



# The Los Al Loop



*Your Source for Los Alamitos Community News.*

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## Los Al Retains Top Civil Servants, Miguel De La Torre Honored



From left to right: Assistant City Manager Ron Noda, Public Works Supervisor Rene Carmody, Interim Public Works Superintendent Lorry Hempe, Senior Maintenance Worker Miguel De La Torre, Maintenance Worker Jose Mendoza, and Lead Foreman Luis Reyes are pictured celebrating Miguel on his big night.

Los Alamitos employees share a unified mission: to provide exceptional service to the community they proudly serve. Across every department—Administration, Finance, Police, Public Works, and Recreation & Community Services—City staff are driven by a commitment to professionalism, teamwork, and a deep sense of responsibility to residents and businesses. This culture of dedication is reflected not only in daily operations, but also in the long tenures of many employees who have chosen to build their careers serving Los Alamitos. One of the many distinguished examples of that commitment is Senior Maintenance Worker Miguel De La Torre, who recently celebrated 25 years of service with the City. Miguel joined the Los Alamitos team on Oct. 9, 2000, and his journey stands as a testament to the opportunities, support, and strong organizational culture that define the workplace. Miguel began in an entry-level maintenance position and steadily advanced within the Public Works Department. He shared that one of the most rewarding aspects of his career

has been the ability to grow and move up within the organization—something he credits to the encouraging environment and the colleagues who supported him along the way. Among his accomplishments, Miguel is particularly proud of his work on the security fence installed around the City Center, a project that significantly improved safety for staff. The fence now serves as a daily reminder of the important role Public Works plays in maintaining and protecting the spaces that residents rely on. Miguel’s dedication is shared by many longtime employees who also celebrated milestone anniversaries this year. Together, they represent decades of institutional knowledge, steady leadership, and unwavering commitment to the community:

- Assistant City Manager Ron Noda – Joined November 5, 2007
- City Clerk/Director of Communications Windmera Quintanar – Joined August 17, 2005
- Director of Recreation & Community Services/Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Emeline Noda – Joined November 12, 2007

- Police Captain Gallagher – Joined January 9, 2006

These individuals collectively represent more than a century of service to Los Alamitos. Their dedication has shaped major City initiatives, strengthened day-to-day services, and enriched the relationships that form the foundation of Los Alamitos. City leaders note that having such a strong core of longtime employees is a reflection of both the City’s supportive workplace culture and the genuine pride staff feel in serving the community of Los Alamitos. As Los Alamitos continues to evolve—enhancing public safety, improving infrastructure, and expanding community programs—the contributions of these dedicated employees help ensure that the City remains a well-run, responsive, and welcoming place to live, work, and visit. The City proudly congratulates Miguel and his fellow longtime employees for their years of service and extends heartfelt gratitude for their ongoing commitment to delivering the very best to Los Alamitos residents and visitors.

## Upcoming Events Calendar

- City Meetings
- City Council Meeting  
Date: December 15, 2025  
Time: 6:00 PM
- Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Commission Meeting  
Date: February 4, 2026  
Time: 6:00 PM
- Planning Commission Meeting  
Date: January 28, 2026  
Time: 6:00 PM
- Traffic Commission Meeting  
Date: January 14, 2026  
Time: 6:00 PM
- City Events
- Holiday Decorating Contest  
Date: December 10, 2025  
Location: City-wide  
Time: 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
- City Hall Closed  
Date: December 22, 2025 to January 5, 2026
- Race on the Base  
Date: February 28, 2026  
Location: JFTB - 11206 Lexington Dr.  
Time: 7:00 AM
- More events can be found on the City website: [cityoflosalamitos.org](http://cityoflosalamitos.org)

### THE LOS AL LOOP STAFF

- CITY CLERK/DIR OF COMM.  
Windmera Quintanar
- EDITOR  
Matt Lightner
- ASSISTANT EDITOR  
Katherine Preciado
- WRITERS  
Jasmine Delos Reyes  
Suzannah Ives

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Los Al Detective Espinoza and Corporal Kim Honored for Service



