

From: [Elaine Polachek](#)
To: [Elaine Polachek](#)
Cc: [Susan Cline](#)
Subject: Contact Info
Date: Thursday, February 20, 2025 2:16:20 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Mayor and Council

I realize I may not have provided you with my contact information.

My work cell is [REDACTED] Susan Cline's work cell is [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

As I noted earlier, I will be out of the office from 2/26-3/17. You'll be in excellent hands with Susan. I look forward to meeting with each of you on my return.

Best,
Elaine



Elaine Polachek

Interim City Manager

santamonica.gov

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From: [Elaine Polachek](#)
To: [Elaine Polachek](#)
Cc: [Susan Cline](#); [Christopher J. Smith](#); [Sergio Ramirez](#); [Oscar Santiago](#)
Subject: Council Budget Workshop Agenda
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 5:29:05 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Budget Workshop Agenda-March 8, 2025.pdf](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

Attached please find the agenda for your March 8 Budget Workshop. As you can see, the main focus of discussion will be the City's financial status and Council priorities that will help inform our two-year budget process.

Susan, Oscar, and Christopher will help guide your discussions and I will get a full briefing when I return from vacation.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

-Elaine



Elaine Polachek

Interim City Manager

santamonica.gov

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From: [COUNCIL 2025](#) on behalf of [Elaine Polachek](#)
To: [Caroline Torosis](#)
Subject: Elaine Polachek added you to the COUNCIL 2025 group
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2025 1:49:57 PM
Attachments: [LogoM365.png](#)
[welcome_email_v3_conversations.png](#)
[welcome_email_v3_calendar.png](#)
[welcome_email_v3_files.png](#)
[welcome_email_v3_sharing_laptop.png](#)
[welcome_email_v3_onenote.png](#)
[welcome_email_v3_teamwork_laptop.png](#)
[twitter_icon.png](#)
[salesforce.png](#)
[trello.png](#)
[jira.png](#)
[microsoft.png](#)
[arrow.png](#)



Work Brilliantly Together

Welcome to the COUNCIL 2025 Group

Use the group to share messages and files, and to coordinate group events.

Private group with 11 members

[View group in Outlook](#)

Get started

You're set to receive all of this group's conversations and events in your inbox. Change this setting below or any time in the group card.

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Get the conversation rolling
Start your own. Or just catch up. All in



Keep things together
Now, your documents and

the group inbox.



Stay on the same page

Groups that take notes together, stay together. In the group notebook.



attachments in one place.

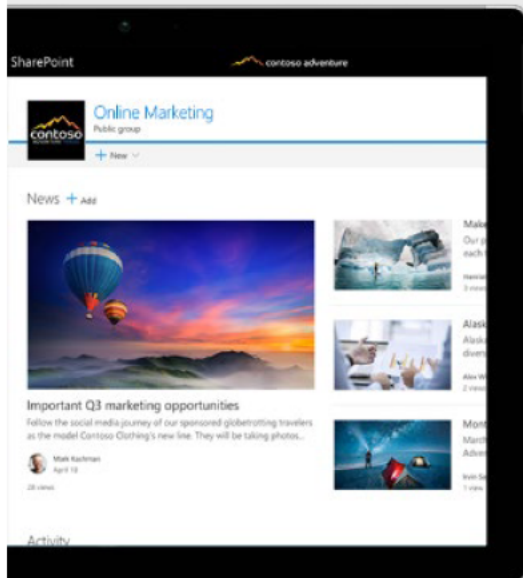


Don't miss a thing

Track milestones (and everything in between) in the group calendar.



Collaborate with your group across Microsoft 365



Create content seamlessly

The group's SharePoint team site is the place to share news, work on and organize content, manage rich data within lists, and track all site activities across all members.

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[Check it out](#)



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From: [Elaine Polachek](#)
To: [Barry Snell](#); [Caroline Torosis](#); [Dan Hall](#); [Ellis Raskin](#); [Jesse Zwick](#); [Lana Negrete](#); [Natalya Zernitskaya](#)
Cc: [Susan Cline](#); [Christopher J. Smith](#); [Lauren Howland](#)
Subject: FW: Fatal Traffic Collision I-10/20th
Date: Monday, March 17, 2025 5:20:06 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Mayor and Council,

Please see below re: fatal collision on I-10.

-Elaine



Elaine Polachek

Interim City Manager

santamonica.gov

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From: Ramon Batista <Ramon.Batista@santamonica.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 4:34 PM

To: Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>; Susan Cline <Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov>; Christopher J. Smith <Christopher.J.Smith@santamonica.gov>

Cc: Matthew Hallock <Matthew.Hallock@santamonica.gov>; Lauren Howland <Lauren.Howland@santamonica.gov>; Lewis Gilmour <Lewis.Gilmour@santamonica.gov>

Subject: Fatal Traffic Collision I-10/20th

Hi Elaine,

The information is limited as the call was recently dispatched.

This afternoon, at approximately 4:09 P.M., SMPD and SMFD responded to a traffic collision on westbound I-10 at about 17th (between Lincoln and 20th). On arrival, the units determined that one person had passed away from their injuries.

CHP will handle the collision; lane restrictions will be in place during the investigation.

Thank you

Chief Batista



City of
**Santa
Monica**



Ramón Batista

Chief of Police

Police Department

[333 Olympic Drive](#)

[Santa Monica, CA 90401](#)

Office: (310) 458-8401

From: [Elaine Polachek](#)
To: [Elaine Polachek](#)
Cc: [Susan Cline](#); [Christopher J. Smith](#); [Lauren Howland](#)
Subject: Press Release - Arrests Made in 101 Wilshire Incident
Date: Thursday, February 20, 2025 2:18:55 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[Three Arrested in Fatal Stabbing Incident PR.pdf](#)

Mayor and Council,

Please see attached press release regarding arrest made by SMPD in the 2/15 stabbing incident on Wilshire. It will be released to the media this afternoon.

Thanks,
Elaine



Elaine Polachek

Interim City Manager

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From: [Jennifer Taylor](#)
To: [Andrea Bowman](#); [Caroline Torosis](#); [Judy Kruger \(Santa Monica Chamber ofCommerce\)](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Request for Assistance in Securing Worksites for Youth Employment Program
Date: Friday, March 14, 2025 3:47:10 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Andrea,
Certainly, will send you the link once the newsletter gets published in early April.

Thanks,
Jennifer

Apologies for the timing of this email. I'm on a different time zone and certainly do not expect a reply.

From: Andrea Bowman <Andrea.Bowman@jvs-socal.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2025 11:05 AM
To: Jennifer Taylor <Jennifer.Taylor@santamonica.gov>; Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>; Judy Kruger (Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce) <judy.kruger@smchamber.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Request for Assistance in Securing Worksites for Youth Employment Program

EXTERNAL

Hi Jennifer,

Thank you for replying. Could you provide me with the link so I can share it with others as well?

Warm Regards,



Andrea Bowman

Santa Monica Career coach
5446 Sepulveda Blvd, Culver City, CA 90230

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From: Jennifer Taylor <Jennifer.Taylor@santamonica.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 5:34 PM
To: Andrea Bowman <Andrea.Bowman@jvs-socal.org>; Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>; Judy Kruger (Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce) <judy.kruger@smchamber.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Request for Assistance in Securing Worksites for Youth Employment Program

Thanks for letting us know, Andrea. We will include the new date in our April biz newsletter.

From: Andrea Bowman <Andrea.Bowman@jvs-socal.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 2:28:53 PM
To: Jennifer Taylor <Jennifer.Taylor@santamonica.gov>; Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>; Judy Kruger (Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce) <judy.kruger@smchamber.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Request for Assistance in Securing Worksites for Youth Employment Program

EXTERNAL

Hi Everyone,

I wanted to inform you that our Job Fair date has been changed to April 17 from 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM.

After reaching out to multiple employers, I found that the original hours were not ideal for many of them. This new time works better for both the employers and the youth who are interested in attending.

I truly appreciate all your support!

Warm Regards,



Andrea Bowman

Santa Monica Career coach
5446 Sepulveda Blvd, Culver City, CA 90230

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From: Jennifer Taylor <Jennifer.Taylor@santamonica.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 5:50 PM
To: Andrea Bowman <Andrea.Bowman@jvs-socal.org>; Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>; Judy Kruger (Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce) <judy.kruger@smchamber.com>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Request for Assistance in Securing Worksites for Youth Employment Program

Hi Andrea,

We can certainly put the word out to our businesses thru our Buy Local channel. We can include the types of jobs that you requested!

Thanks,
Jennifer

From: Andrea Bowman <Andrea.Bowman@jvs-socal.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 4:52 PM
To: Jennifer Taylor <Jennifer.Taylor@santamonica.gov>; Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>; Judy Kruger (Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce) <judy.kruger@smchamber.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Request for Assistance in Securing Worksites for Youth Employment Program

EXTERNAL

Hi Jennifer,

This is amazing, and I truly appreciate the support! We are looking for at least 5 businesses that are interested in participating.

I've attached a list of jobs that youth are said that they are interested in. Please let me know if you'd like me to follow up with any additional details.

Warm Regards,

Andrea Bowman

Santa Monica Career coach



5446 Sepulveda Blvd, Culver City, CA 90230

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From: [Jennifer Taylor](#)
To: [Andrea Bowman](#); [Caroline Torosis](#); [Judy Kruger \(Santa Monica Chamber ofCommerce\)](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Request for Assistance in Securing Worksites for Youth Employment Program
Date: Monday, February 3, 2025 6:29:57 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Hello Andrea,

It's nice to meet you. Thank you for reaching out.

We are working on a Buy Local SM business e-newsletter, which goes out to 1.500 Santa Monica businesses. I can include this in Monday's newsletter. Depending on response/space availability you have, we can also include this in the March e-news.

Are there any specific types of businesses you want to target? Judy and I can put our heads together about some additional outreach through both of our networks.

We have tenants located in City-owned property, including Pacific Park, who is the city's largest youth employer. I imagine you know Jeff Klocke already but if not, I'm happy to make introductions.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Taylor
Economic Development Manager
(310) 458-8906
www.santamonica.gov



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From: Andrea Bowman <Andrea.Bowman@jvs-social.org>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 6:23 PM
To: Jennifer Taylor <Jennifer.Taylor@santamonica.gov>; Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>; Judy Kruger (Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce) <judy.kruger@smchamber.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Request for Assistance in Securing Worksites for Youth Employment Program

EXTERNAL

Hi Everyone,

I hope you're doing well! I know it's been some time since we last connected, and I believe we were waiting to set up a time to meet. I'd still love the opportunity to meet with your team to discuss our youth program and explore ways we can collaborate.

In the meantime, I wanted to share our **Youth Job Fair flyers** with you. We are currently looking for **employers to participate** in the event, and I wanted to reach out to see if you or anyone in your network might be interested in joining us. The event is a great opportunity for businesses to connect with motivated young job seekers and provide career opportunities.

Please feel free to share the flyers with any employers who may be a good fit. Let me know if you'd be available to set up a meeting—I'd love to discuss our program and potential partnership opportunities.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Best regards,



Andrea Bowman

Santa Monica Career coach
5446 Sepulveda Blvd, Culver City, CA 90230

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From: Jennifer Taylor <Jennifer.Taylor@santamonica.gov>

Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2024 5:34 PM

To: Andrea Bowman <Andrea.Bowman@jvs-social.org>; Judy Kruger (Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce) <judy.kruger@smchamber.com>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Request for Assistance in Securing Worksites for Youth Employment Program

Hi Andrea,

Thanks for sending your availability. I've added mine to your times:

Mon 16th - 11:30 am, 2:30-4:30 pm

Tues 17th – 8:30 am

Weds 18th – 10 am, 2:30 pm or 4:15 pm

Thurs 19th – 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Judy, what works for you?

Thanks,
Jennifer

From: Andrea Bowman <Andrea.Bowman@jvs-social.org>

Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2024 2:13 PM

To: Jennifer Taylor <Jennifer.Taylor@santamonica.gov>; Judy Kruger (Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce) <judy.kruger@smchamber.com>; Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>

Cc: David White <David.White@santamonica.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Request for Assistance in Securing Worksites for Youth Employment Program

EXTERNAL

Hi Everyone,

Thank you for your responses, it is greatly appreciated. I would love to schedule a meeting discussing more about our program and our current youth. I'm available from 8am-5pm on Tues & Wed and 9:30am-6:30pm on Mon, Thur, Fri. Please let me know your availability so we can get something set up.

Warm Regards,



Andrea Bowman

Santa Monica Career coach
5446 Sepulveda Blvd, Culver City, CA 90230

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From: Jennifer Taylor <Jennifer.Taylor@santamonica.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2024 9:00 AM
To: Judy Kruger (Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce) <judy.kruger@smchamber.com>; Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>; Andrea Bowman <Andrea.Bowman@jvs-socal.org>
Cc: David White <David.White@santamonica.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Request for Assistance in Securing Worksites for Youth Employment Program

Hello Andrea,
I'd love to join your call with Judy so we can hear more together about your program and see how we can help. Thank you, Mayor Pro Tem Torosis for the intro!

Many thanks,

Jennifer Taylor
Economic Development Manager
(310) 458-8906
www.santamonica.gov



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From: Judy Kruger <Judy.Kruger@smchamber.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2024 8:36 AM
To: Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>; Andrea Bowman <Andrea.Bowman@jvs-socal.org>
Cc: David White <David.White@santamonica.gov>; Jennifer Taylor <Jennifer.Taylor@santamonica.gov>
Subject: Re: Request for Assistance in Securing Worksites for Youth Employment Program

EXTERNAL

(Thank you Caroline) Hello Andrea - Happy to hop on a call and chat! What a great program. Placing students, interns, or graduates is a hard lift, I know.

Let me know what works best for you.

Kind Regards,
Judy



Judy Kruger
President / CEO

[REDACTED]
judy.kruger@smchamber.com
www.smchamber.com

From: Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 9:37 PM
To: Andrea Bowman <Andrea.Bowman@jvs-socal.org>
Cc: David White <David.White@santamonica.gov>; Jennifer Taylor <Jennifer.Taylor@santamonica.gov>; Judy Kruger <Judy.Kruger@smchamber.com>
Subject: Re: Request for Assistance in Securing Worksites for Youth Employment Program

Hi Andrea,

This is great news. I am sure our city departments may be able to take some Youth at Work participants. I've copied our City Manager and Economic Development Chief. Additionally, I have copied the CEO of our Chamber, Judy Kruger. It would be great for us to participate.

Caroline

From: Andrea Bowman <Andrea.Bowman@jvs-socal.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 11:17 AM
To: Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>
Subject: Request for Assistance in Securing Worksites for Youth Employment Program

EXTERNAL

Hello Council Member Torosis,

Apologies for such a long email but I hope this message finds you well. My name is Andrea Bowman, and I am a Youth Career Coach with JVS SoCal, currently working with the Youth@Work program. Our office serves Santa Monica and surrounding communities, offering critical career readiness training and job placement opportunities to underserved youth populations, including those at Virginia Avenue Park.

Youth@Work is designed to provide teens with valuable work experience, job training, and mentorship that sets them up for long-term career success. We connect young people with local employers, ensuring they develop both soft and hard skills in real-world work environments. Unfortunately, we are facing challenges identifying sufficient worksites to meet the needs of the program participants in this area.

As an advocate for youth and community development, I kindly seek your support in identifying local businesses, organizations, or city departments that might be interested in partnering with our program. Collaborating with us would provide teens with meaningful opportunities to contribute to and learn from their community, while also allowing employers to invest in the next generation of workers.

I would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss this further with you or your team to explore ways we can work together to provide these teens with the experiences they need to thrive. Please feel free to contact email or call me [REDACTED]

Thank you for your time and consideration. I truly appreciate your dedication to our community and your support for initiatives like this. I look forward to your response.

Warm Regards,



Andrea Bowman

Santa Monica Career coach
5446 Sepulveda Blvd, Culver City, CA 90230

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From: [Jennifer Taylor](#)
To: [Phil Brock](#); [Lana Negrete](#); [Gleam Davis](#); [Caroline Torosis](#); [Jesse Zwick](#); [Andrew Thomas](#); [hunter@mainstreetsm.com](#); [REDACTED]; [Jim Harris](#); [Pam Stollings](#); [Heidi Henning](#); [Judy Kruger](#); [Misti Kerns](#); [Lauren Salisbury](#); [Jaclyn Rivera-Krouse](#); [David White](#); [Matthew Hallock](#)
Cc: [Ross Furukawa](#); [BuyLocalSM@sustainableworks.org](#); [Ava Lee](#); [Seiky Gil](#)
Subject: RE: 2024 Most Loved SM Business Event - presenter confirmations
Date: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 8:36:37 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Most Loved Presenters:

We're all set for tonight! Thank you for your patience. We've been finalizing the script to align with the RSVPs. I'm pleased to announce that we have over 200 RSVPs. Here's the lineup:

5:30 PM – Awards Ceremony Starts- Ross + Jennifer kick-off
5:35 PM – Most Loved Retail Categories – Judy Kruger (SM Chamber)
5:40 PM – Raffle Drawing #1 – Gina Garcia (Buy Local)
5:45 PM – Most Loved Services Categories – Caroline Torosis, Jessie Zwick, Lana Negrete (City Council)
5:50 PM – Raffle Prize Drawing #2
5:52 PM – Most Loved Personal Care – Hunter Hall (MSBIA)
5:56 PM – Most Loved Neighborhood Favorites – Misti Kerns/Lauren Salisbury (SMTT)
6:00 PM – Most Loved Pico Blvd Biz – Pam Stollings/Heidi Henning (PIO)
6:02 PM – Most Loved DT + SM Place Businesses – Andrew Thomas (DTSM)
6:04 PM – Most Loved SM Pier Biz – Jim Harris (SMPC)
6:06 PM – Most Loved MT Ave Biz, Mid-City, OP Blvd + Green Biz – Albin Gielicz (MAMA/ Buy Local)
6:10 PM- Raffle Prize Drawing #3 – Gina (Buy Local)
6:12 PM – Most Loved Food Businesses Category – Mayor Phil Brock + SM Fire Chief Matt Hallock (City)
6:17 PM – Most Loved FM Vendor, Bar + Lounge, Fine Dining – Jackie Rivera Krouse (City FM)
6:20 PM – Most Loved Fitness Category – David White (City)
6:24 PM – Most Loved Transport Category – Gleam Davis (City Council)
6:28 PM – Wrap-Up – Jennifer + Ross
6:30-7 PM – Reception (City Hall Lobby)

Please plan to be at the event (in front of City Hall) no later than 5:15 pm. Ross and I will both have printed out scripts for the presenters, which we can give to you when you arrive.

Presentations will take place on the front steps of City Hall. We'll announce each presenter but please pay attention to the line-up and move towards the steps when the presenter in front of you goes up. The script will be at the podium (in large font for those of us who need it!). You will be given the awards when you are at the podium. Once you announce the winner(s), they will come up to the podium to get their award + then be instructed to head over to the Step + Repeat for photos. (Mayor Brock, please plan to be over at the Step + Repeat for photo opps!

All the Councilmembers are welcome to be part of the photo opps).

When we're done with the awards, we'll ask the winners and presenters to stick around for a few group photos. Then we can head into City Hall Lobby for the reception.

If you have any questions, feel free to call me at [REDACTED]. We'll be on site setting up from 3:30 pm. If anyone has a last minute conflict, please text me and then Ross or I can step in to present your category.

Thank you!



Jennifer Taylor

Buy Local Santa Monica Committee Chair/ Economic Development Manager

(310) 458-8906

santamonica.gov

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From: Jennifer Taylor

Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2024 6:33 PM

To: Phil Brock <Phil.Brock@santamonica.gov>; Lana Negrete <Lana.Negrete@santamonica.gov>; Gleam Davis <Gleam.Davis@santamonica.gov>; Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>; Jesse Zwick <Jesse.Zwick@santamonica.gov>; Oscar de la Torre <Oscar.delaTorre@santamonica.gov>; Andrew Thomas <andrew@downtownsm.com>; hunter@mainstreetsm.com; David Kianmahd <dk@blueplatesantamonica.com>; [REDACTED]; Jim Harris <jim@santamonicapier.org>; Pam Stollings [REDACTED]; Judy Kruger <Judy.Kruger@smchamber.com>; Misti Kerns <mkerns@santamonica.com>; Lauren Salisbury <lsalisbury@santamonica.com>; Jaclyn Rivera-Krouse <Jaclyn.Rivera-Krouse@santamonica.gov>

Cc: David White <David.White@santamonica.gov>; Susan Cline <Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov>; David Martin <David.Martin@santamonica.gov>; BuyLocalSM@sustainableworks.org; Nia Tang <Nia.Tang@santamonica.gov>; Elana Buegoff <Elana.Buegoff@santamonica.gov>; Erika Cavicante

<Erika.Cavicante@santamonica.gov>; Ava Lee <Ava.Lee@santamonica.gov>; Jaclyn Rivera-Krouse <Jaclyn.Rivera-Krouse@santamonica.gov>; Seiky Gil <Seiky.Gil@santamonica.gov>

Subject: 2024 Most Loved SM Business Event - presenter confirmations

Dear Most Loved Partners and Honorable Council,

I just wanted to follow up to confirm the details for next week's

Most Loved Santa Monica Businesses of 2024 Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, June 4th

5:30-7 pm

Location: Santa Monica City Hall (front steps + lobby)

I am writing to confirm your participation at the event with the request for your help in presenting the awards to this year's winners. We will be recognizing and honoring over 70 local businesses this year. I'm excited to have our Santa Monica VIPs (yourselves) there to announce and celebrate this year's winners and runners-up.

We ask that you arrive by 5:15 p.m. Upon arrival, we will provide each presenter with their speaking script (e.g. the contest category, list of finalists..."and the winner is...!"). **If you are NOT able to attend/present, please let me know by end of day tomorrow (Thursday 5/30).**

On Monday, I'll send follow up email to confirm the presenter line-up and estimated timing (see below for event flow).

Any questions? Feel free to call me at (310) 458-2201 ext. 6315 or my cell [REDACTED].

Below is the event line up.

Thanks,



Jennifer Taylor

Buy Local Santa Monica Committee Chair/ Economic Development Manager
(310) 458-8906

santamonica.gov

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[Join Buy Local Santa Monica Campaign \(for SM Businesses\)](#)



Time	Activity
4:00 PM	Buy Local & SMDP staff and volunteers arrive for Set Up
5:00 PM	Registration Opens
5:00 –5:30 PM	Registration & Networking
5:30 – 6:30 PM	Awards Presentation
6:30-7:00 PM	Networking and Food Bites
7:00 PM	Event Ends!

Ivannia Perez-Schlamm

Buy Local Santa Monica Administrator
 Senior Account Executive II | Green Business Programs
[Santa Monica](#) [Culver City](#) [Glendale](#)
 Sustainable Works | 1744 Pearl Street | Santa Monica 90405
 310.434.3886 | Office

[Join our email list](#)

From: [Jennifer Taylor](#)
To: [Judy Kruger \(Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce\)](#); [Charlie Lopez-Quintana](#); [Atallah, Younes](#); [Paula Larmore](#); [Melissa Cohen](#); [David Earl Woodbury](#); [Eglin, Stephanie](#); [David White](#); [Jing Yeo](#); [Caroline Torosis](#); [Lana Negrete](#); [Council Mailbox](#)
Cc: [Judy Kruger \(Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce\)](#); [Alex Brown](#)
Subject: RE: COSM Agenda for Tuesday, Jan 21
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 9:23:28 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

See you all at 4pm.

From: Judy Kruger <Judy.Kruger@smchamber.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 18, 2025 9:18 AM
To: Charlie Lopez-Quintana <clopezquintana@shuttersonthebeach.com>; Atallah, Younes <Younes.Atallah@regenthotels.com>; Paula Larmore <plarmore@hlkklaw.com>; Melissa Cohen <mcohen@bxp.com>; David Earl Woodbury <[REDACTED]>; Eglin, Stephanie <Stephanie.Eglin@macerich.com>; David White <David.White@santamonica.gov>; Jennifer Taylor <Jennifer.Taylor@santamonica.gov>; Jing Yeo <Jing.Yeo@santamonica.gov>; Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>; Lana Negrete <Lana.Negrete@santamonica.gov>; Council Mailbox <Council.Mailbox@santamonica.gov>
Cc: Judy Kruger (Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce) <judy.kruger@smchamber.com>; Alex Brown <Alex.Brown@smchamber.com>
Subject: COSM Agenda for Tuesday, Jan 21

EXTERNAL

City of Santa Monica and Chamber Leadership Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, January 21 at 4 pm
4:00 pm in David White's Office at City Hall
Agenda:

Economic development updates (Jennifer Taylor)

City updates (David White/Mayor Negrete)

Chamber updates (Judy Kruger)

-SBA office at the Chamber updates
-Regional economic recovery after disaster planning

Planning updates (Jing Yeo)

-short and long term rentals - is it too narrow?
-zoning changes re housing - timing for council agenda
-automatic extension for planning approvals



Judy Kruger
President/CEO

[REDACTED]
judy.kruger@smchamber.com
www.smchamber.com

From: [Elaine Polachek](#)
To: [Armine Chaparyan](#); [Elaine Polachek](#); [Jing Yeo](#)
Subject: RE: Entertainment Zone Updates
Date: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 10:45:37 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good morning, Mayor and Council,
I've talked to Arminé about Daniel Negari's email below. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thanks,
Elaine



Elaine Polachek
Interim City Manager
[santamonica.gov](#)
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

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Dear Jing,
Thank you again for your continued leadership on the Entertainment Zone implementation. I want to follow up with urgency and clarity my position regarding our two key corner properties: 301 Arizona Avenue and 312 Wilshire Boulevard and all corner properties into the new Entertainment

Zone.

Both buildings are recognized as part of the Third Street Promenade District per Downtown Santa Monica's Property-Based Assessment District (PBAD) and are taxed, governed, and managed accordingly. These properties front directly onto the Promenade and are categorized within the Promenade assessment zone.

The City's stated intent has always been to include the full three blocks of the Promenade, from Wilshire to Broadway. The technical omission of these corners—despite their central location and history as part of the pedestrian Promenade—appears to be a language oversight, not a policy decision. That oversight now risks derailing time-sensitive planning and leasing discussions for these long-vacant spaces.

As shared, I'm actively negotiating new concepts at both locations with operators who are investing real time and money into early planning. These operators are designing for liquor service and counting on inclusion in the Entertainment Zone. Your most recent email and newsletter, though likely unintentional, caused at least one party to pull back. That is not a small issue—it directly translates to further months of vacancy and uncertainty.

I want to emphasize:

- City assessments, zoning, and historical precedent all affirm that 301 Arizona and 312 Wilshire are part of the Promenade. And to do this immediately, not in August.
- Excluding these parcels contradicts the Council's clear direction for a broad, continuous zone to jumpstart economic activity downtown.
- Other entertainment zones, like SF's Castro district and DORA zones in Ohio, clearly include corner and alley access. We should follow that proven model.
- There's no operational downside to fixing this now—no one can serve alcohol on site yet, and openings are realistically 12–18 months away due to permitting and buildout timelines. But we need clarity now so conversations, design, and investments can continue. A delay or ambiguity today results in no new activity until 2027 or later—missing the window to take advantage of events like the 2026 World Cup or 2028 Olympics.

Finally, at the DTSM board level, it was discussed that the zone should not extend to Lincoln or Ocean—but no one ever intended to exclude active corner parcels on the Promenade itself. That interpretation stretches a cautious compromise into a damaging technicality. Let's fix it.

