

City of Garden Grove
WEEKLY CITY MANAGER'S MEMO
September 9, 2021

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council FROM: Maria Stipe, Assistant City Manager
Members

I. DEPARTMENT ITEMS


- A.** ORANGE COUNTY BUSINESS COUNCIL 2021 TURNING RED TAPE INTO RED CARPET NOMINATIONS
This memorandum provides information regarding a submittal of a nomination to the Orange County Business Council 2021 *Turning Red Tape into Red Carpet Awards*.

II. ITEMS FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, OUTSIDE AGENCIES, BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS

- A.** County of Orange Social Services Agency press release: County of Orange Social Services Agency Offering COVID-19 Vaccines (September 8, 2021).

• OTHER ITEMS

- SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES
Copies of the week's social media posts and local newspaper articles are attached for your information.
- MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS
Items of interest are included.


Maria Stipe
Assistant City Manager

participation in the City's COVID-19 business relief programs and Yelp ratings.

Since the launch of the FoGG program, there has been a tremendous sense of Garden Grove community pride by the local business entrepreneurs and connecting City officials. The FoGG Instagram page achieved an Instagram reach total of 1,650 in the first 60 days and the FoGG website currently has a total of 14,402 "page views. Promotion of the FoGG program was unveiled on the three (3) outdoor signs located along the SR-22 Freeway thereby reaching nearly 200,000 vehicles traveling daily. Ongoing assessment of marketing and each respective data supports the goal of assisting FoGG participants in gaining exposure for their businesses.

The City remains proactive in providing tools and resources to help our local small businesses survive during these challenging COVID times. The next goal is to reach 150 Foods of Garden Grove participants by December 2021.

Winners will be recognized at a reception event on November 4, 2021.



LISA L. KIM
Assistant City Manager
Community and Economic Development Director



By: Albert Nunez
Administrative Intern

Attachment 1: Nomination for the Category: Business Retention and Expansion

11th ANNUAL TURNING RED TAPE INTO RED CARPET 2021 AWARDS NOMINATION

1) Please provide a brief description of the project.

As the economy begins recovery, the launch of the City's Foods of Garden Grove (FoGG) program in June 2021 served to directly support local small businesses affected by COVID-19. State mandatory restrictions brought about a heavy burden on the food and beverage industry which continues to experience extreme financial hardships and labor recruitment challenges. To help bring about sustainability and fulfill the City's commitment to assist small businesses and protect local jobs FoGG was created.

Included in the FoGG outreach campaign are: an interactive City website with participating businesses and a virtual mapping tool; and expanding social media presence through Instagram and TikTok to showcase unique foodie stories about local FoGG businesses. The City continues to be active and strategically leverage resources to expand social media presence, promote local services for new and existing businesses, and provide local support for workforce priorities.

2) What is the goal or purpose of the project?

Furthering the City's Economic Development Strategic Plan, the FoGG program implemented an innovative collaboration with small businesses, food influencers, and City officials to highlight local small business entrepreneurs during recovery. As the world works toward seeking normality, the City is committed to sustaining and growing the local economy. FoGG aims to increase the exposure of participating businesses, and share the best of Garden Grove's culturally diverse food scene.

In concert with FoGG, the City also shares other available economic development tools such as workforce development, business grants intended to retain and create local jobs. The goal is to encourage residents and visitors to dine and support locally in this new COVID norm. These efforts resulted in the protection of local jobs, which meant saving the integrity of our unique food culture.

3) Who are the participants in the project? Who was involved in planning/implementation/funding/lending? Do you have any coalition partners in the project? Are there any other partners that you would like to highlight? Who is affected?

To date, over 100 local Garden Grove restaurants and eateries have participated in the FoGG Program. Through social media, FoGG has been able to capture a wider generational audience on the Instagram and TikTok platforms. In addition, local Garden Grove businesses continue to receive tremendous positive feedback, thereby supporting the livelihood of these small businesses. Each FoGG participant is individually reviewed and selected based on criteria that include their participation in the City's COVID-19 business relief programs and Yelp ratings.

Through a collaborative interdepartmental process, the creation of Foods of Garden Grove brought together representatives from the Community and Economic Development Department, Office of Community Relations, and the Information Technology Department. The collective group worked together to showcase how wonderful the food diversity options are in Garden Grove. Each staff member brought their expertise and knowledge to establish Foods of Garden Grove.

The City is working with a local OC foodie influencer team, Cheese & Crumble Inc., led by Calvin Hang, to capture videos and photos for Foods of Garden Grove. Calvin and his team were instrumental in developing the creative posts and messaging for each FoGG participant. Each TikTok segment further encapsulated local community pride with personal stories and family recipes.

