



# From the City Manager's Desk

a weekly report from Scott Ochoa, City of Monrovia



March 21, 2008

## ***MPOA Contract is Implemented***

Tuesday's City Council meeting focused on the Council's consideration of the unilateral implementation of the City's "Last, Best and Final" contract offer to the Monrovia Police Officers' Association (MPOA). The Council Chambers were filled with Monrovia officers and their families, officers from other agencies who were present to demonstrate their solidarity with their brother and sister officers, and a number of community members – both in support of the MPOA position and the City's call for fiscal responsibility.

On the heels of the tens of thousands of "robo-calls" and mailers sent to Monrovia households, the gamesmanship continued into the meeting as pro-MPOA speakers chose to speak during the "Oral Communications" portion of the meeting instead of the portion of the agenda dedicated to the consideration of the MPOA contract (agenda item AR-3). Following a considerable amount of public comment that was ostensibly focused on the contract issue (officers spoke about issues of over-time and general working conditions, but did not mention the contract specifically), Mayor Hammond advised that he would pull item AR-3 ahead in the agenda.

I made the presentation on item AR-3. It was an extensive overview of the issues surrounding the contract, its specific terms, Monrovia PD's current number of vacancies (four, not 12), the dynamics governing the high cost of the CalPERS "3%@50" retirement benefit, the Police Department's unquestioned ability to protect and serve Monrovia, and generally separating the myth from the reality concerning the contract proposals made by the City to the MPOA. I won't rehash the entire presentation here, but we will load the presentation and the streaming video of the entire Council meeting onto the City's website, [www.cityofmonrovia.org](http://www.cityofmonrovia.org), in the coming days.

The Council then took public comment on the matter. There were a number of speakers. Some were melodramatic and sensational in their comments; most tried earnestly to understand and offer suggestions to reasonably resolve this impasse. But as the saying goes, for every complex and convoluted problem there is a simple, straightforward and *wrong* solution.

For example, the City negotiated in good faith – several times meaningfully increasing our offer; the MPOA's primary concession was to reduce their proposal by \$5 per month. Yet, one speaker commented something to the effect that fiscal responsibility and fair compensation should not be mutually exclusive. I could not agree more – they *should not have to be*. However, when one side is not serious about reaching reasonable compromise, then both sides' positions become intractable and impasse sets in like rigor mortis.

Once the public comment portion of the agenda item was closed, the Council began its discussion of the matter. Mayor Pro Tem Kirby asked some pointed questions, the answers to which refuted comments made by the MPOA's attorney – contrary to his statements that Monrovia is the only agency to include the cost of the PERS retirement benefit in its computation of "total compensation," more than half of the cities in the 14-city total compensation survey stated that they did just that –

causing him to begin addressing the Council from the audience. Mayor Hammond and Mayor Pro Tem Kirby advised the MPOA attorney that his time to make comments had passed and that he was now out of order. Ultimately, he retreated – but in doing so, he orchestrated an en masse departure of the MPOA members and supporters from the Council Chambers.

This was the height of disrespect to the Council and, indeed, the community. At this point, I can only hope that this sophomoric move was the doing of the MPOA attorney and that, in a moment of lapsed judgment, the members of the MPOA went along – not realizing just how bad they looked. Each of the Council members referenced this action in their comments and, still, lamented the fact that we had reached this point.

Following the comments made by each of the City Council members, the Council voted 5-0 to unilaterally implement the City's Last, Best and Final offer:

- 4.68% raise for Police Officers
- 6.19% raise for Police Sergeants
- 3.70% raise for Administrative Secretary
- 4.87% raise for Police Services Supervisor
- 4.03% raise Police Communications Officer
- Retiree Medical Program Enhancements – Increased lump sum amount into Retiree Medical accounts, and increased contributions into Retiree Medical accounts per pay period.
- All Increases retroactive to July 1, 2007

It is indeed unfortunate that this situation has materialized. One local business owner commented to me on Wednesday morning, "Well, I guess you guys [the City] won last night." I responded that no one "wins" in this kind of disagreement. While the City's commitments to fiscal responsibility and organizational balance remain unwavering, they are dispassionate and focused on ensuring the systematic execution of policy. We "win" when the organization is delivering outstanding service by firing on all cylinders and working cohesively. However, the desire for collaboration and cohesiveness does not translate into economic carte blanche.

