



## Sergeant Gossett’s Inspiring Journey to Leadership in Los Alamitos



Officers stopped by the City Council Chamber to offer support during the swearing in ceremony for Sergeant Gossett. From left to right: Sergeant Krogman, Captain South, Sergeant Gossett, Chief Claborn, Officer Bruki, Officer McLeod, Officer Delgado, and Executive Assistant Wilson.

The City of Los Alamitos is proud to recognize the recent promotion of Sergeant DeAngelo Gossett, a dedicated law enforcement professional whose journey to public service is marked by perseverance, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to doing the right thing, even when it’s not easy.

Born in Los Angeles and now a resident of Orange County, Sergeant Gossett graduated from Aliso Niguel High School before earning a Bachelor of Science in Business Marketing from Azusa Pacific University. His early career followed a traditional business track, starting with Enterprise Rent-A-Car’s management trainee program, where he rose to the role of Assistant Manager at John Wayne Airport. He then transitioned into the mortgage industry, working as a mortgage banker and trainer for a prominent lending company.

However, when the housing market collapsed during the Great Recession, the impact was personal and profound. “I had just bought a house, and when the market crashed, I lost my job, my home, and eventually filed for bankruptcy,” Gossett recalled. “I

had seven jobs in three years—sales, debt reduction, insurance. Many of those environments rewarded people who were willing to deceive others. I wasn’t, and that cost me.”

Rather than compromise his principles, Sergeant Gossett chose a new path, one where integrity was a strength, not a liability. After discussions with his wife and deep reflection, he turned to law enforcement, a profession grounded in public service, accountability, and community protection. He soon graduated from the Golden West Police Academy as the Honor Recruit.

Sergeant Gossett began his law enforcement career that same year with the Signal Hill Police Department, where he spent six years serving in various critical roles, including Range Master, Field Training Officer, Drug Recognition Expert, Taser Instructor, School Resource Officer, and Senior Police Officer.

During his tenure in Signal Hill, Sergeant Gossett was awarded a Meritorious Conduct Award for preventing a suicide in the field. He recalls spotting a vehicle parked in an unusual location, an area known more for drug use

or loitering than anything else. Trusting his instincts, Sergeant Gossett approached the vehicle and discovered a man asleep in the back seat. When the man opened the door, Sergeant Gossett noticed an empty holster on the floorboard. Acting quickly, he drew his firearm and discovered the man’s loaded weapon tucked behind the passenger seat. A suicide note was found in the vehicle. Rather than arresting the man, Sergeant Gossett transported him to the hospital for a 72-hour mental health evaluation.

On September 30, 2018, Sergeant Gossett joined the Los Alamitos Police Department, quickly establishing himself as a leader and mentor. He became a Field Training Officer and Range Team Member early in his tenure. Today, eight of the department’s officers are his former trainees, a testament to his dedication to training the next generation. “One of my favorite parts of the job is helping young officers make it to the end of their careers—mentally and physically intact,” he shared.

His continued excellence earned him back-to-back Mothers Against Drunk

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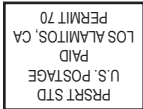
## Upcoming Events Calendar

### City Meetings

- City Council Meeting  
Date: August 18, 2025  
Time: 6:00 PM
- Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Commission Meeting  
Date: October 1, 2025  
Time: 7:00 PM
- Planning Commission Meeting  
Date: August 27, 2025  
Time: 7:00 PM
- Traffic Commission Meeting  
Date: August 13, 2025  
Time: 7:00 PM

### City Events

- Elevate Encore Senior Expo  
Date: August 27, 2025  
Location: Los Alamitos Community Center - 10911 Oak St.  
Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  - Celebrate Los Al  
Date: September 13, 2025  
Location: 10901 Pine St.  
Time: 4:30 PM - 9:30 PM
  - Elevate Women’s Conference  
Date: October 1, 2025  
Location: Los Alamitos Community Center - 10911 Oak St.  
Time: 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM
  - Trunk or Treat  
Date: October 25, 2025  
Location: Little Cottonwood Park - 4000 Farquhar Ave.  
Time: 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM
  - Halloween Decorating Contest (Decorate your home)  
Date: October 28, 2025  
Location: Various with registration  
Time: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- More events can be found on the City website: [cityoflosalamitos.org](http://cityoflosalamitos.org)



