



# From the City Manager's Desk

a weekly report from Scott Ochoa, City of Monrovia



March 14, 2008

## ***MPOA Issue Dominates Agenda***

Tuesday night's City Council meeting will feature a number of items on the agenda. Item AR-3, however, will surely be the source of most of the discussion.

Item AR-3 is the proposed Unilateral Implementation of the City's "Last, Best and Final" offer to the Monrovia Police Officers' Association, Resolution No. 2008-13.

The Monrovia Police Officers' Association (MPOA) Board rejected the City's previous offer of a 16.5% increase in salary and benefits over 3.5 years, demanding instead an increase of more than 23% over the same term. The City simply cannot afford such a package. During the course of negotiations, the City advised the MPOA Board that the City's "Last, Best and Final" offer would not be the 16.5% multi-year proposal.

Under the laws governing collective bargaining, an employer cannot unilaterally implement a multi-year contract. If adopted by the City Council, this contract would run through June 30, 2008. Thus, the "Last, Best and Final" offer was (and is) essentially an extension of the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), with the addition of the City's new Retiree Medical Program – it does not include the additional "mid-year" salary increase in Year 1, nor the Employee Reinvestment Program.

There are, however, increases in total compensation, maintaining Monrovia officers, sergeants, and other non-sworn police personnel at 5% above the survey average (effective July 1, 2007):

Police Officer	4.68%
Police Sergeant	6.19%
Administrative Secretary	3.70%
Police Services Supervisor	4.87%
Police Communications Officer	4.03%

Also, it is worth noting that these increases are proposed to be retroactive to July 1, 2007.

Because we were not able to come to terms, negotiations resulted in impasse with the MPOA rejecting this "Last, Best and Final" offer on Thursday, March 6.

At this point, the City is faced with two options – unilateral implementation of the "Last, Best and Final" offer, or simply working without a successor MOU. While agencies can, and sometimes do, work without a successor MOU (the terms of the old MOU apply for purposes of compensation, working conditions, discipline, etc.), it is preferable to have a current contract in place. Moreover, this situation is not without precedent – in 2002, the City unilaterally implemented a contract for the MPOA after talks had broken down.

Although the City's multi-year proposal was rejected, it is worth reviewing in order to understand how we arrived at this point. The proposal featured the following increases and enhancements:

- Effective July 1, 2007
  - Police Officer 4.68%
  - Police Sergeant 6.19%
  - Administrative Secretary 3.70%
  - Police Services Supervisor 4.87%
  - Police Communications Officer 4.03%
- Effective January 1, 2008
  - Police Officer 3.71%
  - Police Sergeant 3.65%
- Effective January 1, 2009
  - All sworn personnel 4%
  - All non-sworn personnel 2%
- Effective January 1, 2010
  - All sworn personnel 4%
  - All non-sworn will be maintained at 5% above the average vis-à-vis the total compensation survey
- Retiree Medical Program Enhancements
  - Plan A (essentially a defined contribution program in lieu of the existing defined benefit program; generally attractive to younger employees or employees with fewer years of service); this program has been augmented for sworn Police personnel
    - Lump sum contribution factor increased by \$25
      - Was: (age + years of service) x \$75
      - Proposed: (age + years of service) x \$100
      - For example: 36 years old + 6 years of service) x \$100 = \$4,200 lump sum amount to jumpstart retiree medical account
    - Increased ongoing contribution from City by \$5 per pay period for sworn personnel only
  - Plan B (generally, employees who are closer to retirement and thus have less time to build up savings in the new program; they would layer this new element onto the existing retiree medical program)
    - 25+ years of service = \$4,000 (lump sum payment)
    - 20-25 years of service = \$3,000 (lump sum payment)
    - 15-20 years of service = \$2,000 (lump sum payment)
- Employee Reinvestment Program – payment of additional cash and benefits to sworn personnel to commemorate their tenure with Monrovia Police Department
  - 3 years of service = \$2,500 bonus
  - 7 years of service = \$4,000 bonus
  - 12 years of service = additional week of vacation (40 hours)
  - 17 & 25 years of service = additional week of vacation or two weeks (80 hours) to take a sabbatical, the topic of study to be approved by the Chief of Police

The City arrived at this proposal after a series of negotiations – it's worth noting that the City increased its offer several times before stopping at 16.5%. MPOA negotiators were intractable with their own 23+% proposal.

