

**From:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**To:** [Natalya Zernitskaya](#)  
**Cc:** [Christopher J. Smith](#); [Susan Cline](#); [Kennisha Williams](#); [Josh Kurpies](#); [Nikima Newsome](#); [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**Subject:** Re: 16 Item Request for 5/13/2025 City Council Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, April 28, 2025 7:53:20 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Thanks Natalia. I've got it.

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**From:** Natalya Zernitskaya <Natalya.Zernitskaya@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2025 3:04:16 PM  
**To:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Cc:** Christopher J. Smith <Christopher.J.Smith@santamonica.gov>; Susan Cline <Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov>; Kennisha Williams <Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov>; Josh Kurpies <Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov>; Nikima Newsome <Nikima.Nesome@santamonica.gov>; Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** 16 Item Request for 5/13/2025 City Council Meeting

Hi Elaine,

Mayor Pro Tem Torosis and I would like to add the following 16 item for the May 13, 2025 regular council meeting agenda:

“16(?): Request of Councilmember Zernitskaya and Mayor Pro Tem Torosis to allocate \$1,000 of Council discretionary funds towards the Santa Monica Animal Shelter Foundation’s Open House Fundraiser on June 7, 2025 to cover certain event costs such as, but not limited to, a DJ, supplies, and other items needed to make the event a success so that more of the donations received can go to assisting animals in need.”

Please let me know if there are any suggested edits to the language.

Thanks,  
Natalya



**Natalya Zernitskaya**  
Santa Monica Councilmember  
(310) 458-8201



**From:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**To:** [Natalya Zernitskaya](#); [Josh Kurpies](#)  
**Cc:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**Subject:** Re: 16 Item Request for 5/13/2025 City Council Meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 1:58:52 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** Natalya Zernitskaya <Natalya.Zernitskaya@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 1:25:59 PM  
**To:** Josh Kurpies <Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov>  
**Cc:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>; Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: 16 Item Request for 5/13/2025 City Council Meeting

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Josh Kurpies <Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 3:16:41 PM  
**To:** Natalya Zernitskaya <Natalya.Zernitskaya@santamonica.gov>  
**Cc:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: 16 Item Request for 5/13/2025 City Council Meeting

Hi Natalya:

Below are my recommended non-substantive edits, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thanks!  
-josh



## Josh Kurpies

Council Office & Legislative Affairs Liaison  
(310) 458-2201 ext. 5501

[Resources for Californians Impacted by Los Angeles Fires](#)

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**From:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2025 7:53 PM  
**To:** Natalya Zernitskaya <Natalya.Zernitskaya@santamonica.gov>  
**Cc:** Christopher J. Smith <Christopher.J.Smith@santamonica.gov>; Susan Cline <Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov>; Kennisha Williams <Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov>; Josh Kurpies <Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov>; Nikima Newsome <Nikima.Newsome@santamonica.gov>; Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: 16 Item Request for 5/13/2025 City Council Meeting

Thanks Natalia. I've got it.

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**From:** Natalya Zernitskaya <[Natalya.Zernitskaya@santamonica.gov](mailto:Natalya.Zernitskaya@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2025 3:04:16 PM  
**To:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Christopher J. Smith <[Christopher.J.Smith@santamonica.gov](mailto:Christopher.J.Smith@santamonica.gov)>; Susan Cline <[Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov](mailto:Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov)>; Kennisha Williams <[Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov](mailto:Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>; Nikima Newsome <[Nikima.Newsome@santamonica.gov](mailto:Nikima.Newsome@santamonica.gov)>; Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** 16 Item Request for 5/13/2025 City Council Meeting

Hi Elaine,

Mayor Pro Tem Torosis and I would like to add the following 16 item for the May 13, 2025 regular council meeting agenda:

“16(?): Request of Councilmember Zernitskaya and Mayor Pro Tem Torosis to allocate \$1,000 of Council discretionary funds towards the Santa Monica Animal Shelter Foundation’s Open House Fundraiser on June 7, 2025 to cover certain event costs such as, but not limited to, a DJ, supplies, and other items needed to make the event a success so that more of the donations received can go to assisting animals in need.”

Please let me know if there are any suggested edits to the language.

Thanks,

Natalya



**Natalya Zernitskaya**

Santa Monica Councilmember

(310) 458-8201

From: [Caroline Torosis](#)  
To: [Anuj Gupta](#); [Elsine Polischek](#)  
Cc: [Dan Hall](#)  
Subject: Re: [Records Center] Public Records Request :: R033399-021825  
Date: Tuesday, April 29, 2025 1:57:21 PM  
Attachments: [image001.png](#)  
[2025.04.21.sege.response.reduced.pdf](#)

Any suggestions for how to handle?

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From: Alan S. [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2025 1:44:27 PM  
To: Dan Hall <[Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov](mailto:Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov)>; Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>  
Subject: Re: [Records Center] Public Records Request :: R033399-021825

EXTERNAL

Dear Councilmembers Hall and Torosis:

The City Clerk has gone silent, and has not honored my public records request. This email contains highly sensitive personal information about me, and you are not to permit this to be publicly disclosed without providing me the opportunity to oppose.

I know that you have declined to work on this, and the City has decided not to enforce its noise ordinance, and let the Waymos continue their sleep deprivation torture. I, like [REDACTED] and others, continue to suffer greatly. Yesterday morning, I was awoken at 5am in my hotel room on the 16th floor in Berkeley California by Waymo beeping. It was a hallucination.

As an update — The Los Angeles Superior Court at my trial last week, after reviewing my response (attached) — dismissed Waymo's lawsuit against me, finding that Waymo fabricated evidence. She ordered a further hearing three weeks from now in which she will determine the amount of my attorneys fees and my lost revenue from engaging in my constitutionally protected activity and defending the lawsuit, and she will order Waymo to pay me. To the extent that you re-engage in protecting us renters, I encourage you to review my publicly filed response — filled with evidence of Waymo's lawlessness.

Although Waymo has now repeatedly promised, to you and to us, that they have discontinued operating the lot on my side of Euclid at night after 11pm and before 6am (per Santa Monica ordinance), last week they recommenced. Yesterday evening, I stayed in my car in the alley at Broadway. Waymo/Votera contractors called the Santa Monica Police. I told the police I was engaging in constitutionally protected activity — adjudged to be such by LA Superior Court. The Police asked the attendants to remove all the Waymos from the lot, and shut it down for the night. They did so, and I returned home to sleep.

Do you disagree that I should recommend to my neighbors that since the City has declined to enforce and since the Court has found my activity to be protected, that the best course for them is also to engage in constitutionally and statutorily protected activity?

All the Best,

Alan

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From: Alan S. [REDACTED]  
Date: Friday, April 18, 2025 at 9:54 AM  
To: Dan Hall <[Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov](mailto:Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov)>  
Cc: Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>  
Subject: Re: [Records Center] Public Records Request :: R033399-021825

Dear Councilmember Hall and Councilmember Torosis:

This email will contain sensitive personal information and may not be disclosed under a PRA request by Waymo or anyone absent providing me an opportunity to oppose.

It has been specifically confirmed to us by Waymo counsel that by early March, Anuj and the other city officials who had told us they are working on the illegal activity at the Euclid Waymo lots, actually provided Waymo with every single communication we had with you and every city official about the problem. Waymo never "reached out" to me or anyone, as Anuj had promised. Instead, fortified by all that the city produced to them, Waymo brought a petition in court for a temporary restraining order against me. Even though Waymo filled the petition with false factual statements in a vain attempt to meet the legal standard for a TRO, the court denied the petition within hours. The court called for our evidentiary hearing this coming Tuesday.

I engaged counsel, and now I am spending money and a tremendous amount of my own time in order to prevail against Waymo and its abuse of process. According to the below statement by the City Clerk, issued on April 10, I know that Waymo is now also blocking my access to the same records that might be obtained from Anuj and the City:

*The City is still reviewing these records for redaction and possible exemptions. Due to the volume of remaining documents to review, the volume of requests received by the City, City staff's current workload, and the need to respond to other public record requests that were received prior to yours, we anticipate that we will provide our first production of responsive nonexempt records, if any, in approximately three weeks from the date of this letter. Thank you for your cooperation regarding this matter.*

I don't know why Anuj and the others would decide to provide assistance to Waymo, a non-Santa Monica corporate group with a \$1.8 trillion market cap, and deny all information and assistance to actual human voters and renters being sleep tortured by the most notorious and open organized criminal action in Santa Monica history being perpetrated in our streets and next to our homes. But we will keep an eye on Anuj's career steps, and I would be interested to see if his next job is not working as an executive at Waymo.

Meanwhile, Waymo has been corresponding with my attorney, asking to permit them to withdraw their lawsuit against me without prejudice. I will of course oppose that, but it is their right to dismiss it with prejudice and reimburse my attorneys fees. In their correspondence to date, they have admitted all facts substantiating our complaint that their activity at the Euclid lots violates the noise ordinance and constitutes a public nuisance. And they have admitted that their Waymos were not programmed to obey the speed limits in the City in the alleyways, saying that they now are reprogramming them to obey those speed limits.

I conclude that an ordinary person is not safe turning to the City for law enforcement and to protect our health and safety when the perpetrator is one of the wealthiest tech companies in the world.

I would like to know if you plan to take any steps to ensure that citizens are able to rely upon the City in these situations without the City colluding with corporates in attempt to overpower regular people like me.

In terms of Waymo's litigation against me, it is easily handled. It is expensive and time consuming. But I will not let it reduce our significant ongoing contributions to community causes and our Santa Monica schools. I will inform you of the outcome once I know it. One step that I would appreciate would be for us to organize a class or seminar at Samohi about the chain of events, because it is a terrific case study for our high school students. If that is of interest with you, I can reach out to principal Cruce and see if there is a school club that might be interested in hosting or promoting such a seminar.

All the Best,

Alan

On Apr 7, 2025 at 11:38:45 AM, Dan Hall <[Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov](mailto:Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov)> wrote:  
Hi Alan,

I'll give you a call on my way home from the office around 2:30 if that still works. It'll be from [REDACTED]

Dan Hall  
City Councilmember  
City of Santa Monica, California

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From: Alan S. [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, April 6, 2025 10:01:54 PM  
To: Dan Hall <[Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov](mailto:Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov)>; Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>  
Subject: Re: [Records Center] Public Records Request :: R033399-021825

EXTERNAL

Dear Dan:

I have thought about this. I can tell that you do not want to talk / interact with me, and therefore I should not require you to. But there is a development, and I thought it would be more fair to speak with you or

Caroline about it before I write about it.

Yes, I am free tomorrow afternoon — after 2:15pm. Please, either you or Caroline can call me at your convenience.

All the Best,

Alan  
[REDACTED]

On Apr 3, 2025 at 6:37:41 PM, Dan Hall <[Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov](mailto:Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov)> wrote:

Hi Alan,

Texts, including to our personal numbers, can also be requested by any member of the public (or Waymo), if they ask for them. I again ask that you do not text my personal number please.

I can potentially speak with you briefly on Monday afternoon, otherwise will not be able to chat with you until following next week due to a work trip.

All information I have received from staff indicates that Waymo is operating within the bounds of the law and local ordinances. Staff has dedicated a significant amount of resources into working with Waymo to mitigate many of your complaints. I cannot personally direct staff to further look into this problem in this manner.

If you believe they are operating unsafe or illegally, please continue to submit complaints via 311 or by calling 911 when you see a Waymo driving dangerously or operating in an illegal fashion, so the City can appropriately prioritize your needs.

Thanks,  
Dan

**Dan Hall**  
City Councilmember  
City of Santa Monica, California

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**From:** Alan S. [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 2, 2025 20:10  
**To:** Dan Hall <[Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov](mailto:Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov)>; Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [Records Center] Public Records Request :: R033399-021825

EXTERNAL

Dear Councilmember Hall and Councilmember Torosis:

I do thank you for your efforts on this.

I was distressed today to hear from Waymo that the City has provided them with all of my emails to you and City officials. Meanwhile, although I made the public records request on March 17 for the City's communications with Waymo, I have received no reply, and none of those communications.

I just need to meet or speak with you as soon as possible so that I can understand how this works and what is happening and what is needed.

All the Best,

Alan  
[REDACTED]

On Mon, Mar 17, 2025 at 12:03 PM Dan Hall <[Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov](mailto:Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov)> wrote:

Hi Alan,

The DoT team has provided a significant amount of support to you and your neighbors, for which I am really grateful! I'm glad we've been able to fix some problems and recognize that several may still remain that the team is working to address where possible.

It's really important that all public records access requests go through the proper channels versus staff responding to ad-hoc requests. This ensures state law is followed, confidentiality where required is respected, and service level agreements are met. Please use this link for instructions on how to make one:

<https://www.santamonica.gov/process-explainers/how-to-request-public-records>

Thanks!

**Dan Hall**  
City Councilmember  
City of Santa Monica, California

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**From:** Alan S. [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2025 11:01  
**To:** Anuj Gupta <[Anuj.Gupta@santamonica.gov](mailto:Anuj.Gupta@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Jason Kligier <[Jason.Kligier@santamonica.gov](mailto:Jason.Kligier@santamonica.gov)>; Barbara Andres <[Barbara.Andres@santamonica.gov](mailto:Barbara.Andres@santamonica.gov)>; Dan Hall <[Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov](mailto:Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov)>; Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [Records Center] Public Records Request :: R033399-021825

EXTERNAL

Ok, Mr. Gupta

But please can you just inform me of the status? For theast few nights, Waymo did not operate the lot. Is the change permanent?

Are you forbidden from just updating us yourself?

On Mon, Mar 17, 2025, 9:28 AM Anuj Gupta <[Anuj.Gupta@santamonica.gov](mailto:Anuj.Gupta@santamonica.gov)> wrote:

Hi Alan – if you have further questions with regard to the PRA process or specifics, I would recommend working with David Willis in the City Clerk's office. He can be reached at [David.willis@santamonica.gov](mailto:David.willis@santamonica.gov).

Best,  
Anuj



Anuj K. Gupta  
Director  
Department of Transportation

[santamonica.gov](http://santamonica.gov)

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**From:** Alan S. [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 15, 2025 2:21 PM  
**To:** Anuj Gupta <[Anuj.Gupta@santamonica.gov](mailto:Anuj.Gupta@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Jason Kligier <[Jason.Kligier@santamonica.gov](mailto:Jason.Kligier@santamonica.gov)>; Barbara Andres <[Barbara.Andres@santamonica.gov](mailto:Barbara.Andres@santamonica.gov)>; Dan Hall <[Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov](mailto:Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov)>; Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>

Subject: Re: [Records Center] Public Records Request :: R033399-021825

EXTERNAL

Dear Mr. Gupta:

Apologies, but that is not enough specific information for me even to make a public records request.... And your answer does not give us any information about the current enforcement status. The civil disobedience is a burden, and we just need to know what, if anything, the City has ordered Waymo to do, or whether the City has acquiesced....

If Waymo has committed to shutting its operations from 11pm to 6am — we need that to be public and firm, so that we know we can sleep and don't need to protest etc. anymore. If the City has declined to enforce the law, we also deserve to know that.

For the public records request, besides yourself, what are the names of the other city officials who have communicated with Waymo and its contractors? Then I can identify your name and their names, and the "Department of Transportation" and "Code Enforcement" in the records request.

Thanks,

Alan

On Mar 14, 2025 at 3:13:42 PM, Anuj Gupta <[Anuj.Gupta@santamonica.gov](mailto:Anuj.Gupta@santamonica.gov)> wrote:

Hello Mr. Sege — you can find clear step-by-step instructions on the process to submit a public records request [here](#), this is the best route to ensure that anything you would like to request is properly tracked and monitored by all of our relevant departments.

I will share the other feedback you have provided below with my colleagues in SMPD, Code Enforcement, and the City Attorney's Office who are working with DOT on these issues — those are the entities that would be responsible for any legal interpretations and enforcement action, and I can tell you that staff from each of these departments have been looking into the concerns that have been raised.

Thanks for reaching out. Best,

Anuj



Anuj K. Gupta  
Director  
Department of Transportation

[santamonica.gov](http://santamonica.gov)

From: Alan S - [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 1:20 PM

To: Dan Hall <[Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov](mailto:Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov)>; Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Anuj Gupta <[Anuj.Gupta@santamonica.gov](mailto:Anuj.Gupta@santamonica.gov)>

Subject: Re: [Records Center] Public Records Request :: R033399-021825

EXTERNAL

Dear Councilmembers and Mr. Gupta:

WE have previously on numerous occasions complained and called SMPD about Waymos speeding down the alley on the way to their lot.

I note that San Francisco made \$70k in traffic tickets against Waymo last year alone. Our city needs money, and can raise as much as it wants, just using a radar gun in our alley all night long.

Some of us bought radar guns from Amazon, and we are clocking Waymos at between 18mph and 27mph in the alley where the speed limit is 15mph.

Let me know if you like my new idea?

<https://gizmodo.com/san-francisco-hit-waymo-with-hundreds-of-traffic-citations-in-2024-2000576254>

On Mar 14, 2025 at 1:02:15 PM, Alan S - [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Councilmember Hall, Councilmember Torosis and Mr. Gupta:

A neighbor told me that he had an update call with Councilmember Hall, but there is no particular update on the City enforcing § 4.12.150, or the speed limit, or any other law against Waymo and associates. Can I now get an update? For example, if Waymo has accepted a consent order, or if the City has made its enforcement order, it helps us decide that we can stop civil disobedience. Civil disobedience is an extra burden on us, but we are left with no choice until the sleep deprivation ends.

Also, Mr. Gupta: can you go ahead and send me your correspondence with Waymo, Transdev, Voltera, Surefox and all other agents and representatives of Waymo concerning their operation at Euclid and Broadway? That would spare us the effort of making a public records request. If we must send in such a request, please just send me the instructions on how we do that?

All the Best,

Alan

On Mar 5, 2025 at 9:38:46 AM, Alan S - [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Dan and Caroline:

Now I am asking for you to look into this, and cause the City to order the Waymo lot to stop operating after 11pm and before 6am.

We are getting nowhere on stopping the Waymo lot from keeping us awake all night violating City ordinance and causing the public nuisance. Police are just lying to all of the neighbors who are complaining, telling each of us that we are the only ones complaining, and this is 2025 we need to accept the Waymos, etc. City Attorney has not responded. Ajun (DOT?) has done nothing except to say that he is "working" with the violator who is torturing us with sleep deprivation?

Legally, this is an easy case. There is a clear and undeniable violation of City Ordinance that prohibits anyone from conducting "business support operations" after 11pm and before 6am within 100 feet of a dwelling. The Ordinance perfectly describes and prohibits Waymo's operations during those hours.

Why, in Santa Monica of all places, would all of the top city officials, rather than enforcing the clear law, just lie and misdirect and conceal from citizens? If the city loses money by enforcing, let me know how much?

It is literally torture — Waymos speeding down the alley at all hours. Beeping and talking to each other all night. And Waymos' human attendants yapping loudly and cussing in the wee hours of the morning.

My family and I are very involved in the community and do a lot. We have never ever asked the city for anything.

This one time, can the City just enforce the law for us and let us sleep?

All the Best,

Alan

Article 4: Public Welfare, Morals and Policy  
§ 4.12.150: Business support operations.  
<https://ecode360.com/42727332>

§ 4.12.150 Business support operations.

(a) No business establishment shall engage in the following activities outside of an enclosed building between the hours of eleven p.m. to six a.m. if the property on which the establishment is located is within one hundred feet of a residentially zoned property:

(1) Receipt or delivery of merchandise, goods, food, or any item for use in the operation of the business;

(2) Trash disposal and recycling activities;

(3) Any maintenance or cleaning of equipment or furnishings;

(4) Any cleaning of the property with pressurized or mechanical equipment.

(b) No business establishment shall operate outdoor speaker(s) or public address system(s) if the property on which the establishment is located is within one hundred feet of a residentially zoned property except as authorized pursuant to 9.04.14.090 of this Code.

On Mar 5, 2025 at 9:29:17 AM, Alan S. [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Officer Reed:

It took me awhile to track down the 23ARB-0127 application by Voltera that on our last phone call you stated shows that the Waymo people discussed with the Architecture Review Board their plans to violate § 4.12.150: Business support operations by operating all night in the Waymo lot next to our building.

Somebody is misdirecting you.

There was no such application. There was no such hearing. The application you cited is only for landscaping in the lot. Even if the Architecture Review Board had held a hearing, which it did not, there would have been zero public notice that the hearing was to pertain to the City waiving the ordinance and allowing Waymo and friends to torture the whole neighborhood with sleep deprivation and to — forever — violate city law every night. And the Architecture Review Board has no power, and is not at all the right forum for granting a waiver for city law or California Penal Code on Public Nuisance.

You are not alone — all of the neighbors complaining are getting constantly obfuscated, misdirected and lied to by city officials telling vague stories about the law not applying to robots, or noise levels, or “we are working with Waymo.” This is a simple win for you — just cite them for the clear violation of City Ordinance and order them to stop conducting operations from between 11pm and 6am. Whatever defenses or lobbying or circumvention they want to attempt from there — let them try in court.

I filed a public records search with the City Clerk to obtain everything about such an application. They sent me the attached application — it is only for landscaping that Voltera wished to do on the property. Since you had mentioned that the board had proceedings, and none are listed in their website, I followed up with the City Clerk. The City Clerk found that there was no hearing, no further deliberations, stating,

“There was no hearing for this project, and it was staff approved. The only record of a staff approval is the plans are stamped by Planning as approved. Since plans are not a public record, there is no document to provide for the approval of the application.”

Please, can you just issue the citation and order Waymo, Voltera and Transdev and all people and companies operating in the lot to cease?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Santa Monica Public Records <[santamonica@mycusthelp.net](mailto:santamonica@mycusthelp.net)>  
Date: Mar 4, 2025 at 5:37:05 PM  
Subject: [Records Center] Public Records Request :: R033399-021825  
To: [REDACTED]

--- Please respond above this line ---



# City of Santa Monica

03/04/2025

Mr. Alan Sege  
[1518.euclid.street.aprt.5@santamonica.ca.us](mailto:1518.euclid.street.aprt.5@santamonica.ca.us)  
santa monica CA 90404

RE: PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST of February 18, 2025., Reference # R033399-021825.

Dear Mr. Alan Sege,

The City of Santa Monica received a public information request from you on February 18, 2025. Your request mentioned:

"Thank you for sending me the .pdf document filename 23ARB-0127\_\_1222\_Broadway\_Application.pdf. It is indeed an application by Voltera Power for certain construction

at 1222 Broadway. I had previously been led to believe by other City people that the Architectural Review Board held a proceeding or hearing about this application. But I notice that in response to my records request, City Clerk returned only the application. That means that in actuality there was no hearing or proceeding before the Architectural Review Board and no further deliberations by any City office or person about this application. If there are any more records at all relating to this application that you have provided, please send it to me by Tuesday, March 4. Otherwise, I will presume that none exist. Again, thank you for doing this."

There was no hearing for this project, and it was staff approved. The only record of a staff approval is the plans are stamped by Planning as approved. Since plans are not a public record, there is no document to provide for the approval of the application.

If you have any questions, Planning can be reached at [311@santamonica.gov](mailto:311@santamonica.gov).

Sincerely,

City of Santa Monica

To monitor the progress or update this request please log into the [Public Records Center](#)



**From:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**To:** [Lauren Howland](#)  
**Cc:** [Anuj Gupta](#); [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**Subject:** Re: LA Times Inquiry / Waymo charging lots  
**Date:** Thursday, May 1, 2025 12:37:08 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Great, this is very helpful - thanks.

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**From:** Lauren Howland <Lauren.Howland@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 1, 2025 3:16:47 PM  
**To:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Cc:** Anuj Gupta <Anuj.Gupta@santamonica.gov>; Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: LA Times Inquiry / Waymo charging lots

MPT Torosis,

Here's what we have sent the reporter already:

In February the city began hearing feedback and concerns related to Waymo operations at the two parking lots located on Broadway. The concerns have been related to noise, night-time charging and cleaning operations, and driverless vehicles moving quickly through alleys to access the facilities.

The Santa Monica Department of Transportation (DOT) has heard from three residents and has been working with Waymo to resolve the concerns. Santa Monica Code Enforcement has visited the site repeatedly to assess whether noise codes are being violated.

Below is a summary of short- and long term actions that Waymo has implemented since February:

- 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
- No vacuuming at all between 9pm and 7am.
- Waymo 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.

- Medium/longer term measures include:
- 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.
- Federal regulations require that electric vehicles make certain sounds to protect pedestrians. Waymo is reviewing whether and how the current sounds might be adjusted while vehicles are within their facilities to maintain that protection but reduce disturbance to neighbors.

[REDACTED]

Thanks,



**Lauren G. Howland**  
Communications and Public Information Manager  
C: (310) 310-0657

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**From:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 1, 2025 12:00 PM  
**To:** Hernandez, Salvador <salvador.hernandez@latimes.com>  
**Cc:** Lauren Howland <Lauren.Howland@santamonica.gov>; Anuj Gupta <Anuj.Gupta@santamonica.gov>; Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: LA Times Inquiry / Waymo charging lots

Hi Sal,

I am happy to discuss. I am also copying our director of transportation and our

communications director just for their awareness. Our Department of Transportation has been working diligently with all parties involved.

Caroline

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**From:** Hernandez, Salvador <[salvador.hernandez@latimes.com](mailto:salvador.hernandez@latimes.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 1, 2025 1:38:47 PM

**To:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>

**Subject:** LA Times Inquiry / Waymo charging lots

EXTERNAL

Hi Ms. Caroline, this is Sal Hernandez, and I'm a reporter with the LA Times. I'm currently working on a story regarding some of the complaints that have come from residents about the two new Waymo charging station along Euclid and Broadway.

As I'm sure you're aware, some residents have complained about constant backup beeping generated by the vehicles and other noise coming from the lots.

Some residents have resorted to blocking the autonomous vehicles, and Waymo attempted to obtain a temporary restraining order against one resident for doing so.

I was wondering if you might have a minute or two to discuss the issue? Any help or insight you might be able to provide about the situation would be greatly appreciated

--

**Salvador Hernandez**

Los Angeles Times Reporter

**M:** (310) 648-9022

**E:** [Salvador.hernandez@latimes.com](mailto:Salvador.hernandez@latimes.com)

**Twitter:** @salhernandez

**From:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**To:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**Cc:** [Department Heads, Atty and Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** City Council Updates: Week of 4/28  
**Date:** Thursday, May 1, 2025 4:23:25 PM  
**Attachments:** [image009.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image010.png](#)  
[image053.png](#)  
[image056.png](#)  
[image011.png](#)  
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[image024.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image008.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:** Palisades Fire Recovery

- SBA's Business Recovery Center Monday – Wednesday from 10am – 6pm. Businesses directly impacted by impacts can work with SBA to get information about low-interest loan opportunities. [SBA Pali Fire Business Recovery Center - Main Library](#)
- American Red Cross is setting up a Bridge Financial Assistance Enrollment Site at the Santa Monica YMCA next week. Persons living within the burn perimeter can apply for direct financial aid for things like housing, food security, childcare or transportation needs. [Learn more](#)
  - Open May 5-10 and May 12 – 13 from 10am – 7pm, 1332 6<sup>th</sup> Street

**Community Partnerships:** The Community Partnerships team celebrated the installation of the new scoreboard at the beautiful Historic Belmar Park. The scoreboard was made possible by a \$70,000 donation from the Santa Monica Kiwanis Club, and a lot of hard work by the City's Architecture Services division. Kiwanis hosted Sunday's *Party on the Field*, which was well attended by the community and city staff. Thank you to Mayor Negrete and Councilmembers Hall and Zernitskaya for helping us celebrate!



Community Partnerships also hosted a scouting visit for Red Basket Films which partners with streaming networks such as Fox Corporation's Tubi and NBC's Peacock. Other recent film/TV efforts included the film permit coordination for the West Coast Conference's 2025 Volleyball Tournament that was broadcast on ESPN and ESPNU (see photo) as well as the film permit coordination of a beach scene for Hulu's new drama series "Good American Family," featuring Ellen Pompeo from ABC's "Grey's Anatomy" and Mark Duplass of Apple TV's "The Morning Show." Community Partnerships thanks Public Works, RAD, DOT, and SMPD for assisting with the permit coordination and approval process.



In addition to film coordination, the Partnerships team continues to actively explore production opportunities from groups like A&E Factual Studios.

#### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

CDD staff received approval of Santa Monica's **Annual Housing Progress Report** from the state's Housing and Community Development Department for the 2024 calendar year – the report is required as part of Housing Element monitoring. The following provides a snapshot of the City's housing progress:

- Applications Submitted (Building Permits and Entitlements):
  - 52 total applications that include new housing units;
  - 2,149 total units;
  - 123 Very-Low Income, 229 Low-Income, 148 Moderate, 1,649 Market.
- Entitlements Approved:
  - 10 total entitlements that include new housing units;
  - 1,312 total units;
  - 50 Very-Low Income, 54 Low-Income, 40 Moderate, 1,168 Market.
- Building Permits Issued (Counts Towards RHNA)

- o 135 total permits issued that include new housing units;
- o 205 total units;
- o 13 Very-Low Income, 0 Low-Income, 0 Moderate, 192 Market.

RHNA Progress:

Income Level		RHNA Allocation by Income Level	Projection Period - 06/30/2021-10/14/2021	2021	2022	2023	2024
Very Low	Deed Restricted	2,794	-	4	95	38	13
	Non-Deed Restricted		-	-	-	-	-
Low	Deed Restricted	1,672	-	-	2	32	-
	Non-Deed Restricted		-	-	-	-	-
Moderate	Deed Restricted	1,702	-	-	60	34	-
	Non-Deed Restricted		-	-	-	-	-
Above Moderate		2,727	58	62	281	426	192
Total RHNA		8,895					
Total Units			58	66	438	530	205

Total Units to Date (all years)	Total Remaining RHNA by Income Level
150	2,644
34	1,638
94	1,608
1,019	1,708
1,297	7,598

City staff representing most City departments participated in the **second Economic Development Interdepartmental Team** meeting this past week. Enthusiasm remains high as it was an opportunity to touch base on the work of the committees, who should lead them, and have space for some guiding conversations about aligning with the direction recently received from Council.

**Downtown Santa Monica Inc** is hosting a [Cinco de Mayo celebration](#) on Sunday, May 4 from 3pm to 6pm on the Promenade between Wilshire Boulevard and Arizona Avenue. Entertainment includes a performance by Santa Monica Ballet Folklórico.

**New business updates:**

- [Junior Cookies](#), well known as a popular West Hollywood bakery with fresh, unique products, has signage up at 226 Main Street.
- El Husuba is now open at 1410 Third Street Promenade, providing collectible and second-hand bags for sale.

**Pickle Padel Pop** (PPP) is now serving up pickle ball at 1318 4<sup>th</sup> Street (the site of former Parking Structure 3). People have been playing on the courts throughout the day since opening on April 14th. PPP is planning a Pickleball Open in June, which would be a mini pickleball tournament. Many players and spectators are expected to attend. PPP pays a monthly base rent of \$12,000, which is split evenly between the City and DTSM, Inc. If PPP sales exceed \$12,000 in any month, PPP pays additional percentage rents of 10% in addition to the base rent.



The **Architectural Review Board** is scheduled to meet on May 5. The agenda includes an item on the Consent Calendar for an application for 1036 22<sup>nd</sup> Street for a modification to a required side setback for a portion of an addition to an existing one-story, single-unit residential dwelling located in the Single-Unit Residential (R1) Zoning District.

The **Planning Commission** is scheduled to meet on May 7. Agenda items include:

- Study sessions on:
  - o Santa Monica Boulevard Safety Study Preliminary Analysis and Recommendations with Department of Transportation staff
  - o Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update with Public Works staff
  - o Santa Monica Airport Conversion Project Update with Public Works Staff
- A variance and waiver requested associated with the property at 1923 La Mesa Drive to allow a two-story, 375 square-foot addition to the rear of an existing single-unit dwelling in the Single-Unit Residential (R1) zoning district. The proposed Variance request is to allow the addition to exceed the 28-foot building height limit as measured from Segmented Average Natural Grade (SANG), and the Waiver request is to waive the minimum upper-story stepback requirement for the addition.

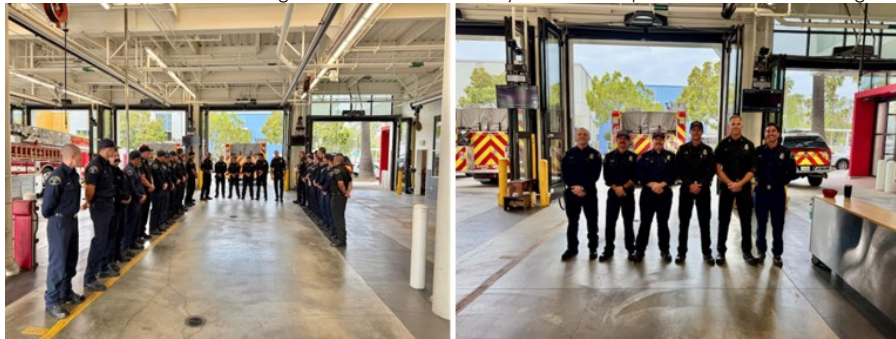
On April 3, 2025, Code Enforcement issued ~170 letters to the owners of **vacant properties** in the City informing them of vacant property requirements and that the City would undertake a more earnest enforcement of these properties in the near future. As of April 29, 2025, approximately 10 property owners have made contact with staff to discuss their responsibilities. In addition, 105 of these letters have been returned as "undeliverable." Staff will research each property to find additional mailing addresses and reissue the letters. In the meantime, staff have begun to move forward with the enforcement process, opening cases for these properties and addressing those that are in the worst condition or are receiving complaints.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**Operations:** Recognition of Santa Monica Firefighters – Palisades Fire Response: The Santa Monica Fire Department would like to formally recognize the outstanding efforts of our personnel who responded to the Palisades Fire earlier this year. This large-scale, high-risk incident required a coordinated, multi-agency response to protect lives, property, and natural resources under rapidly changing conditions. Santa Monica Firefighters operated under extreme fire behavior, rugged terrain, and high heat conditions. Despite these challenges, our crews demonstrated exceptional discipline, training, and teamwork.

Our firefighters were tasked with defending structures along the fire's advancing edge, cutting progressive hose lines, establishing anchor points, and conducting mop-up operations. They also coordinated closely with aerial resources to ensure targeted water drops, safeguarding both civilians and fellow firefighters on the line. Beyond the tactical response, our personnel managed logistical and operational responsibilities, including damage documentation, comp/claims procedures for equipment losses, and maintaining crew readiness throughout the incident.

Their efforts did not go unnoticed. Crews received praise from cooperating agencies for their operational effectiveness and professionalism. More importantly, their work contributed to the successful containment of a dangerous fire that threatened homes and wildlife in the Palisades area. Additionally, all Santa Monica Fire Department members received the Event Citation for their role in supporting this critical incident. The Palisades Fire stands as a powerful reminder of the courage, commitment, and technical skill our firefighters bring to every incident—whether within Santa Monica or across the state through California's mutual aid system. We are proud of their service and grateful for their unwavering dedication.



In recognition of their extraordinary performance: All Santa Monica Fire Department personnel who responded to the Palisades Fire were awarded the Unit Citation.

**Weekly Incident Summary**

**Total (346)**



During this operational period, Santa Monica Fire Department personnel responded to **346 incidents** citywide. The majority of responses, consistent with departmental trends, were related to emergency medical services. The incident breakdown by category is as follows:

- Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incidents:** 273 (78.90%)  
 The predominant call type, encompassing a wide range of medical emergencies including advanced life support interventions, trauma incidents, and patient assists.
- Good Intent Calls:** 40 (11.56%)  
 These are cases where a caller reported a concern with good intention, but no actual emergency was found upon investigation.
- False Alarm & False Call:** 8 (2.31%)  
 Includes system malfunctions, accidental alarm activations, and incidents where no hazard was present upon arrival.
- Fire Incidents:**  
 Representing structural, vehicular, or exterior fires requiring suppression resources.
- Hazardous Condition (No Fire):** 3 (0.87%)  
 Examples include electrical hazards, gas leaks, or downed power lines not involving active fire behavior.
- Service Calls:** Includes non-emergency assistance such as lift assists, water problems, and public aid.
- Severe Weather & Natural Disaster / None / In Progress:**  
 Minimal representation during this period, with no significant storm-related or ongoing incidents reported.

The department continues to monitor incident activity closely to ensure appropriate resource allocation, training prioritization, and response efficiency across all service areas.

**Training Division:** This week Max Fire Training was on site at our Training center to provide a train the trainer class on their "Max Fire Box" that was purchased earlier this year. The Max Fire Box is a live fire training prop in the form of a two-story home made of steel. It will allow instructors to facilitate training in the areas of fire behavior, fire dynamics, and thermal imaging use.



**EMS Division:** This week, members of the EMS Division and Fire Prevention visited Memorial Park to provide Hands-Only CPR training to the Santa Monica Pickleball Club. With a growing number of active community members enjoying outdoor sports, this outreach effort focused on equipping residents with the lifesaving skills needed to respond to sudden cardiac arrest. Participants were engaged, enthusiastic, and walked away empowered to make a difference in an emergency. We're proud to support community readiness and look forward to more public education opportunities like this!



