

# Daily Pilot

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2020 /// Now including Coastline Pilot and Huntington Beach Independent /// dailypilot.com

## ELECTION 2020

Could Dana Rohrabacher's old seat flip back to red in Orange County? Experts say it's a close call.

# WHERE WILL CALIFORNIA'S 48TH DISTRICT LAND?

**INCUMBENT** Rep. Harley Rouda (D-Laguna Beach), left, and Orange County Supervisor Michelle Steel are the two candidates for the 48th Congressional District.

Los Angeles Times



BY STEPHANIE LAI

Two years ago, Harley Rouda defeated longtime Republican Congressman Dana Rohrabacher as part of a blue wave sweeping across Orange County.

Sentiment against President Donald Trump is still strong in a county that was once a bastion of conservatism but whose politics have evolved as it becomes more racially diverse and highly educated voters rebel against the Republican Party.

But with the Tuesday election two days away, Rouda faces a much different opponent in Michelle Steel and a landscape vastly changed by the coronavirus pandemic, as he fights to continue representing the 48th Congressional District, which includes much of Orange County's wealthy coast.

Steel is Korean American, an advantage in courting the 20% of voters in the district who are Asian American.

As a member of the county board of supervisors, she is steeped in local politics and has also cultivated ties to Trump.

Republican voters turned off by Rohrabacher's eccentricities, which included homophobic statements and a dubious preference for Russian President Vladimir Putin, could find her appealing.

She has been attacking Rouda with a traditional conservative mantra — that he will raise taxes.

"Despite Californians already paying some of the highest taxes in the nation, Harley Rouda supports a 20% increase to payroll taxes for workers, condones increasing property taxes, wants to increase taxes on 401K retirement plans," said a post on her Facebook page.

Rouda, 58, a former real estate investor who did not become a Democrat until three years ago, has pointed to a recent fundraiser where Steel and other attendees gathered indoors without masks.

"Under her leadership, Orange County residents have lost their lives and liveli-

**"There's more at stake this year, and you can feel it. I've never seen this type of division."**

— Lizanne Witte  
Moderate Republican  
who lives in Laguna Beach

hoods during the coronavirus crisis," Rouda's Facebook page said. "Michelle Steel's blatant disregard for the health, safety and economic security of the community she supposedly serves is sickening."

The coronavirus pandemic has become a battleground for a county in political transition. Steel, 65, has won praise from Republicans for advocating to reopen local businesses.

See **Close**, page A4

## ELECTION 2020

# Candidates concede that celebrations may change

Watch parties are a common staple of election night but because of COVID-19, the tradition could be revised or skipped all together this time.

BY LILLY NGUYEN,  
AND ANDREW TURNER

With expected delays in election results due to an increase in mail-in voting this year, it's possible that voters may not know the official results of November's presidential election Tuesday night.

But that hasn't deterred many candidates in Orange County elections from trying to find ways to still watch results tick in on election night in spite of restrictions on large gatherings because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Costa Mesa, where there are 15 candidates running for three seats on the City Council, current Costa Mesa Mayor Katrina Foley and Mayor Pro Tem John Stephens said they'd be hosting a watch party on Tuesday through Zoom while candidates Ben Chapman, Sandy Genis, Don Harper and Hengameh Abraham would be hosting an in-person watch party for results on this year's election.

Temperatures will be checked at the door for the in-person event and chairs and tables will be distanced from one another. Chapman said he'd been receiving texts and emails on election night celebrations and that plans for the watch party were finalized Friday.

"We are eager to see our friends and family in person, safely," Chapman said in an e-mail.

Jim Cunneen, who is one of seven running for two seats on the Fountain Valley City Council, said he planned on joining the Michelle Steel for Congress campaign team in the afternoon.

"We actually have a Fountain Valley City Council meeting that's still scheduled. But the tradition is that it gets canceled on election night," Cunneen said. "If for some strange reason — and that's possible this year, 2020 is full of strange

See **Election**, page A3

# Legal battle places Orange County Market Place reopening in jeopardy

BY SARA CARDINE

While OC Market Place vendors wait to hear whether their beloved weekend swap meets will be allowed to resume at the OC Fairgrounds after an eight-month pandemic hiatus, a lawsuit wending its way through the system doesn't spell good news.

The crux of the months-long legal battle is not about the Market Place's closure but rather

when it could — and should — have been reopened.

Since the swap meet closed March 12, one week before stay-at-home orders were issued statewide, Pennsylvania-based managing company Spectra Food Service and Hospitality has been trying to terminate its rental agreement with the OC Fair & Event Center, which operates the fairgrounds as the 32nd District Agricultural Assn.

In a letter to the district written in May, Spectra Executive Vice President Richard Schneider cited a "force majeure" clause that states either party can exit the contract if unable to perform for 90 days or more due to extreme circumstances.

"Anticipating that the stay-at-home order, or other government restrictions, will prevent the Out-

See **Market**, page A3



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**THE OC MARKET PLACE** in Costa Mesa has been shuttered since mid-March, even though state guidelines have allowed swap meets to reopen. A legal battle is brewing over its reopening.

# O.C. fairgrounds to reopen two exhibits on Tuesday

BY SARA CARDINE

After nearly eight months of playing host to emergency food distributions, COVID-19 testing and a number of pandemic-approved drive-thru events, Orange County fairgrounds officials have announced two local attractions will reopen Tuesday to the visiting public.

The fairground's Centennial

Farm and Heroes Hall veterans museum will reopen under a limited schedule starting Tuesday for visitors who make timed reservations beforehand and agree to follow newly implemented coronavirus precautions.

On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., guests can stroll through the 3.5-

See **Exhibits**, page A2



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

**CLOSED TO THE** public since March, Centennial Farm and Heroes Hall veterans museum at the O.C. fairgrounds in Costa Mesa will reopen under a limited schedule starting Tuesday to guests with reservations.

## ELECTION 2020



Courtesy Photos

**THE 15 CANDIDATES** for Huntington Beach City Council are, from left, row one, John Briscoe, Brian Burley, Sonya Green, Amory Hanson, Matthew Harper; row two, Dan Kalmick, Thomas LaPame, Casey McKeon, Jeff Morin, Natalie Moser; row three, Billy O'Connell, Tito Ortiz, Oscar Rodriguez, Eric Silkenon, Gracey Van Der Mark.

# Meet the candidates for H.B. City Council

BY MATT SZABO

There are 15 candidates that are running to be elected to three open seats on the Huntington Beach City Council in the Nov. 3 election.

Councilwoman Jill Hardy is

leaving office due to term limits. Mayor Lyn Semeta and Councilman Patrick Brenden both opted not to run for a second term, meaning there will be three new faces on the City Council post-election.

The Daily Pilot sent a ques-

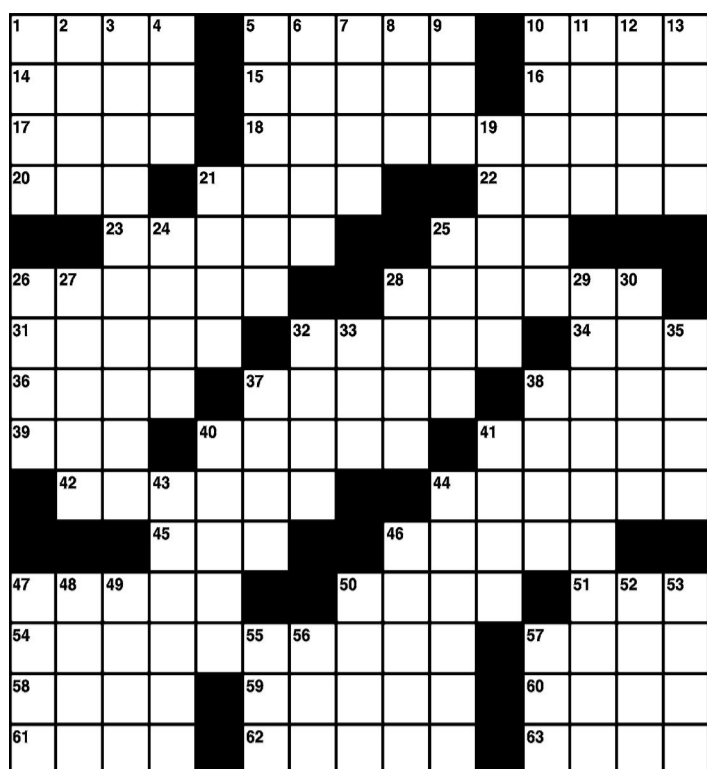
tionnaire to all candidates for City Council in its coverage area to get a sense of who they are, why they are running and what issues they believe matter most in their communities. Responses

See **Council**, page A7



**THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE**

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

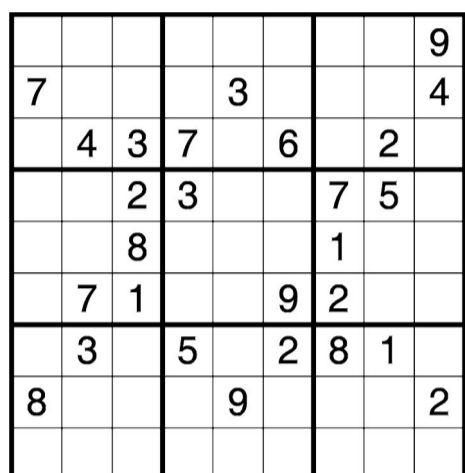


- ACROSS**  
 1 Lots and lots  
 5 Illegal rackets  
 10 Prefix for enemy or diocese  
 14 Worked on a cake  
 15 Singer Lopez  
 16 Morally despicable  
 17 National League team  
 18 Truly sorry  
 20 Suffix for organ or balloon  
 21 Angry cat's sound  
 22 Scumbag  
 23 Jumped  
 25 Distress signal  
 26 Defeats soundly  
 28 Loathe  
 31 Removes from power  
 32 Skirt fold  
 34 Novak or Kardashian  
 36 Paid athletes  
 37 Young hog  
 38 Give a job to  
 39 Flood preventer  
 40 Not moving  
 41 Shoe bottoms  
 42 Deadly  
 44 Reprimands  
 45 On the \_; broadcasting  
 46 Overload, as a suitcase  
 47 Skier's surface  
 50 Thailand, once  
 51 Word of disgust  
 54 Wallet contents  
 57 Actress Sheedy  
 58 " \_ There"; George M. Cohan song  
 59 Shortstop's hand protector  
 60 Smack  
 61 Sunbathes  
 62 Made kitten noises  
 63 \_ Park, NY; FDR's hometown
- DOWN**  
 1 Actress Kennedy  
 2 Big spades  
 3 Irritating

**SUDOKU**

By The Mepham Group

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [sudoku.org.uk](http://sudoku.org.uk).