Contrary to the City's methodical progression into the future, it appears that the MPOA is mired in a fight that cannot be won. This week, no less than three lawsuits have been filed against the City by the MPOA's attorney. The first concerns a claim that records were not supplied by the City quickly or completely enough. The second concerns a call to binding interest arbitration. The third revolves around the amount of stipend the Monrovia Police Department pays to K-9 officers.

Naturally, the City will answer each of the suits, but it does seem an odd tactic for at least two reasons: First, any presumed "resources" that the City has that could be spent on police officer salaries and benefits will now, instead, be paid to attorneys; and second, presuming the MPOA loses these cases, it seems an ironic way for them to spend their recent raises.

I do sincerely hope that the angst and anger among the MPOA leadership melts away and is replaced by a renewed focus on working collaboratively with the City so that we may work diligently to address one another's goals. While we will have the construct for such discussions – the unilaterally implemented contract only runs through June 30 and thus we will be back at the negotiating table in a matter of weeks – I fear that the national, state and local economies will conspire to place still more obstacles in our path.

As always, if you have any questions about this matter, please feel free to contact me directly.

## **City Council Re-cap**

The rest of Tuesday's City Council meeting was fairly short. The Council approved the tentative tract map and CUP for a proposed conversion of 32 apartment units into 32 condominium units on Alamitas Avenue. They awarded two contracts to Mayfield Industries for the demolition of improvements at both the old Metric Machining site, as well as the former Winston Tires/Check-cashing/liquor store property at Huntington & Myrtle. The Council received and filed the Legislative Bulletin, and also awarded a concrete anchor testing contract for the Library Project.

But perhaps the biggest item on the agenda not related to the police contract was the designation of Monrovia's first Historic District – the Historic Wildrose Neighborhood. Congratulations to Council Member Joe Garcia, MOHPG, and Historic Preservation Commission on this landmark achievement; and thanks to Principal Planner Craig Jimenez for his outstanding stewardship of this project.

If you have any questions about anything on the agenda, please feel free to contact me directly.

## **YES! Program Preliminary Assessments**

We have just now received the initial assessments of the Youth Employment Service (YES!) Program, as they pertain to school attendance. The results are nothing less than amazing. The YES! Program is the workforce development program initiated by the City Council last spring, whereby students are able to earn a paid summer internship with the City of Monrovia. Keep in mind that the students involved in the YES! Program are largely at-risk youth, referred to the program by school counselors.

One of the biggest indicators of a student's future success is attendance. As reported by YES! Program partner MUSD, our students dropped from 283 Tardies in 2006/07 to 58 through the first three-quarters of 2007/08; absences fell from 134 to 42; and truancies dropped from 18 to 7. We will await the grade and student achievement information before making a formal presentation before the City Council and School Board. Hopefully, they will mirror these achievements.

If you would like more information about the YES! Program, please contact the Department of Human Resources at (626) 932-5516.

## **Administrative Fine Program Inaugurated**

Scroll down to the Community Development section of this report to read more about the implementation of the City's new Administrative Fine program. You may recall that this program was enacted to help the City more efficiently and effectively deal with chronic repeat offenders of the City's Municipal Code.

No sooner had staff completed the training on the use of this program than a hillside property owner in the northwest portion of the City had again violated local Codes. This particular property owner had previously been guilty of illegal grading; this time he was trenching (and not shoring, to boot) for the installation of some type of sewer or septic system. City staff from the Community Development and Fire Departments contacted OSHA and the County Health Department regarding this clear violation. The seriousness of the offense and this property owner's own history of serious Code violations resulted in an immediate (and paid) \$1,500 fine. Good work by Neighborhood Preservation Division Manager Bill Skiles and his staff for moving so quickly to address this problem.

## **Articles Attached**

- **Monrovia Police Balk at Pay Offer.**

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

Building Division Update. Although the number of building permits issued is up 5.9%, total valuation is down 53.6%. This is generally due to the fact that there are many more small room additions and miscellaneous items that translate to a lower valuation but more permits. Building inspections at 5,355 are down by 7.58% year to date compared to last years 5,812.