This is a collaborative effort. Let's work together to get it right the first time—and not stall the very revival we're all working so hard to achieve.

Respectfully,
Daniel Negari
Owner – 301 Arizona & multiple Promenade properties

On Tue, Jun 3, 2025 at 12:16 AM Jing Yeo <Jing.Yeo@santamonica.gov> wrote:

Hi Daniel,
Thank you for following up on this issue and my apologies if there has been misunderstanding regarding the boundaries. The ordinance as currently adopted by Council establishes an Entertainment Zone on the Promenade only between Wilshire and Broadway. This initial boundary was created after consultation with DTSM and taking into

consideration safety and operational concerns. Thus, the cross streets are not currently included in the EZ. It's important to note that the EZ ordinance just geographically establishes public spaces where alcohol consumption is allowed – the boundaries do not include private property.

That being said, when we spoke regarding the boundaries, I provided verbal assurance that we are supportive of expanding the boundaries but that will need future Council action since the boundaries are in the ordinance. The ordinance would need to be amended to add the cross streets. I understood that while you are working with new operators, they are not yet ready to open and I believe you had given a timeline of sometime in Fall 2025 and another in early 2026. With efforts focused right now on launching the EZ in 2 weeks, we have not had time to have consultation with our City partners on expanding the boundaries and preparing a revised ordinance. We expect to be able to do that in August where we also have more information on how the EZ is going after initial launch.

We are excited about the prospect of two new businesses in the Downtown and look forward to continue working with you to create a vibrant and successful Promenade area. I hope that provides clarification of where we are at and please reach out if you have questions.

Thank you,
Jing

From: Daniel Negari <d@xyz.rent>
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2025 4:48 PM
To: Andrew Thomas (Downtown Santa Monica) <andrew@downtownsm.com>
Cc: Jing Yeo <Jing.Yeo@santamonica.gov>; Jennifer Taylor <Jennifer.Taylor@santamonica.gov>; Berta Negari <b@xyz.rent>
Subject: Re: Entertainment Zone Updates

EXTERNAL

Thank you, Andrew.

Jing – as we discussed, we're actively planning two new concepts with experienced operators at 312 Wilshire and 301 Arizona, respectively. One of the operators received the recent DTSM newsletter and immediately called me in a panic, unsure whether their location would be included in the Entertainment Zone.

I was under the impression that our last conversation had resolved this—that the alleys

would serve as the boundary, clearly including these properties. I also spoke directly with Chief Batista and Lieutenant Gradel, and we were all in agreement on this point.

At this stage, I can't afford to have transactions and tenant momentum derailed by ambiguous language in a public-facing document. I need a clear, affirmative statement confirming that these locations are included, so we can move forward with confidence and continue making the necessary investment.

Appreciate your partnership on getting this right.

Best,
Daniel

On Fri, May 30, 2025 at 4:27 PM Andrew Thomas <andrew@downtownsm.com> wrote:

Hello Jing and Jennifer,

I want to make sure we're all on the same page about the current boundaries of the Entertainment Zone and that we haven't inadvertently shared inaccurate information.

Jing and Jennifer, I understand you spoke with Daniel about the boundaries. I wasn't on that call, but could you please confirm the official boundaries as they currently stand? Additionally, if Daniel's Promenade intersection properties are not currently included, could you let us know what the options are for incorporating them in the very near future? Their addition will be very helpful in terms of leasing.

Thank you both. I really appreciate your help clarifying this.

Best,

Andrew

Andrew Thomas, LPM
Chief Executive Officer

Downtown Santa Monica, Inc.
1351 Third Street Promenade, Ste. 201
Santa Monica, CA 90401
310.393.8355 (Office)
Instagram | Twitter | Facebook | TikTok
Sign up for our [newsletter](#)

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Downtown Santa Monica, Inc." <info@downtownsm.com>

Subject: Entertainment Zone Updates

Date: May 30, 2025 at 11:20:00 AM PDT

To: Andrew <andrew@downtownsm.com>

Reply-To: Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. <info@downtownsm.com>

[View this email in your browser](#)



Third Street Promenade businesses interested in participating in the Entertainment Zone attended a mandatory training session hosted by DTSM, Inc., with the City of Santa Monica and the Santa Monica Police Department.

A Message from the CEO

Hello, Downtown Santa Monica,

Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM, Inc.) and the City of Santa Monica are preparing to launch the new Entertainment Zone—a designated area along the Third Street Promenade where patrons can purchase alcoholic beverages from participating businesses and enjoy them in public spaces within clearly defined boundaries. **The zone will operate Fridays through Sundays from 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM and during designated special events.** To support a smooth and responsible rollout, the City and DTSM, Inc. hosted a merchant meeting yesterday featuring presentations from the City’s Planning Department and the Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD).

As part of the meeting, SMPD led a comprehensive training on California ABC regulations, liability considerations, and best practices for responsible alcohol service. The training reinforced key safeguards, including strict age verification protocols, prevention of sales to minors and visibly intoxicated individuals, and measures to promote overall public safety. **Within the zone, only patrons aged 21 and over, wearing official wristbands, will be permitted to carry and consume alcohol, which must be purchased from participating businesses** and served in compostable or reusable containers. Clear signage and security patrols will support a welcoming and well-managed environment. These efforts underscore the shared commitment of DTSM, Inc. and the City to creating a vibrant, inclusive, and safe downtown experience.

If you have any questions or would like additional information about the Entertainment Zone, please don’t hesitate to let us know.

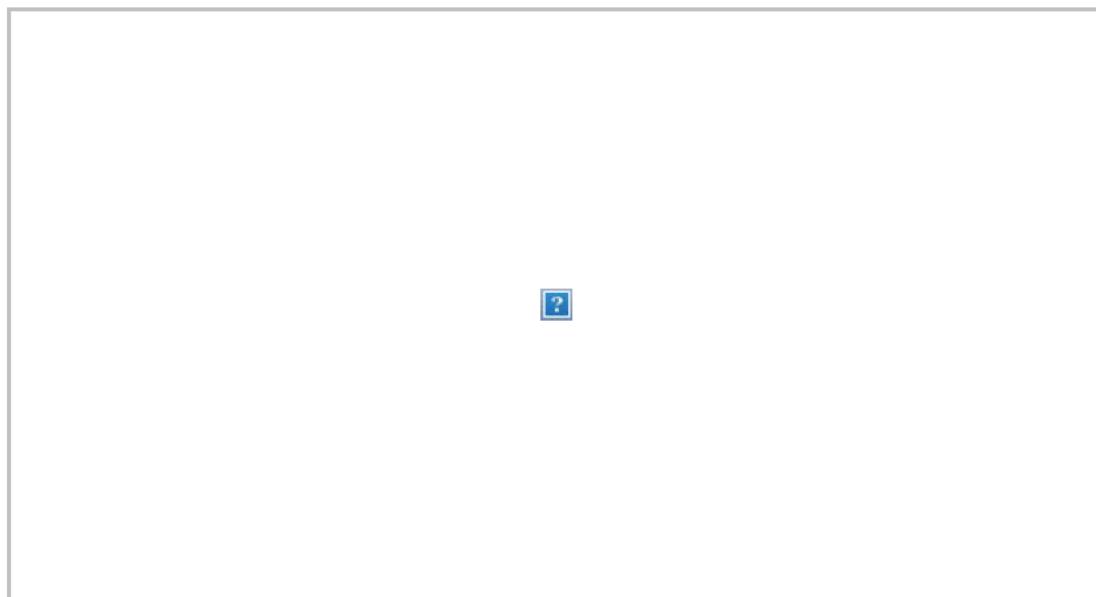
Best,
Andrew Thomas, LPM
Chief Executive Officer

Did You Know?

If you work in Downtown Santa Monica, the City of Santa Monica offers monthly downtown parking keycards or discounted daily downtown parking validations [here](#). Businesses can also purchase an unlimited amount of validations for their customers who make large purchases by emailing mbowleg@spplus.com.

Entertainment Zone Launches June 13th

The Entertainment Zone (EZ) boundaries are Third Street Promenade from Broadway to Wilshire Boulevard (yellow area shown in the map below). Only Promenade-facing businesses with an alcohol license are able to participate in the program.



How to Participate as a Third Street Promenade Business:

1. Obtain an Alcohol License and Permit from Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) through their online portal [here](#), and an [alcohol permit from the City of Santa Monica](#), if you do not already have one.
2. Notify ABC of your intention to participate in an Entertainment Zone, [here](#).
3. Complete both parts of the Mandatory Training: SMPD Alcohol Aware Retail Training + UCLA Health Bystander Intervention Training
4. [Submit your Entertainment Zone Participation Agreement](#)
5. Pick up complimentary wristbands for the EZ launch from the City

All Third Street Promenade businesses were invited to the Mandatory Training Entertainment Zone Meeting held on May 28th. If you missed the meeting, please email ezsm@santamonica.gov to ask about future trainings.

[Enroll in the Entertainment Zone](#)

[Learn More about the Entertainment Zone Launch](#)

Get Connected!

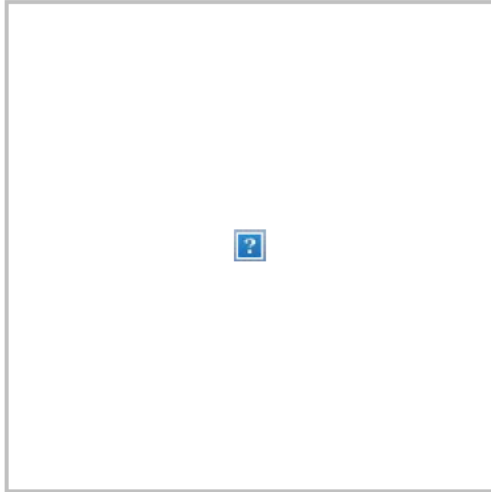
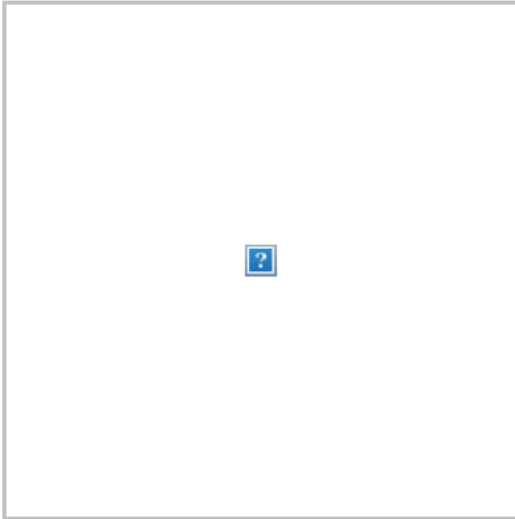


Table at Pride on the Promenade

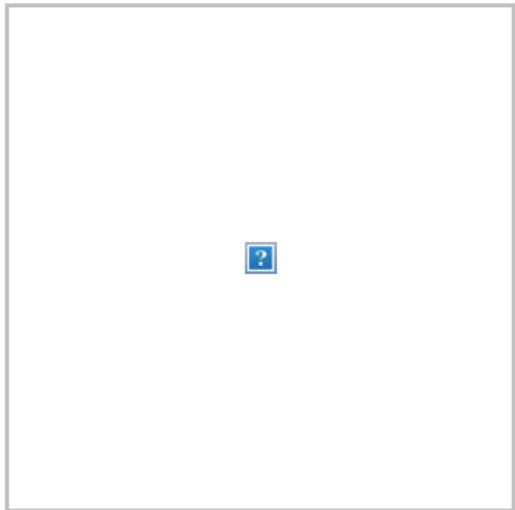
Kick off the entertainment zone on June 21st with our annual [Pride on the Promenade](#) celebration.

Downtown Santa Monica's businesses and LA's LGBTQ+ nonprofits can secure a **FREE 10'x10' booth**. To sign up, email laura@downtownsm.com.



Amplify Your Brand with Big Outdoor

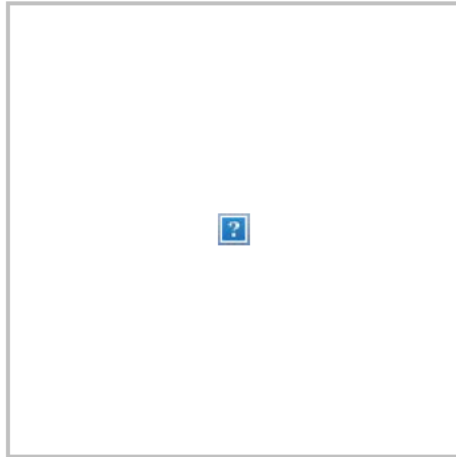
Big Outdoor is offering DTSM businesses up to 90% off advertising on the Santa Monica Digital Network! This network of 50 high-definition 75" digital touchscreens is located in prime spots like the Pier and Third Street Promenade. Please contact Albin Gielicz, albin@bigoutdoor.com, for more information.



Learn About the City's Econ. Dev. Plan

Join the City of Santa Monica's Economic Development team as they present their current plans to activate City operations and strengthen collaboration with the local business community. Please RSVP by 6/1 [here](#).

Downtown Santa Monica In The News



Everyone is Talking About the Entertainment Zone

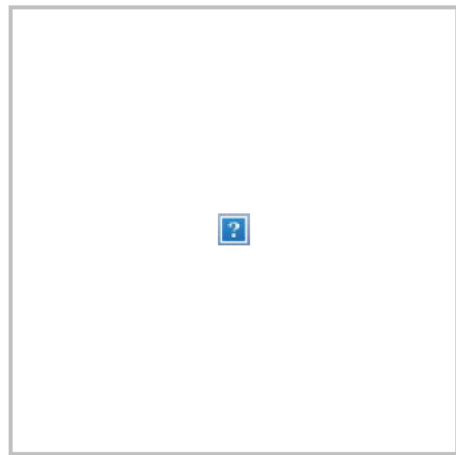
"The new Entertainment Zone will provide a unique way for visitors to experience the iconic Third Street Promenade that caters to the new trends in shopping and dining."

Yahoo News

USA Today

Los Angeles Magazine

Globe Street



About DTSM, Inc.

DTSM, Inc. works with the city of Santa Monica to promote economic stability, growth and community life within Downtown Santa Monica. Through responsible planning, development, management, and coordination of programs, projects and services, we benefit the community as a whole, including downtown businesses, property owners, residents & visitors.





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Our mailing address is:

Downtown Santa Monica, Inc.
1351 3rd Street Promenade Ste 201
Santa Monica, CA 90401-1321

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From: [Elaine Polachek](#)
To: [Elaine Polachek](#)
Cc: [Rick Valtz](#); [Christopher Dishlip](#); [Amber Richane](#); [Susan Cline](#); [Christopher J. Smith](#); [Oliver Chi](#); [Peter James](#)
Subject: Santa Monica Airport Conversion
Date: Friday, June 6, 2025 8:16:46 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

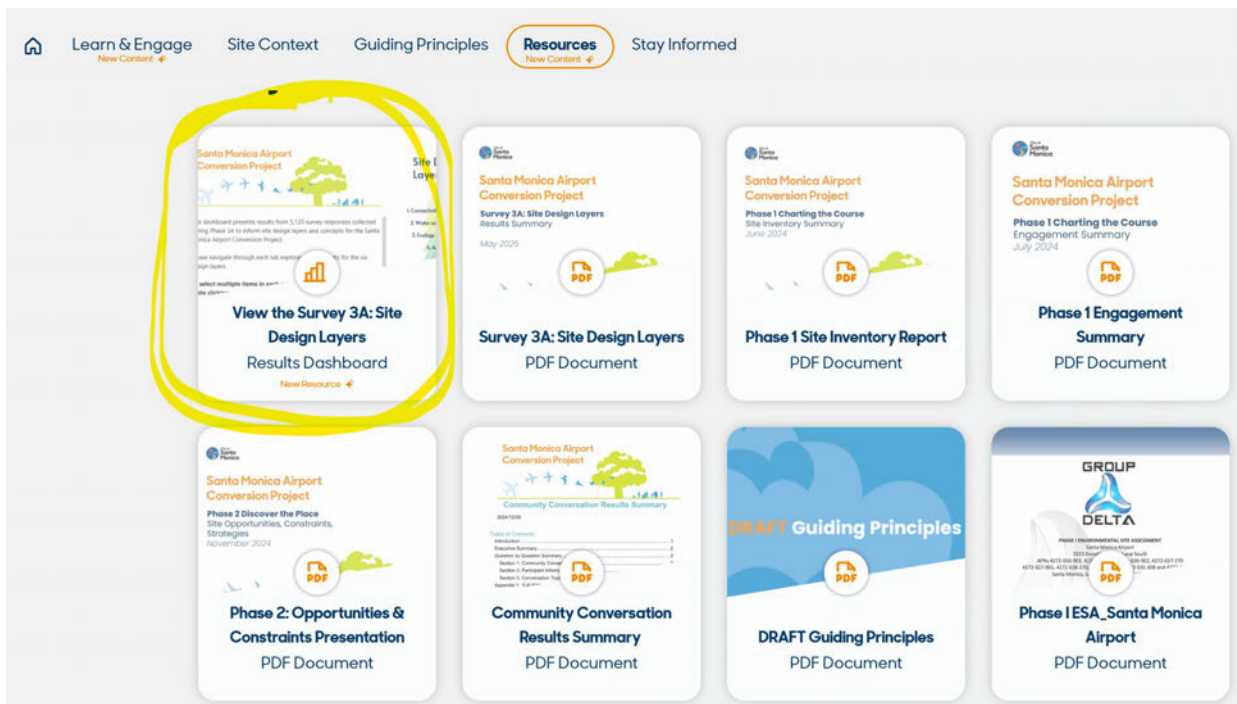
Good morning, Mayor and Council,

In anticipation of the July 8th study session on the Airport conversion project, we are sharing the [Layers Survey Results Dashboard](#). This dashboard will allow the community to select different demographic elements by which they might want to sort the data results by and see how the results change. This information is now on the Resources tab of the project website www.smacproject.com. Please feel free to share widely.

Additionally, we will be using our one on one meetings the week of July 16 to brief you on the Airport presentation. Public Works staff will attend the first half of our meeting to summarize their presentation and answer questions in advance of the hearing.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

-Elaine



Elaine Polachek

Interim City Manager

santamonica.gov

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From: [Elaine Polachek](#)
 To: [Elaine Polachek](#)
 Subject: City Council Updates: Week of June 2
 Date: Saturday, June 7, 2025 9:02:47 AM
 Attachments: [image005.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image014.png](#)
[image015.png](#)
[image016.png](#)
[image017.png](#)

Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem and City Council,

Please find updates on various matters below. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please let me know.

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE UPDATES

Landback & Reparatons Task Force: The [Landback & Reparatons Task Force](#) continues to operate in learning mode through the end of June, building a common understanding of landback and reparations. To that end, the Task Force is holding an in-person two day retreat to also do team-building and get rooted within Santa Monica/Tongva History. As part of this retreat, **On Saturday, June 21, from 3:30-5 the Task Force is hosting a cookout and inviting community** members to build connections and start building trust. **The Task Force would love to have Councilmembers join them** for that informal gathering, to and to say a few words to community members about the importance of this work. Staff will work with the Council Office to make sure all Councilmembers get an invite.

The Task Force would also like to thank Councilmembers Torosis and Hall for coming to our meeting to speak with us about this work. The members would love to speak with each of the Councilmembers and synthesize on a shared vision for landback and reparations should look like in Santa Monica. Our meetings are every other Wednesday evening from 6-8, and the next one is on June 18th. If you are interested in joining, even for a few minutes, please email David.Gardiner@santamonica.gov and we will include you on the agenda!

Launching Pride Month: It's June and Santa Monica opened Pride Month with a strong start. Following our well attended and very special Pride reception and Proclamation, Supervisor Lindsey Horwath honored the Out in Santa Monica employee group with a scroll for their work on LGBTQ+ equity and inclusion. This was followed by the Drag Queen Bingo Trans Equity Scholarship Fundraiser at Solidarity. The event was very well attended and raised money to support our trans community in partnership with the LA LGBT Center's Trans Economic Empowerment Project. Next up this Saturday is Queer Prom with the Church in Ocean Park and the AIDS Lifecycle Finish Line Festival at Beach Lot 4 South.



Legislative Affairs: Speaker Rivas announced [Assembly Select Committee Memberships](#) for 2025-2026 Session. Assemblymember Zbur will serve as a member of the following 5 Assembly Select Committees: Alternative Protein Innovation; Biotechnology & Medical Technology; Electric Vehicle & Charging Infrastructure; Transportation Cost & Impact of the Low Carbon Fuel Standard; and Wildfire Prevention.

Suspense File Analysis: In the State Assembly and Senate, the Appropriations Committees use a Suspense File for bills that cost \$50,000 or more from the General Fund or \$150,000 from any fund. Costly bills are placed on suspense and held until a key hearing near the deadline where the committee reviews all such bills at once. They then decide—without debate—which to pass and which to hold, effectively stopping those bills for the year. This process helps prioritize bills based on their fiscal impact. That hearing occurred on May 23rd and SYASL has provided the following breakdown of the bills that you may find interesting: For the Senate Appropriations Committee, of the 432 measures on Suspense, 307 bills were Do Pass/Do Pass as Amended (71%), while 125 bills were held (plus 11 were made 2-year bills) (29%). Notably, this number is up from last spring's rate of 25.5%. For the Assembly Appropriations Committee, of the 666 measures (663 ABs and 3 ACAs), 435 bills were Do Pass/Do Pass as Amended (65%), while 231 measures (228 ABs and 3 ACAs) were held (with 14 made 2-year bills) (35%). Unlike the Senate, this number is roughly the same as last Spring.

Bill	Description	Update
AB 1079 (Avila Farias)	Relates to our pending CVRA case.	Amendment approved by CAO & outside Council that the provisions of the bill "...do not apply to a judgment or order entered in a proceeding or action commenced on or before January 1, 2026 that asserts at least one cause of action under the CVRA of 2001 or the FAIR MAPS Act of 2023." The City has formally removed its opposition to the bill.
SB 577 (Laird/Allen)	Relates to Juller cases/civil liabilities	Allen's SB 832 stalled in Judiciary committee where the decision only one bill would move forward so Allen and Laird combined some parts of their bill and are co-authors of SB 577 that has passed the Senate and is now in the Assembly. Our lobbyist continues to work with the CAO on language for a few amendments that we've offered to Laird's office which they are reviewing. We are setting up meetings with Allen and Zbur for the purposes of advocating for amendments we are proposing. There is no real update at this time.

The next important date on the legislative calendar is June 2nd which is the deadline for a bill to pass out of its House of origin. Only those bills that make it to the next House will move forward and be debated this year. However, since we are only in year one of the two-year legislative session, those bills that didn't pass out of their House in time will remain where they are and their authors will have an opportunity to revive them in the second year (January). These are considered "two-year bills".

TEG's Special Report: House Budget Reconciliation Package Overview. The House passed Budget Reconciliation which includes \$3.8 trillion in tax cuts, reductions to Medicaid and SNAP, and the gradual elimination of clean energy tax credits from the Inflation Reduction Act. Final vote was 215-214-1 with all Democrats and two Republicans (Rep. Massie R-KY and Rep. Davidson R-OH) voting against.

Immigration Support: An interdepartmental team led by the City Manager's Office convened to participate in the first of several tabletop exercises to work through scenarios involving Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers on city property. The City Attorney and his staff, The Chief Resilience Officer and her staff, Our Communications and Public Information Manager and staff from the Santa Monica Police Department and the Equity and Inclusion Manager came together to develop step by step guidance for staff and to identify what resources are needed to handle the first scenario, which was the prospect of ICE coming to city property to arrest a staff member, and will continue working through scenarios involving ICE at city sites to arrest a member of the public as well as at city events in the coming weeks. Staff red cards, one sheets that can be posted at public facing counters and other resources will be developed as part of this process to ensure staff are well equipped should they ever find themselves in the unfortunate position of facing ICE agents while at work.

Office of Emergency Management

- **Future Emergency Managers at Grant Elementary School** – Office of Emergency Management attended Grant Elementary's 3rd grade Design Fair where students created projects to reduce the threat of natural disasters and improve disaster response. This was the culmination of a yearlong project-based learning activity on natural disasters. OEM assisted students during their studies by presenting information on hazard mitigation and answering student questions about their mitigation idea.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development Event a Success: Community Development staff welcomed over 50 representatives of the Santa Monica businesses community at 1212 Santa Monica Wednesday, Community Development Director Arminé Chaparayan introduced current economic initiatives and unveiled the City's business concierge service. Staff from Police, Fire, City Planning, Economic Development, and Office of Sustainability and Environment provided information and demonstrated their willingness to be resources.



Most Loved Santa Monica Businesses Awards: The city's business and government leaders gathered on Tuesday, June 3 to celebrate the best businesses in town during the 2025 Most Loved awards event. More than 400 attendees enjoyed bites and beer at Santa Monica Brew Works while hearing the results of this year's vote. The 2025 event gave out 111 awards across eight categories as chosen by voters. Keep an eye out for the Most Loved magazine, which will hit the streets this weekend. This event is an initiative of the Buy Local Santa Monica campaign, launched by Economic Development in 2010 in partnership with Downtown Santa Monica Inc., Main Street Business Improvement District, Montana Ave Merchants Association, Pico Improvement Organization, SM Pier Corporation, Santa Monica Travel + Tourism, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, Sustainable Works and Santa Monica Daily Press.



Staff speaks at Urban Land Institute Program: Planning Manager Jing Yeo spoke at the [ULI Housing Innovation Summit](#) which was sold out with over 340 registered attendees. The summit featured panels on wildfire recovery, design innovation, and cities leading the way on housing production. This was an opportunity to highlight Santa Monica's leadership in housing preservation and production, the robust housing pipeline, and predictability and certainty in the housing approvals process.



ESPN Tours Pier in Advance of Super Bowl: Staff welcomed 20 representatives from ESPN. ESPN/ABC have exclusive televising rights to the 2027 Super Bowl that will be at Sofi Stadium.

Local Business Updates:

- Not No Bar is serving pizza and cocktails at 2424 Main Street
- Instar Smoke Shop is now open at 2409 Main Street

ARB Meeting: The Architectural Review Board (ARB) met on Monday, June 2. The agenda included:

- Continuance of 1640 5th Street, a multifamily residential building: review the design, colors, materials, and landscape for an eight-story, 87' tall, 112,302 square foot residential housing development project consisting of 132 units (117 market-rate units; 15 affordable units) above three levels of subterranean parking – this project was continued from a previous meeting. The ARB provided additional design comments and continued the project

Planning Commission: The Planning Commission met on Wednesday, June 4. Agenda actions included:

- A study session from Public Works regarding the Airport Conversion Project Three Scenarios
- A recommendation to the City Council to amend the Zoning Ordinance authorizing adult use and medicinal cannabis retailers in certain zoning districts and a recommendation related to the cannabis equity study.

June is busy at the Santa Monica Pier. June events at the Santa Monica Pier include both invite-only and public activations including:

- Saturday June 7 - Children's Hospital Walk & Play | 8AM – Noon
- Thursday June 19 – Ebony Beach Club 'Juneteenth' | 8PM-midnight
- Friday June 20 - Kid's Choice Awards
- Saturday June 21 – Pier Corporation Produced PRIDE Event: Fierce Fables storytelling for all ages, at the Carousel | 10AM to 1PM FREE, all-ages!
- Sunday June 22 – SaMo Pride on the Pier | all day
- Tuesday June 24-Wednesday June 25 – Amazon Activation
- Saturday June 28 and Sunday June 29 – Pier Corp Produced PRIDE Event: Pier 360 Beach Festival | weekend festival celebrating the best of beach life. FREE, all-ages!
- Check out the highlight video from last month's first ever Santa Monica Pier "TAKE OVER" skateboarding event: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E6-cQW2vc8y>

Community Development Staff Meeting: Community Development staff enjoyed their quarterly meeting last Thursday; staff was appreciative of Director Chaparyan sharing her observations and lookahead for the department.



