

# Daily Pilot

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2020 // Now including Coastline Pilot and Huntington Beach Independent // [dailypilot.com](http://dailypilot.com)



Courtesy of Marcos Torres

**RENZZO REYES** is shown with his twins, Bailey and Bryce. Reyes, an AP Spanish teacher, drove from Tijuana to Newport Beach every day for three years to teach his students at Newport Harbor High School until he was in a serious car accident in October.

## Car crash won't stop teacher who faced 107-mile commute

AP Spanish instructor Renzzo Reyes spent an average of six hours on the road daily, driving from his home in Tijuana to Newport Harbor High School.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

**I**t's a 107-mile drive from Tijuana to Newport Beach. That's about 2½ hours without traf-

fic. A round trip is about six hours. That was the commute that Renzzo Reyes, an AP Spanish teacher at Newport Harbor High School, made every day for three years until the pandemic shut down campuses in March.

But it'll be at least a year before he can make that trip again.

Campuses in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District have since reopened, but Reyes was in a serious car accident in Tijuana in October and broke several ribs,

his clavicle, his scapula, his right wrist and one of his ribs perforated his right lung.

Reyes said doctors told him he should consider himself lucky because nothing serious had happened to his skull, legs or spine.

Reyes, who immigrated to the United States from Peru when he was 17, said he moved to Tijuana about three years ago to be closer to his family. His brother, Marco

See Teacher, page A2

## Costa Mesa swears in 3 new council members, bids farewell to Allan Mansoor, Sandy Genis, John Stephens

BY SARA CARDINE

Having certified results from the Nov. 3 election, the Costa Mesa City Council Tuesday bid farewell to departing members Sandy Genis, Allan Mansoor and John Stephens and welcomed the newly elected Don

Harper, Loren Gameros and Jeff Harlan.

With the completion of an outdoor, physically distanced swearing-in ceremony held before Tuesday's regular meeting, a bit of local history was made — for the first time since voters approved creating council dis-

tricts in 2016, all six districts now have their own representatives.

Additionally, Gameros' arrival to the dais means four of seven council members, a majority, are Latino.

In a presentation to the outgoing officials, City Manager

Lori Ann Farrell Harrison recognized the time, work and tenacity the trio of outgoing council members brought to the city and thanked them for lending a diversity of opinions on important city issues.

See Council, page A4

See CIF, page A4

## Save Our Youth teams up with OCSC for free soccer clinics

BY MATT SZABO

Cristy Martinez smiled as she looked at the half-dozen kids playing soccer late Tuesday afternoon at the Save Our Youth campus in Costa Mesa.

Martinez is an alumna of the program, which has been serving the youth of Westside Costa Mesa for 27 years.

Martinez, a Costa Mesa native who is an Early College High School and Cal State Fullerton graduate, now gives back to SOY as its program coordinator. She's held that position since September.

On Tuesday, Orange County Soccer Club defender Rob Kiernan was on hand to give instruction to the SOY youth as part of the program's after-school activi-

**ROB KIERNAN**, a defender with the Orange County Soccer Club, gives instructions to youngsters during a clinic at the Save Our Youth facility.



Photos by Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

FROM LEFT, Andrew Arevalo, 12, Chelsea Vilchis, 13, Alex Vega, 16, and Angel Martinez, 15, participate in a soccer clinic in Costa Mesa on Tuesday.

