a bachelor's degree in economics from Stanford University. A longtime member of the greater Los Angeles community, Arriola, who was raised in Artesia, currently resides with his wife in Santa Monica.

SoCalGas has been delivering clean, safe, and reliable natural gas to its customers for more than 140 years. It is the nation's largest natural gas distribution utility, providing safe and reliable energy to 20.9 million consumers through 5.8 million meters in more than 500 communities. The company's service territory encompasses approximately 20,000 square miles in diverse terrain throughout Central and Southern California, from Visalia to the Mexican border.

➤ **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

- No new information to report.

➤ **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- No new information to report.

➤ **HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

- On Wednesday, the Senior Center hosted "Ladies Day Out" with entertainment by Jacqui Bowe, who sang, danced, and performed a comedy skit. Many of her songs were Broadway show tunes and she encouraged

her audience to sing along.

A hat contest made for additional fun; winning hats were chosen in the categories of most unique, fashionable, and funniest.

Everyone was treated to sparkling cider and delicious appetizers.

Page 7 features photos taken at the event.

- On Thursday, April 3 at 6 p.m., the Montclair-Ontario Junior Women's Club will be sponsoring a taco night fundraiser to benefit the Montclair Youth Center. The event will be held in the Youth Center and tickets cost \$5 each. Food will be cooked on-site by The Taco Man (who is graciously donating the food), and the meal will include two tacos, beans, rice, dessert, and water or lemonade.

Tickets must be purchased by March 24 at the Youth Center, or by calling (909) 625-9484 or (909) 625-9451.

An event flyer is included on Page 8.

➤ **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

- On Monday, March 10, Montclair Police and Fire personnel responded to the 9500 block of Mills Avenue regarding a hit-and-run collision involving two pedestrians. The suspect, later identified as Nicholas Tortoro, fled the scene and was followed by a witness who attempted to obtain a license plate number. One of the victims, Montclair resident Lucrecia Rodriguez, was fatally injured and pronounced deceased at the scene. The second victim, a 14-year-old juvenile, received several head injuries and was transported to Loma Linda Medical Center where she received treatment for her injuries (which were discovered to be non-life threatening).

Rodriguez was out for her morning walk and the 14-year-old was walking down her driveway when they were struck by Tortoro who was driving erratically and swerved toward the curb, striking the victims.

Within an hour of the collision, Montclair Police investigators located several possible license plate matches utilizing partial license plate information provided by the witness, as well as information discovered from pieces of the suspect vehicle left behind from the collision. The first vehicle checked was not the suspect vehicle. The second vehicle was identified as having an association to an address in the 7600 block of Pepper Avenue in Rancho Cucamonga. Officers responded to this address and located the vehicle, which had collision damage consistent with our incident. The person associated to the vehicle, Tortoro, was discovered to have several warrants for his arrest, including hit-and-run and being under the influence of a controlled substance. He refused to come out for several hours, but eventually surrendered to Officers and was arrested.

Tortoro was positively identified as the suspect and later admitted to Detectives he was the one involved in the crash. He was booked at West Valley Detention Center, and the case was filed by the District Attorney on March 12 for vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence and two counts of hit-and-run resulting in injury or death. A DUI charge is also under consideration pending toxicology results.

On behalf of the City Council, the Montclair community and, more importantly, the victims and/or their respective family members, I extend my sincerest congratulations to the members of the Montclair Police Department in the matter of this senseless, tragic event. Unfortunately, there is little comfort we can offer to family members to assuage their anguish during such times. What we can do, however, is seek to bring to justice any involved suspects. I am honored to note that through the collective work of Police personnel, working closely together to collect information from available witnesses and through diligent effort, the Montclair Police Department achieved quick apprehension of the suspect.

Commitment to service, professional experience, and coordinated teamwork are hallmarks of the Montclair Police Department, and this exceptional level of service does not go unnoticed.

➤ **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

- Three of our newest Maintenance Workers recently passed their State of California, Department of Motor Vehicles, Commercial Truck Driver license test. Obtaining the Class B license is one of the requirements to pass probation and continue employment with the City.

Eddie Chavez, Sergio Martinez, and Chris de los Rios passed their tests with "flying colors." The test included:

- ✓ Pre-Trip Walk Around
- ✓ Air Brake
- ✓ Driving Skills

With a Commercial Class B License they can drive:

- ✓ A single vehicle with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating of more than 26,000 pounds
- ✓ A 3-axle vehicle weighing over 6,000 pounds
- ✓ A bus (except a trailer bus), with endorsement
- ✓ Any farm labor vehicle, with endorsement
- ✓ All vehicles under Class C

Please join the Public Works Department in congratulating its newest Commercial Truck Drivers!

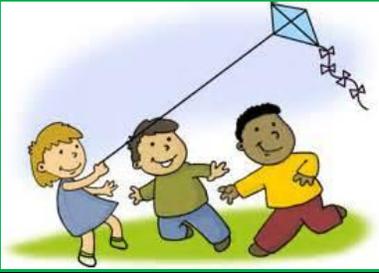
➤ **SUCCESSOR REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY/MONTCLAIR HOUSING CORPORATION**

- No new information to report.

ECS:spa

"Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." ~ Mark Twain

MARCH 2014

		
17	St. Patrick's Day	
17	Code Enforcement Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	6:00 p.m.
17	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
20	Spring Begins	
20	Safety Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
20	Public Works 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.
27-28	City-County Conference Lake Arrowhead Resort	11:00 a.m.

Senior Center Event
"Ladies Day Out"
An Afternoon with Entertainer Jacqi Bowe



ADMIT ONE

The Montclair-Ontario Junior Women's Club invites you to...

Come support the Montclair Youth Center!



Join us for a taco dinner, check out the Youth Center and enjoy games and activities for youth and adults alike!



Thursday, April 3, 2014

6:00 p.m.

Montclair Youth Center

5111 Benito Street, Montclair



Tickets are \$5.00 per person

(includes tacos, beans, rice, dessert and water or lemonade)

Tickets must be purchased by March 24 from the Montclair Youth Center or by calling (909) 625-9484

Food cooked onsite and donated by:



All proceeds raised from the event will support the Montclair Youth Center