WWE Pop Up: Santa Monica continues to be popular for regional events to have associated pop ups, including a tie-in to WWE's 'Money in the Bank' event.



Bergamot Arts Center Update: [Alov Art Solutions, LLC](#) has opened a pop up exhibition featuring Philip Vaughan, Penny Slinger, and Derek Boshier at Bergamot Station Arts Center located at 2525 Michigan Avenue, Suite F2. Exhibition to run from June 6 to July 6, 2025.

Landmarks: The Landmarks Commission is meeting on Monday, June 9. The agenda includes:

- Consideration of designation application 25ENT-0035 for the property located at 308 Alta Avenue to determine whether the residential structure in whole or in part, should be designated as a City Landmark

Updated Plan Check Submittal Information

Project Type	Monthly New Plan Submittals in 2025					Trend
	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	
Single-Family Dwelling (New)		4	1	0	6	3
Apartment Building (New)		2	4	1	3	2
Structure other than Building		4	21	2	5	6
Residential Addition/Alteration		38	0	29	33	39
Commercial Tenant Improvement		43	14	24	39	22
Total		91	40	56	86	72

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT)

Santa Monica DOT at NACTO Designing Cities in DC: Last week, a group of DOT staff attended the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Designing Cities Conference in Washington, D.C. The conference brings together over 1,000 people, primarily municipal transportation staff, to learn from and connect with one another. A major highlight of the conference is the WalkShops, tours of local street safety, transit, and placemaking projects led by staff who managed them, which afford an unparalleled opportunity to learn from one another. The cohort left the conference inspired. Highlights included:

- Senior Transportation Planner Carlos Hernandez moderated a [panel he helped assemble](#) which included transportation staff from Atlanta, Philadelphia, and Los Angeles to a standing room only crowd. The topic was what it takes to "host the world" for the 2026 World Cup and LA 2028 Olympic and Paralympic games.
- Transportation Planning Technician Nicole Kendrot, Transportation Planning Associate Shayne Smith, and Senior Transportation Planner Carlos Hernandez presented a poster highlighting the Bergamot Area safety projects underway, including protected bike lanes, new sidewalks, and other improvements.
- NACTO Chair, and former NYC transportation commissioner under Mayor Bloomberg, Janette Sadik-Khan highlighted our 17th Street project as a national success story in her presentation during the Opening Plenary session.



Ocean Park Boulevard Curb Management: In order to improve roadway safety, parking efficiency, and curbside access, DOT will be installing new parking meters, loading zones, and curbside regulations along Ocean Park Boulevard between 16th Street and 18th Street, and on 16th, 17th, and 18th Streets just south of Ocean Park Boulevard. During construction, street parking may be restricted and temporary "No Parking" signs will be posted in advance to inform residents and businesses of any parking restrictions. Work is underway and construction is expected to be complete by the end of the month.



Notice distributed to area businesses and residents (left); Project area (right)

Big Blue Bus Ready for Opening of LAX/Metro Transit Center: Starting Friday, June 6, Big Blue Bus will reroute its [Route 3](#) and [Rapid 3](#) to serve the new LAX/Metro Transit Center. The LAX/Transit Center will provide connections to (1) Metro Rail's C and K Lines, (2) LAX via a free shuttle, and (3) several regional bus operators. In 2026, the LAX People Mover will begin operations at the LAX/Metro Transit Center, and will connect directly to LAX terminals. Encompassed in the [Brighter Blue](#) five-year service plan approved by Council in July 2024, the reroute of Route 3 and Rapid 3 will keep Big Blue Bus riders connected to a growing number of new and extended regional rail lines. Also included in Brighter Blue, Route 3 weekday service will improve to every 10 minutes beginning in August. Collectively, the reroute and service frequency enhancements will offer riders a fast and convenient connection to LAX and surrounding areas, including Sofi Stadium.

With the opening of the LAX/Metro Transit Center announced only weeks ago, Big Blue Bus established a cross-divisional task force to meet the moment and ensure a seamless operational shift for staff, while maintaining a high-quality experience for riders. Specifically, staff have worked tirelessly to complete the following tasks:

- Updated customer touchpoints, including maps, schedules, directional signage, onboard stops and announcements, and trip planning apps such as *Transit* and Google Maps
- Posted temporary signage at bus stops affected by the change
- Installed bus stops along the new route
- Conducted extensive training for drivers and operations supervisors

We look forward to welcoming riders to a significantly improved travel experience to LAX on June 6, and offering seamless service for large events, such as the 2026 World Cup and the LA2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.



DOT and SMPD Partner for Transit Safety and Outreach Operation: On June 4, DOT partnered with SMPD's Homeless Liaison Program (HLP) Team to conduct a successful operation on Big Blue Bus's system aimed at deterring and preventing crime on buses and at bus stops, and identifying persons experiencing homelessness and referring them to services and resources. As part of the operation, community partners such as Salvation Army, The People Concern, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, and Downtown ambassadors were present to provide information on their services. BBB's Community Engagement team was also present, providing information on the Low-Income Fare is Easy (LIFE) program, senior discounts, and other BBB resources.

As part of their visibility and deterrence efforts, SMPD officers:

- Boarded buses within City limits to provide visibility and support for passengers and Motor Coach Operators (MCOs);
- Posted at high-volume downtown bus stops such as 4th x Santa Monica Place and 4th x Colorado and boarded buses that were servicing the stops to check on the safety of passengers and MCOs; and
- Patrolled bus stops within city limits to address equitable access to public facilities.

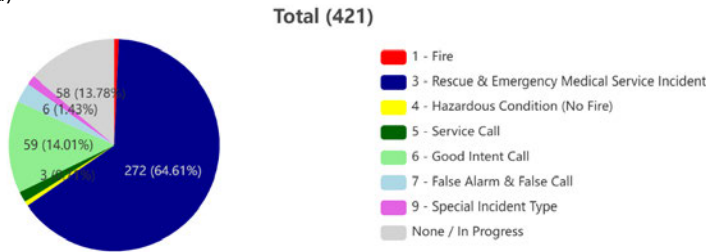
DOT is thankful to SMPD for their ongoing efforts to keep BBB's passengers and MCOs safe!



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Operations:

Weekly Incident Summary



For the week, the Santa Monica Fire Department responded to a total of **421 incidents**. The breakdown is as follows:

- **Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incidents:** 272 (64.61%)
- **Good Intent Calls:** 59 (14.01%)
- **None / In Progress:** 58 (13.78%)
- **False Alarm & False Calls:** 6 (1.43%)
- **Special Incident Type:** 6 (1.43%)
- **Service Calls:** 3 (0.71%)
- **Hazardous Conditions (No Fire):** 2 (0.48%)
- **Fire:** 1 (0.24%)

EMS incidents continue to represent the majority of our workload. There was 1 reported fire incident and 2 hazardous condition calls, highlighting the importance of continued readiness for low-frequency, high-risk events.

EMS: This week, the Santa Monica Fire Department proudly continued its commitment to community preparedness and EMS excellence with two impactful events. Community Hands-Only CPR Events: Our EMS team hosted two Sidewalk CPR outreach events—one at Santa Monica College and the other at the 3rd Street Promenade Farmers Market. These interactive sessions trained dozens of residents, students, and visitors in life-saving hands-only CPR techniques. These quick, simple skills can make all the difference in a cardiac emergency, and we're proud to see our community step up, learn, and take action!

EMS Coordinator Recognized by the State

We are thrilled to share that EMS Coordinator Catherine Barman was honored this week by the California EMS Authority for her outstanding service and contributions to the EMS system. Catherine's leadership, innovation, and tireless work behind the scenes help ensure high-quality care reaches those in need across Santa Monica and beyond. This recognition reflects her deep commitment to improving emergency medical services across the region.

Please join us in congratulating Catherine and thanking our EMS team for another week of service, education, and impact!



Prevention:

Prevention Activities	Number Completed
Annual Fire Inspection Reports (some reports include multiple businesses)	56
Alarm/Sprinkler Plan Check & Inspections	24

New Construction/ T.I. Plan Reviews/Meetings	13
Special Event Plan Reviews/Meetings	5

Homeless:

Weekly Homeless Data.xlsx	05/29/25 - 06/04/25
SMFD Total Calls	361
SMFD Homeless Related Calls	50
SMFD Fires related to homelessness	0

West Coast Care Data	05/29/25 - 06/04/25
Total number of referrals	26
Service Connection Types	
Multi Services	2
Pacific Sunset Shelter	
Salvation Army ARC	1
SHARE Collaborative Housing	1
Safe Place for Youth (SPY)	2
Veterans Affairs	1
People Concern	7
St Joseph Center	
Step Up On Second	
Venice Family Clinic	
Housed	1
Malibu Labor Exchange	
Salvation Army	11
General Relief	
Chrysalis	
Safe Park Los Angeles	
PATH	
Social Security Office	
Clare Matrix	
Daybreak	
Upward Bound House	
Station 7 Assist	
DMH Assist	
Car Repair	
Exodus	
Helping Hands	
Southern California Hospital Culver City	
SMPD Assist	
Interim Housing	

HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES

EAH applies for the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) NOFA for 1318 4th Street (former PS3 site): The City's nonprofit development partner, EAH, Inc., has submitted an application for approximately \$50 million in funding through the state's AHSC Notice of Funding Availability. This marks the culmination of an extensive, months-long collaborative effort between EAH and multiple City departments, including Housing and Human Services, the Department of Transportation (Big Blue Bus and Mobility Divisions), and the City Attorney's Office.

The application requests \$35 million to support the construction of the development itself, and an additional \$15 million for Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure projects across the city. These projects may include the purchase of new electric buses, installation of bus stop seating and shelters, upgrading of bike lanes, and improvements to curb ramps. The package also includes \$150,000 dedicated to Anti-Displacement Efforts, specifically for the development of a rent registry covering non-rent-controlled rental properties in the City.

If awarded, this funding could accelerate the project timeline by up to one year. To support the application, City staff worked closely with EAH, contributing financing commitments and detailed scopes of work. The application was officially submitted on May 28, and award decisions are expected by the last quarter of 2025.

Housing Preservation Efforts for Inclusionary Units: All properties participating in the City's Affordable Housing Production Program (AHPP) are required to submit annual reports to the City. These reports confirm vital information about the occupancy of the deed-restricted affordable apartments at these properties, including monthly rents being charged, household sizes, verification of household income, and other information. AHPP properties receive annual reporting reminders from the City in either the Spring or Fall, and owners submit their reports online via the Below Market Housing (BMH) portal.

Housing Division staff diligently review these reports and engage with property owners if there are any outstanding questions. The goal of this effort is to ensure that affordable housing in the City is preserved and occupied by eligible tenants as intended. In cases where there is evidence of properties not complying with affordable housing agreements, Housing staff may work with CAO to bring the properties back into compliance. Remedies for correcting issues of noncompliance may include serving notices to vacate to ineligible households, extending the terms of applicable agreements, or other legal measures. Currently, Housing staff are working on several noncompliance properties, as only 25% of properties complied with reporting requirements for the properties with a compliance deadline in May.

Proposed 2025-29 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and 2025-26 Annual Action Plan for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Funds: As a recipient of CDBG and HOME funds, HUD requires the City to develop a five-year Consolidated Plan along with Annual Action Plans which identify priority needs and the associated goals, strategies, and resources anticipated over a five-year period. Following public hearings to inform development of the plan at the March 25th Recreation and Parks Commission meeting and the May 1st Housing Commission meeting, the [Proposed 2025-29 Consolidated Plan and 2025-25 Annual Action Plan](#) is now available to the public for a 30-day review and comment period.

Written comments may be submitted by June 23, 2025 to hhs@santamonica.gov or by mail to: Housing and Human Services Department, 1685 Main Street, MS22, Santa Monica, CA 90401. City Council is scheduled to consider approval of the proposed plan on June 24, 2025. All comments received will be incorporated into the final draft of the plan, due to HUD by July 12, 2025.

The following summarizes the CDBG and HOME-funded projects to be included in the Proposed 2025-26 Annual Action Plan.

Proposed 2025-26 CDBG/HOME Projects	Proposed 2025-26 CDBG/HOME Funding
2018 19 th Street Development – Phase II	CDBG: \$500,000
VAP Playground Replacement – Phase II	CDBG: \$207,946
Small Business Tenant Improvement Program	CDBG: \$50,000
Public Services: CLARE MATRIX - Homeless Outreach	CDBG: \$174,000
CDBG/HOME Administration	CDBG/HOME: \$287,229
Tenant-Based Rental Assistance	HOME: \$412,821
Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Reserve	HOME: \$75,364

LIBRARY

Partnering with Local Businesses for Community Discount Program: This September, in celebration of Library Card Sign-Up Month, the Library is launching a Community Discount Program to support local businesses and promote economic development. The Library is inviting Santa Monica-based businesses to partner in this initiative, which encourages residents to shop local. Library cardholders will be able to show their Santa Monica Public Library card at participating businesses to receive exclusive discounts, creating a win-win for both patrons and the local economy.

Summer Reading Program: Pre-registration is now open for the Library's annual Summer Reading Program for youth, teens and adults, which offers fun prizes as reading milestones are reached between June 14 and August 16. Summer Reading Program prizes include books and collectible stuffed animals for youth and teens. Adults can win books and will be entered automatically into a drawing for a chance to win one of five \$50 gift certificates to local businesses. All participants can receive a coupon from the Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library Bookstore with proof of registration beginning June 14. Prizes and giveaways are available while supplies last. Register online at smpl.beanstack.org or in person at the Main Library, Pico Branch, or Montana Branch during open hours. [Read more in this press release.](#)



Superbloom Sound Bath at Pico Branch: Approximately 45 people attended the Superbloom Sound Bath program led by instructor Priya Bhikha. Several participants laid on mats while others sat in chairs along the walls of the Pico Annex. For about 40 minutes, Priya guided the attendees through a calming experience, using the soothing sounds of singing bowls to help them relax both body and mind. The event was a great way to acknowledge and celebrate Mental Health Awareness Month.



Safety and Security at the Library: In May, Library staff continued to respond proactively to community needs and safety concerns, with 47 incidents reported. Of these, 45 involved individuals who appear to be unhoused, highlighting the ongoing importance of community engagement and supportive services. Library Service Officers coordinated with police assistance in six cases to ensure the safety of all patrons and staff. Netwatch documented 42 minor incidents during non-operational hours, underscoring the value of having ongoing surveillance and support when the Library is closed.

POLICE
Weekly Recap

[Council Update 5-25 to 5-31.pptx](#)

PUBLIC WORKS

19th Street Community Garden Phase 1 Groundbreaking Ceremony: On Friday, May 23, the City celebrated a major milestone with the groundbreaking ceremony for Phase 1 of the 19th Street Community Garden, located at 2018 19th Street. This long-anticipated project marks the transformation of an 8,000-square-foot lot [vacant for over 25 years] into a vibrant hub for urban agriculture, education, and community connection.

The event was attended by City officials, community members, and representatives from the Recreation and Parks Commission, Recreation and Arts Department, Architecture Services Division, Office of Sustainability and the Environment, and local garden volunteers. The ceremony opened with heartfelt remarks from Recreation and Parks Commissioner Lori Brown, whose tireless advocacy played a key role in making this project a reality for the Pico Neighborhood.

Phase 1 construction will focus on preparing the site, including grading and leveling for accessibility and farming, installing utilities such as irrigation and lighting, and securing the area with perimeter walls and fencing. This essential groundwork will pave the way for more visible garden features to come in Phase 2.

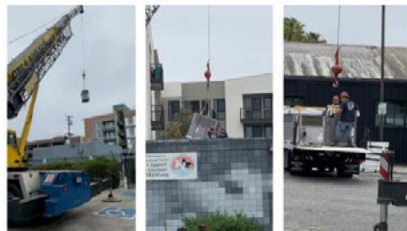
Once complete, the garden will feature a greenhouse, chicken coop, fruit trees, community composting system, meeting space, and medicinal plants. Rather than assigning individual rental plots, the 19th Street Community Garden will be managed collectively by community volunteers, ensuring inclusive access and encouraging shared stewardship. The space will also host after-school workshops for local teens and foster cross-cultural and intergenerational connections.

The excitement and strong turnout at the groundbreaking were a testament to the community's deep support. Phase 1 is expected to conclude by late summer 2025, with full buildout, including programming and planting, continuing into late 2025.



Facilities Team Helps Keep Animal Shelter Cool: This May, the City's Facilities Maintenance team successfully completed the installation of two brand-new HVAC units at the Animal Shelter—one serving the Cat Room and the other supporting the Admin Building.

Over the course of two weekends, HVAC Technician Ken Fletcher and HVAC Assistants Mauricio Quezada and Jacob Badillo managed the entire project from start to finish. They assessed the aging equipment, selected and ordered the replacement units, coordinated logistics with other City departments, and handled the full installation in-house.



Thanks to their expertise and dedication, the City avoided the cost of hiring an outside contractor, resulting in more than \$50,000 in savings.

Kudos to Ken, Mauricio, and Jacob for their outstanding teamwork and commitment to supporting both our City operations and the comfort of our shelter animals!

New EV Charger Vendor! The City's EV charging stations have officially transitioned to a new vendor, GreenWealth Energy, which will now manage operations and maintenance at all public ChargePoint stations. As part of this change, GreenWealth and ChargePoint will handle all charger repairs. EV drivers will see a small price increase from \$0.35/kWh to \$0.40/kWh. However, the transition is expected to result in faster repair turnaround times and improved service reliability.

15 New Electric Fleet Vehicles Coming to City Yards: The Public Works Fleet Management Division recently added 15 new electric vehicles to the City's fleet, including Ford Lightning trucks, Ford Mach-E SUVs, and Ford E-Transit vans. These vehicles will serve divisions such as Building & Safety, Risk Management, Water Resources, Resource Recovery & Recycling, Public Landscape, Farmers Market, and the Cemetery.

The new EVs replace older natural gas and early-model electric vehicles, supporting the City's compliance with the California Air Resources Board's Advanced Clean Fleet regulations. In addition to environmental benefits, the EVs will help reduce fleet maintenance costs and the City's hazardous waste stream by minimizing the need for oil, coolant, and other materials used in traditional vehicle

maintenance.

Staff are actively pursuing funding opportunities through the Clean Power Alliance and Southern California Edison to expand EV charging infrastructure at the City Yards. As part of these efforts, Fleet has partnered with Ford Pro to secure incentives and is pleased to announce the delivery of 46 new Ford Pro Level 2 chargers, provided at no cost to the City.



AB306 Opposition Letter Submitted: In response to Council direction, the City has submitted an "Oppose Unless Amended" letter to the state legislature regarding a proposed housing bill currently under review by the Housing Committee.

Recent amendments to the bill did not include exemptions for existing buildings, an omission that would significantly hinder Santa Monica and other local governments from meeting the emissions reduction targets outlined in their climate action plans.

As written, the bill would prohibit cities and counties from modifying state building standards for residential units during a six-year period, unless specific exemptions apply. To date, more than 60 jurisdictions, organizations, trade associations, and labor groups have voiced opposition to the bill, compared to just 8 in support (source: [CalMatters.org](https://calmatters.org)).

Sustainability Film Screening: On May 21st, the Office of Sustainability and the Environment, in partnership with Sustainable Works, hosted a screening of three inspiring films: *The Great Ocean Cleanup*, *From Soil to Soul: Food Justice in L.A.*, and *Wild Hope: Protecting Paradise!* The event featured a compelling panel discussion with Margaret To, Co-founder and Director of *From Soil to Soul*; David Petri, Senior Attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity; and Joshua Carvalho, Principal Civil Engineer for the City of Santa Monica. The panel was moderated by Benjamin Kay, Adjunct Associate Professor at Santa Monica College's Life Science Department and Life and Environmental Sciences instructor at Santa Monica High School. The event drew an engaged audience of 111 attendees.



RECREATION AND ARTS

Spring Blooms with Pressed Flora Workshop: Artist Margaret Oakley, who works out of 3026 Studios at the Airport Arts Center, hosted a pressed flora workshop at the Propeller Gallery on Saturday, May 24th. She taught folks different methods for pressing flowers and then they all created beautiful spring creations to take home!



Memorial Day Weekend at the Annenberg Community Beach House: Over Memorial Day Weekend (May 24-26), we opened the pool for its first splash of the season. Visitors began lining up even before 9 a.m. to secure their spot, and the pool deck quickly filled with swimmers, families, and laughter! Despite cooler weather, daily pool attendance steadily increased, and the site remained active from the splash pad to the volleyball courts to the shoreline. Our team — both returning and new seasonal staff — did an excellent job launching the summer season with energy and care.



Gearing Up for a Vibrant Beach House Summer: We're looking ahead to a busy and exciting summer lineup! On June 13, we'll be celebrating with our Family PRIDE event, featuring Drag Queen Pickle and interactive programming for all ages. The next day, June 14, marks the return of our 13th annual Cardboard Yacht Regatta at the pool — a community favorite.

Learn more about the full summer season [here](#).

Westside Special Olympics - 2025 Special Olympics So. Cal. Summer Games: Our Westside Special Olympic program will be sending athletes to compete this weekend at the 2025 Special Olympics Southern California (SOSC) Summer Games to be held, June 6-8 at Cal State Long Beach. The SOSC Summer Games is the culmination of the spring sports season in which our athletes trained and competed in track and field, basketball, bocce and swimming. Westside will be represented by 15 track and field athletes, 5 bocce athletes and 12 swimmers at this year's event. Team volunteers, families and caregivers will all be there to coach, support and cheer on our Westside athletes.

Our Westside Swim team coach and former City of Santa Monica employee, Natasha Burgos, will be rewarded with the 2025 Special Olympics Southern California Volunteer of the Year award for her many years of dedication to the athletes of Westside. We are congratulating Coach Natasha and wishing good luck to all the athletes competing!



Santa Monica Swim Center – Early Closure Notice for All-Staff Training: On Sunday, June 8, the Santa Monica Swim Center will close early, operating on a reduced schedule from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to accommodate the Santa Monica Aquatics Annual Summer Staff Training from 12:30 pm-6:00 pm.

This all-hands training is a critical component of our seasonal preparation—ensuring lifeguards, swim instructors, guest service assistants, and specialty program staff are fully equipped to provide safe, responsive, and high-quality service across all three aquatics sites. The agenda includes emergency response drills, CPR/AED and first aid reviews, live recognition scenarios, EAP walk-throughs, and program-specific briefings across swim lessons, rec swim, deep water rescue, and facility operations.

We appreciate the community's understanding as we prioritize comprehensive readiness for a successful and safe summer season.

Thank you,



Elaine Polachek

Interim City Manager

santamonica.gov

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From: [Elaine Polachek](#)
To: [Elaine Polachek](#)
Cc: [Susan Cline](#); [Christopher J. Smith](#); [Rick Valte](#); [Amber Richane](#); [Peter James](#); [Christopher Dishlip](#); [Amelia Feichtner](#)
Subject: SM Airport Conversion Project Briefing
Date: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 1:02:47 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good morning, Mayor and Council,

The July 8th Council meeting will be devoted to the preferred scenario presentation for the Airport Conversion Project. While you have had several briefings throughout the public engagement process, we wanted to give staff the opportunity to meet with you prior to the July 8th meeting to summarize their presentation and answer questions.

The most efficient way to do this is to use the first half of your one-on-one meetings with me starting Friday July 20. Here is a schedule of your upcoming meetings:

- CM Zwick – June 20 @ 2pm
- CM Zernitskaya – June 20 @ 3:30pm
- CM Raskin – June 30 @ 10am
- Mayor Negrete – July 1 @ 12pm
- CM Snell – July 1 @ 3pm
- CM Hall – July 2 @ 3pm
- Mayor Pro Tem Torosis – July 2 @ 4:30pm

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Elaine



Elaine Polachek

Interim City Manager

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From: [Elaine Polachek](#)
To: [Elaine Polachek](#)
Cc: [Ramon Batista](#); [Lewis Gilmour](#); [Susan Cline](#); [Christopher J. Smith](#)
Subject: Crime PowerPoint Presentation
Date: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 4:36:11 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[CMO Report - Chief Ramon Batista.pdf](#)

Good afternoon, Mayor and Council,
Attached please find Chief Batista's PowerPoint presentation from last night's Council meeting. I know that some of you are interested in additional data. The Chief will get that to you in the coming weeks. Please be patient as PD is prepping for this weekend's activities. We will be doing a limited activation of our Emergency Management Center (EOC) with staffing from a number of departments.

We are hopefully that all will be peaceful at the rally but prepared if law enforcement intervention is needed.

Thanks,
Elaine



Elaine Polachek

Interim City Manager

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From: [Elaine Polachek](#)
To: [Elaine Polachek](#)
Cc: [Department Heads, Atty and Clerk; Oliver Chi](#)
Subject: City Council Updates: Week of June 9
Date: Saturday, June 14, 2025 10:15:09 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image013.png](#)

Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem and City Council,

Please find updates on various matters below. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please let me know.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Downtown Bank of America to Extend Lease: Bank of America is staying put as the City's tenant at 1301 4th Street. City staff successfully encouraged the bank to remain in the downtown until the redevelopment of the 4AZ site clears the Surplus Land Act and development team selection processes. In addition to providing essential financial services for residents, businesses, and tourists, Bank of America's tenancy generates approximately \$1.5 million annually in rental revenues to the City's General Fund. The lease extension will come to Council to authorize final approval.

Local Business Updates:

- [Heated Room](#) is now providing fitness classes in their signature headed room located at 315 Wilshire Boulevard;
- [Westside Dog Gang](#) at 1530 7th Street is providing a full range of services including wellness, doggy day care, training and boarding – Community Development staff worked closely with this business to complete their permit requirements;
- Courtside Lounge has recently applied for an Alcohol Exemption at 123 Broadway
- A tenant improvement application for a bakery was received for the newly constructed building at 3223 Wilshire Boulevard
- Kiss Kiss is now providing tattoo services at 2525 Main Street

Planning Commission: The Planning Commission is scheduled to meet on June 18 and has two public hearings scheduled:

- A proposed Second Amendment to the Development Agreement for RAND's existing institutional office building located at 1776 Main Street to update and expand allowable uses within the existing building, remove barriers to leasing and/or transferring the Project Site, and provide additional community benefits. RAND's existing building was approved for construction by the City Council in 2000 via a development agreement that only authorized "institutional office." No new construction or Floor Area is proposed. A Civic Center Specific Plan Amendment accompanies RAND's proposed Second Amendment to ensure consistency with the site-specific expanded uses requested for RAND's Property at 1776 Main Street.
- Review an appeal of the Architectural Review Board's approval of the design, colors materials and landscape plans for the construction of an 18-story multi-family residential building with 172 units and 2 levels of subterranean parking at 1437 6th Street in the Neighborhood Village (NV) Zoning District

Landmarks: The Landmarks Commission met on Monday, June 9. The commission:

- Considered designation of a property located at 308 Alta Avenue to determine whether the residential structure in whole or in part, should be designated as a City Landmark
 - Based on the research associated with the Historic Resource Assessment provided by the consultant, the property was found to have lost its physical and historic integrity. As a result, staff recommended denial of the designation. A majority of Commissioner agreed and denied the designation.
- Staff, the Commissioners and members of the Commission on Racial Justice have been working to plan a Community Meeting as recommended by Working Group in the report "A Place for Everyone in Santa Monica's History".
- Staff is also working to schedule unconscious bias training for the Commissioners, also included in the recommendations.

