



From the City Manager's Desk

a weekly report from Scott Ochoa, City of Monrovia



January 5, 2007

Windstorms Overturn Patio Furniture

Well, Thursday night's strong winds did more than just that. But, luckily, this storm was nowhere near as bad as the one in 1997. We had about 30 calls for service for downed tree limbs and malfunctioning traffic signals. By 2 p.m. on Friday afternoon, Edison had restored power to every service location and City crews had much of the larger debris from the streets. We had a fairly large tree branch come down in Library Park, and that will be removed early next week. Similarly, the trail that runs along the County Flood Control Channel is obstructed with fallen branches and it too will be cleared next week. Obviously, our number one priority is safety of people and property, which usually means clearing streets. If you have any questions about the extent of the damages, please feel free to contact Public Works directly.

State of the City Address to be Held January 9

Next Tuesday at the Krikorian Theater in Old Town, the Monrovia Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the annual State of the City Address given by Mayor Hammond. If you cannot attend, the address will be taped by Community Media of the Foothills and played out on KGEM and KGOV in the coming days and weeks. For seating availability, please contact the Monrovia Chamber of Commerce at 358-1159.

Old Town Construction Chugs Along

You probably noticed more intense activity along Myrtle Avenue this week. As promised, the City held off with reconstructing all of the intersections and crosswalks until after the holidays. Now that we are into January, our construction crews have undertaken this crosswalk work with gusto. This week, the crews completed five Myrtle Avenue crosswalks – on the north side of Olive, the mid-block on the 600 block, the north and south side of Colorado, and the mid-block on the 500 block. While this was four days of inconvenience for the merchants on these two blocks, the end is definitely in sight.

Meanwhile, crews are simultaneously tackling the west side of the 400 block. I anticipate that by the 18th of January, all of the work south of Lemon Avenue will be finally and totally completed. The second half of January will send the crews to do the eastside of Myrtle Avenue on the 300 and 400 blocks. There is relatively little to do on the 400 block, as much of that work was done as part of the Krikorian Theater project. All the while, additional crews will be finishing off the crosswalk and landscaping work north of Palm Avenue, including the crosswalks on Foothill Boulevard. Similarly, this work should completely finished by the end of the month.

All this said, and barring any significant weather-related delays, we anticipate a final completion date of February 28. We plan to mark the occasion with a Grand Re-Opening of Myrtle Avenue. It should be a nice way to cap off a significant investment in Old Town – and one that shouldn't need to be repeated for another 30 years!

And finally...

Happy New Year!

Here's hoping that Monrovia continues to experience the same progress, investment and good fortune in 2007 as it did in 2006. This is truly an amazing place, and it is an honor to serve the community. Happy New Year to all!

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Neighborhood Preservation Division Update

The Neighborhood Preservation Division is one of three divisions located in the Department of Community Development. It's comprised of three sections: **Business Services** (Business Licenses, Commercial Code Enforcement, Film, Special Events and Yard Sale Permits); **Code Enforcement Services** (All residential Code Enforcement, Inoperable Vehicle Abatement, Reporting of Shopping Cart and Junk & Debris for Removal from the Public Right-of-Way); and **Neighborhood Services** (Housing Grants, and M.A.P., C.P.R. and C.o.E.d. programs).