4) What has been the impact of the project? How effective has it been in furthering economic development in your community? Identify any tangible and/or intangible results and value added. Be sure to include metrics in your description of the results.

Since the launch of the FoGG program, there has been a tremendous sense of Garden Grove community pride by the local business entrepreneurs and connecting City officials. The FoGG Instagram page achieved an Instagram reach total of 1,650 in the first 60 days. Instagram reach is the number of unique accounts or users, which have "viewed" any FoGG "posts" or FoGG "stories" posted at least one time. The FoGG website currently has a total of 14,402 "page views", which means the amount of users visiting the page. Promotion of the FoGG program was unveiled on the three (3) outdoor signs located along the SR-22 Freeway thereby reaching nearly 200,000 vehicles traveling daily. Ongoing assessment of marketing and each respective data supports the goal of assisting FoGG participants in gaining exposure for their businesses. As the program continues, the City plans to reach out to FoGG participants to explore further business sustainability opportunities.

5) Is this project replicable or transferable? Can it be adapted for use in other communities? What lessons have been learned?

The FoGG project is both replicable and transferable. Each community has the ability to celebrate its diverse local food and beverage partners that welcome opportunities for storytelling. It also leveraging the successful platforms of Instagram and TikTok to highlight respective business milestones such as grand openings, expansions, and legacy families as well. The City hopes to encourage other cities to promote their local businesses, especially during the recovery of the COVID-19 pandemic. As social media is increasingly becoming a part of everyone's daily life, it is essential to utilize relevant social media platforms.

The lessons learned primarily involve how to improve communication with local business constituents. Sending a message that we celebrate our small business community who serve as the backbone of the City's local economy is vital. Direct in-person contact combined with social media continue to evolve. The FoGG team evaluated methods and social media user tendencies that help increase the FoGG following. More lessons are still expected to appear but have not been made as the project is still in the early launch stages. As time goes on, the FoGG team will learn what components give local businesses exposure and further support economic sustainability.

6) In what ways is this project innovative or creative?

With this innovative project, partnering with local OC food influencers was uncharted territory for the City of Garden Grove. The City has discovered another method in assisting the local economy. COVID-19 has affected businesses tremendously as restaurants were forced to close or transition into takeout services only. As vaccinations ramp up, and the world works toward getting back to normal, the City's mission is to share the story profile that the City of Garden Grove is open for business.

Leveraging the many active social media accounts has been positive including: Garden Grove Police Department (Facebook and Twitter), Garden Grove City Hall (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok), and Garden Grove Unified School District. We also discovered many hidden gems that did not use social media to showcase their local restaurants. The FoGG team was able to share innovation opportunities with these local businesses as social media platforms are great tools to reach all types of audiences and demographics. The creation of the FoGG website includes an interactive map that has made it easy for users to plan out their food exploration itinerary. It's a virtual food tour that brings the

brilliance of each restaurant to life. The City is setting itself apart from other cities while attracting visitors to Garden Grove.

7) Are there any other relevant details not covered above or specific to your category?

The City has had a positive impact on FoGG participants throughout the process, and business owners have had the opportunity to share their own unique stories of the amount of work and dedication it took to start their own business. The City remains proactive in providing tools and resources to help our local small businesses survive during these challenging COVID times. The next goal is to reach 150 Foods of Garden Grove participants by December 2021. In recognition, Foods of Garden Grove would like to celebrate and applaud these businesses for their accomplishments and while continuing to support them on their journey to recovery.

Attachments

- 1. Interactive Website. <https://ggcity.org/foodsofgardengrove>**
- 2. Image of 22 Freeway Outdoor Sign**
- 3. Community Engagement (National Night Out)**
- 4. Instagram**
- 5. TikTok**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jamie Cargo
ssacomm@ssa.ocgov.com

County of Orange Social Services Agency Offering COVID-19 Vaccines

Appointments and Walk-ins Welcome for No-Charge Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson Vaccines

Orange County, Calif. (September 8, 2021) – The County of Orange Social Services Agency (SSA), in partnership with OC Health Care Agency, will host a free COVID-19 vaccine clinic at its Santa Ana Regional Center. This event is open to the public.

Date: Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Time: 8 a.m. to noon

Location: Lobby B in the Santa Ana Regional Center, 1928 S. Grand Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705

Both Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines will be offered September 15, while second doses of the Pfizer vaccine will be offered only October 6. Appointments and walk-ins will be accepted. The vaccine clinic is open to adults and children 12 years or older with a parent or guardian present.

Please bring the following to streamline registration:

1. Form of identification. A photo ID is preferred, but other forms of identification will be accepted. Proof of citizenship or legal status is NOT required.
2. Insurance card if you have one. No one will be denied a vaccine if they do not have insurance. Vaccines are FREE.
3. Proof you are the appropriate age for the vaccine being administered.