**Logistics:** In the month of April, the Fire Department coordinated the redistribution of public donated water and energy drinks that were donated to SMFD during the Palisades Fire to the National Guard Base Camp in Malibu. The National Guard were very appreciative for the donation. A big shout out to FD Logistics for all the work and our DOT partners for letting the FD utilize their forklift to complete the mission.



**Prevention:** SMFD also attended the Arts and Literacy Festival at Virginia Avenue Park to spread the word about Community Connect on Saturday April 24. We engaged with youth and families and spread the word about Fire Service Day.



**Homeless Data:**

<a href="#">Weekly Homeless Data.xlsx</a>	4/24/25 - 4/30/25
SMFD Total Calls	327
SMFD Homeless Related Calls	54
SMFD Fires related to homelessness	4
<b>West Coast Care Data</b>	<b>04/24/25 -</b>

	04/30/25
Total number of referrals	20
Service Connection Types	
Multi Services	2
Pacific Sunset Shelter	
Salvation Army ARC	
SHARE Collaborative Housing	3
Safe Place for Youth (SPY)	
Veterans Affairs	
People Concern	11
St Joseph Center	
Step Up On Second	
Venice Family Clinic	
Housed	1
Malibu Labor Exchange	
Salvation Army	2
General Relief	
Chrysalis	1
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

**Arts & Literacy Festival- Saturday, April 26, 2025:** The Arts & Literacy Festival, held this past Saturday, brought families together for a lively day filled with performances, storytelling, hands-on activities, and community resources. Not even the rain could keep the crowds away, as families showed up ready to learn, create, and celebrate together. Over 500 Explorer Cards were handed out to children, guiding them through more than 50 booths offering activities, crafts, and valuable community resources. Completed cards were exchanged at the library booth for a free book, encouraging exploration and a love of reading.

Live performances energized the event, featuring students from LA Spanish School, Santa Monica Ballet Folklorico, Heart of the Islands Polynesian Dancers, salsa dancers, and a Raptors Presentation that introduced guests to a centipede, hawk, and owl. A magician kept kids laughing and amazed with tricks throughout his performance.

The dinosaur theme brought extra excitement with dino dig sites, dinosaur races, and creative art projects like decorating dino puppets, bookmarks, and painting. At the Storytime stage, Councilmember Natalya Zernitskaya gave a special reading to families, then surprised the crowd by changing into a dinosaur costume and parading through the festival, creating fun photo opportunities for kids. The Dino Party introduced three baby dinosaurs who walked the festival grounds, engaging with attendees, and wrapped up with a special visit from Blue, the 6-foot raptor from Jurassic World, who posed for photos with guests.

As part of the celebration, the City's Public Landscape Division gave away free trees to promote environmental awareness and greening efforts in the community. The Santa Monica Police and Fire Departments also joined the festivities, offering interactive activities at their booths and connecting with families throughout the day. In addition to all the fun, nurses from the LA County Department of Public Health provided free blood lead testing, adding an important health resource to the event.



**Spring Break at Santa Monica PAL:** PAL kicked off spring break with an exciting lineup of daily activities designed to keep over 60 youth engaged, active, and inspired. From arts and crafts, egg hunts, and cooking, to dancing, carnival games, and movie screenings, each day offered something new and memorable. Excursions and mini trips were popular over the break. Participants explored the healing power of nature on a scenic hike with the Hummingbird Project, enjoyed a high-energy visit to 2-Bit Circus and special showing at the AMC Theater at the Third Street Promenade, and spent a fun-filled day hiking and playing field games at Kenneth Hahn State Park.

Older youth from PAL's Youth Leadership Council (YLC) took part in a transformative three-day retreat with the Outdoor Youth Connection. This program focuses on strengthening leadership, communication, and team collaboration skills, while empowering participants to build confidence

and grow their self-esteem. Spring break was a resounding success filled with energy, creativity, and connection. Thanks to the dedication of city staff who thoughtfully planned a wonderful two weeks that engaged youth, fostered growth, and created lasting memories.



**Virginia Avenue Park Spring Break Camp:** From April 7 to 18, VAP's Spring Break Camp provided an exciting and enriching experience for 82 campers, offering a dynamic mix of activities each weekday from 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM. The two-week program delivered a well-rounded schedule filled with creative crafts, high-energy games, and hands-on workshops designed to keep youth engaged and inspired. A standout feature of this year's camp was the series of memorable field trips. Campers bounced their way through Sky Zone, explored the thrills of Magic Mountain, played freely at Billy Beez, soaked up the sun at Clover Park, and embarked on a scenic hike to the Griffith Observatory in partnership with The Hummingbird Project. The camp also included educational elements that supported real-world learning. Campers attended a rail safety workshop led by LA Metro, gaining practical knowledge about transit safety. Teens had the opportunity to participate in Driver's Ed orientations, preparing them with foundational skills and information for becoming responsible drivers.



**CREST Spring Break Camp:** Spring break brought a full-day camp experience for elementary school aged participants. CREST programming hosted 80 youth during the two-week camp that took place at John Adams Middle School. A full-day of STEAM or fitness activities filled the schedule from 8AM-5PM. Participants took excursions to Santa Monica Pier and Sky Zone. Participants in the CREST Spring Camp enjoyed two exciting weeks packed with a variety of activities to suit all interests. They explored everything from sports and coding to sewing and building their own self-propelled boats. The fun continued with their trip to Sky Zone, where they put their acrobatic skills to the test!

**Public Information Sessions for the Next City-Owned Sites Notice of Availability:** Housing staff will soon begin public outreach to educate the community about the Surplus Land Act and the Notice of Availability (NOA) process for the City-owned sites for affordable housing development, which invites proposals from developers to redevelop three city-owned sites: 4th/5th/Arizona, Bergamot Station Arts Center, and Parking Structure 1.

Two of the City-owned sites have been identified in the City's Housing Element for Affordable Housing Development. The first informational session will take place on May 12 at Kite Pharma, located adjacent to Bergamot. A second session is scheduled for May 22 at the Main Library. Through these sessions, staff aims to increase public understanding of both the Surplus Land Act and the steps involved in issuing an NOA, and the next steps in the process for selecting a development team for each site.

**Spring BMH Recertification Notices and Landlord Info Session Recap:** In mid-April, Housing staff mailed income recertification reminder letters to property managers and landlords of the affordable apartments in the Below Market Housing (BMH) program. These letters are part of the Housing Division's ongoing effort to ensure that relevant properties are complying with their deed restrictions to provide affordable housing and to also ensure that the tenants of these affordable apartments continue to qualify for them. All owners of deed-restricted affordable apartments are required to certify the income eligibility of their tenants on an annual basis. Approximately half of the portfolio of BMH properties already received their notices last Fall. The remaining properties will receive their recertification letters during this Spring effort.

On Monday, April 28, Housing staff also hosted a successful virtual information session for BMH landlords and property owners. This 2-hour information session included participation from CAO and covered best practices for property owner annual reporting requirements. During the session, Housing staff walked landlords through the recertification process and answered their questions. Many thanks to Housing staff Nicholas Sundback and Brittany Aguirre.

#### **LIBRARY**

**Arts & Literacy Festival at Virginia Avenue Park:** Despite a rainy start, the annual Arts & Literacy Festival was a resounding success. The event saw strong community engagement, with more than 50 organizations offering dinosaur-themed activities and educational resources for families. Santa Monica Public Library distributed over 400 free books to children who visited its booths, promoting literacy and encouraging reading at home.

Main Stage performances organized by the library, including magician California Joe and the live animal experience from Raptor Events, were highlights of the day, earning enthusiastic praise from children, families, and event organizers alike. The library also coordinated guest story times featuring Councilmember Zernitskaya, representatives from Santa Monica-based Elemental Music, and a Spanish-language storytime provided by library staff. These engaging presentations further supported the event's focus on arts, culture, and literacy.



[Video of Councilmember Zernitskaya in a dinosaur costume](#)

[Arts and Literacy Festival 2025.MOV](#)

**Library Trivia Night at Solidarity Restaurant:** To celebrate National Poetry Month, Arab American Heritage Month, Earth Month, and highlight the library's diverse collection of materials, Santa Monica Public Library hosted a lively night of pub trivia at Solidarity Restaurant on Lincoln Boulevard. About 40 participants formed teams, competing for prizes that included banned books and a Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library Bookstore coupon for the lightning round winner. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with many returning after enjoying past trivia nights. Solidarity reported strong business during the event and expressed enthusiasm for continuing the partnership.



**Collaborative Art and Poetry Celebrating National Arts and Poetry Month:** As part of the library's recent Earth Day Celebration, City of Santa Monica Poet Laureate Anne Carmack led the development of a collaborative Poem for the Planet, incorporating words contributed by library patrons. In collaboration with Cultural Affairs, Camera Obscura Artist in Residence Raphaela Cohen-Bacry facilitated a hands-on collage and assemblage workshop using recycled and repurposed materials to create a community art piece focused on environmental themes. These initiatives exemplify the library's commitment to engaging with the community, collaborating with fellow city departments, promoting the city's priority of sustainability, and creating opportunities for patrons to connect and learn.



**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Weekly Council Recap**  
April 20 – April 26

[Council Update 4-20 to 4-26.pptx](#)

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Earth Day Event:** The Office of Sustainability and the Environment took part in the Main Library's Earth Day event on Wednesday, April 23rd, hosting tables to promote the Community Gardens program and offering education on planting seedlings and local bee species. Attendees also had the chance to make an Earth Day pledge and take home a succulent. In addition, staff from the Water Resources division provided valuable insights on water conservation and drought-tolerant landscaping, while the Resource Recovery & Recycling team educated residents on composting and recycling. The event was a great success with an excellent turnout!



**Proposed Five-Year Water and Wastewater Rate Adjustments:** The Water Resources division mailed out Proposition 218 Notices during the week of April 14th to inform all customers of the proposed five-year water and wastewater rate increases. Customers should begin receiving the notices the week of April 21st. The Draft Final Water and Sewer Rate Study Report, prepared by the City's rate consultant in support of the proposed increases, is available on the City's Water Rate webpage (link below). The public hearing and adoption of the water and wastewater rate increases will be held at the June 10th City Council Meeting. Each account holder can submit a protest against the rate increase between now and the public hearing on June 10th. <https://www.santamonica.gov/waterrates>

#### RECREATION AND ARTS



**Community Aquatics:** May is National Water Safety Month! Following the Mayor's official proclamation at the April 22 Council Meeting, Santa Monica Community Aquatics has launched a month-long campaign focused on education, outreach, and action across multiple sites and age groups in support of May as National Water Safety Month (NWSM). Our goal is to empower the community with life-saving knowledge and skills while reinforcing the City's year-round commitment to safety in, on and around the water.

#### Key highlights include:

- **Youth Engagement:**  
Lifeguards are providing in-class presentations for John Adams Middle School PE students on April 30, including hands-on instruction in life jacket fittings and H.E.L.P. (Heat Escape Lessening Posture).
- **Family Safety Education:**  
Every Learn-to-Swim lesson at SMSC and ACBH in May will begin with a life jacket fitting and safety discussion for both students and parents, ensuring foundational awareness at the earliest levels.
- **Public Library Partnerships:**  
In collaboration with the Santa Monica Public Library, we are presenting American Red Cross W.H.A.L.E. Tales presentations during SMPL Storytime for families, offered in English at the Main Library Tuesday, May 6 and en Espanol at the Pico Branch on Thursday, May 8.
- **Free Community CPR Training:**  
Free Hands-Only CPR Labs will be hosted Saturday and Sunday May 10 & 11 at the Swim Center. Open to all, no registration required!
- **Interdepartmental Engagement:**  
The Santa Monica Police Department's Harbor Patrol Unit will be connecting with our Sharks Swim Team on May 23 for a water safety meet-and-greet—fostering connections between our youth and first responders.

Throughout the month, we are encouraging community members to take the **Safe Swimmer Pledge** and **#BeWaterAware**, reinforcing key behaviors like never swimming alone, avoiding drains, and obeying posted rules. NSWMM activities and more details are viewable at <https://www.santamonicaswimcenter.org/swim-center-special-events>. We look forward to building on this momentum and sustaining year-round awareness across all Santa Monica aquatics and beach venues.

#### **Annenberg Community Beach House Gallery: Refractions exhibit closing**

*Refractions, Contemporary Indigenous Art* gathers artworks by Native and Indigenous artists from or connected to the Los Angeles region. Their work provides a deeper understanding of the present-day experience of Native and Indigenous communities, influenced by pop art, graffiti, nostalgia, and the beauty found within "the in-between" spaces of identity. This exhibit is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and will be closing Saturday, May 10, so if you haven't had a chance to visit, please do!



**Mother's Day Splash & Tea at the Annenberg Community Beach House:** For mothers and anyone who loves them! Jump in our water ballet class with the Aqualillies on May 11, 2025! Learn synchronized swim basics for a fun routine. After class, enjoy a social tea on deck with your new water ballet friends. [Activity detail](#) | [ActiveNet - Online Recreation Activities](#)



**Day of Healing Through Dance and Poetry on April 27 at the Annenberg Community Beach House:** On Sunday April 27 from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., nearly 60 community members joined for a day of dance and poetry. The day included three classes: West African Dance by Jahanna Blunt, Poetry with Get Lit and Afro-Cuban dance by Laroye Aña. The community was energetic and excited for the days offerings and many attended all three! It was a special day, bringing together diverse audiences to celebrate and be in community.



**Looking forward to a Conversation with Gary Tyler:** On Saturday May 10, 2-3pm in the City Hall Courtyard, join us for a conversation with multidisciplinary artist Gary Tyler, whose moving textile work "[In Memoriam of An Ashanti Warrior, 1996](#)" was recently acquired by the city of Santa Monica and is now featured at City Hall. More [info and RSVP](#). Tyler will be joined by curator Isabelle Lutterodt and theater maker Sabra Williams in a free-ranging conversation about art, activism and resilience. We also published a short interview with Tyler to our City TV YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/2KyrFRE1LM>.



Thank you,

**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

[santamonica.gov](http://santamonica.gov)

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**From:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**To:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**Cc:** [Oscar Santiago](#); [Susan Cline](#); [Christopher J. Smith](#)  
**Subject:** Tourism Concerns  
**Date:** Saturday, May 3, 2025 8:18:38 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good morning, Mayor and Council,  
Misti Kerns shared the article below regarding a significant drop in foreign tourism. If this sentiment continues, SMTT will need to pivot towards heavy domestic travel and that will take an investment they currently do not have. This article is quite worrisome as it foreshadows hotel vacancies for us.

<https://theconversation.com/tourism-to-the-us-is-tanking-flight-centre-is-facing-a-100m-hit-as-a-result-255498>

-Elaine



**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

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**From:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**To:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Cline](#); [Dana Brown](#)  
**Subject:** SMPD Personnel  
**Date:** Friday, May 2, 2025 6:15:47 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[May PSR.pdf](#)

---

Here are the numbers from PD. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

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**From:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**To:** [Dana Brown](#); [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Cline](#)  
**Subject:** Re: SMPD Personnel  
**Date:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 3:41:12 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

[REDACTED]

Caroline

---

**From:** Dana Brown <Dana.Brown@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 1:39:23 PM  
**To:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>; Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Cc:** Susan Cline <Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: SMPD Personnel

[REDACTED]

There are 232 budgeted sworn positions at SMPD. (This includes the Chief of Police).

222 of those positions are filled.

11 of those 222 filled positions are not in the field because they are off on some kind of long term leave.

Another 11 of those 222 filled positions are filled with recruits in the academy so they are not yet a part of POA or a part of the field deployment.

That makes a total of 22 sworn employees who are hired but not deployed to the field.

[REDACTED]

Dana

---

**From:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 2, 2025 6:15:47 PM  
**To:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Cc:** Susan Cline <Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov>; Dana Brown <Dana.Brown@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** SMPD Personnel

Here are the numbers from PD. [REDACTED]



City of  
**Santa  
Monica**

**Elaine Polachek**

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**From:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 2, 2025 4:46 AM  
**To:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: City Council Updates: Week of April 21

Thanks and got it. They are great. Glad we chose to do this.

---

**From:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 1, 2025 6:31:19 PM  
**To:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: City Council Updates: Week of April 21

According to Melissa Aid Kit is the grants administrator and So Cal Grantmakers is the fiscal receiver.

**Elaine Polachek**  
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**From:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 1, 2025 12:02 PM  
**To:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: City Council Updates: Week of April 21

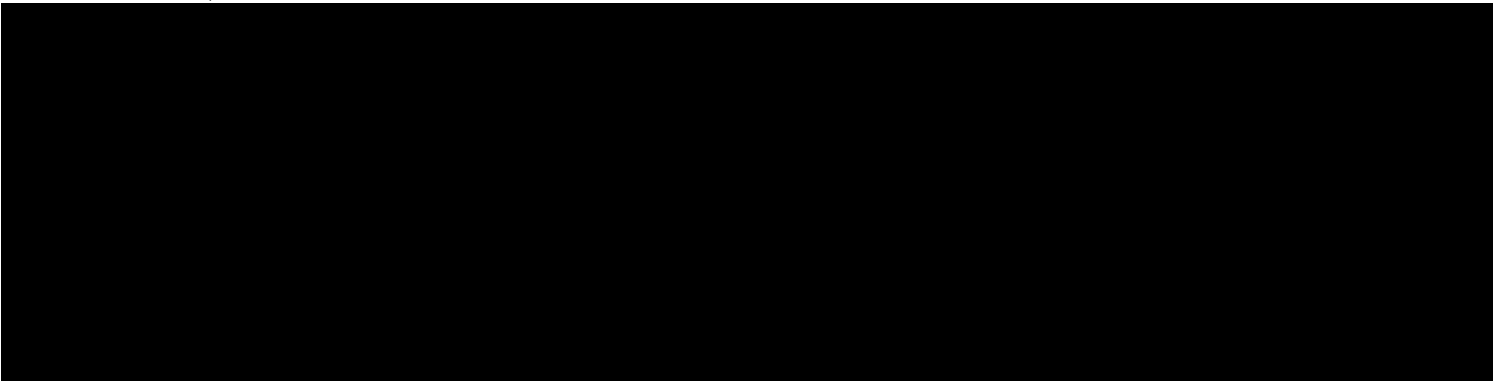
Thanks Elaine. For the second question - do you know if Aid Kit is the grants administrator?

Caroline

---

**From:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 6:19:49 PM  
**To:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: City Council Updates: Week of April 21

Hi Caroline,  
Here are the updates:



Let me know if you have further questions.

-Elaine

**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager  
[santamonica.gov](http://santamonica.gov)  
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---

**From:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2025 10:15 PM  
**To:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: City Council Updates: Week of April 21

Hi Elaine,

[REDACTED]

Caroline

---

**From:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 25, 2025 3:29 PM  
**To:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Department Heads, Atty and Clerk <[DeptHeadsAttyClerk@santamonica.gov](mailto:DeptHeadsAttyClerk@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** City Council Updates: Week of April 21

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 Palisades 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 - [Palisades Charter 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 - [Palisades 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 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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 the 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 DTSM 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 Arminé 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> Street – Residential/ Mixed-Use: An 18-story multi-family residential building with 172 units and 2 levels of subterranean parking at 1437 6<sup>th</sup> – 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 7<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> 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:**

<a href="#">Weekly Homeless Data.xlsx</a>	4/17-4/23/25
SMFD Total Calls	296
SMFD Homeless Related Calls	50
SMFD Fires related to homelessness	2
<b>West Coast Care Data</b>	<b>04/17/- 04/23/25</b>
Total number of referrals	22

Service Connection Types	
Multifamily 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	3
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:**

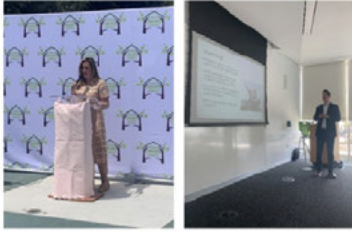
The People Concern (IPC) C3/HMST Outreach Update: The success story for this month is "Chris", a 70-year-old male who has been staying in his van in Santa Monica for several years. Chris became homeless after being laid off from work many years ago and due to his age, has faced difficulty in securing 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	
	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 at 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-Bacry 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 4-10-25.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 14 years!** Friday, April 25 was our sweet sixteen – wow time flies! 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 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Westside Basketball Tournament on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

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**From:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 2, 2025 4:46 AM  
**To:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: City Council Updates: Week of April 21

Thanks and got it. They are great. Glad we chose to do this.

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**To:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: City Council Updates: Week of April 21

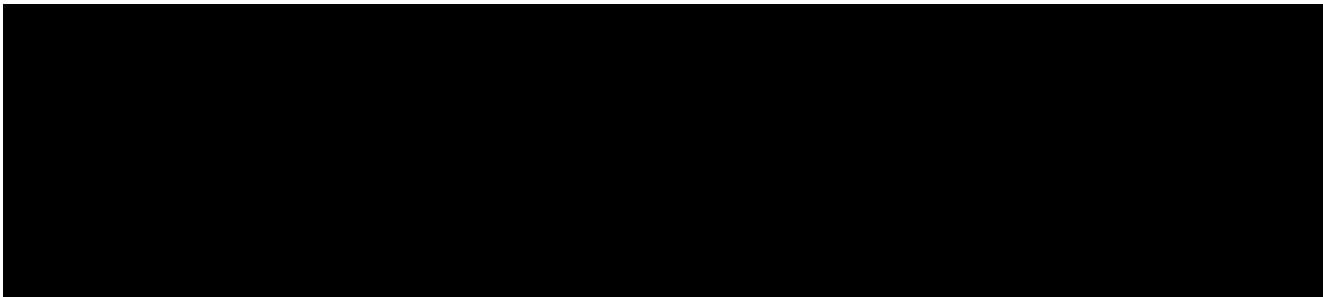
Thanks Elaine. For the second question - do you know if Aid Kit is the grants administrator?

Caroline

---

**From:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 6:19:49 PM  
**To:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: City Council Updates: Week of April 21

Hi Caroline,  
Here are the updates:



Let me know if you have further questions.

-Elaine

**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager  
santamonica.gov  
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**From:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2025 10:15 PM  
**To:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: City Council Updates: Week of April 21

Hi Elaine,

A few questions:

[REDACTED]

Caroline

---

**From:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 25, 2025 3:29 PM  
**To:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Department Heads, Atty and Clerk <[DeptHeadsAttyClerk@santamonica.gov](mailto:DeptHeadsAttyClerk@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** City Council Updates: Week of April 21

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 L.A. 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 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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 Vesperan's 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 the 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 DTSM 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 Arminé 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> Street – Residential/ Mixed-Use: An 18-story multi-family residential building with 172 units and 2 levels of subterranean parking at 1437 6<sup>th</sup> – 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 7<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> 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.



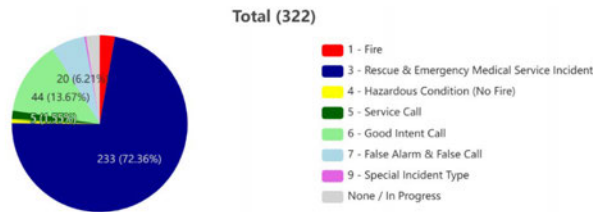
**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**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:**

<a href="#">Weekly Homeless Data.xlsx</a>	4/17-4/23/25
SMFD Total Calls	296
SMFD Homeless Related Calls	50
SMFD Fires related to homelessness	2
<b>West Coast Care Data</b>	<b>04/17/- 04/23/25</b>
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	3
General Relief	
Chrysalis	
Safe Park Los Angeles	
FAITH	
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:**

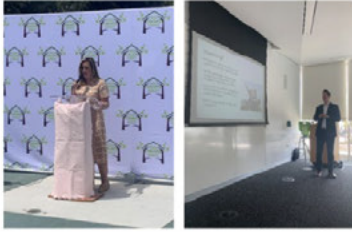
The People Concern (IPC) C3/HMST Outreach Update: The success story for this month is "Chris", a 70-year-old male who has been staying in his van in Santa Monica for several years. Chris became homeless after being laid off from work many years ago and due to his age, has faced difficulty in securing 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	
	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 at 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-Bacry 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 4-10-25.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 14 years!** Friday, April 25 was our sweet sixteen – wow time flies! 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 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Westside Basketball Tournament on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

[santamonica.gov](http://santamonica.gov)

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**From:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**To:** [Armine Chaparyan](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Cline](#); [Elaine Polachek](#); [Sia Poursabahian](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Building and Permits  
**Date:** Monday, May 5, 2025 4:45:28 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Amazing, thank you.

---

**From:** Armine Chaparyan <Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 4:44 PM  
**To:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Cc:** Susan Cline <Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov>; Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>; Sia Poursabahian <Sia.Poursabahian@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Building and Permits

Hi Caroline:

The issue has been resolved and the plans are stamped. Feel free to share with the resident.

Arminé



**Arminé Chaparyan** (she/her)  
Director, Community Development

[armine.chaparyan@santamonica.gov](mailto:armine.chaparyan@santamonica.gov)

[santamonica.gov](http://santamonica.gov)

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**From:** Sia Poursabahian <Sia.Poursabahian@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 4:42 PM  
**To:** Armine Chaparyan <Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Building and Permits

Hi, Arminé,

The plans for 25BLD-1142 are now stamped and the applicant can download them.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thank you

---

**From:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 12:27:30 PM

**To:** Armine Chaparyan <[Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov](mailto:Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov)>; Susan Cline <[Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov](mailto:Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>

**Subject:** Fw: Building and Permits

See below. This seems pretty crazy that the constituent's permit can't be approved because of a computer malfunction on the city's part. Anything we can do to expedite?

Caroline

---

**From:** sabina koh <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 10:03:48 AM

**To:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Building and Permits

EXTERNAL

Good morning Caroline,

I am following up on the last email sent on 4/29/25. Our project still hasn't been stamped and after speaking to Susan Umeda the issue hasn't been escalated. Her response is that she has been trying her best but the computer shuts down. If that was the case since almost 2 weeks ago then someone else should've looked into the matter. She is now going to escalate our project after a phone call. This is unacceptable. Also, stating that the supervisor is on vacation is not an excuse for a task to be left abandoned.

I'd like to know who else can help with expediting this. Again, we have been waiting for the stamped revisions for almost 2 weeks now and we cannot wait any longer due to "slow computers".

We hope to hear from you soon with a better solution than what I have been receiving from Susan.

Thank you.

Best,  
Sabina

On Tue, Apr 29, 2025 at 12:50 PM sabina koh <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi Caroline,

I am overdue with writing this email. Thank you for your swift response earlier this year with our project. I don't know how much longer this could have dragged on without your assistance. Quick update, our project was approved and we started construction in February. Sia Poursabahian was helpful and quick with her responses.

We actually had to make a simple change and submitted for a revision. When reviewed by the city prior to submitting the revision I was told this was a very simple process for what we were requesting. We submitted on 3/27/25 and as of today, 4/29/25 we have yet to receive our stamped revisions.

[Below is the email sent to Susan Umeda on 04/22/2025 01:44 PM from Santa Monica ProjectDox system:](#)

### **Review Complete Task Assignment**

**Attention Susan:**

You have been assigned a task on Project: **25BLD-1142 - 1114 YALE ST - Revision to Plan Check 23BLD-1771 (Permit 25 BLD-0434) - Change in foundation details.**

The due date for this task is: **4/23/2025 1:44:17 PM**

Our final task was Resolved by Rudolf Melikoff and routed to Susan for completion. Same emails were sent to Susan regarding the completion of the task on 4/24, 4/25, 4/26, 4/27, 4/28.

[Below is an error that occurred in the system which was sent to both Andy Pong and Susan Umeda on 4/28 & 4/29:](#)

Error occurred in Workflow Instance - 25BLD-1142 - Building Review PLCK - 3/27/2025 11:14:26 AM

## WORKFLOW ERROR

Attention Andy,

A workflow error has occurred in project: **25BLD-1142**

**Inner Exception: System.Exception: The files 'S2.01.pdf,Yale Foundation Revision - Details.pdf' have not been successfully batch stamped.**

Workflow: **25BLD-1142 - Building Review PLCK - 3/27/2025 11:14:26 AM**

Started on: **3/27/2025 11:14:21 AM**

The system considers our task to be LOW priority. From what I know, Santa Monica does NOT prioritize one project over another.

Please let me know who I can speak to about this matter. If this "simple" revision requires 33 days of review, I cant imagine how possible future revisions will take. Our construction has been at a standstill for over a month as the inspector is requiring us to provide a stamped revision before the next inspection.

Susan Umeda has not been responding to my emails which is why I had to contact you regarding our project.  
Thank you.

Best,  
Sabina

On Tue, Jan 7, 2025 at 6:35 PM sabina koh <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Thank you! Will do

On Tue, Jan 7, 2025 at 3:34 PM Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)> wrote:

Fantastic. Just let me know if it is stalled again.

---

**From:** sabina koh <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2025 2:14:53 PM  
**To:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Building and Permits

EXTERNAL

Good afternoon Caroline,

Thank you for your teams quick response to my matter. Sia Poursabahian has reached out and is assisting with our project. We really appreciate it!

Best,  
Sabina

On Tue, Jan 7, 2025 at 12:25 PM Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)> wrote:

Hi Sabina,

Our city manager let me know that the Planning Department reached out to you yesterday to clarify you will not have to resubmit. Let me know if you have other questions.

Thanks,  
Caroline

---

**From:** sabina koh <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 6, 2025 9:34:08 AM  
**To:** Lana Negrete <[Lana.Negrete@santamonica.gov](mailto:Lana.Negrete@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Jesse Zwick <[Jesse.Zwick@santamonica.gov](mailto:Jesse.Zwick@santamonica.gov)>; Dan Hall <[Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov](mailto:Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov)>; Ellis Raskin <[Ellis.Raskin@santamonica.gov](mailto:Ellis.Raskin@santamonica.gov)>; Barry Snell <[Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov](mailto:Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov)>; Natalya Zernitskaya <[Natalya.Zernitskaya@santamonica.gov](mailto:Natalya.Zernitskaya@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** Building and Permits

EXTERNAL

Hello Lana,

My name is Sabina Koh and I am reaching out to you because I have been having major issues with Santa Monica's Permits department. Our residential project has been with the city for over 1.5 year and we have been very patient with the process and now at the tail end of our project a reviewer is asking us to withdraw our approved demo permit and withdraw our current project and resubmit which will take another 6+ months with all new reviewers in each department. If the reviewers caught major mistakes early on we could've corrected or submitted only months into the project instead of over 1.5 years after.

The appointment system to speak to a specific reviewer for our project has been pointless, we have been getting the runaround, no one has a solid answer, everyone is pointing me to the wrong person to speak to... this experience has been a total nightmare and I just want our project approved. Other Santa Monica residents stated how this city's building and permits are one of the worst in the area and I thought, how bad can it be? LA county and all other cities would have already approved our plans months ago, maybe even an entire year for how small our scope of work is. Managers/supervisors say that they cannot manage the reviewers because they work from work...this shouldn't be the case with any business.

We are not one of those wealthy families in Santa Monica that have multiple homes to live in while waiting for our home to be renovated. We are paying mortgage and property tax to the city and renting an apartment with 2 young children. Our home was broken into while it was vacant and our neighbors are constantly complaining about the vacant property. I am reaching out in desperation to have our project approved as soon as possible and actually speak to someone that is helpful and not just shut us down.

My direct contact is [REDACTED]

Thank you for hearing me out.

Best,  
Sabina Koh

**From:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**To:** [Elaine Polachek](#); [Susan Cline](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: PC Item 8-C: Update and Discussion about the Phase 3a Layers Survey: Flawed and Unrepresentative Public Input Processes for Airport Conversion Project  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 5:16:44 PM  
**Attachments:** [5.5.25 Letter re Flawed and Unrepresentative Public Input Processesfor Airport Conversion Project.pdf](#)

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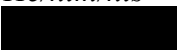
**From:** Jonah Breslau <jbreslau@unitehere11.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 3:48:37 PM  
**To:** Samuel Tolkin <Samuel.Tolkin@santamonica.gov>; Jim Ries <Jim.Ries@santamonica.gov>; freddyacan@freddyacan.net <freddyacan@freddyacan.net>; Josh Hamilton <Josh.Hamilton@santamonica.gov>; leslielambert92@gmail.com <leslielambert92@gmail.com>; Shawn Landres <Shawn.Landres@santamonica.gov>; Peer Chacko <Peer.Chacko@santamonica.gov>; Planning <Planning@santamonica.gov>; council@santamonica.gov <council@santamonica.gov>; Lana Negrete <Lana.Negrete@santamonica.gov>; Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>; Dan Hall <Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov>; Ellis Raskin <Ellis.Raskin@santamonica.gov>; Barry Snell <Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov>; Natalya Zernitskaya <Natalya.Zernitskaya@santamonica.gov>; Jesse Zwick <Jesse.Zwick@santamonica.gov>; Amber Richane <Amber.Richane@santamonica.gov>; Jeremy Blasi <jblasi@unitehere11.org>  
**Subject:** PC Item 8-C: Update and Discussion about the Phase 3a Layers Survey: Flawed and Unrepresentative Public Input Processes for Airport Conversion Project

EXTERNAL

Honorable Mayor, City Council, Planning Commissioners, and Staff,

Please see the attached letter on behalf of UNITE HERE Local 11, written by our General Counsel, Jeremy Blasi. We write to express concerns regarding what we believe are flawed and inadequate procedures for soliciting the public's input regarding the potential uses of the Santa Monica airport once it is decommissioned at the end of 2028.

Thank you,  
Jonah Breslau

--  
Jonah Breslau  
UNITE HERE Local 11  
Research Analyst  
*He/him/his*  
  
[jbreslau@unitehere11.org](mailto:jbreslau@unitehere11.org)

**From:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**To:** [Amber Richane](#); [Elaine Polachek](#); [Susan Cline](#)  
**Subject:** Re: LOIs submitted for airport conversion project  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:34:18 AM

---

Great, thanks Amber. That's great we had so many.

---

**From:** Amber Richane <Amber.Richane@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 10:26:59 PM  
**To:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>; Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>; Susan Cline <Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: LOIs submitted for airport conversion project

Hey CM Torosis.

69 were submitted by the deadline. We are analyzing them today and tomorrow. We can share a preliminary list later this week if that acceptable.

---

**From:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 5:41:10 PM  
**To:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>; Susan Cline <Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov>; Amber Richane <Amber.Richane@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** LOIs submitted for airport conversion project

Hi Team:

I know the deadline for the LOIs for the airport conversion project was yesterday. Is it possible to tell us how many were submitted and by whom?

Thanks,  
Caroline

**From:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**To:** [Caroline Torosis](#); [Josh Kurpies](#)  
**Cc:** [Barry Snell](#)  
**Subject:** RE: PaliStrong  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:41:03 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

I have no idea. I didn't receive anything. Josh?



**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

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**From:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:40 AM  
**To:** Josh Kurpies <Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov>; Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Cc:** Barry Snell <Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** PaliStrong

Hi All,

Apologies if I missed it but was Council invited to PaliStrong on the pier last night? The first I am hearing about it is this morning. I found that a bit odd since we did vote to give the event discretionary funds and it took place in Santa Monica.

Any further clarification would be helpful.

Caroline

**From:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**To:** [Susan Cline](#); [Christopher J. Smith](#); [Caroline Torosis](#); [ctorosis@gmail.com](mailto:ctorosis@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** [Council Mailbox](#); [CMO Conference](#)  
**Subject:** Canceled: 6pm: CMO / Mayor Pro Tem Caroline Torosis biweekly meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 4:59:26 PM  
**Attachments:** [attachment.ics](#)  
**Importance:** High

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---

**From:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**To:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**Subject:** RE: CMO / Mayor Pro Tem Caroline Torosis biweekly meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 2:58:03 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Will do. Thanks.



**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

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**From:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 2:57 PM  
**To:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>; Susan Cline <Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov>; Christopher J. Smith <Christopher.J.Smith@santamonica.gov>; ctorosis@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Council Mailbox <Council.Mailbox@santamonica.gov>; CMO Conference <CMO.Conference@santamonica.gov>; Sandra Santiago <Sandra.Santiago@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: CMO / Mayor Pro Tem Caroline Torosis biweekly meeting

Hi Elaine,

Please call at 6. I told the reparations task force I would go to their meeting but I can be 10 minutes late to that.

Caroline

---

**From:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 2:23:53 PM  
**To:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Susan Cline <[Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov](mailto:Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov)>; Christopher J. Smith <[Christopher.J.Smith@santamonica.gov](mailto:Christopher.J.Smith@santamonica.gov)>; [ctorosis@gmail.com](mailto:ctorosis@gmail.com) <[ctorosis@gmail.com](mailto:ctorosis@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** Council Mailbox <[Council.Mailbox@santamonica.gov](mailto:Council.Mailbox@santamonica.gov)>; CMO Conference <[CMO.Conference@santamonica.gov](mailto:CMO.Conference@santamonica.gov)>; Sandra Santiago <[Sandra.Santiago@santamonica.gov](mailto:Sandra.Santiago@santamonica.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: CMO / Mayor Pro Tem Caroline Torosis biweekly meeting

Hi Caroline,

Confirming that you want to cancel today and reschedule for next Wednesday? I can normally I can do that but I will be out of the office next Wednesday afternoon. Can we find another time before the 5/13 Council meeting to catch up. I also need about a 10 minute phone call with you today. I have a 5-6 meeting today. I can call you afterwards if that's convenient. Let me know.