**For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A7.**

- |                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 4 Linear measures: abbr.    | 10 Unwilling      |
| 5 Undresses                 | 11 Plentiful      |
| 6 Toothpaste brand          | 12 Helpful hint   |
| 7 Goals                     | 13 Beatles movie  |
| 8 Letters on phone button 6 | 19 Bakula or Baio |
| 9 Knight's title            | 21 Show-offs      |
|                             | 24 Gobbles up     |
|                             | 25 Bench or chair |
|                             | 26 Chronic lung   |

- disease  
 27 Of the countryside  
 28 Business agreement  
 29 In an competent way  
 30 Fatigued  
 32 Golfer Mickelson  
 33 Response to a chat room pun  
 35 Make a \_; clutter up  
 37 Little night light  
 38 Dobbin's foot  
 40 More bashful  
 41 Bathtub ring, e.g.  
 43 Becomes narrower  
 44 Stuck around  
 46 Sifting device  
 47 Laundry problem  
 48 Molten rock  
 49 Unlocked  
 50 Weather forecast  
 52 Plastic wrap brand  
 53 Excessive publicity  
 55 "The Wizard of Oz" production co.  
 56 "Grand \_ Opry"  
 57 Good wood for tool handles
- Tribune Media Services



Courtesy of the OC Fair & Event Center

**A NEW EXHIBIT** "Private Charles J. Miller: WWII Paintings from the South Pacific" opens at the Orange County fairgrounds Heroes Hall on Tuesday.

**EXHIBITS**

Continued from page A1

acre farm, where a number of livestock remained hunkered down during the pandemic, and stroll through a 1-acre seasonal garden lovingly maintained by staff.

In a release issued Wednesday, OC Fair and Event Center Chief Executive Michele Richards shared the sense of collective excitement at the fairgrounds regarding the re-opening of two beloved spaces.

"These venues are really the heart and soul of our fairgrounds year-round, and we have all missed doing what we do best — educating and entertaining," she said.

"I know our animals at the farm are especially anxious to see visitors again."

Evy Young, the fair's agricultural education supervisor, confirmed a good number of the farm's more than 60 critters were, indeed, looking forward to the resumption of back-rubs and pets.

"Our animals are really friendly," she said. "A lot of them honestly miss all the petting and back-scratching."

Young said visitors will

be able to take a self-guided tour of the property during their one-hour visit.

In addition to checking in on chickens and gazing at goats, visitors can also enjoy a new art exhibit at nearby Heroes Hall.

Unlike Centennial Farm, the renovated two-story Army barracks building housing the museum has been shuttered since March.

Heroes Hall Supervisor Carol Singleton, who led the charge of readying the space for its grand re-opening, said a skeleton crew worked long and hard to clean the place up, redo the floors and get things shipshape just in time for the opening of the new exhibit.

On loan through May from the Wright Museum of World War II in Wolfboro, N.H., "Private Charles J. Miller: WWII Paintings from the South Pacific," showcases 80 or more watercolor paintings produced by a self-taught former Army private who captured scenes of daily life.

Miller made canvases out of whatever was handy, from large pieces of paper to the insides of cigarette cartons, and hand painted notes on the face of every picture, according

to Singleton.

"You have his annotations of where it was, what happened and what he thought about it — it's like a diary," she said.

"It's an incredible history you learn from these paintings and his experiences."

Although the Orange County fairgrounds will be closed Nov. 11 for Veterans Day, Singleton said the return of exhibits just before the annual observance is a nice coincidence.

"We are very happy that we'll reopen on Nov. 3 and we'll have this beautiful exhibit that honors veterans right before Veterans Day," said Singleton, herself a former telecommunications operator in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. "The timing is really lovely."

Visitors must reserve a one-hour time slot online in advance up until 2 p.m. the day of their visit.

Exhibits are free and masks and social distancing will be required of all visitors. Free parking is available through Gate 1 at 88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa. For more, visit [ocfair.com/centennial-farm/public-reservations](http://ocfair.com/centennial-farm/public-reservations) or call (714) 708-1500.

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# H.B. City Council to consider mural at new AES power plant

BY MATT SZABO

The Huntington Beach City Council on Monday night will consider approving a mural used for a design element at AES' new and modernized power plant.

The Huntington Beach Energy Project, which went online in February and is located near Newland Street and Pacific Coast Highway, replaces the old plant which used sea water to cool the plant. The new power plant uses air and is more efficient and environmentally friendly.

Originally, AES planned to use a screen wall as an architectural design element at the new 644-megawatt power plant. Now, however, the company is ditching the 150-foot-tall "ball wall" due to concerns related to timing, scale and potential noise impacts, according to a city staff report prepared by Director of Community Development Ursula Luna-Reynosa.

AES now plans to use a

mural by Los Angeles-based artist Kim West as a designed element and is asking for the City Council's approval. The city's Design Review Board supported the mural as a mitigation measure in a meeting on Oct. 8.

In consideration of the city's approval, AES is paying \$4.9 million to the city for various capital improvement projects and programs. According to the report, those include a neighborhood mitigation project, homeless response program, southeast Huntington Beach neighborhood improvements, a downtown connectivity project and economic development.

City Manager Oliver Chi said an initial meeting with the Southeast Area Committee took place this week to discuss funding options, and more survey work is planned to discuss funding priorities.

Monday's Huntington Beach City Council meeting begins at 6 p.m. and can be watched on chan-

nel HDTV-3 or online at [huntingtonbeach.legistar.com](http://huntingtonbeach.legistar.com). Residents may send comments on agenda items to [supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:supplementalcomm@surfcity-hb.org).

Communications received by 2 p.m. Monday will be distributed to the council prior to consideration of agenda-related items.

The council chambers will not be open for in-person attendance to provide public comment due to COVID-19, but residents are encouraged to submit comments via Zoom.

The Webinar ID is 971 5413 0528 and can be reached via the Zoom app or by calling (669) 900-6833 and entering the ID.

Individuals will be placed in a holding queue and prompted to speak when the city clerk announces their name or the last three digits of their phone number.

Time for remarks is limited to three minutes.

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## ELECTION

Continued from page A1

things — there is a council meeting, I will be over at council chambers."

If there wasn't, he said he planned on dropping by Fountain Valley School District board of trustees President Jeanne Galindo's home for a small gathering to watch for the vote returns.

Cunneen said he felt the energy of election night would be lower than in typical years because of COVID-19, adding that he felt technology filled some of the gaps.

The Orange County Health Care Agency reported another 164 new cases and eight deaths related to COVID-19 on Saturday. This moves the total number of cases in the county to 59,882 and number of deaths to 1,483. An estimated 53,385 have recovered.

"I think, just as we are living in these times when we're trying to be safe and trying to practice all the protocols, I just think a lot of us are used to it. I don't think there's going to be a lot of extra energy. I could be wrong, but I think at least for me, I want to be careful," Cunneen said. "I



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**FORMER REP. DANA ROHRBACHER**, sitting in a dark suit, watches election night results in Costa Mesa in 2012.

have family members who have COVID-19 right now in other counties. It's important for me to be mindful of safety first."

In Newport Beach, candidate and incumbent Brad Avery said he planned on staying home with his wife, Julie, to binge "Bosch," while monitoring results and making trips to the kitchen for mint chocolate chip gelato and frozen chocolate almonds.

Avery said he was just hoping for a peaceful national election with a decisive result on Tuesday.

In Laguna Beach, George Weiss said he'd also be

spending election night with his family and had no plans for retiring for the night.

"It depends on how the races play out," Weiss said.

Jeff Herdman in Newport Beach said he planned on hosting a dinner for family and his campaign committee at his daughter's house on election night "as a way of saying thanks to people who have worked so hard on my reelection and to repeat what I did four years ago."

"[I'm] looking forward to continuing to serve the

See **Election**, page A4

## MARKET

Continued from page A1

door Marketplace from reopening by June 12 (90 days after the closure), the purpose of this letter is to notify the association that Spectra is hereby terminating the agreement," Schneider wrote.

The letter was sent May 20 — three days before the California Public Health Department established guidelines allowing certain Orange County retailers, including swap meets, to reopen.