New Othena registrants can make an appointment using the QR code below. For existing Othena accounts, please use the invitation code: izec9. Those wishing to schedule an appointment or arrange for transportation can call 714-834-2000. For more information, visit occovid19.ochealthinfo.com.



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WEEKLY MEMO 9-9-2021

**SOCIAL MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**



Post Performance

September 2, 2021 – September 8, 2021

Review the lifetime performance of the posts you published during the publishing period.

Included in this Report

 @CityGardenGrove

 Garden Grove City Hall

 gardengrovecityhall



Garden Grove City Hall

Thu 9/2/2021 1:34 pm PDT

Garden Grove is full of heroes. Let's give them the recognition they deserve. 🙌👉 In this episode of Headlines, Garden Grove...



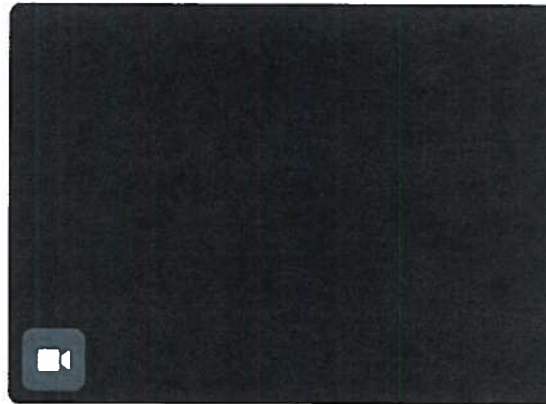
Video Views	277
Impressions	711
Reach	656
Engagements	75
Engagement Rate (per Impressi...	10.5%



gardengrovecityhall

Thu 9/2/2021 1:40 pm PDT

Garden Grove Strong
Garden Grove is full of heroes. Let's give them the recognition they deserve. 🙌👉...



Video Views	61
Impressions	182
Reach	170
Engagements	6
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	3.3%



@CityGardenGrove

Thu 9/2/2021 1:46 pm PDT

Garden Grove is full of heroes. Let's give them the recognition they deserve. 🙌👉 GG Mayor Steve Jones talks about recognizing our local Garden Grove heroes. Please visit ggcity.org/ggstrong. Subscribe to GGTV3's YT channel: bit.ly/3jF9mBu. **#GG1956**



Post Link Clicks	0
Impressions	314
Potential Reach	4,381
Engagements	3
Engagement Rate (per Impressi...	1%



Garden Grove City Hall

Thu 9/2/2021 2:39 pm PDT

🔥 Fall is well on its way, and you know what that means... Check out the Fall 2021 Parks & Recreation Guide and the Fall 20...



Impressions	20,846
Reach	12,393
Engagements	1,316
Engagement Rate (per Impres...	6.3%



Garden Grove City Hall

Fri 9/3/2021 8:32 am PDT

September is #NationalPreparednessMonth. And to kick it off, here's a quick overview of our...



Impressions	936
Reach	918
Engagements	12
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	1.3%



Garden Grove City Hall

Fri 9/3/2021 12:00 pm PDT

The City of Garden Grove would like to remind you that In observance of the Labor Day holiday, Garden Grove City H...



Impressions	795
Reach	778
Engagements	17
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	2.1%



@CityGardenGrove

Fri 9/3/2021 12:00 pm PDT

The City of Garden Grove would like to remind you that In observance of the Labor Day holiday, Garden Grove City H...



Impressions	323
Potential Reach	4,380
Engagements	3
Engagement Rate (per Impressi...	0.9%



gardengrovecityhall

Fri 9/3/2021 12:01 pm PDT

The City of Garden Grove would like to remind you that In observance of the Labor Day holiday, Garden Grove City H...



Impressions	796
Reach	733
Engagements	13
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	1.6%



Garden Grove City Hall

Fri 9/3/2021 3:00 pm PDT

It's finally Friday! Before the weekend starts, here is a #FeelGoodFriday story that will warm your heart! ❤️ Garden Gro...



Impressions	1,247
Reach	1,196
Engagements	27
Engagement Rate (per Impressi...	2.2%



Garden Grove City Hall

Fri 9/3/2021 4:22 pm PDT

The City's public cooling center, located at the H. Louis Lake Senior Center, will open tomorrow, Saturday, September 4, from...