Thanks,

Elaine



**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

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---

**From:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 2:04 PM

**To:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Susan Cline <[Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov](mailto:Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov)>; Christopher J. Smith <[Christopher.J.Smith@santamonica.gov](mailto:Christopher.J.Smith@santamonica.gov)>; [ctorosis@gmail.com](mailto:ctorosis@gmail.com)

**Cc:** Council Mailbox <[Council.Mailbox@santamonica.gov](mailto:Council.Mailbox@santamonica.gov)>; CMO Conference <[CMO.Conference@santamonica.gov](mailto:CMO.Conference@santamonica.gov)>

**Subject:** CMO / Mayor Pro Tem Caroline Torosis biweekly meeting

Hi All,

I'm so sorry but can we please move these meetings to opposite Wednesdays? [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] If urgent I'm free at 5:30.

---

**From:** Elaine Polachek  
**Sent:** Monday, March 3, 2025 11:41:57 AM  
**To:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Susan Cline <[Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov](mailto:Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov)>; Christopher J. Smith <[Christopher.J.Smith@santamonica.gov](mailto:Christopher.J.Smith@santamonica.gov)>; Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; [ctorosis@gmail.com](mailto:ctorosis@gmail.com) <[ctorosis@gmail.com](mailto:ctorosis@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** Council Mailbox <[Council.Mailbox@santamonica.gov](mailto:Council.Mailbox@santamonica.gov)>; CMO Conference <[CMO.Conference@santamonica.gov](mailto:CMO.Conference@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** CMO / Mayor Pro Tem Caroline Torosis biweekly meeting  
**When:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 4:00 PM-5:00 PM.  
**Where:** Teams

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**From:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**To:** [Josh Kurpies](#); [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**Cc:** [Barry Snell](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Pali Strong  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 2:55:55 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

Thanks Josh, appreciate if.

---

**From:** Josh Kurpies <Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 2:02:34 PM  
**To:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>; Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Cc:** Barry Snell <Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Pali Strong

Hi Caroline:

As I mentioned before, we didn't receive any invitations relating to the Pali Strong event. No, staff would not be preparing talking points for an event we are unaware of and have no information about.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Hope this clarifies.

-josh



**Josh Kurpies**

Council Office & Legislative Affairs Liaison  
(310) 458-2201 ext. 5501

[Resources for Californians Impacted by Los Angeles Fires](#)

---

**From:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 1:30 PM  
**To:** Josh Kurpies <Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov>; Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Cc:** Barry Snell <Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Pali Strong

I assume someone prepared talking points for the mayor.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Josh Kurpies <Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 12:10:41 PM  
**To:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>; Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Cc:** Barry Snell <Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Pali Strong

I checked with Kennisha and she too did not see anything come in related to the Pali Strong event.

-josh



**Josh Kurpies**

Council Office & Legislative Affairs Liaison  
(310) 458-2201 ext. 5501

[Resources for Californians Impacted by Los Angeles Fires](#)

---

**From:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:41 AM  
**To:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>; Josh Kurpies <Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov>  
**Cc:** Barry Snell <Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: PaliStrong

I have no idea. I didn't receive anything. Josh?

**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

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---

**From:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:40 AM

**To:** Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>

**Cc:** Barry Snell <[Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov](mailto:Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov)>

**Subject:** PaliStrong

Hi All,

Apologies if I missed it but was Council invited to PaliStrong on the pier last night? The first I am hearing about it is this morning. I found that a bit odd since we did vote to give the event discretionary funds and it took place in Santa Monica.

Any further clarification would be helpful.

Caroline

**From:** [Sandra Santiago](#) on behalf of [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**To:** [Susan Cline](#); [Christopher J. Smith](#); [Caroline Torosis](#); [ctorosis@gmail.com](mailto:ctorosis@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** [Council Mailbox](#); [CMO Conference](#)  
**Subject:** 6pm: CMO / Mayor Pro Tem Caroline Torosis biweekly meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 3:03:04 PM  
**Attachments:** [attachment.ics](#)

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---

**From:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**To:** [Heather Averick](#)  
**Cc:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [REDACTED] Family Child Care  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 4:27:24 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

Thanks Heather,

[REDACTED] reached back out to me and let me know. Unfortunately I think she really wanted financial relief which of course I understand.

Caroline

---

**From:** Heather Averick <Heather.Averick@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 11:23 AM  
**To:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Cc:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Smith Family Child Care

Hi Councilmember Torosis, below are updates:

Ivy Chang, Senior Analyst in the Human Services Division, spoke with [REDACTED] on 4/25. They had a nice conversation, and Ivy shared the following resources:

- Partner with Connections with Children to see how they support local small business childcare centers.
- Apply for the Child and Adult Care Food Program which can reimburse her for meals-[Child and Adult Care Food Program](#)
- Support for small business (tax support, other financial consultation)-  
<https://www.startsmallthinkbig.org/get-free-small-business-services>
- CA union for family childcare providers- <https://childcareprovidersunited.org/>
- Human Service Grants Programs that provide cash assistance to families for emergencies (some of her clients might be eligible for those services which takes that burden off Ms. Smith)

[REDACTED] now has Ivy's contact information and Ivy encouraged her to reach out if she has any additional questions or if new needs arise.

Thanks,



## Heather Averick

Director of Housing and Human Services

(310) 458-8310

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*My working hours may look different than your working hours, there is no expectation for a response outside of your normal business hours. Our offices are closed every other Friday.*

---

**From:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 24, 2025 2:28 PM

**To:** Heather Averick <Heather.Averick@santamonica.gov>

**Cc:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>

**Subject:** Re: [REDACTED] Family Child Care

Thanks. Will you let me know what happens after they reach out to her?

Appreciate it.

---

**From:** Heather Averick <[Heather.Averick@santamonica.gov](mailto:Heather.Averick@santamonica.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 23, 2025 11:32:20 AM

**To:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>

**Cc:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: [REDACTED] Family Child Care

Hi Councilmember Torosis,

The Youth and Family team works closely with CFC. Someone on the team will reach out to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] directly and provide other resources/connections and talk with her. Some of the things they will share include the resources below:

She may be eligible to apply for the [Child and Adult Care Food Program](#), which could reimburse her if she's offering meals as part of care.

There's also a statewide union for family childcare providers that she could reach out to for resources/ideas: <https://childcareprovidersunited.org/>

Some of her program participants might qualify for YRT or ECWP—both programs administer flex

funds and direct client aid that could alleviate some of her burden in supporting with emergency items and basic needs. Unfortunately, as you know, the City is not able to provide gift cards.

Thanks,



## Heather Averick

Director of Housing and Human Services

(310) 458-8310

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*My working hours may look different than your working hours, there is no expectation for a response outside of your normal business hours. Our offices are closed every other Friday.*

---

**From:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 22, 2025 11:27 AM

**To:** Heather Averick <[Heather.Averick@santamonica.gov](mailto:Heather.Averick@santamonica.gov)>

**Cc:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>

**Subject:** Fw: [REDACTED] Family Child Care

Heather,

Can you think of anything we can do to help this in home childcare provider? She is really struggling. Additionally, are we working with connections for children directly? Is there any help or funding available?

Thanks,  
Caroline

---

**From:** zekaia smith <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, April 21, 2025 8:08 AM

**To:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: [REDACTED] Family Child Care

EXTERNAL

I forgot to include Lakeshore gift cards

On Sun, Apr 20, 2025, 8:52 PM zekaia smith <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Caroline Torosis,  
Councilmember

My name is Zekaia Smith and I am the Director of Smith Family Child Care in Santa Monica. It was a pleasure speaking with you at the Financial Freedom Work Shop.

A Recap on our conversation. I serve families that are low income, who have been located to Santa Monica and other surrounding areas for their safety to escape Domestic Violence. I cook all the meals as well as providing snacks, I take the kids on field trips, the parks, I provide transportation to school & pick up from school, pick up from home and drop off at home. I also purchase Groceries to help my families who struggle with food insecurity. I could give them a resource to a food bank but some of my kids have severe food allergies and some are autistic that only eat certain foods. The agency that I'm connected to is Connections For Children. I am currently taking the Trauma Informed Care class series. Upon completion I will receive a raise from the city of Santa Monica. I don't know how much the raise will be, but I know it will be better than what I receive now which is \$7-\$10 an hour per kid.

The money that's paid to me through the agency isn't taxed. All my income goes on bills and everything I need for my daycare kid's to thrive. So I'm unable to save and pay taxes, and I continue to owe the IRS currently in the amount of 9,000. I'm currently taking workshops to learn what items I can write off on my taxes so I don't owe so much back. It would be helpful if I can get Amazon gift cards where I purchase educational developmental items for the kid's and purchase food as well. Chevron gas gift card's that would help me continue to provide transportation. Ralph's market gift card's that will continue to help me to provide meals and snacks for the kid's and support the parents with groceries because they can't afford it. AMC movie tickets to help with taking the kids on a field trip for the summer.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email, as your support will continue to help me provide quality child care for families in need!

Sincerely,  
Zekaia Smith  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**To:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**Subject:** RE: SMPD Civilian Count  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 5:47:20 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

I do not. That would have to come from the Chief. I can ask.



**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

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**From:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 5:09 PM  
**To:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: SMPD Civilian Count

Do you know how many sworn officers are on patrol versus at their desk?

Caroline

---

**From:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 5:10 PM  
**To:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Susan Cline <[Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov](mailto:Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov)>; Christopher J. Smith <[Christopher.J.Smith@santamonica.gov](mailto:Christopher.J.Smith@santamonica.gov)>; Dana Brown <[Dana.Brown@santamonica.gov](mailto:Dana.Brown@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** SMPD Civilian Count

Mayor and Council,

Here is the data for the non-sworn SMPD personnel:

a. Authorized= 167

- b. Filled = 146.5
- c. Vacant = 20.5

PD also has 61 As-Needed temporary staff.

-Elaine



**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

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**From:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**To:** [Jing Yeo](#); [Armine Chaparyan](#)  
**Cc:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Request for Agenda Item  
**Date:** Friday, May 9, 2025 11:08:04 AM

---

Right - that was my question as well, thanks Jing!

---

**From:** Jing Yeo <[Jing.Yeo@santamonica.gov](mailto:Jing.Yeo@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 9, 2025 8:51:36 AM  
**To:** [Caroline Torosis](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov) <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; [Armine Chaparyan](mailto:Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov) <[Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov](mailto:Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** [Elaine Polachek](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov) <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Agenda Item

Hi Caroline,

We will reach out to this resident to get more facts on the situation to see how we can help. It's unclear to me whether the proposed fence, wall, hedge amendments would be implicated here.

Thank you,

Jing

---

**From:** [Caroline Torosis](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov) <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 9, 2025 7:02 AM  
**To:** [Armine Chaparyan](mailto:Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov) <[Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov](mailto:Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** [Elaine Polachek](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov) <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; [Jing Yeo](mailto:Jing.Yeo@santamonica.gov) <[Jing.Yeo@santamonica.gov](mailto:Jing.Yeo@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: Request for Agenda Item

Good Morning Arminé,


Any thoughts on what we might be able to do here?

Caroline

---

**From:** Ryan Toteja <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 8, 2025 4:43:36 PM  
**To:** [Lana Negrete](mailto:Lana.Negrete@santamonica.gov) <[Lana.Negrete@santamonica.gov](mailto:Lana.Negrete@santamonica.gov)>; [Caroline Torosis](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov) <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; [Jesse Zwick](mailto:Jesse.Zwick@santamonica.gov) <[Jesse.Zwick@santamonica.gov](mailto:Jesse.Zwick@santamonica.gov)>; [Dan Hall](mailto:Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov) <[Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov](mailto:Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov)>; [Ellis Raskin](mailto:Ellis.Raskin@santamonica.gov) <[Ellis.Raskin@santamonica.gov](mailto:Ellis.Raskin@santamonica.gov)>; [Barry Snell](mailto:Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov) <[Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov](mailto:Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov)>; [Natalya Zernitskaya](mailto:Natalya.Zernitskaya@santamonica.gov) <[Natalya.Zernitskaya@santamonica.gov](mailto:Natalya.Zernitskaya@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** [Monisha Toteja](mailto:Monisha.Toteja@[REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Request for Agenda Item

---



Dear Santa Monica City Council,

We are residents of Santa Monica on 19th street and are reaching out to ask you to please add to the 5/13 meeting agenda, and vote “yes”, on the ordinance that would increase the height limit of fences, walls and hedges within the front yard setback for the R2, R3 and R4 multifamily zones from 3.5 feet to 5 feet. The Planning Commission’s resolution (see link) with its recommendation to the City Council to approve this measure was passed on March 19, 2025, and is now simply awaiting City Council approval. <https://www.smgov.net/departments/pcd/agendas/Planning-Commission/2025/20250319/s20250319%2011Ba.pdf>

We are currently dealing with a massive issue in trying to install a 42” safety guardrail around our raised patio that would be resolved with your vote on this sensible change.

To provide you with the background, our contractor submitted plans to the city to approve a guardrail around our raised patio. We have a son at Franklin Elementary, and we have been concerned about him and his friends playing on the patio, given the ease with which they could trip and fall over the side, particularly given the drop on one side of the patio is 58”. The city required some corrections during the permitting process, and a revised plan was submitted and a permit was approved. After the permit was approved, we paid our contractor thousands of dollars to order the materials, and a pre-inspection was scheduled with an inspector. The inspector approved the plans and our contractor started construction. After they had built multiple portions of the guardrail, our contractor was instructed to stop construction because it seemed like the inspector had changed his mind and was re-interpreting the code. We reached out to the inspector and the department head who asked us to go back to the planning department to discuss the code because our patio is on a slope.

As we have gone back to the Planning Department to discuss this matter with them, they have told us that they understood what we were trying to do and approved the plans correctly the first time around. Under normal circumstances, we would’ve been able to submit a modification. However, the Planning Department informed us that there is a moratorium - for an indefinite period of time - on any modifications because this ordinance is awaiting a vote from City Council. Until City Council approves this ordinance, our project, and any other similar to ours in the city are being delayed indefinitely.

Given that this change has made it through all of the requirements except for final City Council approval, we would like to have it be placed on the agenda for the meeting on 5/13 so that we can complete our project and improve the safety of our property.

Thank you,  
Ryan & Monisha Toteja

**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](#); [Jaelyn Rivera-Krouse](#); [Seiky Gil](#); [Ava Lee](#); [Beth Rolandson](#); [Gabrielle Maher](#); [Melissa Spagnuolo](#); [Lauren Howland](#); [Hannah Monroy Matus](#); [Tati Simonian](#); [Melinda Espinoza](#); [Shannon Parry](#)  
**Cc:** [Alejandra Perez](#); [Ivannia Perez-Schlamm](#)  
**Subject:** Most Loved Santa Monica Businesses 2025 Awards Ceremony + Reception - RSVP LINK  
**Date:** Friday, May 9, 2025 10:44:38 AM  
**Attachments:** [attachment.ics](#)

---

*Resending with the RSVP link (below)*

Dear City Council, City Management + Most Loved Partner,

The Buy Local Executive Committee congratulates the finalists and invites you to celebrate all finalists and winners of the 2025 Most Loved Santa Monica Business Contest. This celebratory and networking event will be on June 3, 5:00-6:30pm at Santa Monica Brew Works.

Please click on the link below to register:

<https://events.humanitix.com/2025-most-loved-santa-monica-business>

RSVP no later than May 30.

Looking forward to celebrating with you!

Buy Local Santa Monica Committee

**From:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**To:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Number of Police  
**Date:** Thursday, May 8, 2025 7:40:45 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

Chief Batista put these numbers together in response to Barry's and others CM's request.

### **Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

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---

**From:** Ramon Batista <Ramon.Batista@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 8, 2025 5:40 PM  
**To:** Barry Snell <Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov>  
**Cc:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>; Darrick Jacob <Darrick.Jacob@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Number of Police

Hi Barry,

Here's the information on our sworn staffing:

**Total Authorized Sworn: 232**

**Subtract Chief, Dep Chief, Captain, Lieutenants, Sergeants**

**Officers: 160**

**Officer Assignments:**

**CID: 27 total**

- Crimes Against Persons - 6
- Robbery Homicide Division - 6
- Property - 9
- Youth Services Division - 3
- School Resource Officers - 2

- Jail – 1

**Professional Services: 10 total**

- Personnel & Training - 3
- Technical Services - 1
- Fleet/Technology - 1
- Academy Staff - 1
- Range - 2
- Drone - 2

**Special Operations: 16 total**

- HLP - 9
- Traffic - 6
- JTTF - 1

**OCOP: 5 total**

- Neighborhood Resource Officers - 4
- Policy - 1

**Operations: 102 total**

- A Watch - 29
- B Watch - 14
- C Watch - 24
- Downtown Services Unit – 15
- Directed Action Response Team – 4
- Crime Impact Team - 4
- K9 - 4
- In the Field Training Program - 8

**Injury/FMLA – 15**

**Acting Positions – 6**

**Vacancies – 10**

Here’s the professional staff:

**Criminal Investigations Division**

<b>DIVISION</b>	<b>Current Job Title</b>	<b>Count</b>
CID	Court Services Coordinator	1
CID	Crime Inv Support Specialist	1
CID	Custody Officer	10
CID	Forensic Specialist	1

CID	Forensic Supervisor	1
CID	Forensics Specialist	6
CID	Forensics Technician	1
CID	Investigative Analyst	1
CID	Jail Services Attendant	3
CID	Latent Fingerprint Examiner	1
CID	Lead Custody Officer	2
CID	Lead Records Technician	1
CID	Police Cadet	4
CID	Police Records Administrator	1
CID	Police Records Technician	9
CID	Property/Evidence Clerk	3
CID	Property/Evidence Supervisor	1
CID	Public Services Admin - Jail	1
CID	Public Services Administrator Forensics	1
CID	Records Supervisor	3
CID	Records Technician	2
CID	Staff Assistant III	1
CID	Traffic Services Officer	1
CID	Youth and Family Services Coordinator	1
<b>CID</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57</b>

**Office of the Chief Of Police**

<b>DIVISION</b>	<b>Current Job Title</b>	<b>Count</b>
OCOP	Administrative Analyst	1
OCOP	Crime Prevention Coordinator	2
OCOP	Executive Admin Assistant	1
OCOP	Police Cadet	1
OCOP	Public Information Coordinator	1
OCOP	Staff Assistant III	1
<b>OCOP</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>

**Patrol Operations Division**

<b>DIVISION</b>	<b>Current Job Title</b>	<b>Count</b>
POD	Community Services Officer	9
POD	Crime Analyst	1
POD	Lead Pier & Harbor Services Officer	1
POD	Lead Public Services Officer	1
POD	Pier & Harbor Services Officer	11
POD	Police Cadet	2

POD	Public Services Officer	3
<b>POD</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>

### Professional Services Division

<b>DIVISION</b>	<b>Current Job Title</b>	<b>Count</b>
PSD	Administrative Analyst	1
PSD	Animal Care Attendant	2
PSD	Animal Control Officer	3
PSD	Animal Control Supervisor	1
PSD	Assistant Administrative Analyst	1
PSD	Background Investigator As-Needed	7
PSD	Lead Animal Control Officer	1
PSD	Personnel Services Technician	3
PSD	Police Cadet	4
PSD	Public Services Administrator	1
PSD	Senior Administrative Analyst	2
PSD	Staff Assistant II	1
PSD	Staff Assistant III	1
<b>PSD</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>

### Special Operations Division

<b>DIVISION</b>	<b>Current Job Title</b>	<b>Count</b>
SOD	Crime Analyst	1
SOD	Crossing Guard	24
SOD	Crossing Guard Supervisor	1
SOD	Lead Traffic Services Officer	3
SOD	Public Services Officer	17
SOD	Public Services Officer Supervisor	2
SOD	Staff Assistant III	1
SOD	Traffic Services Administrator	1
SOD	Traffic Services Officer	31
SOD	Traffic Services Supervisor	2
<b>SOD</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83</b>

### Summary of Civilian and As-Needed Job Titles


Civilian Job Title	Total Count
Traffic Services Officer	32
Crossing Guard	24

Public Services Officer	20
Police Cadet	11
Pier & Harbor Services Officer	11
Custody Officer	10
Police Records Technician	9
Community Services Officer	9
Background Investigator As-Needed	7
Forensics Specialist	6
Staff Assistant III	4
Jail Services Attendant	3
Records Supervisor	3
Personnel Services Technician	3
Animal Control Officer	3
Property/Evidence Clerk	3
Lead Traffic Services Officer	3
Senior Administrative Analyst	2
Crime Prevention Coordinator	2
Records Technician	2
Administrative Analyst	2
Crime Analyst	2
Lead Custody Officer	2
Animal Care Attendant	2
Public Services Officer Supervisor	2
Traffic Services Supervisor	2
Youth and Family Services Coordinator	1
Forensic Specialist	1
Latent Fingerprint Examiner	1
Crime Inv Support Specialist	1
Animal Control Supervisor	1
Investigative Analyst	1
Staff Assistant II	1
Crossing Guard Supervisor	1
Lead Records Technician	1
Forensics Technician	1
Lead Animal Control Officer	1
Lead Pier & Harbor Services Officer	1
Public Services Administrator Forensics	1
Public Information Coordinator	1
Property/Evidence Supervisor	1
Police Records Administrator	1
Traffic Services Administrator	1
Executive Admin Assistant	1
Assistant Administrative Analyst	1

Forensic Supervisor	1
Public Services Admin - Jail	1
Court Services Coordinator	1
Lead Public Services Officer	1
Public Services Administrator	1

**Professional Staff Vacancies – 20.5**





**Ramón Batista**  
**Chief of Police**  
Police Department  
333 Olympic Drive  
Santa Monica, CA 90401  
Office: (310) 458-8401

**From:** Barry Snell <[Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov](mailto:Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 8, 2025 7:26 AM  
**To:** Ramon Batista <[Ramon.Batista@santamonica.gov](mailto:Ramon.Batista@santamonica.gov)>; [derek.jacobs@santamonica.gov](mailto:derek.jacobs@santamonica.gov)  
**Cc:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Number of Police

Thank You. I look forward to that information.  
Have a great day.  
Barry

**From:** Ramon Batista <[Ramon.Batista@santamonica.gov](mailto:Ramon.Batista@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 8, 2025 6:52 AM  
**To:** Barry Snell <[Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov](mailto:Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov)>; [derek.jacobs@santamonica.gov](mailto:derek.jacobs@santamonica.gov)  
**Cc:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Number of Police

Hi Barry,  
I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to follow up regarding your request for information. As the fourth council member to inquire, I have compiled a list of sworn staffing positions for Elaine Polachek. We are currently in the process of preparing a comprehensive breakdown of our professional staff, distinguishing between uniformed and non-uniformed personnel, which we will share with the manager shortly.

Additionally, I would like to highlight that these officers and professional staff are the same individuals you observed via security cameras, diligently working to protect the nonprofit

downtown. Their efforts have been crucial in addressing the challenges of disorder posed by drug use and dealing, which had significantly impacted the quality of life in the area.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Best,

Chief Batista

---

**From:** Barry Snell <[Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov](mailto:Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:01 PM

**To:** Ramon Batista <[Ramon.Batista@santamonica.gov](mailto:Ramon.Batista@santamonica.gov)>; [derek.jacobs@santamonica.gov](mailto:derek.jacobs@santamonica.gov)  
<[derek.jacobs@santamonica.gov](mailto:derek.jacobs@santamonica.gov)>

**Cc:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>

**Subject:** Number of Police

Hi Ramon and Derek

I know that we have budgeted for 232 officers.

Can you give me a break down of the current active police  
Officers.

1. How many of the police officers are out on patrol?
2. How many of those officers are on special assignment?
3. How many are on long -term leave?
4. How many are in training?

I also would like to know the number of non-police employees and how  
you break down their positions.

Thank You

Barry

**From:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**To:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**Subject:** RE: SMPD Civilian Count  
**Date:** Friday, May 9, 2025 9:51:26 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Here's what the Chief put together:

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POD	Lead Pier & Harbor Services Officer	1
POD	Lead Public Services Officer	1
POD	Pier & Harbor Services Officer	11
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**Professional Services Division**

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PSD	Personnel Services Technician	3
PSD	Police Cadet	4
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PSD	Senior Administrative Analyst	2
PSD	Staff Assistant II	1
PSD	Staff Assistant III	1
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**Special Operations Division**

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SOD	Crossing Guard Supervisor	1
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Background Investigator As-Needed	7
Forensics Specialist	6
Staff Assistant III	4
Jail Services Attendant	3
Records Supervisor	3
Personnel Services Technician	3
Animal Control Officer	3
Property/Evidence Clerk	3
Lead Traffic Services Officer	3
Senior Administrative Analyst	2
Crime Prevention Coordinator	2
Records Technician	2
Administrative Analyst	2
Crime Analyst	2
Lead Custody Officer	2
Animal Care Attendant	2
Public Services Officer Supervisor	2

Traffic Services Supervisor	2
Youth and Family Services Coordinator	1
Forensic Specialist	1
Latent Fingerprint Examiner	1
Crime Inv Support Specialist	1
Animal Control Supervisor	1
Investigative Analyst	1
Staff Assistant II	1
Crossing Guard Supervisor	1
Lead Records Technician	1
Forensics Technician	1
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Assistant Administrative Analyst	1
Forensic Supervisor	1
Public Services Admin - Jail	1
Court Services Coordinator	1
Lead Public Services Officer	1
Public Services Administrator	1

**Professional Staff Vacancies – 20.5**

**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

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**From:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 5:09 PM

**To:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>

**Subject:** Re: SMPD Civilian Count

Do you know how many sworn officers are on patrol versus at their desk?

Caroline

---

**From:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 5:10 PM

**To:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>

**Cc:** Susan Cline <[Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov](mailto:Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov)>; Christopher J. Smith <[Christopher.J.Smith@santamonica.gov](mailto:Christopher.J.Smith@santamonica.gov)>; Dana Brown <[Dana.Brown@santamonica.gov](mailto:Dana.Brown@santamonica.gov)>

**Subject:** SMPD Civilian Count

Mayor and Council,

Here is the data for the non-sworn SMPD personnel:

- a. Authorized= 167
- b. Filled = 146.5
- c. Vacant = 20.5

PD also has 61 As-Needed temporary staff.

-Elaine

**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

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**From:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**To:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Cline](#); [Christopher J. Smith](#); [Ramon Batista](#); [Matthew Hallock](#); [Lauren Howland](#)  
**Subject:** Stabbing Incident Overnight  
**Date:** Sunday, May 11, 2025 7:10:08 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Mayor and Council,

A stabbing took place last night, 5/10/25, at approximately 8:22 p.m. near Ocean Avenue and Colorado Avenue. Two individuals experiencing homelessness were walking northbound on the west sidewalk of Ocean Avenue when a verbal argument escalated as they entered the intersection.

Security footage from a nearby business captured one individual pulling out a large knife and stabbing at the other person multiple times in the upper body. The victim sustained non-life-threatening cuts to his extremities.

After the incident, the suspect, still armed with the knife, walked eastbound on Colorado Avenue. The suspect was later detained near 5th Street and Colorado Avenue, the knife was found in his possession. The video footage confirmed the detained individual was the attacker. He was taken into custody without further incident.

The victim was transported to a local area hospital for additional medical treatment, accompanied by officers, many people were recording the incident with cell phone cameras. There was a media inquiry from an LA station overnight.

Thanks,  
Elaine



**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

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From: [Elsine Polachuk](#)  
 To: [Elsine Polachuk](#)  
 Cc: [Department Heads, Atty and Clerk](#); [Lana Negrete](#); [Caroline Toranzo](#); [Ellis Reekin](#); [Jesse Zwick](#); [Natalya Zemlinskaya](#); [Betsy Small](#); [Dan Hill](#)  
 Subject: [City Council Updates: Week of May 5](#)  
 Date: [Thursday, May 8, 2025 4:47:07 PM](#)  
 Attachments: [image005.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image011.png](#)  
[image018.png](#)  
[image013.png](#)  
[image023.png](#)  
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[image031.png](#)  
[image032.png](#)  
[image033.png](#)  
[image034.png](#)  
[image001.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.

**May 13, 2025 COUNCIL MEETING**

The following is a link to Packet for the [May 13](#) 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**

**Community Partnerships:** The Community Partnerships team hosted a meeting with Recreation and Arts Department (RAD) and the Santa Monica Pier Corporation to coordinate the film permit approval process for an upcoming brand activation by skincare company The Ordinary. The activation will highlight content creators and social media influencers. The Ordinary skincare brand has a large social media reach, including 2.7 million followers on Instagram, 1 million followers on Facebook, and 1.8 million followers on TikTok.

In addition, Community Partnerships worked with the Economic Development team in refreshing Buy Local graphics on the Santa Monica digital kiosks. This follows the promotion of local highlights on the digital kiosks, including the Santa Monica Pier Corporation's A Walk Through Pier History: A Walking Tour that is an immersive experience through the historical landmarks and captivating stories that have shaped this beloved destination. These graphics encourage residents and visitors alike to frequent local shops and stores in anticipation of upcoming holiday weekends like Mother's Day and Memorial Day.



**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Community Development staff is representing the City at two **economic development events** on Thursday, May 8:

- California Association for Local Economic Development's annual conference in Ontario, and
- Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation's Select LA Investment Summit – California's premier international investment gathering of global investors with business and government leaders from the region and state.

An **appeal of the ARB's design approval** of a housing project at 1437 6<sup>th</sup> St was filed on April 29, 2025. This project is subject to a settlement agreement as a site where a Builder's Remedy project was previously proposed. Per the terms of the settlement, the ARB appeal must be heard within 60 days and the decision rendered on the appeal within 30 days. The appeal is tentatively scheduled to be heard at the June 18 Planning Commission meeting.

Montana Avenue Merchants present their annual **sidewalk sale** this Saturday, May 10 from 10am to 6pm.



The **Architectural Review Board** met on May 5. The board approved an application for 1036 22<sup>nd</sup> Street for a modification to a required side setback for a portion of an addition to an existing one-story, single-unit residential dwelling located in the Single-Unit Residential (R1) Zoning District.

The **Planning Commission** is scheduled to meet on May 7. Agenda items include:

- Study sessions on:
  - Santa Monica Boulevard Safety Study Preliminary Analysis and Recommendations with Department of Transportation staff
  - Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update with Public Works staff
  - Santa Monica Airport Conversion Project Update with Public Works Staff
- A variance and waiver requested associated with the property at 1923 La Mesa Drive to allow a two-story, 375 square-foot addition to the rear of an existing single-unit dwelling in the Single-Unit Residential (R1) zoning district. The proposed Variance request is to allow the addition to exceed the 28-foot building height limit as measured from Segmented Average Natural Grade (SANG), and the Waiver request is to waive the minimum upper-story setback requirement for the addition.

The **Landmarks Commission** is scheduled to meet on Monday, May 12. Agenda items include:

- Consideration of a Landmark and Structure of Merit Designation Application for 137 Hart Avenue.

The Farmers Market celebrates May as **Calfresh Awareness Month**. The Wednesday, the Downtown Santa Monica Farmers Market will host partner Food Forward on May 7. Food Forward provides important hunger relief weekly by connecting produce donated by Wednesday Farmers Markets to receiving agencies in the region. Calfresh enrollment opportunities will pop up at the Saturday May 10 Pico Farmers Market and Sunday May 11 Main Street Farmers Market. The markets will host local partners who can answer questions about enrollment and assist in the process. Market Match will start again at the Sunday Main Street Farmers Market on May 18! With gratitude to the We Are Santa Monica Fund, the Main Street Farmers Market will once again be able to provide this vital program to extend the purchasing power of Calfresh customers, extending \$10 in "match" to purchase fruits and vegetables.

Updated **plan check submittal** information from Building and Safety:

2025 Submitted Plan Checks by Month						
Project Type	Jan	Feb	March	April	TOTAL	Trend
Single-Family Dwelling (New)	4	1	0	6	11	↘
Apartment Building (New)	2	4	1	3	10	↘
Structure other than Building	4	21	2	5	32	↘
Residential Addition/Alteration	38	0	29	33	100	↘
Commercial Tenant Improvement	43	14	24	39	120	↘
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>273</b>	↘

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT)**

**STEP Participants Tour SMPD:** At Big Blue Bus, we are committed to fostering professional development and career growth. One of the key initiatives supporting this mission is BBB's Supervisory Training Education Program (STEP)! This program equips front-line employees-including Motor Coach Operators, Mechanics, and Motor Coach Cleaners-with the skills and experience necessary to become effective leaders through a combination of training, mentorship, and hand-on experience.

As part of the program, participants engage in site visits to various City departments, where they gain insight from department leadership on a range of topics—from developing interpersonal skills to navigating challenges and leading high-performing teams. Additionally, STEP offers participants the opportunity to gain supervisory experience by working as acting supervisors, line instructors, and maintenance leads-experience they can use when applying for supervisory or other leadership roles!

Last week, STEP participants visited the Santa Monica Police Department, where they had the privilege of hearing from Chief Ramon Batista. Chief Batista shared his inspiring journey from officer to Chief and offered practical advice on interview preparation and leveraging available resources for career growth. The visit concluded with a comprehensive tour of the department, including the jail facilities, drone operations, and the brand-new podcasting studio!

A big THANK YOU to SMPD for their generous hospitality and for being such excellent partners! Stay tuned for Q3 featuring the Public Works Department!



**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

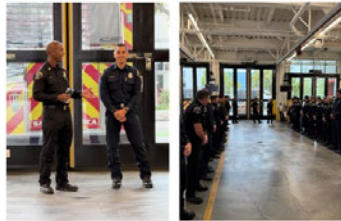
**Administration: Santa Monica Fire Department Supports Local Education:** On Sunday, May 4th, Santa Monica Fire Department Chiefs attended the 10th Annual Santa Monica Wine Auction at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel. This premier community event brings together local leaders, residents, and partners to support public education in our city. The event successfully raised over \$500,000 for the Santa Monica Education Foundation, directly benefiting programs and resources for students across the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. The Fire Department is proud to support initiatives that strengthen our community and invest in the future of Santa Monica's youth.



**Operations: Santa Monica Fire Department Celebrates Completion of Probation for Nine Firefighters:** On May 5th, nine of our probationary firefighters officially completed their one-year probationary period, marking a significant milestone in their fire service careers. Their journey began with a 21-week fire academy, followed by a year of hands-on experience and evaluation in the Suppression and Rescue Division.

To commemorate this achievement, the department held a Helmet Shield Presentation Ceremony—a longstanding Santa Monica Fire Department tradition. During this event, each firefighter exchanged their yellow probationary helmet shield for the official Santa Monica Firefighter shield, symbolizing their full integration into the department. The yellow shield serves as a visual identifier during emergency incidents to support accountability, mentorship, and operational safety. The transition to a standard shield not only marks the end of probation but also represents the beginning of their careers as fully qualified firefighters.

We extend our congratulations to all nine members for their hard work, dedication, and successful completion of probation. We also thank their families and crews for their support throughout this rigorous process. These firefighters are now officially part of the proud tradition of service and excellence at the Santa Monica Fire Department.



**Weekly Incident Summary**

**Total (371)**



During the past week, the Santa Monica Fire Department responded to **371 total incidents**, reflecting a consistent demand for emergency services. As expected, medical-related calls made up the majority of responses. Below is the breakdown by incident type:

- **Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incidents:** 279 (75.2%)  
Calls included medical emergencies requiring advanced life support, trauma response, and pre-hospital care.
- **Good Intent Calls:** 46 (12.4%)  
Incidents where crews were dispatched with good intent, but no emergency was found upon arrival.
- **False Alarms & False Calls:** 21 (5.66%)  
Calls triggered by alarm system malfunctions or non-threatening situations.
- **Fire Incidents:** estimated at 1-2%  
Included structural, vehicle, or outdoor fires requiring suppression response.
- **Service Calls:** 3% based on chart  
Included lift assists, water removal, and public service assistance.
- **Hazardous Conditions (No Fire):** 5 (1.35%)  
Calls for gas leaks, electrical hazards, and other dangerous non-fire conditions.

The department continues to deliver responsive, all-risk service to the community. Weekly data is reviewed to help ensure proper resource deployment and operational readiness.

**EMS Division:** EMS Division staff visited the Glendale Fire Department to observe and learn about their Ambulance Operator training program. The SMFD looks to bring this important program to Santa Monica in the coming months.

