



From the City Manager's Desk

a weekly report from Scott Ochoa, City of Monrovia



March 28, 2008

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Development Review Committee Recap The Committee heard the following applications at their March 26, 2008 meeting:

- An advisory review for a conditional use permit for an auto towing dispatch serve at 134 East Pomona Avenue was continued to determine if the metal building meets building and fire code for storage of trucks.
- An advisory review for a conditional use permit to sell alcoholic beverages for Wang's Palace which is relocating from Myrtle to 120 East Lemon Avenue was recommended for approval to the Planning Commission.

Historic Preservation Commission Recap The Historic Preservation Commission, at their meeting of March 26, 2008, reviewed the following applications:

- A Certificate of Appropriateness for 173 Highland Place to remove a non-original window in the kitchen pantry and replace with French doors that match the existing French doors was approved.
- A Certificate of Appropriateness for 149 Highland Place to remove non-original window and replace with period style windows and remove window on balcony and replace with period style door was approved.
- Conditions for the Aztec Hotel Mills Act contract at 311 West Foothill Blvd. were reviewed and the decision was deferred until the Historic Resources Survey is completed in December of 2008.
- A façade remodel for 419 was continued for the applicant to submit plans.
- Historic District regulations were discussed in regards to a proposal by staff to lessen the burden on the noncontributing properties by the following:
 - Review of single story additions, remodels, and accessory structures on noncontributing property to be handled by the Development Review Committee. Staff is recommending that second story additions continue to be handled through a Certificate of Appropriateness.
 - Building permit fee relief (40%) to be offered to non-contributors for exterior remodels that have been approved by the HPC and are determined not to be incompatible with the district.

- A discussion of the signage for historic districts resulted in two signs being forwarded to the City Council for review.

COMMUNITY SERVICES HAPPENINGS

Monrovia Reads, Plays and Has Fun Fourteen children and one parent from the Monrovia Reads and Plays program attended and enjoyed the Spring Egg Hunt in Recreation Park on Saturday, March 22nd. Many residents of the Reads and Plays neighborhoods on Sherman and Ivy have limited transportation opportunities therefore staff coordinated transportation to the event with the YMCA. The children participated in all of the activities, including the egg hunts, crafts, health and wellness games and eating healthy food! Parents expressed appreciation for having a safe, healthy special event for their children and are grateful for the programs offered.

Canyon Park Organizes 6th Annual EE Conference On Monday, March 24, Canyon Park staff participated in a workshop on dynamic teaching techniques. The theme "Information is not Interpretation" was designed to give staff tools to help park visitors connect their hearts and heads with the natural resources that exist in Canyon Park and surrounding outdoor environments. The workshop focused on natural resources such as wilderness habitats, wildlife, prehistoric artifacts and cultural heritage.

Celebrate Spring On Saturday, March 22, the Department of Community Services, in partnership with the Santa Anita Family YMCA, hosted the annual Spring Egg Hunt and "Healthy Kids Day" event at Recreation Park from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Activities included egg hunts, carnival games, arts and crafts, photo booth, toddler area, giant slide, dunk tank, human hamster balls and concessions. More than 2,300 youth attended this year's event. 47 of Monrovia's Youth Commissioners and 20 senior volunteers helped with set-up of the event and assisted with carnival booths, egg hunts, photo booth, registration and clean-up. Staff received many complimentary remarks from participants and parents including the following:

"I just wanted to thank everyone who made this event possible. My children had the best time ever. I have never seen such a terrific program with such diverse activities. I'm glad we live in Monrovia!"

This grand community program would not have been possible without the generous donations of the following sponsors:

Event Sponsors:

- Sierra Autocars
- Post Alarm Systems
- Kim's Hapkido Karate
- Monrovia Police Officers Association
- Jodi Breneman, Dickson Podley Realtors
- Diane Balsamo, Countrywide Home Loans

Activity Sponsors

- Foothill Towing
- Sam's Club
- Century 21 Adams and Barnes
- Bowden Development
- Sign Power

- Monrovia Rotary Club
- Bonholtzer Family
- Monrovia Youth Baseball League

Legends of Radio Senior Program On Friday, April 11th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. join senior's around the radio as they find out "Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men?" *The Shadow Knows....* Listen to the legendary radio series of The Shadow, starring: Orson Welles, Bill Johnstone and Bret Morrison. To make reservations for this "free" program or for additional information call (626) 256-8246.