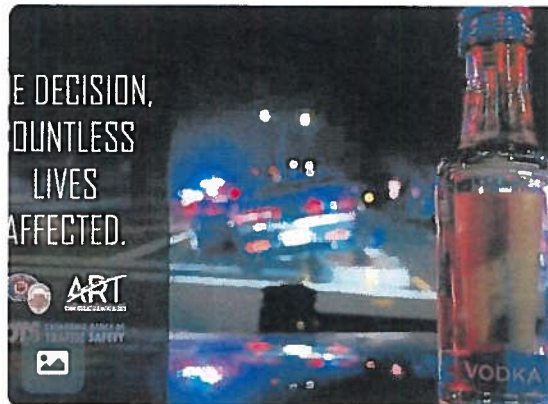
Impressions	821
Reach	801
Engagements	5
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	0.6%



Garden Grove City Hall

Sat 9/4/2021 12:07 pm PDT

🚗Heading out this weekend? So is Garden Grove Police Department. To crack down on those who choose to #driveimpaired,...



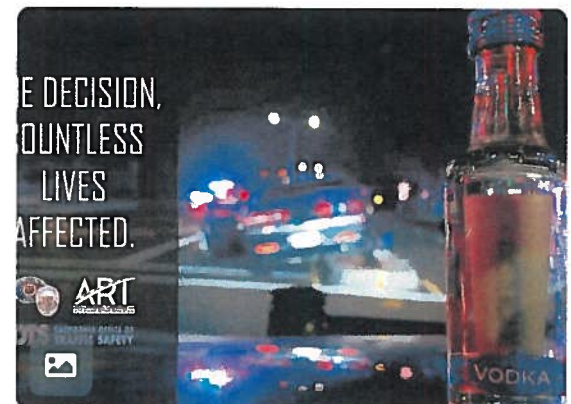
Impressions	701
Reach	675
Engagements	5
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	0.7%



@CityGardenGrove

Sat 9/4/2021 12:09 pm PDT

🚗Heading out this weekend? So is @GardenGrovePD. To crack down on those who choose to #driveimpaired,...



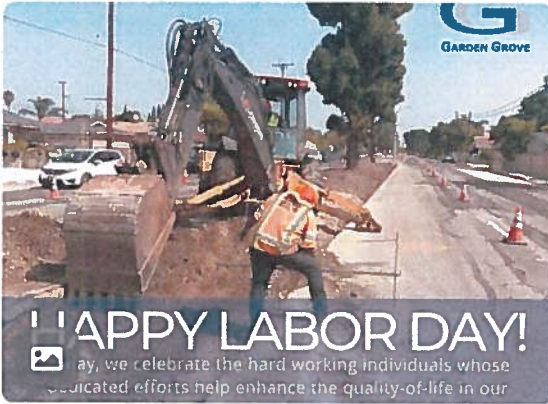
Impressions	406
Potential Reach	4,381
Engagements	16
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	3.9%



Garden Grove City Hall

Mon 9/6/2021 8:43 am PDT

HAPPY LABOR DAY! 🧑‍🏭👷‍♂️👷‍♀️🏠👷‍♂️👷‍♀️👷‍♂️👷‍♀️
 🗑️ Today, we celebrate the hard working individuals whose dedicated efforts help...



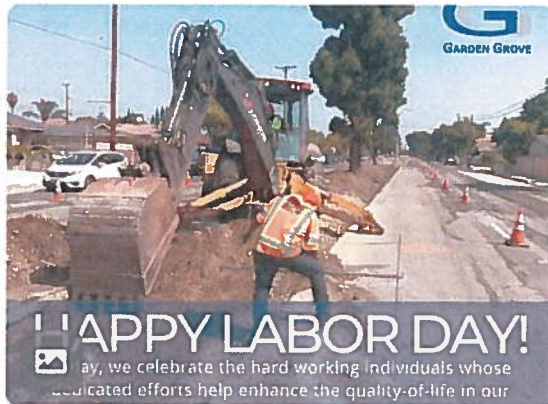
Impressions	1,923
Reach	1,892
Engagements	63
Engagement Rate (per Impressi...	3.3%



gardengrovecityhall

Mon 9/6/2021 8:46 am PDT

HAPPY LABOR DAY! 🧑‍🏭👷‍♂️👷‍♀️🏠👷‍♂️👷‍♀️👷‍♂️👷‍♀️
 🗑️ Today, we celebrate the hard working individuals whose dedicated efforts help...



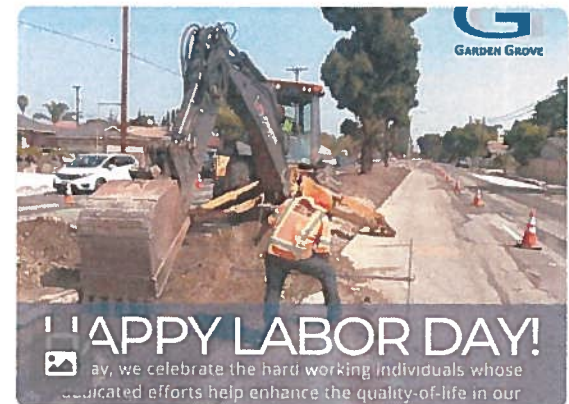
Impressions	1,395
Reach	1,331
Engagements	68
Engagement Rate (per Impressi...	4.9%



@CityGardenGrove

Mon 9/6/2021 8:47 am PDT

HAPPY LABOR DAY! Today, we celebrate the hard working individuals whose dedicated efforts help enhance the quali...