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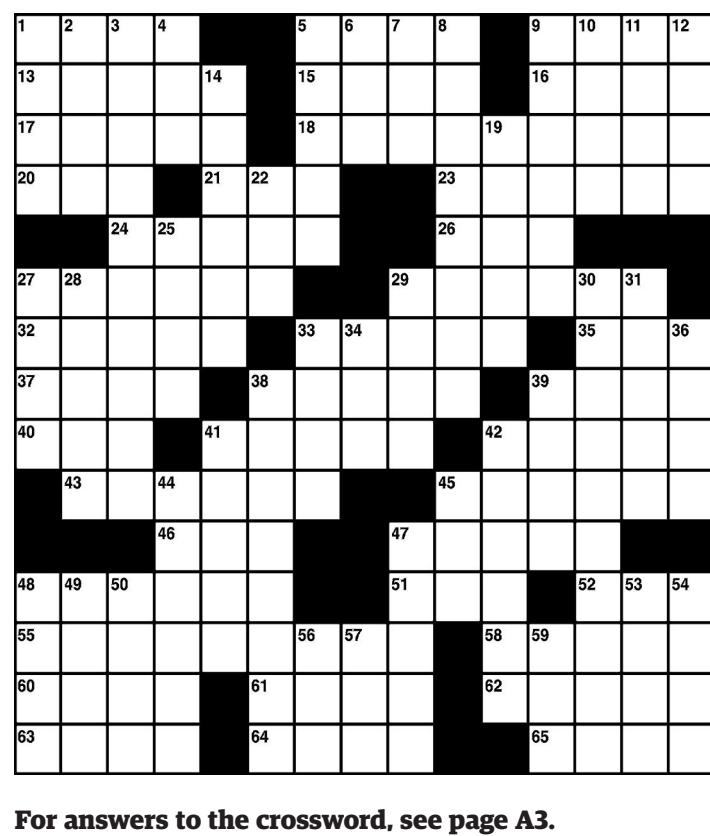


## THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

### ACROSS

1 To boot  
5 Turn over  
9 — support;  
shoe insert  
13 Happen again  
15 Wander  
16 Draped  
garment  
17 Join forces  
18 Surgery  
20 Corn's  
location  
21 Tub  
23 Carve a  
statue  
24 Horse's  
comment  
26 Piece of  
cookware  
27 C to C, on the  
piano  
29 Opposite of  
roundabout  
32 Go higher  
33 Rosebush  
prickle  
35 — de  
Triomphe; Paris  
monument  
37 Nap  
38 Arson or  
burglary, e.g.  
39 Desperate  
request  
40 "Ready, —  
go!"  
41 Employee's  
delight  
42 Large parrot  
43 Phony;  
artificial  
45 Sweet treats  
46 MacGraw or  
Larter  
47 Slanted edge  
48 Inn  
51 Actor Bruce



For answers to the crossword, see page A3.

### 52 Venomous

snake

### 55 Weave

together

### 58 Numerical

comparison

### 32 Go higher

33 Rosebush

prickle

### 35 — de

Triomphe; Paris

monument

### 37 Nap

38 Arson or

burglary, e.g.

### 39 Desperate

request

### 40 "Ready, —

go!"

### 41 Employee's

delight

### 42 Large parrot

43 Phony;

artificial

### 45 Sweet treats

46 MacGraw or

Larter

### 47 Slanted edge

48 Inn

### 51 Actor Bruce

### Railroad"

8 Sweat

### 9 Shrewd

10 Banister

### 11 Cut short

12 — at; suggest

### 14 Become

conscious again

### 19 — squash;

winter veggie

### 22 Grow old

25 From Utah to

Virginia

### 27 Boatman's

items

### 28 Slimeball

29 Taj Mahal

roof

### 30 Adding

machine

### 31 Special tidbit

33 Quartet with

one member

### out sick

34 — and hers

### 36 Crow's

remarks

### 38 Luxury car

39 Glass

### rectangle

### 41 Measuring

stick

### 42 Shakers'

partners, in

phrase

### 44 Restaurant

45 Shameful

mark

### 47 Recipe verb

48 Conceal

### 49 Change for a

five

### 50 First —

baby's triumph

### 53 Word

attached to

camp or web

### 54 Prepare to

take a selfie

### 56 Ark's Gov. —

Hutchinson

### 57 Sedan or

hatchback

### 59 Tenement

bldg. unit

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### Legal Notices

#### NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: MARK GERARD O'BRIEN

30-2020-01171853-PR-PW-CJC

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **MARK GERARD O'BRIEN**

A Petition For Probate has been filed by **Michael Patrick O'Brien** in the Superior Court of California, County of Orange.