### KEEP UP WITH US IN 2025

(562) 431-3538

CITYOFLOSALAMITOS.ORG

FOLLOW US @CITYOFLOSAL

REGISTRATION: LOSALRECREATION.MYREC.COM



# Mayor’s Business Spotlight: Over 40 Years of Artistry and Dance at Melodie’s Dance Theatre

For more than four decades, Melodie’s Dance Theatre has been a beloved part of the Los Alamitos community instilling confidence, discipline, and joy through the art of dance. Founded in 1977 by Melodie Nay Danley and her mother, Eleanor, the studio has grown from its original location at Los Coyotes Diagonal and Wardlow Road into a thriving creative hub at 3381 Cerritos Avenue, just across from Los Alamitos High School. What began as a passion project has become a legacy. Today, under the dedicated leadership of owner and jazz teacher Heidi Santillan-Fong, Melodie’s Dance Theatre continues to provide exceptional dance education in a family-friendly, inclusive environment where dancers of all levels are welcomed and encouraged. Melodie Nay Danley, who began teaching dance at age 21 when she opened the studio, still brings her love of the art form into the classroom today. Tap dance remains her true passion, and her dedication to teaching and choreographing continues to inspire new generations of performers. Heidi Santillan-Fong, who started dancing at Melodie’s at age three, is a true product of the studio’s legacy. She danced there until she was 17, served as an assistant teacher under Melodie,

and went on to a professional dance career, including performing across the U.S. and in Japan. She later earned a degree in Business Administration from California State University, Long Beach. In 1997, Heidi became co-owner and took over sole ownership in 2020, continuing the studio’s mission with fresh energy and a deep respect for its roots. At Melodie’s Dance Theatre, the goal is clear: to help every dancer develop strong technique, artistic expression, and personal confidence. Whether they’re here at the studio once a week or training daily, Melodie’s wants each student to leave feeling proud, supported, and empowered. The studio offers a comprehensive list of classes, including Tap, Jazz, Ballet, Hip-Hop, Acrobatics, Lyrical, Contemporary, and Performance and Competition Teams (for all levels). Melodie’s also offers private lessons for personalized training and exciting Guest Workshops with industry professionals. Melodie’s also sets itself apart by focusing on proper technique, especially for students involved in other school activities or sports who may not be able to commit to full competition schedules. They love helping students boost their skills and confi-



Owner Heidi Santillan-Fong with all of the dance crews and trophies that Melodie’s Dance Theatre as won.

dence, knowing they’ve trained and are ready to shine, onstage or off. Dancers have the opportunity to perform at iconic venues such as the OC Fair, Knott’s Berry Farm, Disneyland, and the studio’s End-of-Year Holiday Show. These events are designed to showcase each student’s progress while instilling the poise to stand proudly in front of a crowd. Performing should be fun. “It’s okay to mess up. What matters is showing up with confidence and joy,” says Heidi. Heidi calls her staff her “little gems”—a talented group of instructors who bring real-world dance experience to every class. Many also work professionally in the industry, creat-

ing a unique environment of passion and excellence. The current teaching roster includes: Ace Austria, Madue Coryell, Chelsea McIntyre, Tosh Tran, Audrey Williams, Nick Young, Matalina Levi, and Phia Sucevich. Melodie’s Dance Theatre offers a FREE trial class for new students. Whether you’re exploring dance for the first time or looking to level up your skills, there’s a place for you at Melodie’s. For information about Melodie’s Dance Theatre please visit <https://melodiesdance.com> and more information on the Mayor’s Business Spotlight Program, please visit <https://cityoflosalamitos.org/515/Mayors-Business-Spotlight-Program>.