The City simply cannot afford such a package and still be able to operate all seven of its line departments, adequately fund needed infrastructure improvements and build a solid financial reserve to brace Monrovia against the State of California's imminent raid on local government coffers.

Each of Monrovia's seven line departments (Police, Fire, Public Works, Community Development, Community Services, Human Resources, and Administrative Services) performs a set of essential functions, and the success of one department is inextricably linked to the others. Still, among the City's "food chain" of programs and personnel, police services are at the top of the list. The primacy of the Police Department among all of our other operations is evident in many ways – from the Department's share of General Fund resources to the compensation benefits offered to our officers.

Over the last week, there has been a great deal of focus and discussion on the priority placed on police personnel. I have spent the last several days meeting with all of our employees to assure them that although the Police Department is and must remain the focus of the City's compensation efforts, all of our employees have value. From the Recreation Coordinators and Librarians who work the Monrovia Reads & Plays program to try and steer neighborhood kids away from gangs and violence; to the Code Enforcement Officers who work so diligently through the MAP program to root out the blighting influences that often lead to criminal activity; to the Redevelopment staff who revitalize neighborhoods through reinvestment, job creation and affordable housing development – all of our people contribute to the safety and wellbeing of this community.

And sacrificing their valuable contributions with the casual assertion that "public safety equals police, and nothing else matters..." is short-sighted and uninformed. Monrovia is a special place because of the efforts of all of our departments, not just one.

The City must also maintain a solid foundation of fiscal stability. The reason the City was even able to make a 16.5% offer in the first place was because the City Council has practiced fiscal responsibility and restraint in other arenas – we have grown in good times, cut back in tight times; we evaluate and monitor programs' performance and make strategic investments of resources. Part of this philosophy is to sustain the discipline to build reserves for the rainy days that invariably come, and also to ensure that the City funds infrastructure and building replacement. Like any household budget, we must save money to replace roofs and paint buildings, etc. Like any household budget, we must put money into savings to ensure that we aren't caught flat-footed in the event of an emergency or unforeseen circumstance. And like any house, if it is constructed on a faulty foundation, it will collapse over time.

Staff is recommending the unilateral implementation of the City's "Last, Best and Final Offer," and adoption of Resolution No. 2008-13.

As for the rest of the meeting, the Council will recognize the contributions and leadership of Ted Goldbeck, who is stepping down from the Monrovia Old Town Advisory Board (MOTAB). Ted has done a great job of helping to guide MOTAB's event and promotions to attract shoppers, diners and moviegoers.

Under Public Hearings, we have the return of two items that were previously before the City Council. PH-1 is the opening and continuation of the consideration of an appeal of the Planning Commission's decision to require certain building improvements concurrent with the installation of a telecommunications array at 428 West Chestnut Avenue. As directed by the City Council, staff has met with the applicant and has an agreement in concept regarding the building design; however, the revised building drawings have yet to be submitted. Staff recommends that this Public Hearing be continued to the April 1<sup>st</sup> City Council meeting.

Item PH-2 is the consideration of a Tentative Tract Map and accompanying CUP to convert an existing 32 unit apartment building into condominiums, located at 1415 Alamilas Avenue. This item has come before the City Council twice over the last eight months. At this point, it appears that the applicant has addressed all of the issues called about by the Council (Gold Line noise, parking, rental housing stock). Staff is recommending approval of the Tentative Tract Map and CUP.

PH-3 is quite an exciting item – the Designation of Historic District HD-1 for Properties Located in the 300 Block of Wild Rose Avenue, Resolution No. 2008-12. Thanks to the great work of the Monrovia Historic Preservation Group (MOHPG), the Historic Preservation Commission and our own Councilman Joe Garcia, Monrovia is now ready to create its first residential Historic District. If you are familiar with the 300 block of Wildrose, you know that this charming street features a high concentration of beautiful Craftsman Bungalows. Truly, this neighborhood is the perfect place to initiate a historic district program in Monrovia. Staff recommends approval of Resolution No. 2008-12.

Under the Redevelopment Agency, we have two items. Both MRA 1 & MRA 2 concern the demolition of structures at key redevelopment sites. The first site is 1622 S. Magnolia Avenue, the old Metric Machining building. The Agency purchased this property in 2006 in anticipation of the Station Square project. The lowest responsible bidder for this demolition contract was Mayfield Enterprises, Inc., with a total bid of \$171,168. It should be pointed out that because of some environmental remediation work that needs to be done on-site, this job is broken up into two phases – all above-ground structures (\$76,888), and following the remediation, all other work (\$94,280).