EMS Calls for Service:	
Total Patients	250
ALS Transports	53
BLS Transports	133
Active WISE Cases	4

Homeless Data:	
<a href="#">Weekly Homeless Data.xlsx</a>	05/01/25 - 05/07/25
SMFD Total Calls	336
SMFD Homeless Related Calls	59
SMFD Fires related to homelessness	3
West Coast Care Data	
	05/01/25 - 05/07/25
Total number of referrals	16
Service Connection Types	
Multi Services	2
Pacific Sunset Shelter	
Salvation Army ARC	
SHARE Collaborative Housing	1
Safe Place for Youth (SPY)	1
Veterans Affairs	
People Concern	6
St Joseph Center	
Step Up On Second	
Venice Family Clinic	
Housed	1
Malibu Labor Exchange	
Salvation Army	3
General Relief	
Chrysalis	1
Safe Park Los Angeles	
FATH	
Social Security Office	
Clare Matrix	
Daybreak	
Upward Bound House	
Station 7 Assist	
DMH Assist	
Car Repair	
Exodus	
Helping Hands	
Southern California Hospital Culver City	
SMFD Assist	
Interim Housing	1

Prevention:	
Prevention Activities	Completed
Annual Fire Inspections	141
Alarm/Sprinkler Plan Check & Inspections	32
New Construction Plan Reviews/Meetings	21
Special Event Plan Reviews/Meetings	7

#### HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES

**Public Informational sessions for the Next City-Owned Sites:** Housing staff will begin holding public informational sessions to educate the community about the process for the remaining two City-owned sites which will be advanced under the Surplus Land Act process for affordable housing development. The first informational session will take place May 12<sup>th</sup> at Kite Pharma, located adjacent to Bergamot. A second session is scheduled for May 22 at the Main Library. The purpose is to increase public understanding of both the Surplus Land Act, the steps involved in issuing and reviewing solicitations, and the next steps in the process for selecting a development team for each site.

**Updated AHPP Income and Rent Limits for BMH Properties:** Following the release of 2025 income limits from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), staff have updated the tenant rent and income limits for the Affordable Housing Production Program (AHPP). These limits are used to determine tenant income eligibility as well as the maximum allowable rent for apartments in the Below Market Housing (BMH) program. These limits are updated annually every Spring. Properties in the BMH program may use one of three charts, depending on the formulas cited in their deed restriction. The updated rent and income limits can be found at: <https://www.santamonica.gov/housing-ahpp-limits>

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Kidical Mass Bike Ride + Mental Health & Wellness Fair:** The Human Services Division celebrated Mental Health Awareness Month on Sunday in Clover Park by wearing green, organizing a family bike ride with Santa Monica Spoke, and inviting community partners to share wellness resources. Over 65 community members came out to participate. Special thanks to Mobility and the Santa Monica Public Library for joining and lending support!



#### LIBRARY

**Geffen Playhouse Social Club:** Learners, volunteer tutors, and staff from Santa Monica Public Library's literacy program recently attended an open-captioned performance of *Furlough's Paradise* at the Geffen Playhouse. This enriching outing combined language learning with cultural engagement, providing participants with a unique opportunity to experience live theater in an inclusive and supportive environment. In preparation for the event, literacy learners studied the script and explored key vocabulary to deepen their understanding. Following the performance, the group walked to a nearby restaurant, where they completed a post-show survey, shared tacos, and engaged in a lively discussion about the play.



**Free Comic Book Day with Santa Monica Comics Company:** Approximately 300 people joined the festivities at the Main Library for Free Comic Book Day. Highlights included a vibrant Creator Con, where attendees had the chance to meet local comic book creators and explore their work. Library patrons also took part in a hands-on "Create a Comic" workshop, as well as a fun crown-making craft that was popular with both kids and adults. The celebration extended beyond the Main Library, with the Montana and Pico Branches offering comic book giveaways and a scavenger hunt for visitors of all ages. This collaborative event with Santa Monica Comics Company was a lively, creative celebration of comics, storytelling, and community, drawing in new and returning library patrons alike.



**Fierce Friday at Main Library and YALLWEST at Santa Monica High School:** On Friday, May 2, Santa Monica Public Library hosted Fierce Friday at the Main Library in partnership with Macmillan/Fierce Reads as a preview to the annual YALLWEST festival. Ten teen volunteers played a vital role in supporting the event, leading activities such as karaoke, facilitating a book trivia game, and running a snack booth to benefit the Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library.

On Saturday, May 3, the Library continued its community outreach at YALLWEST, held at Santa Monica High School. With over 800 booth interactions, the Library team distributed 400+ books and graphic novels. Staff and volunteers brought great energy to the event, helping to engage attendees through games, trivia, and conversation. Both events reflected the Library's commitment to teen empowerment, literacy, and community involvement.



#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Weekly Council Recap**  
April 27 to May 3, 2025

[Council Update 4-27 to 5-3.pptx](#)

#### **PUBLIC WORKS**

**GreenWealth Energy Agreement:** The Office of Sustainability and the Environment (OSE) and GreenWealth Energy have finalized agreements to begin the official transfer of the City's public EV charging stations, as approved by Council last summer. GreenWealth will take over station maintenance and begin replacing outdated chargers this summer at the Civic Structure (first floor), Parking Structure 6 (2nd Street), and Parking Structure 9 (4th Street). This transition aims to enhance the public charging experience for Santa Monica residents, workers, and visitors.

**Getting to Zero Forum:** On April 24th, OSE staff presented at the Getting to Zero Forum, a national conference focused on advancing zero-emissions buildings, held in downtown Los Angeles. OSE Sustainability Analyst Peter Roquemore joined a panel of green building experts for the session, "From Policy to Practice: Scaling Action on Embodied Carbon Through State & Local Leadership and Building Codes." The discussion emphasized the critical role of local building codes in meeting emissions reduction goals at the local, state, and federal levels. OSE was invited to participate in recognition of Santa Monica's leadership in adopting one of the first local reach codes in the state and country to address embodied carbon—our Low-Carbon Concrete Ordinance. The forum also provided opportunities to connect with industry leaders and municipal staff from across the U.S. working on similar embodied carbon policies.



**Celebrating Earth and Arbor Day with Community Tree Planting and Giveaway Events:** On Thursday, April 24, the Public Landscape Division (PLD) hosted a successful tree planting event in honor of Earth Day and Arbor Day. Dozens of volunteers gathered along the Olympic Avenue median—from 17th Street to 20th Street—to plant up to 20 new trees. Thanks to the support of United Pacific Services, the site was prepped in advance, allowing volunteers to jump right in and contribute to strengthening Santa Monica's urban forest. Among the many participants were Urban Forest Task Force member Andrew Giedril and City Councilmember Barry Snel, who both rolled up their sleeves to help get trees in the ground. The event was a great example of community collaboration and environmental stewardship in action.

Just two days later, on April 26, PLD administration and the Urban Forest team continued their outreach at the Arts and Literacy Festival at Virginia Avenue Park. There, they hosted a popular booth where they gave away a wide variety of shade and fruit trees to residents, helping increase the urban forest canopy on private property. Tree species distributed included lemon trees, edible fig trees, Brisbane Boxes, sycamores, and Sweet Boys. The booth saw high demand, with enthusiastic community members eager to plant trees at home.

These events represent important steps in expanding Santa Monica's Urban Forest and fostering a greener, more sustainable city—one tree at a time.



**A Vibrant Earth Month for the Community Garden Program:** Earth Month was incredibly dynamic for the Community Garden Program, with a series of exciting events that brought together residents and fostered environmental awareness. The team had a fantastic time tabling at the Main Library's Earth Day Celebration, connecting with the community and sharing gardening tips and sustainable practices. Throughout the month, the team led and participated in several impactful initiatives, including:

- A hands-on gardening program with a local Transitional Housing Girl Scout Troop
- A tree-planting event with the Urban Forestry Team
- A fascinating presentation by the California Native Plant Society
- A Composting 101 Workshop to teach residents the basics of composting
- A 19th Street Community Garden Steering Committee meeting
- Collaboration with the Community Garden Advisory Committee on a letter of interest for the Airport Conversion Project
- Introducing residents to bee monitoring and its importance for pollinator health
- Partnering with the Adelante Club at SMC to distribute Native Milkweed seeds and seedlings
- Launching a 4-week Grow LA Garden Class in partnership with the LA County Master Gardener Program
- Processing over 1,000 pounds of food waste through our composting systems
- Distributing 1,000 pounds of fresh produce from our gardens and produce recovery efforts to local residents
- Celebrating Volunteer Appreciation Month with our cherished volunteers

As we reflect on a month filled with meaningful activities, we're excited to continue the momentum with a special celebration this Mother's Day Weekend.



**Celebrate Our Garden with Music!** Join us for a morning of music, dance, and garden exploration on Saturday, May 10, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Main Street Community Garden! The gates will open to the community as Grammy-nominated musicians Andrew and Polly, hosts of the beloved *Ear Snacks* kids' podcast, lead a fun, interactive concert for all ages. This family-friendly event will feature live music, dancing, and a garden scavenger hunt, with refreshments available as you wander through the beautiful garden spaces. It's the perfect way to celebrate the season, connect with your neighbors, and enjoy the wonders the garden has to offer.

**RECREATION AND ARTS**

As part of May is National Water Safety Month, **Santa Monica Community Aquatics** has launched a month-long campaign focused on education, outreach, and action. Key highlights to date include:

**SMMUSD Youth Engagement**



Aquatics personnel provided in-class water safety presentations to John Adams Middle School PE students on April 30<sup>th</sup>, including hands-on life jacket fittings and an introduction to H.E.L.P. (Heat Escape Lessening Posture) to build awareness around cold-water safety.

**Learn to Swim Family Safety Education**



Learn-to-Swim classes at Santa Monica Swim Center (SMSC) on May 3<sup>rd</sup> began with student and parent lifejacket fittings and safety discussions. Despite the wet weather this past Saturday, instructors launched this effort with enthusiasm—teaching students how to fit themselves in U.S. Coast Guard-approved lifejackets while reinforcing core safety messages.

**Public Library Partnership – WHALE Tales Storytime**



In collaboration with the Santa Monica Public Library, Aquatics staff led a successful WHALE Tales Storytime session at the Main Branch Library on Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. The interactive presentation featured American Red Cross educational videos, guided water safety discussions, and engaging Q&A with families. The Library team also provided a curated selection of children's books on swimming and water safety, enriching the educational experience for youth. Spanish-language programming is scheduled next at the Pico Branch Library on May 8<sup>th</sup>, expanding accessibility and inclusion across the city.

Explore upcoming National Water Safety Month activities at [santamonicaswimcenter.org/swim-center-special-events](http://santamonicaswimcenter.org/swim-center-special-events), where families can learn more, take the Safe Swimmer Pledge, and join us in promoting a culture of safety by using #BeWaterAware.

**Annenberg Community Beach House: L.A. Parent Magazine** featured the Annenberg Community Beach House in its May/June issue cover story!



**Now Accepting Proposals: Arts & Culture Classes of Cultural Facilities:** The City of Santa Monica is now accepting proposals for Cultural and Art Classes & Camps for youth and adults. We're seeking experienced teaching artists & organizations to lead programs in dance, music, visual art, theater, and cultural practices at community venues, including the Miles Memorial Playhouse and the Camera Obscura Art Lab. **Proposal deadline: May 21, 2025, at 5:00pm.** [Apply here!](#)



Best,

**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

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**From:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**To:** [Lauren Howland](#); [Elaine Polachek](#); [Susan Cline](#); [Christopher J. Smith](#)  
**Cc:** [Josh Kurpies](#); [Oscar Santiago](#); [Dana Brown](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Statement on labor  
**Date:** Monday, May 12, 2025 8:50:25 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Thanks.

---

**From:** Lauren Howland <Lauren.Howland@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 12, 2025 6:52:37 AM  
**To:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>; Susan Cline <Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov>; Christopher J. Smith <Christopher.J.Smith@santamonica.gov>  
**Cc:** Josh Kurpies <Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov>; Oscar Santiago <Oscar.Santiago@santamonica.gov>; Dana Brown <Dana.Brown@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** Statement on labor

Good morning (again) Mayor and Council,

As we move deeper into labor negotiations and begin to see statements going out from various groups, I wanted to provide a holding statement we will be using should we get inquiries. Let me know if you have any questions.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thanks,



## **Lauren G. Howland**

Communications and Public Information Manager

C: (310) 310-0657

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**From:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**To:** [Caroline Torosis](#); [Armine Chaparyan](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Cline](#); [Jing Yeo](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Questions on 12A and 10A  
**Date:** Monday, May 12, 2025 8:53:51 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Good suggestion. Thanks Caroline. We'll make sure to schedule those.



**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

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**From:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 12, 2025 8:50 AM  
**To:** Armine Chaparyan <[Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov](mailto:Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Susan Cline <[Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov](mailto:Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov)>; Jing Yeo <[Jing.Yeo@santamonica.gov](mailto:Jing.Yeo@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Questions on 12A and 10A

Thanks.

For the future, on the public hearing items, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Caroline

---

**From:** Armine Chaparyan <[Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov](mailto:Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 12, 2025 7:04:17 AM  
**To:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Susan Cline <[Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov](mailto:Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov)>; Jing Yeo <[Jing.Yeo@santamonica.gov](mailto:Jing.Yeo@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine

Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Questions on 12A and 10A

Good morning Caroline:

We will work on responses and get them back to you prior to tomorrow night.

Arminé Chaparyan

Community Development Director

---

**From:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>

**Sent:** Sunday, May 11, 2025 9:33:49 PM

**To:** Jing Yeo <[Jing.Yeo@santamonica.gov](mailto:Jing.Yeo@santamonica.gov)>; Armine Chaparyan <[Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov](mailto:Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>

**Cc:** Susan Cline <[Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov](mailto:Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov)>

**Subject:** Questions on 12A and 10A

Hi All,

In reviewing materials for the council meeting, I have some questions on 12A. I am hoping you might be able to help me. Let me know if it makes more sense for a call:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

Thanks so much,  
Caroline

**From:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**To:** [Terri Maus-Nisich <terri@wbcpinc.com>](mailto:terri@wbcpinc.com)  
**Subject:** Thursday CM Interviews  
**Date:** Monday, May 12, 2025 11:27:57 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Good morning Mayor and Council,  
Terri asked me send you the following schedule for your Thursday  
City Manager interviews:

- 
- **8:00 AM:** Convene at City Chambers to open the meeting
- **8:30 AM:** Arrive at Hilton Santa Monica 1707 4<sup>th</sup> Street for briefing and breakfast  
**Location:** Ocean Park North Conference Room
- **9:15 AM:** First interview begins
- **2:00 PM:** Anticipated end of day

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,  
Elaine



**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

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**From:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**To:** [Jing Yeo](#); [Armine Chaparyan](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Cline](#); [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Questions on 12A and 10A  
**Date:** Monday, May 12, 2025 9:49:07 AM

---

I am free today between 10:30-11 and 5-5:30. I know that sounds crazy but otherwise I have meetings until 8 pm. Would either of those work?

---

**From:** Jing Yeo <[Jing.Yeo@santamonica.gov](mailto:Jing.Yeo@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 12, 2025 9:29:59 AM  
**To:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Armine Chaparyan <[Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov](mailto:Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Susan Cline <[Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov](mailto:Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Questions on 12A and 10A

Hi Caroline – would you be available to chat for about 20 mins today to go over your questions? I think it might be easier to have a phone call but happy to also provide written responses if it's helpful. We will adjust to accommodate your schedule.

Thank you,  
Jing

---

**From:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 12, 2025 8:50 AM  
**To:** Armine Chaparyan <[Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov](mailto:Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Susan Cline <[Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov](mailto:Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov)>; Jing Yeo <[Jing.Yeo@santamonica.gov](mailto:Jing.Yeo@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Questions on 12A and 10A

Thanks.

For the future, on the public hearing items, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Caroline

---

**From:** Armine Chaparyan <[Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov](mailto:Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov)>



[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

Thanks so much,  
Caroline

**From:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**To:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FY 2025-27 Proposed Biennial Budget Book - Posted Online  
**Date:** Monday, May 12, 2025 6:24:28 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

I would like a printed copy please.

---

**From:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 12, 2025 5:28 PM  
**To:** Department Heads, Atty and Clerk <DeptHeadsAttyClerk@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** FY 2025-27 Proposed Biennial Budget Book - Posted Online

Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and City Council,

Please find the online link to the FY 2025-27 Proposed Biennial Budget Book below.

[santamonica.gov](https://www.santamonica.gov) - [Santa Monica Budget](#)

Printed copies will be available to the public later this week at the Main Library and the City Clerk's Office. **If you would like a printed copy for your reference, please let us know.**

As you begin your review of the budget, we would appreciate receiving your questions as soon as possible so that we can get answers back to you by May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Sergio will be sending each of you a Share document tomorrow for your questions.

I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary work of Oscar, Jennifer, and the entire budget team on the production of the budget.

As always, should you have any questions or require further information, do not hesitate to reach out. We look forward to the upcoming budget study session on May 27, 2025.

Best,

Elaine



**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

[santamonica.gov](http://santamonica.gov)

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**From:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**To:** [Elaine Polachek](#); [Susan Cline](#); [Melissa Spagnuolo](#)  
**Subject:** Re: CELEBRATE28 & Hospitality Houses  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025 7:00:28 AM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-2rpxf501.png](#)  
[Outlook-c5ke5doa.png](#)

---

Great! That sounds very promising.

---

**From:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025 6:43:27 AM  
**To:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>; Susan Cline <Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov>; Melissa Spagnuolo <Melissa.Spagnuolo@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: CELEBRATE28 & Hospitality Houses

Good morning Caroline,  
The City is hosting lunch at the Beach House for representatives from six different countries that are considering locating their hospitality pavilions in SM.

I've copied Melissa who is organizing the tour so she has Kara's bio.

Thanks for forwarding.

Elaine

---

**From:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025 6:39 AM  
**To:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>; Susan Cline <Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** Fw: CELEBRATE28 & Hospitality Houses

Do we want to talk to her?

On another note - we are hosting a lunch on Wednesday?

Caroline

---

**From:** ksnesko@megaeventsglobal.com <ksnesko@megaeventsglobal.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025 12:44:22 AM  
**To:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** Fw: CELEBRATE28 & Hospitality Houses

EXTERNAL

Caroline-

Mayor Dan O'Brien connected me earlier today with Mayor Lana Negrete. I inquired below with the tourism promotion team but did not hear back. I also met today with several governments who mentioned to me that Mayor Negrete is hosting a luncheon on Wednesday to present the opportunities that Santa Monica presents as an ideal location for hospitality houses.

I know this is rather short notice, but I would very much appreciate the opportunity to meet with you or another representative from the City as I have extensive experience in the design, build and operations of pavilions and houses.

I have a window of time on Wednesday from 11-12 or then from 1:30-2:30.

Thank you

Kara Snesko

Hello Ms. Kerns-

Aaron Woodin Schwartz (Brand USA) and Adam Burke suggested I connect with you - I've attached my bio, and after seven U.S. Secretaries of State, three Global Entrepreneurship Summits, three World's Fairs (Expos) including the U.S. bid to host Expo 2027, the U.S. Pavilion at Expo 2015 Milan, Expo 2020 Dubai and Expo 2025 Osaka, I'm on a new journey - taking all of my networks and skillsets to help foreign governments and partners activate in the U.S. at World Cup 2026, LA Olympics 2028 and other major events.

With significant opportunities for physical activations in the city of Santa Monica for public/media engagement, b2b and b2g, I'm connecting with foreign Embassies in Washington alongside National Olympics Committees and National Football Federations. My aim is to support their efforts to design/build and operate immersive and engaging temporary physical spaces (Houses) that promote their national culture and sport as well as promote trade and commerce.

**I will be in LA May 12-14 and would very much appreciate the opportunity for a brief hello, if you are amenable.**



*Kara Snesko*

Founder & Principal

 +1.202.651.1597

 [ksnesko@megaeventsglobal.com](mailto:ksnesko@megaeventsglobal.com)



**From:** [Sandra Santiago](#) on behalf of [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**To:** [Susan Cline](#); [Christopher J. Smith](#); [Caroline Torosis](#); [ctorosis@gmail.com](mailto:ctorosis@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** [Council Mailbox](#); [CMO Conference](#)  
**Subject:** CMO / Mayor Pro Tem Caroline Torosis biweekly meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025 5:10:04 PM  
**Attachments:** [attachment.ics](#)

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## Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

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Passcode: [REDACTED]

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[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: [REDACTED]

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

---

**From:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Caroline Torosis](#); [Jesse Zwick](#); [Armine Chaparyan](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Entertainment zone  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 14, 2025 10:18:44 AM

---

I thought you voted on option 3 which was to start with Friday-Sunday 6-2am to match police coverage then scale up. Copying Armine to check.

---

**From:** Jesse Zwick <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 14, 2025 9:55 AM  
**To:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Cc:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>; Jesse Zwick <Jesse.Zwick@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** Entertainment zone

EXTERNAL

I'm hearing no weekend daytime hours to start??

That is not what I remember seeing in staff report or agreeing to on the dais.

The weekend daytime hours are key to enjoyment and success. Summer is coming and everything closes at 10 pm.

**From:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**To:** [Joi Richardson](#); [Kennisha Williams](#)  
**Cc:** [Elaine Polachek](#); [Josh Kurpies](#); [Ryan Smith](#); [Destiny Freeman](#); [Laurie Craft](#); [Nikki Gilbert](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith  
**Date:** Friday, May 16, 2025 5:21:36 PM  
**Attachments:** [image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)

---

I'm happy to try to go on Friday, June 13th.

---

**From:** Joi Richardson <jrichardson@stjosephctr.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 16, 2025 3:43:42 PM  
**To:** Kennisha Williams <Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov>  
**Cc:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>; Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>; Josh Kurpies <Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov>; Ryan Smith <rsmith@stjosephctr.org>; Destiny Freeman <dfreeman@stjosephctr.org>; Laurie Craft <lcraft@stjosephctr.org>; Nikki Gilbert <NGilbert@stjosephctr.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

EXTERNAL

Good afternoon Kennisha,

I hope you're doing well. Below are the available time slots for the council to visit our site. Please let me know which members are available on each of these dates.

- Thursday, June 12 – 10:00 AM
- Friday, June 13 – 10:00 AM
- Thursday, July 17 – 11:00 AM
- Thursday, July 24 – 11:00 AM

Thank you for your help in coordinating these visits—I really appreciate your support.  
Best regards,



**JOI RICHARDSON**

VP of External Affairs & Communication

[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org) | p: (310) 396-6468

204 Hampton Drive, Venice, CA 90291 | [www.stjosephctr.org](http://www.stjosephctr.org)



---

**From:** Kennisha Williams <[Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov](mailto:Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 8, 2025 1:20 PM  
**To:** Joi Richardson <[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org)>; Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>; Nikki Gilbert <[NGilbert@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NGilbert@stjosephctr.org)>; Destiny Freeman <[dfreeman@stjosephctr.org](mailto:dfreeman@stjosephctr.org)>; Laurie Craft <[lcraft@stjosephctr.org](mailto:lcraft@stjosephctr.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

Hi Joi,

Now that I have an idea of who's interested, it would be best if you can start sending over some available time slots. I will pass them along to the councilmembers and plug them in as soon as I get responses from them.

Thank you for your assistance.

-Kennisha

---

**From:** Joi Richardson <[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 8, 2025 11:19 AM  
**To:** Kennisha Williams <[Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov](mailto:Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov)>; Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>; Nikki Gilbert <[NGilbert@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NGilbert@stjosephctr.org)>; Destiny Freeman <[dfreeman@stjosephctr.org](mailto:dfreeman@stjosephctr.org)>; Laurie Craft <[lcraft@stjosephctr.org](mailto:lcraft@stjosephctr.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

EXTERNAL

Good morning Kennisha,

Just gently bringing this to the top of your inbox. Please let me know how I can help facilitate scheduling this visit soon. Thank you!

**JOI RICHARDSON**

VP of External Affairs & Communication

[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org) | p: (310) 396-6468

204 Hampton Drive, Venice, CA 90291 | [www.stjosephctr.org](http://www.stjosephctr.org)





---

**From:** Joi Richardson

**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 12:38 PM

**To:** Kennisha Williams <[Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov](mailto:Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov)>; Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>

**Cc:** Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>; Nikki Gilbert <[NGilbert@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NGilbert@stjosephctr.org)>; Destiny Freeman <[dfreeman@stjosephctr.org](mailto:dfreeman@stjosephctr.org)>; Laurie Craft <[lcraft@stjosephctr.org](mailto:lcraft@stjosephctr.org)>

**Subject:** RE: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

Good afternoon,

I hope you had a great weekend. I'd like to move forward with scheduling the visit for the city council members who expressed interest. I'm happy to assist in any way to help move this request along.

Please let me know how I can best support getting this on the calendar. I'm also available for a quick call or Zoom if that would be helpful.

Best regards,



**JOI RICHARDSON**

VP of External Affairs & Communication

[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org) | p: (310) 396-6468

204 Hampton Drive, Venice, CA 90291 | [www.stjosephctr.org](http://www.stjosephctr.org)



---

**From:** Joi Richardson <[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org)>

**Sent:** Friday, May 2, 2025 6:18 AM

**To:** Kennisha Williams <[Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov](mailto:Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov)>; Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>

**Cc:** Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>; Nikki Gilbert <[NGilbert@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NGilbert@stjosephctr.org)>; Destiny Freeman <[dfreeman@stjosephctr.org](mailto:dfreeman@stjosephctr.org)>; Laurie Craft <[lcraft@stjosephctr.org](mailto:lcraft@stjosephctr.org)>

**Subject:** Re: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

Good morning Kennisha,

I hope this message finds you well. Thank you for following up—I truly appreciate your efforts in coordinating the tour.

I have a quick question: how many council members can attend together while remaining in compliance with the Brown Act? If needed, would it make sense to move forward with those who have already expressed interest and schedule a second visit for the remaining members?

Once again, thank you for your support in organizing this. We're absolutely fine with doing two tours if that's what's needed.

Best regards,

Joi

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---

**From:** Kennisha Williams <[Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov](mailto:Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 1, 2025 5:00:54 PM

**To:** Joi Richardson <[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org)>; Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>

**Cc:** Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>; Nikki Gilbert <[NGilbert@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NGilbert@stjosephctr.org)>; Destiny Freeman <[dfreeman@stjosephctr.org](mailto:dfreeman@stjosephctr.org)>; Laurie Craft <[lcraft@stjosephctr.org](mailto:lcraft@stjosephctr.org)>

**Subject:** RE: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

Hi Joi,

To date, I have confirmed that three councilmembers are interested in a tour. I sent a follow-up email to the others (in case the first one got buried deep in their inboxes) and will let you know if any others are interested.

Stay tuned!

-Kennisha

---

**From:** Joi Richardson <[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org)>

**Sent:** Friday, April 25, 2025 5:24 PM

**To:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Kennisha Williams <[Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov](mailto:Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>

**Cc:** Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>; Nikki Gilbert <[NGilbert@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NGilbert@stjosephctr.org)>; Destiny Freeman <[dfreeman@stjosephctr.org](mailto:dfreeman@stjosephctr.org)>; Laurie Craft <[lcraft@stjosephctr.org](mailto:lcraft@stjosephctr.org)>

**Subject:** RE: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

EXTERNAL

Good afternoon,

I hope you've all had a great week! I wanted to follow up on the invitation for the Santa Monica City Council to visit St. Joseph Center.

Councilmember Torosis, I appreciate your past visits during evening events; however, I wanted to note that our programs typically conclude by well before 5:00 p.m. It would be wonderful for you and your fellow councilmembers to see our daytime programs in action — from addressing food insecurity to providing workforce development and other vital services that support our most vulnerable neighbors.

We'd love to find a time that works for everyone and are happy to coordinate around your schedules as best we can. Please let me know how we can assist in setting up a visit.

Warm regards,



**JOI RICHARDSON**

VP of External Affairs & Communication

[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org) | p: (310) 396-6468

204 Hampton Drive, Venice, CA 90291 | [www.stjosephctr.org](http://www.stjosephctr.org)



---

**From:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>

**Sent:** Saturday, April 12, 2025 10:58 AM

**To:** Joi Richardson <[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org)>; Kennisha Williams <[Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov](mailto:Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>

**Cc:** Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>; Nikki Gilbert <[NGilbert@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NGilbert@stjosephctr.org)>; Destiny Freeman <[dfreeman@stjosephctr.org](mailto:dfreeman@stjosephctr.org)>; Laurie Craft <[lcraft@stjosephctr.org](mailto:lcraft@stjosephctr.org)>

**Subject:** Re: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

Hi All,

I'm definitely interested in attending and I feel confident I can rally a couple of my colleagues to come with me.

For my schedule it's always better after 5 pm - I am not sure if that's doable for SJC.

Caroline

---

**From:** Joi Richardson <[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org)>

**Sent:** Saturday, April 12, 2025 10:44 AM

**To:** Kennisha Williams <[Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov](mailto:Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>

**Cc:** Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>; Nikki Gilbert <[NGilbert@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NGilbert@stjosephctr.org)>; Destiny Freeman <[dfreeman@stjosephctr.org](mailto:dfreeman@stjosephctr.org)>; Laurie Craft <[lcraft@stjosephctr.org](mailto:lcraft@stjosephctr.org)>

**Subject:** RE: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

EXTERNAL

Good morning Kennisha,

Hope your weekend is going well. I am happy to continue to work together to schedule visits.

Below is an invitation with additional details that may be helpful to share with the council.

On behalf of St. Joseph Center, we would be honored to invite Santa Monica Mayor, City Councilmembers and their staff to visit St. Joseph Center. We would greatly appreciate the opportunity to share more about our programs and the work we're doing to address the homelessness crisis in our community.

The visit would take approximately one hour and would begin with light refreshments and a meet-and-greet with your team, our staff, and our President & CEO, Dr. Ryan Smith. During the visit, Dr. Smith will provide an overview of St. Joseph Center's mission, services, and impact.

The visit will include a tour of:

- Our food pantry (the largest on the west side)
- Red and Roses Culinary Training Kitchen
- On-site workforce development program
- Bread & Roses Café, where we provide free, gourmet meals daily to an average of 150 clients—served with dignity and care

We believe this visit will offer valuable insight into how our organization is supporting vulnerable populations across Los Angeles County.

If you have additional questions, I am available for a call or a zoom. You can learn more about us at <https://stjosephctr.org/>.

We look forward to the opportunity to welcome Santa Monica elected officials to St Joseph Center.

Warm regards,

**JOI RICHARDSON**

VP of External Affairs & Communication

[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org) | p: (310) 396-6468

204 Hampton Drive, Venice, CA 90291 | [www.stjosephctr.org](http://www.stjosephctr.org)



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**From:** Kennisha Williams <[Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov](mailto:Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 11, 2025 10:23 AM  
**To:** Joi Richardson <[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>; Nikki Gilbert <[NGilbert@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NGilbert@stjosephctr.org)>; Destiny Freeman <[dfreeman@stjosephctr.org](mailto:dfreeman@stjosephctr.org)>; Laurie Craft <[lcraft@stjosephctr.org](mailto:lcraft@stjosephctr.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

Good morning,

Very nice to meet you all. Thank you for reaching out and for extending the invitation to tour St. Joseph Center. I would be happy to share this with the Councilmembers to gauge their interest.

Would you mind sending over a few additional details about what the tour would entail—such as the estimated duration, key highlights or any specific topics that would be covered? If possible, it would also be helpful to have a brief invitation or overview that I can forward directly to the Councilmembers. Once I know who might be interested in attending, we can work together to coordinate potential dates.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Best regards,  
Kennisha



**Kennisha Williams**

Administrative Staff Assistant  
City Council's Office

[santamonica.gov](http://santamonica.gov)

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

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**From:** Joi Richardson <[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 8, 2025 9:08 AM

**To:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>; Kennisha Williams <[Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov](mailto:Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov)>

**Cc:** Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>; Nikki Gilbert <[NGilbert@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NGilbert@stjosephctr.org)>; Destiny Freeman <[dfreeman@stjosephctr.org](mailto:dfreeman@stjosephctr.org)>; Laurie Craft <[lcraft@stjosephctr.org](mailto:lcraft@stjosephctr.org)>

**Subject:** RE: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

EXTERNAL

Good morning,

Thank you for looping me in, Dr. Smith. It's a pleasure to e-meet you, Elaine and Josh. I'm excited to assist with coordinating the visits to St. Joseph Center and will be happy to help with scheduling.

Please feel free to send over the dates that work for the Councilmembers, and I'll do my best to accommodate. Additionally, if it would be helpful, I'm available for a call or virtual meeting to work through the details—whatever is most convenient for your team.

Best regards,



**JOI RICHARDSON**

VP of External Affairs & Communication

[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org) | p: (310) 396-6468

204 Hampton Drive, Venice, CA 90291 | [www.stjosephctr.org](http://www.stjosephctr.org)



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**From:** Ryan Smith

**Sent:** Saturday, April 5, 2025 9:39 AM

**To:**

**Cc:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>; Kennisha Williams <[Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov](mailto:Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov)>; Laurie Craft <[lcraft@stjosephctr.org](mailto:lcraft@stjosephctr.org)>; Joi Richardson <[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org)>; Nikki Gilbert <[NGilbert@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NGilbert@stjosephctr.org)>; Natalie Hernandez <[NHernandez@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NHernandez@stjosephctr.org)>

**Subject:** Re: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

Dear Elaine and Josh,

Thank you, Councilmember Torosis, for the introduction. Elaine, it's nice to meet you. I appreciate you being open to coordinating tours for the Councilmembers, and I look forward to welcoming you all to St. Joseph Center.

Please feel free to reach out whenever it's convenient to identify dates that work well for everyone. I'm excited to share more about our work and explore opportunities to further support the community. I'm copying Joi Richardson who can help us schedule time as well.

Looking forward to connecting and making this visit happen.

Have a great weekend!

Onward,

RJS

**Dr. Ryan J. Smith**

**President and CEO**

St. Joseph Center | Hope Through Empowerment

[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org) | he/him/his

204 Hampton Drive, Venice, CA 90291 | [www.stjosephctr.org](http://www.stjosephctr.org)

On Apr 4, 2025, at 6:20 PM, Elaine Polachek

<[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)> wrote:

Thank you for the introduction, Councilmember Torosis. Nice to meet you, Ryan. We will work with you to identify times for groups of Councilmembers to tour the facility. Josh and Kennisha will be in touch.

Have a nice weekend!

Elaine

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**From:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, April 4, 2025 4:44 PM

**To:** Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>

**Subject:** Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

Hi Josh and Elaine,

I wanted to introduce you to my friend, Ryan Smith, who is the President and CEO of St. Joseph Center. They have been doing a lot of great work over the last year and I believe he wanted to be in touch with you all about inviting the Councilmembers for a visit and tour.

I hope you all are able to connect so we can make this happen.

Thanks!  
Caroline

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From: Elaine Polachek  
 To: Elaine Polachek  
 Subject: City Council Updates: Week of May 12  
 Date: Friday, May 16, 2025 9:21:27 AM  
 Attachments: image001.png  
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 KTB Presentation for SB 515 25 151.pdf  
 107 Advisory Committee Status report.pdf

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**

**Legislative Affairs**

- Governor Newsom released his May Revision to the 2025-26 state budget. The Governor is proposing \$5 billion in cuts in 2025-26. This will grow to \$14.8 billion by 2028-29. There is also \$5.3 billion in revenue borrowing from various special funds as well as \$1.7 billion in fund shifts including \$1.5 billion from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for Cal FIRE Operations.
- Items of interest to the City:
  - Cap and Invest: The Governor proposed an extension of the Cap and Trade program which he is now calling "Cap and Invest". The Administration intends to work with the Legislature to design an expenditure plan with a minimum of \$1 billion annually for the High-Speed rail project.
  - California Housing and Homelessness Agency: The Administration proposes to establish a new California Housing and Homelessness Agency. The May Revision includes \$4.2 million in 2025-26, \$6.4 million in 2026-27, and \$6.2 million in 2027-28 to support the reorganization of the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency, which includes resources for CHHA and the creation of the Housing Development and Finance Committee. The intent of this reorg is to streamline state operations, making more efficient use of limited state resources and reducing costs to develop housing.
    - The agency will include the following entities:
      - Department of Housing and Community Development
      - California Interagency Council on Homelessness
      - California Housing Finance Agency
      - Civil Rights Department
      - Housing Development and Finance Committee
  - Climate-Aligned Housing and Economic Development: The Administration is supporting a proposal that streamlines climate-friendly housing. The Governor also announced his support for SB 607 (Wiener) and AB 609 (Wicks)

**Update on State Legislation**

Bill	Description	Update
AB 1079 (Avila Farias)	Relates to our pending CVRA case – author has agreed to take language approved by CAO and outside Council. City remains opposed until amendments are in print.	No Update.
SB 832/SB 577 (Laird/ Allen)	Relates to Uller cases – At Laird Office's request, city provided amendment language to mirror carveout given to McClaren abuse claims, setting a Jan 1, 2026 date as final date to file cases stemming from Uller abuse cases.	Sen. Laird's Office has been in communication with City's lobbyist but no decisions on amendments have been made yet.
AB 1070 (Avila Farias)	Related to invoices for work performed by City Attorney or contract attorney's requiring that unredacted invoices be provided to each governor board or councilmember. This is a 2-year bill so we will address it in January.	No update.

See all bills we are watching or have taken positions at [Santa Monica's Legislative Bill Matrix](#)

The next important date on the legislative calendar is May 23<sup>rd</sup> which is the date we will learn which bills currently held in Senate and Assembly Suspend files will progress.