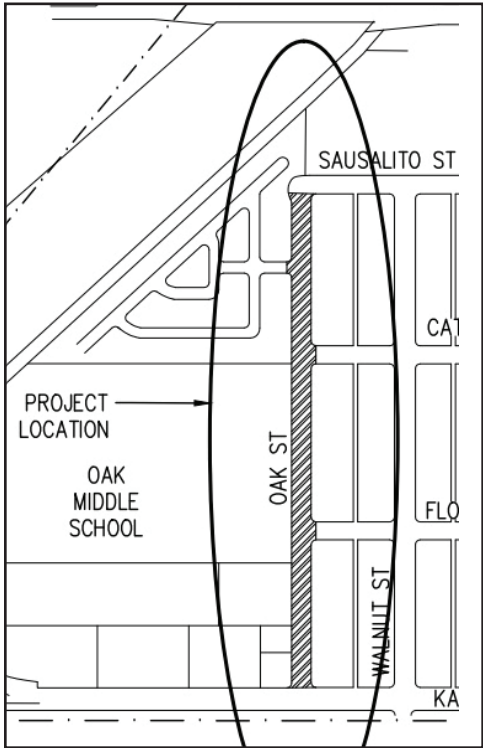
Detective Espinoza (left) honored with the 2024 Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Award and Corporal Kim (right) honored with the 2024 Auto Theft Advisory Committee (ATAC) Award during the Council Meeting.

Two Los Alamitos Police Department officers were recognized during the Nov. 17, 2025 City Council meeting for their proactive work in removing impaired drivers from local streets and recovering stolen vehicles, achievements City leaders said contribute directly to a safer community. Police Chief Michael Claborn presented the first award to Detective Espinoza, who received the 2024 Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Award. Chief Claborn said the national organization has long set the benchmark for recognizing officers who take a proactive approach to combating impaired driving. Detective Espinoza led the department in 2024 with nine DUI arrests. Chief Claborn stated that drunk driving enforcement remains a critical component of public safety. He said it has been proven that removing impaired drivers from the road prevents serious collisions and saves lives. He described MADD as a “house-

hold name” and noted that its awards highlight officers who go “out of their way” to conduct DUI enforcement. Detective Espinoza also received commendations from elected officials. A representative from state Senator Tony Strickland’s office presented a certificate recognizing the detective’s dedication to preventing impaired driving and protecting roadway safety. The certificate stated that Espinoza’s work reflects professionalism, public service, and a commitment to reducing tragedies caused by drunk driving. The representative said Detective Espinoza’s vigilance and courage have contributed to creating safer roads for residents across the community. The office of Orange County Supervisor Janet Nguyen also provided recognition. Corporal Daniel Kim was also recognized for proactive policing in Los Alamitos and received an award from the Orange County Auto Theft Advisory Commission (ATAC). Chief

Claborn said the commission identifies officers throughout the county who make the most proactive recoveries of stolen vehicles. He described auto theft as a crime that affects insurance rates and quality of life, and said Corporal Kim stood out in Los Alamitos for his work locating and recovering stolen cars. Chief Claborn said the award acknowledges officers who show initiative in addressing a crime category that impacts both property and public safety. Corporal Kim’s efforts reflect the department’s ongoing emphasis on proactive policing. Corporal Kim also received a certificate of recognition from Senator Strickland’s office. The presentation praised the corporal for his investigative skills, vigilance, and dedication to combating vehicle theft. According to the certificate, Corporal Kim’s work demonstrates high standards of law enforcement and has contributed to reducing auto theft and protecting the public. The representative delivering the certificate stated that Corporal Kim’s commitment to teamwork and community safety had a significant impact on local crime prevention. City officials said the awards highlight the department’s ongoing commitment to proactive policing and crime prevention, noting that the Los Alamitos Police Department is dedicated to public safety in visible, measurable ways. The recognitions also underscored the City’s broader efforts to support policing strategies that address community concerns before, reflecting not only the officers’ dedication but also Los Alamitos’ continued commitment to building a safe and well-protected community.