Economic Development Interdepartmental Committee Hits the Streets: Dozens of staff from multiple departments are walking the streets of Downtown observing and recording conditions that the City or property owner may be able to address with relatively little effort. Organized, by Peter James of Public Works with a technology assist by Jeremy Peterson in Information Systems, CDD Director Arminé Chaparyan and staff member Beth Rolandson completed an observation of 7th Street between Wilshire Boulevard and Olympic Boulevard Wednesday.



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

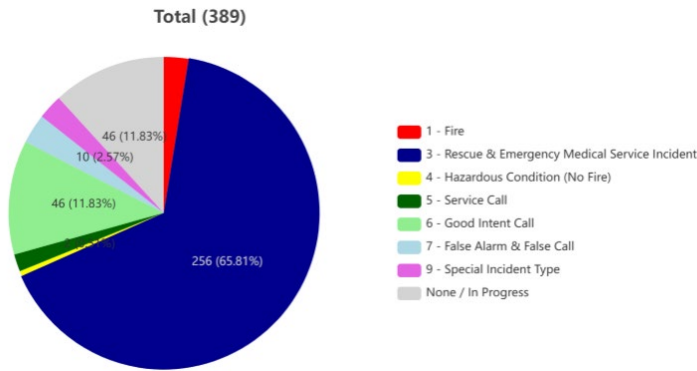
Update Regarding Advertising in Parking Structures: At its May 13, 2025 meeting, Council considered Item 4I regarding alcohol advertising at City owned assets including the digital kiosks and the interior of City owned parking structures. Parking structures were removed from the item before being approved by Council. However, Council requested that staff provide information on how many parking structures were being considered and the lost revenue estimate for excluding these structures.

The current parking structure advertising contract with Big Outdoor includes Structures 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6. Since this contract was executed in May 2024, Big Outdoor has struggled to find advertisers and has expressed confidence that adding alcohol sales would help their efforts. In their proposal (before alcohol ad sales were considered), Big Outdoor estimated that annual revenue for the City from advertisements would be roughly \$292,500 per year. However, they have not sold any ads yet. When Big Outdoor was asked specifically by Parking staff what additional revenue alcohol ads could create, they declined to provide a specific estimate but noted that they expect the kiosks will see a 15% increase in revenue due to alcohol ad sales. While an exact figure is not available, staff believes that alcohol ad sales in parking structures would help the City get the program up and running, and have a significant revenue impact for the future.

FIRE

Administration: Command Staff from SMFD had the opportunity to meet with an Australian Fire Service Delegation at the Consulate General's residence in West LA on Tuesday evening. The event was well attended and illustrated the importance of the relationship between North American and Australian Fire Service. On Wednesday, the delegation visited The Santa Monica EOC and received a briefing on the actions taken during the Palisades Fire.

Operations:



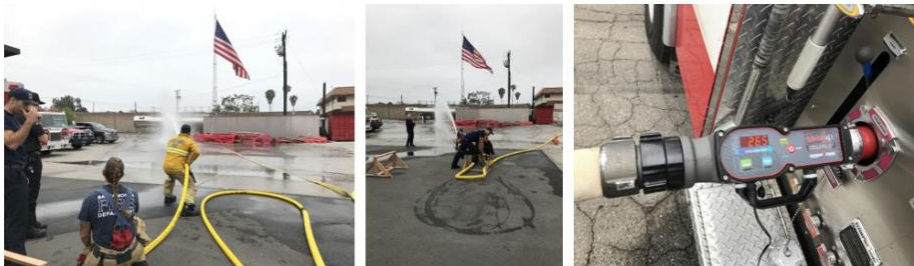
Weekly Incident Summary: For this reporting period, the department responded to a total of 389 incidents. The breakdown is as follows:

- **Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incidents:** 256 (65.81%)
This continues to be the majority of our call volume, highlighting the ongoing demand for EMS services.
- **Good Intent Calls:** 46 (11.83%)
These include incidents where responders were dispatched and found no emergency after arrival.
- **None / In Progress:** 46 (11.83%)
These are either still being investigated or had incomplete categorization at the time of reporting.
- **False Alarm & False Calls:** 10 (2.57%)
This includes unintentional or malicious false alarms.
- **Service Calls:** 8 (2.06%)
Assistance-type calls such as public service aid and non-emergency help.
- **Hazardous Conditions (No Fire):** 7 (1.8%)
Examples include electrical hazards, gas leaks, and downed power lines.
- **Special Incident Types:** 6 (1.54%)
This category includes unique or unusual incidents that do not fall under other standard classifications.
- **Fire Incidents:** 5 (1.29%)
These include structure, vehicle, and vegetation fires.

Training Division: The Training Division evaluated three options of fire hose, specific to high-rise firefighting. The hose was put through a variety of testing scenarios designed to measure the following:

- Overall weight of the 50' sections
- Friction loss of the water moving through the hose
- Volume of water (gpm) moving through the hose
- Ease of moving/handling the hose while flowing water
- Ease of folding the hose (so we can carry it up to the Fire location)
- Severity of kinks when moved through a door or hallway

In addition, we are 95% complete with our annual wildfire refresher training.



EMS Division: The EMS Division continues making strong progress in developing the new Ambulance Operator Program. This Friday, the application period officially opens, marking an exciting step forward as we begin the process of selecting our inaugural class of Ambulance Operators. In preparation, our Firefighters have been actively recruiting at local EMT schools and job fairs, helping to spread the word about this new opportunity and promote the future of EMS in Santa Monica.



Prevention:

Prevention Activities	Number Completed
Annual Fire Inspection Reports (some reports include multiple businesses)	68
Alarm/Sprinkler Plan Check & Inspections	29
New Construction/ T.I. Plan Reviews/Meetings	13
Special Event Plan Reviews/Meetings	8

Logistics:

Over the past month, the Fire Department received new Light Duty replacement vehicles. These additions will help ensure continued effective response to emergency

incidents and support essential operations. The Fire Department extends their sincere thanks to the entire Fleet Maintenance Division for their ongoing partnership, dedication, and support.

New FIRE Replacement vehicles:

- Hybrid Ford Escape for Fire Prevention
- Ford PIU for Deputy Chief of Operations
- Ford PIU for Tactical Paramedic- TEMS



Homeless:

	06/05/25 - 06/11/25
Weekly Homeless Data.xlsx	
SMFD Total Calls	328
SMFD Homeless Related Calls	55
SMFD Fires related to homelessness	6

	06/05/25 - 06/11/25
West Coast Care Data	
Total number of referrals	29
Service Connection Types	
Multi Services	4
Pacific Sunset Shelter	
Salvation Army ARC	
SHARE Collaborative Housing	
Safe Place for Youth (SPY)	2
Veterans Affairs	
People Concern	9
St Joseph Center	4
Step Up On Second	
Venice Family Clinic	
Housed	2
Malibu Labor Exchange	
Salvation Army	6
General Relief	
Chrysalis	1
Safe Park Los Angeles	
PATH	
Social Security Office	
Clare Matrix	1
Daybreak	
Upward Bound House	
Station 7 Assist	
DMH Assist	
Car Repair	
Exodus	
Helping Hands	
Southern California Hospital Culver City	
SMPD Assist	
Interim Housing	

HOUSING AND HUMAN SERVICES

Homelessness Prevention and Intervention (HPI) Team: Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles' Right to Counsel program: Through the City of Santa Monica's Right to Counsel Program (RTC), Legal Aid Foundation of LA (LAFLA) supports Santa Monicans at-risk of being evicted to maintain housing. The RTC program utilizes LAFLA's community lawyering model to provide full scope legal representation to qualifying residents at no cost in unlawful detainer cases, with additional case management services to prevent homelessness for vulnerable residents. The City's RTC program is funded with the City's allocation of funding from the federal HOME Investment Partnerships – American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) and Westside Cities Councils of Government (WSCCOG) Local Solutions Fund (LSF).

In the first three quarters of FY 24-25, LAFLA has provided direct legal services to 198 Santa Monicans through their Santa Monica office. These services range from providing full scope legal representation in court, case management support, general legal advice and collaboration with the Human Services Division in utilizing City flexible funds to keep tenants in their homes. Impressively, LAFLA achieved a positive legal outcome in 100% of closed cases, defined as either the tenant remaining in their home or negotiating a "soft landing transition" where they voluntarily vacate their unit and avoid an eviction on their record. In a community where more than 70% of residents are renters, many of whom are vulnerable to housing instability, the stabilizing impact of these RTC services for the Santa Monica community are considerable.

Building on this impact, Housing Division staff are currently working on implementing Council's approved expansion of the RTC program and creating a new Flexible Financial Assistance program, and are planning for expanded RTC services to begin early 2026.

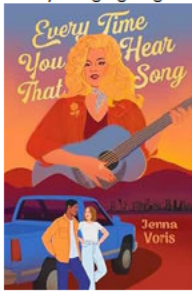
Initial Measure GS Resident Oversight Committee Meeting: The first Measure GS Resident Oversight Committee Meeting was held on Monday June 9, 2025 at 6pm in the SMI Room. All six appointed committee members were present and conducted administrative work including the selection of a Chair and Vice Chair, Brown Act training and establishing a regular meeting schedule. Additionally, Committee members held discussion on the creation of their workplan for the upcoming year. Moving forward, the Measure GS Resident Oversight Committee will meet monthly on the first Monday of the month. Additional recruitment for the five remaining vacancies will start this summer for future City Council appointments.

LIBRARY

Small Business Development Center Workshop - How to Finance Your Business at Fairview Branch: Entrepreneurs and small business owners gathered for an engaging workshop led by Larry Johnson, longtime SBDC advisor with expertise in debt and equity financing. The session covered a range of funding options, including equity, loans, crowdfunding, and raising capital from friends and family, along with practical guidance on loan applications, required documentation, and building strong credit. In addition to exploring economic development resources offered by the City and the Library, attendees gained valuable insights into funding strategies to help bring their business goals to life.



Teen Social Justice Book Club for Pride Month: Teens recently gathered at the Main Library for a discussion of *Every Time You Hear That Song* by Jenna Voris, an LGBTQIA+ young adult novel that blends the charm of a summer road trip with reflections on fame, identity, and authenticity. Set against the backdrop of a mystery involving a queer country music icon, the book prompted conversation around how far we've come, and how far we still have to go, when it comes to being out and accepted in society. In highlighting these themes through literature and dialogue, the event reflects the city's strategic priority of diversity, equity, and inclusion.



Ukulele Concert at Main Library: Cali Rose and The CC Strummers returned to the Library for their third interactive ukulele concert and strum-along, filling the room with music, laughter, and aloha spirit. A joyful crowd of 144 participants, ranging in age from 3 to 94, sang, strummed, and hula danced their way through 18 upbeat and familiar tunes. Library staff members, along with four teen volunteers, warmly welcomed guests, distributed ukuleles, and served refreshments after the show.



POLICE

Weekly Recap

[Council Update 06-01 to 06-07-25.pptx](#)

RECREATION AND ARTS

The Cove Skatepark 20th Anniversary Celebration: The beloved Cove Skatepark is turning 20! To celebrate two decades of skating, community, and youth engagement, the Community Recreation Division will be hosting a special 20th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, June 21st at the Cove.

The event will include open skate sessions, live music, giveaways, food, and appearances from local skate legends including [Pat Ngoho](#), who just weeks ago was inducted into the Skateboarding Hall of Fame. It's a chance to honor the park's legacy and the many skaters and families who have made it a cornerstone of Santa Monica's recreational offerings. June 21st is also international Go Skateboarding Day, making this the perfect day to come out and celebrate everything that makes The Cove special. All are welcome!



dublabb: Ocean of Sound at the Annenberg Community Beach House: This past Sunday, June 8, dublab returned for its second sold out Ocean of Sound event at the Beach House pool! Over 170 attendees enjoyed a serene, one-of-a-kind evening of restorative listening above and below the water, while enjoying snacks, puzzles, games, the artists, and each other. The event featured live performances by Green-House, Salenta & Aankha, and North Klein, and a DJ set from Grandfather.

Photo Credits: [HRDWRKER](#)



Thank you,



Elaine Polachek

Interim City Manager

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From: [Elaine Polachek](#)
To: [Elaine Polachek](#)
Cc: [Susan Cline](#); [Christopher J. Smith](#); [Sandra Santiago](#)
Subject: No Council Update
Date: Monday, June 16, 2025 9:53:57 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good morning, Mayor and Council,

Just a quick note to let you know that due to the short week and the Juneteenth holiday on Thursday, we'll be taking a break from the weekly council update. We'll resume as usual next week.

Thanks, and enjoy the holiday!

-Elaine



Elaine Polachek

Interim City Manager

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From: [Elaine Polachek](#)
To: [Elaine Polachek](#)
Cc: [Ramon Batista](#); [Lewis Gilmour](#); [Christopher J. Smith](#); [Lauren Howland](#)
Subject: Press Release - Attempted Sexual Assault Investigation
Date: Tuesday, June 17, 2025 1:34:10 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[Attempted Sexual Assault PR.pdf](#)

Good afternoon, Mayor and Council,
Attached please find a press release to be issued by SMPD this afternoon regarding an attempted sexual assault on June 9, 2025.

-Elaine



Elaine Polachek

Interim City Manager

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From: [Elaine Polachek](#)
To: [Elaine Polachek](#)
Subject: Council Updates: Week of March 17
Date: Thursday, March 20, 2025 3:54:35 PM
Attachments: [image047.png](#)
[image043.png](#)
[image048.png](#)
[image033.png](#)
[image034.png](#)
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[image003.png](#)
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[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[Council Priority Areas \(3-20-25\).png](#)

Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and City Council,

Please find updates on various matters below. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please let me know.

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE UPDATES

Office of Emergency Management: [LA County EMS Agency Dispatch Site Visit](#) – LA County EMS Agency visited Santa Monica OEM Dispatch and SMFD to review emergency medical dispatch procedures and quality assurance protocols. There were no findings requiring corrections or follow-ups. Santa Monica OEM has largely implemented best practices.

311 Updates: Attached is the 311 biweekly report on Council Priority Areas. Over the past two weeks, there's been a marked increase in tickets submitted for Homeless Liaison Program (Encampments) and City Planning (Zoning and Property Development Standards) – thank you to both teams for your dedication to addressing our community's needs. There was a decrease in requests for bulky item pickup and graffiti issues, indicating Public Works' success in helping to keep Santa Monica clean and safe – thank you, RRR and Graffiti Removal team!

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The **Architectural Review Board** met on Monday, March 17. Actions included:

- 2307 Lincoln Boulevard: Mixed-Use- Multi-Unit Residential + Commercial project was approved with conditions: Seven Stories, 69 Residential Units and 1,700 SF of Commercial. This project was reviewed on September 16 and November 4, 2024, and continued with comments.
- 601 Colorado Avenue : Mixed-Use- Multi-Unit Residential + Commercial – the project was approved with conditions: 24 stories, 264 units (224 market rate units; 40 affordable units) and 4,000 SF of Commercial space. This project was reviewed on January 6, 2025, and Continued with comments.
- 1318 4th Street: Mixed-Use- 100% Affordable Housing + Commercial project was continued with conditions: Six-story, 122 residential units and an approximately 20,000 square-foot grocery market. This is the former parking structure PS3 City-Owned property. The project was continued with comments.

The **Planning Commission** met Wednesday, March 19. Actions included:

- Recommending that City Council make the following amendments:
 - amendments to the Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) and Downtown Community Plan (DCP) for consistency with recent updates to State law and making other minor changes, corrections, and clarifications, amendments to the text of the City's Zoning Ordinance to eliminate parcel size threshold for streamlined review of Housing Projects, increase the maximum square footage for Accessory Dwelling Units, revise provisions related to ministerially approved duplexes and lot splits on parcels zoned for single-unit residential, adjust the criteria for streamlined review of Housing Projects in Bergamot Zoning Districts on large sites, provide extensions for projects approved prior to January 6, 2025, convert parcel coverage development standards to Floor Area Ratio for the City's Residential Zoning Districts, and align density standards for the City's Multiple-Unit Residential Zoning Districts with the intensities envisioned in the LUCE, for consistency with recent updates to State law and making other minor changes, corrections, and clarifications subject to the following changes:
 - Continue to support incentives and flexibility for ADUs
 - Do not make changes to the owner occupancy requirements for duplexes and lot splits
 - Do not remove the 1-acre streamlining threshold in favor of evaluating the potential for creation of a special incentive program for other areas of the city with large-scale opportunities
 - amendments to the Santa Monica General Plan Land Use Map and the Official Districting Map for parcels located at 2644 30th Street and 1331 Wilshire Boulevard
 - Recommending that the City Council not increase the maximum allowable height of fences, walls, and hedges in the front setbacks of R2, R3, and R4 zoning districts, only allow guardrails above retaining walls and the guardrail must have 75% visual transparency
 - Approval of 2-year permit extensions for housing projects at:
 - 1323 5th St (52 units)
 - 1338 5th St (120 units)

Update on Clarifi Land Management System

- City staff are actively working with the consultant on starting to build the structure of new permit workflows and the project remains on track for a spring 2026 implementation
- Interdepartmental work groups are initiating a top to bottom review of permit processes with the goal of improving the customer experience. This includes reviewing plan check thresholds for when new requirements apply, reviewing code requirements for applicability and reasonableness, and finding efficiencies in the plan review process by identifying more projects for express permits, over the counter permits, and removing unnecessary reviews. Staff may return to future Council meetings with Municipal Code amendments to support these process changes.

New business updates:

- [Galvin Coffee and Bakery](#) is now open Wednesday-Sunday at 626 Montana Avenue.

Popular gelato shop [Bacio di Latte](#) is planning to open at the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and 4th Street at 316 Santa Monica Boulevard.

Montana Avenue Merchants hosts the 2nd Annual **Montana Avenue Wellness Walk** along the 10-block stretch on Saturday March 22. The sidewalk sale will take place from 10am to 4pm.

Seven Arrows, a private **elementary school displaced from the Palisades fire**, is relocating to BxP's Santa Monica Business Park at 2800 Ocean Park Boulevard. A building permit was recently issued to start the tenant improvement and the CDD is happy that our expedited permit review process can assist another school from our neighboring community find a homebase in Santa Monica during the rebuilding process.

Deputy Director Roxanne Tanemori and Planning Manager Jing Yeo supported the Chamber's **Power of Women's Leadership Luncheon** on Friday, March 7. The leadership luncheon honored SMPD's Sergeant Suzie Wessel and SMFD's Firefighter Paramedic Aurora Paaluh for their service during the Palisades fires.



The Saturday Pico Farmers Market is now hosting weekly **Pico Improvement Organization pop ups** to showcase local businesses on the boulevard. The first featured PIO vendors included Coto Imports and House of Designs & Interiors. Visit the market to see who pops up next!

Santa Monica Farmers Market is **nominated for USA Today 10 Best in the Best Farmers Market** category. Voting is now open online through April 14, vote daily for the Santa Monica Farmers Market to take the top slot. Please vote [here](#).

Main Street and Pico Farmers Markets **Prepared and Prepackaged Food Vendor RFP** is now open. The community markets are seeking additional food vendors to join in the upcoming fiscal year. The RFP is open through April 14.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT)

BBB's Quarterly Safety Meetings - Updates, Feedback, and a Rodeo Winner: From March 10th through March 14, 2025, BBB held its mandatory quarterly safety meeting sessions for Motor Coach Operators (MCOs). During these meetings, MCOs receive safety and security updates, information on upcoming safety programs such as the Prohibition Order Program in which DOT will be able to issue short-term prohibition orders for persons arrested on a BBB, and updates from Operations on new technology and other improvements. The meetings are also an opportunity for MCOs to provide feedback on safety concerns and any other issues they may encounter while in service.

In addition, BBB recognized MCO Said Azim during a safety meeting for being the 1st Place Rodeo Course winner in this year's 5-Star Bus Rodeo! The one-hour meetings take place throughout the day, Monday through Friday, to allow MCOs from all shifts to attend, starting at 5:00am and ending at 9:00pm. This quarter, 230 MCOs attended the safety meeting sessions!



DOT Transit Maintenance Team's Success at Regional Bus Rodeo: On Saturday March 15th, staff from the transit maintenance division participated in the Southern California Regional Bus Rodeo along with teams from 9 other transit agencies throughout Southern California. The maintenance Rodeo is a competition to diagnose planted defects in seven different bus systems including bus engines, air brakes, HVAC systems and other systems. The SMDOT team comprised of Transit Mechanics Todd Edwards, Steven Ngo, and Clint Segura, placed 3rd in this competition being outscored by only LA County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Foothill Transit. This represents a tremendous accomplishment for the SMDOT team and has earned them an invitation to the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) International Bus Rodeo. The entire SMDOT team is proud of their accomplishment and wishes them good luck in the international competition.



Waymo Updates – Ride-Hailing Service, Addressing Charging Facilities Concerns, and Transit Credit Pilot Program: Waymo continues to operate its driverless ride-hailing service in our region, serving approximately 200,000 paid customers weekly in four major cities with tens of thousands of those in our region, and maintain an average customer rating of 4.7 stars out of 5.

Waymo has been providing regular updates to staff as they [expand](#) service in our region. A map of their current service area is below.

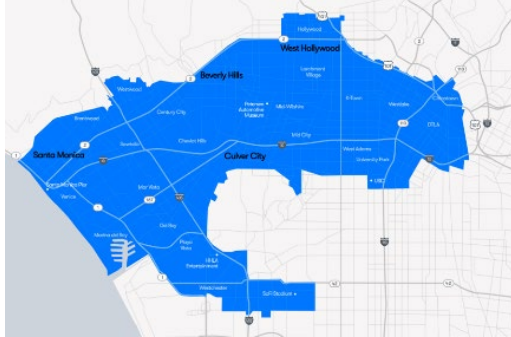


Figure 1 Waymo's LA Region Service Area

Charging Facilities at Broadway and Euclid: In recent weeks, DOT staff have remained in touch with Waymo as they have worked to resolve a few issues impacting residents near one of their charging facilities located at Broadway and Euclid, where a few residents have contacted the city with concerns about night-time charging and cleaning operations and driverless vehicles moving quickly through alleys to access the facilities.

After staff shared the residents' concerns, Waymo management immediately instructed onsite staff to avoid loud talking and not play any music, and introduced new, quieter vacuums with approved car vacuuming times between 7am and 9pm and no vacuuming at all between 9pm and 7am. They also held a work session with their site's landlord, vendors, and contractors to implement a "Good Neighbor Policy," including restricting work to the hours of 8am and 5pm Monday - Friday when practicable and to at all times be sensitive noise issues including loud music, vehicle noises, etc. Waymo vehicles were programmed to operate at speeds of below 10mph in alleys, regardless of applicable speed limits. Finally, charging operations at 1222 Broadway were limited between 9pm to 7am to further minimize vehicle noise levels.

With these measures in place, Waymo is working on medium- and long-term mitigations including planting 10-foot, rapidly growing bamboo and Cypress around the perimeter of charging station sites to minimize community impact by reducing sound and light from operations. Longer term, Waymo is exploring vehicle-level mitigations such as the ability to adjust the volume of beeping noises while reversing; this is an avenue that could take months to explore and implement, if feasible under federal regulations which currently require EVs to emit an audible warning when reversing.

Transit Credit Pilot Program: As described in an earlier update, on February 4, Transit Equity Day, Waymo began a two-month pilot to offer first-last mile connections to public transit agencies serving LAX, with three of those connections to Big Blue Bus Route 3 at the 5th and Arizona, Lincoln and Venice, and Lincoln and Jefferson stops. Waymo riders who start or end their journeys at any of these stops receive a \$3 credit to their accounts that can be applied to future rides. Waymo are monitoring customer participation in the pilot and will report results after the pilot ends.

Staff will continue to share updates on Waymo operations as they are available.

Women's History Month Bike Ride & Lunch: In celebration of Women's History Month and the pivotal role bicycling played in the women's suffrage movement, the Mobility team organized a bike ride for city staff on March 18th. Employees from various departments came together to explore Santa Monica's bike infrastructure, including the Michigan Avenue Neighborhood Greenway (MANGo) project and the 17th Street protected bike lane. The ride culminated with a lunch at a local, female-owned restaurant, providing an opportunity to connect as city staff and support a local business.

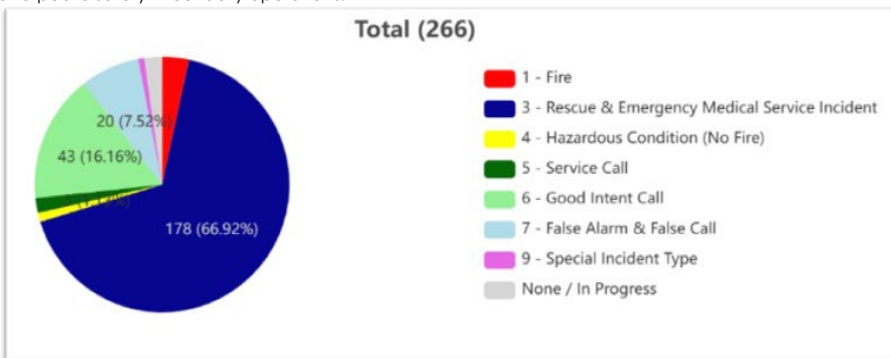


FIRE DEPARTMENT

Operations

Weekly Incident Summary – Santa Monica Fire Department: Over the past week, the Santa Monica Fire Department responded to 266 incidents, reflecting the diverse emergency needs of our community. As expected, Rescue & Emergency Medical Service (EMS) incidents comprised the majority of calls, with 178 responses (66.92%). This highlights the ongoing demand for rapid medical intervention and emergency care.

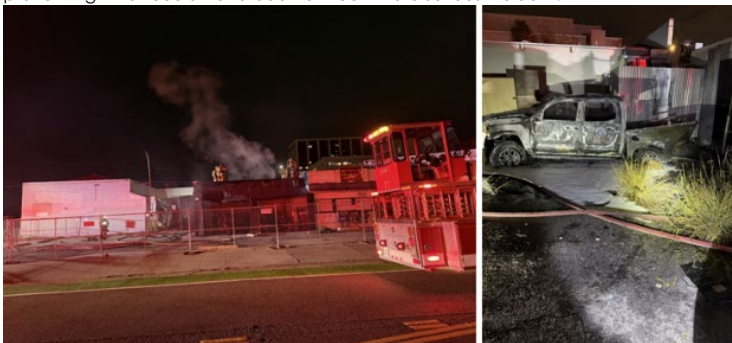
Our teams remain committed to ensuring the safety of the Santa Monica community, and this breakdown underscores the critical role of EMS and public safety in our daily operations.



Santa Monica Firefighters Prevent Structure Fire on Broadway: Santa Monica Fire Department personnel responded to reports of a structure fire at 1955 Broadway, located behind Big Jo's restaurant. Engine 3 was the first unit to arrive on the scene and immediately observed fire and smoke emanating from the rear of the property, with concerns of potential fire extension and access challenges. After conducting a thorough 360-degree assessment of the situation, Engine 3's Captain confirmed that the fire involved a vehicle situated near the disused restaurant.

Engine 3 and Engine 4 quickly initiated an aggressive offensive fire attack, preventing any fire extension to the nearby structure. Access was complicated by temporary fencing around the property, but Truck 1 and Engine 6 provided essential support, gaining access to the vehicle, and ensuring that the fire did not spread to any surrounding buildings.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation. Thanks to the swift and coordinated efforts of the responding units, including the rapid deployment of attack lines to contain the vehicle fire while access was being made, the situation was quickly brought under control, preventing what could have been a much more serious incident.



