



June 30, 2016

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Edward C. Starr, City Manager 

SUBJECT: CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT: June 24-30, 2016

CITY MANAGER/ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENTS

- Last week, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) voted 11-2 to approve a November 8, 2016, ballot measure to fund a major expansion of Los Angeles County's rail and highway network over the coming decades. The measure would permanently extend Measure R, the 30-year, half-cent sales tax hike that passed in 2008, kick-starting the region's massive public transit construction boom—currently the nation's largest public works improvement project. The ballot measure would also add another half-cent tax increase, also with no sunset. The two tax measures would be on top of two other permanent Los Angeles County sales tax increases for transportation that were passed in 1980 and 1990.

If 66 percent of voters agree, Los Angeles County shoppers would pay 2 cents on every dollar for transportation without sunset, or until voters revoke one or all of the sales tax increases. The combined measures would bring in an estimated \$3.4 billion a year, with growth, and increase the county's base sales tax rate to 9.5 percent. The measure would also distinguish Los Angeles County as the only region in the nation to have such a large and permanent local source of transportation funding. Few regions, however, have the same transportation needs as the Los Angeles metropolitan area, which has the worst traffic congestion in the nation. Drivers in the Los Angeles region spent 81 hours sitting in freeway congestion in 2015, according to a March 2016 [analysis](#) conducted by the data company, Inrix. The build-out of a comprehensive, convenient public transit system will not eliminate congestion, but will give people real choices so they don't have to sit in traffic, clogging the roads and polluting the air.

The Inrix study is not, of course, news to the nation's most populous region, where there is one universal complaint: traffic. When Metro asked for feedback on what was originally a 40-year, \$120-billion funding plan to double the size of the region's mass transit system, improve highways and fill potholes, people said they wanted more projects, built faster. Southeast Los Angeles County officials, for example, complained their light rail line between Artesia and downtown L.A. wouldn't be completed for decades; Cal State Northridge leaders argued they need a rapid transit line to campus; city leaders said they wanted more money for potholes; and bicycle advocates demanded more funds for bike lanes.

A long wish list of traffic fixes is to be expected in a region with so many transportation needs. The surprise, however, is that in public meetings and opinion polls people said they'd be willing to pay—and keep paying—for a better transportation system. In response, the Metro Board of Directors revised the plan, and now intends to ask voters to permanently hike the county's sales tax to provide a perpetual funding stream to build, operate, and maintain transportation projects.

Metro's proposal, one of the most ambitious in modern U.S. history, could transform a traffic-choked region that only recently began building a modern rail system—decades after other major cities. The expenditure plan calls for several north-south links in a rail network that runs largely east to west.

In its overall scope, Metro is proposing a funding plan that tries to be reasonable and fair for residents throughout the region, with funding distributed as follows:

- 35 percent would go to build more than a dozen major transit projects, including new rail lines through the middle of the San Fernando Valley, between Artesia and downtown Los Angeles, over the Sepulveda Pass, and extending the Gold Line from Azusa to Claremont—Montclair, intending to capitalize on this latter project, has applied for cap-and-trade funding for the extension of Gold Line light rail service from Claremont to the Montclair Transcenter
- 20 percent would pay for bus operations, which still serve the majority of Metro's riders, including funding for a bus rapid transit line in the north San Fernando Valley that would connect to Cal State Northridge and open in 2023
- 2 percent would fund "active transportation projects" that make it easier and safer for people to bike and walk, which is a vital part of the transportation infrastructure that is too often overlooked
- 17 percent for a dozen highway projects, including an extension of State Route 71 and a new carpool-lane interchange between the 405 and 110 Freeways
- 17 percent for Los Angeles County cities to spend on their local transportation investments, such as pothole repairs and sidewalk improvements.

There's no question that the Los Angeles metropolitan area has tremendous needs, and the infusion of new money would transform the region's transportation system. The benefit of a tax with no sunset is that Metro can borrow against future revenue to build more projects, sooner, with some projects pushed forward as much as a decade.

Permanency of the taxes would also ensure Metro would have enough money to operate the expanded system and maintain it as it ages, which transit experts say is absolutely critical, noting that most of the nation's public transit agencies haven't set aside enough money to keep their networks in good repair—the primary reason why San Francisco, Boston, and Washington D.C. have struggled recently with transit system breakdowns.

Approximately 50 years ago, Los Angeles County voters rejected a half-cent sales tax proposal to build an 89-mile rail-and-bus network between downtown Los Angeles, Long Beach, the San Fernando Valley and Westwood, the San Gabriel Valley, and an extension to LAX. Oppositional forces of the time argued against the tax, noting that the Los Angeles metropolitan area is a car culture, and public transit was not a suitable fit. It can now be surmised that had voters approved the transit tax, the region's roadways would probably be far less congested and air pollution would be a far less toxic concern.