Los Alamitos Moves Forward With Oak Street Improvement Project



The Los Alamitos City Council has approved the scope and solicitation process for the Oak Street Improvement Project, clearing the way for one of the City’s latest neighborhood roadway upgrades. At the Nov. 17, 2025, City Council meeting, staff moved forward with advertising and issuing bid documents for the project, formally listed as CIP 24/25-03. The improvement effort will resurface Oak Street between Katella Avenue and Sausalito Street through a grind-and-overlay treatment designed to extend pavement life and improve driving conditions. The project also includes repairing damaged curbs and gutters, addressing lifted sidewalks to correct drainage, and upgrading Americans with Disabilities Act curb ramps to current standards. The improvements are especially important for families at Oak Middle School, which sits along the project route. Heavy traffic during student pick-up and drop-off has contributed to pavement wear and rough driving conditions over time. Staff say the roadway upgrades will help reduce vehicle wear and tear, improve safety, and create a smoother, more predictable traffic pattern for parents, buses, and visitors once the work is finished. Construction timing and coordination will be planned carefully to minimize impacts on school operations. City leaders highlight that responsible planning and careful budgeting are central to Los Alamitos’ infrastructure strategy. By aligning capital projects with identified revenue sources, the City aims to maintain strong financial practices while continuing to improve public facilities, roads, and neighborhood safety. Once complete, the Oak Street Improvement Project will provide a smoother road surface, improved drainage, and better pedestrian accessibility. Officials say the project will not only benefit nearby residents but also support the daily operations of Oak Middle School.

Los Alamitos Police Department Celebrates Support Personnel Week



Chief Michael Claborn (left), Senior Records Specialist Gina Tavasci (center-left), Records Specialist Belinda Roman (center-right), and Captain Luke South (right) pictured for Records Personnel Appreciation Day.

The Los Alamitos Police Department honored its behind-the-scenes professionals as part of Law Enforcement Records and Support Personnel Appreciation Week, a national observance held annually during the second week of November. The recognition highlights the vital contributions of the staff members who ensure police operations run efficiently, accurately, and in full support of officers serving in the field.

Records and support personnel carry out a wide range of essential duties, including processing reports, managing subpoenas, and safeguarding property and evidence, coordinating communications, and providing critical administrative support. Their precision, organization, and dedication form the backbone of daily police operations and ensure officers have timely and reliable information when responding to the community.

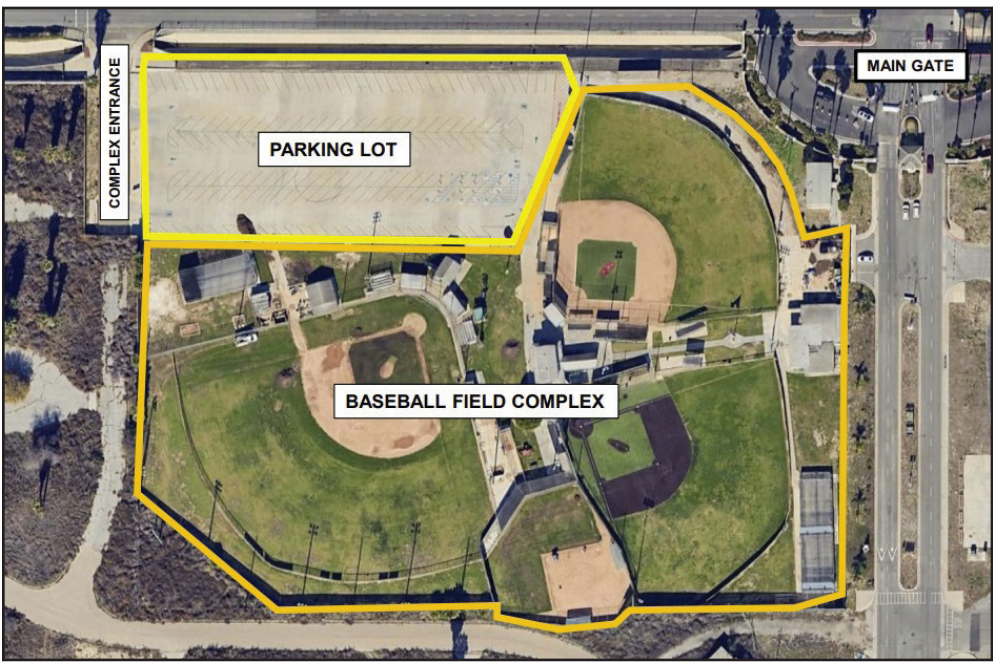
To express appreciation for their continued professionalism and reliability, the department hosted a special luncheon to celebrate the staff’s work. Department leadership emphasized that these individuals play a crucial role in the success of the agency and the overall safety of the community. In further recognition, the City Council presented awards during the Nov. 17th council meeting. Senior Records Specialist Gina Tavasci and Records Specialist Belinda Roman attended the meeting to accept the honors on behalf of the department’s records and support personnel. Their presence underscored the vital role these staff members play and offered the community an opportunity to acknowledge the individuals who keep operations running. City officials extended their gratitude to all records and support staff, noting that their contributions are appreciated not only during this annual observance but throughout the year. Their commitment and dedication continue to enhance the quality and effectiveness of law enforcement services in Los Alamitos.