Engine 3 Leads Swift Fire Attack at 26th Street Apartment Fire: Engine 3 responded to an automatic alarm with water flow at 1349 26th Street. Upon arrival, the crew heard water flowing from unit 202 and noticed smoke when they opened a window to the unit. Engine 3's Captain requested a full assignment while the crew conducted a drop bag operation to bring a 150-foot pre-connect to the second floor. Once the line was in place, Engine 3 personnel forced entry and initiated an offensive fire attack into the unit.

Engine 4 assisted in the fire attack, while Engine 1 and Engine 5 checked unit 302 above and unit 102 below. Truck 1 supported the operation by shutting down the sprinkler system and silencing the audible alarms. Although the sprinkler system helped contain the fire, it caused smoke and water damage to the unit, displacing the two occupants. The Red Cross was contacted and provided assistance to them. Unit 102 also sustained minor water damage, which was mitigated by the crews on scene. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation. Fire Com provided valuable support in coordinating with SMPD to shut down 26th Street, ensuring the safety of the responding personnel.



Santa Monica Fire Responds to Fatal Rollover Crash on I-10 Freeway: Santa Monica Fire Department resources were dispatched to a traffic collision on the westbound I-10 Freeway. Fire Com received multiple reports from callers, prompting an upgrade of the incident to a traffic collision with entrapment and the assignment of Truck 1. Engine 7 was the first unit to arrive and reported a single-vehicle accident beneath the 14th Street overpass. Due to the vehicle being on its roof, the number of occupants inside could not be immediately confirmed. Engine 7, Engine 5, and McCormick 229 were assigned to the medical group, while Truck 1 was assigned to the extrication group. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the single occupant of the convertible vehicle was confirmed deceased at the scene. The extrication process was extended due to the extensive damage to the vehicle and its position. Once the victim was extricated, the scene was turned over to the California Highway Patrol for further investigation into the cause of the accident.



Women in Leadership: On March 14th, members of the Santa Monica Fire Department, along with other distinguished community leaders, came together to honor Firefighter Paramedic Aurora Paaluhi at the Women in Leadership Luncheon held at the Regent Santa Monica Beach Hotel. Aurora has consistently demonstrated exceptional dedication and professionalism in her role, particularly as the Santa Monica Fire Department transitioned to a new platform for Telestaff, which is used for staffing purposes. Her remarkable background and expertise in computer science have not only contributed to the department's successful adaptation to this new system but have also solidified her reputation as the department's go-to subject matter expert for all things related to technology and computer issues. Aurora's ability to combine her technical skills with her passion for service makes her an invaluable asset to the team, and her contributions are truly deserving of this recognition.



Homeless

Weekly Homeless Data.xlsx	03/13/25 - 03/19/25
SMFD Total Calls	291
SMFD Homeless Related Calls	47
SMFD Fires related to homelessness	1
CRU Calls for Service	
CRU Calls related to homelessness	
Number of SMFD engine company responses that were cancelled by CRU	
CRU Referrals Given	
CRU Psychiatric Urgent Care Center (Exodus) Transport	
West Coast Care Data	03/13/25 -

	03/19/25
Total number of referrals	20
Service Connection Types	
Multi Services	2
Pacific Sunset Shelter	
Salvation Army ARC	
SHARE Collaborative Housing	
Safe Place for Youth (SPY)	1
Veterans Affairs	
People Concern	4
St Joseph Center	
Step Up On Second	
Venice Family Clinic	
Housed	
Malibu Labor Exchange	1
Salvation Army	8
General Relief	
Chrysalis	4
Safe Park Los Angeles	
PATH	
Social Security Office	
Clare Matrix	
Daybreak	
Upward Bound House	
Station 7 Assist	
DMH Assist	
Car Repair	
Exodus	
Helping Hands	
Southern California Hospital Culver City	
SMPD Assist	
Interim Housing	

Prevention:

Prevention Activities	Completed
Annual Fire Inspections	74
Alarm/Sprinkler Plan Check & Inspections	25
New Construction Plan Reviews/Meetings	8
Special Event Plan Reviews/Meetings	4

HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES

Run PAL Run! On Sunday, March 17th, eleven PAL youth and city staff members, Snow Hansen and Trenton Graham, joined the 25,000 runners at the LA Marathon. PAL's dedicated team was part of the 3,500 youth runners from Students Run LA (SRLA). For nearly 30 years, PAL has partnered with SRLA to help over 300 young people train for and complete the 26.2-mile race, with the fastest runner in 2019 finishing in 4 hours. HHS staff member Eula Fritz and PAL's Youth Leadership Council were stationed at various checkpoints along the route to offer encouragement and support to all runners. In addition, PAL SMPD Officer Destinee King was at the checkout to ensure each youth runner was accounted for and had completed the marathon. This year, PAL's fastest runner, an 8th grader from SMASH, finished in 5 hours and 3 minutes. Over the years, this experience has led PAL youth develop a lifelong passion for running, with many continuing to run well into adulthood. PAL is proud to have two loyalty runners: Ubaldo Torres, and Leon Cabelos (pictured below), who have who have completed 18 marathons and 27 marathons, respectively. They, along with other PAL alumni, continue to visit the PAL tent to check in and show their support.



Santa Monica Housing Authority Operations Update: In February, the Santa Monica Housing Authority and Housing team continued to support over 1,850 individuals and families across its six voucher programs. Thanks to the dedication of our frontline staff, we successfully processed 122 annual recertifications, conducted over 145 inspections, completed 26 interim recertifications, facilitated 9 new admissions, issued 7 vouchers, processed 3 move requests, and handled 1 portability request. Additionally, we disbursed approximately \$2,721,874 in rental assistance to landlords on behalf of assisted tenants.

Our team engaged with over 700 individuals this month, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to serving those in need. Notably, only 30% of those were Santa Monica community members. Among these interactions, more than 200 visitors received in-person assistance, over 250 calls were handled, and over 200 emails from individual families were addressed through our general inbox. This engagement reflects our unwavering dedication to providing vital housing support, ensuring stability for vulnerable populations, and delivering exceptional customer

service.

Aging and Disability Action Plan Open House: Thanks to a California Department of Aging Local Aging and Disability Action Planning (LADAP) grant and with support from the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities, the City is creating its own age- and disability-friendly action plan to address the current, emerging and future needs of Santa Monica's older adults, people with disabilities and their caregivers. The City is hosting an in-person open house this Saturday, March 22 from 9am-12pm at Santa Monica College Emeritus Campus. City representatives and community members are invited to drop in and provide input on how to make Santa Monica even more age- and disability-friendly. Virtual participation will also be available for those unable to attend in person. For more information, visit the project webpage at <https://www.santamonica.gov/aging-and-disability-action-plan> or by emailing humanservices@santamonica.gov.

LIBRARY

The Luminary Teen Literary & Arts Magazine Reception at Main Library: More than 50 teens, along with their families, gathered to celebrate the publication of The Luminary, a teen literary and arts magazine edited by young library volunteers. The event featured 10 talented teens who read their poetry, nonfiction, and fiction works. Stunning artwork from the magazine was also displayed in the Main Library's Multipurpose Room. After the readings, attendees mingled and connected with accomplished authors and illustrators, including Nell Cross Beckerman, Mirelle Ortega, Erika Lewis, and Santa Monica Poet Laureate Anne Carmack. This event highlights the impact of library programs in fostering creativity, literacy, and collaboration in the community.



Self-Service Hours at Fairview, Montana, and Ocean Park Branches: Library Self-Service is available at the Fairview Branch, Montana Branch, and Ocean Park Branch. The Open+ system allows pre-approved patrons access to browse, read, study, search the online catalog, checkout items, and use the computer stations. Printing and photocopying are available, as is Wi-Fi for those who bring their own devices. Santa Monica Public Library was one of 10 libraries to receive a California State Library grant, making the implementation of Self-Service technology possible. Systems installed through the grant include:

- Library Controller – This is the “brains” of the system that provides connection between sensors and the library system for authentication
- Entry Panel – An input device where patrons scan or enter their Library card information
- Door Automation – Allows the system to control when the Library door is open and closed
- Cameras – Provides monitoring for both live and evidence-based surveillance of any incidents
- Sound System – Allows for automated announcements including closures and safety announcements



Will Rogers Elementary School Visit at Pico Branch: A group of second graders from Will Rogers Elementary School recently visited the Pico Branch for a fun and educational experience. The students explored the youth section and learned how to find books using the library's catalog. They also discovered the importance of taking care of books and using their library cards responsibly.



POLICE DEPARTMENT Weekly Council Recap

March 9 – March 15, 2025

[Council Update March 9 - March 15, 2025.pdf](#)

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Palisades Park Trash Cans: In recent weeks, a string of vandalism incidents across Palisades Park resulted in the destruction of several trash cans near the bathrooms and along the walkway. Seven trash cans were set on fire, prompting a swift response from the Public Landscape Division. Led by Park Maintenance Crew Leader Adrian Martinez and Equipment Operator Ivan Garcia, alongside Groundskeepers Josh Robles and Alex Devora, the team quickly identified and replaced the damaged trash cans. With the new receptacles now in place, visitors will have no trouble finding a convenient spot to dispose of their trash while enjoying the park.



Fire Service Repairs: The Water Resources Division's water distribution crew completed repairs and replacements on three fire service lines and replaced critical hydrant valves in the Santa Monica Business Park area. To minimize service disruptions to businesses, including Snap, the work began at 5 a.m. and was completed before employees arrived at the office buildings. The work is part of Water Resources' proactive maintenance program, ensuring that our fire services are fully operational and ready to respond to emergencies throughout the City.



SaMo High SWIP Tour: Last week, the Water Resources Division hosted AP Environmental Science students from SaMo High at the City's award-winning Sustainable Water Infrastructure Project (SWIP). The students learned about the City's innovative water purification process that leverages stormwater, urban runoff, and municipal wastewater to produce high-quality purified water to augment the City's local water supply. The students had questions on how the treatment processes work, regulations to safeguard the water, and the cost of water. Some of the students even tried the purified water at the end of the tour and commented "it tastes just like water." Well...because it is water!



RECREATION AND ARTS

109th Annual Dudley Cup Tennis Tournament: Community Recreation is proud to host the **109th Annual Dudley Cup Tennis Tournament** in partnership with the Santa Monica Tennis Collective. This historic tournament, founded in 1916 by former Mayor Thomas Dudley, is one of the longest-running youth tennis events in the country, having showcased numerous young talents who later achieved professional acclaim such as Venus Williams, Jack Kramer, Gussie Moran, Tracy Austin, Bobby Riggs, Billie Jean King, and many more. The tournament will take place over two weekends:

- **March 22-23** – Singles Competition
- **March 29-30** – Doubles Competition

Matches will primarily be held at **Reed Park and SAMOHI**. We look forward to another successful event celebrating our city's rich tennis legacy and encourage the community to come out and support the players!



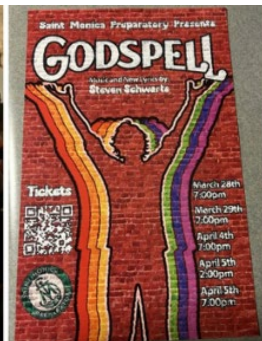
Annenberg Community Beach House: Canopy reservations are available during spring break Thursday through Sunday, April 10-13 and 17-20. Pack a book, game, or picnic, and relax in outdoor, ocean view spaces. Pop into the gallery or check out the Guest House! In addition to Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, you can visit the Guest House on Wednesdays April 9 and 16. Tours are available from 12pm – 2pm. No reservations necessary, just head to the Guest House.



Camera Obscura Artist in Residence Workshops: Last week, the Cultural Affairs Division hosted 3 workshops led by Camera Obscura Artist in Residence Sophia Allison and Christian Sampson. Sophia Allison hosted her First Paper Making workshop at the Airport Arts Center, Studios 3026, with 20 community members. Christian Sampson hosted two Light & Collage workshops at the Miles Memorial Playhouse with about 30 community members over two days. We are looking forward to Sophia Allison's last workshop on March 20, from 6 – 7:30 PM at the Airport Arts Center. Those who are interested in participating can RSVP [here](#).



Stress Testing the Miles Memorial Playhouse in preparation for Summer Opening: The Miles Memorial Playhouse pilot test phase is in full swing. This past weekend presented 4 events, including a poetry reading and a film screening in partnership with [Del Yaz Projects](#). The space has proven to be fully adaptable for a variety of different types of programming! We are entering technical rehearsals for Saint Monica Preparatory High School's *Godspell* musical, which starts previews next Thursday, March 27 with an incredible crew of lighting support from [Panda Roja](#) and sound support from Joe Hernandez Kolski who continues to run the long-standing open mic youth program, [Downbeat 720](#), that was previously homed at the Miles and currently at Virginia Ave Park. For tickets to *Godspell* visit [HERE](#). Run is March 27-April 5, 2025



Thank you,



Elaine Polachek

Interim City Manager

santamonica.gov

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From: [Elaine Polachek](#)
To: [Elaine Polachek](#)
Cc: [Susan Cline](#); [Christopher J. Smith](#); [Ramon Batista](#)
Subject: March for Humanity - 3/22/25 @900am
Date: Friday, March 21, 2025 1:44:05 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

Per Chief Batista, the following is a summary of PD's plan to support the March for Humanity scheduled for 3/22/25 at 9:00 A.M:

This plan aims to help ensure public safety during a planned march and rally that will begin at Santa Monica College, stop at Tongva Park for a religious event, and conclude at the Pier.

SMPD will support the event and monitor public online sources for signs of potential counterprotest, unrest, or criminal activity.

The main goal is to allow participants to peacefully express their First Amendment rights with as little police involvement as possible. Barring a disturbance, the officers will maintain a low profile.

The Incident Commander will guide police actions as needed. Our role is the public's safety, including vehicle traffic management, the march attendees, and/or counter-protestors.

The department is committed to respecting the public's right to assemble peacefully and does not intend to interfere unless necessary to keep the peace, protect lives, or prevent damage.

Route:

West on Pico to Main, North on Main to Tongva Park, through Tongva across Ocean Ave to the Pier. The organizers have agreed to stay on the sidewalk.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

-Elaine



Elaine Polachek

Interim City Manager

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From: [Elaine Polachek](#)
To: [Elaine Polachek](#)
Cc: [Armine Chaparyan](#); [Susan Cline](#)
Subject: DTSM - Public Space committee meeting March 18, 2025
Date: Sunday, March 23, 2025 6:28:06 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

You have likely been seeing the email below in response to Barbara Tenzer's email about the possible demolition of Parking Structure 1 and elimination of 90 minute free parking in the downtown structures. Community Development staff are in the process of drafting a thoughtful response on behalf of the City which state the facts.

We will make sure you receive a copy of the email.

Thanks,
Elaine



Elaine Polachek

Interim City Manager

santamonica.gov

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From: FRED GINDY <citycowboy@prodigy.net>

Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2025 5:08 PM

To: Barbara Tenzer <[REDACTED]>

Cc: David Khedr <[REDACTED]>; Andrew Thomas (Downtown Santa Monica) <andrew@downtownsm.com>; Zach Pollard <Zach.Pollard@santamonica.gov>; Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>; Lana Negrete <Lana.Negrete@santamonica.gov>; Jesse Zwick <Jesse.Zwick@santamonica.gov>; Ellis Raskin <Ellis.Raskin@santamonica.gov>; Barry Snell

<Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov>; Natalya Zernitskaya <Natalya.Zernitskaya@santamonica.gov>; Dan Hall <Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov>; Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>; Susan Cline <Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov>; Debra Moini [REDACTED]; Lucian Tudor <tudor.lucian.silviu@global-dining.com>; ALAN MONT [REDACTED]; Luke Cain [REDACTED]; Edna <egalindo@thenow.la>; Ugo Pascarella <ugo@cafeugo.com>; Batuhan [REDACTED] Bill Tucker <bill@tuckerinvestmentgroup.com>; Michelle Cardiel <[REDACTED]>; Martin Ronzio-Garcia <martin@downtownsm.com>; Jeremy Ferguson (Downtown Santa Monica) <jeremy@downtownsm.com>; Jennifer Taylor <Jennifer.Taylor@santamonica.gov>; Armine Chaparyan <Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov>; Berta Negari <b@xyz.rent>; Michele Aronson <maronson@douglasemmett.com>; Gabrielle Hakimian <gabrielle@pmiproperties.net>; Jessica Sacher <jessica@barneysbeanery.com>; Laurie Sasson <[REDACTED]>; Janet Morris <janet@janetmorrislaw.com>; Scott Snowden <scott.snowden@smdp.com>; Ross Furukawa <ross@smdp.com>

Subject: Re: DTSM - Public Space committee meeting March 18, 2025

EXTERNAL

Hello. As owner of 1351 Third and 1428 Second st, I also agree with the other property owners to not omit the parking structure in order to help save Santa Monica from being a business failure and reducing income for the "City". Fred M Gindy

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 20, 2025, at 4:45 PM, Barbara Tenzer

[REDACTED] > wrote:

Thank you David.
Beverly Hills has 2 hours free for their public parking. It is cleaner and safer and the elevators work.

Andrew I am not sure why you or anyone is talking about finding out how the property owners and the tenants feel. It is very clear that everyone wants and needs the parking and NO ONE wants the 90 minutes reduced. They actually want it increased.

Barbara

On Thu, Mar 20, 2025 at 4:36 PM David Khedr [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your email. I appreciate your sentiment and the Board of DTSM's efforts to discuss the future of Structure 1.

Please convey to the Board that stakeholders are strongly opposed to its demolition. There must be a better solution to repurpose the location or utilize the land more effectively. As I mentioned in my previous email, in 1965, the City Council recognized the need for parking and built six parking structures—two in each block—to support the district. We should be working to revitalize the area, not reducing its accessibility.

Furthermore, increasing parking rates makes no sense, given that they are already high for public structures. Comparing them to nearby private parking facilities is not an appropriate benchmark. The City seems to have lost sight of why these structures exist: to facilitate access for visitors and the community, not to serve as revenue-generating assets. These structures were funded by stakeholders to keep rates low and ensure convenient access for all visitors. The City will ultimately benefit more if the district thrives again, as increased foot traffic will drive higher sales tax revenue.

I strongly recommend keeping rates unchanged and implementing a flat rate after 6 PM to encourage longer visits. Raising parking fees while simultaneously eliminating much-needed parking spaces only creates obstacles for businesses and visitors. How does this help the district?

Please urge the Board to vote **against** the proposed rate increase.

Best regards,

David Khedr
Khedr Management Group, LLC
Commercial Property Management & Investments

1242 Third Street Promenade Suite # 206
Santa Monica, CA 90401
 (310) 394-6791

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On Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 04:11:44 PM PDT, Andrew Thomas
<andrew@downtownsm.com> wrote:

Dear Barbara,

Thank you for including me in your message to Downtown Santa Monica stakeholders, Santa Monica City Council members, and City staff. I know I speak for our DTSM, Inc. Public Space and Placemaking Committee members when I say we appreciated the opportunity to hear your perspective, along with the insights of everyone who attended our meeting yesterday.

DTSM, Inc. values the opportunity to engage in discussions regarding the potential demolition of Parking Structure 1. This parcel is in the heart of our community and plays a critical role in the success of our district. We also heard loud and clear from stakeholders at the meeting that parking availability is a vital concern.

As those in attendance know, our Public Space and Placemaking Committee unanimously recommended that any effort to demolish Parking Structure 1 be paused until DTSM, Inc. and all Downtown stakeholders have the opportunity to participate in a public process to determine the future of this structure and the surrounding parcel. This recommendation aligns with the Santa Monica City Council's position, as the Council did not authorize City staff to pursue a demolition permit at this time.

The DTSM, Inc. Board is actively engaged in this issue, and City staff has committed to including DTSM, Inc. in the process. Our meetings are open to the public, and I encourage everyone to stay connected by reaching out to me directly or subscribing to our newsletters to receive updates and meeting invitations.

While discussions on the future of Parking Structure 1 and the parcel are still in the early stages, there is an immediate opportunity for public input on parking rates in City-owned parking structures. City consultants Walker Parking have been invited to present their findings at the April 24 DTSM, Inc. Board meeting, where we look forward to reviewing their proposals and providing feedback. I encourage you to attend or share any written comments with me, which I will gladly pass along to our Board members.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our community. These conversations will remain ongoing, and I welcome any further input as we move forward.

Andrew Thomas, LPM
Chief Executive Officer

Downtown Santa Monica, Inc.
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Santa Monica, CA 90401
310.393.8355 (Office)
www.DowntownSM.com
[Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [TikTok](#)
Sign up for our [newsletter](#)

On Mar 19, 2025, at 3:07 PM, Barbara Tenzer

> wrote:

Dear Zach,

Thank you for attending the Public Space Committee meeting for DTSM.

.I am writing to voice the concerns shared by many property owners and tenants on the Promenade who could not attend the Public Space meeting you were at, but feel strongly about these issues.

Based on conversations I had after the meeting with people that did attend, we were all wondering why the demolition of Parking Structure 1, the reduction in 90-minute parking to 60 minutes, and the increases in parking costs and meter rates were not addressed during your presentation. Your report, while light and lively, felt incomplete and disappointing.

Had the Committee Chair not raised these issues, your report would have solely focused on the stairs and license plate reading, which did not adequately cover the broader, pressing concerns.

You mentioned that this is "the beginning of the conversation," but from my experience as a former Chair of DTSM for two years and as a

former board member of both the DTSM Board and the Bayside District Board, I believe the issues we're facing are already well advanced. In fact, one DTSM board member stated after the February 27, 2025 meeting directly to another board member and I quote, "The demolition of Parking Structure 1 is a going to happen". This raises a troubling question: either the board member is misinformed, or the city is not being fully transparent about its plans.

Additionally, I had mentioned there is a property owner on the Promenade that is interested in purchasing the parking structure, which could be a lucrative opportunity for the city. I was surprised to hear you seemed unaware of this. This proposal could potentially address many of the issues the parking structure faces while generating significant revenue for the city.

Which brings me to a critical question: Does the city truly want to revitalize downtown and recreate the \$20 million revenue from the business license tax they once had? Or, is the primary focus to build low-income and supportive housing, potentially at the expense of the much-needed parking infrastructure? No one is against affordable housing. We are against removing critical parking infrastructure in a downtown area that needs parking and revitalization. There are many other locations for housing.

I have not yet seen the Walker Parking study, but based on my experience with similar studies the city has requested in the past, I'm


concerned that these reports are often shaped by predetermined outcomes. I know this from firsthand experience, having been involved in a similar study years ago.

Again, I am writing this email on behalf of the property owners and tenants in downtown Santa Monica, who firmly believe that demolishing Parking Structure 1, or any other parking structures surrounding the Promenade, would be a huge mistake. There is also a strong sentiment that increasing free parking to three hours would support tenants, attract customers, and help rejuvenate the Promenade and downtown Santa Monica. The property owners and tenants on the Promenade and downtown Santa Monica have stated many times that this approach is the true path to economic development—one that will benefit the city financially in the long run.

What is the next step?

Best regards,

Barbara Tenzer


Tenzer Commercial Brokerage Group, Inc.
Barbara Tenzer, President
O: 310-395-8383
C: 310-678-7886


www.tenzercommercial.com

License#01235150

From: [Elaine Polachek](#)
To: [Elaine Polachek](#)
Subject: City Council Updates: Week of 3/31
Date: Friday, April 4, 2025 8:02:20 AM
Attachments: [image015.png](#)
[image019.png](#)
[image020.png](#)
[image021.png](#)
[image023.png](#)
[image024.png](#)
[image025.png](#)
[image028.png](#)
[image029.png](#)
[image030.png](#)
[image031.png](#)

Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and City Council,

Please find updates on various matters below. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please let me know.

APRIL 8, 2025 COUNCIL MEETING

The following is a [link](#) to Packet for the April 8 City Council Meeting. If you have any questions on the upcoming agenda, please send them over ahead of the meeting (**Monday by noon please**) so that we can work with folks to get a response.

Women's HERstory video series

There are now nine videos in our Women's Herstory Month video series featuring members of our incredible staff:

- [Erika Aklufi – Police Department](#)
- [Keyla Bell – Recreation and Art Department](#)
- [Susan Cola – City Attorney's Office](#)
- [Liseth Guizar – Department of Transportation \(DOT\)](#)
- [Lynnette Lawetzki – Library](#)
- [Chloe McCarty – Public Works](#)
- [Doris Mejia – Human Resources Department](#)
- [Sandra Santiago – City Manager's Office](#)
- [Teresa Villa – Finance Department](#)

Thank you to Alex Perez and Eric Bailey for their hard work on this project, and to everyone who was featured. There are a few more set to publish soon, so be sure to check back and watch them all!

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Office of Emergency Management

- **FEMA Reimbursement:** Santa Monica OEM and Finance have initiated the process for Santa Monica to receive FEMA reimbursement for Palisades Fire disaster response operations. The city hopes to be reimbursed approximately \$1 million for activities related to debris management, law enforcement staffing to implement evacuation and curfew orders, and repairs caused by wind damage. It is estimated that funding will take one year to be obligated.
- **Flood Preparedness Change:** Office of Emergency Management, Public Works Street Services and Public Landscape have worked together to relocate the emergency sand bin that is used by the community for storm sand bags to Clover Park. The community can pick up 10 sand bags at any fire station, including Station 5 near Clover Park. In standard rain events, the sand bin is a self-service station where community members must bring their own shovel and fill the sand bags themselves. The old sand bin at Memorial Park will be decommissioned in the coming weeks.

This change was recommended after Tropical Storm Hilary to better accommodate more public parking, ease Public Works access, reduce Memorial Park operational disruptions, and have a fire station closer to the sand filling station. This change will be highly publicized during future significant rain events.



New sand bag filling station in the Clover Park parking lot.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Staff held an all-hands interdepartmental coordination meeting to prepare for the anticipated **opening of Palisades Charter High School** on April 22, 2025. Construction is ongoing at the property and staff is conducting plan reviews, consultations, and inspections as construction continues. Like other schools that have relocated to Santa Monica, Pali High is utilizing a special expedited process that allows them to be under construction prior to issuance of building permits. This process prioritizes the safety of students and staff and requires that the school sign an Assumption of Risk and submit for plan check before construction begins. Inspections are required before school operations can begin. This special process has facilitated the quick re-opening of displaced schools without compromising the safety of students and staff. The interdepartmental team is also coordinating on the following key areas:

- **Mobility:** Plan for approximately 2,400 students and 120 staff to create options for peak hour arrival and departure to include parking, passenger vehicles, buses, and pick-up & drop-off locations
- **Safety:** Coordinate on school and community safety between Pali High administration, SMPD, Metro, and Samohi
- **Communications:** Coordinate on communications with businesses on promotional opportunities for Pali High community and to broader community about what to expect on opening day

The **Third Supplement to the Executive Order of the Director of Emergency Services Declaring the Existence of a Local Emergency** associated with the January Palisades Fire was signed on March 28. As restaurants continue to be struggle with lower than expected business, the order discounts license fees for outdoor dining areas, sidewalk dining, parklets, and pier deck extended dining by 50% for the month of March 2025.