MRA-2 is the demolition of the structures at the Agency's property located Huntington & Myrtle – 112-140 West Huntington Drive. As you may recall, this site will be sold to HM Crossing, LLC for the construction of a bank, office building and restaurant. Again, the lowest responsible bidder was Mayfield Enterprises, with a bid of \$86,930. Staff is recommending approval of both of these professional services contracts with Mayfield Enterprises.

Under Reports of City Councilmembers, Councilman Adams will present a proclamation for National Community Development Week. Mayor Hammond's report will feature the latest news about state of the current fiscal year's budget, ongoing challenges and Sacramento's fiscal meltdown.

Lastly, there are three Administrative Reports – although AR-3 was discussed above. Item AR-1 is the Legislative Bulletin. This report will feature updates on the City's Transit-Oriented Development and In-Fill Housing Grant applications, and various insights about the City's state and federal legislative priorities. Staff recommends that the City Council receive and file the Legislative Bulletin.

AR-2 is the proposed award of contract for special inspection and laboratory testing related to the structural integrity of the new Public Library. As part of the structural concrete and steel work for the Library project, the City must retain an outside contractor to perform a variety of critical and specialized inspections and tests. This contract is included in the overall project budget. The lowest responsible bidder was Reliant Testing Engineers in the amount \$93,045. Staff recommends approval of the award of contract to Reliant Testing Engineers.

As always, if you have any questions about an item on the agenda, please feel free to contact me directly.

### **MAP Block Party**

On Saturday, starting at 11 a.m. , we are holding a Monrovia Area Partnership (MAP) block party on the 500 block of East Almond Avenue. This event is part of the City's ongoing commitment to enhance the sense of community in targeted neighborhoods. The event features information on all City departments and programs, opportunities for volunteering in the community, and free hot dogs and hot links!

## **Planning Commission Denies Beer & Wine at Shell Station**

As anticipated, the Planning Commission upheld its previous 4-3 vote to deny the sale of beer and wine at the Shell Station located at the corner of West Huntington Drive and Monterey Avenue. The applicant is appealing the decision to the City Council.

The neighbors in the immediate vicinity are opposed to the sale of beer and wine because they believe it will attract vagrants, it sends the wrong message to the young people who pass by the gas station on their way to Monrovia High School (Monterey is a heavily used route to school), and it reneges on an agreement made between neighbors and the previous owner of the station to not apply for a beer and wine license in exchange for their support for an automated car wash. On the other hand, the applicant believes that the prohibition on selling singles of beer and the prohibition on selling malt liquor/fortified wines will preclude the presence of vagrants; the current laws against selling alcohol to minors will keep passing youth being influenced by alcohol; and the previous agreement cited by neighbors is not a binding legal covenant on him as the new owner. The applicant cites fairness as a key issue – most gas station mini-marts sell beer and wine. However, this location is indeed near a school.

This matter will be coming before the Council in April. If you have any detailed questions about it, please feel free to contact Community Development Director Alice Griselle.

### **Articles Attached**

- **Officials Oppose Plan to Sell Beer**

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

The Community Development Department, in cooperation with Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company, is presenting the first free workshop on “Conservation Tips for Single Family Homeowners.” The workshop will be held on Thursday, March 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Monrovia Community Center, Kay Dalton Room with presentations by Edison, the Gas Company, and the Public Works Department. A flyer is posted on the City’s website.

Development Review Committee Recap. The following applications were reviewed at the March 12, Development Review Committee meeting:

- 238 Canyon Crest Drive – This is a request for a minor exception to encroach into minimum west side yard setback with an open patio cover to the rear of a single family addition. The minor exception and façade change were approved with conditions.
- 228 W. Olive Avenue – This application is to review a second unit to the rear of an existing single family residence. The Committee approved the project with conditions.
- 411 Royal Oaks Drive - Review to replace wood siding on exterior of house with stucco. The Committee approved the application subject to the final paint color for the residence and garage shall be approved by Planning Division staff, prior to application.