- *The Monrovia Area Partnership (MAP)* is a brand new 5-year program designed to combat blight and crime through community partnerships, citizen activism & volunteerism. The *Community Pride and Resources Program (CPR)* is at-risk owner/family referrals from code enforcement staff to the Neighborhood Services Section for appropriate regional assistance through existing resources. *The Code Education Program (CoEd)* assists neighborhood improvement efforts by "blanketing" areas identified with substantial code violations.
- Business Services. During the month of November 2006, the following activities were generated: Filming Permits Issued: 2; Special Event Permit: 0 Yard Sale Permits: 48; Revenue Generated: \$49,712.
- Filming will be done January 10 and 11, 2007 at Aztec Hotel, 311 West Foothill Boulevard from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. for a feature film titled "Finding Amanda". An Office Depot commercial will be filmed on January 9, 10, and 11, 2007 from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. at 725 West Huntington Drive at Office Depot. On January 9 and 10, 2007, NBC Studios will be filming portions of an episode of the new TV Series "Heroes" at G & L Automotive, 438 E. Duarte Road and Oak Park Motel, 925 E. Huntington Drive. Police and Fire personnel will be on-site for traffic safety and special effects.
- Code Enforcement Services. **During the month of November 2006, Neighborhood Preservation Division staff:** Conducted 501 inspections; Opened 111 code cases; Closed/Cleared 105 cases (Includes commercial code enforcement); Referred 2 Cases to the City Prosecutor's Office due to non-compliance; Abated 43 inoperable vehicles (repaired, removed or stored properly); Caused the removal of 449 shopping carts; and 239 pieces of discarded items (i.e., appliances, furniture, auto parts and trash and debris) from the public right-of-way; Conducted 4 informal code education meetings/hearing with property owners.
- Neighborhood Services Section. For the month of October 2006, Neighborhood Services staff provided the following Information: M.A.P. Applicants: 19; Applications Processed: 13; Projects Started: 0; Projects Completed: 0; Emergency Grants: 1 C.P.R. Cases in Progress: 1; C.P.R. Cases Opened: 1; C.P.R. Cases Closed: 15; HandyWorker Applicants: 16; Applications Processed: 5; Projects Started: 4; Projects Completed: 3

MAP activities in Area No. 1 continue with the first rehabilitation projects approved and getting underway. On January 4, 2007, Neighborhood Preservation staff and MPD CAP conducted the second MAP Code Education Workshop focusing on blight and crime "broken windows" theory,

community activism and municipal code education. Eleven residents (seven are included in the attached photo) attended the 7 a.m. meeting, sipped coffee, ate doughnuts and more importantly, participated in the 90 minute MAP workshop.

The “you be the code officer segment” continues to be a favorite to workshop attendees allowing residents to call out the code violations during the slide presentation. Sgt. Don Newton, MPD CAP spoke to residents about the importance of getting involved in neighborhood meetings and reporting suspicious activities. He worked with residents to input the “Cell Watch” phone number into their cell phones.

The Code Education workshop is a requirement of the MAP grant program. Participants receive a certificate of completion at the end of the workshop. Next week, staff will provide a bilingual Code Education Workshop for Spanish speaking residents.

FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Personnel responded to 63 emergency calls from 0800 hours December 28, 2006 to 0800 hours January 4, 2007. Significant incidents include

Mountain Rescue. Last week, Monrovia units assisted by units from Arcadia and Pasadena were dispatched to a lost hiker in the area of the Clamshell Truck Trail. The hiker fortunately had a cell phone with him and was able to keep in contact with Verdugo Dispatch. Station 101 units made contact with the victim with the help of L.A. County Air 11. Both the victim and Paramedic from Squad 101 were airlifted to a landing zone at Monrovia High School. The victim was uninjured and had been lost for approximately three hours.

Residential Fire on Monterey Avenue. On Saturday, December 30, at 1:55 P.M., fire units from Monrovia and Arcadia responded to a structure fire on the 700 block of Monterey Avenue. Upon arrival, personnel found an apartment unit with smoke and fire coming from the second story. Personnel made quick work of extinguishing the blaze and confined it to two rooms upstairs with no spread to any adjacent rooms or units. The preliminary cause and origin investigation found the fire was ignited by children in the apartment unit playing with a cigarette lighter. There were no injuries to either personnel or residents.