Seniors Volunteer at Spring Egg Hunt Thank you to the 20 senior citizen volunteers that helped make the March 22nd Spring Egg Hunt a great success! Seniors registered over 2000 children for the various age appropriate egg hunts. This is one of the favorite volunteer opportunities the seniors participate in. The seniors enjoy watching the children and families excited to hunt for eggs and take pictures with the Bunny.

Teens Named Monrovia Idols Competition was stiff as twenty young singers, dancers and instrumentalists took part in the second *Monrovia Idol*, held at the Monrovia Community Center on Wednesday, March 19. The students were joined by Idol judges Rhonda Johnson, Pauline Abdul, and Sydney Cowell, standing in for the more famous three who were busy on live television that evening. Contestants were divided into three categories. In the Instrumental category, 8th grader Kristian Bear was voted first place for his drum solo. In the Solo category, 7th grader Frances Patano won for her cover of Carrie Underwood's *Jesus Take the Wheel*. In the Duo/Group category, dancers Tina Marie Aguilera and Amber Ayala (sixth graders) and Michelle Aguilera (ninth grader) took home the top prize. All winners received a gift card to Mervyn's, Blockbuster Video, or Krikorian Theater and a snazzy *Monrovia Idol* trophy. Over 100 parents, friends and family turned out to cheer and vote for their favorite contestants.

Sing Sing Sing Gigi and Mike's *Family Folk Sing-Along & Hootenanny* will be the place to be on Thursday, March 27 at 3:45 p.m. at Bradoaks Elementary School. Gigi Johnson and Mike Salas, featured on KGEM-TV, are bringing their energetic concerts back to Monrovia. Winner in Traditional Singing at the 2006 Topanga Banjo Fiddle Fest, they will get voices singing and toes tapping with kids from 3 to 93. They will entice us with stories of times gone by, humor, interesting musical instruments, and more ways to bring music into our lives. This is a perfect event for the entire family. It's free and open to the public.

ON THE POLICE BLOTTER

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 528 calls for service resulting in 125 investigations. Following are this week's highlighted issues and events:

Fight in Progress/Drunk in Public. On March 22 at 00:52 a.m., an officer observed a fight in progress in the 200 Block of East Foothill, at the same time dispatch was receiving calls of a loud party and subjects arguing. The fight broke up and subjects left in their vehicles in different directions. The officer arrested one subject for drunk in public. Officers detained several vehicles who were part of the fight but no one wanted any involvement. All subjects were field interviewed.

Trespassing/Parole Hold. On March 22 at 4:18 a.m., dispatch received a 9-1-1 call reporting a male subject was just in his home in the 100 Block of East Los Angeles. The subject was described as a male with a white towel over his head. The subject exited the house and left walking toward Myrtle. Shortly after, officers saw and detained a subject matching the description. A field show up was conducted and the subject was positively identified. The subject was found to have been drinking and

was arrested for trespassing. The subject is on active parole for drugs and a parole hold was placed on the subject.

Attempt Robbery. On March 23, 11:25 a.m., officers responded to a retail store in the 1600 Block of South Mountain regarding a male subject who had placed several items in his pocket. The subject failed to pay for them, but stopped and paid for several cans of spray paint. The loss prevention officer attempted to detain him outside the store. The suspect became combative and swung his fist and arms at the loss prevention officers. They were able to successfully detain him until officers arrived. Suspect was arrested and booked for attempt robbery.

Rape. On March 24 at 9:24 p.m., officers responded to an apartment at 800 Block of West Duarte in regards to a rape that just occurred. At the location, officers meet with the victim, her mother and father. During the investigation, it was discovered that while the family was out to dinner, the victim was raped an hour earlier, by a male juvenile cousin who was also living there at the apartment. The male juvenile suspect was arrested and transported to Eastlake Juvenile Detention Center. The female victim was taken to a hospital for medical examination. After the investigation, the victim went home with her parents.

Possession of a Control Substance for Sales. On March 25, 1:26 a.m., officers responded to the 400 block of West Foothill regarding a subject possibly dealing drugs. The suspect was contacted by officers and found to be in possession of methamphetamine and cocaine in amounts which were large enough for sales. The suspect was arrested and booked. This is the suspect's third strike.

False Impersonation of Another. On March 26, 5:14 p.m., an officer took a report involving a subject who worked at a business in the 600 Block of East Huntington. The subject had used another person's identity to obtain employment. The investigation lead officers to discover numerous employees were working at the location under other person's identity. The identities were obtained through credit applications from the business. The applications then were given to third parties who falsified identifications, sold the information for the purposes of employment and later for credit purchase. Four suspects were arrested, booked, and held for Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The investigation is continuing.