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)**

- EIO Training: The DEI team has partnered with the California Conference for Equality and Justice to provide a five-session training series for the 2025 cohort of equity and inclusion officers (EIOs) who serve on the Racial Equity Committee. The aim of the training is to help EIOs build internal knowledge and skills related to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). During the training, EIOs explore core concepts and working definitions across a range of topics and practice strategies for promoting DEI in their respective roles as well as across the organizational culture as a whole. The theme for the first training, held in February, was "Who We Are: Identity & Intersectionality." The theme for the second training, which will be held on Monday, May 19, is "What We Believe: Implicit & Explicit Bias."
- Nearly 700 Individuals Detained, Deported, or Disappeared By U.S. Immigration Enforcement: [The Immigration Hub](#), founded in 2017 by former congressional staff, executive officials, and advocates, supports efforts to counter anti-immigrant sentiment and promote data-driven strategies for promoting DEI in their respective roles as well as across the organizational culture as a whole. During the call, they shared [Disappearedinamerica.com](#), a new website featuring the stories of nearly 700 individuals detained, deported, or disappeared—many without due process. Created with [Together & Free](#) and the [National Immigration Project](#).
- City Staff Know Your Rights Event reflects surge in staff interest in protecting themselves, their colleagues and our residents. 242 city staff attended a Know Your Rights presentation provided by the Loyola Immigrant Justice Center and coordinated by the City's Immigration Task Force, with members from the City Manager's Office, Housing and Human Services, the Library, and the Police Department. Staff received valuable training on: what valid search and arrest warrants look like, what ruses are permissible (for example, ICE agents are allowed to pretend to return a lost item) and which are not (for example, ICE agents are not allowed to pretend to be from a private company), the importance of recording encounters, and more. The presentation will be posted on the City's internal website and is **attached** here. Additional trainings are being planned

**Community Partnerships**

On Wednesday, the Community Partnerships team, in collaboration with RAD, CDD, and Santa Monica Travel & Tourism, proudly hosted delegates from the National Olympic Committees and Consulates of Australia, Germany, Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, and Switzerland for an exclusive, immersive experience in Santa Monica.

The day began with a warm welcome and lunch at the Annenberg Community Beach House, followed by a curated Big Blue Bus tour showcasing Santa Monica's premier event venues and distinctive amenities. From breathtaking oceanfront locations to hidden cultural gems, the tour highlighted the innovation, hospitality, and vibrancy that make Santa Monica a world-class destination.

Our guests are actively exploring Santa Monica as a potential host city for their hospitality houses and other activations during the 2028 Olympic Games, and possibly the FIFA World Cup. Delegates expressed how much they enjoyed the opportunity to engage with international peers, city staff, local partners, and elected officials.

Special thanks to Mayor Negrete, Mayor Pro Tem Torosis, and Councilmember Zernitskaya for joining us at lunch. Their presence made a lasting impression and reinforced that Santa Monica welcomes and values this global business.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make the day a success:

- The incredible staff at the **Annenberg Community Beach House**: Nan Friedman, Makala Lee, Adam Schanke, and Heath Hamilton, who provided exceptional hospitality and support.
- **DOT/Big Blue Bus**: Bijan Javanshir, Steve Velazquez, and Motor Coach Operator Michelle Crawford-Archie who spent the afternoon driving our enthusiastic group around town.
- **RAD**: Jenny Rogers, Sofia Klatzker, Aaron Orozco, and Michelle Kramer
- **CDD**: Armine Chaparyan and Jennifer Taylor
- **Public Works/Park and Beach Maintenance**, with special thanks to Matthew Wells
- **CMO**: Susan Cline, Alyssa Gonzalez, Lauren Howland, Hannah Monroy Matus, and Melissa Spagnuolo, with special acknowledgement of Lizzy Acosta who was responsible for planning the entire event and making it so special.
- **Our amazing community partners**: Santa Monica Travel & Tourism, Downtown Santa Monica, Santa Monica Pier Corporation, Pacific Park, Regent Santa Monica, and Barker Hangar. Their support made this experience unforgettable!

We're excited about the opportunities ahead and grateful to everyone who helped shine a light on all that Santa Monica has to offer!



Tour Attendees visiting Barker Hangar



Mayor Negrete with Australian Consul-General Tanya Bennett

**Communications**

The communications team facilitated an [FAQ, press release](#) and media requests around the council's approval of the Entertainment Zone. See a few examples of the coverage below:

- Time Out Los Angeles - [You'll soon be able to stroll 3rd Street Promenade this summer with a cocktail in your hand](#)
- L.A. Business First - [Santa Monica City Council approves public alcohol ordinance](#)
- NBC - [Santa Monica approves public drinking at the Promenade](#)
- Santa Monica Daily Press - [Council adopts "soft launch" for Promenade entertainment zone with reduced hours of 6 p.m. – 2 a.m.](#)

**Save the date!** The 2025 State of the City is set for Thursday, July 17 from 4-7 p.m. at Reed Park and the newly reopening Miles Memorial Playhouse. **State of the City: A Celebration of Resilience and Growth** will be a new take on the annual event, beginning with an opening reception inside the Miles Playhouse, followed by a free community concert and picnic in the park with city and partner booths offering activities for all ages. This event will also serve as the kickoff for the community's 150th anniversary celebration. More information, official flyer and Eventbrite link to come soon!

The communications team continues to push new and exciting content on our social media channels to promote the fun, excitement, cultural offerings and beauty in our city. The work is paying off! We've been seeing a huge increase in reach and engagement, and even got a complement in the comments:



And, finally, we soft launched a new city account on Bluesky ([follow us!](#)).

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

The **Planning Commission** met on May 7. The meeting included:

- Study sessions on:
  - Santa Monica Boulevard Safety Study Preliminary Analysis and Recommendations with Department of Transportation staff
  - Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update with Public Works staff
  - Santa Monica Airport Conversion Project Update with Public Works Staff
- Approval of a variance and waiver requested associated with the property at 1923 La Mesa Drive to allow a two-story, 375 square-foot addition to the rear of an existing single-unit dwelling in the Single-Unit Residential (R1) zoning district. The proposed Variance request is to allow the addition to exceed the 28-foot building height limit as measured from Segmented Average Natural Grade (SANG), and the Waiver request is to waive the minimum upper-story setback requirement for the addition.

The **Landmarks Commission** met on Monday, May 12. The agenda included:

- Approval of a Landmark and Structure of Merit Designation Application for 137 Hart Avenue. The property and parcel were designated a City Landmark.

Economic Development staff represented the City at the **LAEDC's 10th Anniversary Select LA Investment Summit** to showcase the City's economic strengths and investment opportunities. Potential investors and partners from Asia and Europe convened for this one day, sold out event on May 8. City staff made connections with over 50 entities and individuals interested in learning more about Santa Monica. Staff have several follow-up meetings with foreign consulates including Australia, Netherlands, UK and more countries to discuss opportunities to host hospitality hubs in Santa Monica for 2-3 years terms in anticipation of forthcoming major events such as World Cup and Olympics.



The **Film Independent Spirit Awards** announced that next year it will be moving its annual awards ceremony from beach lot 1N (adjacent to the Pier) to an indoor venue in Hollywood, due to the upcoming Pier Bridge Reconstruction project. Replacement of the bridge is expected to commence at the end of this year and will utilize a large portion of Beach Lot 1-N as a staging area for approximately 18 to 24 months, making this lot unavailable to the Spirit Awards for their 2026 and possibly 2027 ceremonies. Spirit Awards considered relocating to the nearby beach lot 4S, however the lack of existing electrical infrastructure needed to power their event resulted in the selection of another venue. The event's producer shared that they very much want to return to Santa Monica when 1N can accommodate their event again.

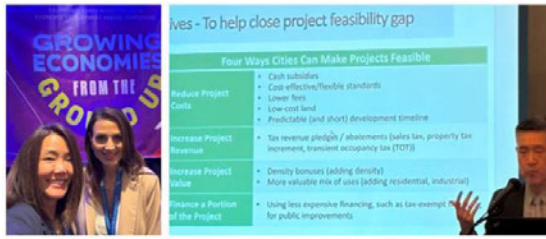
Business district events in the week ahead:

- The last **Pier Locals Night** before summer is scheduled for Thursday, May 20. More information [here](#).
- The **Asian American + Pacific Islander Heritage Month on the Third Street Promenade** will be held on the Promenade between Arizona Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard from 10am to 5pm on Saturday, May 17, including a full slate of [activities](#).

Community Development staff provide customer service in person in the Permit Services Center. This calendar year they have had 1281 visits through the end of April.

2025 Counter Visits by Month						
Project Type	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total	Trend
Building Code review	78	74	77	103	332	
Building Permit Services	214	240	225	270	949	
Planning	128	134	95	118	475	
<b>Total</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>1281</b>	

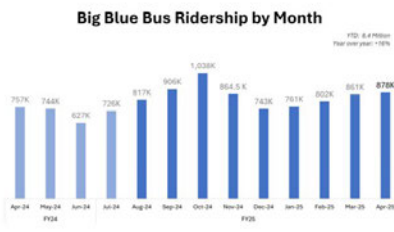
Community Development staff attended the **CALED Annual Conference** on May 8th in Ontario, California with this year's theme "Growing Economies from the Ground Up". The conference focused on gap financing to support public-private partnerships, strategic master planning to provide developers with turn-key project entitlement, creating public infrastructure that drew in these development cluster, and workforce development to grow the local talent pool and further support development cluster. The California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED) was established 45 years ago compiled of economic development professionals and city management across the state.



**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT)**

**Big Blue Bus and MODE Ridership Updates:** Big Blue Bus carried 878,000 riders in April 2025, and fiscal year to date has carried 8.4 million riders. **Ridership is up 16 percent** compared to last year and on track for 10 million riders by the end of the fiscal year.

MODE, the City's on-demand service for older adults and people with disabilities, provided more than 4,000 rides in April 2025, the highest monthly number since the COVID-19 pandemic. Ridership is on track for about 40,000 riders by the end of the fiscal year, about the same as last year.



**BBB Launches First of 15 New Battery Electric Buses Toward Zero-Emission Future:** This week, Big Blue Bus unveiled the first of 15 new Battery Electric Buses (BEB) arriving over the coming months. When they all arrive and are in service, BBB will have 34 electric buses in service, or more than 1/6 of its fleet—all manufactured by our partner, California-based Gillig. To celebrate this major milestone toward a cleaner, greener future, DOT staff gathered to view and send off the new BEB with distinctive, eye-catching branding that proudly identifies it as part of Big Blue Bus's growing zero-emissions fleet. The electrification of Big Blue Bus's fleet demonstrates our continued progress toward becoming 100% zero-emission by 2030. This is not only a step forward in sustainable transit, but a symbol of progress and pride for all of Santa Monica.



**Pali South Students Drive Surge in Transit Ridership:** The "Pali South" campus of Palisades Charter High School continues to buzz with positive activity in our Downtown. Recently, LA Metro shared that Pali students have contributed to a significant jump in transit ridership. The data below compares the first week of Pali South's operation to the same time last year for Pali students using the popular Go Pass program, which provides free transit passes to students at participating schools. Pali students are taking 50% more transit trips than they did at their regular campus. This data underscores the importance of the City's legacy of linking land use and transportation planning; it is smart urban policy to place destinations near high quality transit options.

	4/23/24 to 4/30/24	4/23/25 to 4/30/25	% Change
New Go Pass Registrations	8	193	2,313%
Transit Boardings	3,514	5,236	49%

**Bike Anywhere Day Pit Stops:** The Mobility Division, in conjunction with the GoSaMo Transportation Management Organization and local businesses, hosted a variety of "pit stops" and business promotions across the City for Bike Anywhere Day on May 15. Our City Hall pit stop was a citywide effort, with representatives from BBB, Police Department, Fire Department, Mobility Division, and GoSaMo. Around 80 members of the public and staff stopped by the pit stop for snacks and information on local transportation options and a variety of City programs and resources.



**FINANCE**

**Overview on Measure CS:** Measure CS was approved by Santa Monica voters at the November 8, 2022, General Election. The ballot measure increased the City's transient occupancy tax (TOT) from 14% to 15% for hotels/motels and to 17% for home shares. The new rates took effect on March 1, 2023. The ballot measure identified community priorities that included expansion of services in the areas of homelessness and public safety. It was estimated that Measure CS would generate approximately \$4.1 million in annual revenue.

To provide an additional level of accountability and oversight on the use of the revenues generated by Measure CS, Council created the TOT Advisory Committee, that would make non-binding recommendations on the use of the TOT revenues generated by Measure CS.

**Structure of the TOT Advisory Committee and responsibilities:** The TOT Advisory Committee consists of five-members, appointed by Council through a public process, that includes Santa Monica residents and representatives from local businesses, including the hospitality industry and the homeless behavioral health services community. Santa Monica Travel and Tourism is authorized to provide the City Council with two non-binding recommendations for the two members or representatives from the local hospitality business for the City Council's consideration.

The Committee is made up of the following:

- Two members who are Santa Monica residents.
- Two representatives or members from local hospitality businesses
- One member representing the homeless behavioral health services community

The Committee members have two-year terms and meet at least once a year between February and May.

**May 7, 2025 Meeting:** The Committee meeting, originally scheduled for May 7, 2025, was cancelled due to a lack of quorum following a last-minute resignation, leaving a total of three vacancies. Before the cancellation, all three remaining committee members received a status report detailing the progress of initiatives funded by Measure CS revenues. **Attached** is a copy of the May 2025 progress report for reference.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**Operations**

Structure Fire – 2000 Marguerita Ave – May 10: At approximately 17:02 hours on May 10th, Santa Monica Fire Department resources responded to a reported structure fire in a detached residential garage

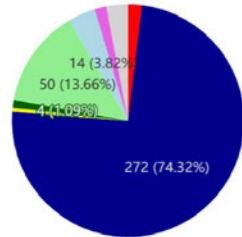
located at 2000 Marguerita Avenue. Engine 3 arrived first on scene and reported heavy fire showing from a double-wide detached garage. An aggressive fire attack was initiated by Engine 3 with support from Engine 4, Engine 5, and Engine 6. Truck 1 conducted a 360-degree assessment ("hot lap") and evaluated the need for ventilation.

The fire was successfully confined to the garage, preventing spread to the primary residence. One golf cart located inside the garage was a total loss, and one vehicle parked adjacent to the structure sustained heat damage.

There were no reported injuries to civilians or fire personnel. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation.



### Total (366)



- 1 - Fire
- 3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident
- 4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)
- 5 - Service Call
- 6 - Good Intent Call
- 7 - False Alarm & False Call
- 9 - Special Incident Type
- None / In Progress

During the reporting period, the Santa Monica Fire Department responded to a total of **366 incidents**. The breakdown is as follows:

- **Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incidents:** 272 calls (74.32%)  
The majority of our responses this week continued to be EMS-related, reflecting ongoing high demand for emergency medical services.
- **Good Intent Calls:** 50 calls (13.66%)  
These calls involved situations where no emergency was ultimately found but were made in good faith.
- **False Alarm & False Calls:** 14 calls (3.82%)  
These include system malfunctions or unintentional activations.
- **Fire Incidents:** 7 calls (1.91%)  
Fire-related responses made up a small portion of overall activity.
- **Service Calls:** 4 calls (1.09%)  
This includes calls such as public assistance and non-emergency service requests.
- **Hazardous Condition (No Fire):** 4 calls (1.09%)  
These involved potentially dangerous conditions not involving active fire (e.g., gas leaks, electrical hazards).
- **Special Incident Types:** 3 calls (0.82%)  
Calls categorized outside the standard classifications, such as standbys or special assignments.
- **None / In Progress:** Data for a small number of incidents were not yet finalized at the time of reporting.

Our crews continue to demonstrate professionalism and readiness across a diverse range of incident types. The high percentage of EMS responses underscores the vital role our personnel play in delivering frontline medical care.

**EMS Division:** On Sunday, Engine 5 responded to a male in his 40's who experienced a sudden cardiac arrest at John Adams Middle School. Prior to our arrival, bystanders initiated CPR and retrieved a near by automated external defibrillator (AED) and revived him as Engine 5 arrived. The man was awake and talking as our paramedics continued to treat and transport him to local hospital.

Total Patients	261
ALS Transports	62
BLS Transports	128
Active WISE Cases	4

#### Homeless:

Homeless Statistics	05/08/25 - 05/14/25
SMFD Total Calls	379
SMFD Homeless Related Calls	63
SMFD Fires related to homelessness	1

West Coast Care Data	05/08/25 - 05/14/25
Total number of referrals	21
Service Connection Types	
Multi Services	2
Pacific Sunset Shelter	
Salvation Army ARC	
SHARE Collaborative Housing	1
Safe Place for Youth (SPY)	1
Veterans Affairs	
People Concern	6
St Joseph Center	
Step Up On Second	1
Venice Family Clinic	
Housed	1
Mailbu Labor Exchange	
Salvation Army	7
General Relief	
Chrysalis	2
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	
SMFD Assist	

Interim Housing	
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**Prevention:**

Prevention Activities	Completed
Annual Fire Inspections	124
Alarm/Sprinkler Plan Check & Inspections	25
New Construction Plan Reviews/Meetings	17
Special Event Plan Reviews/Meetings	3

On Saturday, May 10 we hosted a free community event at Fire Station 1 to celebrate Fire Service Day.



**HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES**

**Our Girls Rock:** This past Saturday at Virginia Avenue Park, 25 girls in grades 5 through 12 participated in a fun and empowering Our Girls Rock event, held in collaboration with the Black Santa Monica Community parent group. The program focuses on equipping girls with the skills to build self-love, purpose, and a commitment to success. The day included inspiring activities that encouraged self-expression, confidence, and connection. Participants made their own shea butter hand creams, took part in thoughtful journaling sessions, and engaged in team-building games that celebrated friendship and individuality. The energy was high, the smiles were plenty, and the spirit of sisterhood was strong throughout the day.

**Homelessness Prevention & Intervention (HPI) Team:** On May 7th, the HPI Team coordinated a tour of *Step Up on Fifth*, a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) building operated by longtime local homeless service provider Step Up (SU). The tour brought together a diverse group of partners involved in Santa Monica's homelessness response system, including staff from SU, the Santa Monica Housing Authority (SMHA), the Santa Monica Police Department's Homeless Liaison Program (HLP) Team and The People Concern (TPC). The purpose of the tour was to provide all stakeholders with a first-hand look at one of the PSH sites they collectively refer to as part of our local homelessness intervention efforts. Attendees had the opportunity to walk through the building, observe unit layouts, and hear directly from SU staff about the support services provided to residents across all five of their Santa Monica locations. The visit fostered a rich dialogue about ways to improve and streamline the PSH referral process. Participants shared ideas, raised key questions, and reaffirmed their commitment to working collaboratively toward housing solutions for people experiencing homelessness in Santa Monica. The tour also helped to deepen relationships across agencies and strengthen the partnerships essential to successful housing placements.

Pictured below is SMHA staff on the tour with SU Program Manager Francisco Tellez and Lead Life Skills Coordinator Steve Elam.



**First Community Informational Meeting for Next City-Owned Sites:** The first of two community information sessions was held on May 12 at Kite Pharma, located adjacent to Bergamot, to inform the public about the upcoming release of the Surplus Land Act Notice of Availability, scheduled for June 30, 2025. This Notice will invite proposals from developers for three city-owned sites: Bergamot, 4th/5th/Arizona, and Parking Structure 1. Community members, including representatives from the Pico Neighborhood Association, attended the session. City staff provided an overview of the project timeline, key priorities, and next steps, and then gathered constructive feedback from attendees. The second community information session is scheduled for May 22 at the Main Library.

**LIBRARY**

**Career Online High School:** Funded by the California State Library and the Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library, Career Online High School (COHS) offers adult students the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma and a career certificate. The Library offers a limited number of COHS scholarships each year for this self-paced program.

For many graduates, COHS is a starting point to meet their education and workforce goals. As of March 31, 2025, 4,129 Californians have graduated through a California public library. An additional 250 students are on track to graduate within the next few months. For graduates between January – March 2025, 70 percent are interested in enrolling in college.

The information below shows Santa Monica Public Library's COHS progress between January – March 2025. The second update is SMPL's cumulative data.

January – March 2025 Program Updates

Program Stage	Total
Are You Ready Surveys Taken	6
Part 1 Enrollments	6
Part 2 Enrollments	3
Active COHS Students Near Graduation	0
Total Active Students	5
Remaining COHS Scholarships as of March 2025	1

Cumulative Program Updates

Program Stage	Total
Total Are You Ready Surveys Taken*	62
Total Part 2 Enrollments	47
Total Scholarships Fully Awarded after 30 days	45
Total Alumni	28
Graduation Rate	70%



**Writer-to-Writer Contest Review Panel:** For the first time ever, the Literacy Education for Adults and Families (LEAF) program hosted a review panel for the statewide Writer-to-Writer Contest, an initiative of the California Library Literacy Services. Four LEAF learners came together to read and thoughtfully review the five finalist letters in the Emerging Writer category. Using a rubric provided by the contest organizers, the panel engaged in a meaningful discussion, ultimately ranking the letters based on creativity, clarity, and emotional impact.



**From Ja to Shohei: The Manzanar Baseball Project of Main Library:** To celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, community members gathered at the MLK Jr. Auditorium of the Main Library to explore the role baseball played in Japanese American incarceration camps during WWII. The Manzanar Baseball Project, led by artist Dan Kwong, is revitalizing the historic diamond at Manzanar National Historic Site, where the game symbolized hope and American identity for those unjustly imprisoned. During the event, Kwong presented video, performance art, and a panel discussion with Kerry Yo Nakagawa (*Through a Diamond*) and Professor Susan Kamei (*When Can We Go Back to America?*), highlighting the legacy of Japanese American ballplayers and the enduring power of sport to preserve culture and resilience.



**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Weekly Council Recap**  
 May 4-10, 2025

[Council Update 5-4 to 5-10.pptx](#)

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**Pier Bridge Replacement Project – Now Open for Bidding!** The Engineering and Street Services Division has received State and Federal approval to move forward with the Pier Bridge Replacement Project, which is now officially open for bidding! This vital infrastructure project will replace the 86-year-old Pier Bridge and restore the iconic Historic Santa Monica Pier sign.

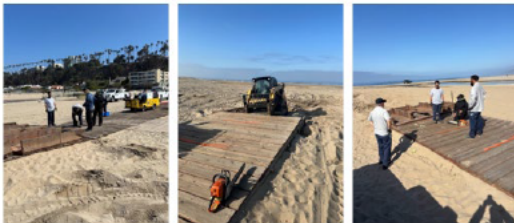
Project Timeline:

- Receive Bids: June/July 2025
- Award Construction Contract Before City Council: August/September 2025
- Begin Construction: September/October 2025
- Anticipated Completion: End of 2027

Throughout construction, the Santa Monica Pier will remain open and fully accessible to the public. To ensure continuous access, a temporary metal pedestrian bridge and vehicle ramp will be installed before the current bridge is removed. A scaled-down replica of the historic Pier sign will also be displayed during the project. The project team has been committed to community engagement, delivering a presentation to the Pier Corporation Board of Directors on March 27, 2025, and holding 27 stakeholder meetings since 2023, including 16 meetings in 2025 alone.



**Montana Walkout Restored: Improving Beach Accessibility:** The Montana Walkout is a key access point along the beach, designed to improve shoreline accessibility—especially for individuals who may have difficulty traversing the sand. This pathway was significantly damaged by flooding from a nearby storm drain during the winter storms earlier this year. In response, Beach Maintenance and Pier Maintenance collaborated to repair the walkout by shortening its wooden section, relocating it outside the flood-prone area. While the structure is temporarily shortened, plans are in place to extend it for the summer using ADA-compliant Access Mats supplied by AccessRec. This extension will help restore the same level of convenience and accessibility the Montana Walkout has long provided to beachgoers.



**Building Performance Standards Update:** Last week, the Office of Sustainability and the Environment (OSE) delivered two presentations regarding the City's proposed Building Performance Standards (BPS) Policy. The Policy is designed to reduce carbon emissions in the City's large existing buildings by requiring greenhouse gas reductions and improvements in energy efficiency over time. The first presentation was a public information meeting held virtually and attended by various BPS stakeholders, including property owners. The second was a presentation to the City's Rent Control Board. The Rent Control Board met BPS with support and offered constructive policy recommendations. OSE also recently published a [webpage](#) and [blogpost](#) further detailing the BPS policy, and staff will be bringing the BPS ordinance to Council for review and adoption in late August 2025.

**CPA Innovation Fund – REACH program:** On May 13, Council formally accepted a \$249,100 grant from the Clean Power Alliance (CPA) through their Innovation Fund program. With this funding, OSE will develop the Renters' Energy and Cooling/Heating (REACH) program, offering efficient electric appliances to income-qualified renters. The goals of this program are to:

1. Address the equity gap between owners and renters in current clean energy programs
2. Increase comfort and resilience for low-income renters in Santa Monica
3. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from gas appliances

Offerings will include portable heat pumps, providing renters with an electric option for both cooling and heating. Additionally, portable batteries will be available, helping to increase resilience and reduce costs by allowing users to charge the batteries during off-peak hours when electricity is cheaper. Staff are also exploring the feasibility of expanding the program to include other appliances, such as electric fans, electric cooking devices, and air purifiers.

**29th Annual Sustainable Quality Awards:** On Wednesday, April 30, OSE, in partnership with Sustainable Works, hosted the 29th Annual Sustainable Quality Awards (SQA) at the Annenberg Community Beach House. The event brought together 83 attendees, including Santa Monica Mayor Lana Negrete, who delivered the opening welcome, and representatives from the offices of Senator Ben Allen, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, Congressman Ted Lieu, and Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur. The celebration highlighted the achievements of local businesses that are leading the way in sustainable practices. The Sustainable Quality Awards honor businesses that go above and beyond in integrating sustainability across three key areas: sustainable economic development, social responsibility, and environmental

stewardship. This year's event was catered by Back on the Beach Café, a past SQA awardee, and featured 310 lager provided by Santa Monica Brew Works, reinforcing the community's commitment to supporting local, sustainable businesses. For nearly three decades, the SQA has played a key role in helping Santa Monica achieve the goals of its Sustainable City Plan, recognizing leaders whose efforts contribute to a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable city, now and for generations to come. This year's Grand Prize for excellence in all three areas—Sustainable Economic Development, Social Responsibility, and Environmental Stewardship—was awarded to [Overdrive Energy Solutions](#). In addition to the Grand Prize, six businesses received SQA Excellence Awards for their excellence in one or more sustainability categories:

Business	Excellence In:
<a href="#">Redcar Properties Ltd.</a>	Sustainable Economic Development and Environmental Stewardship
<a href="#">Angeles Investment Advisors</a>	Sustainable Economic Development
<a href="#">Capital Intelligence Associates</a>	Social Responsibility
<a href="#">Good Body Pilates Studio</a>	Sustainable Economic Development
<a href="#">Heal the Bay Aquarium</a>	Environmental Stewardship
<a href="#">Phoenix Classical Pilates</a>	Environmental Stewardship



**RECREATION AND ARTS**

**C Magazine Photoshoot at the Annenberg Community Beach House:** The cover story for C Magazine Summer 2025 issue was shot on location at the Annenberg Community Beach House, a great promotion for the Beach House and beautiful Santa Monica State Beach!

[Why Adria Arjona is Hollywood's New Obsession | C Magazine®](#)  
 Shot on location at ANNENBERG COMMUNITY BEACH HOUSE on March 24, 2025.



**Beach Walk & Sketch:** On Sunday, May 4, an all-ages group of more than 20 people joined our free, annual Beach Walk & Sketch event led by naturalists with Nature Nexus Institute. Part of our Mental Health Awareness events each May, Beach Walk & Sketch offers an opportunity to relax, restore, and be in community while sketching on our beautiful coastline.



**Take A Moment: Unplugged & Municipal Artist Residencies exhibit opening:** Sunday, May 18, 2025, at 11am-4pm: Take A Moment. Enjoy tea, breathwork, a book giveaway and art activities in an offline space for you to enjoy solitude or company. More [here](#).

4-6pm: Exhibit Opening at Annenberg Community Beach House. Meet the artists and view artwork by local artists who participated in municipal artist residencies during the pandemic-impacted years of 2020-2024. Artists who weren't able to exhibit their work as usual during that time are the focus. More [here](#).

**In Conversation with Gary Tyler at City Hall:** A small but engaged crowd gathered for a special discussion in the City Hall Courtyard with artist Gary Tyler, who spoke movingly about his time in the notorious Angola prison and how art saved his life. Curator Isabelle Lutterodt, on loan from the Skirball Museum and theater educator Sabra Williams of Creative Acts rounded out the conversation with their viewpoints. Shoutout to Councilmember Natalya Zernitskaya for attending!



**Community Aquatics Memorial Day Schedules**



**Swim Center (SMSC)** - In observance of Memorial Day, the Swim Center will operate with modified hours on Monday, May 26, 2025, opening from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. During this time, we will offer lap swim and recreational swim sessions to the public. Please note that, consistent with prior holiday procedures, same-day call-in lap swim reservations will not be accepted to ensure effective management of capacity and staffing. Regular operations will resume on Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

**Annenberg Community Beach House (ACBH) Pool:** The ACBH Pool will be open for the full Memorial Day Weekend, from Saturday, May 24 through Monday, May 26, 2025, operating daily from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM for recreational swim.

**Memorial Park Gym Floor Refurbishment and Memorial Day Schedule:** The Memorial Park Basketball Gym will be closed May 19-26 for its annual floor refurbishment. This routine maintenance ensures the court remains safe, durable, and in optimal condition for year-round use. Other Memorial Park recreation facilities, including the Fitness Room and Cove skatepark will remain be open during the refurbishment however all facilities will be closed on Memorial Day, May 26<sup>th</sup>.



Best,



**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

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**From:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**To:** [Daniel Mick](#); [Armine Chaparyan](#)  
**Cc:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Citation Salon  
**Date:** Friday, May 16, 2025 8:00:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

---

Thanks. It just didn't seem to make sense after the previous email?

---

**From:** Daniel Mick <Daniel.Mick@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 16, 2025 5:35:20 PM  
**To:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>; Armine Chaparyan <Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov>  
**Cc:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Citation Salon

I have sent this to Sia Poursabahian as this is outside the scope of my authority.

Daniel Mick, CCEO, MPA, MUP  
Code Enforcement Manager  
City of Santa Monica  
[daniel.mick@santamonica.gov](mailto:daniel.mick@santamonica.gov)

---

**From:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 16, 2025 4:07:33 PM  
**To:** Daniel Mick <Daniel.Mick@santamonica.gov>; Armine Chaparyan <Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov>  
**Cc:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Citation Salon

Hi All,

Following up on this. When the contractor went to close this out, he was told at the counter that an over the counter permit could not be pulled and all plans needed to be resubmitted for the work and have an architect do the layout. That seems egregious. Is there anything we can do to make this process easier?

Caroline

---

**From:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2025 10:41:31 AM  
**To:** Daniel Mick <Daniel.Mick@santamonica.gov>; Armine Chaparyan <Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov>  
**Cc:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Citation Salon

Thanks Daniel! I am going to let him know and I appreciate the guidance.

Caroline

---

**From:** Daniel Mick <Daniel.Mick@santamonica.gov>

**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2025 10:16 AM

**To:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>; Armine Chaparyan <Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov>

**Cc:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Citation Salon

Here is a basic outline of what has happened with this case:

Apparently, back in 2021, a flood occurred which created significant damage throughout several residential and commercial units in the 1431 Ocean building. Much of the remediation work required permits as the drywall had to be removed and replaced.

- On 11/24/21, in Unit B, the Saulino Smith Salon, work was found to be taking place without any permits or approvals. Quite a bit of drywall had been removed, electrical outlets had been repositioned, and the flooring had been pulled up. Additionally, the contractor did not have the requisite business license. A Stop Work Order was issued, and a citation was issued to the contractor, ATS Construction, for unpermitted construction and working without a business license.
- 12/1/21 - the contractor's business license was applied for as were the permits, but the permits were not yet issued.
- 12/8/21 - a site inspection was conducted, and the Stop Work Order had been removed and the construction had resumed. The owner of the business, Richard Saulino, stated he removed the SWO. We advised him that he cannot remove the SWO or resume construction until the permits are issued. A citation was issued to Richard Saulino/ Saulino Smith Salon for unpermitted construction.
- 4/23/22 - an email was sent to Richard that the permit still had not been issued and that incorrect or incomplete plans were received. He was advised that he needed to work with Building & Safety to make the necessary corrections for the permits to be issued.
- 11/3/22 - the permits were still not issued. Another citation was issued to Richard/Salon for unpermitted construction. Richard's appeal of this citation was denied due to not properly filing the appeal.
- 12/3/24 - the case was revisited, and the permits still had not been obtained. A new notice of violation was issued to Richard/Salon, giving them 2 weeks to get the permits issued.
- 12/12/24 - Code was contacted by the property manager asking for information about this matter.

- 1/16/25 - Code contacted Linda Alvarez, the property manager, and informed her of the outstanding issues and what was needed to bring the matter to a close. A 1-week extension was granted to allow them to resolve the issue.
- 2/11/25 - the permit was still not obtained, and no further contact was received by the business owner or the property owner. A citation was issued.

While it may be true that everything was restored to the original condition, the City does require building permits when drywall is removed and replaced. They removed significantly more drywall than just 4 inches. The work also involved electrical, although the electrical work was likely just reinstalling the existing electrical work that existed before the drywall had to be redone.





Code made the business aware of the need to obtain the requisite permits several times. Richard was aware of the requirement to stop construction until all permits had been obtained very early on, but admitted to removing the stop work order that was posted.

To bring this matter to a close, all Richard needs to do is to make the necessary corrections on the permit application, have the permit issued, then call for a final inspection.

I hope this provides sufficient insight into how this matter has progressed. Please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns.



**Daniel Mick, CCEO, MPA, MUP**  
**Code Enforcement Manager**

City of Santa Monica  
310-458-4984 x5367

[daniel.mick@santamonica.gov](mailto:daniel.mick@santamonica.gov)

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**From:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 23, 2025 5:04 PM  
**To:** Daniel Mick <Daniel.Mick@santamonica.gov>; Armine Chaparyan <Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov>  
**Cc:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** Fw: Citation Salon

Hi Daniel and Armine,

Might you help me be able to give the below constituent some guidance? He owns a salon in Santa Monica (Saulino Smith, 1431 Ocean Ave, Santa Monica, CA 90401), and he is stating that he is being cited by city inspector William Nathan for repairing his drywall after a flood in 2021. I am not sure if this is a code issue (sorry if it's not), but can we get some guidance as to why this drywall issue is being revisited now? You will see a chain of emails below further detailing the situation.

Thanks and any guidance is appreciated.

Best,  
Caroline

---

**From:** Richard Saulino <[hairbyrichard@gmail.com](mailto:hairbyrichard@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 6, 2025 11:19 AM  
**To:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Citation Salon

EXTERNAL

He came by during the flood caused by the building, and while he was there for another apartment, he noticed the salon and asked if he could come in. I agreed. He mentioned that we needed to pull a permit and imposed a fine, but we didn't do anything new. We simply aired out the drywall due to an emergency and removed the styling stations to access it, then put them back in the same spot. We had already paid a fine, and my contractor also paid one. Now, they are reopening this case, which I thought was resolved.

On Mar 6, 2025, at 11:07 AM, Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)> wrote:

Were you ever told you needed a permit? Why is the inspector there to begin with?

---

**From:** Richard Saulino <[hairbyrichard@gmail.com](mailto:hairbyrichard@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 6, 2025 10:57:45 AM  
**To:** Richard Saulino <[hairbyrichard@gmail.com](mailto:hairbyrichard@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Citation Salon

EXTERNAL

William Nathan officer 21659

On Mar 6, 2025, at 10:02 AM, Richard Saulino <[hairbyrichard@gmail.com](mailto:hairbyrichard@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hi, the city inspector is revisiting my 2021 flood case. He's asking for a permit for removing drywall four inches below the salon to prevent mold, which required taking off the styling station. We only reinstalled it afterward, and now he's putting pressure on me and building . I contacted a contractor but he's reluctant to engage with the city. The inspector's name is William. Do you know him or can you advise me on how to proceed? Thanks for your help!

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** James Lopez <[james.lopez@douglasemmett.com](mailto:james.lopez@douglasemmett.com)>  
**Date:** March 5, 2025 at 6:03:36 PM PST  
**To:** Richard Saulino <[hairbyrichard@gmail.com](mailto:hairbyrichard@gmail.com)>  
**Subject: Citation Salon**

Good Afternoon,

Please see attached. Thanks for coming into the office and discussing this with me further.

--

*Best,*  
**James Lopez**  
Acting Community Manager

**Douglas Emmett Management, LLC**  
1431 Ocean Avenue  
Santa Monica, CA 90401  
(310) 393-3549  
[James.Lopez@douglasemmett.com](mailto:James.Lopez@douglasemmett.com)  
DRE #02136135

**Important Notice:** This message is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed. The information provided is confidential. Accordingly, any review, retransmission, dissemination or other use of this information by, or disclosure of it to, anyone other than the intended recipient could have significant adverse effects and is prohibited. This message does not constitute an offer to purchase or sell any securities or other interests.