OPERATIONS

The temporary Fire Station building is now in the final phases of completion. Southern California Edison will be connecting power to the buildings at the end of this week or at the first of next week. The remaining project will be to install communications equipment from the dispatch center to the station.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Monrovia Fire Department Awarded \$209,910 Radio Grant. Christmas came a little early for the Monrovia Fire Department in that we were awarded a \$209,910 grant for the purchase of radio interoperable equipment with no City match required, two weeks ago. This equipment request had been denied three times before through requests of the State Homeland Security Grant (SHSG), but was approved as a special request of surplus grant funds from the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI).

A brief explanation of the UASI process is interesting in that Monrovia is normally not eligible for these funds due to our location. The Federal UASI program identifies “Urban Areas” for special funding of

which Los Angeles City is one. The Department of Homeland Security, which controls the program, allows an eight mile perimeter outside of the UASI city to be included in funding requests, but unfortunately Monrovia is more than eight miles from the nearest LA border and has never been eligible for UASI funding.

The Los Angeles Area Fire Chief's Association (LAAFC) became aware of \$1.8 million of surplus UASI funds that were going to expire December 31, 2006 if not spent. The LAAFC quickly mustered a few meetings and decided to direct the money towards the purchase of radio equipment. Monrovia quickly gained position to be included in that purchase and made the list of 14 cities to receive funding approval.

Through the hard work and diligence of Captain Ryan Phillips, Monrovia remained active in this UASI process and was awarded the grant. We take possession of the radio equipment this week and will now be compliant with standards held by the Verdugo Communication Center for Interagency Communications Interoperability Systems (ICIS).

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

We would like to begin by wishing everyone a Happy New Year! 2007 looks to be another great year with many challenges, opportunities and a few exciting changes ahead. The most exciting change will be the move to our temporary fire station which looks to be getting closer by the day. As it stands we are anticipating the third or fourth week of January 2007 for the big move. We are also beginning preparation for exciting new staffing software that will automate our daily scheduling. The system is called Telestaff and we are on the calendar to go through implementation training in March. Several Fire Department personnel are hard at work performing necessary data import to make the program unique to Monrovia Fire.

Finally, we are starting the new year with a new Mission Statement, Values Statements and Slogan. As part of the strategic planning process that was held last month, it was determined that the Department should revisit the mission and value statements. It had been more than 12 years and a refresh was warranted. Through the hard work of Battalion Chief Young, Captain Dover, Captain Rapp and Firefighter/Paramedic Morton, the following mission statement, value statements and department slogan were formed. You'll find a copy of this statement on the final page of this report.

ON THE POLICE BLOTTER

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 482 calls for service resulting in 101 investigations. Following are this week's highlighted issues and events:

Vehicle Burglary. On December 29 at 8:39 a.m., an officer responded to the 1600 block of South Mountain regarding a vehicle burglary. On arrival, he was met by the victim, who told him he had parked and locked his truck in the parking lot of a business and went inside the entrance. When he returned, he found one of the windows on his truck had been broken out and his cell phone and laptop computer were missing. No witnesses or evidence were located.

Public Intoxication. On December 29 at 2:23 p.m., an officer responded to the 100 block of West Palm regarding a female subject with a plastic bag, dark jeans and tennis shoes. The female was heavily intoxicated and was lying in the bushes. She was arrested and brought to jail for public intoxication.

Outside Assist - California Highway Patrol / Officer Involved Shooting. On December 30 at 4:30 a.m., Monrovia dispatch received a teletype request for immediate assistance from the California Highway Patrol regarding an officer involved shooting at the 605 and 60 Freeway interchange. A containment was set up utilizing Monrovia and other outside departments. The Sheriff's Department Special

Enforcement Bureau and canine unit arrived for the search. The suspect was located by the canine and was taken into custody. The CHP officer is expected to survive.

Commercial Burglary. On December 30 at 6:43 a.m., employees arrived for work at a restaurant in the 400 block of West Foothill and discovered the front glass door had been broken out and the business burglarized. Cash was taken from the register. An officer responded, and while she was looking on the outside of the business, she noticed the front door to a second restaurant in the same block had been broken out and that business had been burglarized, also. Investigation continuing.