OC Fair & Event Center chief executive Michele Richards immediately informed Schneider in a May 27 letter Spectra would be expected to resume operations — and

rent payments — but the company has not complied.

The rental agreement signed by both parties in August 2016 runs through August 2024.

Today, the site of the erstwhile OC Market Place in Costa Mesa is a scene of abandonment. Spectra's last monthly rent check to the district was for the month of March, in the amount of \$171,666.

On Sept. 23, the state attorney general's office filed a lawsuit with the Orange County Superior Court on behalf of the 32nd District, a state agency, seeking unpaid rent.

The suit claims Spectra effectively breached its rental agreement with the district when it failed to reopen the OC Market Place

after state guidelines made allowances for swap meet business to continue.

"Commercially reasonable options were made available to defendants to allow reopening of the Outdoor Marketplace, and defendants failed to avail themselves of those options in direct violation of their contractual duties and obligations to the district," the document states.

A spokeswoman for Spectra said by email Friday company policy prohibited officials from commenting on ongoing litigation, adding, "Spectra has not been managing the OC Market Place since June 2020, so we're unable to comment on its reopening."

While the lawsuit does not specify the amount of

damages being sought, attorneys are seeking compensatory damages, additional rent, interest and legal fees. Orange County Superior Court documents indicate a jury trial has been scheduled for Nov. 14, 2022.

On Oct. 23, however, attorneys for Spectra requested the case be moved to the U.S. District court level, citing a diversity of parties, since the amount in question exceeded \$75,000 and the plaintiff and defendant are from different states.

In their filing, attorneys indicated the 32nd District was seeking "future rent under the agreement in an amount exceeding \$2 million per year for each of the next four years."

OC Fair & Event Center

spokeswoman Terry Moore said officials could not comment on ongoing litigation but clarified state fairgrounds are not allowed to operate swap meets in the state of California.

Meanwhile, OC Market Place vendors, many of whom relied on weekend swap meet sales as a livelihood, are frustrated at the continued closure.

Some have publicly accused the OC Fair & Event Center of not giving Spectra a break during difficult financial times.

"The management of the fairgrounds doesn't want the Market Place," said Mike Robbins, owner of Paradise Cigars, a company run out of a mobile humidor that has become locally iconic since the business opened in 1979.

"They should be working with Spectra in any way, shape or form they can."

Robbins said several vendors have claimed unemployment benefits during the pandemic and are finding it hard to make ends meet.

On its website, Spectra boasts a client list of more than 250 venues around the U.S. and in Singapore, including state and county fairs throughout California and stadiums nationwide.

Its legal filing discloses links between the Pennsylvania company and several other corporate entities, including Comcast Spectacor, owner of the Philadelphia Flyers, and the Comcast Corp.

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**CLOSE**

Continued from page A1

Beaches in Orange County drew huge crowds in April, while Los Angeles County beaches remained closed. The county's public health director resigned after facing death threats for requiring that masks be worn in public. Over the summer, churches held maskless services in Huntington Beach.

The defiance of coronavirus safety recommendations seemed a throwback to Orange County's conservative past. But it was pushed mainly by local officials and a vocal minority of residents, said Fred Smoller, a political science professor at Chapman University.

Smoller and colleague Michael Moodian conduct a yearly survey, which has shown that Orange County residents are more progressive than such high-profile events might indicate.

The survey predicted the 2018 results, when Rouda and six other Democrats swept Orange County's congressional seats — an epochal shift for a region long synonymous with conservatism.

The nonpartisan Cook Political Report rates the race between Rouda and Steel "lean Democratic," while calling the nearby 39th district, with incumbent Gil Cisneros going against Republican challenger Young Kim, "likely Democratic."

Voter registration in Orange County leans slightly Democratic.

The 48th District, which includes the tony coastal communities of Newport Beach and Huntington Beach, is slightly more conservative, at 33% Democrat, 38% Republican and



Gina Ferazzi | Los Angeles Times

**MORE THAN 1,000** people line the roads in Newport Beach during an Oct. 18 visit by President Donald Trump.

24% no party preference.

Rouda managed to beat Rohrabacher, who held the seat for three decades, when the Republican voter registration edge was greater, at 10%.

But Smoller said Steel's strength as a candidate makes this a closer contest than two years ago.

Steel is well connected in local Republican circles, he said, and Asian voters may be drawn to her because of her background.

"I think Rouda will ultimately

do well and win, but that will be a tougher race," Smoller said.

Trump's unpopularity in Orange County could hurt Steel.

"I think the Trump effect would lead to poor performances for Republican candidates like Steel, who has strong ties to the president," Moodian said.

The candidates are closely matched in fundraising. As of Oct. 14, Rouda had raised \$5.4 million, compared to Steel's \$5.1 million. Outside committees have contributed millions

more on each side.

Rouda said he is running on a moderate, common-sense platform similar to what worked for him against Rohrabacher. Trump has led the Republican party to a place that no longer looks like traditional conservatism, he said.

If he is reelected, Rouda said, he will continue addressing the coronavirus response, bringing the economy back and tackling climate change and off-shore drilling.

"I think we need to recognize that there are a lot of conservative values that have been the Republican platform for so long that now no longer match under Trump's administration," Rouda said. "People just want to go back to normal. They don't want the divisiveness that Trump brings."

Like many Orange County politicians, Rouda has been courting Latino and Asian voters, speaking to ethnic news outlets and running advertising in multiple languages.

About 62% of the district is white, with Latino residents at about 22% and Asian residents at 20%.

Lizanne Witte, a moderate Republican who lives in Laguna Beach, said the recent controversies over mask-wearing and other coronavirus restrictions made her feel like she was back in the old Orange County, when it was still staunchly conservative.

She plans on voting for Rouda based on his promise to deal with climate change.

"There's more at stake this year, and you can feel it," said Witte, 63, who is retired. "I've never seen this type of division."

Huntington Beach resident Chris Lip said he is fed up with all incumbent politicians.

He does not approve of how Democrats are responding to the pandemic, so he plans to vote for Steel.

"The economy is hurting, and while the county did OK, I just don't want any current officeholder to stay in office," said Lip, a 30-year old warehouse shipping manager.

**STEPHANIE LAI** is an intern for the Los Angeles Times.

**ELECTION**

Continued from page A3

people of Newport Beach if I am reelected," he said. "If not, my wife and I have plans we're looking forward to."

As for Newport Beach Mayor Will O'Neill and Laguna Beach Mayor Pro Tem Steve Dicterow, they aren't sure yet on what their plans are.

O'Neill said he never really liked being in a big group when the prelimi-

nary results come out, but said that he for sure wasn't going to be hosting an election night party like he did in 2016.

"I appreciate running unopposed this year, which has allowed me to continue [to] focus on our city's response to COVID, state and county orders and our city's core infrastructure," O'Neill said.

"Some folks have said that my running unopposed is a testament to how we have handled this year, but there had to have been

some people who looked at what we've been through and thought: 'No thanks!'"

In-person voting kicked off on Friday at the 168 vote centers throughout Orange County.

There are about 1.7 million active registered voters in the county and data from the Orange County Registrar of Voters' office currently reports that at least 750,000 mail-in ballots have already been returned, a jump from the 437,793 returned ballots reported just last week.

Here are the latest cumulative coronavirus case counts and COVID-19 deaths for select cities in Orange County:

- Santa Ana: 11,543 cases; 317 deaths
- Anaheim: 10,236 cases; 318 deaths
- Huntington Beach: 2,622 cases; 86 deaths
- Costa Mesa: 2,038 cases; 44 deaths
- Irvine: 1,915 cases; 14 deaths
- Newport Beach: 1,247 cases; 26 deaths
- Fountain Valley: 574

cases; 20 deaths

- Laguna Beach: 252 cases; fewer than five deaths

Here are the case counts by age group, followed by deaths:

- 0 to 17: 4,457 cases; one death
- 18 to 24: 8,975 cases; five deaths
- 25 to 34: 12,860 cases; 21 deaths
- 35 to 44: 9,526 cases; 38 deaths
- 45 to 54: 9,642 cases; 115 deaths
- 55 to 64: 7,198 cases;

205 deaths

- 65 to 74: 3,623 cases; 293 deaths
- 75 to 84: 1,991 cases; 323 deaths

Updated figures are posted daily at [ochealthinfo.com/coronavirus-in-oc](https://ochealthinfo.com/coronavirus-in-oc).

For information on getting tested, visit [ochealthinfo.com/covid-19-testing](https://ochealthinfo.com/covid-19-testing).

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## forum

COMMENTARY | **VICKI SNELL**

## Why I wish to continue to serve Newport-Mesa Unified

While there are many reasons to run for public office, my overwhelming motivation is to serve the community and make a difference.

The responsibilities are many and come with difficult and often unpopular decisions. When first elected to the Newport-Mesa Unified school board six years ago, I was advised to grow a thicker skin.

Upon reflection, I believe my continued sensitivity and empathy has made me a better trustee. When elected officials are hardened to public criticism, they

often fail to thoroughly reflect on their decisions and understand the effect those decisions have on the citizens they represent. Board members must not be hesitant to regroup and fix any miscalculations that have been made by the administration and by the board regardless of the fallout.

Going forward, our challenges are many in navigating through the COVID-19 crisis while keeping students and staff physically and emotionally safe and improving educational models. My 20 years of school experience and connection to the Newport-Mesa com-

munity are especially important during these unprecedented and challenging times.