On the bright side, due to two commercial tenant improvement projects one at the 800 block of E. Huntington and the second at the 700 block of W. Huntington (Circuit City), construction valuation for the month of February was \$2,837,040. As a result, the fees collected year to date have increased slightly.

### **Year-To-Date**

	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>Change over Last Year</b>
Number of Permits	1,245	1,319	+5.9%
Dollar Valuation	\$41,451,504	\$19,229,909	-53.6%
Fees Collected	\$498,264	\$499,262	+.2%

Neighborhood and Business Services 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 year-old program designed to combat blight and crime through community partnerships, citizen activism and volunteerism. The *Community Pride and Resources Program* (CPR) are 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 and/or blight patterns.

### **Business Services**

During the month of February 2008, the following activities were generated:

- Filming Permits Issued: 2
- Special Event Permit: 1
- Yard Sale Permits: 71

### **Code Enforcement Services**

During the month of February 2008, the Neighborhood Preservation Division staff:

- Conducted 671 inspections
- Opened 143 code cases
- Closed/Cleared 72 cases (Includes commercial code enforcement)
- Referred 2 cases to the City Prosecutor's Office due to non-compliance
- Abated 3 inoperable vehicles (repaired, removed or stored properly)
- Caused the removal of 225 shopping carts and 164 pieces of discarded items (i.e., appliances, furniture, auto parts and trash and debris) from the public right-of-way
- Conducted 9 informal code education meetings/hearings with property owners

### **Neighborhood Services Section**

For the Month of February 2008, Neighborhood Services Section Staff provided the following information:

- M.A.P. Applicants: 59
- Applications Processed 59; Projects Started: 3
- Projects Completed: 48

- Emergency Grants: 1
- MAP CoEd Training Recipients 10
- C.P.R. Cases in Progress: 1; C.P.R. Case Opened: 1;
- C.P.R. Cases Closed: 15
- HandyWorker Applicants: 7
- Applications Processed: 6; Projects Started: 5
- Projects Completed: 5
- Neighborhood Pride Award Recipients identified: 2
- CoEd Projects (YTD):2; Total Houses Reached: 11;
- Compliance %: TBD

Administrative Fine Ordinance Update. As you may recall, the Mayor and City Council adopted the Administrative Fine Ordinance in December 2007. In January 2008, the ordinance went into effect. Since then, staff has been putting all the “inner workings” of this administrative process together including software case tracking, adopting required forms and identifying potential hearing officers. Currently, assigned enforcement staff from the Fire, Public Works and Community Development Departments are completing legal and administrative training prior to issuing the civil citations.

As reported previously, the administrative fine process is completed in three phases *if voluntary compliance cannot be obtained*; Education Notice; Warning Notice complete with fine costs; and finally, the Notice/Citation that fines are due and payable. This three-phase concept is exactly the same process used by Code Enforcement staff prior to the adoption of this ordinance. March 31, 2008 is the date set for the implementation of the program. As always, our code enforcement officers continue to work closely with our citizens to always seek voluntary compliance in correcting code violations.

Historic Preservation Commission Meeting. The following applications will be reviewed at the regularly scheduled meeting on March 26, 2008:

- Certificate of Appropriateness – 173 Highland Place, Jen & John Petrovich, applicants
- Certificate of Appropriateness – 149 Highland Place, Kirk & Amy Mc Ginnis, applicants
- Review of Mills Act Conditions – 311 West Foothill Blvd.
- Façade Remodel at 419 S. Myrtle Avenue
- Discussion of Historic District Regulations
- Discussion of Historic District Signage

Development Review Committee Meeting Recap. On March 19, the Development Review Committee approved the proposed façade improvements on a commercial building at 904 South Alta Vista with conditions.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES HAPPENINGS**

Monrovia Adult School ESL Students Visit Canyon Park. On March 14, 16 ESL (English as a Second Language) students from the Monrovia Adult School visited Canyon Park to broaden their education via the out-of-doors. There was no language barrier for the students who were able to experience the solitude and beauty of Canyon Park through their visual, tactile and sent senses. The adult faces lit up as they were able to touch snakes and insects at the Nature Center and to see personally the animals that live in the foothills.