Planning Commission Meeting Recap. On March 12, the Planning Commission conducted its regularly scheduled monthly meeting. The following applications were taken into consideration:

- Conditional Use Permit CUP2008- 704 Montana Street. An application requesting approval of plans to construct a 1,500 square foot, 2-story unit behind an existing single-family residence in the RM3500 zone. After conducting the public hearing, the Commission voted unanimously to

approve the project with an added condition to have the applicant return to the Development Review Committee for review of the wrapping of the wainscot.

- Review Findings for Amended CUP88-52/CUP2008-01 - 705 West Huntington Drive – Jay’s Shell Station. At its regularly scheduled Planning Commission in February, the Commission voted to deny the request to sell beer at Jay’s Shell Station. Findings of denial were prepared and the Commission considered the findings. After taking public comment, the Commission voted 4-3 to approve the findings of denial.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES HAPPENINGS**

Monrovia Reads and Plays Participates in Arbor Day. A dozen children who attend The Monrovia Reads and Play’s Literacy and Recreation program participated in the annual Arbor Day celebration on March 5. Reads and Plays participants decorated pots planted with vegetables and flowers to take home, learned about trees through Arbor Day trivia, and received books on trees and the environment. By participating in Arbor Day the participants learned about protecting the environment and caring for their neighborhoods.

Monrovia Reads and Plays Influencing the Lives of Children. The Monrovia Reads and Plays staff sees positive changes in the kids that participate in the program whether it’s improvement in their homework, better health through sports, or more respectful interaction among their peers. Parents are seeing the changes as well. A father from Sherman Avenue spoke to several of the staff about how much calmer his son is when he attends the program and how much better his homework is. The dad likes the mix of physical and academic activity that his son participates in, feeling that it balances out his son’s energy level and motivates him to study. He also appreciates the homework help since he and his wife speak limited English and can’t provide the level of help their fourth grade son needs. Staff is touched that the father expressed his sentiments of appreciation.

New Middle School Collection to be Added at Library. Last week, Youth Services staff rolled out a new collection of books geared towards 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders. This collection was created in preparation for a new middle school section in the new library. New books will be added continually throughout the year while existing books and other material currently owned by the library geared towards middle school-aged youth will be gradually re-classified into the new collection. When the new library opens, the library will be serving the gamut of ages with a collection of books for babies, picture books for preschool and kindergarten, an easy reading section for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders, a juvenile section for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders, the new middle school section and collection, a young adult section (including teen lounge) for high school-aged youth, and a collection of books for parents and teachers. Various programs and events for all of these ages are planned as well.

St. Paddy’s Party. Don’t forget that your chance to be Irish for a day is coming on March 15, at 2 p.m., at the Santa Anita Family YMCA. Wear your greenest of greens and join library staff for a rollicking hour of story, song, games, craft and snacks. A perfect event for the whole family!

Monrovia Older American of the Year Award. The City of Monrovia, Department of Community Services, is accepting nominations for the 2008, *Older American of the Year Award*. This award is presented to a senior who is 60 years of age or older, working or retired, and actively involved in volunteer service in Monrovia. The purpose of this award is to honor the recipient for extraordinary efforts in volunteerism and encourage older persons to remain active in the mainstream of the community. The City of Monrovia will recognize the winner at the Monrovia Volunteer Recognition Luncheon on Thursday, May Nomination deadline is April 1 and applications are available at the Monrovia Community Center. For further information call (626) 256-8246.

Spring Event. Come “Celebrate Spring” at this year’s Spring Egg Hunt and Healthy Kids Day offered by the Department of Community Services and the Santa Anita Family YMCA. The event is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 22 at Recreation Park, 620 South Shamrock Avenue. Egg Hunt registration will be held from 9:30am to 10 am. The spring event will include carnival games, food, egg hunts and many health and wellness activities for the whole family. This event was made possible by sponsorships from Sierra Autocars, Post Alarm Systems, Kim’s Hapkido Karate, Monrovia Police Officers Association, Jodi Breneman of Dickson Podley Realtors and Diane Balsamo of Countrywide Home Loans.

Canyon Park Represented at County-wide Event. On March 8, Canyon Volunteers participated with 60 other environmental education organizations at the Los Angeles Environmental Education Faire which is held every year at the Arboretum of Los Angeles County. Hundred of teachers, students, and families visited the exhibits booths where they learn how to better respect and take care of our world through hands-on discovery activities.

## **FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Personnel responded to 61 emergency calls from 0800 hours March 5, to 0800 hours March 12.