# City of Los Alamitos Expands Recreation Opportunities with the Joint Forces Training Base

The City of Los Alamitos is preparing to significantly expand recreation opportunities for residents through a new short-term revocable license agreement with the Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB). The proposed partnership centers on Sunburst Field, located at 11212 America Drive, and represents a renewed investment in quality of life, community connection, and accessible green space. For more than 62 years, Sunburst Field has been part of the Los Alamitos community, serving generations of local families. The City was presented with the opportunity to expand green space through entering into a one-year lease agreement that would transition the use of the field to municipal oversight.

Under the recommended plan, Staff would be authorized to execute the license, allowing the City to operate Sunburst Field for a period of one year in exchange for in-kind services. These services will include annual improvements to the field and associated facilities, ensuring that the site continues to meet safety and operational standards set by Los Alamitos. This approach allows the City to maximize the value of the agreement without imposing additional financial strain, as the cost of the lease will be offset through ongoing operational funding and Capital Improvement



Projects managed by the Development Services Department. The initiative is expected to greatly enhance the availability of recreational programming across Los Alamitos. With access to additional field space, the City can broaden its youth sports offerings, increase the number of seasonal camps and classes, and build out new community events that rely on expanded outdoor capacity. Sunburst Field will also serve as an added area of public green space, creating more opportunities for recreational activity, physical activity, and community gatherings. This is particularly vital in our City that prioritizes active lifestyles, multigenerational

engagement, and quality of life. The partnership underscores the collaborative relationship between our City and the Joint Forces Training Base, strengthening ties that have long contributed to the character and identity of Los Alamitos. By working together, the two entities can continue preserving valuable recreational resources while supporting the needs of the surrounding community. The arrangement also highlights the interconnected roles of the Recreation and Community Services Department and the Development Services Department. While Recreation focuses on enriching community life through diverse programs and events, Devel-

opment Services will ensure that Sunburst Field is maintained, reinforcing the City’s commitment to careful planning, usability, and long-term care of green spaces. This expansion aligns closely with the Recreation and Community Services Department’s overarching goal of enhancing quality of life for all ages. The department emphasizes creating programs and services that bring people together, foster community pride, and encourage active, healthy living. The addition of Sunburst Field supports these objectives by creating more room for the activities that matter most to families, youth, residents, and visitors of Los Alamitos at large. Ultimately, the proposed agreement reflects a forward-looking investment in both community spaces and community spirit. As we continue to grow and evolve, partnerships like this ensure that our residents have access to the recreational resources that make our City a vibrant and welcoming place to live. The collaboration with JFTB not only preserves an important local asset but also demonstrates a shared commitment to maintaining a connected and thriving community. Look forward to new offerings from the Recreation and Community Services Department creating greater quality of life using the newly added green space at Sunburst Field.

## Shop Local, Support Community: Celebrating Small Business Saturday in Los Alamitos



Arlene Guzman (left) and Ariana Cabral-Felix (right) receiving proclamations for Pacific Organic Pops (POP).