## Rise-Up Athletics Named Official Legacy Business by City of Los Alamitos



Cheryl Vuong with her Rise Up Cheer Squad posing for the certificate photo.

As part of its ongoing initiative to recognize the businesses that have helped shape the heart and identity of the community, the City of Los Alamitos has officially designated Rise-Up Athletics as a Legacy Business, a prestigious recognition reserved for locally owned establishments that have operated for 25 years or more and made a significant cultural, social, or economic impact on the City. Founded more than four decades ago, Rise-Up Athletics has become much more than just a gym — it is a pillar of the community, a second home to generations of young athletes, and a beacon of perseverance and community spirit. Offering a wide range of programs including gymnastics, cheerleading, tumbling, and ninja training, Rise-Up provides students of all ages and skill levels with the skills, support, and structure to grow not only as athletes, but as confident, capable individuals. Rise-Up Athletics began its journey

in 1977 under the name Kidnastics, quickly earning a loyal following for its family-focused atmosphere and passionate coaching. Thousands of children have passed through its doors over the decades — learning how to vault, tumble, balance, and more importantly, believe in themselves. In January 2019, the gym officially rebranded as Rise-Up Athletics, after Cheryl Vuong took over ownership of the gym. The rebrand was more than just a name change — it was a symbolic recommitment to the gym’s mission to inspire, empower, and elevate every young athlete who walks through its doors. From the updated uniforms and signage to new class offerings and facility enhancements, Rise-Up’s transformation was embraced by both longtime families and new participants alike. Despite the new look and expanded programming, the atmosphere inside the gym has remained true to its roots: energetic, encouraging, and full of heart.

At the core of Rise-Up’s enduring success is the Vuong family, who have stewarded the business with unwavering dedication and vision. Their leadership has helped the gym weather changing trends, economic challenges, and personal loss — always with a focus on resilience and community connection. The gym’s values — family, tradition, and perseverance — are not just words on a wall. They’re embodied in every class, every coach, and every high-five exchanged after a hard-earned skill. Over the years, Rise-Up has honored the memory of beloved mentors and staff members whose influence is still deeply felt, maintaining a sense of history and purpose that newer generations continue to build upon. One of the most remarkable aspects of Rise-Up Athletics is its intergenerational influence. Many current students are the children — and even grandchildren — of former students. Parents often return to the gym years later, not only to enroll their own kids but to relive cherished memories of their time on the mat. Community members frequently credit Rise-Up with helping their children build not only physical strength and agility, but also confidence, discipline, teamwork, and resilience. The gym’s instructors and staff serve as mentors and role models, guiding students through both athletic challenges and personal growth. City officials underscored Rise-Up’s multifaceted contributions to Los Alamitos’ economic and cultural vital-

ity. In addition to providing local jobs and drawing families from neighboring communities, Rise-Up regularly hosts competitions, exhibitions, and special events that bring hundreds of visitors to the area — supporting local businesses and strengthening the city’s reputation as a hub for youth development. Through its outreach programs, community partnerships, and commitment to excellence, Rise-Up Athletics exemplifies the spirit of the Legacy Business designation. For the Vuong family and the Rise-Up team, receiving Legacy Business recognition is both a proud milestone and a stepping stone. As they look toward the future, their focus remains on continuing to evolve, serve, and inspire the next generation. “Our goal has always been to create a place where kids feel seen, supported, and strong,” said the Vuongs. “We’re honored to be recognized by the City, but the real reward is the community we’ve built — and continue to build — every day.” Families interested in learning more about Rise-Up Athletics can visit their website at [www.riseupathletics.net](http://www.riseupathletics.net). The gym is located at 10712 Reagan Street, Los Alamitos, CA 90720, and offers trial classes, seasonal camps, birthday party packages, and year-round programs for youth of all levels. Businesses must be operational for 25 years, employ less than 30 people, have no code violations, and hold an active business license to qualify as a Legacy Business



Sergeant Gossett



Sergeant Gossett being sworn in by Chief Claborn during the July 21, 2025 Los Alamitos City Council Meeting.