Impressions	333
Potential Reach	4,384
Engagements	15
Engagement Rate (per Impressi...	4.5%

Garden Grove City Hall
Tue 9/7/2021 8:35 am PDT

Attention home owners: Friendly reminder up ahead 🗨️🗨️🗨️ The City of Garden Grove would like to remind you that the New...

HOME REPAIR GRANTS AVAILABLE

- The City of Garden Grove is offering home rehabilitation grants of up to \$5,000 to address Municipal Code violations, substandard living conditions, and necessary health & safety improvements to your home
- Eligible activities include exterior painting, plumbing, electrical, roofing, windows, HVAC, pest control, and handicap accessibility.

2021 Low Income Limits (Effective May 1, 2021)

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	INCOME LEVELS (Low Income / 80%)
1	\$ 75,300
2	\$ 86,050
3	\$ 96,800
4	\$ 107,550
5	\$ 118,300
6	\$ 129,050

ELIGIBILITY

- Annual household income must be at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI), as determined by the State and seen in the table to the left.
- All members of the household over the age of 18 must submit income verification documentation as part of the application process.
- Applicant's home must be in the city of Garden Grove and owner-occupied.
- Prior grant recipients must wait 5 years to re-apply.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Funding will be awarded to 23 eligible applicants who are selected through a...

Impressions	2,610
Reach	2,587
Engagements	89
Engagement Rate (per Impressi...	3.4%

@CityGardenGrove
Tue 9/7/2021 8:43 am PDT

ATTN HOME OWNERS 🗨️🗨️🗨️ The City of GG reminds you that the New Grant Funding Available for Home Repair...

Impressions	259
Potential Reach	4,385
Engagements	27
Engagement Rate (per Impressi...	10.4%

@CityGardenGrove
Tue 9/7/2021 12:00 pm PDT

The date is coming closer... Mark your calendars! 🗨️🗨️🗨️ The GG Rotary Club invites you to the Broadway musical, "A Chorus...

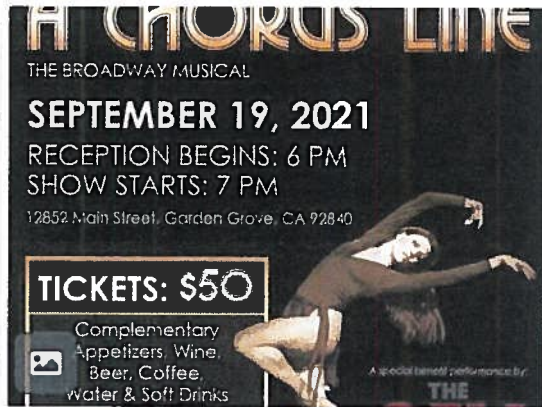
Impressions	272
Potential Reach	4,385
Engagements	9
Engagement Rate (per Impressi...	3.3%



Garden Grove City Hall

Tue 9/7/2021 12:00 pm PDT

The date is coming closer... Mark your calendars! 📅🍷 The Garden Grove Rotary Club invites you to the Broadway musica...



Impressions	1,084
Reach	1,084
Engagements	16
Engagement Rate (per Impressi...	1.5%



@CityGardenGrove

Tue 9/7/2021 3:00 pm PDT

Seniors of Garden Grove 🗣️💬 The City's H. Louis Lake Senior Center invites local seniors to attend Turning Silver into Gold...



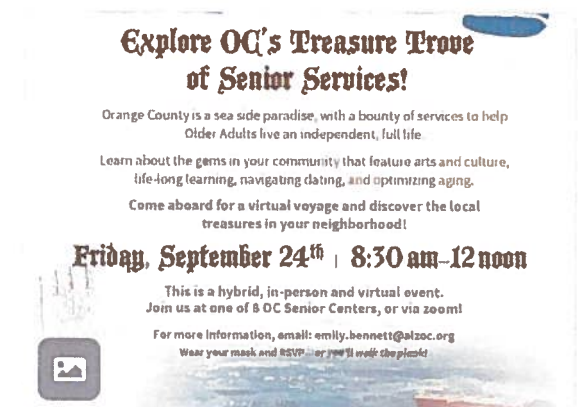
Impressions	223
Potential Reach	4,385
Engagements	5
Engagement Rate (per Impressi...	2.2%