Still looking for a gift for that special someone. Shop local this holiday season! Small Business Saturday once again delivered a powerful reminder of the vital role local businesses play in the health, identity, and long-term success of communities nationwide. Recognized annually on the Saturday following Thanksgiving, the event encourages residents across the United States to shift their holiday spending toward small, independently owned shops and services. On Friday, November 29, 2025, cities and business owners throughout the country united to highlight the significance of this movement, reinforcing how local support can help sustain jobs, fuel economic growth, and build strong, connected neighborhoods. In Los Alamitos, the message resonates deeply. As a city that prides

itself on community, character, and collaboration, Small Business Saturday offers an opportunity to showcase the unique establishments that bring warmth and personality to local life. Shopping locally is more than a seasonal gesture—it is an investment in the long-term vitality of our city. Residents are encouraged to spread the word, visit the shops they love, explore new businesses, and make conscious choices to support the establishments that help define the Los Alamitos experience. Whether grabbing a drink from a favorite coffee spot, dining at a neighborhood restaurant, or browsing a locally owned boutique, every small purchase contributes to a larger positive impact. The simple act of choosing to shop local, eat local, play local, stay local, and support local ensures that Los Alamitos continues to

flourish year-round. This year, Los Alamitos proudly highlights Pacific Organic Pops (POP) as a featured Small Business Saturday recipient. POP has become a beloved local gem, celebrated for its commitment to quality, creativity, and community connection. Located at 11110 Los Alamitos Blvd., Suite 101, POP is known for crafting organic ice cream pops using the highest quality ingredients. The shop’s mission centers on providing a healthier, more thoughtful alternative for those seeking something sweet, offering a wide range of flavors including fruit pops, wellness pops, cream pops, dairy-free pops, and cookie pops. Each pop is handcrafted in-store daily, reflecting the business’s dedication to freshness, detail, and exceptional taste. Beyond their treats, POP emphasizes a culture of positivity and individuality. The business embodies a motto of “STAY COOL” - staying cool under pressure, treating others with kindness, embracing diversity, and celebrating the unique traits that make each person one-of-a-kind. This playful philosophy extends into their customer experience, creating a welcoming environment that resonates with families, teens, and adults alike. Their rentable “signature pop cart” has also become a popular feature for local events, adding a fun and memorable element to celebrations across the region. With an active online presence through their website and Instagram



account @pacificorganicpops, POP continues to expand its reach while staying true to its community-first values. The store welcomes visitors Tuesday through Sunday, with hours that adjust seasonally to best serve their customers. Small Business Saturday was recognized on Nov. 29, 2025, but small businesses in Los Alamitos need support year-round, which is why the City does everything to promote economic development within the City. Highlighting businesses like POP is just one of the many ways Los Alamitos continues its mission to become “The Best City Ever.” By uplifting local entrepreneurs, promoting community-driven initiatives, and celebrating the creativity and charm that small businesses bring to the city, Los Alamitos proudly blends the spirit of a small town with the innovation of a growing, vibrant community. Through shared support and collective pride, we are charting a path toward an even brighter and more connected future.



# Los Alamitos Set to Modernize Policing with Implementation of Body-Worn Cameras



The Axon Body 4 which will be implemented for use at the Los Alamitos Police Department.

Los Alamitos is preparing to take a major step forward in modern policing by equipping its officers with body-worn cameras (BWCs) for the first time—making it the final city in Orange County to adopt the technology. While the City has long maintained a professional and community-focused police force, the move marks a pivotal shift toward modern standards of transparency, accountability, and evidentiary efficiency. The City Council approved a five-year agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc., the nation’s leading provider of law enforcement camera systems and digital evidence management platforms. The proposal includes annual costs of \$68,920.46, totaling \$344,602.46 over the contract term, plus a recommended contingency that brings the overall project allocation to

\$379,062.71 for the five years. Though Los Alamitos is the last city in the county to implement BWCs, officials emphasize that the timing reflects deliberate planning and a commitment to selecting the right system—one that meets modern policing needs and ensures reliability. For years, Los Alamitos officers have relied primarily on written reports and personal recollection to document field encounters. While these methods have served the department well, the introduction of body-worn cameras will modernize everyday policing and align the City with widely adopted best practices. Departments across the nation have found that BWCs provide undeniable benefits, including:

- Stronger evidence for prosecution
- Clearer resolution of disputes or

conflicting witness accounts

- Increased transparency for the public interest
- Protection against false claims
- Enhanced officer safety and performance auditing