- The *City Manager's Weekly Report* will "take a break" next week and will resume with the July 14, 2016, report. I wish everyone a happy and safe 4th of July holiday on Monday.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Today, we wish "the best of everything" to Housing Associate Fabiola Lizaola, as this is her final day with us. Fabiola has worked for the City of Montclair for almost nine years, beginning her career as a Junior Intern in the Public Works Department. Six months later, she began her internship with the former Montclair Redevelopment Agency/Montclair Housing Corporation. Fabiola has a BArch (Bachelor in Architecture) from Woodbury University and has used her knowledge and training in many of the Montclair Housing Corporation's rehabilitation projects. She was hired full-time in 2010 as Administrative Aide for the Montclair Housing Corporation.

Fabiola has played major roles in the Montclair Housing Corporation's residential remodels/renovations. She was responsible for development of plan specifications and daily construction management for many of the projects. She has also played a vital role in the day-to-day management of the Montclair Housing Corporation's 98 rental units. We will certainly miss her keen eye for detail and her enthusiasm for our projects.

We wish Fabiola an abundance of happiness as she embarks on her new adventures. She is both creative and talented, and we are certain she will be successful in her next endeavor. *Best wishes, Fabiola!*



Fabiola with her handsome boys: Joaquin (left) and Emilio

FIRE DEPARTMENT

- On Sunday, June 19, Acting Fire Captain Ben Garcia, Fire Engineer Jim Colby, and Firefighter/Paramedic Stan Boehm responded to the Potrero area of San Diego County as part of Municipal Strike Team No. 6210A, which was assigned to the Border Fire incident. Battalion Chief David Pohl joined them as a Strike Team Leader Trainee during the second half of the week.

The Border Fire has burned 7,609 acres and destroyed 5 homes and 11 outbuildings. The cause of the blaze is still unknown and under investigation. The fire was 92 percent contained as of 7 a.m. on Tuesday morning.

Fire Engine 151 returned to quarters at 8 p.m. on Friday, June 24.



Fire Engineer Jim Colby, Acting Fire Captain Ben Garcia, and Firefighter/Paramedic Stan Boehm work as part of Municipal Strike Team No. 6210A to help suppress the Border Fire Incident.

- On Saturday and Sunday, Fire Department volunteer amateur radio operators participated in Amateur Radio Field Day at the Montclair Wilderness Park. Field Day began in 1933 and is now the most popular on-the-air events held annually in the U.S. and Canada. During the 24-hour event, amateur radio operators made 105 radio contacts with other operators at various locations throughout the United States and Canada.

Field Day demonstrates ham radio’s ability to work reliably under any conditions from almost any location and create an independent communications network in just minutes. That’s the beauty of amateur radio during a communications outage! For over 100 years, amateur radio—sometimes called ham radio—has allowed people from all walks of life to experiment with electronics and communications techniques, as well as provide a free public service to their communities during a disaster, all without needing a cell phone or the Internet.

Anyone may become a licensed amateur radio operator. There are over 725,000 licensed hams in the United States, as young as 5 and as old as 100. With organizations like Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS), it is easy for anyone to get involved. ACS provides communications support to the cities of Montclair, Rancho Cucamonga, and Upland.

Photos are shared on Page 11.

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- The Inland Valley Humane Society & S.P.C.A. will hold its annual reduced fee vaccination clinic in the Recreation Center courtyard on Thursday, July 7 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The following vaccinations will be offered:

Dog Vaccinations

Rabies	\$10
DHPP	\$15
Bordetella	\$15

Cat Vaccinations

Rabies	\$10
FVRCP	\$18

Pre-registration is not required—just show up with your pet. Dogs are required to be on a leash.

- Last Thursday, the Senior Center hosted a "Senior in the Spotlight" presentation that featured participant and volunteer Ed Bryant making Jamaican jerk chicken. Ed has traveled all over the world tasting different cuisines, and one of his favorites is jerk

chicken. For two days prior to the presentation, he was busy preparing the marinade to give the chicken plenty of time to soak up the variety of spices, including his favorite "coconut sugar."

Over 40 participants enjoyed a sample of chicken, white rice, and tropical salad. After the presentation Ed was approached by most of the participants who wanted a one-on-one cooking consultation for his delicious recipe.

A collage of photos is presented on Page 13.

- The 2016 Summer Concert Series held its second concert on Tuesday night featuring the Ravelers (classic rock). Approximately 200 people enjoyed a fun evening in the park, including a special opening of the Splash Pad, free children's arts and crafts activities, and a snack bar.