Fire Department Collaborates with Monrovia Reads and Plays. On March 12, Fire Captain Dover and Firefighters Mikity and Towns visited the Monrovia Reads and Plays program (MRP), much to the delight of the MRP kids. About 15 children, ranging in ages from 3 to 14, participated in a tour of the

fire truck, and got to spray the fire hose. One boy had his heart rate monitored, which fascinated all of the children who were also very excited to learn about the professional life of a firefighter. Judging by the level of enthusiasm from the children, the firefighters visit was the highlight of the month!

Tutors Help Literacy Students Write Better. Volunteer literacy tutors from the Library's Literacy Services program attended a workshop on Monday about how to help low-literacy adults write. Writing is often a chore for most of us, but can be an insurmountable task for many literacy learners. Writing is a necessary aspect of modern life, whether filling out a job application, writing a letter or e-mail to faraway family and friends, or expressing oneself through journaling or creative writing.

The workshop was led by an adult literacy student from San Francisco who has been in tutoring for 12 years to help her overcome her learning disabilities. She has gone from panic at the thought of writing to loving to write. She shared how worthless and dumb she used to feel and how much writing has empowered and validated her. She taught tutors the process of writing, from brainstorming to rough drafts to clean, correct writing. She also gave information on a statewide writing challenge, in which literacy students read a book and write a letter to the author. All participants are recognized for their writing efforts, which further motivates literacy students to take up the challenge of writing. Monrovia tutors were excited to gain new techniques and were motivated to get their students writing!

Youth Commission Celebrates Arbor Day. The Department of Community Services Youth Commission hosted the 2008 Arbor Day celebration on March 5 from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Reads and Plays program location on Sherman Avenue. The Youth Commission planted a tree in recognition of the City's environmental accords. The event also displayed environmentally friendly works of art created by the Reads and Plays program participants. The Department of Public Works distributed Monrovia Recycles Tote Bags and environmental hand-outs. On behalf of the Youth Commission, thank you to all those who assisted with and attended this year's event.

### **FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Personnel responded to 52 emergency calls from 0800 hours March 12, to 0800 hours March 19. Significant incidents include:

Industrial Accident. At approximately 1700 hours on March 19, Engine 102 responded to the 600 block of Los Angeles Street for a report of a patient with possible head trauma. Engine 102 found a 27-year-old female whose hair had become entangled in a spindle piece of machinery. Upon further examination of the patient, the paramedics found that the machinery had removed approximately one third of the rear of her scalp. Paramedics controlled the bleeding and stabilized the patient. After contacting the hospital, the patient was transported to Arcadia Methodist Hospital for further evaluation.

### **Disaster Preparedness Kits Are Essential Home Items**

The Center for Disease Control indicates that we all should make sure that the needs of everyone who would use a disaster 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:

#### **Benefits of Involving Children**

- Involving children is the first step in helping them know what to do in an emergency.
- Children can help. Ask them to think of items that they would like to include in a disaster supplies kit, such as books or games or nonperishable food items, and to help the household remember to keep the kits updated. Children could make calendars and mark the dates for checking emergency supplies, rotating the emergency food and water or replacing it every six months and replacing batteries as necessary. Children can enjoy preparing plans and disaster kits for pets and other animals.

### **Disaster Supplies Kit Checklist for Pets**

- Food and water for at least three days for each pet, food and water bowls and a manual can opener
- Depending on the pet, litter and litter box or newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags, grooming items, and household bleach
- Medications and medical records stored in a waterproof container, a first aid kit and a pet first aid book
- Sturdy leashes, harnesses and carriers to transport pets safely and to ensure that your pets cannot escape. A carrier should be large enough for the animal to stand comfortably, turn around, and lie down. Your pet may have to stay in the carrier for hours. Be sure to have a secure cage with no loose objects inside it to accommodate smaller pets. These may require blankets or towels for bedding and warmth and other special items
- Pet toys and the pet's bed, if you can easily take it, to reduce stress
- Current photos and descriptions of your pets to help others identify them in case you and your pets become separated, and to prove that they are yours
- Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems and the name and telephone number of your veterinarian in case you have to board your pets or place them in foster care.