<1st Admin Cite - SM080001344 - PO.pdf>

**From:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**To:** [Elaine Polachek](#); [Lauren Howland](#); [Jenny Rogers](#)  
**Subject:** Re: 150th Anniversary of the founding of Santa Monica is this July 15  
**Date:** Saturday, May 17, 2025 6:23:57 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

---

Great, thanks Elaine!

---

**From:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 17, 2025 2:10:33 PM  
**To:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>; Lauren Howland <Lauren.Howland@santamonica.gov>; Jenny Rogers <Jenny.Rogers@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: 150th Anniversary of the founding of Santa Monica is this July 15

Jeny has been working on SaMo150. She will provide Council with an update on how many events already scheduled for 2026 will fit under the SaMo150 umbrella.



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

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---

**From:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 17, 2025 1:07 PM  
**To:** Lauren Howland <Lauren.Howland@santamonica.gov>; Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** Fw: 150th Anniversary of the founding of Santa Monica is this July 15

Do we have any ideas?

---

**From:** Richard Orton <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 17, 2025 11:56:53 AM  
**To:** Lana Negrete <[Lana.Negrete@santamonica.gov](#)>; Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](#)>; Ellis Raskin <[Ellis.Raskin@santamonica.gov](#)>; Natalya Zernitskaya <[Natalya.Zernitskaya@santamonica.gov](#)>; Dan Hall <[Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov](#)>; Jesse Zwick <[Jesse.Zwick@santamonica.gov](#)>; councilmtgitems <[councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov](#)>; Barry Snell <[Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov](#)>; Armine Chaparyan <[Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov](#)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](#)>  
**Subject:** 150th Anniversary of the founding of Santa Monica is this July 15

EXTERNAL

Council,

What is the city doing to celebrate this milestone?

The first lots in the city were sold at auction July 15, 1875

Richard Orton  
Ocean Park

The July 15, 1875 Auction



The Evening Outlook Centennial Newspaper 1975



**From:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**To:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**Subject:** FW: ink well  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 20, 2025 1:27:10 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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Caroline,

I haven't seen anything about the Ebony Beach Club but I'm wondering if the event below that was referred by Barry is the same thing. They want to do an event in Crescent Bay Park. Let me know if you think this is the same group.

-Elaine

**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

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**From:** Barry Snell <[Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov](mailto:Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 20, 2025 6:53 AM  
**To:** Jenny Rogers <[Jenny.Rogers@santamonica.gov](mailto:Jenny.Rogers@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Armine Chaparyan <[Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov](mailto:Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov)>; Jennifer Taylor <[Jennifer.Taylor@santamonica.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Taylor@santamonica.gov)>; Aaron Orozco <[Aaron.Orozco@santamonica.gov](mailto:Aaron.Orozco@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: ink well

Jenny

Thank you for the update.

Barry

---

**From:** Jenny Rogers <[Jenny.Rogers@santamonica.gov](mailto:Jenny.Rogers@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 19, 2025 2:01 PM  
**To:** Barry Snell <[Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov](mailto:Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov)>

**Cc:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Armine Chaparyan <[Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov](mailto:Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov)>; Jennifer Taylor <[Jennifer.Taylor@santamonica.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Taylor@santamonica.gov)>; Aaron Orozco <[Aaron.Orozco@santamonica.gov](mailto:Aaron.Orozco@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: ink well

Hello Councilmember Snell,

Just wanted to follow up and let you know that Aaron and our Community Events team have been in touch with Ms. Carliss McGhee and will be assisting her with the application process for this upcoming event.

Not sure if anyone ever closed the loop with you and let you know we are on it!

All my best,  
Jenny



## Jenny Rogers (She/They)

Director, Recreation & Arts Department

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**From:** Jennifer Taylor <[Jennifer.Taylor@santamonica.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Taylor@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2025 11:26 AM  
**To:** Micah Akerson <[Micah.Akerson@santamonica.gov](mailto:Micah.Akerson@santamonica.gov)>; Aaron Orozco <[Aaron.Orozco@santamonica.gov](mailto:Aaron.Orozco@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Jenny Rogers <[Jenny.Rogers@santamonica.gov](mailto:Jenny.Rogers@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: ink well

Hi Micah + Aaron,

I'm never sure if events in the park are handled under community event permit or through Parks/Rec. Please see request below from Councilmember Snell. Can someone from RAD please reach out to Ms McGhee?

Many thanks,

Jennifer

---

**From:** Barry Snell <[Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov](mailto:Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2025 11:23 AM  
**To:** Jennifer Taylor <[Jennifer.Taylor@santamonica.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Taylor@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: ink well

Hi Jennifer

I am late getting you this information.

Can you help Ms. Carliss McGhee to reserve Crescent Park (Inkwell Beach)

On Saturday July 26, 2025 from 11-5PM

And her telephone number [REDACTED]

The event estimate about 150 people for the day.

Thank You

Barry

---

**From:** Barry Snell <[barry@snellcpa.com](mailto:barry@snellcpa.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 5:45 PM  
**To:** Barry Snell <[Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov](mailto:Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: ink well

EXTERNAL



**From:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**To:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**Cc:** [Oscar Santiago](#); [Susan Cline](#); [Christopher J. Smith](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Budget Questions  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 21, 2025 4:26:32 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

[REDACTED]. Given the short turnaround time it's not likely I will be submitting anything by the deadline. I will however send my questions in advance.

Caroline

---

**From:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 21, 2025 2:10:18 PM  
**To:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Cc:** Oscar Santiago <Oscar.Santiago@santamonica.gov>; Susan Cline <Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov>; Christopher J. Smith <Christopher.J.Smith@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** Budget Questions

Good afternoon, Mayor and Council,

This is a reminder that we would like to get your budget questions submitted by noon tomorrow (Thursday) so that we can answers back to you by Friday. Sergio sent each of you a Word document for your questions. The staff report that accompanies the proposed budget has been released and is in the agenda packet.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks and have a great Memorial Day weekend!

Elaine

**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

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**From:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**To:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Cline](#); [Christopher J. Smith](#); [Ramon Batista](#); [Thomas McLaughlin](#); [Matthew Hallock](#)  
**Subject:** Public Safety Incidents  
**Date:** Thursday, May 22, 2025 8:33:26 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Good morning, Mayor and Council,

I want to provide you with information on three public safety incidents that occurred yesterday and this morning:

1 - Yesterday, at approximately 2:20 p.m., officers responded to a reported traffic collision on the Lincoln Bridge over I/10. Upon arrival, they determined the incident was not a collision but a physical altercation between two drivers, stemming from a road rage incident. According to an independent witnesses, one individual was driving a taxi when he was approached by the driver of another vehicle, who began striking him in the face. During the assault, the taxi driver used a small screwdriver to defend himself, reportedly striking the other individual multiple times in the arms and legs. The second individual (the aggressor) sustained minor injuries and was transported to a local area hospital for treatment. The suspected individual and his passenger declined to provide statements. The subject was found to have outstanding warrants and is currently being investigated in connection with a possibly unreported stolen vehicle. The officers conducted the follow-up at the hospital. Due to the nature of the incident, multiple lanes of traffic on the Lincoln Bridge were temporarily closed. A city SM alert was issued, and cleared once traffic returned to normal. The Criminal Investigations Division and Public Information Office were notified, and we received preliminary media inquiries.

2- Early this morning, approximately 3:40 am, a Tesla driving at a high rate of speed in the downtown area, eventually lost control in the area of

4<sup>th</sup> and Cal, struck an electrical box, city tree and four parked vehicles. The driver was subsequently arrested and booked into the SM Jail for reckless driving and driving under the influence.

3- At 0656 this morning, SMFD and SMPD responded to the 400 block of 21<sup>st</sup> Street for a reported structure fire. Upon arrival, crews observed smoke coming from a two-story home under construction. Upon investigation, the seat of the fire was discovered in the floor joists between the basement and the first floor. The fire was knocked down quickly and an investigator was requested to make a cause determination. The homeowner and the contractor both arrived on-scene. No injuries to fire personnel or civilians.

Thanks,  
Elaine

**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

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**From:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**To:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Cline](#); [Christopher J. Smith](#); [Ramon Batista](#); [Thomas McLaughlin](#); [Matthew Hallock](#); [Lauren Howland](#)  
**Subject:** Suicide/Drowning  
**Date:** Friday, May 23, 2025 1:08:31 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Mayor and Council,

At 9:49 this morning, PD's Pier and Harbor Service Officers initiated a rescue attempt of an individual seen and reported to be floating in the water adjacent to the north side of the pier. Harbor was able to lift-move the individual onto the pier deck, where life saving measures were initiated until relieved and continued by FD. The individual was transported to the hospital and ultimately pronounced deceased at 1050 hours.

There are witness statements indicating the individual had jumped into the water from the pier deck. Preliminarily, the incident is being treated, documented, and investigated by PD as a suicide/drowning. Coroner's Office will be responsible for individuals identification and notification to next of kin.

No media inquiries to PD as of this email.

Thanks,  
Elaine

**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

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**From:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**To:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**Cc:** [Armine Chaparyan](#); [Jennifer Taylor](#); [Jing Yeo](#); [Ramon Batista](#); [Ryan Gradle](#)  
**Subject:** EZSM Meeting and Signage  
**Date:** Thursday, May 22, 2025 6:27:15 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[EZ Meeting Flyer v3.pdf](#)

---

Sharing the brochure for a mandatory training meeting for restaurants participating in the EZ. Thanks to CDD and PD staff who are coordinating this effort with DTSM.

-Elaine

**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

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-

**From:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**To:** [Armine Chaparyan](#)  
**Cc:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Citation Salon  
**Date:** Friday, May 23, 2025 2:02:56 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

---

Thanks - appreciate it.

---

**From:** Armine Chaparyan <Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 23, 2025 8:33:48 AM  
**To:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Cc:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Citation Salon

Good morning Caroline:

I wanted to circle back on this item. There seemed to be a lot of back and forth on this application with a three year period of no activity. Sia and Will are scheduled to meet with him next week and help get him to the finish line.

Arminé



**Arminé Chaparyan** (she/her)  
Director, Community Development

[armine.chaparyan@santamonica.gov](mailto:armine.chaparyan@santamonica.gov)

[santamonica.gov](http://santamonica.gov)

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---

**From:** Sia Poursabahian <Sia.Poursabahian@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 22, 2025 4:57 PM  
**To:** Armine Chaparyan <Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov>; Daniel Mick

<Daniel.Mick@santamonica.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Citation Salon

Hi, Arminé,

The Code Enforcement officer handling this project, William Nathan, and I will meet with the applicant at 9:00 am on 5/29 to assist him through the process.

The permit Specialist has been assigned to move the permit application (21BLD-4031) submitted in 2021 forward.

Thank you

---

**From:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, May 16, 2025 4:07:33 PM

**To:** Daniel Mick <[Daniel.Mick@santamonica.gov](mailto:Daniel.Mick@santamonica.gov)>; Armine Chaparyan <[Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov](mailto:Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov)>

**Cc:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Citation Salon

Hi All,

Following up on this. When the contractor went to close this out, he was told at the counter that an over the counter permit could not be pulled and all plans needed to be resubmitted for the work and have an architect do the layout. That seems egregious. Is there anything we can do to make this process easier?



**Arminé Chaparyan** (she/her)

Director, Community Development

[armine.chaparyan@santamonica.gov](mailto:armine.chaparyan@santamonica.gov)

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---

**From:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 16, 2025 8:01 PM  
**To:** Daniel Mick <[Daniel.Mick@santamonica.gov](mailto:Daniel.Mick@santamonica.gov)>; Armine Chaparyan <[Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov](mailto:Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Citation Salon

Thanks. It just didn't seem to make sense after the previous email?

---

**From:** Daniel Mick <[Daniel.Mick@santamonica.gov](mailto:Daniel.Mick@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 16, 2025 5:35:20 PM  
**To:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Armine Chaparyan <[Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov](mailto:Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Citation Salon

I have sent this to Sia Poursabahian as this is outside the scope of my authority.

Daniel Mick, CCEO, MPA, MUP  
Code Enforcement Manager  
City of Santa Monica  
[daniel.mick@santamonica.gov](mailto:daniel.mick@santamonica.gov)

---

**From:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 16, 2025 4:07:33 PM  
**To:** Daniel Mick <[Daniel.Mick@santamonica.gov](mailto:Daniel.Mick@santamonica.gov)>; Armine Chaparyan <[Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov](mailto:Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Citation Salon

Hi All,

Following up on this. When the contractor went to close this out, he was told at the counter that an over the counter permit could not be pulled and all plans needed to be resubmitted for the work and have an architect do the layout. That seems egregious. Is there anything we can do to make this process easier?

Caroline

---

**From:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2025 10:41:31 AM  
**To:** Daniel Mick <[Daniel.Mick@santamonica.gov](mailto:Daniel.Mick@santamonica.gov)>; Armine Chaparyan <[Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov](mailto:Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Citation Salon

Thanks Daniel! I am going to let him know and I appreciate the guidance.

Caroline

---

**From:** Daniel Mick <[Daniel.Mick@santamonica.gov](mailto:Daniel.Mick@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2025 10:16 AM  
**To:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Armine Chaparyan <[Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov](mailto:Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Citation Salon

Here is a basic outline of what has happened with this case:

Apparently, back in 2021, a flood occurred which created significant damage throughout several residential and commercial units in the 1431 Ocean building. Much of the remediation work required permits as the drywall had to be removed and replaced.

- On 11/24/21, in Unit B, the Saulino Smith Salon, work was found to be taking place without any permits or approvals. Quite a bit of drywall had been removed, electrical outlets had been repositioned, and the flooring had been pulled up. Additionally, the contractor did not have the requisite business license. A Stop Work Order was issued, and a citation was issued to the contractor, ATS Construction, for unpermitted construction and working without a business license.
- 12/1/21 - the contractor's business license was applied for as were the permits, but the permits were not yet issued.
- 12/8/21 - a site inspection was conducted, and the Stop Work Order had been removed and the construction had resumed. The owner of the business, Richard Saulino, stated he removed the SWO. We advised him that he cannot remove the SWO or resume construction until the permits are issued. A citation was issued to Richard Saulino/ Saulino Smith Salon for unpermitted construction.
- 4/23/22 - an email was sent to Richard that the permit still had not been issued and that incorrect or incomplete plans were received. He was advised that he needed to work with Building & Safety to make the necessary corrections for the permits to be issued.

11/3/22 - the permits were still not issued. Another citation was issued to Richard/Salon for unpermitted construction. Richard's appeal of this citation was denied due to not properly filing the appeal.

- 12/3/24 - the case was revisited, and the permits still had not been obtained. A new notice of violation was issued to Richard/Salon, giving them 2 weeks to get the permits issued.
- 12/12/24 - Code was contacted by the property manager asking for information about this matter.
- 1/16/25 - Code contacted Linda Alvarez, the property manager, and informed her of the outstanding issues and what was needed to bring the matter to a close. A 1-week extension was granted to allow them to resolve the issue.
- 2/11/25 - the permit was still not obtained, and no further contact was received by the business owner or the property owner. A citation was issued.

While it may be true that everything was restored to the original condition, the City does require building permits when drywall is removed and replaced. They removed significantly more drywall than just 4 inches. The work also involved electrical, although the electrical work was likely just reinstalling the existing electrical work that existed before the drywall had to be redone.

Nov 24, 2021 at 9:16:12 AM  
1421 Ocean Ave  
Santa Monica CA 90401



Nov 24, 2021 at 9:19:09 AM  
Santa Monica CA



Code made the business aware of the need to obtain the requisite permits several times. Richard was aware of the requirement to stop construction until all permits had been obtained very early on, but admitted to removing the stop work order that was posted.

To bring this matter to a close, all Richard needs to do is to make the necessary corrections on the permit application, have the permit issued, then call for a final inspection.

I hope this provides sufficient insight into how this matter has progressed. Please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns.



**Daniel Mick, CCEO, MPA, MUP**

**Code Enforcement Manager**

City of Santa Monica

310-458-4984 x5367

[daniel.mick@santamonica.gov](mailto:daniel.mick@santamonica.gov)

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**From:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>

**Sent:** Sunday, March 23, 2025 5:04 PM

**To:** Daniel Mick <[Daniel.Mick@santamonica.gov](mailto:Daniel.Mick@santamonica.gov)>; Armine Chaparyan <[Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov](mailto:Armine.Chaparyan@santamonica.gov)>

**Cc:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>

**Subject:** Fw: Citation Salon

Hi Daniel and Armine,

Might you help me be able to give the below constituent some guidance? He owns a salon in Santa Monica (Saulino Smith, 1431 Ocean Ave, Santa Monica, CA 90401), and he is stating that he is being cited by city inspector William Nathan for repairing his drywall after a flood in 2021. I am not sure if this is a code issue (sorry if it's not), but can we get some guidance as to why this drywall issue is being revisited now? You will see a chain of emails below further detailing the situation.

Thanks and any guidance is appreciated.

Best,  
Caroline

---

**From:** Richard Saulino <[hairbyrichard@gmail.com](mailto:hairbyrichard@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 6, 2025 11:19 AM  
**To:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Citation Salon

EXTERNAL

He came by during the flood caused by the building, and while he was there for another apartment, he noticed the salon and asked if he could come in. I agreed. He mentioned that we needed to pull a permit and imposed a fine, but we didn't do anything new. We simply aired out the drywall due to an emergency and removed the styling stations to access it, then put them back in the same spot. We had already paid a fine, and my contractor also paid one. Now, they are reopening this case, which I thought was resolved.

On Mar 6, 2025, at 11:07 AM, Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)> wrote:

Were you ever told you needed a permit? Why is the inspector there to begin with?

---

**From:** Richard Saulino <[hairbyrichard@gmail.com](mailto:hairbyrichard@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 6, 2025 10:57:45 AM  
**To:** Richard Saulino <[hairbyrichard@gmail.com](mailto:hairbyrichard@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Citation Salon

EXTERNAL

William Nathan officer 21659

On Mar 6, 2025, at 10:02 AM, Richard Saulino <[hairbyrichard@gmail.com](mailto:hairbyrichard@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hi, the city inspector is revisiting my 2021 flood case. He's asking for a permit for removing drywall four inches below the salon to prevent mold, which required taking off the styling station. We only reinstalled it afterward,

and now he's putting pressure on me and building . I contacted a contractor but he's reluctant to engage with the city. The inspector's name is William. Do you know him or can you advise me on how to proceed? Thanks for your help!

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** James Lopez <[james.lopez@douglasemmett.com](mailto:james.lopez@douglasemmett.com)>  
**Date:** March 5, 2025 at 6:03:36 PM PST  
**To:** Richard Saulino <[hairbyrichard@gmail.com](mailto:hairbyrichard@gmail.com)>  
**Subject: Citation Salon**

Good Afternoon,

Please see attached. Thanks for coming into the office and discussing this with me further.

--

*Best,*  
**James Lopez**  
Acting Community Manager

**Douglas Emmett Management, LLC**  
1431 Ocean Avenue  
Santa Monica, CA 90401  
(310) 393-3549  
[James.Lopez@douglasemmett.com](mailto:James.Lopez@douglasemmett.com)  
DRE #02136135

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<1st Admin Cite - SM080001344 - PO.pdf>

**From:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**To:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**Cc:** [Oscar Santiago](#); [Susan Cline](#); [Christopher J. Smith](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Budget Questions  
**Date:** Friday, May 23, 2025 6:02:49 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

We'll try to get answers back to you before Tuesday.

**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

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**From:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 23, 2025 5:46 PM  
**To:** Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>  
**Cc:** Oscar Santiago <Oscar.Santiago@santamonica.gov>; Susan Cline <Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov>; Christopher J. Smith <Christopher.J.Smith@santamonica.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Budget Questions

Hi All,

My apologies for the delayed sending of these questions. I understand if you cannot answer them before Tuesday. Here are my questions:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Thanks,  
Caroline

---

**From:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 21, 2025 2:10 PM  
**To:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Oscar Santiago <[Oscar.Santiago@santamonica.gov](mailto:Oscar.Santiago@santamonica.gov)>; Susan Cline <[Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov](mailto:Susan.Cline@santamonica.gov)>; Christopher J. Smith <[Christopher.J.Smith@santamonica.gov](mailto:Christopher.J.Smith@santamonica.gov)>  
**Subject:** Budget Questions

Good afternoon, Mayor and Council,  
This is a reminder that we would like to get your budget questions submitted by noon tomorrow (Thursday) so that we can answers back to you by Friday. Sergio sent each of you a Word document for your questions. The staff report that accompanies the proposed budget has

been released and is in the agenda packet.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks and have a great Memorial Day weekend!

Elaine

**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

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**From:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**To:** [Joi Richardson](#); [Kennisha Williams](#)  
**Cc:** [Elaine Polachek](#); [Josh Kurpies](#); [Ryan Smith](#); [Destiny Freeman](#); [Laurie Craft](#); [Nikki Gilbert](#); [Mandy Sommers](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith  
**Date:** Friday, May 23, 2025 5:46:25 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

---

Hi Joi,

What time would you want us there? If you send me a calendar invite I will try to be there.

Caroline

---

**From:** Joi Richardson <jrichardson@stjosephctr.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 23, 2025 11:31 AM  
**To:** Kennisha Williams <Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov>  
**Cc:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>; Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>; Josh Kurpies <Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov>; Ryan Smith <rsmith@stjosephctr.org>; Destiny Freeman <dfreeman@stjosephctr.org>; Laurie Craft <lcraft@stjosephctr.org>; Nikki Gilbert <NGilbert@stjosephctr.org>; Mandy Sommers <MSommers@stjosephctr.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

EXTERNAL

Good afternoon,

I hope this message finds you well.

We've decided to move the graduation date to **Monday, June 9** to avoid a scheduling conflict with the City Council meeting. Could you please share the updated date with the council members and check their availability?

Thank you for your assistance.

Best regards,



**JOI RICHARDSON**

VP of External Affairs & Communication

[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org) | p: (310) 396-6468

204 Hampton Drive, Venice, CA 90291 | [www.stjosephctr.org](http://www.stjosephctr.org)



---

**From:** Kennisha Williams <Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 20, 2025 4:35 PM  
**To:** Joi Richardson <jrichardson@stjosephctr.org>  
**Cc:** Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>; Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>; Josh Kurpies <Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov>; Ryan Smith <rsmith@stjosephctr.org>; Destiny Freeman <dfreeman@stjosephctr.org>; Laurie Craft <lcraft@stjosephctr.org>; Nikki Gilbert <NGilbert@stjosephctr.org>; Mandy Sommers <MSommers@stjosephctr.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

Good afternoon, Joi,

Thank you for extending the invitation to the Santa Monica City Council for the upcoming Youth Resource Team (YRT) Graduation Celebration on June 10, 2025. I will go ahead and add this event to the Council's calendar for awareness. However, please note that the City Council has a regularly scheduled meeting that evening, which begins promptly at 5:30 PM. As such, Council participation may be limited or unavailable due to that commitment.

We wish you a successful and inspiring celebration and thank you again for including the City Council in this special occasion.

Warm regards,  
Kennisha

---

**From:** Joi Richardson <[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 20, 2025 3:24 PM  
**To:** Kennisha Williams <[Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov](mailto:Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>; Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>; Destiny Freeman <[dfreeman@stjosephctr.org](mailto:dfreeman@stjosephctr.org)>; Laurie Craft <[lcraft@stjosephctr.org](mailto:lcraft@stjosephctr.org)>; Nikki Gilbert <[NGilbert@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NGilbert@stjosephctr.org)>; Mandy Sommers <[MSommers@stjosephctr.org](mailto:MSommers@stjosephctr.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

EXTERNAL

**Subject:** Invitation to Santa Monica City Council – YRT Graduation Celebration, June 10, 2025

Good afternoon Kennisha,

Thank you for your support in coordinating with the Santa Monica City Council. I would like to extend an invitation to the entire Council to attend an upcoming event. If there's a more appropriate way to issue this invitation, please don't hesitate to let me know.

**To the Honorable Members of the Santa Monica City Council,**

We hope this message finds you well. On behalf of the St. Joseph Center, we are pleased to extend an invitation to you for the **Youth Resource Team (YRT) Graduation Celebration** on **June 10, 2025**, from **5:00 PM to 7:00 PM** at **Virginia Avenue Park**.

The YRT program has been instrumental in empowering local youth by providing them with essential resources and support for personal development, education, and employment opportunities. Thanks to the generous funding from the City of Santa Monica's Human Services Grants Program, we are able to provide this essential programming. And with your recently approval to allocate the Providence St. John's Development Agreement Behavioral health funds to our program, we are able to expand our program to serve even more youth and their families, meeting the growing need for our services.

We would be honored to have you join us in celebrating the achievements of our graduating participants and in recognizing the positive impact of the City's continued support for this vital program.

We hope you can join us for this special occasion and look forward to celebrating the success of the YRT program together.

Warm regards,



**JOI RICHARDSON**

VP of External Affairs & Communication

[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org) | p: (310) 396-6468

204 Hampton Drive, Venice, CA 90291 | [www.stjosephctr.org](http://www.stjosephctr.org)



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**From:** Joi Richardson <[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 19, 2025 9:53 AM

**To:** Kennisha Williams <[Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov](mailto:Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov)>

**Cc:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>; Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>; Destiny Freeman <[dfreeman@stjosephctr.org](mailto:dfreeman@stjosephctr.org)>; Laurie Craft <[lcraft@stjosephctr.org](mailto:lcraft@stjosephctr.org)>; Nikki Gilbert <[NGilbert@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NGilbert@stjosephctr.org)>

**Subject:** Re: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

Thank you!

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**From:** Kennisha Williams <[Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov](mailto:Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 19, 2025 9:02:28 AM

**To:** Joi Richardson <[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org)>

**Cc:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>; Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>; Destiny Freeman <[dfreeman@stjosephctr.org](mailto:dfreeman@stjosephctr.org)>; Laurie Craft <[lcraft@stjosephctr.org](mailto:lcraft@stjosephctr.org)>; Nikki Gilbert <[NGilbert@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NGilbert@stjosephctr.org)>

**Subject:** RE: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

Good morning, Joi,

I just sent an email of the available timeslots to the councilmembers. When I hear back from them, I will let you know.

Thank you,

Kennisha

---

**From:** Joi Richardson <[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org)>

**Sent:** Friday, May 16, 2025 3:44 PM

**To:** Kennisha Williams <[Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov](mailto:Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov)>

**Cc:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>; Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>; Destiny Freeman <[dfreeman@stjosephctr.org](mailto:dfreeman@stjosephctr.org)>; Laurie Craft <[lcraft@stjosephctr.org](mailto:lcraft@stjosephctr.org)>; Nikki Gilbert <[NGilbert@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NGilbert@stjosephctr.org)>

**Subject:** FW: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

EXTERNAL

Good afternoon Kennisha,

I hope you're doing well. Below are the available time slots for the council to visit our site. Please let me know which members are available on each of these dates.

- Thursday, June 12 – 10:00 AM
- Friday, June 13 – 10:00 AM
- Thursday, July 17 – 11:00 AM
- Thursday, July 24 – 11:00 AM

Thank you for your help in coordinating these visits—I really appreciate your support.  
Best regards,



## JOI RICHARDSON

VP of External Affairs & Communication

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204 Hampton Drive, Venice, CA 90291 | [www.stjosephctr.org](http://www.stjosephctr.org)



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**From:** Kennisha Williams <[Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov](mailto:Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 8, 2025 1:20 PM  
**To:** Joi Richardson <[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org)>; Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>; Nikki Gilbert <[NGilbert@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NGilbert@stjosephctr.org)>; Destiny Freeman <[dfreeman@stjosephctr.org](mailto:dfreeman@stjosephctr.org)>; Laurie Craft <[lcraft@stjosephctr.org](mailto:lcraft@stjosephctr.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

Hi Joi,

Now that I have an idea of who's interested, it would be best if you can start sending over some available time slots. I will pass them along to the councilmembers and plug them in as soon as I get responses from them.

Thank you for your assistance.

-Kennisha

---

**From:** Joi Richardson <[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 8, 2025 11:19 AM

**To:** Kennisha Williams <[Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov](mailto:Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov)>; Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>; Nikki Gilbert <[NGilbert@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NGilbert@stjosephctr.org)>; Destiny Freeman <[dfreeman@stjosephctr.org](mailto:dfreeman@stjosephctr.org)>; Laurie Craft <[lcraft@stjosephctr.org](mailto:lcraft@stjosephctr.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

EXTERNAL

Good morning Kennisha,

Just gently bringing this to the top of your inbox. Please let me know how I can help facilitate scheduling this visit soon. Thank you!



**JOI RICHARDSON**

VP of External Affairs & Communication

[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org) | p: (310) 396-6468

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**From:** Joi Richardson  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 12:38 PM  
**To:** Kennisha Williams <[Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov](mailto:Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov)>; Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>; Nikki Gilbert <[NGilbert@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NGilbert@stjosephctr.org)>; Destiny Freeman <[dfreeman@stjosephctr.org](mailto:dfreeman@stjosephctr.org)>; Laurie Craft <[lcraft@stjosephctr.org](mailto:lcraft@stjosephctr.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

Good afternoon,




I hope you had a great weekend. I'd like to move forward with scheduling the visit for the city council members who expressed interest. I'm happy to assist in any way to help move this request along.

Please let me know how I can best support getting this on the calendar. I'm also available for a quick call or Zoom if that would be helpful.

Best regards,

**JOI RICHARDSON**



VP of External Affairs & Communication  
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204 Hampton Drive, Venice, CA 90291 | [www.stjosephctr.org](http://www.stjosephctr.org)  
  

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**From:** Joi Richardson <[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 2, 2025 6:18 AM  
**To:** Kennisha Williams <[Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov](mailto:Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov)>; Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>; Nikki Gilbert <[NGilbert@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NGilbert@stjosephctr.org)>; Destiny Freeman <[dfreeman@stjosephctr.org](mailto:dfreeman@stjosephctr.org)>; Laurie Craft <[lcraft@stjosephctr.org](mailto:lcraft@stjosephctr.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

Good morning Kennisha,  
I hope this message finds you well. Thank you for following up—I truly appreciate your efforts in coordinating the tour.  
I have a quick question: how many council members can attend together while remaining in compliance with the Brown Act? If needed, would it make sense to move forward with those who have already expressed interest and schedule a second visit for the remaining members? Once again, thank you for your support in organizing this. We're absolutely fine with doing two tours if that's what's needed.  
Best regards,  
Joi

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**From:** Kennisha Williams <[Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov](mailto:Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 1, 2025 5:00:54 PM  
**To:** Joi Richardson <[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org)>; Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>; Nikki Gilbert <[NGilbert@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NGilbert@stjosephctr.org)>; Destiny Freeman <[dfreeman@stjosephctr.org](mailto:dfreeman@stjosephctr.org)>; Laurie Craft <[lcraft@stjosephctr.org](mailto:lcraft@stjosephctr.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

Hi Joi,

To date, I have confirmed that three councilmembers are interested in a tour. I sent a follow-up email to the others (in case the first one got buried deep in their inboxes) and will let you know

if any others are interested.

Stay tuned!

-Kennisha

---

**From:** Joi Richardson <[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 25, 2025 5:24 PM  
**To:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Kennisha Williams <[Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov](mailto:Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>; Nikki Gilbert <[NGilbert@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NGilbert@stjosephctr.org)>; Destiny Freeman <[dfreeman@stjosephctr.org](mailto:dfreeman@stjosephctr.org)>; Laurie Craft <[lcraft@stjosephctr.org](mailto:lcraft@stjosephctr.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

EXTERNAL

Good afternoon,

I hope you've all had a great week! I wanted to follow up on the invitation for the Santa Monica City Council to visit St. Joseph Center.

Councilmember Torosis, I appreciate your past visits during evening events; however, I wanted to note that our programs typically conclude by well before 5:00 p.m. It would be wonderful for you and your fellow councilmembers to see our daytime programs in action — from addressing food insecurity to providing workforce development and other vital services that support our most vulnerable neighbors.

We'd love to find a time that works for everyone and are happy to coordinate around your schedules as best we can. Please let me know how we can assist in setting up a visit.

Warm regards,



**JOI RICHARDSON**

VP of External Affairs & Communication

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204 Hampton Drive, Venice, CA 90291 | [www.stjosephctr.org](http://www.stjosephctr.org)



---

**From:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 12, 2025 10:58 AM  
**To:** Joi Richardson <[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org)>; Kennisha Williams <[Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov](mailto:Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>

**Cc:** Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>; Nikki Gilbert <[NGilbert@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NGilbert@stjosephctr.org)>; Destiny Freeman <[dfreeman@stjosephctr.org](mailto:dfreeman@stjosephctr.org)>; Laurie Craft <[lcraft@stjosephctr.org](mailto:lcraft@stjosephctr.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

Hi All,

I'm definitely interested in attending and I feel confident I can rally a couple of my colleagues to come with me.

For my schedule it's always better after 5 pm - I am not sure if that's doable for SJC.

Caroline

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**From:** Joi Richardson <[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 12, 2025 10:44 AM  
**To:** Kennisha Williams <[Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov](mailto:Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>  
**Cc:** Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>; Nikki Gilbert <[NGilbert@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NGilbert@stjosephctr.org)>; Destiny Freeman <[dfreeman@stjosephctr.org](mailto:dfreeman@stjosephctr.org)>; Laurie Craft <[lcraft@stjosephctr.org](mailto:lcraft@stjosephctr.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

EXTERNAL

Good morning Kennisha,

Hope your weekend is going well. I am happy to continue to work together to schedule visits.

Below is an invitation with additional details that may be helpful to share with the council.

On behalf of St. Joseph Center, we would be honored to invite Santa Monica Mayor, City Councilmembers and their staff to visit St. Joseph Center. We would greatly appreciate the opportunity to share more about our programs and the work we're doing to address the homelessness crisis in our community.

The visit would take approximately one hour and would begin with light refreshments and a meet-and-greet with your team, our staff, and our President & CEO, Dr. Ryan Smith. During the visit, Dr. Smith will provide an overview of St. Joseph Center's mission, services, and impact.

The visit will include a tour of:

- Our food pantry (the largest on the west side)
- Red and Roses Culinary Training Kitchen
- On-site workforce development program
- Bread & Roses Café, where we provide free, gourmet meals daily to an average of 150 clients—served with dignity and care

We believe this visit will offer valuable insight into how our organization is supporting

vulnerable populations across Los Angeles County.

If you have additional questions, I am available for a call or a zoom. You can learn more about us at <https://stjosephctr.org/>.

We look forward to the opportunity to welcome Santa Monica elected officials to St Joseph Center.

Warm regards,



## JOI RICHARDSON

VP of External Affairs & Communication

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---

**From:** Kennisha Williams <[Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov](mailto:Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, April 11, 2025 10:23 AM

**To:** Joi Richardson <[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>

**Cc:** Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>; Nikki Gilbert <[NGilbert@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NGilbert@stjosephctr.org)>; Destiny Freeman <[dfreeman@stjosephctr.org](mailto:dfreeman@stjosephctr.org)>; Laurie Craft <[lcraft@stjosephctr.org](mailto:lcraft@stjosephctr.org)>

**Subject:** RE: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

Good morning,

Very nice to meet you all. Thank you for reaching out and for extending the invitation to tour St. Joseph Center. I would be happy to share this with the Councilmembers to gauge their interest.

Would you mind sending over a few additional details about what the tour would entail—such as the estimated duration, key highlights or any specific topics that would be covered? If possible, it would also be helpful to have a brief invitation or overview that I can forward directly to the Councilmembers. Once I know who might be interested in attending, we can work together to coordinate potential dates.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Best regards,

Kennisha



## Kennisha Williams

Administrative Staff Assistant  
City Council's Office

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**From:** Joi Richardson <[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 8, 2025 9:08 AM

**To:** Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>; Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>; Kennisha Williams <[Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov](mailto:Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov)>

**Cc:** Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>; Nikki Gilbert <[NGilbert@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NGilbert@stjosephctr.org)>; Destiny Freeman <[dfreeman@stjosephctr.org](mailto:dfreeman@stjosephctr.org)>; Laurie Craft <[lcraft@stjosephctr.org](mailto:lcraft@stjosephctr.org)>

**Subject:** RE: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

EXTERNAL

Good morning,

Thank you for looping me in, Dr. Smith. It's a pleasure to e-meet you, Elaine and Josh. I'm excited to assist with coordinating the visits to St. Joseph Center and will be happy to help with scheduling.

Please feel free to send over the dates that work for the Councilmembers, and I'll do my best to accommodate. Additionally, if it would be helpful, I'm available for a call or virtual meeting to work through the details—whatever is most convenient for your team.