### **FIRE PREVENTION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION**

Per the CDC, in case of a disaster, the following items should be assembled to create kits for use at home, the office, at school and/or in a vehicle:

- **Water**—three gallons for each person who would use the kit and an additional four gallons per person or pet for use if you are confined to your home
- **Food**—a three-day supply in the kit and at least an additional four-day supply per person or pet for use at home  
*You may want to consider stocking a two-week supply of food and water in your home.*
- **Items for infants**—including formula, diapers, bottles, pacifiers, powdered milk and medications not requiring refrigeration.
- **Items for seniors, disabled persons or anyone with serious allergies**—including special foods, denture items, extra eyeglasses, hearing aid batteries, prescription and non-prescription medications that are regularly used, inhalers and other essential equipment.
- **Kitchen accessories**—a manual can opener; mess kits or disposable cups, plates and utensils; utility knife; sugar and salt; aluminum foil and plastic wrap; re-sealable plastic bags.
- **A portable, battery-powered radio or television and extra, fresh batteries**
- **Several flashlights and extra, fresh batteries**
- **A first aid kit**
- **One complete change of clothing and footwear for each person**—including sturdy work shoes or boots, rain gear and other items adjusted for the season, such as hats and gloves, thermal underwear, sunglasses, dust masks
- **Blankets or a sleeping bag for each person**
- **Sanitation and hygiene items**—shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, comb and brush, lip balm, sunscreen, contact lenses and supplies and any medications regularly used, toilet paper, towelettes, soap, hand sanitizer, liquid detergent, feminine supplies, plastic garbage bags (heavy-duty) and ties (for personal sanitation uses), medium-sized plastic bucket with tight lid, disinfectant, household chlorine bleach
- **Other essential items**—paper, pencil, needles, thread, small A-B-C-type fire extinguisher, medicine dropper, whistle, emergency preparedness manual
- **Entertainment**—including games and books, favorite dolls and stuffed animals for small children
- **A map of the area** marked with places you could go and their telephone numbers

- **An extra set of keys and IDs**—including keys for cars and any properties owned and copies of driver's licenses, passports and work identification badges
- **Cash and coins and copies of credit cards**
- **Copies of medical prescriptions**
- **Matches** in a waterproof container
- **A small tent, compass and shovel**

Pack the items in easy-to-carry containers, label the containers clearly and store them where they would be easily accessible. Duffle bags, backpacks, and covered trash receptacles are good candidates for containers. In a disaster situation, you may need access to your disaster supplies kit quickly—whether you are sheltering at home or evacuating. Following a disaster, having the right supplies can help your household endure home confinement or evacuation.

Make sure the needs of everyone who would use the kit are covered, including infants, seniors and pets. It's good to involve whoever is going to use the kit, including children, in assembling it.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BATTERIES IN SMOKE DETECTORS BE REPLACED TWICE A YEAR. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO USE DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TO REMEMBER THIS, IT IS NOW TIME TO REPLACE THE BATTERIES!**

### TRAINING AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Monrovia Fire Department welcomed a new FF/PM to our family. FF/PM Greg Dellenbach started on March 3. He was given 30 hours of in-service training, March 3-5, and started with his regular shift on March 8. Greg came to us through our Fire Cadet Program, so a full 56 hours recruit academy wasn't necessary. Greg will be assigned to Fire Station 102, on the A-Shift. We look forward to his continued development and welcome him to the Monrovia Fire Department.

### ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

This week, the Fire Department was invited to participate in the Monrovia Reads program in which stories were read to children in various local schools. Chief Donovan read to Mrs. Stewart's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class, Battalion Chief Fabrizio and Captain Rooks with crew read to children at Monroe School and everybody had a great time. The Monrovia Fire Department understands the importance of reading, learning and interacting with school kids and is proud to be an active participant in this very important program. Our appreciation and continued support goes out to Joanne Springs for managing this program and to the entire Monrovia Reads Board for making literacy and reading such an important part of our community!

### ON THE POLICE BLOTTER

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 547 calls for service resulting in 119 investigations. Following are this week's highlighted issues and events:

Residential Burglary. On March 7 at 10:26 p.m., officers responded to the 1400 block of Loma to a residential burglary. A resident just got home and found a window screen broken and all the lights on in their house. On arrival, the officers spoke to the victim, who apparently left the windows open and the door closed but unlocked. The suspect(s) made entry through the southwest living room window and ransacked the house. The victim reported miscellaneous antique jewelry and a compact CD player taken. Investigation continuing.