The Petition For Probate requests that **MASSUD H. MIRZAI** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The Petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on

January 06, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. in Dept. C6

located at

700 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE WEST,

SANTA ANA, CA 92701

(1) If you plan to appear, you must attend the hearing by video remote using Microsoft Teams;

(2) Go to the Court's website at <http://www.occourts.org/media-relations/probate-mental-health.html> to appear for probate hearings; and for remote hearing instructions; (3) If you have difficulty connecting to your remote hearing, call 657-622-8278 for assistance.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for the Petitioner:

GREGORY LEE BARTONE, ESQ.

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## TEACHER

Continued from page A1

Reyes, had been living in Tijuana for a while and their mother, Doris Orozco, would come up from Peru to stay with him before eventually coming to stay with Renzoo Reyes in the U.S. before returning home.

Being in the city reminded Reyes of home, Lima, Peru. "Everything, it reminds me what I left behind so many years ago and I still remember it because every year I will travel to Peru to see my mom and my aunts and all that, but I couldn't fly to Peru whenever I wanted to," said Reyes, adding that his 8-year-old twins, Bailey and Bryce, live with his ex-wife in Murrieta and that he wanted to be close enough to visit them every other weekend.

But, compared to Peru, Mexico was just two hours away.

"My brother was like, 'Are you crazy? You can find a job here or in San Diego,'" Reyes said.

"But I love Newport Beach and Newport Harbor so much that I didn't care about the driving hours. To be in my classroom with my students is the best thing ever," Reyes said. "To see their smiles, their beautiful minds in action — even if they disagreed with me — that was a good, worthwhile sacrifice to be made."

Even if it makes him tired, he said.

Reyes said he became a teacher after finding a love for Latin American literature while in college. He'd been studying theater before that and changed his major after reading the works of writers like Mario Vargas Llosa, Gabriel García Márquez and Isabel Allende.

"I started reading a little bit about where I come from," Reyes said. "I



Courtesy of Marcos Torres

**THE 2018** Newport Harbor High yearbook devoted a special section to Renzoo Reyes, who teaches AP Spanish.

started understanding Latin American culture and little by little I started making sense of who I was as a cultural entity in the United States, living in a multicultural society in a very democratic society and understanding the value of having a voice and cultural power as well."

It inspired him to become a teacher, which turns out to be a family tradition. His great grandmother was a teacher. Just as was his grandmother, his mother, his aunts and his brother.

"It was through education and, in educating myself, that serves as a salvation to somehow become what I have become now," Reyes said. "I may have no reach. I don't have that much money, but what I don't have in money, I have in other things like education and knowledge that I can pass along with students."

"The U.S. [has] given me the opportunity to educate myself and I know I'm grateful because for the past 18 years, I have been giving back to society what it has given me," he added.

Reyes said he doesn't remember much of the details of what happened after the Oct. 9 accident. He remembers he'd been visiting San Diego to see his friends for his 46th birthday. The accident happened on the way back home that night, close to midnight in Tijuana.

The road was slick because the streets and avenues were being cleaned, he thought. He said he lost control of the car and it cleared the center divider and hit a tree. Anything after that, he learned secondhand.

Marco Reyes said he got the call when he was half asleep and thought that it had been a wrong number at first until the person on the other line said it was his brother's car. It was in the middle of the night and he couldn't just leave his daughters at home alone, so he had to wait until someone could come and watch his children. Every minute felt like an hour, he said.

By the time he arrived on the scene, paramedics had taken Renzoo Reyes into an ambulance. They couldn't take him to any public hospital in Tijuana because there

**TEACHER***Continued from page A2*

type of commitment to his career, especially because he didn't have an easy life from what he had told just me or his other students," Ruiz said. "It inspires a lot of people. If Mr. Reyes could do it, I could do it."

Ruiz said she heard about the accident from a fellow alumnus. Both she and her mother donated to help pay for Reyes' medical bills.

As for 2017 graduate Sergio Castañeda, Reyes was his inspiration to become a Spanish teacher. When Castañeda came to the U.S., he didn't know a word of English. Reyes taught him a lot.