Garden Grove City Hall



Tue 9/7/2021 3:00 pm PDT

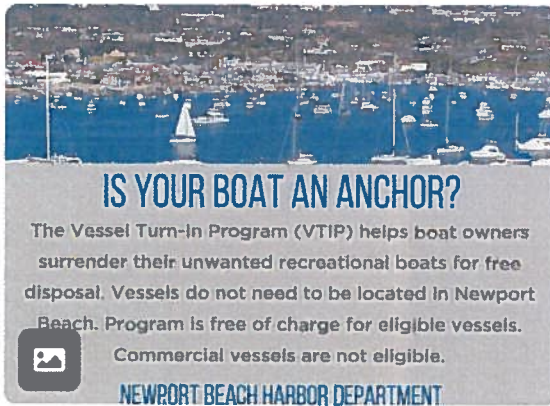
Attention Seniors of Garden Grove 🗣️💬 The City's H. Louis Lake Senior Center, in partnership with Orange County Strategi...



Impressions	902
Reach	895
Engagements	9
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	1%



 **@CityGardenGrove**
Wed 9/8/2021 8:30 am PDT

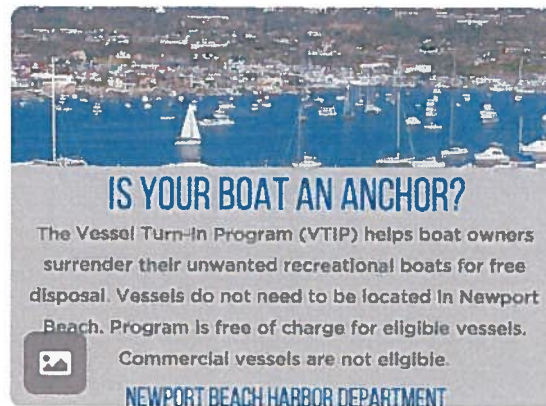
Is your boat an anchor?   The VTIP is a program by the City of Newport Beach created to help boat owners surrender...



Impressions	129
Potential Reach	4,387
Engagements	3
Engagement Rate (per Impressi...	2.3%


 **Garden Grove City Hall**
Wed 9/8/2021 8:31 am PDT

Is your boat an anchor? Turn it in through the VTIP!   The Vessel Turn-In Program (VTIP) is a program by the City of Newpo...



Impressions	907
Reach	895
Engagements	8
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	0.9%

 **Garden Grove City Hall**
Wed 9/8/2021 12:30 pm PDT

It's never too early to start reading... 
Join Toddler Storytime at the Garden Grove Main Library, located on 11200 Stanford...



Impressions	411
Reach	406
Engagements	1
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	0.2%



@CityGardenGrove

Wed 9/8/2021 12:30 pm PDT

It's never too early to start reading...
Join Toddler Storytime at the GG Main Library (11200 Stanford Ave) every...



Impressions	—
Potential Reach	4,390
Engagements	—
Engagement Rate (per Impressi...	—



@CityGardenGrove

Wed 9/8/2021 3:01 pm PDT

The California ISO has issued a Flex Alert for today, Sept. 8, from 4-9PM due to above-normal temperatures and high...



Impressions	—
Potential Reach	4,425
Engagements	—
Engagement Rate (per Impressi...	—



Garden Grove City Hall

Wed 9/8/2021 3:01 pm PDT

The California ISO has issued a Flex Alert for today, Sept. 8, from 4-9 p.m. due to above-normal temperatures and high...



Impressions	374
Reach	369
Engagements	0
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	0%



Post Performance

September 2, 2021 - September 8, 2021

Review the lifetime performance of the posts you published during the publishing period.

Included in this Report

 Garden Grove Police Department  ggpdk9unit



gdpdk9unit
Tue 9/7/2021 5:05 pm PDT

@k9commander @vpdk9 @fullerton_pd
@cypressdk9unit @csufpd
@gardengrovepd



Impressions	366
Reach	354
Comments	1
Story Taps Back	31



gdpdk9unit
Tue 9/7/2021 3:41 pm PDT

@fullertonpd_canine_association training
with @k9commander



Impressions	386
Reach	368
Comments	1
Story Taps Back	44



gdpdk9unit
Tue 9/7/2021 3:37 pm PDT



Impressions	378
Reach	362
Comments	3
Story Taps Back	41



ggpdk9unit
Tue 9/7/2021 3:01 pm PDT

@vpdbolt



Impressions	387
Reach	371
Comments	0
Story Taps Back	56



Garden Grove Police Depa...
Tue 9/7/2021 3:00 pm PDT

#GardenGrovePD Special Investigations Unit (SIU) has been conducting an ongoing investigation into a subject selling illegal...