### **Additional Supplies for Sheltering-in-Place**

In the unlikely event that chemical or radiological hazards cause officials to advise people in a specific area to "shelter-in-place" in a sealed room, households should have in the room they have selected for this purpose:

- A roll of duct tape (10 millimeters thick) and scissors
- Plastic sheeting pre-cut to fit shelter-in-place room openings

Ten square feet of floor space per person will provide sufficient air to prevent carbon dioxide buildup for up to five hours. Local officials are unlikely to recommend the public shelter in a sealed room for more than two-three hours because the effectiveness of such sheltering diminishes with time as the contaminated outside air gradually seeps into the shelter.

***NOTE: Always keep a shut-off valve wrench near the gas and water shut-off valves in your home.***

### **TRAINING AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

Captain Dover and his crew provided 20 local residents with an introduction to the CERT program. The meeting took place at a dinner that was held by neighborhood watch block captains. CERT provides a way for neighbors to organize and plan together in the event of a disaster. During the presentation, many questions were answered and literature was provided.

On Wednesday, March 19, Captain Dover met with representatives from World Vision to develop plans and scenarios for an upcoming disaster drill at the facility. This will be a "surprise" disaster for the employees. The drill will take place in May and firefighters will be present to provide feedback and encouragement.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

On March 17, the Department placed a new paramedic squad vehicle in service. This replacement conforms to the normal attrition schedule outlined for Fire Department emergency vehicles. The Squad resembles a pick-up/utility truck that is staffed by two paramedics. The vehicle selected by the apparatus committee is a Ford F-450 Diesel with custom body assembly made by Placer Fire Equipment in Northern California. The special cab allows for the storage of essential medical equipment and supplies for the paramedics to perform advanced life support. The squad will follow up with the ambulance after a medical call, having one paramedic riding in the ambulance with the

patient and the other following behind in the squad. As more hospitals close and wait times in the emergency room increase this unit has become invaluable to the Department.



### **ON THE POLICE BLOTTER**

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 521 calls for service resulting in 100 investigations. Following are this week's highlighted issues and events:

**Neighbor Dispute.** On March 13 at 11:55 a.m., an officer was dispatched to handle a dispute between two neighbors. The neighbors had become so hostile to each other that one had a restraining order issued by the court against the other. The restrained party was so incensed he told his neighbor he was going to kill him and then kill himself. Officers intervened and detained the restrained party for a 72-hour mental evaluation. Three guns were removed from the subject's residence.

**Residential Burglary / Suspect Arrested.** On March 15 at 2:48 p.m., a suspect was witnessed entering a residence in the 2100 block of South Myrtle and taking an electronic keyboard and guitar. An effort was made to find the resident to confirm no one had permission to take the property. The resident arrived and confirmed he was the victim of a burglary. An area search resulted in finding a suspect who matched the description, and a field show-up positively identified the suspect. The victim identified his property, and the suspect was arrested for residential burglary.

**Battery.** On March 15 at 9:41 p.m., officers responded to a fight in progress in an alley in the 300 block of East Lemon. When officers arrived, the fight was over and the two male suspects were not at the location. The 24-year-old male victim reported two male subjects approached him in the alley and began hitting him. He defended himself by hitting back, then the suspects fled east through the alley and south on California. The victim knew the identity of one of the suspects. The officer will request the district attorney file charges against the known suspect for battery.

**Solo Injury Traffic Collision.** On March 20 at 2:24 a.m., a solo car, injury, traffic collision occurred at the corner of Foothill and Myrtle. The driver had been drinking and was possibly driving under the influence. The driver was not placed under arrest as the injuries required transport to the hospital. Blood was obtained with consent. A VCR will be completed and a request for emergency personnel costs will be submitted.

# THE PUBLIC WORKS SCOOP

## **ENGINEERING:**

Los Angeles County Green Building Ordinance. Our Engineering staff attended the Los Angeles County Green Building Ordinance Seminar to obtain information on green building standards and the minimum requirements for new developments and redevelopments. Conserving water and the use of Low Impact Development (LID) were two of the main topics discussed and the key points reviewed:

- Best Management Practices
- Mixed-use projects
- Residential subdivisions
- Multi-family residential

Staff is implementing LID strategies in new development as part of the City's stormwater compliance. Single-family homes would not require LID compliance, but would be encouraged to follow it.