Upcoming concerts, all free at Alma Hofman Park beginning at 7 p.m., are as follows:

July 5	The Silverados (country)
July 12	Mariachi El Aventurero (mariachi)

New for this summer are movies in the park, sponsored by the Montclair Police Department. The schedule of movies is:

July 19	<i>Inside Out</i> (G)
July 26	<i>The Peanuts Movie</i> (PG)
August 2	National Night Out: <i>Star Wars: The Force Awakens</i> (PG-13)

A collage of photos is shared on Page 12.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Retirement of Michael deMoet

- During my executive staff meeting on Tuesday, I was honored to present Mike deMoet with his Retired Police Chief badge and I.D. card. Members of the Police Department's command and administrative staff attended the celebratory portion of the morning meeting and shared speeches and sentiment, enjoyed breakfast goodies and beverages, and watched a PowerPoint slide presentation that captured moments from Mike's law enforcement career that began as a Montclair Police Officer in 1985 to present day as Executive Director/Officer of Public Safety (Chief of Police). Environmental Manager Nicole deMoet, and their adorable 5-1/2 month old daughter, Piper, were also present.

Chief deMoet's official retirement date is today, and a celebration is being held this afternoon at the Police Department.

Thank you, Mike, for leading the Police Department magnificently over the past three years! The City of Montclair is sure to reap the benefits of your integrity and insightfulness for years to come.



All Fireworks are Illegal in Montclair

- Montclair Police will nearly double its patrol force to address the illegal use of fireworks within the City on the 4th of July. All fireworks, including "Safe and Sane" are illegal in Montclair. The Montclair Municipal Code states the storage, use, possession, and sale of all fireworks, including those fireworks described as safe and sane by the California State Fire Marshal, shall be prohibited throughout the City. Violations may lead to an arrest and/or a \$1,000 fine.

Each 4th of July, thousands of people, most often children and teens, are injured while using fireworks. The risk of fireworks injuries is highest for young people ages 15-24, followed by children under 10. Did you know the tip of a sparkler burns at a temperature of more than 1,200°F? That is hot enough to cause 3rd-degree burns!

The possession of illegal fireworks may be reported to Montclair Police Department by calling Dispatch at 621-4771. Those that wish to remain anonymous may call the WeTip Hotline at (800) 78-CRIME. Tipsters providing information to WeTip that lead to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the crime may be eligible for a reward up to \$1,000.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Retirement of Lewis Rickard

- I would like to acknowledge an employee at the City Yard who will be retiring on June 30, 2016, after 35 years of service with the City of Montclair. Mr. Lewis Rickard, or "Lew" as he is known, has made many contributions and achievements during his tenure with the City.

Lew began his career as a Maintenance Worker on April 20, 1981. He quickly became very familiar with all aspects of City Yard operations and the Public Works Department. He enjoyed seeing the job performed by the Motor Sweeper Operators so much that he trained to become a back up Motor Sweeper Operator in December 1985. Lew began working on the sprinkler truck in 1989 and assisted the Parks Division until September 1991, when he became one of two Motor Sweeper Operators. Lew was then promoted to the number one sweeper operator in 2005.

Lew retirement plans include completing his wife Debbie's "honey do" list, enjoying his cigars and wine in the evenings and some well-deserved time off with family and friends.

Today, Lew's retirement was celebrated with lunch and fun stories at the City Yard. Some of his stories are considered classics and will be told for many years to come.

Lew, thank you for your dedication and support all these years. We will all miss you very much. Enjoy your retirement!



"If anything could have pulled me out of retirement, it would have been an Indiana Jones film."

~ Sean Connery

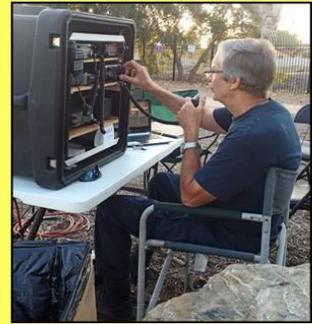
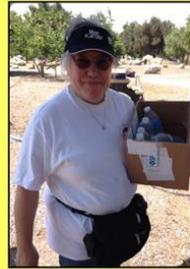
JULY 2016



4	Independence Day – City Offices Closed	
5	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
7	Inland Valley Human Society's Pet Vaccination Clinic Recreation Center Courtyard	7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
11	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
12	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.
18	Real Estate Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	5:30 p.m.
18	Code Enforcement/Public Safety Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	6:15 p.m.
18	City Council Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
20	Safety Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	10:30 a.m.
21	Public Works Committee Meeting City Hall Conference Room	4:00 p.m.
25	Planning Commission Meeting Council Chambers	7:00 p.m.
26	City Manager's Staff Meeting City Hall Conference Room	9:00 a.m.



Amateur Radio Field Day



SUMMER CONCERT SERIES!

June 28, 2016



The Ravelers



Join us next Tuesday, July 5 for
Country music by The Silverados!



Senior Center Presentation "Senior in the Spotlight"



How to Make Jamaican Jerk Chicken