With Los Alamitos adopting BWCs, the police department will now have the ability to capture objective, high-quality video evidence—strengthening investigations and improving the efficiency of processing cases for the courts. Evidence that previously required hours of report writing or detailed interviews can now be supported instantly with video documentation, reducing delays and streamlining case management. Beyond the cameras themselves, the City plans to continue to utilize Axon’s cloud-based Evidence.com platform, which automates uploads at the end of each officer’s shift, securely stores video, and provides advanced editing and redaction tools. Redactions will only occur when required by law. This system enables the seamless sharing of evidence with prosecutors, defense counsel, and partner agencies, significantly accelerating the discovery process. The Axon Body 4 cameras, paired with automatic activation features, docking stations, interview room recording systems, and upgraded Tasers, will fully integrate with existing dispatch operations. Mid-cycle equipment replacement, 24/7 customer support, and comprehensive training ensure officers are equipped with

the most current technology available in modern policing. A 2022 study by the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory found Axon cameras to be the industry’s top performer in key areas including image stabilization, reliability, and ease of use, further solidifying the City’s selection. City officials note that the adoption of BWCs is a direct reflection of the police department’s commitment to openness and community partnership. By providing real-time, transparent recordings of police interactions, the technology is expected to strengthen public confidence and reinforce the City’s commitment to fair and accountable policing. Tools such as Axon Citizen will also allow residents to securely submit video evidence directly to the department, fostering even greater cooperation between officers and the community they serve. Deployment of the new BWCs program is anticipated to begin in Winter 2025. Once implemented, the system will bring Los Alamitos firmly into the modern era of law enforcement technology—improving transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness for years to come. With this step, Los Alamitos closes the gap with surrounding agencies and positions itself to meet the expectations of a modern, technology-driven policing environment furthering the safety of all residents and visitors to “The Best City Ever.”

## Los Alamitos Announces Recreation Bucks



The City of Los Alamitos is launching the Los Alamitos Recreation Bucks Program—a new initiative aimed at boosting the local economy while expanding access to recreation opportunities. The program provides residents with discounts on popular Recreation & Community Services classes when they make purchases at participating Los Alamitos businesses. Under this program, customers who shop at local establishments can earn Los Alamitos Recreation Bucks, which are redeemable for select recreation programs offered during the 2025 Winter and 2026 Spring seasons. The initiative is designed to foster stronger ties between residents and local businesses, creating a cycle of community support that benefits everyone. Residents can receive Recreation Bucks only at participating Los Alamitos businesses. The discount amount corresponds to the total spent, with

tiers ranging from \$10 off to \$65 off depending on the purchase amount. Businesses wishing to take part must hold a current Los Alamitos business license, be in good standing with the City, and submit a program Acknowledgement Form. Participating businesses will display a City-provided vinyl sticker at their entrance to help residents easily identify program partners. Strengthening the local economy through community engagement, the Recreation Bucks Program underscores Los Alamitos’ commitment to both community enrichment and economic vitality. By encouraging residents to shop locally, the City aims to build stronger connections between businesses and residents. Additional information and required forms will be available at the Los Alamitos Community Center or at [cityoflosalamitos.org/recbucks](http://cityoflosalamitos.org/recbucks).

# SAVE THE DATE

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2026

In partnership with **CIRCUIT**, getting around Los Al just got easier! The City of Los Alamitos will launch a new on-demand transportation service, Los Al Link for residents to improve local mobility. Visit our website for the most up-to-date information!

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- **Request a Ride**  
Use the free Circuit app, or call to schedule a ride at 562-609-4121.
- **Low cost service**  
Rides are free for riders ages 50 and over, and low cost for all others.
- **Shared Rides**  
You may share your trip with other passengers heading in the same direction.

**Hours:**

- **Normal operating hours:**  
The service will operate from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.
- **Summer Season (Tuesday after Memorial Day to Labor Day):**  
The service will run from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

**Cost:**

- Free for ages 50+, \$2.50 for under 50 per trip.

**Vehicle Type:**

- 100% electric fleet, including ADA-accessible vehicles.

### Service Area:



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