Colorado Commons Improvements. Final details of the parking structures are near completion. Staff is coordinating with the developer on cleaning the garage and receiving the certification from the State to operate the elevator. The elevator has passed inspection, and the developer is waiting for the actual operational permit which is required to be posted within the elevator.

Myrtle Avenue Street Improvements. At the request of our Engineering Division, the contractor has returned to raise several electrical pull boxes in the sidewalk to grade that are still under warranty and to correct several electrical problems in the Downtown area.

### Grading Project Plan Check:

- 700 S. Myrtle, 167 Apartment Complex
- 803 Norumbega, Single Family Hillside Home

### Public Works Inspections:

- Colorado Commons Street Improvements
- Bus Shelter Construction
- 911 Royal Oaks
- California/Monrovia/Duarte Project
- 202 E. Foothill
- 1419 S. Myrtle
- 714 Norumbega
- 705 Norumbega
- 335 Genoa
- 705 Norumbega
- 214 N. Madison
- 348 W. Lemon

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

Tidemark Training. Environmental Services Staff attended two Tidemark Training Courses to prepare for the new Administrative Fine Ordinance implementation. Code Enforcement Officers currently use the Tidemark program to track enforcement cases, and now Tidemark will also be used by the other

City departments. The implementation of this program will help centralize all enforcement action by the City and improve enforcement effectiveness.

Los Angeles River Metals TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Update Meeting. On March 20, Staff joined several LA River Watershed cities, Caltrans District 7, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) representatives for a briefing on the Los Angeles River Metals TMDL, a regulation intended to set maximum allowable concentrations of Metals discharged to the LA River (which eventually flows directly to the ocean in Long Beach). The RWQCB recently conditionally approved a Monitoring Plan for Metals in the LA River, a mandatory requirement under the Metals TMDL, and required dry-weather sampling to begin by July 31, 2008.

Historical Museum. The replacement of the Historical Museum roofing project started this week and is scheduled to be completed by the end of April. Phase I will be the removal of the HVAC units and storing them at the Corporate Yard. The Roof Replacement Project is scheduled to begin on Monday, March 31, 2008.

Huntington & Shamrock. The westbound left-hand turn lane traffic signal quad-loop at the intersection of Huntington and Shamrock malfunctioned and required the installation of four new traffic loops, which were installed on Friday.

Weed Control. Parks Staff has concentrated their efforts with weed control this week due to the increasing weed growth. Their main focus is the various traffic islands on South Peck Rd., Chestnut Ave. from Mayflower to 5th Ave., and the 400 block of west Central. Staff anticipates more progress to be made next week as well.

Winds. Hundreds of palm fronds and miscellaneous debris was picked up from our Parks and Streets crews due to the recent winds.

Graffiti. It required five man hours for removal of graffiti in our parks this past week.

## **STREETS:**

### Traffic Signs:

- Painted 110 feet of red curb
- Removed 64 feet of red curb in the 500 block of South Primrose.
- Replaced, Removed or Repaired Signs: Colorado Blvd., Duarte Rd., Hurstview Ave., Chestnut Ave., Monrovia Ave., California Ave., Fano Ave.
- Graffiti Removal: Alta Vista, Montana, Genoa, Radford, Alamitas, Pomona, Jasmine, Lemon, Shamrock, Cherry, Cypress, Walnut, Maple, Los Angeles, Ivy, Huntington, Peck, Evergreen, El Norte, Magnolia.

### Miscellaneous:

- Cut weeds along the 210 freeway at Central & Evergreen and from Mayflower to Mountain.
- Picked up fallen palm fronds due to heavy winds over the weekend.
- Pot holes were filled at Taylor, El Norte, Myrtle, and Hwy Esplanade.

## **UTILITIES:**

### Customer Service

- 2,695 meters were read and recorded
- 26 utilities work orders were completed
- 2 service requests were completed

- 4 backflow devices were tested
- 5 water meters were replaced
- 10 water services were reactivated

Water Production

Water consumption is 41.8 millions gallons, an increase of approximately 6% compared to last week's reported water usage.