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Driving (MADD) Awards for his DUI enforcement efforts and selection to the regional West County SWAT Team. In 2022, he was named the Los Alamitos Police Department Officer of the Year. Most recently, in July 2023, he was promoted to Corporal, and now, to Sergeant.

Sergeant Gossett believes deeply in the long game and putting in the work. “Hard work pays off in the end. Everyone wants to be the beneficiary of the person who worked hard for 30 years and left them an inheritance, but no one wants to be the person who worked hard for 30 years,” he said. As he steps into this next chapter, Sergeant Gossett remains committed to upholding the values that brought him to policing: integrity, service, and leadership.

His journey from business executive to law enforcement leader is not only inspiring but also proof that life’s toughest setbacks can be the start of the most meaningful work.

Council to Affirm City’s Position on Short-Term Rentals in Grand Jury Response, Sends Response Well Ahead of Deadline

At its most recent City Council meeting, the Los Alamitos City Council approved a resolution authorizing Mayor Shelley Hasselbrink to sign a formal response letter to the Orange County Grand Jury, addressing the City’s position and practices regarding short-term rentals (STRs). The letter will respond to the Grand Jury’s report titled “Long-Term Solutions to Short-Term Rentals,” which was released on May 20, 2025. Municipalities across the county are required to submit their official responses by August 20, 2025, with correspondence directed to Maria Hernandez, Presiding Judge of the Orange County Superior Court.

The Grand Jury report defines STRs as residential properties, such as homes or apartments, rented out for periods of fewer than 30 days. The report evaluates STR permitting systems across Orange County, the effectiveness of local bans, enforcement challenges, and strategies to balance neighborhood livability with economic and tourism interests. It also provides a toolkit of policy recommendations for planning departments to mitigate negative community impacts while addressing the growing demand for short-term accommodations.

Los Alamitos’ response letter aims to clarify its long-standing regulatory framework, which differs from the approach assumed by the Grand Jury. Under the City’s Municipal Code, short-term rentals are classified within the land use categories of hotels and motels, and are permitted only in commercially or industrially



zoned areas. This zoning restriction effectively prohibits STR operations in residential neighborhoods.

City staff emphasized that this approach is rooted in established land use policies and community feedback. In 2023, Los Alamitos conducted a citywide outreach campaign to assess public opinion on potentially allowing STRs in residential zones. The campaign utilized a multi-platform strategy, including mailed flyers, door hangers, local newspaper ads, social media, and a citywide email blast.

The public survey closed on July 31, 2023, with 451 residents submitting responses. The results were clear: 80% of respondents opposed permitting STRs in residential areas. City officials say this strong public sentiment affirms the City’s current zoning regulations and supports continued enforcement against unpermitted STR activity.

While Los Alamitos does not issue STR permits for residential properties, the City actively enforces its code through online monitoring and targeted enforcement. Code enforcement staff regularly scan popular STR platforms and issue citations to property owners who violate the municipal code by operating unlawful STRs in residential zones.

The Grand Jury’s report encourages

cities to explore regional cooperation, establish uniform definitions, and develop flexible yet enforceable planning frameworks to address the evolving STR landscape. While Los Alamitos does not anticipate changes to its land use designations at this time, the City recognizes the importance of participating in broader countywide discussions to improve STR oversight and regulatory consistency.

The official response letter, approved by City Council, will summarize Los Alamitos’ current STR definition, its enforcement approach, the results of the 2023 community survey, and the City’s commitment to maintaining neighborhood integrity and quality of life. It will also highlight the importance of community-driven policy and ongoing dialogue with residents regarding future land use decisions.

The resolution allows Mayor Hasselbrink to formally submit the City’s response before the Grand Jury’s August 20 deadline, reinforcing Los Alamitos’ position as a city that prioritizes thoughtful planning, community engagement, and residential stability.