"He always tried to get you to laugh. He has advice, his own spirit," said Castañeda, who called Reyes after he heard about the accident. "I took two

years [of Spanish] with him and I think those two years were the greatest years of high school for me because of him."

Reyes said that he wasn't sure about the GoFundMe at first. He said that anything that he accomplished, he did it on his own, but that he was thankful for the help given to him.

Though he is still in recovery, Reyes said he's hoping he'll be able to teach next year. But he thinks he'll move back to Orange County first. It'll be hard to leave his family in Tijuana, he said, but he thinks it's doable.

"Not all things in life are difficult. There are things in life that are doable," he said. "Sometimes, you just have to let people to help you. That is something I had to learn."

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**CLINICS***Continued from page A1*

ture, and I think these kids are definitely having fun playing it out right now."

Kiernan, a defender for OCSC who the club recently announced was resigned for 2021, gave the youngsters instruction in dribbling and passing. He also taught them tricks like those used by soccer legends Diego Maradona, who died on Nov. 25, and Neymar.

"I've never had an opportunity like this," said Alex Vega, a junior at Early College High who has been in SOY for about four years.

"It's really good. I just never thought that I'd be with a pro soccer player training, and that's something that's regular on a Tuesday."

Chelsea Vilchis, an eighth-grader at Costa

Mesa Middle School, said she had attended all four of the Orange County Soccer Club clinics so far.

She relished the chance to get back on the field, even if she said some of the tricks proved to be difficult.

"It's fun to get to meet the soccer players," Chelsea said. "I couldn't get into AYSO this year and the school team was canceled [due to COVID]."

This week, SOY has pushed back its open hours to 4-8 p.m. since most local schoolchildren are participating in a hybrid school format. Kids can attend in person if they sign up beforehand, and there are also Zoom options.

SOY offers tutoring but also the outdoor activities, like soccer, board chair and interim executive director Mary Cappelini said. The program also offers yoga on Mondays, spin bicycle classes on Wednesdays and Thursdays and a "bicycle club" on Friday afternoons.

Cappelini said that Costa Mesa City Councilwoman Arlis Reynolds helped arrange the partnership with OCSC.

Reynolds is a former soccer player at Estancia High who sits on OCSC's Hispanic Advisory Board.



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

**ORANGE COUNTY** Soccer Club's Rob Kiernan, second from the left, gives instructions to students at a clinic.

"They first came out to help us with our food distributions," Cappelini said.

"We've been doing that at SOY since May, and that's how we first got to know them, which was exciting. Then they said, 'What else can we do? Let's teach some them soccer.' We weren't able to do anything during the summer, but then they started to open up sports. I said, well if they're allowed to kick the ball around at the high schools, they should be allowed to do it at SOY as well."

"We wanted to provide the opportunity for students, many of whom either didn't make the team or couldn't afford it, or ar-

en't playing any club sports. This really helps our kids to get out and exercise a bit, too."

SOY's involvement within the City Council doesn't stop with Reynolds, who grew up in the Freedom Homes housing tract on the Westside. Martinez said that Costa Mesa City Councilman Manuel Chavez, who was elected in 2018 at the age of 23, is another SOY alumnus.

"I remember we'd do our homework here together," Martinez said. "We still talk about it and laugh about it, and now he's our city councilman. You would never imagine the kind of individuals that SOY helps."

Kiernan, who is from England and previously played for Rangers Football Club in Scotland, said he had fun teaching the youngsters some skills on Tuesday.

"It's nice for kids to come out and enjoy themselves," said Kiernan, who has been leading training online during the pandemic through his Prospect Soccer Academy.

"I feel I can give them something they can take away from it, new techniques, new drills. But listen, I'm also trying to help build the profile of the club as well, the awareness of it. Hopefully, these guys might come down and watch, bring a friend."