Structure Fire. On December 30 at approximately 2 p.m., dispatch received several 9-1-1 calls regarding a structure fire at an apartment complex in the 700 block of Monterey. Officers assisted with evacuating nearby residents and traffic control. The fire was possibly started by a child playing with matches. There were eight people living inside the apartment that caught fire. The Red Cross assisted the family with hotel vouchers. Investigation continuing.

Robbery. On December 30 at 6:33 p.m., dispatch received a robbery alarm call from a restaurant in the 400 block of West Huntington. While police units were en route to the location, police received a call from a restaurant employee stating they had just been robbed. The suspect demanded money from the assistant manager and simulated having a weapon in his front waistband. The assistant manager handed the suspect cash from the register in a brown paper bag. The suspect then fled from the restaurant on foot. An extensive search of the area was conducted, but the suspect was not located. Investigation continuing.

Assault with a Deadly Weapon. On December 31 at 7:50 p.m., three subjects were sitting in front of a residence in the 100 block of Los Angeles when a male subject driving a black Toyota Tundra drove passed the residence and fired six to seven rounds at the subjects. The rounds penetrated a mailbox and the inhabited homes. The victims did not report the incident until an hour after the incident occurred. There were no other calls to police of shots fired.

Intentional Passing of False Registration / Criminal Threats. On January 1 at 8:45 p.m., an officer stopped a vehicle at Palm and Mountain for having false registration tabs on its plates. The driver admitted to buying and displaying the fraudulent tabs. During the investigation, the suspect threatened the officers. The suspect was arrested for both above listed felony charges.

Possession of Marijuana for Sales and Transportation. On January 2 at 1:45 a.m., an officer conducted a traffic stop at Foothill and California. During the stop, the driver, who was an admitted gang member, gave consent to the officer to search his vehicle. The search revealed over a pound of individually packaged marijuana. The suspect was arrested for the above listed charges.

False Bomb Threat Report. On January 2 at 8:44 p.m., officers responded to the report of a bomb threat at a business in the 100 block of West Foothill. When police arrived, the manager told officers they received a telephone call from a male who said there was a bomb in the business. The business evacuated their store voluntarily. The Fire Department responded and waited in the parking lot while officers searched the store. Officers were unable to locate a bomb or anything out of the ordinary inside, and the store was reopened.

Outside Assist - Arcadia Police Department. On January 2 at 9:25 p.m., Monrovia's canine unit responded to a hotel in the 300 block of East Huntington at the request of the Arcadia Police Department. They received a call informing them there were narcotics inside one of the hotel rooms. Monrovia's canine alerted on a specific room, which indicated to the officer that there were or had been narcotics in that room. Arcadia Police Department was able to obtain a search warrant based solely on the canines alert to the room. Methamphetamine and marijuana were in fact found in that room during the search.

Burglary / Parole Hold. On January 3 at approximately 10 p.m., two male suspects walked into a business in the 100 block of West Foothill and were seen placing bottles of liquor into their pants and walking out of the store without paying. Police responded, and both suspects were found down the street with the stolen items. One of the suspects is currently on parole. Neither suspect had any

money on their person. Both suspects were charged with burglary, and a parole hold was received on the one suspect.



OPERATIONS – Environmental Services – Facilities - Parks

Graffiti at Recreation Park. Over the last three weeks, we have experienced quite a bit of graffiti vandalism at our newly completed restroom, the ball field restroom currently under construction; tennis courts and our newly renovated picnic shelter. The police department is investigating the matter and our staff will be closing the restrooms at 5 p.m. to help prevent further acts of vandalism inside the restrooms. The graffiti is still being removed within 24 hours.