Residential Burglary. On March 8 at 7:42 p.m., an officer responded to the 900 block of West Colorado regarding a residential burglary. The victim reported she had just returned home from work, entered her residence through the rear door, and noticed a light on. When she sat down at her work station, she realized her laptop was missing. She looked around the house and realized it had been ransacked. She reported nothing else taken at the time. Investigation continuing.

Injury Traffic Collision – Vehicle Versus Bicycle. On March 10 at 7:09 a.m., an elderly subject was riding his bicycle west in an alley in the 100 block of West Palm. He collided with a vehicle pulling into the alley from the parking lot. The collision resulted in the bike rider being thrown from the bike and landing on his head. He was transported by ambulance to the hospital.

Child Molestation / Sexual Assault. On March 11, 2008, an officer investigated a sex crime involving a female juvenile who had corresponded with a male adult over the Internet. During the investigation, it was learned that the male had convinced the juvenile to provide inappropriate photographs of herself and send them via internet to him. Eventually, the suspect made arrangements to meet the juvenile in person, and then he sexually assaulted her. The case was presented to the Detective Bureau, who contacted the FBI. The FBI worked the case in cooperation with Monrovia detectives. The suspect was lured out of his residence, stopped, and arrested without incident. Investigation continuing.



#### **ENGINEERING:**

Proposition 1B Funding. The State is processing the Proposition 1B Funding request. The street improvement project will be scheduled to begin late summer 2008. The project consists of the following street segments:

- Cherry Avenue from California to Sherman
- Sherman Way from Cypress to Los Angeles
- Almond Avenue from California to Shamrock
- Walnut Avenue from Myrtle to Shamrock
- Olive Avenue from Mayflower to Monterey
- Olive Avenue from Mayflower to west end
- Walnut Avenue from Myrtle to Mayflower
- Walnut Avenue from Mayflower to west end

Colorado Commons Street Improvements. Street lights are on and final details will be completed as the project nears its completion.

Chantry Flats Road Repair. Staff will be scheduling project bidding for April 2008.

#### **Grading Project Plan Check:**

- 700 S. Myrtle, 167 Apartment Complex; Grading plan has been submitted and is currently being reviewed
- 803 Norumbega, Single Family Hillside Home; Grading plan is currently in its 3rd plan-check review

#### **Public Works Inspections:**

- Colorado Commons Street Improvements
- Bus Shelter Construction, tile delays being investigated

- 911 Royal Oaks, scheduling project's final inspection
- California/Monrovia/Duarte
- 202 E. Foothill
- 1419 S. Myrtle
- 335 Genoa.
- 705 Norumbega
- 214 N. Madison
- 348 W. Lemon

**OPERATIONS – *Environmental – Facilities – Parks:***

AB 939 Annual Report Submittal. 2006 Annual Report to the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) for AB 939 requirements were submitted March 11th, 2008. The report shows Monrovia achieved a preliminary diversion rate of 57% for the 2006 calendar year 2006 through employing several methods including recycling, using green waste as alternative daily cover at the landfills, and waste-to-energy transformation credits.

2007 Christmas Tree Recycling Program. We received the final counts for recycling Christmas trees in 2007; our program was a success thanks to all of the residents and businesses who placed a total of 78.77 tons or 7,877 Christmas trees out for recycling.

National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Violation. Rosewood Avenue, Wednesday, March 12; contractor washing asphalt emulsion down the street and gutter.

Barney Glen Ball Field. Barney Glen and Santa Fe Field Ball Diamonds received a fresh dressing of brick dust (angel mix) last week for their Season Opening of the Monrovia Youth Baseball League.

**STREETS:**

Traffic Signs.

- Graffiti removed from 18 locations traffic signs.

Curb Painting

- 100 block W. Colorado Blvd.

Miscellaneous.

- Concrete Rehabilitation: 800 block of Oakdale Avenue, and 378 N. Magnolia.
- Weed eradication at the Corporate Yard, Evergreen and Central from Mountain, Mountain and Mayflower eradication in progress.
- Tree removal at Shamrock Ave. and Duarte Drive.

**UTILITIES:**

Customers:

- 2,759 meters were read and recorded
- 33 utilities work orders were completed
- 1 service request was completed
- 200 shut-off notices were distributed
- 4 backflow devices were tested
- 15 backflow notices were sent out
- 1 water meter was replaced
- 10 water services were reactivated

Water Production:

- Water consumption is 39.3 millions gallons, an increase of approximately 15% compared to last week's reported water usage.