Further, I want to continue my work in ensuring all students receive what they need academically, emotionally and socially to be successful. I want to continue the district's growth in career technology education providing the opportunity for students to gain real world experience with the option to join the workforce directly out of high school or continue their education in a certificate program or four-year college.

I will continue to fight for equity in academics, enrichment and opportunities with a focus on our underserved students.

In the last six years that I have been a member of the board, I have strongly advocated for the Estancia Zone. Continuing to improve our neighborhood schools, providing equity in state of the art facilities, expanding secondary pathways and growing our social-emotional and academic interventions have been my focus.

Estancia High School has more career technology classes than

any other school in the district and they are thriving. I look forward to attending events in our new Estancia Aquatics Center as well as the opportunity for all Estancia Zone schools to utilize our long-awaited Estancia theater. Finally, I will continue to inform and be accessible for feedback from the community and will always make students the top priority in every decision that comes before the board.

**VICKI SNELL** is a board member of Newport-Mesa Unified School District, Trustee Area 1.

## MAILBAG

## School board elections are as important as other races

Some of you who read this will not have children in school, so you tend to be less interested in local schools. Congressional, state and city elections are important, but school board elections may be even more critical for the future of our country.

The children right now are the people who are going to work on the planes you board, fix everything that needs to be fixed in your houses, become your doctors, your nurses, your scientists (who will develop new drugs to help humanity) and become teachers to pass on the thrill of learning to your kids.

During the pandemic, what our children's education looks like could not be more important, so who decides that makes a huge difference. Sure, the administration makes decisions, but the body that hires them is the school board and who is on that school board could not be more important.

See Costa Mesa Brief on YouTube for videos, and when you vote, please check out the board of trustee candidates statements and vote for the best one!

**Martie OMeara**  
Costa Mesa  
Retired teacher

## Outlining Blom's history

Newport Beach residents should be very concerned about what is going on in the City Council election. Significant special interest contributions are flowing into the campaign of Noah Blom in order to oust

independent Councilman Jeff Herdman. This is designed to ensure a majority in place as the city considers the general plan revision and other significant development issues.

You may not know Blom. In 11 years on the council, I have no memory of having ever met him or having heard from him on any issue. Records show he failed to even vote in 12 elections since 2002, so we can say he is not exactly civic minded.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, city health officers in Costa Mesa cited him and shut down his restaurant for public safety violations. When you look at his actual record, contrary to his campaign ads, he is not an involved civic leader, a successful businessman or a leader in responding to the pandemic. He is a candidate beholden to a small group of donors with very specific agendas at City Hall.

In contrast, Herdman is a man of integrity, who works hard every day to improve the quality of life in Newport Beach and to reduce the impacts of the airport on our neighborhoods. He is an independent voice, not a rubber stamp.

If you are concerned about the future of our city, join with me and a bipartisan group of civic leaders and vote for Herdman.

**Keith Curry**  
Former Newport Beach mayor

## Businesses would have a champion in Blom

Small businesses are struggling. If your favorite restaurant or neighborhood shop hasn't yet closed its doors for good, it may do so soon. The coronavirus has decimat-

ed retail sales and, unlike chain stores, small businesses do not have the resources to survive indefinitely.

On Balboa Island, where I have my store, it seems like every day I see a new "Going Out of Business" or "For Lease" sign on Marine Avenue.

Not only is the charm of our shopping districts at risk, small businesses employ 44.1% of workers in this country, according to the Small Business Administration. And sales taxes generated by small business make up a large portion of the city's budget.

So far, Newport Beach's efforts to help small business have been, in my opinion, too little and too late. This can be seen in the continuing and accelerating permanent business closures.

The current City Council even voted down a proposed \$20,000 marketing grant of mainly federal funds to the merchants of Balboa Island. I am sure the council had its reasons, but I think it is significant that no one on the council operates a small store or restaurant. Most are lawyers or retired public employees.

Small business needs a champion on the City Council. I believe Noah Blom is that person. As a restaurateur, he knows what it is to start a business, create jobs and to make payroll each month. Our City Council could use his entrepreneurial energy and in-depth business knowledge. I urge you to vote for Noah Blom.

**Matthew Pour**  
Founder, Balboa Island Merchants Assn.

## Let's reelect Harley Rouda

It is hard to believe that a superstar like Harley Rouda would have any competition

## HOW TO GET PUBLISHED

Send an email to [erik.haugli@latimes.com](mailto:erik.haugli@latimes.com) and include your full name, hometown and phone number (for verification purposes) with your submission. All letters should be kept to 350 words or fewer. The Pilot reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity and length.

for the congressional seat he has occupied since 2018. But it just shows you how entrenched some ideologies can be and how money in politics can as often as not buy power.

But just what kind of power will his opponent, Republican Michele Steel, wield in a large governing body controlled by Democrats? Even the Orange County Register, a bastion of conservatism in Orange County, questions her suitability, stating that in her interview, "she seemed poorly versed in federal policy issues and overly reliant on GOP talking points."

Harley Rouda, to many peoples' pleasant surprise, won the endorsement of the Register's editorial board, explaining that while they have many issues on which they disagree, the congressman has "proven to be a credible representative of the district, and a supporter of many issues the editorial board cares about strongly."

This important endorsement follows another award Harley received in June, when the U.S. Chamber of Commerce honored Rouda with the Abraham Lincoln

See *Mailbag*, page A6

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## forum

COMMENTARY | **ANDREA MARR**

# Councilman John Stephens understands finances better than his District 1 opponents

As a sitting council member in Costa Mesa, I've watched with great interest as City Council candidates running for election on Tuesday have shared their positions and plans. But when it comes to the candidates' plans for the city budget, I've been downright alarmed.

Managing the budget is one of the most important roles of a council member in Costa Mesa. Ensuring the long-term financial stability of the city for generations to come is an obligation that I take very seriously.

When the pandemic hit, our city manager worked with each department and with each city employee group to devise a plan

to reduce spending to the absolute minimum possible without severely impacting city services.

We didn't know how long the pandemic would last. We didn't know what the long-term impacts might be. We didn't know when sales tax would recover or how long the sudden unemployment of thousands of service workers might end.

But we braced for the worst, proactively and with clear eyes. Most of us agreed that we would dip into reserves if we had to — those funds were for a rainy day, and it felt like it might pour for a while.

That action — and the staff report that pegged our worst-case scenario at a \$30-million deficit

— has now made it into campaign literature, with District 1 candidate Don Harper claiming that we've depleted reserves. We have not.

We do not have the worst-case scenario deficit because we took action. We could have kicked the can down the road as other cities have, but we did not.

Last week, the Finance and Pension Advisory Committee was presented with preliminary, unaudited fiscal 2019-20 budget numbers that show we will likely have a \$250,000 surplus when we balance general fund revenues against expenditures.

Other candidates seem to be ignoring COVID-19 altogether and promising to spend unidenti-

fied funds on everything from infrastructure to homelessness.

District 6 candidate Jeff Pettis, in a Daily Pilot commentary, pledges "a fiscally conservative approach that includes balancing the budget and paying down unfunded liabilities so that monies can be directed to infrastructure improvement for the citizens."

Those words, in that order, do not make sense to me. Our revenues, including sales and transient occupancy taxes, have fallen. How does he hope to balance the budget and also spend more funds?

Conversely, Mayor Pro Tem John Stephens, running for the District 1 council seat, was a key

vote on the new ambulance transport model that continues to bring in greater revenues, year after year. He has also worked with the Costa Mesa Golf Course to ensure it generates revenue while operating safely during the pandemic.

He is my clear choice for that seat based on his experience and his understanding of how the city actually works. This is a time for pragmatists, not ideologues. Neither magical thinking nor false cries of fiscal conservatism will see us through the devastating financial impact of the pandemic.

**ANDREA MARR** is a Costa Mesa councilwoman.

## MAILBAG

Continued from page A5

Leadership for America Award.

Let's hope voters realize how important it is to our 48th District to reelect someone who has a strong and also caring voice — Harley Rouda!

**Lynn Lorenz**  
Newport Beach

Russ Neal's attempt to disparage Rep. Harley Rouda by comparing House vote percentages to Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is, once again, a knackered illustration of conservative identity politics.

If we wish to pursue a "guilt by association" comparison, then Republican Michelle Steel has no problem with children in cages, is ambivalent about Russian bounties on American soldiers, indulges dystopian and dangerous QAnon conspiracy theories, cares little about reintroducing toxic materials to our air and water, refuses to strongly denounce continued Russian interference in our elections, promotes the dangerous fallacy that herd "mentality" is a viable means of combating the COVID-19 pandemic, and so on.

Conversely, Harley Rouda has exhibited a level-minded approach during his time in Congress and is a shining example of

what can be accomplished when willing to work with anyone, irrespective of party affiliation.

**Mark Scott**  
Huntington Beach

## Local Republicans mum on Trump's refusal to help

President Donald Trump made headlines for refusing to grant a disaster declaration — and thus federal relief funds — to California, even as we're still breathing the smoke from another devastating wildfire season. He changed his mind later, under pressure, but he's continued to spew falsehoods about the fires' causes and callousness toward their victims.

Where were our local Republicans — specifically, the elected officials and candidates currently trying to turn our area of Orange County back from blue to red — when the president was refusing to help their fellow Californians?