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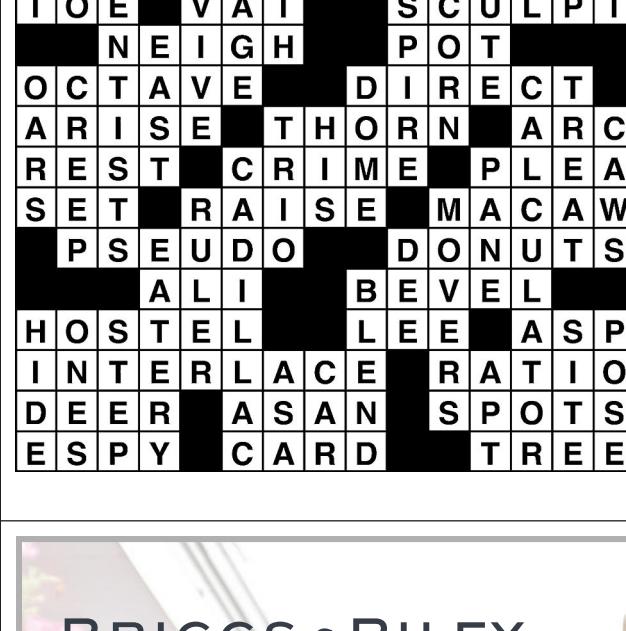
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**CIF***Continued from page A1*

A season of any sort is what Ocean View High School football coach Luis Nunez is hoping for, and he acknowledged that CIF is trying to accomplish just that. "For me, just to get my seniors on the field would mean the world, and I'm sure it would mean the world to the kids," Nunez said.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has yet to issue an update regarding youth sports guidelines because of a rise in coronavirus numbers, the statement said.

Orange County reported one death due to COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus, as well as 1,208 new infections on Wednesday, per numbers released by the Orange County Health Care Agency.

The county has had 1,578 coronavirus deaths and 80,551 cases since the start of the pandemic.

Hospitalizations are now at 689 in the county, with 171 of those patients in intensive care units.

The healthcare agency also reported 12,851 tests for the virus, bringing the number of tests administered to 1,482,285.

At this time, the CIF said that dates to begin full

practice and competition are delayed until updated guidance is provided by the CDPH. The CIF does not anticipate that the youth sports guidance will be coming from the state until at least January.

The statement added that boys' volleyball, traditionally a spring sport, would be moved to the school year's second season in the hope that the sport will not have to endure the loss of another full season. The arrival of the pandemic saw the cancellation of spring sports that coincided with school closures.

"I'm thankful that they're taking into consideration giving boys' volleyball a chance to have a complete season," said Sam Stafford, who coaches boys' and girls' volleyball at Corona del Mar. "It's impossible to tell what the numbers are going to look like come the new year into February, so I think that's the best way that they can protect the boys, who have already lost half a season."

Wigod indicated that the section would seek feedback from its member schools as to whether they wanted to keep boys' volleyball in the fall season or move it to the spring season. Some of the issues that could arise in the spring include sharing facilities with boys' and girls' basketball and wrestling, as well as the



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**NEWPORT HARBOR'S** Olivia Giolas (12) tries to shoot during the semifinals of the CIF Southern Section Division 1 playoffs at Irvine's Woollett Aquatics Center on Feb. 19. The CIF State office canceled all regional and state championships for fall sports for the upcoming season.

potential for overlapping, multi-sport athletes.

Girls' volleyball, which was scheduled to have contests begin Dec. 19, will remain in the fall season.

"My message [to the girls] ... would be to take advantage of every second we get in the gym because as we saw last [school] year on March 13, it can be taken away in an instant," Stafford added.

Regional playoffs were a relatively new phenomenon in water polo, having begun in 2018. Ethan Damato, who coaches boys' and girls' water polo at Laguna Beach, said that the

loss of the regional playoffs was not a huge blow as the section finals present a big stage.

"I feel like right now, playing those games at [William] Woollett [Jr.] Aquatics Center, playing those semifinals and those finals at Woollett are such big events, that for us, I think, in the Southern Section, that's still been the pinnacle of the season at this point," Damato said.

Damato added that his program remains grateful for what it has been able to do, like training for now.