Impressions	10,313
Reach	10,192
Engagements	1,196
Engagement Rate (per Impres...	11.6%



Garden Grove Police Depa...
Tue 9/7/2021 3:00 pm PDT



Impressions	—
Reach	—
Engagements	—
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	—



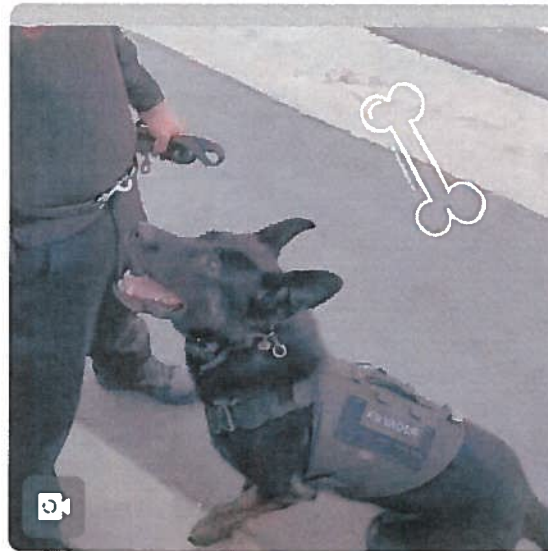
ggpdk9unit
Tue 9/7/2021 1:25 pm PDT



Impressions	412
Reach	385
Comments	4
Story Taps Back	46



ggpdk9unit
Tue 9/7/2021 12:52 pm PDT

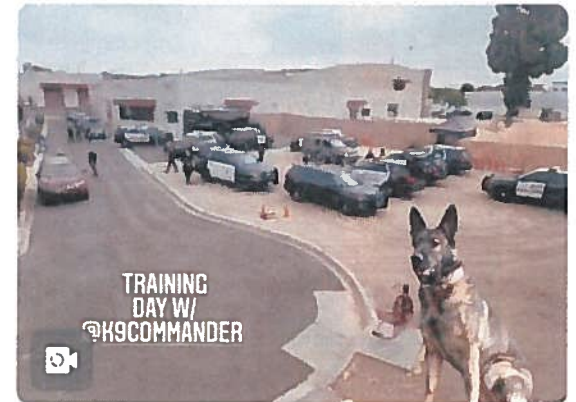


Impressions	421
Reach	401
Comments	1
Story Taps Back	56



ggpdk9unit
Tue 9/7/2021 12:18 pm PDT

TRAINING DAY W/ @k9commander



Impressions	471
Reach	446
Comments	2
Story Taps Back	15



Garden Grove Police Depa...
Mon 9/6/2021 8:00 am PDT

“Without labor, nothing prospers.” ~ Sophocles
On this day, we celebrate the ingenuity and hard work of the workforc...



Impressions	3,543
Reach	3,488
Engagements	181
Engagement Rate (per Impressi...	5.1%



Garden Grove Police Depa...
Sat 9/4/2021 8:00 am PDT

With excessively high temperatures predicted today (September 4), the City will be opening a #CoolingCenter at the ...

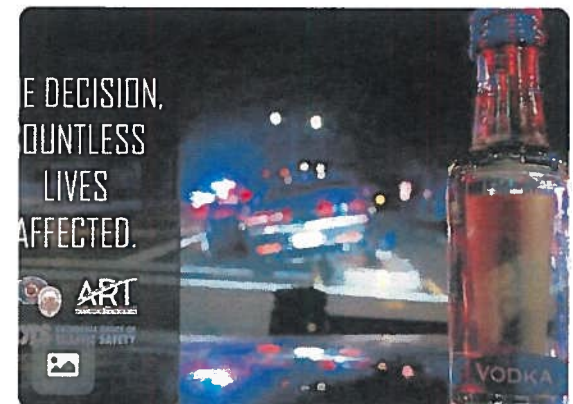


Impressions	3,700
Reach	3,515
Engagements	90
Engagement Rate (per Impressi...	2.4%



Garden Grove Police Depa...
Fri 9/3/2021 6:00 pm PDT

Heading out this weekend? So are we. Let's not meet up. To crack down on those who choose to #driveimpaired,...



Impressions	27,046
Reach	26,514
Engagements	232
Engagement Rate (per Impressi...	0.9%



Garden Grove Police Depa...

Thu 9/2/2021 6:00 pm PDT

#DidYouKnow, under Penal Code (PC) 13518, law enforcement personnel are required to be trained to administer first...



Impressions	4,410
Reach	4,235
Engagements	192
Engagement Rate (per Impressi...	4.4%



Garden Grove Police Depa...

Thu 9/2/2021 12:30 pm PDT

Yesterday, September 1, 2021 at 9:55 PM, #GardenGrovePD Officers responded to the 9500 block of Chapman Ave, in...



