

CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

November 21, 2011

CITY MANAGER

Employees at the City of Huntington Beach once again stepped up to help the City in its budget shortfall by negotiating side letter agreements that provided more than \$1.6 million dollars in savings over a two-year period.

The City Council voted at the November 21, 2011, meeting to accept the actions of the Municipal Employees Association that would do the following:

- Increase the employee contribution to the PERS retirement system from 2.25% to 4.25% (\$536,000 annual value)
- Suspend the HB Police Department physical therapy program (\$68,000 annual value)
- Take 18 hours –the equivalent of two days – as unpaid/furlough (\$200,000 annual value)

Non-essential City services to the public will be closed on December 27, 28, 29, and 30 for 2011. Along with Christmas Day and New Year's Day, the Holiday Closure covers 36 hours for full-time employees. The Municipal Employees Association members will take 18 unpaid hours during the Holiday Closure providing a significant savings to the City of \$200,000.

Additionally, the Municipal Employee Association has agreed to a second-tier retirement system for newly hired employees. Current employees receive 2.5% at age 55, new employees will be hired under a different formula, yet to be determined. The second tier goes into effect when the other employee groups who are currently under the 2.5% at 55 formula agree to a second-tier retirement program.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Annual Second Harvest Holiday Food Drive

The Community Services Department is collaborating with Second Harvest Food Bank and Mariners Church Huntington Beach on the "Annual Second Harvest Holiday Food Drive." The food drive will run from November 23 through December 11, and collection bins will be available at Edison Community Center, Murdy Community Center, and the City Gym and Pool. To kick-off the citywide food drive, Bella Terra Huntington Beach is hosting a special holiday concert on Sunday, November 27, at 6:30 P.M. In lieu of paid admission to the holiday concert, participants are asked to bring canned goods for the Annual Second Harvest food drive.

Huntington Beach Senior Services

Talkin' Turkey – Each November, for the past 14 years, an anonymous donor delivers 25 frozen turkey breasts to Huntington Beach Senior Services. Outreach Care Managers deliver the turkeys to low-income participants who are still able to cook a celebratory Thanksgiving dinner. On Thanksgiving Day, volunteers deliver hot turkey dinners prepared by Huntington Beach Hospital to participants who are no longer able to cook for themselves. Alone on the

holiday, the participants appreciate the meal, short visit and greeting card hand crafted by the National Charity League. The Holiday Meal program is funded by the Handy Crafters and the Huntington Beach Council on Aging. It is through the community partnership of individuals and community organizations that Huntington Beach Senior Services is able to promote independence and dignity for local seniors.

City Gym and Pool

Last Thursday November 17, a participant in the Aqua Therapy: Aqua Active Class at the City Gym and Pool, notified staff that a large diamond had fallen out of her wedding ring and could not be found. Water Safety Instructor and Pool Lifeguard, Rokyt Dulac, used his swim goggles, between teaching Red Cross classes, to search the bottom of the pool. Rokyt found the loose diamond lodged in the drain cover. The student was thrilled upon hearing the news and grateful to the Community Services staff for their commitment to excellent service! Way to go Rokyt!

Huntington Beach Art Center

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the donors, advocates, and patrons who have supported the Art Center this year. Donations and grant support from the Huntington Beach Educational Foundation, the Huntington Beach Art Center Foundation, the McCune Family Foundation, the Music Teachers Association of Orange County, the National Charity League, the Orange County Community Foundation, the Plunkett Foundation, and the Surf City USA Marathon have enabled us to provide educational and artistic programs and events for more than 12,000 children and adults. The many advocates who expressed their support at City Council demonstrated their appreciation of the Art Center. We thank you all for your kindness, generosity, and support.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

City Wins Regional Award for Business Plan

The City of Huntington Beach's Ten Point Plan for Local Business has been honored by the Orange County Business Council (OCBC) as the recipient of the inaugural "Turning Red Tape into Red Carpet" award in the category of Business Retention and Expansion. The award was presented at an OCBC celebratory reception on November 17 and OCBC President Lucy Dunn formally presented the award to the City Council at November 21 meeting.

This award recognizes the city for proactively cutting through the red tape and opening the door for business by creating – and implementing - the Ten Point Plan. The Plan was created by Huntington Beach as a vehicle to cement the city's commitment to supporting and influencing local business retention and attraction, with a goal of producing more new jobs, expanding the local tax base, and increasing the satisfaction of the business community in receiving the important services they need to remain successful. Huntington Beach applied for the honor and the program was selected from among many other outstanding programs throughout the County.

For more information on the City's Ten Point Plan for Local Business, visit <http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/announcements/announcement.cfm?id=277>. For more

information on the OCBC Turning Red Tape into Red Carpet Awards, visit <http://www.ocbc.org/>.

Miracle on Main Street Kicks of the 2011 Holiday Season

Celebrate the start of the 2011 holiday season at the annual Main Street Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony in Downtown Huntington Beach on Saturday, November 26. The fun begins with free live entertainment, holiday treats, and a visit from Santa himself at 5:00 PM, and the tree lighting and the transformation to the "Miracle on Main Street" at 6:00 PM.

Since you'll already be there to enjoy the festivities, why not escape the swarming mall crowds by visiting our downtown merchants to do your holiday shopping? Shopping locally helps to generate tax dollars for the city which are used to make our community safe and beautiful. There is much to choose from in the area, from national brands like Forever 21, G by Guess, and Sketchers at The Strand, to unique and exciting Main Street merchants who certainly make it possible to find the perfect holiday surprise for everyone on your list. For more information about the Miracle on Main Street and all of what downtown has to offer, visit www.hb-downtown.com.