City Parkway Tree Blocks Street. On Thursday, December 28, a 30-foot Chinese Elm City Parkway Tree failed blocking the street due to high wind gusts. There was no property damage reported. An inspection of the tree determined that the tree had signs of root decay. TruGreen Landcare, our street tree contractor, was called to remove the tree.

Electricity for Temporary Fire Station. Southern California Edison (SCE) is scheduled to energize the buildings before Tuesday, January 9. The next step will be to have the phone service installed.

Distribution of the Winter Quarterly Recycles Newsletter. Our winter quarterly recycles newsletter was included in Athens bills this week. Additional copies are available at the City Hall reception desk, the Community Center, the Library or by contacting Environmental Services at 626-932-5553 or 626-932-5556.

STREETS

50/50 Driveway Approach Rehabilitation Program

- Replacement at 136 N. Fifth Ave.

Concrete Rehabilitation Operations

- The deteriorated radius curbs were removed and replaced at the alley way entrance mid-block between California and Canyon.
- 126 W. Hillcrest - sidewalk.
- 1032 Orange Ave. sidewalk - curb and gutter.

Miscellaneous:

- Eroded street repair along side Canyon Park roadway was completed and a new concrete channel is being constructed with completion estimated for 1/11/2007.
- All French Drain inlets throughout the City were cleaned.
- 152 N. Shamrock patched two sections of lifted sidewalk to temporarily alleviate trip hazard.

UTILITIES

Customer Service

- Staff read and recorded 3,828 water meters
- Completed 65 work orders
- Delivered 275 shut-off notices

Water Production. Water consumption is 40.1 millions gallons, which is a normal weekly water usage during this season of the year.

Utility Maintenance

Water services upgrade. Four water services were upgraded from galvanized to copper at 317 N. Alta Vista Avenue, 434 and 435 Monrovia Avenue, and at 526 Ranchito Road. Each water service was restored within one hour.

Water main line maintenance. The water main leak was repaired at 137 N. Myrtle Ave. 137 water system valves were inspected and are operating.

Sewer main line maintenance. Sewer crew video inspected 1,500 feet of sewer line. Crew also completed 47 underground service alert's utility location requests.

Have a great weekend!

FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

Tues., Jan. 9, 6:00 p.m.	State of the City, Krikorian Premiere Theatres
<i>Monday, January 15</i>	<i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day, City Hall Closed</i>
Tues., Jan. 16, 7:00 p.m.	Salute to Service
Tues., Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m.	Regular Council Meeting
Fri., Jan 19, 5:30 p.m.	Chamber Installation, Iris Award Dinner, Four Points Hotel
Tues., Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m.	Regular Council Meeting

FIRE DEPARTMENT ATTACHMENTS:

MONROVIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

INNOVATIVE

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COMMITTED

*

PROGRESSIVE

OUR MISSION

THE MONROVIA FIRE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO HELPING ANYONE IN NEED, WITH PRIDE, THROUGH QUALITY LIFE SAFETY SERVICES AND RAPID RESPONSE, FOCUSING ON OPERATIONAL READINESS, DEPARTMENTAL UNITY AND PROFESSIONALISM

OUR VALUES

*The Monrovia Fire Department is committed to serving with **PRIDE** and enhancing quality of life whenever possible*

Professionalism – Commitment to excellence in everything we do

Responsiveness – Consistently fast, efficient, effective service

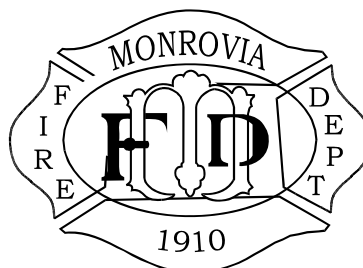
Integrity – Unwavering dedication to honesty, respect and truthfulness

Dedication – Commitment to serving the needs of others above all else

Ethics – Commitment to doing the right thing always

OUR SLOGAN

The Pride of Monrovia



Helping Anyone In Need