Where was the leadership from Michelle Steel, John Moorlach or Diane Dixon? Not one of them so much as tweeted a polite objection to his decision, much less issued a request for him to reconsider his refusal or a rebuke of his naked spite for our state. Not one of them was willing to put their community over their loyalty to Donald Trump.

Why should any of us trust them to represent us when a disaster comes to Orange County? Vote for Harley Rouda, Cottie Petrie-Norris and Dave Min.

They understand the science of climate change, and they care about the Californians who stand to suffer from its effects — in other words, us.

**Eliza Rubenstein**  
Costa Mesa

## Costa Mesa city officials deserve praise on budget

Costa Mesa needs extraordinarily careful budget management due to the impact of COVID-19. Mayor Katrina Foley, who is running for reelection, and Mayor Pro Tem John Stephens, also running for City Council reelection, along with their council colleagues and city staff, have demonstrated their capability and judgment on fiscal matters by reasonably addressing the impact of the pandemic.

Before COVID-19, the city's outlook for fiscal year 2019-20 was bright. In February, the finance director reported that expenses were on budget and revenues were up. She anticipated that there would be no need to use \$450,000 from reserves.

In March, all that changed. Costa Mesa's revenue plummeted abruptly. Even before Gov. Newsom's stay-at-home order, Costa

Mesa's top sales tax producer, South Coast Plaza, closed temporarily.

To make matters worse, the city had to spend unbudgeted expenses related to COVID-19, including purchasing personal protective equipment, more thorough cleaning of City Hall, and outfitting employees with the technology needed to work remotely.

Under the leadership of Foley and Stephens, the council directed the city to defer capital projects, lay off or furlough 91 part-time employees and eliminate all nonessential spending. The council approved the use of up to \$4.5 million in "disaster" reserves.

The city's preliminary year-end results indicate that these efforts were very successful. Indications are that no disaster reserves will be necessary to balance the fiscal 2019-20 budget for normal recurring operations.

In this environment, when so much remains out of the city's control, it is difficult to predict the balance of the year. What we do know is that Foley, Stephens, City Council, and the staff led by Farrell Harrison has demonstrated the right stuff to protect Costa Mesa in one of the worst financial crisis in the city's 67-year history.

**Ralph Taboada**  
Costa Mesa Chair, Finance and Pension Advisory Committee

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### FIRST COURSE SELECTIONS

Corn Chowder  
Fresh corn, applewood smoked bacon

Caesar Salad  
Chopped hearts of romaine, herb croutons, shaved manchego

Lobster Bisque Soup  
Northern Australian lobster, sherry wine, diced chives

Butternut Squash Raviolis  
Sage brown butter, pistachios

Bungalow Salad  
Greens, hearts of palm, feta, olives, red onion, bay shrimp, tarragon vinaigrette

### ENTREE SELECTIONS



Tier 1 | Forty nine dollars per guest

Pan Roasted Turkey Breast  
White & dark meat, whipped Yukon Gold mashed potatoes, house made stuffing, turkey gravy

Blackened Wild King Salmon  
Yukon Gold mashed potatoes, avocado relish, honey jalapeno beurre blanc

Grilled Vegetable "Tart"  
Grilled Portobello mushroom cap on a bed of Yukon Gold mashed potatoes topped with grilled mixed vegetables, toasted breadcrumbs, melted smoked gouda cheese



Tier 2 | Sixty four dollars per guest

Prime Rib of Beef  
Au jus, creamy horseradish, whipped Yukon Gold mashed potatoes, broccolini

Prime Rib of Beef & Pan Roasted Turkey Breast Combination  
Whipped Yukon gold mashed potatoes, house made stuffing

Prime Filet Mignon  
Eight ounce prime filet mignon, whipped Yukon Gold mashed potatoes

Miso Marinated Chilean Sea Bass  
Soy glaze, coconut rice, stir-fried vegetables, mushrooms, lemongrass ginger beurre blanc



Tier 3 | Seventy four dollars per guest

Prime Bone-In Rib Eye  
Sixteen ounce prime bone-in rib eye, whipped Yukon Gold mashed potatoes, onion strings

Northern Australian Lobster Tail  
10 ounce tail, drawn butter, grilled lemon, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes

### DESSERT SELECTIONS

Berries and Ice Cream  
Fresh seasonal berries, vanilla bean ice cream

Pumpkin Pie  
House made whipped cream

Vanilla Crème Brûlée  
Vanilla custard, fresh raspberries

Chocolate Soufflé Cake  
Flourless chocolate cake, vanilla bean ice cream

\*The chef respectfully requests no splits or substitutions.

\*Kids Menu Also Available

\*Also Available For Take Out!

PEOPLE IN THE KNOW...DINE AT THE BUNGALOW



**COUNCIL**

*Continued from page A1*

are listed in alphabetical order by last name, and some responses have been edited for formatting, length or clarity.

**JOHN BRISCOE**

**Age:** 67  
**Professional occupation:** Licensed broker

**Education:** MBA from Claremont Graduate School, Peter Drucker School of Business; MPA from Cal State Long Beach

**Time lived in city of residence:** 31 years

**Previous public service:** Four times elected and re-elected trustee for Ocean View School District

**What are your thoughts on the city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic? If elected, how would you help the city recover?**

Huntington Beach is a charter city with special superpowers to do what it pleases, according to the only Orange County elected city attorney. NOT. Another loser city court case; we must obey all gubernatorial COVID dictums. To avoid further wasted legal expenses we must do the minimum required by Gov. Gavin Newsom, and thence the most possible to get businesses open.

**This summer, the Orange County area saw demonstrations related to issues of social justice, policing and inequity. How do you think constituents view these issues, and how would you address them on the dais?**

I support the "feet on the street on the beat" officers. Our problem is police management. The police chief has never ever worked even a half-day in the field with an officer. High-ranked administrators do not take training

classes like field officers. Management is top heavy. I will focus on directing the city manager to delve deep into our policing structure.

**State housing allocations over the next several years may require the city to zone for 13,337 units (RHNA). How would you maintain residents' quality of life while addressing the housing crisis?**

Homelessness is not a crime. Being mentally ill is not a crime. Defecating, urinating and camping on public property is a crime. Being intoxicated in public is a crime. We enforce common sense intoxication codes including field sobriety tests and offer homeless folks the option of rehabilitation and sobriety with mental health services. The Navigation Center is necessary but not the answer.

**What else would you focus on as a council member?**

I have four priorities: 1. Homelessness. We must work to help homeless back to sobriety and legal behavior. 2. Public Safety. Our police officers are to be lauded for their heroic work. 3. Public Parks. City Parks are shabby and run-down. 4. Trees. Instead of tall trees we plant lollipop trees. Trees can solve the carbon problem, but they must be planted first.

**BRIAN BURLEY**

**Age:** 27  
**Professional occupation:** Business owner/IT analyst

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in Political Economy from USC

**Time lived in city of residence:** 13 years

**Previous public service:** Orange County Central Committee (elected March 2020)

**What are your thoughts on the city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic? If elected, how would you**

**help the city recover?**

Our city officials pushed off reopening of businesses for weeks, if not months. They did not understand how we are all essential. I wrote to the City Council on April 20 demonstrating how we need a plan to gradually reopen in early May. My intentions were that if we gradually opened throughout May and June that we wouldn't overburden our local hospitals.

**This summer, the Orange County area saw demonstrations related to issues of social justice, policing and inequity. How do you think constituents view these issues, and how would you address them on the dais?**

There are issues of inequality in every community, and I will take those very seriously here in Huntington Beach. However, I am not on board with the radical idea of defunding our police department. I want to do the opposite. Our police department is currently spread too thin — I want to replenish our police department to pre-Great Recession staffing numbers.

**State housing allocations over the next several years may require the city to zone for 13,337 units (RHNA). How would you maintain residents' quality of life while addressing the housing crisis?**

We are a charter city so we get to dictate our own development, not the state of California. We need to prioritize housing that is more affordable, which is low and medium-density housing, not overinflated high-density development.

**What else would you focus on as a council member?**

We need to implement a 10-year budget framework. We have to pay down unfunded pension liabilities and hold our local government accountable to the 15% budget infrastructure requirement.

**SONYA GREEN**

**Age:** Did not answer  
**Professional occupation:**

**Small business owner Education:** Some college

**Time lived in city of residence:** 14 years

**Previous public service:** Currently volunteering as a coordinator for Recall Gavin Newsom

**What are your thoughts on the city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic? If elected, how would you help the city recover?**

The city has responded to COVID-19 as well as it could have due to the stranglehold Sacramento has on local communities. I would help our community recover by declaring all businesses and workers as essential, and fight to free our local economy from the mandates that have forced them to shutter or suffer.

**This summer, the Orange County area saw demonstrations related to issues of social justice, policing and inequity. How do you think constituents view these issues, and how would you address them on the dais?**

Huntington Beach residents support our law enforcement and robust public safety efforts. I fully support our police, keeping our neighborhoods

safe, and I would never vote to defund public safety. The media and liberal left like to call Huntington Beach racist. As a Black woman, I'm here to prove that we aren't.

**State housing allocations over the next several years may require the city to zone for 13,337 units (RHNA). How would you maintain residents' quality of life while addressing the housing crisis?**

Prior to submitting to the state, I will join my colleagues in surrounding communities in fighting against the RHNA allocation. High-density development would be required to build 13,000 units, and I am opposed to that. Sacrificing the safety and quality of life of our residents is not worth abiding by Sacramento's mandates.