Visit the City’s website for more information concerning Code Enforcement matters at <https://cityoflosalamitos.org/186/Code-Enforcement>.

Employee of the Quarter: Suzannah Ives



The City of Los Alamitos Employee of the Quarter Awards (EoQ) Program, aimed at recognizing full-time city employees for their exceptional work performance and dedication, has recognized Department Secretary Suzannah Ives for the Summer 2025 quarter. The Employee of the Quarter Program honors individuals who display a strong work ethic, provide high-quality customer service, and consistently go above and beyond in their respective departments or across city operations.

The awards program spotlights city employees who stand out among their peers for their remarkable contributions. The program is designed

to acknowledge these employees on a quarterly basis, ensuring that excellence is rewarded throughout the year. Any City of Los Alamitos employee can nominate fellow full-time, non-executive employees who have been with the City for at least one year and are off probation. Executive Staff members are ineligible, and employees who have received the award within the past two years are ineligible for re-nomination.

Award recipients are publicly recognized during a City Council meeting with a Certificate of Recognition, receive an additional 10 hours of vacation pay, and have their name and photo displayed on the Employee of the Quarter plaque. Additionally, they will be given a unique “Employee of the Quarter Recognition Belt,” a rotating item passed from one recipient to the next.

With four employees receiving this prestigious honor each year, the program aims to celebrate those who make exceptional contributions to the City of Los Alamitos. Recognitions are announced city-wide at the beginning of each quarter.

<b>Administration</b> City Manager - Chet Simmons Administrative Services Manager - Chelsi Wilson City Clerk/Director of Communications- Windmera Quintanar, MMC
<b>Development Services (Dev Svcs)</b> Deputy City Manager/Director of Dev Svcs - Ron Noda Dev Svcs Manager - Irving Montenegro
<b>Finance</b> Director of Finance/City Treasurer - Craig Koehler Finance Manager - Barbara Biscocho
<b>Police Department</b> Chief of Police - Michael Claborn Operations Captain - Luke South Administrative/Investigation Captain - Kain Gallagher Support Svcs Manager - Robert Acosta
<b>Recreation &amp; Community Services (RCS)</b> Director of RCS/Director of Intergovernmental Affairs - Emeline Noda Recreation Manager - Jennifer Sisoiev Recreation Manager - Jason Bruton



## Parking Permits in Effect for Select Areas

**CITY OF Los Alamitos California**

# REQUIRED RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMIT MAP

## GREENBROOK

### PERMIT ENFORCEMENT HOURS

**MONDAY - THURSDAY**  
9:00 AM to 10:00 AM

**MONDAY - FRIDAY**  
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

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Los Alamitos High School

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Whether you're volunteering in the morning or joining the celebration in the evening, it's a full day dedicated to unity, fun, and local spirit. For full event details, you can visit the City of Los Alamitos Recreation & Community Services Department at their website or call (562) 430-1073. For updates and municipal information, visit the City's official site at [www.cityoflosalamitos.org](http://www.cityoflosalamitos.org), where recreation schedules, holiday events, and community service opportunities are regularly posted.

Los Alamitos residents living in designated permit parking zones will have until September 1, 2025, to apply for parking permits through the new online system. After that date, parking regulations will be enforced. All previous permits will be invalid after September 1, 2025. Additionally, permits must now be renewed annually. Proof of residency and vehicle registration is required. Please visit <https://losalamitos.getapermit.net/> to apply for a permit.

**August**  
14 **New  
Romantics**  
(Taylor Swift Cover)

**September**  
11 **Sega  
Countryside**  
(Country)

**October**  
9 **The  
Emperors**  
(Classic Rock)

**Free  
Event**

**Nites on  
Pine ST**  
LOS ALAMITOS



**10901 Pine St.**  
(Florista St. and Pine St.)  
6:30p.m. to 8:00p.m.

**Live Music ✦ Vendors ✦ Free Kids Zone**

For more information, contact (562) 431-3538 or visit [cityoflosalamitos.org](http://cityoflosalamitos.org)