Department of Health Services Required Water Samples:

- 17 water system samplings
- 6 water treatment facility samplings

Staff recorded 0.17" of rain last week bringing the annual rain total to 16.07" and 23.23" for the season.

Utility Maintenance

- 1 - 1" water service was upgraded to copper line
- 1 - 1" water meter was replaced
- 1-1" angle valve and ball valve were replaced
- 1 water meter box was installed
- 1 - 6" water main leak was repaired
- 2 irrigation line hook ups were installed
- 27 underground service alert's utility location requests were completed
- 9,894 feet of sewer mains were cleaned
- 186 feet of sewer mains were video inspected

Utility maintenance crews attended Training Class for the Vactor Truck as part of their continuing education to maximize equipment performance, provide knowledge in the safe operation of the equipment, procedures on how to lower maintenance costs, as well as extending the life of the equipment.

Have a great weekend!

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**FOR YOUR CALENDARS:**

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|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Sat., March 22, 10 a.m.</b>     | <b>Spring Egg Hunt &amp; Healthy Kids Day, Recreation Park</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>Mon., May 5, 5:00 p.m.</b>      | <b>Monrovia Reads "Cinco de Mayo", Krikorian Premier Theater</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:**

### **Monrovia police balk at pay offer**

By Melissa Pamer, Staff Writer

Article Launched: 03/19/2008 10:37:40 PM PDT

MONROVIA - The police union plans to continue lobbying publicly for increased pay, following a move by the City Council to unilaterally implement a one-year contract.

Dozens of off-duty officers and their family members picketed City Hall prior to a contentious council meeting Tuesday night, holding blue "Support Our Police" signs.

The 72-member Monrovia Police Officers' Association had in recent days sought public support for its efforts to get a 23.2 percent raise. Residents received e-mails, automated phone calls and mailers after months-long contract negotiations came to an impasse almost two weeks ago.

The city responded with its own campaign, saying Monrovia could not afford to satisfy the MPOA's demands.

The association on March 6 rejected the city's offer of a 16.5 percent raise over 3 1/2 years, paving the way for the implementation of the "last, best and final" offer.

When the council began to debate the contract measure Tuesday, MPOA members left the packed council chambers en masse.

That prompted Mayor Rob Hammond to angrily call the move disrespectful and "childish."

Hammond reinforced the message from City Manager Scott Ochoa's 45-minute presentation that the city had offered police officers all it can afford.

"If you don't like what I said, I'm going to give you a solution. It's called a recall election," Hammond said.

The unanimous vote forced a retroactive police contract - along with a 4.68 percent raise for officers - that will expire at the end of June. A new set of negotiations will begin again in the coming weeks.

"We're not going to wait until next time. Our public outreach will continue and it will grow," said Dieter Dammeier, the lawyer for the MPOA, who recently obtained a 24.4 percent raise for Arcadia police officers.

Dammeier was a target of the council at the meeting.

Several council members called the city's officers "friends" and sought to separate individuals from the strategies they employed.

"If they come back to the table in July with the same mind set and the same representation, they may damage themselves beyond repair," said Councilman Dan Kirby. "I'm just floored at their tactics."

But officers said the time had come for new tools in their fight to get increased pay.

"It's a critical juncture," said Detective Bob Manuel, an 18-year veteran of the Monrovia Police Department and MPOA board member. "There's been a lot of dissatisfaction over the years."

The officers who spoke to the council detailed long overtime hours and low morale. Officers from Azusa, which guarantees the highest pay in the San Gabriel Valley, said they had brought job applications for their Monrovia brethren.

One sticking point in the negotiations, and a topic at the meeting, was the 13-city salary survey Monrovia uses to determine how its officers are paid, comparatively. By the city's calculation, Monrovia officers are paid 5 percent above the average. The MPOA said the city's compensation is the lowest.

Dammeier has advocated for different survey methods, saying other cities do not account for retirement benefits as part of compensation the way Monrovia does.

But Ochoa pointed to seven nearby cities that do calculate the city's retirement payments similarly. When Dammeier sought to rebut that statement, Kirby told him to sit down, stating that public comment was over.

Officers said they hope the recent attention will give them traction for future negotiations. But city officials said the bleak economy and budget shortfall in Sacramento means Monrovia may soon have less to offer.

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