FIRE

Heating Safety Tips

Be warm and safe this winter! Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment (i.e. furnace, fireplace, portable space heater)
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters
- Never use your oven to heat your home
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms monthly

For more information, visit www.nfpa.org/education.

INFORMATION SERVICES

City of Huntington Beach Web Surfing Tips

Did you know that you can have a wedding on the City beach? You can find out information about this at: http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/residents/beach_info/beach_wedding.cfm

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Public Comment Period for Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance Initial Study

The 30 day comment period for the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the proposed Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance Initial Study opened on Thursday, November 17, 2011, and will end at 5:00 pm Monday, December 19, 2011. The Notice of Preparation period allows interested parties to submit comments on the scope and content of environmental issues to be reviewed for the proposed ordinance.

The project involves the adoption of a proposed ordinance (Ordinance) by the City of Huntington Beach City Council that would prohibit distribution of plastic carry-out bags in commercial point of sale purchases within the City of Huntington Beach. The proposed ordinance will also establish a ten (10) cent charge on the issuance of recyclable paper carry-out bags at all grocery stores and supermarkets, drug stores, pharmacies, convenience stores, foodmarts and Huntington Beach farmer's markets. All stores affected by the proposed ordinance would be required to provide reusable bags to customers either for sale or at no charge, and each store would be strongly encouraged to promote the use of reusable bags through staff education and customer outreach.

A meeting will be held during the comment period to take comments related to the scope of the environmental issues to be analyzed within the draft EIR. The meeting will be held at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, December 7, 2011 in the Talbert Room at Huntington Beach Library located at 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach, California. Copies of the NOP and Initial Study are available at the Planning & Building Department, Central Library, and online at <http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/Government/Departments/Planning/Environmentalreports.cfm>

For further information, please contact Hayden Beckman, Project Planner, at 714-374-5317.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Seal Beach Police Chief Thanks HB Police and Fire

The Huntington Beach Police and Fire Department received a proclamation from the Seal Beach Police Chief at the Council meeting last Monday night. Many agencies at all levels were honored and thanked for their assistance during the worst mass murder in the history of Orange County at the Salon Meritage.

HB Police Department to Partnering with Orange County Crime Stoppers

Orange County Crime Stoppers encourages members of the community to assist local law enforcement agencies in the fight against crime by overcoming the two key elements that inhibit community involvement: fear and apathy.

Crime Stoppers provides a telephone number and Web Tips to encourage citizens in the community to volunteer vital information helpful to law enforcement agencies to fight against crime.

Any information sent assures the anonymity of the tipster so there is no fear of reprisal or hard feelings among friends or family members. This new way of crime fighting is all due to Crime Stoppers coming to Orange County.

There are more than 300 Crime Stoppers organizations in the United States and over 1,400 worldwide. This program has proven to be an asset to any community, with over 850,000 arrests made, over 1.2 million crimes cleared, and \$8 billion in property and drugs recovered in the last 33 years. Police departments in Orange County, including Huntington Beach Police Department, have partnered with Crime Stoppers.

The anonymity of tipsters is guaranteed because calls are received at a Call Center using a toll free number: 1-855-TIPS-OCCS. All phone lines are encrypted and no phone calls are ever recorded. Tips are then sent on to OC Crime Stoppers for further evaluation.

Tips sent by e-mail have unique integrated Two-Way Dialog capabilities that allow the tipster to go back and provide additional information to the tip at any time, but also provide a secure means for the coordinator to ask questions of the tipster through the same secure and encrypted interface. This is just the beginning of a new way for the public to join the fight against crime and it will hopefully mean the end of many a criminal.

OC Crime Stoppers is looking for volunteers to serve on its Board of Directors. For more information go to the OC Crime Stoppers Website at www.occrimestoppers.org

PUBLIC WORKS**Thanksgiving Holiday Affects Street Sweeping and Trash Collection**

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no street sweeping on Thursday and Friday, November 24 and 25. If your street is usually swept on 2nd and 4th Thursdays or Fridays, your street will not be swept this week. Streets that are not swept due to holidays are not rescheduled. There is no make-up schedule for street sweeping. Trash will not be collected on Thanksgiving Day.

Residents on Thursday's route should place their trash for collection on Friday. Friday's route will be collected on Saturday. The regular maintenance schedule resumes on Monday, November 28. If you have questions about the holiday maintenance schedule, please contact the Public Works Maintenance division at 714-960-8861.

Utility Yard Expansion Project Wins Award

The newly renovated City Utility Yard located near the corner of Huntington Street and Garfield Avenue, is now an "Award Winning" Utility Yard. The project has just been recognized by the Southern California Chapter of the American Public Works Association to receive the 2011 Project of the Year award. This project was selected over many other quality projects in the Facilities Category. The award will be formally presented to the City at an awards luncheon to be held in the City of Lakewood on December 7, 2011.

The winning project included construction of a new 6,714 square foot Operations Building, an 11,096 square foot Distribution and Meter Building, a 1,029 square foot expansion to the existing Water Production Building, and improved parking layout to accommodate all personnel. In addition, the existing bulk material storage area and fluoride tanks were relocated within the site to provide better accessibility. The existing Administration Building also underwent extensive renovations with exterior and interior upgrades including new furniture, appliances and building fixtures and the installation of enhanced landscape and water features. Final project cost was approximately \$7.3M.