Best regards,



## JOI RICHARDSON

VP of External Affairs & Communication

[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org) | p: (310) 396-6468

204 Hampton Drive, Venice, CA 90291 | [www.stjosephctr.org](http://www.stjosephctr.org)



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**From:** Ryan Smith

**Sent:** Saturday, April 5, 2025 9:39 AM

**To:**

**Cc:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>; Kennisha Williams <[Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov](mailto:Kennisha.Williams@santamonica.gov)>; Laurie Craft <[lcraft@stjosephctr.org](mailto:lcraft@stjosephctr.org)>; Joi Richardson <[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org)>; Nikki Gilbert <[NGilbert@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NGilbert@stjosephctr.org)>; Natalie Hernandez <[NHernandez@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NHernandez@stjosephctr.org)>

**Subject:** Re: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

Dear Elaine and Josh,

Thank you, Councilmember Torosis, for the introduction. Elaine, it's nice to meet you. I appreciate you being open to coordinating tours for the Councilmembers, and I look forward to welcoming you all to St. Joseph Center.

Please feel free to reach out whenever it's convenient to identify dates that work well for everyone. I'm excited to share more about our work and explore opportunities to further support the community. I'm copying Joi Richardson who can help us schedule time as well.

Looking forward to connecting and making this visit happen.

Have a great weekend!

Onward,

RJS

**Dr. Ryan J. Smith**

**President and CEO**

St. Joseph Center | Hope Through Empowerment

[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org) | he/him/his

204 Hampton Drive, Venice, CA 90291 | [www.stjosephctr.org](http://www.stjosephctr.org)

On Apr 4, 2025, at 6:20 PM, Elaine Polachek

<[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)> wrote:

Thank you for the introduction, Councilmember Torosis. Nice to meet you, Ryan. We will work with you to identify times for groups of Councilmembers to tour the facility. Josh and Kennisha will be in touch.

Have a nice weekend!

Elaine

---

**From:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, April 4, 2025 4:44 PM

**To:** Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>; Josh Kurpies <[Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov](mailto:Josh.Kurpies@santamonica.gov)>; Elaine Polachek <[Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov](mailto:Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov)>

**Subject:** Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center, Ryan Smith

Hi Josh and Elaine,

I wanted to introduce you to my friend, Ryan Smith, who is the President and CEO of St. Joseph Center. They have been doing a lot of great work over the last year and I believe he wanted to be in touch with you all about inviting the Councilmembers for a visit and tour.

I hope you all are able to connect so we can make this happen.

Thanks!  
Caroline

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**From:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED] [councilmtgitems](#); [Barry Snell](#); [Caroline Torosis](#); [Dan Hall](#); [Ellis Raskin](#); [Jesse Zwick](#); [Lana Negrete](#); [Natalya Zernitskaya](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: FOSP: City Council 5/27/25 item #7-A -- FY 2025-27 Budget study session  
**Date:** Monday, May 26, 2025 6:15:20 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Got it. Thanks.



**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 26, 2025 5:19 PM  
**To:** councilmtgitems <councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov>; Barry Snell <Barry.Snell@santamonica.gov>; Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>; Dan Hall <Dan.Hall@santamonica.gov>; Ellis Raskin <Ellis.Raskin@santamonica.gov>; Jesse Zwick <Jesse.Zwick@santamonica.gov>; Lana Negrete <Lana.Negrete@santamonica.gov>; Natalya Zernitskaya <Natalya.Zernitskaya@santamonica.gov>; Elaine Polachek <Elaine.Polachek@santamonica.gov>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FOSP: City Council 5/27/25 item #7-A -- FY 2025-27 Budget study session

EXTERNAL

May 26, 2025

To: Mayor Negrete and City Council members

From: Board of Directors, Friends of Sunset Park

RE: 5/27/25 agenda item 7-A -- Study Session re the Proposed 2025-27 Biennial Budget

Agenda: [https://santamonicacityca.igq2.com/Citizens/Detail\\_Meeting.aspx?ID=1436](https://santamonicacityca.igq2.com/Citizens/Detail_Meeting.aspx?ID=1436)

The FOSP Board has two requests regarding the proposed budget:

1. **Fairview Library** -- Our local library has been closed except for self-service 2 days per week since 2019. Before closure, it had about 80,000 patron visits per year.

Library staff has projected it would require an additional **\$600,000 to \$650,000** to open the Fairview and Ocean Park branch libraries for 2 days per week, and continue the self-service another 2 days.

This small amount of the **\$480.9 million General Fund expenditures** (0.00125 of the total) would complete the re-opening of the branches that was begun in the FY 2023-25 budget and restore service to the **28,000** residents of Ocean Park and Sunset Park.

**We request that you fund re-opening our Fairview Branch Library 2 days per week.**

\*\*\*\*\*

2. **Public Safety funding** -- In 2024, **Measure PKS** was approved by 30,409 voters (67% of the vote cast) It was a City Council advisory measure to Measure K, asking whether **half of the additional revenues** from increasing the city parking facility tax by 8% **should be used to protect public safety in Santa Monica.**

**The FOSP Board supports the funding of 5 additional police officers as described on page 30/353 of the Proposed Biennial Budget digital document, which lists initiatives funded with Measure K revenues.**

On 2024 FOSP membership forms, some of our members wrote the following comments for "My greatest concerns are":

1. Crime, safety on our streets, in our parks, inability of City to deal with drug addicts on the streets.
2. Criminals not taken off streets -- random acts of violence committed by drug users
3. Crime. I could walk by myself at night, but not anymore.
4. No street lights (Ocean Park Blvd.) between 10th Street and Euclid avenue. Night times too dark.
5. That it becomes unsafe for my kids.
6. Homeless people around my kids
7. Being safe if chaos starts
8. Homelessness -- very concerning. Creates fear.
9. Safety - closeness of the homeless
10. Strangers with drug problems, i.e., vagrants
11. Vagrancy, blight, petty crime
12. Safety -- public & private residence safety, less crime, more residential crime prevention

13. The homeless -- I fear for them and am afraid of some.
14. Homeless/crime (garage & home broken into multiple times)
15. Crime. We have had our garage broken into.
16. Theft -- Several break-ins to cars on our street (including ours); streets are too dark at night.
17. Safety and blight -- although Sunset Park is so much better than DT and Promenade.
18. The Pavilions Motel on Ocean Park Blvd. & Cloverfield -- the drug activity, which we all feel is bringing down the overall safety of the surrounding neighborhood.
19. Pavilions/Holiday motels
20. Pavilions Motel, crime
21. Crime and the homeless situation which includes cars/campers parked on Marine Street.
22. Crime and parking in my area now.
23. Unhoused people and crime
24. People sleeping in the park
25. Crime, safety & homelessness
26. Preventing crime and break-ins
27. Spillover crime
28. Neighborhood Watch
29. Neighborhood Watch
30. Security
31. Impinging crime
32. Increasing crime
33. Increase in crime
34. Crime, break-ins
35. Crime, gangs
36. Crime, hate mail
37. Crime & public safety
38. Crime & safety.
39. Crime and safety
40. Crime and safety
41. Crime and safety
42. Crime/safety
43. Crime/safety
44. Crime; safety
45. Crime, safety
46. Safety, crime
47. Safety, increased crime
48. Safety issues
49. Safety
50. Safety
51. Safety
52. Safety
53. Safety
54. Safety
55. Safety
56. Safety
57. Safety
58. Safety
59. Crime, crime
60. Crime

61. Crime
62. Crime
63. Crime
64. Crime
65. Crime
66. Crime
67. Crime
68. Crime
69. Safety
70. Crime
71. Crime
72. Crime
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83. Crime
84. Crime
85. Crime
86. Crime
87. Crime
88. Crime
89. Crime
90. Crime
91. Crime
92. Crime
93. Crime
94. Crime
95. Crime
96. Crime
97. Crime
98. Crime
99. Graffiti

An additional **191** members checked off that they were interested in "Crime/Safety/Graffiti"

Again, **[the FOSP Board supports the funding of 5 additional police officers, as described on page 30/353 of the Proposed Biennial Budget digital document, which lists initiatives funded with Measure K revenues.](#)**

Thank you for your consideration.

**From:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**To:** [Department Head Team](#)  
**Subject:** Council Questions for May 27th Budget Study Session  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 27, 2025 12:49:58 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[May 27th Budget Study Session Council Questions .pdf](#)

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Good afternoon, Mayor and Council,

Attached is a document with council question and staff responses that were received last week. All council members have received responses to their individual questions. This document provides an overview of all question without a reference to the council members names. Please note that CM Zernitskaya's questions are not included as they referenced her name in the PDF document.

See you tonight!

Elaine

**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

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Thank you,  
Sergio

From: Elaine Pacheco  
 To: Elaine Pacheco  
 Cc: Santa Monica, Inc. City and Clerk  
 Subject: City Council Update: Week of May 19  
 Date: Friday, May 23, 2025 6:11:06 PM  
 Attachments: [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
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[image010.png](#)  
[image011.png](#)  
[image012.png](#)  
[image013.png](#)  
[image014.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.

**May 27, 2025 COUNCIL MEETING**

The following is a link to Packet for the [May 27](#) 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 before the meeting.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Community Development staff participated in a demonstration of **Archistar AI plan check software** that has been used in other cities including Vancouver and New York. The tool was recently rolled out to expedite rebuilding efforts for the City and County of Los Angeles and is available to all jurisdictions under a statewide contract. As it is a statewide contract, Procurement staff have confirmed that this would be an exception to the competitive bidding process and are researching the requirements to exercise the statewide contract. CDD staff will continue to research the pathway for this tool to be available for use in Santa Monica including having it available as part of the City's forthcoming self-certification program for plan check, which was previously directed by Council.

**Local Business Updates:**

- Pasjoli is reinvesting in their location at 2732 Main Street by closing for two weeks in June to remodel the restaurant and reopen with a revised menu per [media](#) reports.
- **Ultimate Performance**, a global personal training gym, is excited to announce the opening of our newest location at 734 Montana Avenue – the launch party was scheduled for May 16.
- **Teratary**, located at 1002 Montana Avenue is now open and brings the best of the West Coast to the table, sourcing ingredients directly from local farmers, ranchers, and fishermen.
- **Aesop**, renowned purveyor of skin, hair, and body care, has opened its doors at 1413 Montana Avenue. Aesop is known for its meticulously formulated products that marry sensory pleasure with proven efficacy.
- **solène studio** is a sanctuary for movement, stillness, and everything in between has opened at 1627 Montana Avenue.
- **Four Wood Golf Club** is getting closer to opening their indoor golf simulation experience at 828 Pico Boulevard.
- Fun Play Kids World, a children's play area business, is planning to open at 828 Pico Boulevard

**Street League Skateboarding (SLS)** will hold its first ever 'takeover series' competition at the Santa Monica Pier on Friday May 23. The event centers around a custom built skate ramp inspired by the Santa Monica Pier's east entrance. This multi-level public staircase has become a spot celebrated in the skateboarding world as the "Santa Monica Triple Set". This event is free and open to the public.

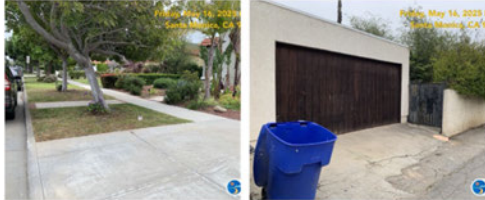


Main Street Business Improvement Association hosts **MAINopoly: A Taste of Main Street** this Sunday May, 25 from 1pm to 5pm. This all-ages community event is a fun take on the classic board game, giving players access to tastings at over 20 participating businesses. Stop at every location for a chance to win a "Taste of Main Street" Prize Package. Monopoly-themed attire is encouraged.

Code Enforcement received a complaint about **illegal dumping** at a property on 10<sup>th</sup> Street on May 13. Officer Will Nathan responded and observed a significant amount of trash on the PROW. He issued a Notice of Violation for this with a very short compliance time.



Upon his reinspection on May 16, 2025, all of the offending materials were removed and the case closed. Thank you, Officer Nathan.



**Economic Development Interdepartmental Working Group** met for the third time this week and the five committees are taking shape and are narrowing down the immediate efforts to act on. Committees include:

- Special Events
- Communications, Marketing, and Branding
- Process Improvements
- Partnerships and Funding Opportunities
- Capital Improvements

Special recognition to staff as we recognize **Building and Safety** month. We are grateful for the building inspectors, permitting staff, plan checkers, and all who support them to keep Santa Monica safe. Staff will be presented with a proclamation at Community Development's department-wide meeting next week.

Community Development staff attended the **Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. Board Meeting** on Tuesday, May 20. Staff shared updates on the full range of Economic Development activities that the City is taking on.

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT)**

**Big Blue Bus Preparing for New LAX/Metro Transit Center:** Big Blue Bus operations, safety, communications, and planning staff made a site visit to the new [LAX/Metro Transit Center](#) in preparation for its opening on Friday, June 6 at 5pm. Big Blue Bus Route 3 (Lincoln Blvd) will be re-routed from its current terminus at the Metro Aviation C Line Station to serve the new LAX/Metro Transit Center from its opening date. This is a significant change outside the regular service change schedule, and therefore requires significant preparation and coordination to ensure the re-route is seamless for both the operation and riders. The re-routing of Route 3 to the new LAX/Metro Transit Center is included in the Brighter Blue 5-Year Service Plan recommendations. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.



**Real-time Parking Signs Restored:** DOT's Parking and Mobility Divisions have partnered with ISD to successfully restore and upgrade the dynamic signage for parking structures in the downtown area after an extended outage. The dynamic signage at structures 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 9 are again functioning correctly, displaying the number of available parking spaces in each structure.

The malfunction of the signs resulted from outdated software responsible for parking availability data transmission. City staff collaborated with our parking data analytics company to develop enhanced data processing software and

optimize the signs' software, ensuring accurate delivery and reliable display of parking data. Staff will continue to restore functionality of all the dynamic signage throughout the City including the downtown and beach parking lots, enhancing the experience of driving downtown for residents and visitors.



**FINANCE**

**Overview on Measure GS:** In the general election of 2022 voters passed Measure GS, which created a third tier tax rate of \$56 per every \$1,000 in value for any residential and commercial real estate sales on \$8 million and above. The funds are earmarked to fund schools, homelessness prevention, and affordable housing. Measure GS funds allocated as follows:

- First \$10 million goes to school district (Schools Fund)
- Next \$40 million goes into the City's Homelessness Prevention and Affordable Housing (HPAH) Fund
- Any funds above \$50 million are deposited 20 percent to the Schools Fund and 80 percent to the HPAH Fund.

The reporting period is from March 1st to February 29th.

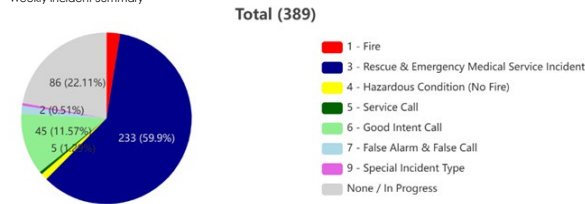
**Disbursements to date:**

Year 2 - For the reporting period March 2024 to February 2025, the City collected \$24,266,800. The city processed the \$10 million payment to the school district on May 21, 2025.  
 Year 1 - For the reporting period March 2023 to February 2024, the City collected \$27,997,450. The City processed the \$10 million payment to the school district on Monday, May 13, 2024.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**Operations:**

Weekly Incident Summary



During this reporting period, the Santa Monica Fire Department responded to a total of **389 incidents**. The breakdown is as follows:

- **Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incidents:** 233 calls (59.9%)  
 The majority of calls continue to be EMS-related, underscoring the department's critical role in providing frontline medical care.
- **None / In Progress:** 86 incidents (22.11%)  
 These represent calls that were still being processed or had not yet been classified at the time of reporting.
- **Good Intent Calls:** 45 calls (11.57%)  
 These calls were made in good faith, though no emergency was ultimately found.
- **Service Calls:** 5 calls (1.29%)  
 These include public assistance requests and other non-emergency services.
- **Hazardous Condition (No Fire):** 3 calls (0.77%)  
 Incidents involving hazards such as gas leaks or electrical issues with no active fire.
- **False Alarm & False Calls:** 2 calls (0.51%)  
 Unintentional activations or system malfunctions.
- **Special Incident Types:** 2 calls (0.51%)  
 Calls that fall outside the standard incident categories.
- **Fire incidents:** 13 calls (3.34%)  
 These involved working fires requiring suppression response.

The department continues to deliver timely and effective emergency response across a diverse range of incident types. Our efforts remain focused on readiness, service, and community safety.

**Wildland Refresher Training – RT-130 Completion:** This week, the Santa Monica Fire Department's Training Division successfully completed the annual Wildland Firefighting Refresher Course (RT-130) for all operational personnel. This course is a federally mandated requirement and is essential for maintaining readiness and eligibility to respond to statewide mutual aid wildland incidents. The RT-130 refresher reinforces critical skills and knowledge in wildland fire behavior, incident response protocols, entrapment avoidance, safety zones, and the proper deployment of fire shelters. It ensures that all personnel remain current on evolving tactics, operational guidelines, and lessons learned from recent large-scale wildland incidents.

The training was delivered in a hybrid format:

- **Online Component:** Covered foundational material including updated fire behavior trends, incident case studies, and safety standards.
- **Hands-On Manipulative Training:** Allowed members to apply field skills, practice shelter deployment, and review fire line operations in a controlled environment.

By completing this course, Santa Monica Fire personnel remain compliant with national wildland response standards and ready to assist in protecting communities across California during peak fire season.

**EMS Division:** This week, members of the EMS Division are attending the annual California Fire EMS and Disaster Conference — a premier event where EMS leaders from across the state come together to learn, collaborate, and exchange ideas.

The conference highlights innovative programs and emerging trends in prehospital care, many of which align directly with our evolving Ambulance Operator and Advanced Provider Unit initiatives. We look forward to bringing back new insights to strengthen and enhance our local EMS system.

**Homeless:**

	05/15/25-05/21/25
SMFD Total Calls	312
SMFD Homeless Related Calls	50
SMFD Fires related to homelessness	2

West Coast Care Data	05/15/25-05/21/25
Total number of referrals	34
Service Connection Types	
Multi Services	3
Pacific Sunset Shelter	
Salvation Army ARC	
SHARE Collaborative Housing	1
Safe Place for Youth (SPY)	2
Veterans Affairs	
People Concern	11
St Joseph Center	
Step Up On Second	
Venice Family Clinic	
Housed	4
Malibu Labor Exchange	
Salvation Army	11
General Relief	
Chrysalis	2
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	Number Completed
Annual Fire Inspections	52
Alarm/Sprinkler Plan Check & Inspections	28
New Construction Plan Reviews/Meetings	14
Special Event Plan Reviews/Meetings	5

**Bike Day:** SMFD participated in #BikeDay on May 15 at the City Hall.



**Parent Academy:** On May 17, SMFD was invited to participate in the first Parent Academy for families of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. We hosted a booth at the Community Resource Fair as part of the event a table to distributed information about Community Connect. It was a fantastic opportunity for parents to connect with the resources available within our community.

**Fire & Police Memorial Ceremony:** On May 21, the Fire Department hosted the annual Fire & Police Memorial Ceremony at Fire Station 1 to honor our fallen. This year's ceremony included brief speeches from the Fire and Police Chiefs. The Fire and Police Color Guard Team lead a Presentation of the Colors, and our Chaplains Fire Marshal Joe Cavin and Captain Eric Himler provided an invocation and benediction.

The ceremony also included a ceremonial Fire Service Ringing of the Bell. Family members of the fallen heroes were honored with a public reading of their loved ones' names and year of passing.



**HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES**

**Paws, Claws, and Calm / Staff Event for Mental Health Awareness & AAPI Heritage Month:** Staff across the City gathered over lunch to pet puppies from the Animal Shelter. We shared mental health resources and information on the shelter's upcoming open house. Special thanks to staff from SMPD and facilities management for your support!



**Human Services Grants Program (HSGP) Indirect Cost Rate Change:** Beginning in FY 2025-26, HHS will increase the de minimis rate for indirect costs for HSGP funded programs from 10% to 15% of modified total direct costs, meaning all grantees may allocate up to 15% of their budget to indirect administrative costs. Agencies who have an existing federally-negotiated indirect cost rate greater than 15% may continue to use that rate. This update aligns with the [federal de minimis rate increase](#) from 10% to 15% that went into effect on October 1, 2024 as part of the Office of Management and Budget's revisions to the [Uniform Guidance](#) as well as the de minimis rate for Los Angeles County. Offering a consistent rate helps streamline the planning and budgeting process for programs that receive funding from different sources, as is the case for many HSGP grantees.

**Police Activities League (PAL) Rick Crocker 5K Run/ Walk Challenge:** On Thursday, May 15th, PAL hosted the 5th Annual Rick Crocker 5K Challenge in partnership with Locals' Night on Ocean Front Walk near the pier. The event brought together more than 150 participants including Mayor Lana Negrete, Councilmember Barry Snell, youth, police officers, firefighters, military personnel, and local residents to honor the memory of Santa Monica Police Officer Rick Crocker. Presenters included Captain Roberto Villegas and former Santa Monica Police Chief and present Inglewood Mayor James Butts. Officer Crocker tragically lost his life in Iraq on May 26, 2005, when he was killed by a rocket-propelled grenade while serving his country as a Major in the Marine Corps Reserve. This year's run was especially meaningful as it marked the 20th anniversary of his passing.

As a PAL Officer, Rick was a dedicated mentor who profoundly influenced the lives of many young people. Several former PAL youth participated in the run honoring the legacy he left behind. Special thanks to Mayor Lana Negrete for starting the race, Councilmember Snell for attending, to the Santa Monica Firefighters for their support, and to the Police Officers who ran alongside PAL youth strengthening the connection between law enforcement and the youth in this community.



**Homelessness Prevention and Intervention (HPI) Team**

**SAMOSHEL City Funded Shelter:** A recent success story is "Debbie", a remarkable 71-year-old woman who has shown incredible resilience and determination in her journey towards housing stability. Debbie, who became homeless after leaving an Assisted Living Home in Glendale, returned to Santa Monica where she had been a long-time resident. After about a year without stable housing, she was referred to SAMOSHEL, where she expressed her urgent desire to find a home of her own. Working closely with her case manager, Debbie took all the necessary steps to become document ready, checking in weekly to explore housing opportunities. When a chance arose, she eagerly pursued it. With her voucher in hand, she diligently collaborated with her Housing Navigator to search for available units. On May 16, 2025, Debbie moved into her own unit in Santa Monica, a testament to her hard work and perseverance. Her journey is a poignant reminder of the strength of the human spirit and the importance of support systems.

HHS contracts with The People Concern (TPC) via the HSGP to operate SAMOSHEL. As of July 1, 2023, the City funds all 60 beds at SAMOSHEL, which provides temporary housing, case management, and supportive services to homeless men and women. Since July 1, 2024, all 60 beds have been accessible to the City's first responders for 24/7 referrals. SAMOSHEL also accepts referrals from the CAO, HHS, and City funded outreach teams. As of 05/18/25, the occupancy rate is at 93%.

SAMOSHEL Interim Housing Program Occupancy	Total
Total Beds	60
Total Beds Occupied	56
Total Beds Vacant	4
Male Beds Vacant	3
Female Beds Vacant	1
Beds Filled by Referrals from City Departments (CAO/HHS/SMFD/SMPD)	28
Beds Filled by Referrals from Non-Profit Outreach Providers	28

**LIBRARY**

**Jewish American Heritage Month Concert at Main Library:** Community members gathered and danced in the Main Library's Central Courtyard to celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month with a live performance by Klezmer Juice. Klezmer Juice is a Los Angeles-based Jewish soul band known for its infectious energy and Latin flavor, led by international clarinetist Gustavo Bulgach. Events like these highlight the City's commitment to its strategic priority of diversity, equity, and inclusion by honoring the rich cultural traditions that shape our community. They also create welcoming spaces for all to connect through music and shared experiences.



**Celebrating Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month:** Santa Monica Public Library welcomed local illustrator Pearl Au/Yeung for a free event featuring her newest children's book, *Nearly Exactly Almost Like Me*, written by Jennifer Bradbury. Families enjoyed storytime, followed by a book giveaway and signing at the Pico Branch, encouraging young readers to celebrate identity, belonging, and self-expression through diverse stories.

In addition, the Coalition of Asian and Pacific Employees of Santa Monica (CAPE SM) recently hosted a "Coffee and Coaching" professional development event at the Main Library's Multipurpose Room. This free event provided City staff from multiple departments the unique opportunity to receive personalized guidance and practical advice from hiring managers. Attendees asked questions about navigating the job application process, job interviews, and networking. They also enjoyed coffee and donuts from Haley Grail in Santa Monica. Both events reflect the City's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.



**#BreakTheStigma with NAMI Westside LA at Main Library and Pico Branch:** During Mental Health Awareness Month, the Library hosted two free events in partnership with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Westside LA to provide resources and support for community members. These events highlighted NAMI's free programs focused on education, stigma reduction, and support for individuals living with mental health conditions and their loved ones. Attendees received helpful information on managing stress, anxiety, and depression, and had the opportunity to connect with support groups and resource navigation services. Topics included low-cost counseling, housing assistance, legal aid, and conservatorship information.

#### POLICE

Weekly Council Recap  
May 4 to May 10, 2025

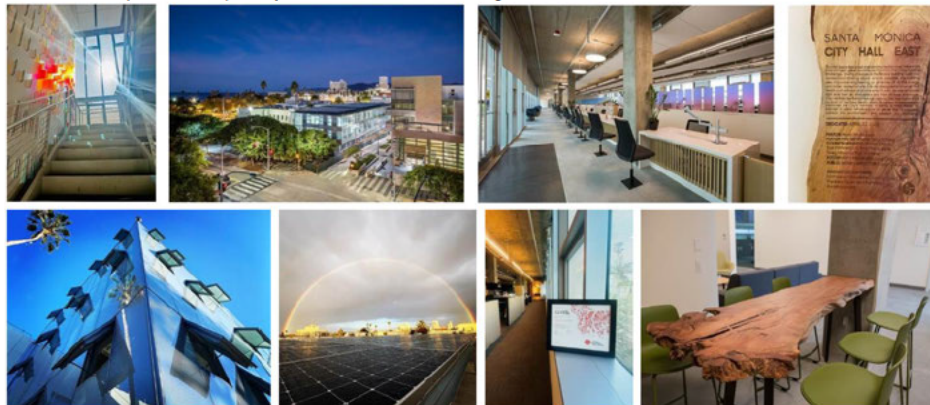
[Council Update 5-11 to 5-17.pdf](#)

#### PUBLIC WORKS

**City Hall East Achieved Living Building Certification:** The Santa Monica City Hall East (CHE) building has officially achieved Living Building Certification, solidifying its status as the world's most sustainable municipal building to date. Designed to meet the rigorous Living Building Challenge (LBC) certification, the 50,200-square-foot facility is the 35<sup>th</sup> Living Building in the world and operates as a net-positive structure — generating more energy and treating more water than it consumes. Located adjacent to Santa Monica's historic City Hall, the building consolidates municipal departments in one central location enhancing operational efficiency and maintains a commitment to carbon neutrality, zero waste, and water self-sufficiency. Unique sustainability features include healthy building materials, composting toilets, a beautiful urban agriculture courtyard, and fresh air delivered by automated windows throughout the building as well as access to natural daylight. The building consolidates 280 city staff that used to sit in four different leased locations around Santa Monica and was engineered for long-term financial sustainability, with a 30-year green bond and 10-year payback period, saving the city millions in lease and utility costs over the life of the building.

Originally opening on-time and under budget for the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day on April 22, 2020, final certification was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, making this year's certification in time for the 55th Anniversary of Earth Day even more meaningful. This milestone reinforces Santa Monica's commitment to environmental leadership, economic vitality, and social equity, demonstrating that municipalities can pioneer regenerative, climate-conscious development in our region to help showcase what is possible in the battle against the worst effects of climate change. This achievement underscores that bold, forward-thinking action leads to sustainable success keeping Santa Monica at the forefront of environmental, economic, and social progress.

Special thanks to City Council leadership in 2014–2018 to envision a regenerative future and task staff with completing it as well as Susan Cline, Rick Valle, Chris Diship, Shannon Pamy, Amelia Feichtner, Amber Richane, Sebastian Felbeck, Heidi Creighton, and Tania Sew Hoy for their work on the design and construction of the building. Thanks to Stelios Makrides, Jay Aguilar, Moses Banuelos, Tim Holland, and especially Patrick Acosta for operating and maintaining CHE ensuring our performance period and final certification as well as Matthew Wells and the Public Landscape division for maintaining the outside of the building so beautifully. Also, a big shout out to everyone that works in the building and has learned what makes it special, has worn layers to adjust their thermal comfort within the building, and shared in this successful certification!



**Community Garden Programs:** In collaboration with the LA County Master Gardener Program, this past weekend 20 local residents (including a few directly impacted by the fires) completed their 4-week Beginner Gardening Class held over consecutive Saturdays at the Ibihara Park Learning Garden. Led by local Master Gardeners, the class is designed to provide basic knowledge, and where to find more, while inspiring them to start growing in their own space, in their school, church or community. Part of their effort was to help harvest for our Produce Donation Program, which continues to glean once a month from all of our Community Gardens, with the produce cleaned, organized and delivered to one of the CGSM Apartment Buildings as a Free Garden Market. This month saw an uptick in the number of people participating, many new gardeners who have joined in the past 6 months, donating Collard Greens, Beets, Artichokes, Swiss Chard and an array of other vegetables and flowers.

**Sustainable Poster Contest:** On Wednesday May 14, the Office of Sustainability and the Environment held an awards ceremony congratulating the winners and participants of the 17th Annual Sustainable Santa Monica Student Poster Contest. The ceremony took place overlooking the ocean at the magical Annenberg Community Beach House from 4-6pm. Children and youth from kindergarten through high-school attended the event which featured welcome remarks and individual winners' photos with our very own Mayor Lana Negrete! The remarkable winning posters were framed and on display.

This year's contest, a partnership between the City's Office of Sustainability and the Environment and Sustainable Works, educated almost 800 students in 34 presentations at public and private schools and after school programs in Santa Monica, resulting in 458 poster submissions.

The theme for 2025, "Think Globally, Grow Locally: Cultivating Sustainable Food through Community Gardens and Urban Farming" educated students on the wonderful benefits of our community gardens and urban farms as well as the opportunities for the community to get involved. The contest was open to all kindergarten through 12th grade students who live and/or attend school in Santa Monica. This year 17 winners were selected in four categories, K-2nd grade, 3rd-5th grade, 6th-8th grade and 9th-12th grade. The judges included representatives from the City of Santa Monica and Sustainable Works.



**US Green Building Council Local Government Leadership Summit 2025:** On Monday, May 19th, the Office of Sustainability and the Environment and the U.S. Green Building Council hosted a Local Government Leadership Summit at the Annenberg Community Beach House in Santa Monica, connecting and convening local governments on LA regional green building, sustainability and climate resilience topics. As leaders in the field, the City of Santa Monica achieved Platinum certification under the LEED for Cities program in 2022. With LEED for Cities, local governments, like Santa Monica, are demonstrating leadership and accountability through certification at the city-scale. Each local government that

attended the summit was invited to participate in a complimentary LEED for Cities Accelerator program planned for June. The summit was an opportunity for local governments across the region to get more familiar with the LEED for Cities rating system (measures jurisdiction-wide sustainability) and better understand how to use the framework in planning, policy making and decision-making processes.

The program featured welcoming remarks from Mayor Lana Negrete, speakers from USGBC, and a "local leaders panel" including Walker Wells, Raimi + Associates; Steve Baule, City of Los Angeles, Rita Kamalath, County of Los Angeles, Amanda Grossman, City of Beverly Hills and Shannon Parry, City of Santa Monica. The summit was a great success with over 75 local leaders in attendance from small municipalities throughout the Greater Los Angeles Region.

After the summit, a large group stayed to tour the Beach Dune Restoration Project. Over the last 5 years, [The Bay Foundation](#) has been working in conjunction with the City of Santa Monica to restore approximately three acres of coastal strand habitat on the north end of the Santa Monica Beach. Ariana Vito from the Office Of Sustainability and the Environment led us through the dunes and moderated a lively discussion on re-wilding Santa Monica's beaches to protect our communities from sea-level rise.



#### RECREATION AND ARTS

**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Community Programming:** To commemorate Santa Monica's 150th anniversary, the community is coming together from July through December 2025 to reflect on our shared history—honoring achievements and sharing forgotten stories, while acknowledging any of the injustices that paved our history.



This milestone marks 150 years since July 14, 1875, when the town of Santa Monica was mapped out and the first plots of land were sold. The anniversary is a call to honor Santa Monica's diverse cultures, promote restorative justice, and inspire meaningful dialogue and connection. Local organizations, artists, and community groups are invited to participate by hosting public events that celebrate the people, cultures, and stories that have shaped Santa Monica over the past 150 years.

As a part of the collaboration, Santa Monica Travel and Tourism has created a unifying graphic for community partners to use in their marketing materials for programs related to the 150 Anniversary.

The Anniversary will be officially launched at the State of the City on July 17 and culminate with community holiday activities and programs in December. A roster of upcoming community event highlights will be shared soon. Our community partners will be able to submit events to a shared community calendar hosted by Downtown Santa Monica using the domain [www.santamonica150.com](http://www.santamonica150.com) (launching in June).

#### Key community partners include:

Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM) • Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library Friends of Sunset Park • Main Street Santa Monica • Montana Avenue Merchants Association • North of Montana Association • Ocean Park Association • Pico Improvement Organization • Pico Neighborhood Association • Santa Monica Arts Commission • Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce • Santa Monica Conservancy • Santa Monica Heritage Museum • Santa Monica History Museum • Santa Monica Landmarks Commission • Santa Monica Mid-City Neighbors • Santa Monica Northeast Neighbors • Santa Monica Pier Corporation • Santa Monica Recreation and Parks Commission • Santa Monica Sister Cities Association • Santa Monica Travel & Tourism (SMTT) • Transient Occupancy Tax Advisory Committee • Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Committee • Wilmont Neighborhood Association • Wilshire Montana Neighborhood Coalition

**RAD - Community Events Update:** We currently have 75 active permit applications and potential license agreements in progress for the remainder of this calendar year. The following list represents some of the highlights - including City produced, co-produced, and sponsored events, regular event permits, and potential license agreements:

- [Street League Skating](#) Championship Tour on May 23 (Santa Monica Pier)
- Pier Play Music Festival on May 31 (Santa Monica Pier) [Late-night dance party PIER PLAY returns to the Santa Monica Pier I KTLA](#)
- MLB Play Ball on June 12 (South Beach)
- City-produced Juneteenth Celebration on June 14 (Virginia Avenue Park) [santamonica.gov](http://santamonica.gov)
- City-Sponsored [SaMo Pride](#) Events on June 21-22 (Promenade, North Beach, and Pier)
- [Summer SOLstice](#) on June 21 (Main Street)
- [Pier 360](#) Beach Festival on June 28 (Santa Monica Beach & Pier)
- [Santa Monica 4th of July Parade](#) on July 4 (Main Street)
- 49<sup>th</sup> Annual "Festival of Chariots" Parade on August 3 (Main Street)
- [Santa Monica Classic](#) 5K / 10K on September 7 (Promenade, Ocean-City Race Route)
- Tech Street in October TBD (Ocean Ave)
- [Off The Hook Seafood Festival](#) on October 19 (Santa Monica Pier)
- RASA "Taste of Dust" Celebration of Art, Music, and Culture in October TBD (Lot 4 South)
- Queen & King of the Court - International Volleyball tournament on the Santa Monica Beach in October TBD (South Beach, Pier)
- Travis Barker's "Run Travis Run" 5K on November 9 (Promenade, Ocean-City Race Route)

**Take A Moment: An Unplugged Event, at the Annenberg Community Beach House:** On May 18, from 11 AM - 4 PM, nearly 75 community members gathered for the second iteration of *Take A Moment: An Unplugged Event* in honor of Mental Health Awareness Month. This day of programming included Breathwork and Movement by Superbloom Collective, a Santa Monica based organizer; Origami art making with Camera Obscura Artist in Residence Flora Kao; and Interactive Theatre with Capital W. Additionally, the Event House was set up for families and adults to lounge in puzzle making or coloring with free tea and books provided by Friends of the Library.



**Artist in Residence Exhibit Opening Reception at the Annenberg Community Beach House:** On May 18 from 4 PM - 6 PM, 40 community members joined in the exhibit opening of Santa Monica Artist in Residence, 2020-2024. A new retrospective showcases the work of artists who participated in Beach House and Camera Obscura Art Lab Artist in Residence programs between 2020 and 2024, but whose work was never displayed publicly due to the pandemic closures. This exhibit will be on display until October 5, 2025.

You can read more about the exhibit and artist [via this blog post](#).



Best,

Elaine Polachek  
Interim City Manager  
[ec@sanmonica.gov](mailto:ec@sanmonica.gov)  
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

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**From:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**To:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**Subject:** Accepted: Meeting with Jesse re: budget  
**Date:** Thursday, May 29, 2025 1:38:53 PM  
**Attachments:** [attachment.ics](#)

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**From:** [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**To:** [Thomas McLaughlin](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Cline](#); [Christopher J. Smith](#); [Lauren Howland](#); [Matthew Hallock](#); [Anuj Gupta](#)  
**Subject:** BBB Accident  
**Date:** Friday, May 30, 2025 10:18:22 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good morning Mayor and Council,

At approximately 8:45 this morning, a Big Blue Bus was involved in an accident with a pedestrian on Pico at 29<sup>th</sup> Street. The pedestrian was transported to a local hospital in serious condition. I will update you as more information becomes available.

