



COUNCIL DISTRICT 4

2015 in Review

Here are the highlights of 2015 regarding the City of Pasadena and District 4

Thank you for being a supporter of District 4,

Gene

Pension Reform

January 1, 2012, Pasadena started negotiating with employee bargaining groups and this was the beginning of pension reform. Some employees started paying their full share of an 8% contribution to their own pension. As of January 1, 2016 according to our City Manager, 100% of the employees in Pasadena are now paying the full employee share to their own pension.

Pasadena Budget has Balanced Four Years in a Row

June, 2015, Pasadena City Council adopted a balanced budget four years in a row. The previous 10 years were unbalanced so this is a great improvement. The budget was \$209 million for 2015 for the General Fund and the proposed budget for 2016 is \$224 million. According to the Finance Department, there has been an increase in

sales tax, property tax revenue, utility user tax and transient occupancy tax (TOT) charged to visitors by hotels. The TOT continues to improve because of the increase in tourism, business travel and bookings at the Pasadena Convention Center.

Embezzlement and Insurance Claim

First let us start with the insurance claim news. Pasadena received a full \$5 million dollars for the insurance claim. Pasadena had in force a fraud policy to protect the city against crime by employees or others. An employee was alleged to have embezzled \$6.4 million from a fund for the purpose of undergrounding utilities throughout the city. After an initial internal investigation, the city commissioned an independent audit by KPMG in May 2014. This audit revealed that former city employee Danny Wooten and two others Tyrone Collins and Melody Jenkins were involved in the scheme to embezzle from the city's fund. The Los Angeles County District Attorney announced the arrest of all three individuals which are named in a 60 count felony complaint and they are in the middle of the trial process.

Citizen's Task Force for the Embezzlement

Former Mayor Bogaard appointed seven members of the community to help review the policies and procedures of Pasadena. The Citizen's Task Force assisted in formulating the reviews that will take place specifically across the financial administration of City Hall. The task-force members are Robert Carlson, Robert Davidson Jr., James Dowling, Douglas Kranwinkle, Donald Nanney, Charlotte Reith and Raul Salinas. The expertise and skills of these dedicated individuals were forensic accounting, finance, municipal administration, law, fraud, investigations, public integrity and ethics. Thank you Task Force for a job well done.

Gold Line 11.5 mile extension to Azusa and the Grand Opening is March 5, 2016

In September 2015, the Gold Line Construction Authority handed over the 11.5 mile extension project to Metro for testing. There are six new Gold Line stations starting in Arcadia, Monrovia, Duarte, Irwindale, downtown Azusa and Azusa Pacific University & Citrus College. The next extension that is being proposed is Phase 2B from Azusa to Montclair but funding has not been determined yet by Los Angeles County Metro.

El Nino

El Nino is still growing according to NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and is set to bear down on the U.S. and shows no sign of waning. We have had lots of rain and plenty is due to come. The two largest El Ninos on record developed over 1982-83 and 1997-1998. The next four months may be the most important time period in California history for El Ninos.

City Manager Hires 5 New Directors

Michael Beck, City Manager hired five new directors in Pasadena. Michael Johnson became the New Public Health Department Director effective September 14, 2015. Mr. Johnson is responsible for the overall planning administration and operations of PPHD. Matthew Hawkesworth was hired and started October 5, 2015 as the Head of Pasadena's Finance Department. Mr. Hawkesworth was previously the Assistant City Manager of Rosemead. The new Human Resource Director hired is Jennifer Curtis and she is responsible for the administration and operation of the department including overall city employment activities, benefits packages, safety and accident reports, workers compensation, succession planning, workforce diversity issues, labor agreements and training & skills development. Ms. Curtis duties became effective November 2, 2015. The new Director for the Human Services & Recreation Department is Horace Wormely a long time city employee for 34

years serving in other positions. Wormely will be responsible for the overall administration and operations of the Department. Wormely's duties started approximately on November 1, 2015. Mr. Ara Maloyan was hired to start on December 14, 2015 as the New Public Works Director. Mr. Maloyan was previously the Long Beach Director of Public Works. Maloyan was the City Engineer for the City of Beverly Hills and also worked for five years in the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works.