**What else would you focus on as a council member?**

As council member, I will focus on the areas of preventing government overreach, fiscal conservatism and responsibility, supporting law enforcement and public safety efforts and returning control to our community. I will fight for the rights of every Huntington Beach man, woman, and child. I will also deregulate and fight against state mandates in order to unleash our local economy.

**AMORY HANSON**  
**Age:** 23

**Professional occupation:** Boardman  
**Education:** High school diploma from Futures Academy

**Time lived in city of residence:** 23 years

**Previous public service:** Member of Huntington Beach Historic Resources Board (2019-present)

**What are your thoughts on the city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic? If elected, how would you help the city recover?**

Huntington Beach could have made an effort sooner to allow deliberative assemblies to meet on Zoom. I believe the pandemic will be over by Dec. 7, 2020, the day I would be sworn in as a councilman. At the same time, I recognize that an economic recovery will be needed. I support building a Huntington Beach Performing Arts Center to provide revenue through ticket sales.

**This summer, the Orange County area saw demonstrations related to issues of social justice, policing and inequity. How do you think constituents view these issues, and how would you ad-**

*See Council, page A8*

**CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS**

M	A	N	Y	S	C	A	M	S	A	R	C	H
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6	3	9	5	4	2	8	1	7
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**COUNCIL**

*Continued from page A7*

**dress them on the dais?**

I believe residents are well aware of these issues. I also believe that the Huntington Beach Police Department has done an excellent job in proactive reforms, such as body cameras. Any agency can always have improvement and I'm open to new and creative ideas for police reform, except that I do not support elimination or reduced funding of the Huntington Beach Police Department.

**State housing allocations over the next several years may require the city to zone for 13,337 units (RHNA). How would you maintain residents' quality of life while addressing the housing crisis?**

I do not agree with the Regional Housing Needs Assessment and support efforts to sue regarding this matter. I would like to see Huntington Beach adopt its own housing voucher program to ensure low-income residents can obtain currently built housing at a fair cost.

**What else would you focus on as a council member?**

I would have a special focus on Historic Resources, given my current service as a member of the Huntington Beach Historic Resources Board.

**MATTHEW HARPER**

Age: 46

**Professional occupation:** Businessman

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in Public Policy and Management, USC

**Time lived in city of residence:** 32 years

**Previous public service:** Huntington Beach Union High

School District trustee (1998-2010); Huntington Beach city councilman (2010-14); Huntington Beach mayor (2013-14); California State Assemblyman (2014-18)

**What are your thoughts on the city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic? If elected, how would you help the city recover?**

My plan includes reviewing the most recent information from the CDC, consulting with the OC Public Health Officer and local health professionals, working with community partners to promote public health education and advocating to state government for a plan toward a "green tier" for returning to normal so we can reach a full reopening of Huntington Beach safely.

**This summer, the Orange County area saw demonstrations related to issues of social justice, policing and inequity. How do you think constituents view these issues, and how would you ad-**



Matthew Harper

**dress them on the dais?**

When I was on the City Council, crowds got out of hand after the 2013 U.S. Open of Surfing. I supported changes. This year, rioting and looting was not restricted to urban centers. The people of Huntington Beach are rightly concerned about their safety and the destruction of property. I do not think that rioting or looting is an acceptable way to make a political point.

**State housing allocations over the next several years may require the city to zone for 13,337 units (RHNA). How would you maintain residents' quality of life while addressing the housing crisis?**

I am fed up with Gov. Newsom and the state of California targeting Huntington Beach with mandates and lawsuits. I opposed state legislation that imposed new enforcement powers for the state over municipalities. RHNA numbers used to be a goal used in planning for transportation and other infrastructure, but now the state of California is unjustly trying to mandate them. I support the RNHA appeal.

**What else would you focus on as a council member?**

I am running because I have the experience and qualifications to help our city move forward responsibly through tough times. My priorities for Huntington Beach City Council include public safety, infrastructure, economic development, administrative and fiscal accountability, property rights, personal freedom and opposition to higher taxes. I pledge to protect Proposition 13 and I will fight for local control.

**DAN KALMICK**

**Age:** 38  
**Professional occupation:** IT management consultant

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering, UC Berkeley

**Time lived in city of residence:** 15 years

**Previous public service:**

Eight years as a planning commissioner, currently as vice chair; vice-chair of Orange County Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee; former volunteer firefighter; Tech volunteer at senior center; Huntington Beach Fire Department volunteer as senior home inspector; Bolsa



Dan Kalmick

**COVID-19 pandemic? If elected, how would you help the city recover?**

The City Council's response has been horrible. Huntington Beach needs a mask mandate in order to keep our numbers down and get our businesses back open safely. We need to leverage city assets to provide loans and grants to small businesses that employ Huntington Beach residents, and we need to keep residents in their homes as the eviction moratorium expires.

**This summer, the Orange County area saw demonstrations related to issues of social justice, policing and inequity. How do you think constituents view these issues, and how would you address them on the dais?**

It is important that we understand the facts of what were largely peaceful protests. Residents were standing against decades of systemic racism and bringing attention to an important issue. As a council member, I will do the work of bringing our police officers and communities of color together for important conversations about how we move forward in a more equitable way.

**State housing allocations over the next several years may require the city to zone for 13,337 units (RHNA). How would you**

**maintain residents' quality of life while addressing the housing crisis?**

As a planning commissioner for the past eight years, I have been doing the work to protect our quality of life when it comes to rejecting bad developments. Our RHNA number is too high and is inconsistent. We must be creative in our zoning to not implement high-density projects but instead spread out housing to protect established communities.

**What else would you focus on as a council member?**

Homelessness is the number one quality of life issue for residents. We must complete our homeless shelter and ensure folks have access to the mental health and wrap-around services they need. Additionally, I want to focus on revitalizing our economy through the creation of a Broadband for All plan to close our digital divide for local businesses and families.

**THOMAS LAPARNE**

**Age:** 41  
**Professional occupation:** Business manager

**Education:** Master's degree, Cal State Fullerton

**Time lived in city of residence:** 41 years

**Previous public service:** Boy Scouts, AYSO, Huntington Valley Little League, Bolsa



Thomas LaParne

Chica Junior Stewards, United States Youth Volleyball League, Boys and Girls Club of Huntington Valley, Huntington Beach High School Alumni Assn.

**What are your thoughts on the city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic? If elected, how would you help the city recover?**

We have been hurt badly from COVID-19. We must reopen and protect our businesses throughout the

city, especially our family-owned small businesses. We also must get more events in Huntington Beach to bring tourism to the city as well as revenue.

**This summer, the Orange County area saw demonstrations related to issues of social justice, policing and inequity. How do you think constituents view these issues, and how would you address them on the dais?**

These issues are a part of the political climate in the United States right now. We must support our First Amendment rights, and do it in a peaceful manner to bring about any change we want to see in others. I want to have an open dialogue between all residents of Huntington Beach while serving on City Council.

**State housing allocations over the next several years may require the city to zone for 13,337 units (RHNA). How would you maintain residents' quality of life while addressing the housing crisis?**

I would like further studies done to explain how, where and why we would ever need excessive housing like this. We are not supportive of the needs of Sacramento when the state government has no clue about the actual needs of Huntington Beach. There are areas like Merced that built a university and has ample land to build on. We need to maintain our local control and our charter city status.

**What else would you focus on as a council member?**

Listening to our residents, being responsible with our city revenue, protecting our public infrastructure, and focusing on public safety.

**CASEY MCKEON**

**Age:** 42  
**Professional occupation:** Small business owner

**Education:** Bachelor's degree from the Marshall School of Business at USC

**Time lived in city of residence:** Third-generation Huntington Beach resident

**Previous public service:**

Currently serving on the Huntington Beach Investment Advisory Board and Finance Commission.

**What are your thoughts on the city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic? If elected, how would you help the city recover?**

As a finance commissioner, I understand the damage inflicted on our local small businesses by the COVID-19 closures. Every business is essential and we must seek to reopen businesses safely and as quickly as possible. Supporting our small businesses is critical to the long-term financial health of the city.

**This summer, the Orange County area saw demonstrations related to issues of social justice, policing and inequity. How do you think constituents view these issues, and how would you address them on the dais?**

Public safety is the number one priority of local government. This sentiment has been shared with me by the residents I meet with at the many meet and greets I have attended on the campaign trail. I am a strong supporter of the First Amendment, but also public safety. I am honored and proud to have been endorsed by the Police Management Assn.

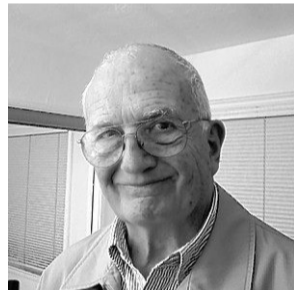
**State housing allocations over the next several years may require the city to zone for 13,337 units (RHNA). How would you maintain residents' quality of life while addressing the housing crisis?**

Our residents and myself greatly value that Huntington Beach is a suburban beach community, and we want to make sure that quality of life doesn't change. We need grassroots candidates and leaders like myself who will reject the unprecedented overreach by Sacramento bureaucrats and

**Phyllis Ann Steckler Weinberg**

*December 3, 1928 - October 11, 2020*

After a long struggle with dementia, Phyllis Ann Steckler Weinberg, age 91, of Arlington, VA & Newport Beach, CA, passed away peacefully with her daughter Kathy Molina, son-in-law Guy Molina & granddaughter Tamara Molina by her side. She is also survived by her grandson LCDR Ari Molina, his wife Shari & her 3 great-grandchildren Mattix, Ben & Jaxon. A unique individual & lifelong artist, she enjoyed dancing, astronomy, & gardening, & doted on her grandchildren. She is now at rest with her animals. Remembrance pending.