The California Department of Finance has reviewed and approved the City of Santa Monica **Successor Agency's FY25-26 Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule (ROPS)**, which identifies the former Redevelopment Agency's enforceable obligations and the agency's administrative costs, and the source of payment (bond proceeds, interest income, distributions of tax increment revenue from Redevelopment Property Tax Trust Funds (RPTTF)). City Council approved the ROPS on December 12, 2024, and the Third District Consolidated Oversight Board approved it on January 14, 2025. The L.A. County Auditor-Controller will remit RPTTF in June 2025 and January 2026 with authorization to use those funds to pay remaining enforceable obligations.

New Business Updates:

- Italian sandwich shop [Al'Antico Vinaio](#) is preparing to open at 312 Santa Monica Boulevard.
- [Mikomi Sushi](#) is now open at 326 Wilshire Boulevard
- [Brenda Nieto Studio](#) is relocating from Pacific Palisades to 1333 Ocean Avenue
- Upcoming Montana Avenue business openings include:
 - The flagship Los Angeles store of mattress retailer [Airweave](#) grand opening is scheduled for April 11.
 - Women's wardrobe retailer [Eileen Fisher](#).
 - [Tae Ryong Taekwondo](#) is relocating their studio from Pacific Palisades to Montana Avenue.
 - Lemon Nails and Spa is planning to provide their services on Montana Avenue after closing their Pacific Palisades location.
 - [Ultimate Performance](#) is now providing personal training services at 732 Montana Avenue

Building Permit Applications received as of 3/31/25

Project Type	Monthly New Plan Submittals in 2025		
	January	February	March
Single-Family Dwelling	4	1	0
Apartment Building	2	4	1
Structure other than Building	4	21	2
Residential Addition/Alteration	38	0	29
Commercial Tenant Improvement	43	14	24
Total	91	40	56

Community Development Director Arminé Chaparyan continues to meet with community members, including property owners and their representatives; she participated in a walking tour with **Wilmont Neighborhood Group** leaders this past week.

The **Architectural Review Board** is scheduled to meet on Monday, April 7. Agenda items include:

- 1640 5th Street: Multi-Unit Residential (25ARB-0046): review the design, colors, materials, and landscape for an eight-story, 87' tall, 112,128 square feet residential housing development project consisting of 132 units (117 market-rate units; 15 affordable units) above three levels of subterranean parking.

The Laurel, at 1413 Michigan Avenue, will be receiving the "**Trustees Award**" from the **California Preservation Foundation** (CPF). The awards will be held in Sacramento on Friday, May 9, as part of the annual CPF conference. This fully supportive housing development completed in 2024 as a partnership between the City and EAH Housing, will receive a higher honor than typical, to specifically recognize a model project that integrated new housing with a historic building.

The **Building and Fire-Life Safety Commission** is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, April 9. Agenda items include:

- Introduction of new Director of Community Development, Arminé Chaparyan
- Seismic retrofit program update
- Presentation of the Statement of Official Action for the Shore-Hotel Determination for commission approval.
- Building Performance Standards presentation with Nico Predock of the City's Office of Sustainability and the Environment
- Presentation of the new Santa Monica Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) Map with Daniel Galvan of the Santa Monica Fire Department

Economic Development Manager Jennifer Taylor attended the March 27 **Downtown Santa Monica, Inc.** board meeting. The primary topic of conversation was discussion of the draft Fiscal Year 2025/2026 budget recommended by the DTSM, Inc. Audit and Finance Committee. DTSM Board voted to approve the budget (6-1 with a "no" vote from Susan Cline). The DTSM FY25/26 budget is concerning to City staff as it eliminates all funding (\$1.2 M approximately) that has been designated for Parking Structure maintenance. According to DTSM, the reason for this budget change is to create enough funding for the Legion private security costs. City staff (EDD, CMO, DOT, PW and CAO) are working quickly to review actual expenditure, service delivery needs and potential trade-offs that may be considered as part of DTSM/City annual Operations Plan discussions. City staff will be meeting internally on April 7 to review implications and prepare for a follow-up meeting with DTSM staff on April 11. The DTSM Board may consider amendments to the proposed FY25/26 Budget at their April 24 meeting. Staff anticipate coming to Council in July with the DTSM Annual Budget and Operations Plan for Council adoption.

SNAP hosted the **Otis College Report on the Creative Economy** on March 27 at their Santa Monica Airport/Business Park headquarters. City staff from Cultural Affairs and Economic Development attended this event to hear updates on the importance of the creative economy to Santa Monica and LA region. Some key stats: LA is home to the 2nd highest number of design jobs in the country, behind NYC. The share of LA's workers who are designers is 40% higher than the rest of the country. Mayor Negrete helped to welcome attendees to the event. The Executive Director of SNAP Foundation was joined by his Board Chair and they shared why they picked Santa Monica to stay, grow and thrive as the epicenter of LA's creative economy and a city conducive for success given locational advantages, highly educated workforce and desirable location to work, live and play.

Santa Monica Pier

- Tenant recruitment has started for the recently vacated 256 Santa Monica Pier Space (formerly Rusty's). As new spaces do not become available very frequently at the pier, this will be a very exciting opportunity to bring in a brand new attraction.
- Upcoming Events at the Pier:
 - April 5 kicks off the Pier Corp produced weekly [Wellness & Waves](#), Saturdays from 8 to 10AM through October.
 - Other Events, Activations and Private Rentals at the pier:
 - Apr 12 - Kanye Mobile Tour
 - April 12 & 13 - Johnny Pops sampling, Grand Entrance/Ocean Front Walk
 - April 12 - Dave's Killer Bread sampling, Central Plaza
 - April 17 - Filming for Samantha Brown's 'Places to Love' - various locations on the pier
 - April 17 - Kodiak Waffle sampling, Grand Entrance/Ocean Front Walk
 - Apr 17 - Locals Night: Art Mart
 - April 26 - PanCAN Purplestrides Fundraiser, West Half Pier Parking Deck (April 25 load-in)
 - May 8 - MadHappy Mental Health Fundraiser, West Half Pier Parking Deck (May 7 load-in)
- Next year will be the 100th anniversary of Route 66. The legendary highway's symbolic end is celebrated at the Santa Monica Pier and marked by the famous "Route 66 End of the Trail" sign. SMTT reports they are now working with international markets to promote the Route 66 Centennial taking place next year and will partner with Brand USA on these opportunities.
- Pier Tenant's Association reports:
 - April is Make-a-Wish Month! Pacific Park is partnering with the Make-a-Wish foundation to elevate their great work and host a dozen Make-a-wish

families at the park on April 29.

- The Pacific Wheel will be lit in blue and gold THIS Thursday, April 3, for the UCLA Bruins basketball team playing in the Final Four
- The Santa Monica Pier Ferris Wheel will be lit green and blue on Tuesday, April 22, in recognition of Earth Day.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT)

Waymo Begins Testing New Vehicle Platform in L.A. County: This week, Waymo is beginning small-scale testing in our area with a new vehicle platform, which features the next generation of the Waymo Driver, their automated driving system. The vehicle will be both manually and autonomously operated, with a trained specialist behind the wheel always. Testing will be conducted 24/7 with fewer than 10 vehicles to start.



Waymo's new vehicle platform currently testing in Los Angeles County

Waymo currently uses the fully electric Jaguar I-PACE and will continue to use the Jaguar I-PACE to accommodate public riders using their ride-hailing services.

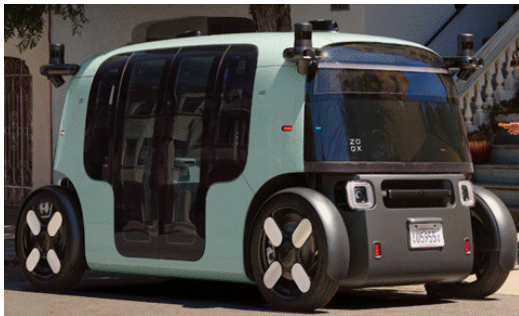
Zoox AV Mapping Underway in Santa Monica with Safety Drivers: On Wednesday, staff from the DOT and SMPD met with representatives of [Zoox](#), an autonomous vehicle company owned by Amazon, who informed us that they will be in our area performing mapping using three Toyota Highlander AV-equipped vehicles. A safety driver will always be behind the wheel.



Zoox Toyota Highlander test vehicle mapping in Santa Monica in April 2025

Mapping will occur for approximately two weeks, and then Zoox staff will return to Northern California facility to analyze the data and prepare to return to Santa Monica for testing using the same vehicles—with safety drivers onboard—in approximately July. Before the test vehicles are deployed, Zoox will conduct training on their systems with first responders and staff.

Zoox, which currently are testing in Las Vegas, San Francisco, Seattle, and Foster City, expect to deploy a fleet of purpose-built autonomous electric vehicles in LA County in 2026 after obtaining the necessary operating permits from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and DMV. Their purpose-built ride-hailing vehicles are manufactured in Northern California.



Zoox ride-hailing vehicle currently operating in Las Vegas; scheduled to launch here in 2026

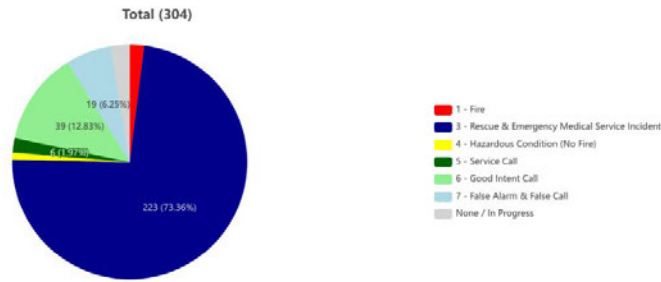
FIRE DEPARTMENT

Operations: Santa Monica Fire Department Promotes "Support Local" Initiative - Over the past week, the Santa Monica Fire Department launched a "Support Local" initiative across all three platoons to highlight our department's ongoing commitment to the community we serve. Fire personnel were encouraged to dine out at local restaurants, coffee shops, and small businesses as a visible show of support for Santa Monica's vibrant business community. This effort was about more than economic support—it was about connection. By spending time in local establishments, our crews had the opportunity to say thank you to the business owners, workers, and residents who are part of our daily mission. These moments helped reinforce our shared sense of community and pride in Santa Monica.

Thank you to the many local businesses who welcomed us, and to our staff who participated with enthusiasm and purpose.



Weekly Incident Summary:



Total Incidents: 304

Over the past week, the Santa Monica Fire Department responded to 304 total incidents. As in previous weeks, the majority of calls were related to emergency medical services.

Incident Breakdown:

- Rescue & Emergency Medical Service: 223 calls (73.36%)
- Good Intent Calls: 39 calls (12.83%)
- False Alarm & False Call: 19 calls (6.25%)
- Fires: 10 calls (3.29%)
- Service Calls: 6 calls (1.97%)
- Hazardous Conditions (No Fire): 6 calls (1.97%)

Emergency medical service (EMS) calls continue to make up the majority of our weekly responses, accounting for nearly three-quarters of all incidents. In addition to EMS, false alarms and good intent calls remain a notable portion of our activity, requiring consistent resource deployment. Fire-related incidents remain low but steady, highlighting the importance of maintaining operational readiness and ongoing prevention efforts throughout the city.

Training Division: Training Division Conducts One-Year Evaluations for Probationary Firefighters - This week, the Santa Monica Fire Department Training Division facilitated the one-year evaluations for our nine probationary firefighters. These evaluations are a key milestone in their development and are designed to assess a wide range of critical firefighting skills used during emergency operations.

The evaluation took place in a realistic live-fire scenario, allowing firefighters to perform under pressure and demonstrate their capabilities in a controlled but challenging environment. Each firefighter was tested on multiple operational disciplines, including:

- Fire attack
- Vertical ventilation
- Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) operations
- Vehicle stabilization
- Technical rope rescue

We're pleased to report that all nine probationary firefighters performed exceptionally well, demonstrating strong technical proficiency, decision-making, and teamwork. They are now looking ahead with confidence to completing their probation in early May.

The Training Division extends its appreciation to all those who supported this evaluation process and contributed to the professional growth of our newest members.

Community Outreach: The Santa Monica Fire Department is proud to announce the launch of its new K9 Peer Support Program, an initiative designed to support the mental health and well-being of Fire Department administrative staff, Santa Monica city employees and firefighters in the station. The program introduces a specially trained therapy dog to provide comfort, reduce stress, and promote emotional resilience among the firefighters while on duty and all support personnel within the city.

Firefighters face high levels of occupational stress due to the intense and often traumatic nature of their work. Recognizing the need for enhanced mental health support, SMFD has integrated this program as part of its commitment and dedication to prioritizing a healthy and supportive work environment. The K9 Peer Support Program aims to provide an additional layer of emotional support through the therapeutic presence of a trained support dog.

The program's first K9 team member, a Black English Lab named Roger, is a certified Support K9 trained in providing comfort and companionship. Working alongside a designated peer support team handler, Roger will visit fire stations, attend debriefings after critical incidents, attend community events to interact with the public and be available to firefighters and city employees in need of emotional support.

Roger may be the first Support K9 for Santa Monica Fire, he is however one of many dogs that have been placed with various agencies across the nation in a growing effort to prioritize mental health amongst first responders. Locally in Southern California several departments have recognized the need for a Support K9 such as Redondo Beach Fire, OCFA, Huntington Beach Fire, Westminster PD, Newport Beach Fire, and Torrance Fire just to name a few.

The Santa Monica Fire Department extends its gratitude to the City Staff, community partners and mental health professionals who have helped bring this program to life. The department remains committed to exploring innovative ways to enhance the well-being of its personnel and aligns with national best practices for firefighter mental health and wellness.



HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES

Homelessness Prevention & Intervention (HPI) Team:

Human Services Grants Program (HSGP) Spotlight – Meals on Wheels West: Meals On Wheels West’s (MOW West) Delivering More Than a Meal program provides community-based services which reduce food insecurity, malnutrition and social isolation by providing nutritious meals delivered to homebound Santa Monica residents of all ages, including seniors, people living with disabilities, the chronically ill, veterans, and the formerly unhoused. In addition to providing nutritious and affordable meals, MOW West helps reduce isolation and loneliness among Santa Monica residents through its Community Connections Friendly Calling initiative, which conducts weekly calls to clients for friendly conversations. MOW West volunteers also assist in making referrals to dozens of partner social service agencies which include physical and mental health providers, free prescription delivery, transportation, and housing resources. In FY 2023-24, MOW West delivered more than 150,000 meals to over 500 Santa Monica residents and completed weekly calls to 180 Santa Monica residents.

At its core, MOW West’s Delivering More Than a Meal program helps prevent homelessness among the most vulnerable Santa Monica residents because participants no longer must choose between going hungry and paying rent. In FY 2023-24, nearly 95% of Santa Monica participants reported that the MOW West meals helped them remain in their own home.

Below are a couple of participant testimonials highlighting the important work of MOW West:

Joseph:

Joseph has been a MOW West participant since April 2019. Joseph is blind, and his social worker helped him sign up for the program. Joseph has not only found nourishment by bridging the gap in food security, but has also discovered friendship. He has built connections with nearly every volunteer he meets, who not only deliver warm meals but also assist with tasks like opening mail and scheduling medical appointments. These interactions embody MOW West’s core mission of Delivering More Than a Meal. Joseph’s journey highlights the power of compassion and the warmth of human connection, demonstrating that even in challenging times, community support can make a difference in an individual’s life.

Rosalind

Rosalind has been a MOW West participant since May 2022. Rosalind is a veteran and a resident of the Pico Neighborhood. During the pandemic, she struggled with health problems and now requires an oxygen tank which prevents her from leaving her home. MOW West meals enable her to stay healthy and nourished. MOW West also delivers cat food and litter for her support animal through the Keeping People & Pets together program.

For more information on MOW West, please visit <https://mealsonwheelswest.org/services/> or call (310) 394-5133.

The People Concern (TPC) C3/HMST Outreach Update: The success story for this month is “Mary”, a 64-year-old female who is a former resident of Santa Monica that became homeless after moving away from the city to live with friends. While becoming homeless in LA County, Mary decided to return to the community that she was familiar with. She did not have stable housing, so she began sleeping in her van. After experiencing homelessness for some time in Santa Monica, Mary was engaged by the TPC C3 team and was able to be connected to further services with the street medicine and psychiatry team. In partnership with the Venice Family Clinic, TPC was able to get Mary an emergency voucher that would place her in a motel for a couple of nights while she focused on her physical health. TPC then submitted shelter referrals and assisted Mary with securing a bed at a local shelter in Santa Monica. Due to the nature of her medical issues, Mary was appreciative of going indoors and not having to live in her van. Mary can now have a safe place to rest, pick up medications without having to worry about them being stolen, and make medical appointments without the fear of not being able to take care of her basic needs.

The Housing and Human Services Department regularly makes referrals to C3 based on inquiries from people experiencing homelessness, community members, and City staff. As of November 2024, select members of the C3 Team have access to the 311 system so they can receive 311 requests related to homelessness that do not require a response by SMPD or PWD. Below are the monthly and fiscal year-to-date numbers for C3 and HMST.

C3/HMST Outreach Data	February 2025		Fiscal Year to Date July 2024 – June 2025	
	C3 Team	HMST	C3 Team	HMST
# of Contacts (Duplicated)	351	157	3,359	1,164
# Medical Services Provided	31	24	324	243
# Psychiatric Services Provided	15	13	126	92
# Placed in Interim Housing	5	1	49	6
# Placed in Permanent Housing	1	0	4	5

Preserving Our Diversity (POD) March Admissions Recap: March was a successful month for POD with seven new participants joining the program. The POD program helps eligible low-income, long-term Santa Monica senior renters (65+ years old) with monthly cash assistance to meet their basic needs. The goal is to help these eligible seniors reach an after-rent income of \$986 for a one-person household, or \$1,724 for a two-person household. Of the seven new POD program participants, four were from the 90404 zip code. The total number of POD participants is currently 217. Staff will continue outreach efforts in the coming months with the long term goal of getting 300 participants in the program. For more information on the program, or to submit an application, interested applicants can visit: <https://www.santamonica.gov/housing-pod>

Santa Monica Housing Authority Emergency Housing Voucher Program Update: On March 26, 2025, the Santa Monica Housing Authority (SMHA) received notification from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that all housing authorities must stop issuing Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs) by April 9, 2025 to extend the program’s remaining budget authority as long as possible.

The SMHA has already issued all available EHVs, with 75 vouchers currently leased and 24 households actively searching for housing, fully utilizing its allocated EHV resources. Additionally, there are currently 4 households in the process of obtaining EHVs before the April 9th deadline.

This directive marks the official conclusion of new EHV allocations, in line with the program’s temporary status under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

While no additional EHV's will be issued, existing voucher holders will continue to receive assistance through SMHA's rental assistance programs.

Arts & Literacy Festival: The City of Santa Monica, in partnership with SMMUSD, is preparing to host the annual Arts & Literacy Festival at Virginia Avenue Park on Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This year's theme, "Meet the Dinosaurs," will bring together over thirty community organizations offering engaging activities that support the Cradle to Career Building Blocks for Kindergarten campaign.

Highlights include the reDiscover Center's Prehistoric Playhouse, a Raptors presentation, dinosaur-themed Storytime, a dino egg dig site, and interactive performances from Richard the Magician and local dance groups. Families will also have the opportunity to collect stamps on an Explorer Card, redeemable for a free book at the Santa Monica Public Library booth. The festival aims to provide a fun, educational experience while connecting families with local resources that promote early childhood development.

LIBRARY

Upcoming Financial Freedom Fair at Pico Branch:



As part of Santa Monica's commitment to economic growth and cultural vitality, the library is offering a day of free financial resources to help community members build and improve their financial wellbeing. Certified professionals will lead workshops in English and Spanish on key financial topics, providing valuable guidance for individuals at all stages of their financial journey. Additionally, Haven Neighborhood Services will offer free tax preparation services for state and federal filing. Attendees will also have the opportunity to enjoy a complimentary lunch, explore resources from local organizations, and hear from Mayor Lana Negrete.

City Department Events at Main Library: The library serves as a vital community hub, providing space for city departments and partner organizations to connect with residents. Big Blue Bus will host public hearings at the library on April 3 to gather input on proposed fare changes. Additionally, the Office of Emergency Management collaborated with the library to provide a temporary space for the Small Business Administration. At the Main Library's former courtyard cafe space, SBA will offer walk-in office hours, providing free financial counseling to businesses, homeowners, and renters affected by wildfire damage and its economic disruptions. These initiatives reflect the library's role in supporting citywide efforts to enhance community engagement.



DIY Sustainability Toolkit: The library supports the city's sustainability efforts by offering DIY Sustainability Toolkits at the Main Library. These kits provide tools to help residents assess their home energy and water use, along with eco-friendly items such as LED bulbs, faucet aerators, and low-flow showerheads to keep. By making sustainability accessible and practical, the library empowers individuals to take small, impactful steps toward a greener future.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Weekly Council Recap

March 23 – March 29, 2025

[Council Update 3-23 to 3-29.pptx](#)

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Olympic Boulevard and 26th Street Project First-Last Mile Improvements: The Engineering and Street Services Division has substantially completed a new crosswalk, signal modifications, and protected bike lane improvements on 26th Street from Olympic to Broadway as part of the Olympic Boulevard and 26th Street Project. This project is a key part of the broader Bergamot Station Area First-Last Mile Improvements, aimed at enhancing connectivity between local neighborhoods, transit hubs, bikeways, schools, parks, and employment centers. Additional improvements around the Bergamot Area are still underway, including:

- New protected bike lanes on Stewart Avenue between Colorado Avenue and Kansas Avenue
- New sidewalks, streetlighting, and landscaping along Olympic Boulevard between 26th Street and Stewart Street
- New sidewalks, streetlighting, and landscaping along Pennsylvania Avenue between 26th Street and Stewart Street

For more information about these projects, please visit the project website below: <https://www.santamonica.gov/mobility-projects/bergamot-first-and-last-mile-improvements>



RECREATION AND ARTS

Enjoy Spring Break with RAD's Community Classes and Camps Program: Looking for some fun over Spring Break? The Community Recreation Division's Community Classes and Camps Program will be operating Spring Break camps for youth in a variety of fun and engaging recreation genres. This year's Spring Break will be held the weeks of April 7-11 and April 14-18. Camps are held at parks throughout Santa Monica. For more details on Spring Break camps, please visit us at [ActiveNet Santa Monica Recreation](#)



Santa Monica Swim Center Spring Break Alert! Make a splash this Spring Break! The Santa Monica Swim Center is extending recreational hours from April 5-20.

Plus, don't miss Splash & Seek on Sunday, April 13—a day of games, treats, and an egg hunt for the kids! Bring your family, friends, and sunscreen for a fun-filled day.

Extended Rec Hours: April 5-20

Splash & Seek: April 13

For more details, visit [Swim Center - Spring Break Recreational Hours! — Santa Monica Community Aquatics](#)



Tour introducing French journalists to the Beach House: Beach Recreation Supervisor Heath Hamilton and Santa Monica Conservancy docent Patty Godon-Tann happily partnered with Santa Monica Travel & Tourism this past week on a FAM tour (hospitality industry lingo for a familiarization tour), introducing French journalists to the remarkable Beach House history and present-day opportunities available to visitors from France and elsewhere in the world!

2025 City of Santa Monica Artist Fellowships Announced: The City of Santa Monica is proud to announce the recipients of the 2025 Artist Fellowship, honoring outstanding local artists for their creative contributions and artistic excellence. Now in its 14th year, the Artist Fellowship program has supported nearly 70 artists across a wide range of disciplines. This year's fellows are **Frances Anderton**, a writer focused on Los Angeles architecture and housing; **Jona Frank**, a photographic and film artist exploring youth culture through narrative portraiture; **Nicola Goode**, recipient of the Kate Johnson Digital Arts Fellowship, whose work blends photography, film, and mixed media to document urban life and social change; and **Majid Naficy**, an Iranian American poet and human rights advocate with an extensive body of published work in English and Persian.



Celebrate Arts Month in Santa Monica – Join the Festivities! April is Arts, Culture & Creativity Month in California, a time to celebrate and advocate for the arts through events, resources, and engagement opportunities statewide. Santa Monica has proudly participated since the initiative was officially recognized in 2019, thanks to the efforts of Senator Ben Allen and Californians for the Arts. With deep local roots, Arts Month was originally an LA County-wide event led by Arts for LA before expanding statewide. This April, we invite the community to join us in honoring the vital role of arts and culture in Santa Monica through a variety of events and advocacy opportunities. For more information and a full schedule of events, visit the [Arts Month Blog](#).



Best,



Elaine Polachek
Interim City Manager
santamonica.gov
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

[Subscribe to City of Santa Monica Email Updates](#)

From: [Elaine Polachek](#)
To: [Elaine Polachek](#)
Cc: [Susan Cline](#); [Christopher J. Smith](#); [Lauren Howland](#)
Subject: FW: Arson Investigation
Date: Monday, April 7, 2025 9:07:47 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[Outlook-dz0xsmfd.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

Mayor and Council,
Please see below re: fire behind U-Haul on Lincoln.

-Elaine



Elaine Polachek

Interim City Manager

santamonica.gov

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

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From: Ramon Batista <Ramon.Batista@santamonica.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 8:39 PM
To: Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>; Matthew Hallock <Matthew.Hallock@santamonica.gov>; Darrick Jacob <Darrick.Jacob@santamonica.gov>
Cc: Lauren Howland <Lauren.Howland@santamonica.gov>; Lewis Gilmour <Lewis.Gilmour@santamonica.gov>; Susan Cline <Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov>; Christopher J. Smith <Christopher.J.Smith@santamonica.gov>
Subject: Arson Investigation

Hi Elaine,

This email provides information on an arson that occurred this evening in the alley behind the U-Haul, adjacent to the intersection of Lincoln Blvd and Michigan Ave.

At approximately 6:15 p.m., OEM Dispatch began receiving calls from numerous parties reporting what appeared to be significant black smoke and fire in 1400 Blk of Alley #8.

Due to the circumstances, SMFD and Officers responded to the scene, and SMFD was able to

extinguish the fire before it spread. The subsequent investigation revealed that a transient suspect who remained on the scene admitted to starting the fire. The suspect was ultimately placed under arrest for arson. A search incident to arrest revealed that he was also in possession of narcotics and related paraphernalia.

The incident was resolved relatively quickly due to a large response from SMFD and did not result in prolonged traffic closures, media inquiries, or related impacts.

The reported damage included a burnt fence, City dumpsters, and minor smoke damage/charring to a telecommunications shed. The estimate of the damage was approximately 10K.

Thank you
Chief Batista



Ramón Batista
Chief of Police
Police Department
[333 Olympic Drive](https://www.santamonica.org/333OlympicDrive)
[Santa Monica, CA 90401](https://www.santamonica.org/SantaMonicaCA90401)
Office: (310) 458-8401



From: [Jennifer Taylor](#)
To: [Lana Negrete](#); [Caroline Torosis](#); [Barry Snell](#); [Jesse Zwick](#); [Dan Hall](#); [Natalya Zernitskaya](#); [Ellis Raskin](#); [Elaine Polachek](#); [Susan Cline](#); [Christopher J. Smith](#); [Josh Kurpies](#); [Armine Chaparyan](#); [Nia Tang](#); [Elana Buegoff](#); [Erika Cavicante](#); [Wendy Siao](#); [Jaclyn Rivera-Krouse](#); [Seiky Gil](#); [Ava Lee](#); [Beth Rolandson](#); [Gabrielle Maher](#); [Melissa Spagnuolo](#); [Lauren Howland](#); [Hannah Monroy Matus](#); [Tati Simonian](#); [Melinda Espinoza](#); [Shannon Parry](#)
Subject: Save the Date! Most Loved Santa Monica Businesses 2025 Awards Ceremony + Reception
Date: Monday, April 14, 2025 12:59:33 PM
Attachments: [attachment.ics](#)
[image001.png](#)

Dear Honorable Council + City VIPs,

Please join us at the 2025 Most Loved Santa Monica Businesses Awards Ceremony + Reception. This year we'll be having it at Santa Monica Brew Works. More details to come closer to the date....including requests for presenters.