City Manager hired a New Internal Audit Manager

Michael Beck, City Manager made the announcement that he hired a new Internal Audit Manager, Ruth Holden who comes from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Holden was the MTA's Chief Auditor for the last ten years. Ms. Holden as the Internal Audit Manager will manage the contract for the recently approved Fraud Risk Assessment, revise and implement the City's Audit Work Plan and contract out various operational internal audits. Duties started around November 1, 2015.

Terry Tornek Wins Mayor's Race

On May 4, 2015, Terry Tornek was sworn in as the new Mayor of Pasadena and the second citywide elected mayor in the city's history. He received 55% of the votes casted against City Councilmember, Jacque Robinson in the run-off election.

Tyron Hampton won the District 1 seat against retired Fire Chief Calvin Wells.

Steve Madison, District 6, Margaret McAustin, District 2 and Gene Masuda, District 4 won their Council district seats while being unopposed.

710 Freeway Tunnel Project is Called Incomplete by EPA

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in September 2015 called the completion of the so called 710 Freeway gap between Alhambra to Pasadena inadequate. On August 27, 2015, a letter to Caltrans said more study is needed to determine if concentrated emissions points known as hot spots would occur near the entrances to the proposed tunnel at the 10 Freeway near Valley Boulevard and at the 210/134 freeways interchanges in Pasadena. The EPA said that Caltrans has failed to provide to the public a thorough analysis of air emissions at the tunnel entrances or portals. One of the main emissions would be soot, scientifically known as PM2.5, tiny particles that can escape the body's defenses and lodge in the lungs that can cause lung disease and premature death according to studies sanctioned by the EPA.

Pasadena Archery Range Comes to a Final Vote

After a long debate about the Lower Arroyo, the City Council voted to give the seven acres of archery range exclusively to the archers. Pasadena entered in a new agreement with the Pasadena Roving Archers, a group that maintains the site which is known as the oldest field archery range in the world. The new agreement will include new safety and certification requirements. Members of the PRA belong to this non-profit that has been actively using the Lower Arroyo since 1935. Some residents that live near the Arroyo were suggesting shared use of the archery site but the topic of safety was the reason not to have shared use. Signs and natural barriers will be constructed to separate the range from areas of hikers, joggers and dog walkers.

City Manager Resigns

On November 20, 2015, Michael Beck, City Manager wrote the City Council a letter stating that he will be leaving the City of Pasadena effective February 14, 2016. Beck came to Pasadena to be City

Manager in 2008 and has worked on so many accomplishments turning our city around in a positive direction since the downturn in the economy. Personally, I will miss Michael Beck but I am happy for him with the advancement of his professional journey as Administrative Vice Chancellor at UCLA. I wish him and his family the very best and I am extremely thankful to have worked closely with him for almost five years. He is the ultimate professional with everything that he does.

Planning Department Director Vince Bertoni Resigns

January 29, 2016 was the last day for Vince Bertoni, the Pasadena Director of Planning. He is going to the City of Los Angeles to be the Planning Director. Mayor Eric Garcetti nominated Mr. Bertoni to the City Council. Garcetti said that Vince Bertoni will bring fresh ideas and an intricate understanding of the city's complex planning process. Vince has been Pasadena's Planning Director for five years and has successfully managed Pasadena's planning program through the General Plan update, a comprehensive visioning process that happens once every 20 years. Vince Bertoni has helped shape Pasadena with his enormous talent and enthusiasm. I know he will do a great job for Los Angeles.

Water Shortage Plan Level 2

On June 1, 2015, City Council voted to implement a Level 2 Water Shortage Plan. The new ordinance limits outdoor watering to two days per week during spring and summer and one day per week during fall and winter. The State of California's mandate for Pasadena to cut our water use is 28% but the first number was 25%. The plan is a response to a serious drought and requires water leaks to be fixed within 48 hours and prohibits the filling of ornamental lakes and ponds.