ENGINEERING:

Low Impact Development Standards. Engineering Staff attended a workshop on Wednesday at Los Angeles County Department of Public Works to receive the latest guidelines for Low Impact Development (LID) standards. Staff has begun to implement the LID standards as part of a project's conditions of approval. Contractors will be required to retain and treat storm water run-off on-site prior to entering the street or storm drain system.

Colorado Commons Street Improvements. The final details are being completed and the developer is waiting for the permit that is required to be posted to operate the elevator.

Transit Village - Phase 1. Staff is coordinating a preliminary review of the land use maps for traffic impacts with a traffic engineer.

700 S. Myrtle - Urban Housing Group. Staff is reviewing the grading/drainage plans. Demolition is scheduled next week for asbestos removal followed by the building demolition. The project has been fenced and staff is working with Foothill Transit to relocate the bus stop from the southeast corner to the southwest corner of Myrtle and Olive.

Grading Project Plan Check:

- 700 S. Myrtle
- 803 Norumbega

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
- 214 N. Madison
- 1612 Alasitas
- 1128 S. Myrtle

OPERATIONS – Environmental – Facilities – Parks:

Conservation Workshop. As part of the Community Development Department's Conservation Workshop on Thursday, March 27, Public Works staff discussed our conservation and energy saving strategies for our City Facilities, Water, Parks and Environmental Services.

San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments EENRC Meeting. On Tuesday, our Operations Staff attended the Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee Solid Waste Working Group Meeting, sponsored by the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGCOG). The topic discussed was the opposition of proposed State Legislative Bill AS 2640 that will eliminate waste diversion credits for green waste. Presently, Monrovia receives credit for its green waste, and this Bill will do away with the green waste diversion credit that we receive. The SGCOG supports the opposition of this Bill.

Time Warner Cable Interview. On March 25th, Daniel K. Iwata, Operations Division Manager, and Hector Brolo, Program Manager, Intergy Corporation, were interviewed by Time Warner regarding Monrovia's involvement in the "Model City" Program. Intergy is the consulting firm that is managing the "Model City" Program sponsored by Southern California Edison and the San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Partnership. Dan stated that the City Council's adoption of the Monrovia Environmental Accords last July has given Monrovia an opportunity to have its infrastructure evaluated and Intergy has provided the City with an Energy Master Plan. The City's partnership with Intergy will result in significant energy savings and credits for many City improvements, such as the Downtown Lighting Project, Fire Station 101 Renovation and the Corporate Yard Renovation.

Staff met with Intergy this week to discuss the Energy Action Plan for all City vehicles including subcontracted vehicles. The next step will be a meeting with the Green Team and City Fleet Managers to discuss Intergy's recommendations and proposed methods to accomplish the Fleet portion of the Monrovia Environmental Accords.

Fire Station 102 Butler Building. The Fire Station 102 Butler Building Foundation Project began this week and is scheduled to be completed by the end of next week. The reassembly of the Steel Butler Building onto the new foundation is scheduled to begin April 14.

Traffic Signals.

- Myrtle Ave. at Fire Station 102, signal has been replaced.
- Traffic loops at Huntington and Fifth were repaired.
- Foothill Blvd. corridor traffic loops are scheduled to be surveyed next week.

Library Park Trees. Our Parks Division arborist met with a resident who was concerned for the trees at Library Park and was reassured that the trees are healthy and will remain in the park after the project is completed. A thank you email was sent by the resident.

Tree Trimming Contract. After a long contractual relationship, TruGreen Landcare has sold their services to West Coast Arborist effective April 1, 2008. West Coast Arborist will honor TruGreen's remaining contract with the City until its expiration on June 30, 2009. West Coast Arborist has an excellent reputation, and they have agreed to keep the employees from TruGreen Landcare. Until contracts are finalized, all scheduled trimming will be on hold.