Most Loved is an initiative of the City of SM, our Buy Local SM Committee and SM Daily Press in partnership with DTSM, Main St BID, Pico BID, MT Ave Merchants Association, SM Travel + Tourism, SM Pier Corp and Sustainable Works. [2025 Most Loved contest official rules - Santa Monica Daily Press](#)

Best regards,



Jennifer Taylor

Economic Development Manager

(310) 458-8906

santamonica.gov

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From: [Elaine Polachek](#)
To: [Elaine Polachek](#)
Subject: City Council Updates: Week of April 14
Date: Thursday, April 17, 2025 5:18:37 PM
Attachments: [image015.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image021.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and City Council,

Please find updates on various matters below. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please let me know.

APRIL 22, 2025 COUNCIL MEETING

The following is a [link](#) to Packet for the April 22 City Council Meeting. If you have any questions on the upcoming agenda, please send them over ahead of the meeting (**Monday by noon please**) so that we can work with folks to get a response.

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

SaMo Pride 2025: LGBTQ+ Pride Month in Santa Monica will be one of the most robust Pride celebrations since SaMo Pride's inception in 2019. This year we welcome the Main Street Business Improvement District to the list of Pride sponsors along with the Santa Monica Pier, Downtown Santa Monica, Inc, Santa Monica Travel and Tourism, Santa Monica Place and the City. I also want to thank Albin Gielicz for his partnership in helping to realize this year's Pride activities.



This year, Pride on the Pier, Pride on the Promenade and Main Street's Summer Soulstice will all converge to form the biggest day of Pride Month on Saturday, June 21 featuring art, activities, entertainment and city and community services. We anticipate a press release for SaMo Pride will publish the first week of May, when the [smpride.com](#) website will also be updated with all of the latest information on these year's events and activities. We will share a full list of all the events and celebrations before that goes out.

This is a particularly challenging year for the LGBTQ+ community. And while every year it is important to recognize the importance of Pride Month in supporting the LGBTQ+ community, it is especially so this year. Here are some of the ways Santa Monica is supporting the LGBTQ+ community this Pride:

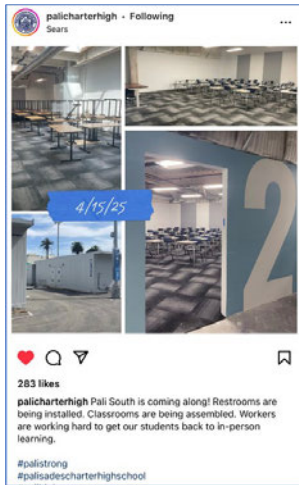
- City earns a 100 score on the Human Rights Campaign Municipal Equality Index for its inclusive policies for LGBTQ+ employees and residents, including the City's gender inclusive bathroom ordinance, recognition of Trans Day of Visibility, and recent Council directives to protect access to healthcare for trans people.
- Inclusion of LGBTQ+ voices in the City's equity plan process
- Have LGBTQ+ community liaisons in the City Manager's Office, Police Department and Library
- Hosting and co-hosting trainings and forums for trans, intersex and gender non-conforming individuals to know their rights
- Include access gender affirming in all employee health plans
- Hosted self-defense training of LGBTQ+ City staff
- Host the AIDS Life/Cycle Ride Finish Line Festival – the Ride is the largest annual fundraiser for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the LA LGBT Center.
- Celebrate LGBTQ+ voices through the Crow Comedy Pride "Story-ectomy" Writers Workshop and Performance (supported by Council discretionary funds)
- Feature LGBTQ+ writers and stories through the Santa Monica Public Library
- Welcome Pride Point Volleyball and Outloud Sports for a beach sporting event with over 700 LGBTQ+ athletes.
- Created and raise funds for the Trans Equity Scholarship to help people make their name and gender change official
- Co-sponsor Queer Prom for LGBTQ+ high school students from across the region, in partnership with the Church in Ocean Park and SaMoHi Gender and Sexuality Alliance

Communications: The communications team has been focused on supporting the opening of Palisades Charter High School's temporary location in downtown Santa Monica. The team has developed talking points, launched a communications campaign and developed a media plan gearing up for the first day of school on 4/22.

- Pali FAQ: <https://www.santamonica.gov/blog/what-to-know-palisades-charter-high-school-comes-to-downtown-santa-monica>
- Video with Mayor Negrete: [Santa Monica welcomes Pali High](#)
- Pali High Media Mentions:
 - Santa Monica Daily Press: [Palisades students prepare for their arrival to the Sear's Building in Downtown Santa Monica](#)
 - LA Times: [Santa Monica offices get unexpected tenants: Children from five fire-ravaged schools](#)
 - CBS News: [Palisades high school students set to return to class at Santa Monica Sears building](#)
 - ABC News: [Santa Monica Sears building to become temporary campus for Palisades High students](#)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Palisades Charter High School Opening Weekly Update: Pali High's construction crews and operations teams are working intensively this week to complete improvements inside the building and on the grounds. The City's interdepartmental team is also hard at work this week meeting internally and with Pali High related to construction, inspections, student and public safety, emergency planning, traffic services, parking, utilities, public transit, communications, and downtown business outreach. We look forward to welcoming Pali High teachers and staff on 4/21 and students on 4/22!



Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. is hosting the [2025 Earth Day Conscious Market](#) on the 1300 and 1400 blocks of Third Street Promenade on Saturday, April 19 from 10am to 6pm.

New Business Updates:

- [Coto Imports](#) is now open at 3018 Pico Boulevard with their complete line of burlap bags.
- [Intelligentsia](#) Coffee is slated to open at the iconic A-frame building at 3010 Pico Boulevard.
- [Fogo de Chao](#) is now open at 1551 Ocean Avenue.

The Pier Corporation-produced **Locals' Night** takes place tonight, April 17 from 3:30 - 9:30pm: <https://www.santamonicapier.org/localsnight>

Architectural Review Board April 21, 2025: The Board will be reviewing the following projects:

- **3102 3rd Street- 25ARB-0071: Sign Adjustment:** Review a sign adjustment to allow two new monument signs for St. Clement Catholic Church located in the OP2 Ocean Park Low Density Residential District where monument signs are typically prohibited
- **1437 6th Street – 25ARB-0009: Residential/ Mixed-Use :** Review of an 18-story multi-family residential building with 172 units and 2 levels of subterranean parking at 1437 6th Street in the Neighborhood Village (NV) Zoning District. *Continued with comments on February 2, 2025.*

Code Enforcement FY2024-25 3rd Quarter Stats

311 Requests

Service	January	February	March	Total
Abandoned Property	1		1	2
Building & Safety - Permit and Plan Review Services	3			3
Building Code Questions		2		2
Bulky Item and Illegal Dumping		1		1
Code Enforcement - Regulatory Enforcement Service	38	35	36	109
Encampment	1			1
E-Scooter and Shared Mobility Devices	1	6	6	13
General Question	2		2	4
General Support	1			1
Help for Tenants and Landlords	2			2
Inspections Services and Certificates of Occupancy		3		3
Leaf blower Violation	1	1	3	5
Noise Concerns	36	50	44	130
Non-Emergency Police Issues	10			10
Park Maintenance	1	1		2
Parking Operation - Resident and Community Services	1			1
Property Maintenance	19	18	18	55
Street and Sidewalk Repair	2	2	10	14
Traffic Signs & Markings	1			1
Trees		2	1	3
Unpermitted Construction	2	8	12	22
Water Issues			1	1
Weeds	2	1		3
(blank)			40	40
Grand Total	124	130	174	428

Cases by General Issue

General Issue	January	February	March	Grand Total
Property Maintenance	68	73	55	196
Building & Safety	28	46	46	120
Noise	42	28	34	104

Regulatory	10	10	8	28
Zoning	10	3	7	20
OSE	2	6	5	13
Public Works	2	1		3
Other	1			1
Grand Total	163	167	155	485

Cases by Specific Issue

Specific Issue	January	February	March	Grand Total
Unpermitted Construction	26	44	28	98
Habitability	24	34	22	80
Property Maintenance	32	34		66
Leaf Blower	33	13	17	63
Construction Noise	6	9	12	27
Seismic			17	17
Vac Property	7	3	6	16
FWH	8	3	2	13
Trash Bin	1	3	4	8
Other	1	3	3	7
No Business License	5	2		7
Other Noise	1	3	2	6
STR	3	1	2	6
HVO	3	1	1	5
Business Noise	1		3	4
Illegal Unit	2	2		4
Performer		4		4
Deliveries	1	2		3
Lighting	2		1	3
Environmental	1		1	2
Graffiti	2			2
Outdoor Dining			2	2
Sidewalk Vending	1	1		2
Vehicle Vendor		2		2
Auto Dealer	1			1
Hoarding		1		1
Landscape Noise		1		1
Plastics		1		1
Signs			1	1
Tenant Concerns	1			1
Trees	1			1
Grand Total	163	167	124	454

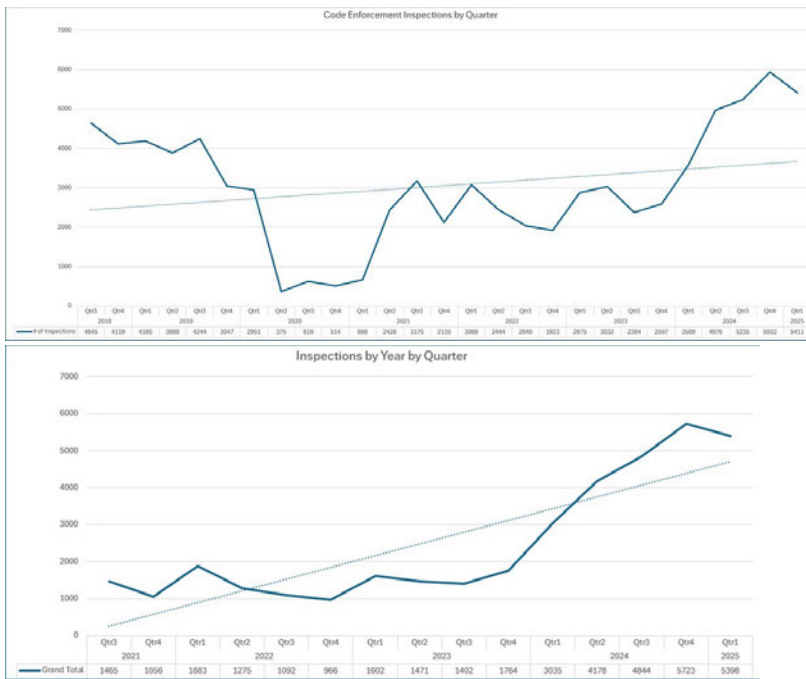
Citations Issued

Violation	Citations Issued				\$ of Citations Issued			
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
HVO			1	1			\$625.00	\$625.00
Noise	1	2	3	6	\$750.00	\$1,125.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,375.00
Onsite Manager			1	1			\$575.00	\$575.00
Outdoor Dining	2			2	\$1,375.00			\$1,375.00
Parklet		1		1		\$625.00		\$625.00
Pedicabs	2	1	1	4	\$468.75	\$75.00	\$450.00	\$993.75
Performers	2		3	5	\$262.50		\$375.00	\$637.50
Property Maintenance	3	5	3	11	\$4,000.00	\$5,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$12,000.00
Public Nuisances			2	2			\$5,575.00	\$5,575.00
SWO Violation	1	1	1	3	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,500.00
Tenant Relocation		2	2	4		\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$12,000.00
Unpermitted Construction		5	5	10		\$3,250.00	\$3,250.00	\$6,500.00
Vacant Property		1	1	2		\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00
Vending	4	2	3	9	\$450.00	\$200.00	\$1,025.00	\$1,675.00
Grand Total	15	20	26	61	\$8,306.25	\$18,775.00	\$25,375.00	\$52,456.25

Citations Paid

Month	Sum of Payments
Jan	\$3,825.00
Feb	\$3,750.00
March	\$4,950.00
Grand Total	\$12,525.00

Inspections: After a significant decrease in inspections during the pandemic, Code Enforcement staff have returned to pre-pandemic inspection levels. As of the first quarter of FY2024-25, Code Officers conducted 5398 inspections, 27% more than in FY2018-19.



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT)

Parking Rate Restructuring Public Outreach: DOT’s Parking Division has been actively working with Walker Parking Consultants / Engineers, Inc. since last summer on a Citywide Parking Study which includes (among other scope) the study of City parking rates. Following initial Council direction at the March 8 Council workshop to proceed with a strategic parking rate restructuring that could raise roughly \$9 million in additional annual revenue, City and Walker will begin the public outreach and engagement portion of the parking rate study on April 24 by presenting to the Downtown Santa Monica, Inc., board.

As approved by Council, scenarios will be presented that reduce or eliminate the 90-minute free parking period in downtown structures, which could allow for significant rate reductions for many customers in these structures while raising up to \$2.2 million in additional revenue. Staff/Walker will continue to meet with other business and neighborhood associations and stakeholders through June, and will bring rate proposal options to Council this summer. After initial Council approval of proposed rates, staff will need to take the rates to the California Coastal Commission for approval since most of the paid parking is within the Coastal Zone. New rates would then need to be incorporated into a Parking Resolution before being implemented. The City’s parking rates have not been updated since 2018.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Administration: The Santa Monica Fire Department is pleased to announce it has received an additional \$185,000 in SHSP 2021 Grant funding. These funds will support the purchase of essential Personal Protective Equipment, Emergency Medical Equipment, and storage containers to enhance our operational readiness.

Fire Finance continues to actively pursue grant opportunities from a variety of agencies, and with ongoing uncertainties in funding, this additional support is both timely and greatly appreciated.

We are also excited to share that Fire Administration has welcomed a new team member! Camila, who joins us from the Big Blue Bus, has been hired as our new Fiscal II. Her experience and enthusiasm make her a valuable addition to the Fire Family.

Operations: Peer Support Dog “Roger” Brings Comfort Following Difficult Medical Response
 On April 15th Santa Monica Fire Department responded to a cardiac arrest call at 901 Wilshire Boulevard, the location of St. John’s Urgent Care. Despite the best efforts of our firefighters and medical staff, the patient was pronounced deceased after 30 minutes of CPR within the facility. The incident deeply impacted the urgent care staff, many of whom had never experienced such a traumatic medical event firsthand.

Fortunately, Peer Support Dog Roger was assigned to the engine company on the call. At the suggestion of Firefighter Paramedic Maya, the supervising physician was asked if the staff could spend time with Roger following the incident. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Roger’s calming presence brought immediate comfort, lifting spirits and helping ease the emotional weight of the moment.

This moment served as yet another powerful reminder of the value our peer support K9 program brings—not only to our personnel but also to the community we serve. The staff at St. John’s expressed deep gratitude for the gesture, and it was clear that Roger played a meaningful role in helping them process the difficult scene.

Weekly Incident Summary

Total (266)



Over the last week the Santa Monica Fire Department responded to a total of 266 incidents across the city. As is consistent with historical trends, the majority of calls were for medical-related emergencies. Below is the categorical breakdown:

- Rescues & Emergency Medical Service Incidents: 198 (74.44%)
These include a wide range of EMS calls, from minor injuries to advanced life support interventions.
- Good Intent Calls: 43 (16.16%)
Incidents where responders were dispatched but no hazard or emergency was ultimately found.
- False Alarms & False Calls: 12 (4.51%)
Unintentional activations or misidentified emergencies, often involving commercial or residential alarm systems.
- Fires: 6 (2.26%)
Fire responses ranged from small exterior fires to incidents requiring full structure response.
- Hazardous Conditions (No Fire): 2 (0.75%)
Examples include gas leaks, electrical hazards, and other non-fire-related threats.
- Service Calls: 2 (0.75%)
Assistance not classified as a fire or EMS emergency, such as water removal or lift assists.
- Severe Weather & Natural Disaster: 1 (0.38%)
This category includes incidents caused by weather-related activity.

The department remains committed to delivering efficient, high-quality service and continues to monitor trends for operational and resource planning.

Prevention Data:

Prevention Activities	Completed
Annual Fire Inspections	112
Alarm/Sprinkler Plan Check & Inspections	28
New Construction Plan Reviews/Meetings	20
Special Event Plan Reviews/Meetings	6

Homeless Data:

Weekly Homeless Data.xlsx	4/10/25 - 4/16/25
SMFD Total Calls	293
SMFD Homeless Related Calls	41
SMFD Fires related to homelessness	4
West Coast Care Data	4/10/25 - 4/16/25
Total number of referrals	27
Service Connection Types	
Multi Services	2
Pacific Sunset Shelter	
Salvation Army ARC	
SHARE Collaborative Housing	2
Safe Place for Youth (SPY)	2
Veterans Affairs	
People Concern	10
St Joseph Center	
Step Up On Second	
Venice Family Clinic	
Housed	
Malibu Labor Exchange	
Salvation Army	9
General Relief	
Chrysalis	1
Safe Park Los Angeles	
PATH	
Social Security Office	1
Clare Matrix	
Daybreak	
Upward Bound House	
Station 7 Assist	
DMH Assist	
Car Repair	
Exodus	
Helping Hands	

Southern California Hospital Culver City	
SMPD Assist	
Interim Housing	

HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES

Santa Monica Housing Authority Update: Closure of General Waitlists Effective April 21, 2025: The Santa Monica Housing Authority (SMHA) will close all its general waitlists, including the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) waitlist, which currently has over 40,000 applicants, effective April 21, 2025. Those applicants currently on the waitlist will remain on the waitlist and may be eligible for housing opportunities. At a future date, SMHA may purge or clean-up its waitlist to remove households that are no longer interested in or eligible for assistance. Purging the waitlist is a best practice for Housing Authorities to manage a current waitlist.

The demand for general waitlists often exceeds available rental assistance resources by more than 100 to 1 throughout the year, and the SMHA is still processing applicants from 2020 when the waitlist was originally opened. This closure will help SMHA staff better manage expectations and focus on serving the Santa Monica households already on the waiting lists as vouchers become available.

As of April 15th, the HCV waitlist currently has over 44,000 applicants, of those only 13% (6,042) identify as Santa Monica residents and 8% (3,810) identify as employed in Santa Monica. In the last 90 days, the Housing Authority has received 1,605 new applications for the HCV waitlist. Of these applicants, 12% (188) identify as Santa Monica residents and 8% (136) identify as employed in Santa Monica, with the majority neither living nor working in the city.

Nearly half the calls received by the Housing Division are from non-Santa Monica based households, with the majority being inquiries regarding the Housing Authority Waitlist. The majority of housing authorities in the Los Angeles region have closed waitlists.

Waitlists will remain open for Tier 1, which target the most vulnerable Santa Monica households. Tier 1 preferences in the Housing Authority Administrative Plan include: those displaced from a Santa Monica residence within the last 12 months, Santa Monica based household experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, and CoC and supportive housing graduates. Additionally, SMHA's other referral-based rental assistance programs waitlists will remain open, such as the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program, Stability Vouchers, and permanent supportive housing properties, and the City's Below Market Housing (BMH) Waitlist.

To be considered before the closure, all waitlist applications must be submitted by April 20, 2025. Staff will notify current partners to ensure eligible households can be referred in time. A public notice has been posted on the SMHA website and will also appear in the Santa Monica Daily Press.

Homelessness Prevention and Intervention (HPI) Updates: The following success stories exemplify how Housing and Human Services helps provide upstream support to vulnerable residents to keep them housed in Santa Monica. "Janet" is 59 years old and is a long-term resident at Community Corporation of Santa Monica (CCSM) who lost income after experiencing multiple strokes and other medical conditions that made her unable to work. Janet had applied for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) but was denied. Janet contacted the City's Human Services Division (HSD) in 2023 with fears of being evicted because she was no longer able to make rent payments. The City referred her to the Disability Community Resource Center (DCRC) for intensive case management services and to the Countywide Benefits Entitlement Services Team (CBEST) to appeal her SSDI denial. DCRC assisted with rental arrears to prevent eviction while the SSDI denial was pending. As it turns out, appeals with the Social Security Administration were taking upwards of a year – during which Janet still had no income and received an eviction notice. DCRC referred Janet to Legal Aid Foundation of LA (LAFLA) for legal assistance with her eviction case. In January 2025, while the eviction case was still pending, Janet was selected off the City's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) waitlist and received her voucher in the spring of 2025. LAFLA helped negotiate an agreement to settle the eviction with HSD assisting to clear the remainder of her rental arrears. The collaboration between multiple City-funded service providers, and regional programs like CBEST, enabled Janet to remain in her housing with a housing resource that will keep her stably housed for years to come.

"Dalia" is a Spanish-speaking mother of two who was living in her Santa Monica apartment up until her husband tragically passed away in the summer of 2024. The financial and emotional impacts of this loss led to her receiving an eviction notice from her landlord, a challenge she sought support for from the Bilingual Community Liaison at one of her child's Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) schools. The liaison brought the case to the attention of HSD staff who were then able to connect her to LAFLA who began providing legal representation for her case. The LAFLA attorney collaborated directly with HSD staff and the SMMUSD Liaison to ensure Dalia understood her legal rights and options. Ultimately, Dalia opted to leave her apartment via a move-out agreement negotiated by LAFLA which prevented an eviction from being on her record. LAFLA then worked together with HSD staff to get Dalia and her family into a local family shelter, Upward Bound House (UBH), as well as apply for a family Housing Choice Voucher with the Santa Monica Housing Authority. Now housed at UBH, Dalia is working with case management staff to secure permanent housing and her children continue to attend their SMMUSD schools. Through this collaboration between HSD, multiple City-funded service providers and partners like Upward Bound House, Dalia and her family were able to stay in the Santa Monica community, avoid an eviction and secure the soft landing needed to process their loss and move towards housing stability again.

LIBRARY

Collaboration with City Departments and Local Organizations: Santa Monica Public Library offers programming opportunities and accessible community spaces to city departments and local organizations. The Library's upcoming Earth Day Celebration will feature information booths hosted in collaboration with sustainability-focused city departments such as Urban Forest and Water Resources, as well as nonprofits like the Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society, Santa Monica History Museum, and Heal the Bay. In addition to organizing events, the Library offers meeting rooms for public gatherings, workshops, and community initiatives. Next month, the Coalition of Asian & Pacific Employees of Santa Monica (CAPE SM) will host two professional development events at the Main Library to celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.



Teen Ambassador Program: Santa Monica Public Library recently launched a Teen Ambassador Program, as part of its Teen Service Program. Teen Ambassadors are Teen Service Program members who have completed over 30 hours of library community service. Teen Ambassadors will

lead orientations, give library tours, explain service opportunities, and help orient new members. By sharing their experiences and enthusiasm, they help create a supportive environment for incoming volunteers while gaining valuable leadership and mentorship experience.



Computer Classes at Main Library: Santa Monica Public Library offers free computer and digital literacy classes designed to support community members of all skill levels. These classes cover essential topics such as computing basics, setting up and managing an email account, using Excel, organizing files and photos, and getting comfortable with software like Canva and Zoom. By providing access to these free classes, the Library helps bridge the digital divide, empowers individuals to navigate technology, and promotes lifelong learning.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Weekly Council Recap
April 6 to April 12, 2025

[Council Update 4-6 to 4-12.pptx](#)

RECREATION AND ARTS

Tour introducing Japanese media to the Annenberg Community Beach House: In partnership with Santa Monica Travel & Tourism and Visit California, we welcomed a group of Japanese media highlighting California as the ultimate road trip destination, with a focus on Route 66. Heath Hamilton, Beach Recreation Supervisor, led the journalists on a tour that included Back on the Beach Café and the Beach House grounds, plus a tour of the Marion Davies Guest House led by Santa Monica Conservancy docent Michael Burton.



Photos courtesy of Fran Lyness

Permanent Fencing Begins Installation at the Miles Memorial Playhouse: After months of interdepartmental planning for a permanent fence surrounding the Miles Memorial Playhouse, this week kicks off the installation! The process is estimated to be complete by the first week of May.



Camera Obscura Artist in Residence Workshop on Earth Day: In collaboration with the Library and Public Works (OSE, RRR, Urban Forest & Water Resources), our Cultural Affairs team is partnering to offer a range of programming on April 22nd from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. in honor of Earth Day. Camera Obscura Artist in Residence Raphaelle Cohen-Bacry presents a collage/assemblage workshop incorporating recycled and re-purposed materials. Additionally, the community can learn how you can help protect our planet at this drop-in event with information tables, mini-presentations, and activities for all ages. More information can be [found here](#).

Celebrating the new scoreboard & You're all invited!

PARTY ON THE FIELD!
Celebrate the new scoreboard at Historic Belmar Park with a community field day! Everyone is welcome to this free event.
The scoreboard was generously donated by the Kiwanis Club of Santa Monica, in partnership with the City of Santa Monica, in honor and commemoration of the Club's 100th anniversary.

- SK races - perfect for all ages and abilities
- Local team scrimmages
- Games, face painting, hula hoop, soccer drills
- Live music
- Beer Garden (21+ / credit card payment only)
- Complimentary non-alcoholic drinks
- Complimentary snacks
- Grant award presentation
- No pets, please

DATE: Sunday, April 27, 2025
TIME: 4:00 - 7:00 PM
LOCATION: Historic Belmar Park (4th Street at Pico Blvd)
PARKING: Civic Center Parking 332 Olympic Drive

BROUGHT TO YOU BY: [Logos for Santa Monica, Santa Monica CARES, and others]
SPONSORED BY: [Logos for Santa Monica, Santa Monica CARES, and others]

Spring Break Camps Recap & Summer Registration Preview: The Community Recreation Division's spring break camps were a hit this year, with a total of 248 participants and \$92,453 in revenue. Some of the most popular offerings included 1Soul of Cali Creative Arts Camp (pictured below), Camp Bounce at the Beach House, Tennis Camp with Richard Goldenson, and Bienvenidos Spanish Immersion Camp. A big thank you to our instructors and staff for helping make spring break a success!

Looking ahead, registration for our summer camps and classes opens Wednesday, April 23rd for Santa Monica residents and Wednesday, April 30th for non-residents. With hundreds of options available across a wide range of topics—from sports and arts to STEM and language—there's something for everyone. For registration information and a list of offerings please visit, [Santa Monica's Guide to Community Recreation Classes and Camps](#)



1Soul of Cali Spring Break Camp 2025 – Marine Park

Best,



Elaine Polachek
Interim City Manager
santamonica.gov
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

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From: [Elaine Polachek](#)
To: [Elaine Polachek](#)
Cc: [Susan Cline](#); [Christopher J. Smith](#); [Lauren Howland](#); [Tati Simonian](#)
Subject: Media Plan for Pali High Opening - 4/22/26
Date: Saturday, April 19, 2025 6:11:11 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[Council talking points.docx](#)

Mayor and Council,

Lauren and her team have created a game plan for the first day of school at Pali High on Tuesday. They put this plan together in close coordination with our partners at CDD, DOT and PD. They have also been in direct coordination with their media contact at Pali High, who has helped disseminate information and connect our team with Pali administration.