Department of Health Services Required Water Samples:

- 31 water system samplings
- 15 water well samplings
- 6 water treatment facility samplings

Utility Maintenance:

- 1 - 1" new water service was installed
- 1 - 2" new water service was installed
- 1 - 6" new Fire Service was installed
- 1 - 1" water service was upgraded to copper
- 1 - 4" water main valve was replaced
- 24 fire hydrants were inspected and flushed
- 28 water main system valves were inspected and operated
- 11 underground service alert's utility location requests were completed
- 5,120 feet of sewer mains were cleaned
- 420 feet of sewer mains were video inspected

Have a great weekend!

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**FOR YOUR CALENDARS:**

<b>Sat., March 15, 11 to 1 p.m.</b>	<b>MAP 2 Block Party, 400-600 Almond &amp; Maple</b>
<b>Tues., March 18, 7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Regular Council Meeting</b>
<b>Tues., April 1, 7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Regular Council Meeting</b>
<b>Sat., April 5, 11 to 1 p.m.</b>	<b>MAP 2 Block Party, 400-600 Royal Oaks</b>
<b>Tues., April 15, 7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Regular Council Meeting</b>
<b>Thurs., May 1, 11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Annual Volunteer Luncheon, Community Center</b>
<b>Tues., May 6, 7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Regular Council Meeting</b>
<b>Sat., May 10, 11 to 1 p.m.</b>	<b>MAP 2 Block Party, 400-600 Walnut</b>

## **CMO ATTACHMENTS:**

### **Officials oppose plan to sell beer**

By Melissa Pamer, Staff Writer

Article Launched: 03/13/2008 11:00:17 PM PDT

MONROVIA — A recent proposal to sell beer at a gas station near a high school has raised the opposition of area residents, school board members and a majority of the Planning Commission.

On Wednesday night, the commission voted 4-3 to deny applicant Ramzi Rabadi's plan to offer beer for sale at Jay's Shell at the northwest corner of Huntington Drive and Monterey Avenue — a few blocks from Monrovia High School.

City staff, including public safety officials, had recommended approval of Rabadi's application, finding that beer sales would not adversely impact the surrounding area.

Rabadi plans to appeal to the City Council.

"It's not like we're looking to be a distributor for Budweiser," said Rabadi's attorney, Abdalla Innabi. "All we want to do is enhance our convenience store sales by being able to sell six-packs and larger."

Innabi said Rabadi was amenable to city conditions that would have required a six-month review and prohibited both beer signage and sales of 40-ounce and smaller cans or bottles.

Opponents say the beer sales at the station would be a danger to students because the site is en route to the high school. Residents of the nearby neighborhood are also concerned that beer sales would attract vagrants.

"'Not in my back yard' politics start to come in to play," said Clarence Shaw, a member of the Monrovia Unified School District's board, who lives two blocks from the station.

At Wednesday night's school board meeting, Shaw received unanimous support for his motion to send a letter of opposition to the City Council regarding the potential beer sales.

"We're trying to head this thing off in the neighborhood and in the south end of town," Shaw said.

Shaw plans to rally residents to the City Council's appeal hearing, which is tentatively scheduled for April 15.

In response to questions about the station's proximity to the high school, Innabi pointed to nearby businesses that sell or serve alcohol — restaurants such as Chili's and Acapulco and a CVS/pharmacy closer to the school.

"If we really were a danger to the community, we would stop selling beer," Innabi said.

The sale of alcohol at the gas station was prohibited by the city in 1989 in response to area residents' concerns. The owner's 2002 application to change that prohibition and to sell beer and wine was withdrawn after neighborhood complaints.

Rabadi's current application was filed in November 2007 and was approved by the Development Review Committee in December. The Planning Commission denied Rabadi's application in February, but had to vote a second time this week due to a technicality.

If approved, the station would join 24 stores in the city, including at least three gas stations, that are licensed to sell wine, beer or liquor for off-site consumption, according to data from the state Department of Alcohol Beverage Control.

There are 60 licenses for on-site consumption in Monrovia, including restaurants, bars and catering operations.

[melissa.pamer@sgvn.com](mailto:melissa.pamer@sgvn.com) (626) 578-6300, Ext. 4475