**Willis Douglas Longyear II**

*May 6, 1928 - September 21, 2020*

Willis Douglas Longyear II, died peacefully at home, surrounded by family, on September 21st. He lived a happy, healthy and energetic 92 years – a funny and loving man to the end. He was born on May 6th, 1928 in Los Angeles to Douglas Mackay Longyear and Mary Elizabeth Boyle of Cincinnati, Ohio. He was the third of four children – three boys and a younger sister. The family lived in Hancock Park and had a cattle ranch in the Owens and Long Valleys of the Eastern Sierra. His family spent summers in Mammoth Lakes at the family cabin from birth until his father's passing when Willis was eighteen. The long summers in the Sierra shaped him and provided a lifelong love of skiing, backpacking, and all aspects of the natural world.

Willis went to grammar school at Cathedral Chapel and graduated, along with his two brothers, from Loyola High School. He followed them to UCLA where he graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He began his career working for General Electric in Schenectady, then Cincinnati, Boston, and eventually transferred to Edwards Air Base in Palmdale. He worked closely with the test pilots to develop some of the latest jet engines of the day – he was in heaven! Later, he joined Ford Aeronutronic and relocated to Newport Beach, where he developed soft landing vehicles for exploring the moon and a camera for the Mars Lander. Following Ford, he worked at Bray Oil Company overseeing production and, finally, as an engineering design consultant before retiring.

Shortly after arriving in Newport Beach, he took up sailboat racing which combined his love for the outdoors and passion for engineering. He bought a Star boat, named "Mistress", and joined the Balboa Yacht Club. He enjoyed racing in weekend regattas and Thursday evening Beer Can Races and spent countless hours tweaking and tuning his boat. Applying his understanding of evolving technologies and high performance materials, he developed the rules for fiberglass construction for the Star Class, which replaced their traditional wood construction, and brought the class into the contemporary era while enhancing performance. It was adopted by the International Star Class in 1965 and the class continues to be actively raced around the world today using fiberglass hulls.

He met his wife, Judith Bray of Pasadena, and they were married in April of 1961. Together they raised two sons, Willis Douglas Longyear III and Ulric Bray Longyear, on Lido Isle and enjoyed summers at Lake Arrowhead. As a lifelong tinkerer and skilled craftsman, Willis patiently passed on his love of craft and making things to his sons through their own projects. Throughout their marriage, Willis and Judith traveled extensively, visiting every continent, including trips to Eastern Russia and several trips to Antarctica and Africa.

Willis was an active member of his community, participating in numerous organizations. He served as the coordinator for his sons' Boy Scout troop and led many hiking trips into the Sierra and canoeing trips in British Columbia. The Boy Scouts honored Willis for his longtime commitment to the organization with both the Order of the Arrow and the Silver Beaver awards. Later, he participated in the building of the Sea Scout Base in Newport Beach and developing of their education programs. He was a founding member of the Newport Sunrise Rotary, later serving as President. He also served as Commodore of the Lido Isle Yacht Club and loved to race his Sabot in the Friday night regattas.

He will be remembered by all who knew him for his kindness, integrity, and love for his family. He is survived by Judith, his wife of 59 years; his son Will and daughter-in-law Alise of Manhattan Beach; his son Ulric and daughter-in-law Susan of Mountain View; and his four grandchildren, Cameron, Turner, Daniel and Douglas.

A family celebration of Willis' life was held on October 3rd. The Longyear family graciously asks that, in lieu of flowers, anyone wishing to commemorate Willis, please make a contribution to the Newport Beach Sunrise Rotary Foundation (P.O. Box 8113, Newport Beach, CA 92558) or Orange County Boy Scout Sea Scout Base (1931 West Pacific Coast Highway, Newport Beach, CA 92663).

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**COUNCIL**

*Continued from page A8*

special interest groups. Our rental market and affordable housing has already been substantially damaged by overbuilding of high-density apartment communities.

**What else would you focus on as a council member?**

My priorities are public safety, preserving our local control by protecting our charter city status to shield us from Sacramento's overreach, supporting our small businesses which will help solve our budget deficit, addressing the homeless crisis and stopping high-density development to maintain our suburban beach community.

**JEFF MORIN**

**Age:** 59  
**Professional occupation:** Huntington Beach commissioner and small business owner

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in Business Management from Pepperdine University, Executive Masters of Business Administration from Golden Gate University  
**Time lived in city of residence:** 30 years

**Previous public service:** Founding member of city's Jet Noise Working Group and vice chairman of Jet Noise Commission; Chairman of the Board for Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Anaheim-Cypress; Executive Board member and former president for Coastline College Foundation; formerly on Board of Directors for Anaheim Chamber of Commerce, Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce and Tustin Chamber of Commerce

**What are your thoughts on the city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic?**

**If elected, how would you help the city recover?**

Our COVID-positive levels as a county and city are extremely low, and it isn't possible to meet Gov. Newsom's nonscientific requirements for reopening businesses. I would ask that that Newsom donate back 75% of salary and benefits (consistent with the 25% service tier level restriction) from the time of the state shutdown to now to prove his dedication to Californians and residents of Huntington Beach.

**This summer, the Orange County area saw demonstrations related to issues of social justice, policing and inequity. How do you think constituents view these issues, and how would you address them on the dais?**

Social justice, policing and inequity issues are a focal point in cities large and small. For whatever reason, Huntington Beach tends to attract larger demonstrations from all sides with varying viewpoints. To that end, in my view as a 30-year resident and active community member, Huntington Beach does not have a significant problem in these areas, which would require implementation of major public policy changes.

**State housing allocations over the next several years may require the city to zone for 13,337 units (RHNA). How would you maintain residents' quality of life while addressing the housing crisis?**

Frankly, the state housing allocations are unrealistic. Huntington Beach — as a charter city — through our city attorney must take a firm legal stance against these unrealistic quotas that are now being forced upon our city. I am optimistic that through legal actions and/or Southern California Assn. of Governments negotiations, this biased and inequitable quota will be greatly reduced.

**What else would you focus on as a council member?**

I would focus on: 1. Successful implementation of the Homeless Navigation Center and initiating focused response to reduce homelessness throughout the city. 2. Enhancing public safety to address increased crime and safety concerns. 3. Improving the Huntington Beach business climate via collaboration, improved permitting processes and incentives.

**NATALIE MOSER**

**Age:** 44  
**Professional occupation:** Small business owner  
**Education:** Graduated from Marina High School and Orange Coast College; Bachelor's degree in History from Cal State Long Beach, Master's degree in Business Administration from Chapman University  
**Time lived in city of residence:** 40-plus years  
**Previous public service:** Member since 2017 and current chairperson of the Huntington Beach Human Relations Task Force

**What are your thoughts on the city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic? If elected, how would you help the city recover?**

We are in a public health crisis. Our response should not be political. The science clearly shows that the more people who follow safety protocols including wearing masks and physical-distancing, the faster our economic reopening can safely occur, the faster our kids can safely get back to class, and the more freedom and mobility we all will have.

**This summer, the Orange County area saw demonstrations related to issues of social justice, policing and inequity. How do you think constituents view these issues, and how would you address them on the dais?**

These past eight months have been disruptive and

painful. They've also given us an opportunity to hear each other's stories, to begin the hard work and reckoning that community-building and equity-making require of us, and to help shape the story of who we want to become. In our chosen response lies our growth, dignity and freedom.

**State housing allocations over the next several years may require the city to zone for 13,337 units (RHNA). How would you maintain residents' quality of life while addressing the housing crisis?**

Let's create a vision for what we want Huntington Beach to look and feel like. We must address housing costs/shortages while still preserving our "Surf City" aesthetic. Diverse communities require a diversity of building types. By avoiding high-density housing development and moving forward with reasonable development including multi-family housing, we can minimize traffic/parking congestion and improve affordability.

**What else would you focus on as a council member?**

I'll focus on public health and safety, economic stability/growth for workers and business, homelessness and housing, park/coast/open space preservation, climate change response/environmental protection, youth civic engagement and being a welcoming/inclusive city. Voters have an opportunity to elevate rational, evidence-based and compassionate voices into leadership. Together, we can build a brighter future for Huntington Beach.

**BILLY O'CONNELL**

**Age:** 56  
**Professional occupation:** Executive director, Colette's Children's Home

**Education:** St. Francis College in New York  
**Time lived in city of residence:** 30 years

**Previous public service:** Huntington Beach City Council (2014-18)

**What are your thoughts**

**on the city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic? If elected, how would you help the city recover?**



To stimulate the economy, I propose opening businesses with the owner's input as quickly and safely as possible. The city should have had a more proactive approach. I will push back on Sacramento's mandates for Huntington Beach.

**This summer, the Orange County area saw demonstrations related to issues of social justice, policing and inequity. How do you think constituents view these issues, and how would you address them on the dais?**

We have a professional police department in Huntington Beach. I will not defund the police. I will work to have a proactive police department to serve our community. The police department did a great job under the circumstances and I was proud to have our citizens stand with the police.