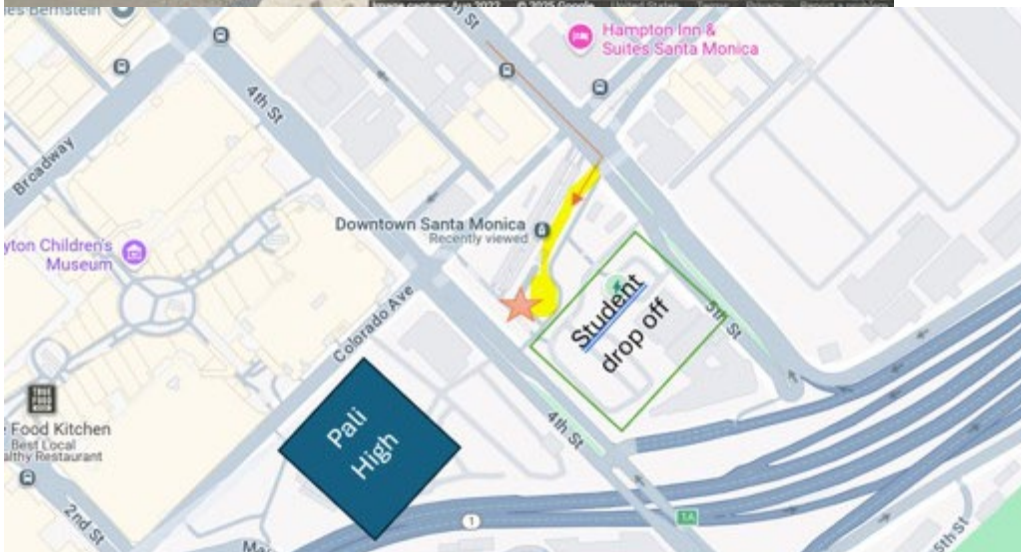
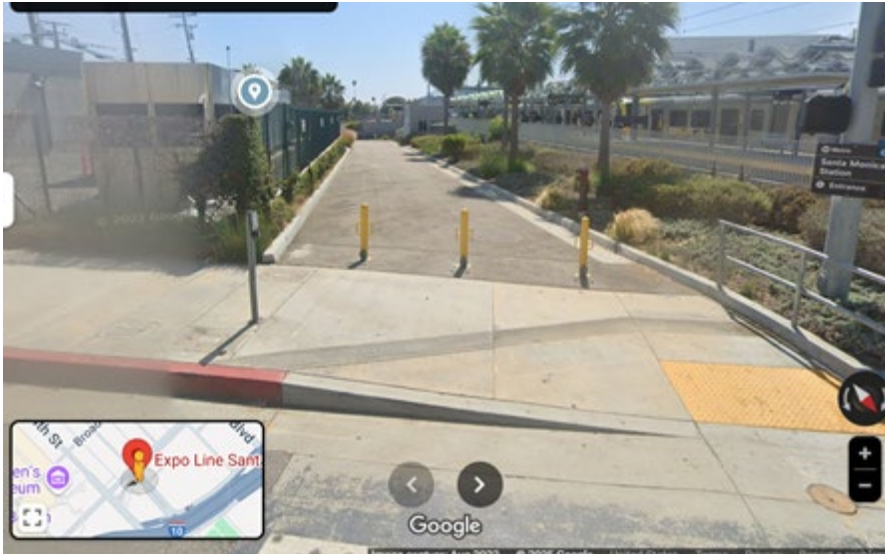
Communications Next week:

1. All staff message Monday morning
2. Media advisory sent Monday + direct media outreach to coordinate/manage arrival
 - a. This is **not a press conference** -- we will be doing limited distribution to media we've already heard interest from

Day of:

1. Welcome signage throughout the drop off area and at the corner of 4th /Colorado
2. Press release + b-roll and photos for media that do not attend

We've coordinated with PD, CDD, OEM and Metro to facilitate limited media staging/parking at the Metro maintenance driveway located between the E Line platform and the student drop off lot (Kiss and Ride lot). See a map below. Media with regular cars (not media vans) are being asked to park in the Civic Center lot.



The **communications team (plus help)** will be onsite early **Tuesday** and prepped for media arrival around 7 a.m. They will serve up interviews onsite that give all perspectives and also provide a view of the drop off area and the Sears building. This plan allows the Comms team to control media in the area as it provides them all the things they'll want in a space that's least intrusive.

Talking points have been provided to all speakers.

Confirmed available onsite for interviews:

1. Mayor Negrete
2. Armine Chaparyan - CDD
3. Anuj Gupta - DOT
4. Two Palil High ASB students
5. Representing Metro – Supervisor Lindsey Horvath

We are not hosting a big press conference or media event but rather providing a space for media who will want to cover the story so we can manage them and contain them as best as possible. We plan to continue to emphasize this point on Monday to manage the volume of media.

Attached are a few bullets for you if you get asked by members of the public about our plans. **However, please be aware that the Mayor and others listed above will be the spokespeople for this media day.** There are many moving parts and Lauren's team has a strategy to control the message.

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

-Elaine



Elaine Polachek

Interim City Manager

santamonica.gov

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From: [Elaine Polachek](#)
To: [Elaine Polachek](#)
Cc: [Susan Cline](#); [Christopher J. Smith](#); [Heather Averick](#)
Subject: Heather Averick
Date: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 3:05:39 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Mayor and Council,

As some of you may know, Heather Averick [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This also means Heather and her family will be relocating to San Diego.

While the City begins the process of recruiting a new Housing and Human Services Director this summer, Heather will continue supporting the transition remotely. The new City Manager will lead the hiring process, with the goal of welcoming a new Director in early Fall.

Heather shared that being part of the City and leading the dedicated HHS team has been one of the most meaningful chapters in her career. She's deeply grateful for the warm welcome, the strong partnerships, and the collaboration she experienced throughout her time here. She will carry with her a lasting appreciation for the impactful work done every day in the City.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
Elaine

From: Elaine Polachek
 To: Elaine Polachek
 Cc: Department Heads, Atty and Clerk
 Subject: City Council Updates: Week of April 21
 Date: Friday, April 25, 2025 3:29:51 PM
 Attachments: [image015.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image025.png](#)
[image031.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image017.png](#)
[image014.png](#)
[image016.png](#)
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[image018.png](#)
[image019.png](#)
[image020.png](#)
[image021.png](#)
[image028.png](#)

Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Council,

Please find updates on various matters below. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please let me know.

APRIL 29, 2025 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Just a friendly reminder about the Special Council Meeting scheduled for next **Tuesday, April 29, at 5:30 PM**. The only item on the agenda will be the City Manager Recruitment. Here is the [link](#) to the agenda.

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Communications: Our office coordinated media staging and interviews around Pali High's first day of in-person learning at the former Sears Building this past Tuesday. We also created welcome signage for students and produced our own video of the event: <https://youtu.be/K6-n9-W-QU>

We saw a robust turnout of broadcast, radio and print/digital outlets and all the stories were tremendously positive.

Below is a sample of coverage:

- NBC - [Students from Palisades Charter High move into former Sears building](#)
- FOX - [Palisades Charter HS students resume classes at temporary site](#)
- KCAL - [Pali High students return to class at Santa Monica Sears building](#)
- ABC - [Palisades Charter High School students back in class for 1st time since being displaced by fires](#)
- KTLA - [Palisades Charter H.S. students begin in-person lessons at new location](#)
- Santa Monica Daily Press - [Pali High starts its Santa Monica Era](#)
- New York Times - [After the Wildfires, This High School Needed a Campus. It Found a Sears.](#)

Other recently secured stories:

- Bloomberg - [Fire-Wrecked LA Schools Find Classrooms in Empty Office Cubicles](#)
- Santa Monica Daily Press Op Ed - [LA28 Olympics: One door closes, but more open for Santa Monica](#)

Office of Emergency Management: Santa Monica hosted the annual westside hospital decontamination drill at the Airport Interim Space on Wednesday, April 23rd. The multi-agency drill allows hospitals to practice decontamination procedures required before allowing patients to enter an Emergency Department after a chemical or biological incident, like a hazmat spill or terrorism event.

Santa Monica Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers served as drill actors during the event, repeatedly going through the decontamination showers to allow each hospital team to get experience. Santa Monica Fire provided water for the decontamination showers and education to hospital employees. Santa Monica OEM, Fire, Airport and Police staff supported with logistical needs.



Santa Monica Fire instructs hospital employees and shows the city's hazardous materials response apparatus



Santa Monica CERT volunteers and Veterans Affairs nursing students receiving briefing to serve as actor "patients" for the drill



Hospital personnel wearing decontamination suits and respirators walk to decon trailers

Community Partnerships: An interdepartmental team of city staff and representatives from Santa Monica Travel & Tourism hosted a site visit this week for a group scouting locations for the IOC Satellite Broadcast Center and two hospitality houses for the 2028 Summer Olympics. Our visitors were very impressed, and we anticipate executing a Letter of Intent with the group in the coming months.



The City Manager's Office extends deepest thanks to SMPD and Public Works – with a special shoutout to the Beach Maintenance and Park Maintenance teams – for the extraordinary effort in helping to prepare Crescent Bay Park, the adjacent parking lot, and the beach for the site visit. Thanks to their hard work and attention to detail, everything looked absolutely amazing. From the moment our guests arrived, the care and pride staff brought to this work was on full display. They left with a strong impression of Santa Monica – not just the beauty of the location, but the dedication and professionalism of the team behind it. We are also in talks with representatives from the Netherlands, France and other countries who are interested in hosting events and hospitality houses in Santa Monica in preparation for celebrations related to the 2028 Summer Olympics.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Palisades Charter High School Opening Weekly Update: Pali High welcomed staff on Monday, April 21 and welcomed students to in-person learning on Tuesday, April 22. We're hearing very positive feedback from DTSMA and Santa Monica Place about all of the students that are coming to the downtown businesses. As Pali High team continues to acclimate to their new campus, they are committed to making adjustments to school operations when challenges or issues are identified. CDD will continue to serve in a coordination role for Pali High-related matters as needed. Thank you to the City's entire interdepartmental team who are devoting their expertise and time to this project with the focus of our work being on the safety of students and our community.

Community Development Director Aminé Chaparyan hosted the monthly meeting with **neighborhood group** leaders this week. The group had an in depth discussion of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU'S).

Farmers Market welcomed the Easter Bunny to the **Main Street Farmers Market** this past Sunday! The market was filled with families visiting for the inaugural Easter egg hunt on the lawn; treats for kids included locally sourced tangerines.

The Farmers Markets celebrate the final week of "Earth Month" at SMFM. Downtown market shoppers can still get a fresh market bag by trading in their old at the "Take a Bag, Leave a Bag" station. Pico will host "Green City LA" and feature sustainability and recycling activities.

Staff has learned that the **property that once housed the former World Café** at the corner of Main Street and Ashland Avenue will be put on the market for sale. Interested parties should contact Tenzer Realty. Staff informed the Main Street Business Improvement District so that they can help promote this opportunity.

The City has partnered with Los Angeles County to allocate \$150,000 in grant funding, secured from We Are Santa Monica Fund, to help **support businesses in Santa Monica that have demonstrated decreased business activity** related to the January Palisades fire. The funds will be distributed to businesses in up to \$5,000 increments. Over 80 businesses are eligible, the selection of recipients will be by lottery. More information to follow.

Last week, staff in Economic Development and Information Systems met with the team from the **Milken Institute's Community Infrastructure Center** to talk about potential partnership opportunities to support City infrastructure projects, which could include City Broadband, Santa Monica Pier Bridge Replacement and Santa Monica Civic Auditorium.

Last week, Economic Development and Recreation and Arts staff met with the founder of the Museum of Freedom and a member of the Santa Monica Arts Commission to talk about opportunities to include his digital art inventory in the upcoming Tech Street Santa Monica street fair event, which is planned for October 18, as part of Tech Week LA. The same team also participated in a Bergamot Workshop, organized by Arts Commissioner Michelle Edgar, with about 15 attendees including Bergamot gallery owners, Arts Commissioners, and City staff. The group brainstormed about ensuring Bergamot "stays on the map" before actual redevelopment occurs, and is creatively activated with frequent events, including potential for First Fridays @ Bergamot. Bergamot Tenants Association agreed the next step is for them to meet and brainstorm about their event ideas/needs and existing gallery shows and will submit a proposal to Arts Commission and city staff regarding marketing and sponsorship connections. Next month, staff from Housing, Economic Development and Cultural Affairs will attend the Arts Commission to discuss the Housing Element implementation and next steps, along with seeking their guidance in helping to identify future relocation opportunities for the Bergamot tenants (e.g. SM Airport, DTSM "gallery row").

The **Architectural Review Board** met on April 21, 2025. The Board approved the following:

- 3102 3rd Street – Sign Adjustment: A sign adjustment to allow two new monument signs for St. Clement Catholic Church which is located in a zone where monument signs are typically not allowed. Project was approved on the Consent Calendar
- 1437 6th Street – Residential/ Mixed-Use: An 18-story multi-family residential building with 172 units and 2 levels of subterranean parking at 1437 6th – this application was previously continued with comments on February 2, 2025. Project was approved with conditions.

The Pier will host **PANCAN PurpleStride** on April 26 from 8am to noon, a walk to end pancreatic cancer which brings together supporters to raise funds and spread awareness. More information available [here](#).

New eateries under construction in Downtown Santa Monica:

- [SoCal Vibes](#), a South Bay based brewery with outlets in Venice and Carson, is updating the space at 119 Broadway
- Signs indicating a new business called The Courtside Lounge is up at 123 Broadway.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT)

Text to Pay Meter Pilot on Montana Ave.: The Parking Division has launched a pilot Text-to-Pay system at all parking meters in the Montana Ave. corridor from 7th to 17th Streets, allowing parkers to pay their parking meters by mobile phone instead of using coins or credit cards directly at the meters. Patrons can simply text "PAY" to the number listed on the meter, enter the specific zone number (as shown in the picture below), and pay through the link texted to their phone. This allows patrons to pay or add time (within posted limits) remotely, and if a user has their credit card information stored in their phone, they do not need a credit card with them at all. Text-to-pay meter technology is being used widely elsewhere with positive results.

The City will pilot Text to Pay for 3 months with no additional fees passed along to the user. If we have positive results, staff will assess whether to make Text to Pay permanent at all meters, but there would likely be a small transaction fee for each use with users being informed in advance.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Administration: Admin continues with training new staff members and getting our year end deadlines submitted. With Administrative Professionals Appreciation Day being yesterday, and celebrated all week, we would like to thank all of the Fire administrative staff for the excellent work they do each day. Without them, we would not be able to get people hired, members sent to training, fire fighters tested, customers questions answered, vendors invoiced, bills paid, items purchased, contracts signed, grants executed, staff paid, and more. This tight knit team is truly a pleasure to work with.

Operations: SMFD crews recently participated in specialized training focused on hazardous materials operations, specifically honing their skills with the stinger kit. The stinger kit is a crucial tool used to safely offload fuel from an overturned tanker, a highly complex and dangerous task. This operation requires not only precision but also a deep understanding of safety protocols and risk management. The training emphasizes the critical importance of being prepared for such high-stakes scenarios, and it underscores the exceptional level of expertise and professionalism demonstrated by SMFD firefighters. Their ability to perform this challenging operation safely highlights the extensive training and dedication that ensures they are always ready to respond effectively in life-threatening situations.



Weekly Incident Summary:



During the past week, the Santa Monica Fire Department responded to **322 total incidents**. The call volume remains consistent with seasonal trends, with emergency medical responses accounting for the majority of activity. A full breakdown of incident types is provided below:

- **Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incidents:** 233 (72.36%)
These included medical emergencies ranging from minor injuries to critical life-saving interventions.
- **Good Intent Calls:** 44 (13.67%)
Calls where firefighters were dispatched but no actual emergency was found upon arrival.
- **False Alarms & False Calls:** 20 (6.21%)
Includes system malfunctions, unintentional activations, or misidentified hazards.
- **Fire Incidents:**
Responses involving fire suppression in structures, vehicles, or outdoor areas.
- **Hazardous Condition (No Fire):** 5 (1.55%)
Includes gas leaks, electrical issues, or other hazardous conditions not involving active fire.
- **Service Calls:**
Calls for assistance unrelated to fire or EMS, such as lift assists or public aid.
- **Special Incident Type:**
Rare or unique calls that don't fall into standard categories.

The department continues to provide responsive and professional all-risk service. Incident activity is monitored weekly to assess resource allocation, identify training needs, and prepare for ongoing community risk.

EMS: The EMS Division completed its "New Paramedic Orientation" training to 4 of our Firefighters who are completing their 9-month long Paramedic training process. Training included SMFD expectations, communicable disease exposure policies, patient documentation and reporting, and local EMS system review. These 4 newly trained firefighter/paramedics will be independently practicing in the coming weeks adding much needed resources to our community.

Weekly EMS response stats:

Advanced Life Support Ambulance Transports	55
Basic Life Support Ambulance Transports	117
Patients Treated & Released at Scene	41
Active Care Management Program Cases (WISE)	6

Homeless Data:

Weekly Homeless Data.xlsx	4/17-4/23/25
SMFD Total Calls	296
SMFD Homeless Related Calls	80
SMFD Fires related to homelessness	2
West Coast Care Data	04/17/- 04/23/25
Total number of referrals	22
Service Connection Types	
Multi Services	3
Pacific Sunset Shelter	
Salvation Army ARC	
SHARE Collaborative Housing	
Safe Place for Youth (SPY)	2
Veterans Affairs	
People Concern	5
St Joseph Center	
Step Up On Second	
Venice Family Clinic	
Housed	2
Malibu Labor Exchange	1
Salvation Army	8
General Relief	
Chrysalis	
Safe Park Los Angeles	
PATH	
Social Security Office	1
Clare Matrix	
Daybreak	
Upward Bound House	
Station 7 Assist	
DMH Assist	
Car Repair	
Exodus	
Helping Hands	
Southern California Hospital Culver City	
SMPD Assist	
Interim Housing	

Prevention:

Prevention Activities	Completed
Annual Fire Inspections	126
Alarm/Sprinkler Plan Check & Inspections	31
New Construction Plan Reviews/Meetings	17
Special Event Plan Reviews/Meetings	4

On April 22, SMFD and Roger our K-9 Peer support dog welcomed Pali High School students as they returned to school. We also attended Career Day at Will Rogers Learning Community on April 23.



HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES

The City selected non-profit development partner, EAH, Inc., has submitted an application for approximately \$40 million in funding through the state's Multifamily Housing Program (MHP) SuperNOFA. After evaluating the project's eligibility and competitiveness, EAH determined that applying in the current round would be a strategic opportunity. If the application is successful, it could accelerate the project's development timeline by up to a year. To support the application, City staff collaborated closely with the developer, providing essential financing commitments and project-based voucher commitments as part of the submission package. EAH successfully submitted the application on April 15. The state will announce award decisions by July 2025.

Homelessness Prevention and Intervention (HPI) Team:

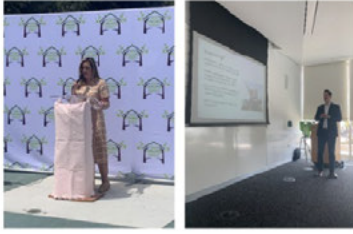
The People Concern (TPC) C3/HMST Outreach Update: The success story for this month is "Chris", a 70-year-old male who has been staying in his van in Santa Monica for several years. Chris became homeless after being laid off from work many years ago and due to his age, has faced difficulty in securing employment to generate income to afford housing. After experiencing homeless for some time in Santa Monica, Chris was engaged by the C3 Team and was able to be connected to medical health services with Venice Family Clinic. The C3 Team has submitted shelter referrals and permanent housing applications for Chris with the goal of securing housing soon.

The Housing and Human Services Department (HHS) regularly makes referrals to C3 based on inquiries from people experiencing homelessness, community members, and City staff. As of November, select members of the C3 Team have access to the 311 system so can get 311 requests related to homelessness that do not require a response by SMPD or PWD. Below are the monthly and fiscal year-to-date numbers for C3 and HMST. In addition to the data below, the C3 Team responded to 2 requests for people living in their vehicle (1 via 311 and 1 via LA-HOP neither of whom were not in their vehicle upon arrival) and engaged with 4 people living in their vehicles all of whom were offered Safe Parking LA referrals.

C3/HMST Outreach Data	March 2025		Fiscal Year to Date July 2024 - June 2025	
	C3 Team	HMST	C3 Team	HMST
# of Contacts (Duplicated)	427	145	3,786	1,309
# Medical Services Provided	36	24	360	267
# Psychiatric Services Provided	21	10	147	102
# Placed in Interim Housing	1	0	50	6
# Placed in Permanent Housing	0	0	4	5

LIBRARY

Financial Freedom Fair at Pico Branch: Santa Monica Public Library and Haven Neighborhood Services hosted a Financial Freedom Fair on April 12 at Virginia Avenue Park. The free event featured workshops in both English and Spanish, covering topics such as credit, investing, and first-time homebuyer education. In addition to workshop attendees, about 80 VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) appointments were scheduled, resulting in successful tax filings for about 60 households. This event supports the City's economic development priorities by supporting community members with financial literacy tools, connecting them to tax preparation resources, and promoting pathways to economic stability. By offering these services at no cost and in multiple languages, the Financial Freedom Fair provided inclusive access to financial education.



A Taste of Jordan with Chef Chris Sayegh of Layla Restaurant Santa Monica: About 50 participants joined Chef Chris Sayegh at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium at the Main Library as he shared stories from his culinary journey and his Jordanian family heritage. Attendees also enjoyed a free tasting reception featuring Warak Enab (stuffed grape leaves), which Chef Chris prepared especially for the occasion. This event supports the City's commitment to economic development by highlighting a local business and entrepreneur. It also promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion by celebrating Arab American Heritage Month and creating a welcoming space for underrepresented voices.



Earth Day Celebration of Main Library: About 250 community members attended Santa Monica Public Library's first Earth Day Celebration, which featured hands-on activities, eco-focused presentations, and creative workshops. Representatives from 16 City departments and local nonprofits participated in the event, including Cultural Affairs and the Office of Sustainability and the Environment. Highlights included the opportunity for patrons to plant native milkweed, explore worm bins, and dissect owl pellets with Climate Action Corps Fellows and Community Gardens staff. Attendees also enjoyed a recycled art workshop with Camera Obscura Artist in Residence Raphaelie Cohen-Baory and a family-friendly tree talk from the Urban Forest team. In addition, patrons shared Earth-inspired words that were artfully woven into a collective poem by City of Santa Monica Poet Laureate Anne Carmack. The celebration engaged all ages in climate-conscious activities, reflecting the City's commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship.



POLICE DEPARTMENT
Weekly Council Recap
April 13 - April 10, 2025

[Council Update 4-13 to 4-19-25.pptx](#)

PUBLIC WORKS

IRS Direct Pay & Santa Monica Clean Energy Projects: The City of Santa Monica received \$291,900.82 from the federal government through the IRS Direct Pay program, a provision of the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act. This program enables tax-exempt entities like cities to receive direct payments in lieu of tax credits for qualifying clean energy projects and purchases. The funds received reflect projects placed in service during calendar year 2023, including:

- A 120-kilowatt rooftop solar installation on the north side of Santa Monica Airport, which generated a \$244,527.88 payment.
- The purchase of a heavy-duty electric stake bed truck, which resulted in a \$40,000 payment.
- An additional \$7,372.94 in interest from the IRS due to delayed processing.

Public Works and Finance are coordinating to allocate these funds toward future clean energy purchases. This will create a revolving funding source, allowing the City to continue investing in clean energy projects that align with Santa Monica's climate goals and meet California's climate compliance requirements. Looking ahead, the Office of Sustainability and the Environment (OSE) is preparing filings for projects placed in service in 2024, with expectations of securing a similar level of federal funding.

LA Climate Week: Last week, staff from OSE participated in several LA Climate Week events, including a Santa Monica-based gathering hosted by SidePorch and CrossCut Ventures that focused on resilience and rebuilding after the January 2025 Southern California wildfires. The event brought together institutional investors, real estate developers, policymakers, and founders of resilience-focused solutions to explore how investment, financial innovation, policy alignment, and advanced technologies can drive more resilient communities and smarter recovery strategies. A key resource highlighted during the event was the newly released U.S. Green Building Council California Wildfire Rebuilding Guide, which offers tools to help residents, policymakers, and builders prioritize safety, efficiency, and sustainability in the rebuilding process. As both a refuge and a new home for many wildfire victims, Santa Monica has a critical role to play in supporting long-term recovery and rebuilding efforts.

Building Performance Standards Presented to the Building and Fire-Life Safety Commission: At the April 9th meeting, staff from OSE presented an update on the development of a proposed Building Performance Standards policy to the Building and Fire-Life Safety (BFLS) Commission. This policy aims to reduce carbon emissions from the building sector by requiring large existing buildings in the City to meet greenhouse gas emissions standards over time. The item was presented as a study session, and the BFLS Commission expressed overall support for the policy direction.

RECREATION AND ARTS

The Annenberg Community Beach House celebrates 16 years! Friday, April 25 was our sweet sixteen – wow time files! Thanks to the vision of Wallis Annenberg, the Beach House opened April 25, 2009, and has become a place of joy and respite, a place where everyone is welcome for recreation, culture, community, and celebration.

The Beach House is a unique project created through the efforts of an innovative public/private partnership between the Annenberg Foundation, California State Parks and the City of Santa Monica, with additional funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Federal Preserve America Program.



Summer Refresh at the Annenberg Community Beach House

The Beach House is freshening up for summer 2025! For the first time since opening in 2009, the interpretive panels highlighting the rich history of the site have been replaced and look better than ever.



Cultural Affairs Attends Arts Summit in Sacramento: Members of the Cultural Affairs team attended the 3rd annual CA Arts & Culture Summit hosted by Californians for the Arts in Sacramento in conjunction with Arts Advocacy Day. This year's conference theme was dedicated to the vital role of arts and culture in promoting health, healing, and hope within our communities.



Proclamation for Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month: At the Council meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, Resource Recovery and Recycling Manager Yvonne Yeung spoke about Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month and introduced Artist May Sun, who delivered this year's Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month artist proclamation!



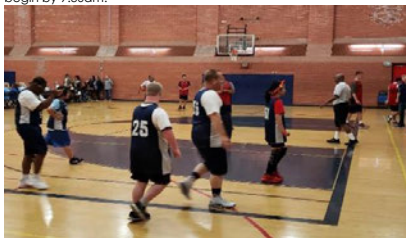
Santa Monica Swim Center – GO SHARKS!

The Santa Monica Swim Center's Sharks Swim Team will host its Spring Swim Meet on Saturday, April 27, beginning at 1:00 PM. The event will include participation from community swim teams across the West Los Angeles region, including the Manhattan Beach Dolphins, Playa Vista Swim Team, H2O Swim Team, SCAQ Kids, and the Crossroads Wave Runners.

Lap swim lanes will be unavailable from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM during the meet. Recreational swimming will remain open in both the Diving Well and the Splash Pool. This swim meet supports youth athletic development and strengthens Santa Monica's regional aquatics partnerships. Community members are encouraged to stop by and cheer on the team! **GO SHARKS!**



Westside Special Olympics Basketball Tournament at Memorial Park: The City of Santa Monica's Westside Special Olympics program will be hosting its 7th Annual Westside Basketball Tournament on Saturday, May 3rd in the Memorial Park Gymnasium. The City of Santa Monica will be hosting over 150 athletes from all over Southern California in this event and will have over 50 volunteers coaching, cheering and supporting our Special athletes. If you would like to cheer on our Westside team and all the athletes, feel free to stop by Memorial Park. Opening ceremonies will be at 9am and the tournament action will begin by 9:30am.



Best.



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