Laguna Beach boys' cross-country coach Scott

Wittkop said that it took him by surprise to see CIF cancel the state cross-country championships four months in advance, but he is hopeful that an alternative will emerge. He added that he is glad the section finals, to be held at Mt. San Antonio College, remain in place.

"We're kind of hoping that with the state meet, that some other things may come around where we can maybe even run a state meet outside of CIF," he said. "[It could be] kind of like what they do with the national meets ... because nationals is not a CIF-sanc-

tioned thing."

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

- Santa Ana: 15,609 cases; 331 deaths
- Anaheim: 13,488 cases; 344 deaths
- Huntington Beach: 3,437 cases; 90 deaths
- Costa Mesa: 2,702 cases; 45 deaths
- Irvine: 2,815 cases; 14 deaths
- Newport Beach: 1,511 cases; 26 deaths
- Fountain Valley: 893 cases; 21 deaths
- Laguna Beach: 341 cases; fewer than five deaths

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

- 0 to 17: 6,611 cases; one death
- 18 to 24: 11,741 cases; four deaths
- 25 to 34: 17,065 cases; 21 deaths
- 35 to 44: 12,795 cases; 40 deaths
- 45 to 54: 13,066 cases; 120 deaths
- 55 to 64: 9,786 cases; 219 deaths
- 65 to 74: 4,960 cases; 310 deaths
- 75 to 84: 2,560 cases; 343 deaths
- 85 and older: 1,911 cases; 520 deaths

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**COUNCIL***Continued from page A1*

"The most complicated issues any public elected officials have had to deal with really in our lifetimes — a period of pandemic, civil unrest, earthquakes, wildfires — just about every calamity we can think of has come our way," Farrell Harrison said. "And you have handled it with such grace, poise and availability. We're sad to see you go."

The city manager shared some parting gifts, including ceramic tiles bearing the city's seal, individualized street signs with each council member's name

and commemorative photo books.

Mansoor, a three-term mayor who served on the council from 2002 to 2010 and was elected twice to the state Assembly before returning to the council in 2016, said politics can be a greedy mistress and warned incoming members to balance their civic duties with personal obligations.

He commended city staff for their hard work and recognized how much had changed since he began campaigning for office nearly 20 years ago.

"It's a bittersweet time for me," Mansoor said. "There are a lot of great memories that I cling to. Thanks to all

my supporters and thank you to everyone who has ever voted for me — I wish everyone the best."

Genis, who placed second to Katrina Foley in the race for mayor, thanked staff for patiently answering her many questions and reflected on council members' difference of opinion over the years. Also a former mayor, she first served on the dais from 1988 to 1996 and then returned in 2012.

"Even when we disagreed vehemently you made me think, and I like it when people make me think," she said. "And above all, I thank the public for coming and holding our feet to the fire."

Sometimes we didn't like what they had to say because it made us squirm, but I really appreciate that."

Genis advised all council members, new and sitting, to love the city more than their political careers.

Mayor Pro Tem Stephens, who lost his District 1 seat to Harper by 323 votes, thanked his family for their support and acknowledged a long list of current and past city staff. He said he planned to continue to serve Costa Mesa in whatever capacity he could.

"We've accomplished a lot. I'm not done — I still love the city and will serve the city," he said. "Good luck to Jeff, Loren and Don.

You will be great council members."

In parting, Stephens advised the newcomers to the dais to keep in mind that to be successful as a public servant, one must constantly collaborate and work across the table to achieve greatness. "The one thing about being a council member is you don't get anything done by yourself," he said. "It's impossible."

Once Gameros, Harper and Harlan were installed to the council, each took turns thanking those who helped them get elected and shared remarks about what they hoped to bring to the office in the four years ahead.

The new panel rounded out the meeting by appointing Councilwoman Andrea Marr to serve as mayor pro tem under Foley, who won reelection in a clear victory, with 25,833 votes to Genis' 11,158 and the 5,751 votes garnered by third-place candidate Wendy Leece.

"Welcome aboard, and buckle up, because it's going to be a rocky road," Foley told the three new council members. "It's going to be an amazing year, and we're going to get a lot done for the city of Costa Mesa."

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