Elaine



**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

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**From:** Elaine Polachek  
**To:** Elaine Polachek  
**Subject:** City Council Updates: Week of May 26  
**Date:** Thursday, May 29, 2025 4:58:37 PM  
**Attachments:** [image018.png](#)  
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[image031.png](#)  
[image032.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**

Community Development staff is eagerly awaiting connecting with the Santa Monica business community to update our partners on current **economic development initiatives** at 9am, Wednesday, June 4 at 1212 Santa Monica. Please share widely with your networks:



Santa Monica's **2025 Most Loved** Businesses will be celebrated Tuesday, June 3 at a networking event. Invitations have been sent directly to councilmembers – please RSVP by Friday.

**Local Business Updates:**

- **Tae RYONG Taekwondo** relocated its Pacific Palisades location to 927 Montana Avenue and is currently holding classes six days a week
- **Ocean Express Dry Cleaners** moved from its previous Montana Avenue location to 923 Montana Avenue, staying in the neighborhood.
- **Two of a Kind** eyebrow studio is now open at 2305 Main Street.
- The wealth and investment management firm **Gerber Kawasaki** is now located at 2437 Main Street.
- **Rich Angel Salon** is now providing services at 2503 Main Street.
- **Heartbreak Hill Running** Company has opened up their first West Coast location at 2430 Main Street.
- **Bread + Butter** is serving baked goods and fresh sandwiches at 2645 Main Street.
- Tattoo artists specializing in fine line, color, black and grey, and custom designs are now at **Black Hand Co.**, located at 2107 Main Street.

Following recent press coverage of the downtown **Bank of America** on the city-owned property at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Arizona Avenue planning to move locations, Economic Development staff reached out to the bank. Bank of America expressed appreciation for the City's interest in keeping its tenancy in the downtown as long as possible. Staff will be returning to Closed Session to present the bank's proposal for Council's consideration to extend its term, given the forthcoming Surplus Land Act process and future redevelopment of 4AZ.

Planning, Economic Development, and Police in partnership with the UCLA Health Rape Treatment Center hosted an **EZSM training** with Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. on Wednesday, May 28, to rollout the City's Entertainment Zone program. Interested businesses will be able to directly contact staff through [ezsm@santamonica.gov](mailto:ezsm@santamonica.gov). Approximately 20 businesses attended the training, a mixture of food and beverage operators and retailers. The EZSM [web page](#) is live now. Program enrollment will be live online on June 4.



The City Council **Economic Development Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee** met on Tuesday, May 27 – topics included efforts by the Interdepartmental committees, collaboration with partners and updates on special events.

The Architectural Review Board is scheduled to meet on Monday, June 2. The agenda includes:

- 1640 5<sup>th</sup> Street, a multifamily residential building: review the design, colors, materials, and landscape for an eight-story, 87' tall, 112,302 square feet 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 **Planning Commission** is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, June 4. Agenda items include:

- A study session from Public Works regarding the Airport Conversion Project Three Scenarios
- Making a recommendation to the City Council to amend the Zoning Ordinance authorizing adult use cannabis retailers

The **Downtown Farmers Market** will host the Fire Department Wednesday at the center of the market on June 4. The SMFD team will be available to demonstrate hands only CPR and provide safety information to the community.

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT)**

The City of Santa Monica's Local Roadway Safety Plan Identified East Pico Boulevard as among the 14% of roadways that account for 50% of the fatal and severe traffic collisions in Santa Monica. To address this challenge the City was awarded a SCAG Sustainable Communities Quick-Build grant for Pico Blvd between 27<sup>th</sup> Street and Centinela Blvd. Community outreach for the **East Pico Safety Project** began in Fall 2023 with a corridor walk audit (32 community member participants) and the launch of the project's interactive Social Pinpoint mapping website, which received over 350 comments. Members of the East Pico Safety Project team conducted in-person outreach at local businesses on the corridor during Small Business Saturday as well as at the Virginia Avenue Park Farmer's Market and the West Side Foodbank's Holiday Turkey Distribution event. The project team hosted an in-person pop-up event on May 18, 2024, that provided stakeholders and residents the opportunity to learn about the project, share their perspectives, and contribute to shaping the design of the quick build safety improvements. The pop-up included a temporary relocation of the bus stop from its current location in the center of the intersection of 33<sup>rd</sup> Street at Pico Blvd to the planned far-side location just west of Urban Ave to demonstrate how such a relocation would function. In addition to the corridor wide outreach, the project team distributed 3700 postcard mailers to residents and within 1/4 mile of the corridor, and established a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) comprised of residents and community group representatives including a representative from the Pico Improvement Organization (PIO) that has already met three times.

Following the corridor analysis and community engagement process, the City staff and design team developed construction plans for the corridor. The project includes various quick-build safety enhancements, such as high-visibility crosswalks, paint and post curb extensions, a speed feedback sign, hardened centerlines, updated signage and roadway markings, a right-turn-only treatment from Dorchester Ave to Pico Blvd, and relocating a westbound bus stop from the center of the intersection of 33<sup>rd</sup> Street to the far-side of Urban Avenue. As noted in the Council adopted B&B transit service guidelines, placing stops on the far side of an intersection is recommended wherever possible. Far side stop placement improves bus travel times as well as pedestrian and bicycle safety (since they will cross the street behind instead of in front of the bus). This bus stop relocation will require the removal of 3 of the 22 metered parking spaces on the 3200 block of Pico Blvd, which according to City Parking Meter data has a peak parking occupancy rate of 30 percent. The construction contract award for the East Pico Safety Project will be brought to Council as part of the FY24-25 Annual Repaving contract at the July 22, 2025 Council meeting.



Photo: East Pico Safety Project pop-up event, May 19, 2024.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**Administration:** Chief Hallock and OEM Director Lindsay Call attended the 2025 American Red Cross Salute to Hometown Heroes celebration at the historic Queen Mary in Long Beach. At the celebration, Jeff Jarow, Stephanie Inouye and Trevor Nichols were honored for their heroic efforts in rescuing an elderly female from an apartment fire in Santa Monica last year.



**Total (344)**



**Weekly Incident Summary:**

During this reporting period, the Santa Monica Fire Department responded to a total of 344 incidents. The breakdown is as follows:

- Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incidents: 206 calls (59.88%)  
EMS continues to make up the majority of our response activity.
- None / In Progress: 87 incidents (25.29%)  
These incidents were either pending final classification or in progress at the time of reporting.
- Good Intent Calls: 20 calls (5.82%)  
Calls made in good faith where no emergency was ultimately found.
- False Alarm & False Calls: 16 calls (4.65%)  
Includes unintentional system activations and false reports.
- Fire Incidents: 7 calls (2.04%)  
Incidents requiring fire suppression efforts.
- Service Calls: 3 calls (0.87%)  
Non-emergency public assistance and service requests.
- Special Incident Types: 2 calls (0.58%)  
Incidents that fall outside typical classifications.
- Hazardous Conditions (No Fire): 3 calls (0.87%)  
Responses to potentially dangerous situations without active fire, such as gas leaks or electrical hazards.
- Our crews continue to respond effectively across a diverse range of emergencies, maintaining a high level of service and public safety.

**Wildland Firing Operations:** This past week, three of our Battalion Chiefs successfully completed the final course required to qualify for opening a task book as a Strike Team Leader—a significant milestone in their leadership development and operational readiness. A Strike Team Leader is responsible for overseeing a team of five fire engines during deployment to wildland fires, ensuring coordinated tactics, safety, and effective response on the fireline. These engines are typically staffed by personnel from the Santa Monica Fire Department in collaboration with our regional partners at the Beverly Hills and Culver City Fire Departments.

The course completed by our chiefs was CA-219: Wildland Firefighting – Firing Operations. This intensive training is designed to equip firefighters with the knowledge and practical skills necessary to plan, execute, and manage firing operations—both on active wildfires and during prescribed burns. Firing operations are a critical tool in wildland firefighting, used to remove fuel in advance of a fire and help control its spread.

The four-day course was held in Paso Robles, where our Battalion Chiefs worked in challenging field conditions, facing rugged terrain and temperatures exceeding 90 degrees. Throughout the training, they demonstrated strong leadership, tactical decision-making, and a commitment to excellence in wildfire operations.

We are proud of their dedication and congratulate them on this important achievement, which further strengthens our region’s preparedness and ability to respond to wildland fire incidents.



**Training Division:** This week the Training Division Facilitated a Driver/ Operator ID course. This driving course focuses on the operation of our ladder truck, which is considered a “Tiller apparatus”.

This is one of four driving classes required for members to qualify for the Engineer position.

The Department has supported the concept of building an internal State Instructor Cadre to deliver various state classes that would otherwise require members to be sent outside the city. This particular class is very hard to get as there are very few instructors in the state that can teach it. Santa Monica Fire has two and is working on more. The 40 hr. Class instruction is both classroom and field training consisting of:

- Operational Checks / Documentation
- Preventative Maintenance
- Operating a tillered apparatus
- Stabilization of a tillered apparatus
- 5 Practical Driving Exercises
- Summative Test
- Our goal is to get all of our members this training in the next two years and ultimately reduce our risk of accidents and increase both firefighter and public safety.



**EMS Division:** The EMS Division is leading an "Ambulance Operator Task Force" with the mission of developing our long anticipated in-house ambulance pilot program. The Task Force is meeting weekly and is made up of a well-represented group of internal and external stakeholders. Their mission is to develop the policies, procedures, recruitment, hiring, and training processes to ensure the high functionality and success of this program. The process is also exposing our members to project management and program development skills, essential to our succession planning and career development process.

**Prevention:**

Prevention Activities	Number Completed
Annual Fire Inspections	96
Alarm/Sprinkler Plan Check & Inspections	22
New Construction Plan Reviews/Meetings	20
Special Event Plan Reviews/Meetings	8

**Public Outreach:** This past week, we had the opportunity to further engage with our Spanish-speaking community through two meaningful outreach efforts. First, we presented Community Connect to the English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) at John Adams Middle School. The presentation, delivered entirely in Spanish, introduced families to this vital resource that allows residents to share critical household information with first responders to improve emergency response and safety outcomes. The response from parents and school staff was enthusiastic, with many expressing appreciation for a tool that prioritizes both safety and inclusion.

Later in the week, we partnered with the Familias Latinas Unidas group at Virginia Avenue Park to deliver Hands-Only CPR training. Also conducted in Spanish, this interactive session empowered community members with life-saving skills that can be used in emergencies while they wait for paramedics to arrive. Participants left feeling more confident and connected to the City's public safety efforts.

Both of these events reflect our continued commitment to language access, community empowerment, and public safety. We look forward to building on this momentum in the weeks ahead.



**Homeless numbers:**

<a href="#">Weekly Homeless Data.xlsx</a>	05/22 - 05/28/25
SMFD Total Calls	335
SMFD Homeless Related Calls	49
SMFD Fires related to homelessness	2
West Coast Care Data	05/22 - 05/28/25
Total number of referrals	22
Service Connection Types	
Multi Services	3
Pacific Sunset Shelter	
Salvation Army ARC	
SHARE Collaborative Housing	1
Safe Place for Youth (SPY)	
Veterans Affairs	
People Concern	6
St Joseph Center	
Step Up On Second	1
Venice Family Clinic	
Housed	2
Malibu Labor Exchange	
Salvation Army	7
General Relief	
Chrysalis	2
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	
SMFD Assist	
Interim Housing	

**HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES**

**Human Services Grants Program (HSGP) Highlight: Westside Food Bank:** Westside Food Bank continues to be an essential pillar of support for residents, ensuring access to nutritious food for low-income community members. Through their unwavering dedication, the organization consistently exceeds expectations, serving more individuals than their contract obligations require. The Westside Food Bank's commitment to fighting food insecurity has made a measurable difference in the lives of countless families.

As the demand for food assistance continues to rise, Westside Food Bank has responded to meet the growing needs of the community. Their efficiency and ability to mobilize resources have allowed them to expand their impact during critical times. The program is funded to supply Virginia Avenue Park with 50,000 pounds of food by the mid-year point of programming, but they have provided 94,226 pounds of food at mid-year to meet the growing need. The program is serving an additional 2,200 community members beyond the scope of their contract. Their outstanding performance is a testament to their mission-driven leadership and deep understanding of the challenges facing vulnerable residents.

**Hollywood Community Housing Corp. Acquires Petco Site:** As authorized by the City Council on December 17, 2024, Hollywood Community Housing Corporation (HCHC) has acquired the commercial property at 1402 Wilshire Boulevard, which currently houses Unleashed by Petco. HCHC's acquisition, made possible by a \$6 million Housing Trust Funds loan, will facilitate future development of an 82-apartment affordable senior community encompassing the Petco site and the adjacent City-owned parking lot at 1211-1217 Fourteenth Street. HCHC is applying for financing to construct the development, which is anticipated to break ground in late spring of 2026.

**Homelessness Prevention and Intervention (HPI) Updates**

*The People Concern (TPC) C3/HMST Outreach Update:* The success story for this month is "Joe", a 50-year-old male who has been experiencing homeless in Santa Monica for several years. Due to difficulty in securing employment to generate income to afford housing, Joe experienced housing instability. Joe was engaged by the TPC C3 team and was connected to several services provided by TPC, Venice Family Clinic and DTSM, Inc. After a few months, the TPC C3 team was able to assist Joe with securing a bed at The Manor. Joe has expressed his gratitude with saying how "nice it was to lay his head down at night and not have to worry about his safety".

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, select members of the C3 team have access to the 311 system for requests related to homelessness that do not require a response by SMPD or Public Works. Below are the monthly and fiscal year-to-date numbers for C3 and HMST.

C3/HMST Outreach Data	April 2025		Fiscal Year to Date July 2024 – June 2025	
	C3 Team	HMST	C3 Team	HMST
# of Contacts (Duplicated)	380	165	4,166	1,474
# Medical Services Provided	36	28	396	295
# Psychiatric Services Provided	23	17	170	119
# Placed in Interim Housing	3	1	53	7
# Placed in Permanent Housing	0	0	4	5

**LIBRARY**

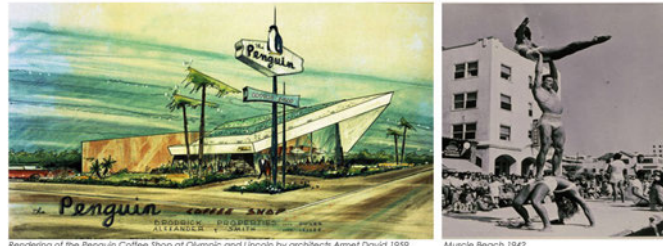
**Citizenship Class at Pico Branch:** Students from the Library's free citizenship class, taught by Adult Education Center instructor Dr. Patricia Hernandez, recently celebrated the end of the school year. Several of Dr. Hernandez's students passed the U.S. Citizenship exam, a proud achievement that she marked with a group photo at the Pico Branch Library. The Library's citizenship classes run annually from August to June and are open to adults 18+, with priority for Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District parents and local residents. The course covers U.S. history and government, helps with the citizenship application, and prepares students for the written and oral portions of the exam.



**How Santa Monica Streets Got Their Names at Ocean Park Branch:** More than 50 community members attended an engaging evening presentation by Mark Tapio Kines, the creator of LAStreetNames.com. Kines delivered a captivating lecture that traced the city of Santa Monica's development through various historical stages, highlighting the people, events, quirks, and communities that have shaped the names of the streets many of the attendees call home. Guests enjoyed light refreshments and expressed their appreciation to both the speaker and staff for an informative night.



**Research and Local History Resources:** From July through December 2025, the city of Santa Monica will commemorate 150 years since July 15, 1875, when the town was first mapped and land plots were sold. As part of this anniversary, the Library will help to celebrate the city's rich past by providing research support and local history resources. Located on the second floor of the Main Library, the [Santa Monica Collection Room](#) houses a specialized, non-circulating research collection of about 4,000 items documenting the history of the Santa Monica Bay region and beyond. In addition, the [Imagine Santa Monica](#) digital collections provide online access to historical images, newspapers, maps, and archives dating back to 1875. These resources offer city staff and community members the opportunity to explore the city's legacy as the community celebrates 150 years of history and growth.



**Santa Monica Repertory Theater Play Reading at Main Library:** On May 24, approximately 50 community members gathered at the Santa Monica Public Library's Main Library for the launch of Santa Monica Rep's much-loved summer reading series. The evening featured a moving staged reading of *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck, brought to life by talented performers from the Rep. The performance was followed by a thoughtful Q&A session, giving attendees the opportunity to engage with the cast and explore the timeless themes of Steinbeck's work. This event marks the first in a series of events hosted in collaboration with Santa Monica Rep and the Library throughout the summer. Additional events include a [Playwriting Workshop at the Pico Branch](#) and a [Youth Play Reading of The House on Mango Street at the Miles Playhouse](#).



## POLICE

### Weekly Recap

[Council Update 5-18 to 5-24.pptx](#)

## PUBLIC WORKS

**National Public Works Week 2025 – “People, Purpose, Presence”** The Public Works Department proudly celebrated National Public Works Week from May 18–24 with the theme: “People, Purpose, Presence.” Meeting the needs of our community gives Public Works its purpose, and our dedicated professionals are ever-present, working to enhance the quality of life for all.

Festivities were kicked off with a commendation at the May 13<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. Each division within the department selected its Employee of the Year, who were honored with daily department-wide acknowledgment messages and featured on individual posters displayed at City Hall and City Yards lobbies. To further celebrate their achievements, the images of these outstanding employees will be displayed on our green Resource Recovery & Recycling material collection trucks in the months ahead, giving the community a chance to recognize and appreciate them as well.

Throughout the week, Public Works divisions hosted festive lunches for staff, expressing gratitude for their hard work and celebrating their Employees of the Year. A special highlight was the unveiling of the new tile mural “Manos Unidas”, which honors the City Yards workforce. The event included a lunch reception and art booths for all to enjoy.

Congratulations to the Public Works Employees of the Year!!!

- **Aaron Braggs**, Resource Recovery & Recycling Equipment Operator – Resource Recovery & Recycling
- **Angela VonSlomski**, Senior Administrative Analyst – Office of Sustainability and the Environment
- **Boris Ramos**, Street Services Worker II – Street Services
- **David Rios**, Mechanic I – Fleet Management
- **Jeff Grooms**, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator I – Water Resources
- **Jonathan Maldonado**, Civil Engineering Associate – Engineering
- **Lyle Estrada**, Custodial Supervisor – Custodial Services
- **Ria Valas**, Real Estate Property Manager – Airport
- **Rolando Reyes**, Equipment Operator I – Woodlawn Cemetery
- **Salvador Aparicio**, Groundskeeper – Public Landscape
- **Sarah Noori**, Acting Executive Administrative Assistant – Administrative Services
- **Wayne Zoffi**, Carpenter Crew Leader – Facilities Maintenance
- **Yukiko Takahashi**, Architectural Associate – Architecture Services

A very special thank you goes out to Lizzy Acosta from the City Manager’s Office/Community Partnerships Division for coordinating and organizing the week’s festivities. A special thank you also goes out to Naomi Okuyama from Cultural Affairs, who partnered with Lizzy to help organize the reception for the unveiling of the *Manos Unidas* artwork.

**THANK YOU** both for your dedication and teamwork!



**2023 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory:** The Office of Sustainability and the Environment has published Santa Monica’s [2023 Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory](#). In 2023, the city produced 638,426 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO<sub>2e</sub>)—a 54% reduction compared to 1990 levels. This progress puts Santa Monica well on the way to meeting its ambitious climate goal of reducing emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2030, leaving a 26% reduction still needed.

As in most California cities, the transportation sector remains the largest contributor to emissions, accounting for 60% of Santa Monica’s total in 2023. However, these emissions have been gradually decreasing over time, thanks to the increased use of hybrid and electric vehicles, as well as a growing shift toward public transit and active transportation.

Building energy use was responsible for 34% of total emissions in 2023, stemming from both gas and electricity consumption across residential, commercial, and industrial buildings. Notably, 23% of total emissions came specifically from gas usage—primarily for water heating, space heating, and cooking.

While state-level policies have played a significant role in reducing local emissions, the City of Santa Monica continues to implement its own policies and programs aimed at further lowering emissions across all sectors. This steady progress reflects the city’s commitment to climate action and a more sustainable future.

**City of Santa Monica Scores an “A”** The Office of Sustainability and the Environment received news that the City of Santa Monica has received an “A” score by the 2024 Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) for its climate leadership and environmental transparency.

The CDP is a global disclosure system that tracks cities’ environmental impacts, greenhouse gas emissions, and sustainability initiatives. Participation in CDP reporting is part of Santa Monica’s commitment to the [Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy](#).

An “A” score represents the highest level of recognition and signifies that Santa Monica is demonstrating best practices in climate action and transparency. For the 2024 reporting year, only 15% of scored cities worldwide earned a place on CDP’s prestigious A List—including just 29 cities across the United States. This recognition reflects the City’s ongoing efforts to reduce emissions, build climate resilience, and lead the way in environmental responsibility.

## RECREATION AND ARTS

**Annenberg Community Beach House Shoutout in Time Out!** What better way to kick off Memorial Day Weekend than a shoutout in Time Out, a leading global media and hospitality business! The Beach House was featured as #8 out of 15 great things to do Memorial Day Weekend in Los Angeles. [The Article](#) was posted on May 23, 2025.



**Annenberg Community Beach House Welcomes Journalist to Santa Monica:** On May 19, Beach House manager Nan Friedman and SMTT welcomed journalist Tom Noga from ARTE and ARD to Santa Monica for an upcoming feature! ARTE and ARD are public European television channels broadcasting in Germany, Switzerland, Austria and France reaching an estimated 1.2 million



viewers. Their goal is to curate a piece celebrating Route 66's centennial – including a segment at the Beach House!

**Unveiling of Manos Unidas:** Staff, artists and Arts Commission members gathered to celebrate the completion of Tanya Aguiñiga's *Manos Unidas* tile mural, now permanently installed on the wall of Building A at City Yards. Over 200 employees of Public Works and other divisions based at City Yards gathered to enjoy burritos and chat with Tanya, who offered a drop-in clay workshop alongside the festivities.



**Adult Basketball and Adult Softball Summer League Registration:** Summer registration is now open for Community Recreation's adult basketball and adult softball leagues. These long-standing programs consistently serve over 1,000 participants each season and feature both competitive and recreational divisions.

Adult basketball games are held weeknights at Memorial Park Gym, Windward School, SAMOH!'s Gold Gymnasium, and John Adams Middle School Gym. Softball league games are primarily held at Memorial Park with occasional games at Marine Park.

The summer season kicks off in mid-June and runs through August. For registration details, schedules, and league information, visit [www.santamonicaadultsports.com](http://www.santamonicaadultsports.com).



Thank you,

**Elaine Polachek**

Interim City Manager

[santamonica.gov](http://santamonica.gov)

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**From:** [Sandra Santiago](#) on behalf of [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**To:** [Christopher J. Smith](#); [Caroline Torosis](#); [ctorosis@gmail.com](mailto:ctorosis@gmail.com); [Susan Cline](#)  
**Cc:** [Council Mailbox](#); [CMO Conference](#)  
**Subject:** CMO / Mayor Pro Tem Caroline Torosis biweekly meeting  
**Date:** Monday, June 2, 2025 8:58:37 AM  
**Attachments:** [attachment.ics](#)

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## Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

### [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: [REDACTED]

Passcode: [REDACTED]

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### Dial in by phone

[+1 310-883-7522](#), [REDACTED] United States, Santa Monica

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: [REDACTED]

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

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**From:** [Jennifer Taylor](#)  
**To:** [Caroline Torosis](#); [Jesse Zwick](#); [Barry Snell](#); [Ellis Raskin](#); [Elaine Polachek](#)  
**Subject:** Most Loved Santa Monica Businesses 2025 Awards Ceremony + Reception - PLEASE CONFIRM IF YOU ARE ABLE TO JOIN US!  
**Date:** Monday, June 2, 2025 8:52:06 AM  
**Attachments:** [attachment.ics](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Good morning honorable Councilmembers and Elaine!

I am circling back to see if you are interested/able to attend the Most Loved Santa Monica Businesses awards ceremony tomorrow night? Typically our attending Councilmembers and City Leadership help to announce the business winners and participate in photo ops. **If you plan to attend, can you please let me know by today by 3pm?** This way, Ross and I can be sure to write you into the script! If I do not hear back, we will assume you are not able to attend.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions about this event.

Thank you,

Jennifer

 (cell)

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Jennifer Taylor

**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2025 1:00 PM

**To:** Jennifer Taylor; 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

**Cc:** Alejandra Perez; Ivannia Perez-Schlamm; Natalya Zernitskaya; Gaidzik, Zachary; Donna J. Gentry; John M. Erickson, Ph.D.

**Subject:** Most Loved Santa Monica Businesses 2025 Awards Ceremony + Reception - RSVP LINK

**When:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 5:00 PM-6:30 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** Santa Monica Brew Works, 1920 Colorado Ave suite c, Santa Monica, CA 90404, USA

*Resending with the RSVP link (below)*

Dear City Council, City Management + Most Loved Partner,

The Buy Local Executive Committee congratulates the finalists and invites you to celebrate all

finalists and winners of the 2025 Most Loved Santa Monica Business Contest. This celebratory and networking event will be on June 3, 5:00-6:30pm at Santa Monica Brew Works.

Please click on the link below to register:

<https://events.humanitix.com/2025-most-loved-santa-monica-business>

RSVP no later than May 30.

Looking forward to celebrating with you!

Buy Local Santa Monica Committee

**From:** [Caroline Torosis](#)  
**To:** [Destiny Freeman](#); [Ramon Batista](#); [Heather Averick](#); [Lewis Gilmour](#); [Sonia Casillas](#)  
**Cc:** [Nikki Gilbert](#); [Laurie Craft](#); [Ryan Smith](#); [Mandy Sommers](#); [Natalie Hernandez](#); [Joi Richardson](#); [Kennisha Williams](#); [Josh Kurpies](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center - Ryan Smith  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 3:29:50 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[Outlook-g3elrd0n.png](#)  
[Outlook-stycm30c.png](#)  
[Outlook-2dcr3iqp.png](#)  
[Outlook-o5q0qlv5.png](#)  
[Outlook-qdnhyg3g.png](#)  
[Outlook-05z1jfpq.png](#)  
[Outlook-ejusih0w.png](#)  
[Outlook-iog4mgl3.png](#)

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Hi All,

Can you please send us a calendar invite for this? Also, I will only be available from 10-11. Looking forward.

Caroline

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**From:** Destiny Freeman <dfreeman@stjosephctr.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 8:51:39 AM  
**To:** Ramon Batista <Ramon.Batista@santamonica.gov>; Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>; Heather Averick <Heather.Averick@santamonica.gov>; Lewis Gilmour <Lewis.Gilmour@santamonica.gov>; Sonia Casillas <Sonia.Casillas@santamonica.gov>  
**Cc:** Nikki Gilbert <NGilbert@stjosephctr.org>; Laurie Craft <lcraft@stjosephctr.org>; Ryan Smith <rsmith@stjosephctr.org>; Mandy Sommers <MSommers@stjosephctr.org>; Natalie Hernandez <NHernandez@stjosephctr.org>; Joi Richardson <jrichardson@stjosephctr.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center - Ryan Smith

EXTERNAL

My apologies, the correct date is Thursday, June 5. Thank you!

Kind Regards,

## DESTINY FREEMAN

Executive Assistant (Temp) | Office of the CEO | St. Joseph Center  
[dfreeman@stjosephctr.org](mailto:dfreeman@stjosephctr.org)  
o: 310-396-6468 ext. 384 | c: (909) 892-8374  
204 Hampton Drive, Venice, CA 90291 | [www.stjosephctr.org](http://www.stjosephctr.org)



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**From:** Destiny Freeman <dfreeman@stjosephctr.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 8:49 AM

**To:** Ramon Batista <Ramon.Batista@santamonica.gov>; Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>; Heather Averick <Heather.Averick@santamonica.gov>; Lewis Gilmour <Lewis.Gilmour@santamonica.gov>; Sonia Casillas <Sonia.Casillas@santamonica.gov>

**Cc:** Nikki Gilbert <NGilbert@stjosephctr.org>; Laurie Craft <lcraft@stjosephctr.org>; Ryan Smith <rsmith@stjosephctr.org>; Mandy Sommers <MSommers@stjosephctr.org>; Natalie Hernandez <NHernandez@stjosephctr.org>; Joi Richardson <jrichardson@stjosephctr.org>

**Subject:** Re: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center - Ryan Smith

Dear Santa Monica Police Department and Team,

I would like to send a friendly reminder that we are looking forward to welcoming you on Thursday, 6/9 at 9:30 AM to our Bread and Roses Café & Hampton Headquarters for a site visit. The St. Joseph Center team values the opportunity to meet in person and spend time in community with both of our teams. I have provided the details below to help prepare for tomorrow's visit.

### **Site Visit: St. Joseph Center (Santa Monica Police Department)**

**Date:** Thursday, June 5

**Time:** 9:30-11:00 AM

**Address:**

Bread and Roses Café & Hampton Headquarters

- Bread & Roses Café: 663 Rose Avenue, Venice, 90291
- Hampton Headquarters: 204 Hampton Drive, Venice, 90291

**Agenda:**

- 9:30 am: Arrival at Bread and Roses Café (663 Rose Ave, Venice, 90291)
- 9:30 am – 9:50 am: Bread and Roses Tour w/ Dr. Ryan and Sharon Plunkett
- 9:50 am – 10:00 am: Drive to Hampton campus (204 Hampton Drive, Venice, 90291)
- 10:00 am – 10:15 am: Hampton Site Tour

10:15 am – 11:00 am: Introductions and Updates

- 11:00 am – Closing

Parking & Arrival Instructions:

- Bread & Roses Café: Upon arrival, street parking is available. Please enter Bread & Roses through the rear entrance of the building that can be accessed just off Bernand Ave. A member of our team will be available to greet you.
- Hampton Parking: We have reserved parking spaces in our lower parking lot accessed from Marine Street. The parking lot attendant will be available to provide assistance at your arrival, and a member of our team will greet you.

Point of Contact:

Should you have any questions or issues on the day of the visit, please reach out to Joi Richardson at (636) 236-5901.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions ahead of the site visit. We are excited to welcome you to our campus!

Kind Regards,



**DESTINY FREEMAN**

Executive Assistant (Temp) | Office of the CEO | St. Joseph Center  
[dfreeman@stjosephctr.org](mailto:dfreeman@stjosephctr.org)  
o: 310-396-6468 ext. 384 | c: (909) 892-8374  
204 Hampton Drive, Venice, CA 90291 | [www.stjosephctr.org](http://www.stjosephctr.org)



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**From:** Joi Richardson <jrichardson@stjosephctr.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 8, 2025 9:35 AM

**To:** Ramon Batista <Ramon.Batista@santamonica.gov>; Caroline Torosis <Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov>; Heather Averick <Heather.Averick@santamonica.gov>; Lewis Gilmour <Lewis.Gilmour@santamonica.gov>; Sonia Casillas <Sonia.Casillas@santamonica.gov>

**Cc:** Nikki Gilbert <NGilbert@stjosephctr.org>; Destiny Freeman <dfreeman@stjosephctr.org>; Laurie Craft <lcraft@stjosephctr.org>; Ryan Smith <rsmith@stjosephctr.org>; Mandy Sommers <MSommers@stjosephctr.org>; Natalie Hernandez <NHernandez@stjosephctr.org>

**Subject:** RE: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center - Ryan Smith

Good morning, Chief Batista,

My name is Joi Richardson, and I'm the Vice President of External Affairs here at St. Joseph Center. It's a pleasure to be added to the thread, and I'm thrilled to assist with coordinating your visit to our sites.

I'd be happy to help schedule a time for the tour of our Bread and Roses Café and Access Center. Please feel free to share a few dates and times that work for you and your team, and I'll coordinate accordingly. Additionally, if it would be helpful, I'm available for a call or virtual meeting to work through the details—whatever is most convenient for your team.

I'm looking forward to connecting further and continuing to strengthen our partnership in support of the community.

Best regards,



**JOI RICHARDSON**

VP of External Affairs & Communication

[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org) | p: (310) 396-6468

204 Hampton Drive, Venice, CA 90291 | [www.stjosephctr.org](http://www.stjosephctr.org)



**From:** Ramon Batista <[Ramon.Batista@santamonica.gov](mailto:Ramon.Batista@santamonica.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, April 7, 2025 1:07 PM

**To:** Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>

**Subject:** RE: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center - Ryan Smith

Hi Ryan,

I want to sincerely say thank you for your graciousness in how you handled my mistake between St Johns and St Josephs. I spent 30+ years working in a jurisdiction where St. Joes was THE local hospital, and to this date, I get them mixed up in Santa Monica.

I look forward to meeting with you.

Best

Chief Batista



**Ramón Batista**

**Chief of Police**

Police Department  
333 Olympic Drive  
Santa Monica, CA 90401  
Office: (310) 458-8401

**From:** Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>

**Sent:** Saturday, April 5, 2025 9:31 AM

**To:**

**Cc:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>; Heather Averick <[Heather.Averick@santamonica.gov](mailto:Heather.Averick@santamonica.gov)>; Lewis Gilmour <[Lewis.Gilmour@santamonica.gov](mailto:Lewis.Gilmour@santamonica.gov)>; Sonia Casillas <[Sonia.Casillas@santamonica.gov](mailto:Sonia.Casillas@santamonica.gov)>; Laurie Craft <[lcraft@stjosephctr.org](mailto:lcraft@stjosephctr.org)>; Mandy Sommers <[MSommers@stjosephctr.org](mailto:MSommers@stjosephctr.org)>; Joi Richardson <[jrichardson@stjosephctr.org](mailto:jrichardson@stjosephctr.org)>; Natalie Hernandez <[NHernandez@stjosephctr.org](mailto:NHernandez@stjosephctr.org)>

**Subject:** Re: Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center - Ryan Smith

EXTERNAL

Dear Chief Batista and Councilmember Torosis,

Thank you so much, Caroline, for the introduction and for your continued partnership. Chief Batista, I appreciate you reaching out and I'm looking forward to connecting.

Yes, I've had the pleasure of working with Heather Averick and truly appreciate her commitment to our partnership and her leadership supporting our clients and communities.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can further support unhoused individuals in Santa Monica. Please let us know how we can continue to support upcoming initiatives?

Additionally, we would love to host you at our site to provide a tour of our Bread and Roses Café, Access Center, and share updates on our efforts in Santa Monica. If you're open, I'd be happy to coordinate a time that works well for you and your team. I know your team is also very supportive of our Youth Resource Team's activities each year.

Looking forward to our conversation and finding ways to strengthen our collective

efforts.

Best regards,

RJS

**Dr. Ryan J. Smith**

**President and CEO**

St. Joseph Center | Hope Through Empowerment

[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org) | he/him/his

204 Hampton Drive, Venice, CA 90291 | [www.stjosephctr.org](http://www.stjosephctr.org)

On Apr 5, 2025, at 9:03 AM, Ramon Batista <[Ramon.Batista@santamonica.gov](mailto:Ramon.Batista@santamonica.gov)> wrote:

Hi Caroline,

Thank you for the introduction!

Ryan, I look forward to meeting with you. I'm not sure if you've met Heather Averick, our Director of Health & Human Services, but it would be great to schedule a time for all of us to connect.

Additionally, the Santa Monica Police Department's Community Engagement Team has been in discussions with a team at St. Joseph's about organizing a "Coffee with a Cop" event at the hospital. The goal is to rebuild and repair relationships impacted by the medical transports of the local unhoused population to St. Joseph's. While I don't have the specific date(s) yet, we are excited about the opportunity to engage with the hospital staff.

On the CC line, Lt. Lewis Gilmour and Executive Assistant Sonia Casillas will assist in coordinating the meeting date and time.

Best,

Chief Ramon Batista

---

**From:** Caroline Torosis <[Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov](mailto:Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, April 4, 2025 4:50:29 PM

**To:** Ramon Batista <[Ramon.Batista@santamonica.gov](mailto:Ramon.Batista@santamonica.gov)>

**Cc:** Ryan Smith <[rsmith@stjosephctr.org](mailto:rsmith@stjosephctr.org)>; Heather Averick <[Heather.Averick@santamonica.gov](mailto:Heather.Averick@santamonica.gov)>

**Subject:** Introduction to CEO St. Joseph Center - Ryan Smith

Hi Chief Batista,

I wanted to introduce you to my friend, Ryan Smith, who is the President and CEO of St. Joseph Center. As you know, St. Joseph Center is our access point into the coordinated entry system for the Service Planning Area (SPA 5) Santa Monica is in.

St. Joseph is expanding their services to be available overnight and I believe it might be helpful if Ryan's team connected with the appropriate people in the police department just so you all have good points of contact.

I hope you all are able to connect and let me know if I can be helpful.

Best,  
Caroline

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