STREETS:

Traffic Signs:

- Graffiti was removed from 46 traffic signs.
- Replaced decals on street sweeping signs at various locations throughout the City.
- Replacement or Installation of Traffic Signs:
 - Northeast corner of Colorado and Fifth replaced stop sign
 - Southeast corner of Mayflower and chestnut replaced stop sign
 - 1147 E. Lemon Ave. installed city limit sign
 - 512 Violet installed Neighborhood Watch sign
 - Northeast corner Colorado and Primrose installed the 4 way stop notification sign
 - 600 block of W. Huntington Dr. replaced No-Parking Any Time sign
 - Southeast corner of Colorado and Primrose repaired stop sign.
 - Northwest corner of Norumbega Dr. and Greystone Ave. replaced stop sign
 - 1857 S. Alta Vista installed Neighborhood Watch sign
 - 800 block of S. California replaced No-Parking 10pm to 6am sign
 - 134 E. Central replaced No-Parking Any-Time sign

Miscellaneous:

- Potholes were patched at Myrtle and Central and the 100 block of E. Evergreen.
- Repaired sidewalk at Myrtle Ave. south of the railroad crossing
- Sidewalks under the freeway overpasses were cleaned
- Trip hazard removal throughout the City.
- Temporary No-Parking signs for 3/27/2008 were posted to assist MTA with the relocation of a bus stop from the 500-600 blocks of S. Primrose.

UTILITIES:

Customer Service

- 2,371 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 43.8 millions gallons, an increase of approximately 5% compared to last week's reported water usage.

Department of Health Services Required Water Samples:

- 17 water system samplings
- 6 water treatment facility samplings

Utility Maintenance

- 1 - 1" new water service was installed
- 2 - 1" water service was upgraded to copper line
- 1- 2" water meter box was replaced
- 1 – 6" water main leak was repaired
- 22 underground service alert's utility location requests were completed
- 10,820 feet of sewer mains were cleaned
- 100 feet of sewer mains were video inspected

Have a great weekend!

FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

Tues., April 1, 7:30 p.m.	Regular Council Meeting
Sat., April 5, 11 to 1 p.m.	MAP 2 Block Party, 400-600 Royal Oaks
Tues., April 15, 7:30 p.m.	Regular Council Meeting
Thurs., May 1, 11:30 a.m.	Annual Volunteer Luncheon, Community Center
Mon., May 5, 5:00 p.m.	Monrovia Reads "Cinco de Mayo", Krikorian Premier Theater
Tues., May 6, 7:30 p.m.	Regular Council Meeting
Sat., May 10, 11 to 1 p.m.	MAP 2 Block Party, 400-600 Walnut

CMO ATTACHMENTS:

Monrovia labor dispute heating up

Police file suit over city contract

By Melissa Pamer, Staff Writer

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MONROVIA - The Monrovia Police Officers' Association has served three lawsuits on the city, following the unilateral implementation this week of a contract the union had opposed.

Only one of the three suits deals directly with the 11-month contract negotiations, which reached an impasse two weeks ago when the 72-member Monrovia Police Officers' Association (MPOA) rejected the city's offer of a 16.5 percent raise over 3 1/2 years.

The MPOA had wanted a 23.2 percent raise.

On Tuesday, at a contentious meeting that was picketed by police officers and their families, the City Council unanimously approved a one-year retroactive contract - which includes a 4.68 percent raise for officers - that will expire June 30. The MPOA was opposed to the action.

Outside the meeting, MPOA attorney Dieter Dammeier vowed to step up his public outreach tactics, which have included mailers, automated phone calls and e-mails to residents.

The lawsuits, at that point, were already in the works.

One of the suits alleges the city improperly rejected the MPOA's demand for binding arbitration at the end of contract negotiations.

"If the city's deal was so fair, I don't know why they wouldn't go through arbitration," Dammeier said Thursday.

The case depends upon a California law that allows public safety employee unions to request an arbitration panel following failed negotiations. The statute was in recent years declared unconstitutional and then amended by the Legislature, Dammeier said.

"We've already told them we were not interested, but we will respond to it," City Manager Scott Ochoa said of arbitration and the lawsuit.

The second suit is a public records filing that seeks to force the city to disclose documents in relation to Ochoa's compensation package. Dammeier said City Hall had been "piecemealing" documents he had requested.

The third suit - filed by Sergio Bostick and Patty Newton, two individual officers - alleges federal labor violations in relation to a stipend that the MPOA said is due K-9 officers.

Ochoa said he wasn't surprised by the suits, calling them "par for the course."

"It's an ironic way to go about getting more salaries and benefits, in an era of economic downturn, to force the cities to spend money on attorneys instead of spending money on the requested salaries and benefits," Ochoa said.

The three suits were served on the city Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Two were filed in Pasadena Superior Court. The federal labor suit was filed in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles.

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