**State housing allocations over the next several years may require the city to zone for 13,337 units (RHNA). How would you maintain residents' quality of life while addressing the housing crisis?**

The mandate for more high-density housing is not grounded in reality. As it is, our resources are strained with our current population. I would welcome the opportunity to work with our state-elected officials to give local control back to the cities and stop these ridiculous mandates from bureaucrats in Sacramento.

**What else would you focus on as a council member?**

I believe we should have a strong and unified public safety focus in Huntington Beach. As the founder and executive director of Co-

lette's Children's Home, I want to use my experience to solve the homeless issue that impacts the quality of life for all Huntington Beach residents.

**TITO ORTIZ**

**Age:** 45  
**Professional occupation:** Entrepreneur/businessman  
**Education:** AA degree from Golden West College; earned scholarship to Cal State Bakersfield

**Time lived in city of residence:** 45 years

**Previous public service:** Visited U.S.

troops for six consecutive years in Iraq and Afghanistan with the United Service Organizations; Participated in programs to build up the morale of U.S. Special Forces and multiple law enforcement agencies; CHOC Hospital board member; six-time honorary guest at the Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Battalion Ball; Worked with Huntington Beach youth wrestling and Marina High wrestling teams.

**What are your thoughts on the city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic? If elected, how would you help the city recover?**

Huntington Beach exercised its charter city status and pushed back against overbearing Sacramento overreach, when it was appropriate. It is vitally important for the collective welfare of the city to deem all businesses as essential. They must be opened quickly by adhering to safety standards. The unintended consequences of remaining closed will be overshadowed by severe negative financial and personal well-being issues, crushing our community.

**This summer, the Orange County area saw demonstrations related to**

*See Council, page A10*



Jeff Morin



Natalie Moser



Billy O'Connell



Tito Ortiz



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# COUNCIL

Continued from page A9

**issues of social justice, policing and inequity. How do you think constituents view these issues, and how would you address them on the dais?**

Unacceptable behavior by a few officers in another state should not be projected on the city of Huntington Beach, which continues to enforce laws equally without regard to

someone's sexual orientation, color, creed or religion. The citizens of Huntington Beach collectively support the First Amendment rights of freedom of speech and peaceful assembly, but reject the notion of destroying personal property and damaging public assets.

**State housing allocations over the next several years may require the city to zone for 13,337 units (RHNA). How would you maintain residents' qual-**

**ity of life while addressing the housing crisis?**

The city has been unfairly targeted by Sacramento to accept a disproportionate amount of subsidized housing, which will have a negative impact to the quality of life enjoyed by the citizens of Huntington Beach. I would immediately confer with our city attorneys and determine how we can legally inject fairness into equation to reverse these vindictive mandates.

**What else would you focus on as a council member?**

The homeless situation has reached critical mass and must be addressed with a firm and compassionate resolution. The construction of the city's initial homeless shelter with 174 beds will allow law enforcement officers to enforce the city's anti-camping and anti-loitering laws. I will meet with HBPD to ensure the homeless task force is adequately staffed with the appropriate amount of law enforcement officers and social workers.

**OSCAR RODRIGUEZ**

**Age:** 26  
**Professional occupation:** Asset manager  
**Education:** Bachelor's degree in Health Care Administration from Cal State Long Beach  
**Time lived in city of residence:** 22 years

**Previous public service:** Part of the Environmental Justice Advisory Group for the South Coast Air Quality Management District; Oak View ComUNIDAD co-founder; 7-11 Committee, Ocean View School District

**What are your thoughts on the city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic? If elected, how would you help the city recover?**

In the beginning the city's response was slow, however it has gotten better over time. What I would do differently is ensure we work with public health experts and our small business community collaboratively to ensure we can build on creating an environment that is safe. This

will allow the city to use its leverage as a tourist city while maintaining safety protocols.

**Time lived in city of residence:** 48 years  
**Previous public service:** Teaching

**What are your thoughts on the city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic? If elected, how would you help the city recover?**

I believe that the response to COVID-19 was bungled in many ways, from the Orange County Board of Supervisors to the City Council. Shutting down business and requiring masks was never going to be popular in Orange County, especially Huntington Beach. That being said, I believe that the City Council could have made a better case to the residents on why this was important. Attitude reflects leadership.

**This summer, the Orange County area saw demonstrations related to issues of social justice, policing and inequity. How do you think constituents view these issues, and how would you address them on the dais?**

I believe you can address inequity, support the First Amendment, support our police and make residents feel safe all at the same time. Huntington Beach is more diverse now than it has ever been, and I celebrate that. The key is to listen. During my campaign I have been trying to listen to residents as much as possible.

**State housing allocations over the next several years may require the city to zone for 13,337 units (RHNA). How would you maintain residents' quality of life while addressing the housing crisis?**

While California may have a housing crisis, I do not believe that Huntington Beach does. We do not have a large amount of land available to build on, so developers tend to build straight up. I have not found any residents who want more six-story apartment buildings. I agree with the City Council appealing the decision on the amount of housing slated for Huntington Beach.

**What else would you focus on as a council member?**

The number one issue for most Huntington Beach residents is our homeless

issue. The city has begun to address the issue by building a Navigation Center. We also need to conduct a search and hire a new police chief, get our businesses open safely in order to generate the revenue we need to address our budget deficit and unfunded pension liabilities.

**GRACEY VAN DER MARK**  
**Age:** 46  
**Professional occupation:** Business owner  
**Education:** Did not answer  
**Time lived in city of residence:** 20 years  
**Previous public service:** Currently serving on the Huntington Beach Finance Commission; served on the Ocean View School District and Huntington Beach City School District Bond Oversight Committees

**What are your thoughts on the city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic? If elected, how would you help the city recover?**

As a finance commissioner, I have first-hand knowledge of the damage caused to our local businesses by the COVID closures. We must seek to re-open business safely and as quickly as possible.

**This summer, the Orange County area saw demonstrations related to issues of social justice, policing and inequity. How do you think constituents view these issues, and how would you address them on the dais?**

Local government has a responsibility to provide safety for the citizens. This has been echoed to me over and over as I meet members of the community. While I am a strong supporter of the First Amendment and the right to be heard, I am also a strong supporter of public safety and proud to have been endorsed by the Police Management Assn.

**State housing allocations over the next several years may require the city to zone for 13,337 units (RHNA). How would you maintain residents' quality of life while addressing the housing crisis?**

I am very pleased that the current council just voted 7-0 to appeal the SCAG mandate of 13,000 units, which was recently discovered to be based on false data and information. I am strongly in favor of maintaining our suburban beach community and quality of life. We need leaders like myself who will reject the unprecedented overreach by Sacramento bureaucrats.

**What else would you focus on as a council member?**

My priorities are public safety, improving conditions for businesses to thrive, addressing the homeless crisis, restoring the budget from COVID losses without increasing taxes and stopping high-density developing.

matthewszabo@latimes.com  
Twitter: @mjszabo

**Time lived in city of residence:** 48 years  
**Previous public service:** Teaching

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# Daily Pilot

A Times Community News publication incorporating the Huntington Beach Independent, Coastline Pilot, Orange Coast Daily Pilot and the Newport Harbor News Press combined with Daily Pilot

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**COMPANY INFO**

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# MARKETPLACE

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**Legal Notices**

**CITY OF COSTA MESA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a Public Hearing will be held by the Costa Mesa City Council at its regular meeting on **Tuesday, November 17, 2020**, at 7:00 p.m. or soon as thereafter as the matter shall be heard, at City Hall, 77 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa, California, to consider the following item:

**ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CITYWIDE TRAFFIC IMPACT FEE PROGRAM**

California Government Code Section 66006(b) requires an annual review and accounting of the Citywide Traffic Impact Fee Program. The Fund Balance Account Sheet is posted in the City Clerk's Office.

**Public Comments:**

Zoom Webinar: Information to sign in will be provided on the agenda. Members of the public who wish to make a comment may submit your public comment via email to the City Clerk at [cityclerk@costamesaca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@costamesaca.gov) and they will be provided to the City Council, made available to the public, and will be part of the meeting record. Any written communications, photos, or other materials for copying and distribution to the City Council that are 10 pages or less, can be e-mailed to [cityclerk@costamesaca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@costamesaca.gov), submitted to the City Clerk's Office on a flash drive, or mailed to the City Clerk's Office. Kindly submit materials to the City Clerk **AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT NO LATER THAN 12:00 p.m.** on the day of the hearing, **November 17, 2020**. All materials, pictures, PowerPoints, and videos submitted for display at a public meeting must be previously reviewed by staff to verify appropriateness for general audiences. Please note that materials submitted by the public that are deemed appropriate for general audiences will not be redacted in any way and will be posted online as submitted, including any personal contact information. If you should need further assistance, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (714) 754-5225. The City Council agenda and related documents may also be viewed on the City's website at <http://costamesaca.gov>, 72 hours prior to the public hearing date. **IF THE AFOREMENTIONED ACTION IS CHALLENGED IN COURT**, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in the notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing.  
Brenda Green, City Clerk, City of Costa Mesa  
Published on: November 1 & 8, 2020

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Oscar Rodriguez

Coast Air Quality Management District; Oak View ComUNIDAD co-founder; 7-11 Committee, Ocean View School District

**What are your thoughts on the city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic? If elected, how would you help the city recover?**

In the beginning the city's response was slow, however it has gotten better over time. What I would do differently is ensure we work with public health experts and our small business community collaboratively to ensure we can build on creating an environment that is safe. This



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**LET'S TALK.**



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