Homeless

Our homeless population has come down from around 1150 homeless to today's 442 persons living in our streets. We have a lot of work to still do but many homeless have been successfully placed in permanent supportive housing, yet we still have many of the chronic homeless that refuse housing or any kind of help. It requires resources, skill, patience, empathy and in some cases enforcement. Pasadena does not arrest people just because they are homeless and are allowed to use public spaces. Pasadena does a homeless count in order to determine the characteristics they have, like being a veteran, women, mental illness, physically disabled and substance abuse. The homeless count has declined four years in a row. The City of Pasadena has a Homeless Prevention Program, Rapid Rehousing Program, Project House that uses programs for rent subsidies for housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, Transitional Housing, Emergency Shelters, Basic Services for the Homeless, Mental Health Service & Substance Abuse Recovery Programs, Homeless Outreach Workers, Hope Team (three teams of the Pasadena Police Department with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health that will intervene when appropriate with a mentally ill homeless person.

Development in the planning stages and currently being developed:

Former Acapuco's Restaurant on Colorado Blvd. and El Nido Ave. has approval for a 3 story commercial building.

Former Saint Luke Hospital on Washington Blvd. is in the planning process for medical center use.

On Halstead Street, behind Station 37, a developer is in the planning process to build 18 residential units.

Gateway Towers on Foothill Blvd. was sold in December to Panda

Restaurant which is considering building residential units on a surface parking lot, no application as of yet.

Space Bank Storage on Foothill Blvd. next to Kaiser Medical Building is in the process to submit a Predevelopment Plan Review for a project of mixed use with 550 plus residential units.

Las Encinas Hospital on Del Mar Blvd. has approval to build a new hospital in the middle of their property to consolidate services. Their Master Plan was already approved.

Rusnak Auto plans to improve the former Chrysler dealership for an Audi dealership on Colorado Blvd. next to Ganahl Lumber.

Starbucks Coffee plans to build a new store at the corner of San Gabriel Blvd. and Foothill Blvd. Drive-thru and walk up window only.

Council Approves the Largest Project in Pasadena's History

Parson's in Old Pasadena will develop a million square foot mixed use development. The 22 acre project received unanimous support from the City Council on April 27, 2015. The land surrounding the Parson's building near Walnut Street and Fair Oaks Avenue will include an expansion of the city's downtown with new restaurants, office space and 475 residential units. It will visually and physically connect Parson's with Old Pasadena and will help create business for Pasadena. It is estimated to bring 2100 new jobs, \$1 million a year in general fund revenue, \$15 million in transportation improvements and \$250 million in wages according to Lincoln Property company.

**District 4 Community Meeting at Ganahl Lumber
November 19, 2015
By Howie Zechner**

Vice Mayor, Councilmember, Gene Masuda greeted the audience and introduced the speakers for the evening.



The event started with the Rose Bowl Operating Company General Manager Darryl Dunn who spoke about the proposed Arroyo Seco Music and Arts Festival. Joining him were representatives from AEG one of the world's largest Festival Promoters with success including the Coachella Music & Arts Festival, the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival and British Summer Time Hyde Park in London.

The Pasadena plan for the Music and Art Festival would feature a diverse range of musicians and artists performing on stages both in the Rose Bowl and outside of the stadium including many art exhibits. No RAVE style electronic or RAP music. This event would be upscale, well organized and policed. No overnight camping would be allowed.



City Manager Michael Beck spoke about "El Nino preparation." He informed the audience what the City has been preparing and what we in the community should do regarding the upcoming storm.

Many common sense measures and information filled the half hour PowerPoint presentation. Beck also spoke about the many improvements in Pasadena during the years of his leadership including the bright future ahead. Michael Beck answered questions



including sidewalk repair, trees, the homeless, and water conservation. Mr. Beck was knowledgeable and answered all questions.

Pasadena Fire Chief Bertral Washington said that free sand bags

are available at fire station 37 on Foothill Blvd. The City Manager Michael Beck, Darryl Dunn and Vice Mayor Masuda thanked Ganahl Lumber for hosting the event and expressed a special thank you to Field Rep Noreen Sullivan for all the hard work setting up the meeting, having coffee, drinks, food, cookies, literature handouts and running the raffle for the guests.



Howie Zechner
Commissioner D-4
Pasadena Media

Happy New Year! Noreen and I wish everyone good health and success in 2016

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