Impressions	7,879
Reach	7,706
Engagements	761
Engagement Rate (per Impressi...	9.7%



Post Performance

September 2, 2021 - September 8, 2021

Review the lifetime performance of the posts you published during the publishing period.

Included in this Report

 @GardenGroveTV3

 Garden Grove TV 3



Garden Grove TV 3

Thu 9/2/2021 1:42 pm PDT

Garden Grove is full of heroes. Let's give them the recognition they deserve. 🙌🌟 In this episode of Headlines, Garden Grove...



Video Views	11
Impressions	32
Reach	31
Engagements	7
Engagement Rate (per Impressi...	21.9%



@GardenGroveTV3

Thu 9/2/2021 1:56 pm PDT

Garden Grove is full of heroes. Let's give them the recognition they deserve. 🙌🌟 GG Mayor Steve Jones talks about recognizing our local Garden Grove heroes. Please visit ggcity.org/ggstrong. Subscribe to our YT channel: bit.ly/3jF9mBu. #GG1956



Post Link Clicks	0
Impressions	32
Potential Reach	428
Engagements	2
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	6.3%

WEEKLY MEMO 9-9-2021

NEWS ARTICLES

Hunger remains an issue and could get worse, even as economy improves

Orange County food suppliers and others worry still-high need will spike again as unemployment benefits end.



Love Community Outreach volunteer Binh Ho helps cars navigate a food distribution line on Saturday, September 4, 2021. (Photo by Mindy Schauer, Orange County Register/SCNG)

By [THERESA WALKER](#) | thwalker@scng.com | Orange County Register

PUBLISHED: September 7, 2021 at 5:33 p.m. | UPDATED: September 7, 2021 at 7:20 p.m.

Cars snaking through parking lots and seemingly endless lines of people waiting for boxes of groceries were poignant symbols of hardship as the pre-vaccine pandemic chewed up 2020 and ground into 2021.

Now, those scenes of desperation have diminished — if not disappeared — as the economy has started to recover. And because it's not as visible it might seem to outsiders that food insecurity is no longer a problem.

Not so, say people who feed the hungry in Orange County.

Operators of the county's two food banks and others who provide fresh produce and shelf-stable items such as canned goods and grains, say the number of people still seeking help remains more than twice as high as it was before

the [coronavirus](#) pandemic. That's true even though some emergency resources, such as the USDA's Farmers to Families food boxes, have stopped.

On Saturday, Sept. 4, the weekly Love Community Outreach drive-thru food distribution in Santa Ana attracted more than 300 recipients. People started queuing their cars at 5 a.m. in a line that eventually stretched about two miles.

"That tells you where we're at as a community," said Ralph Magana, director of [Love Community Outreach](#), a nonprofit that gets pallets of food from the Orange County Food Bank and donations from private supporters.

There is reason to think more people will be in need of assistance in the immediate future.

Federal unemployment extended benefits ended earlier this month, leaving many with less money in their pockets. And the state's eviction ban ends on Sept. 30, prompting fears of people losing their housing.

"We are unsure and a little bit nervous about what that will mean for demand," said Claudia Keller, chief mission officer for Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County, the largest food bank serving the county. Leaders at the OC Food Bank, run by Community Action Partnership Orange County, and others in the food distribution network share that concern.

Also fueling worry: People and others are giving less money to food banks today than they were when the pandemic was in full swing. Federal and state emergency money has stopped or been reduced — even as the delta variant of COVID-19 has sparked a new wave of infections and death.

That's why local food providers are seeking county money, hoping the Board of Supervisors will allocate some of the county's \$616.8 million slice of the federal American Rescue Plan to feeding the hungry.

The county board [came through before](#). Last year, the county earmarked \$6 million — in two separate \$3 million allotments from CARES Act stimulus funds — to the county's two food banks. Another request for \$3 million was made in April by the OC Hunger Alliance, which consists of Second Harvest, OC Food Bank, and Abound Food (formerly known as Waste Not OC).

Last week, the group provided updated information on local food insecurity — answering a request from Orange County Chief Executive Frank Kim. And food provider representatives spoke with at least three of the five supervisors, including a sit-down with Board Chairman Andrew Do, to make their case.

Combined, the two food banks supply about 400 distribution programs — a complex network that includes food pantries, schools, senior centers, soup kitchens and houses of worship. They've both been in operation since the 1980s.

Mark Lowry, director of the Garden Grove-based OC Food Bank, said there is less need today than at the height of the pandemic. But, he added, “by any measure, (the need) is still greater than anything else in the history of the food banks.”

Tough times continue

A look at how much food OC Food Bank supplied in the month of July for the past three years tells part of the story: The 2.2 million pounds of food distributed in July 2019 tripled to 6.7 million pounds for July 2020. This past July, it dropped to a little over 3 million pounds.

Because of lingering COVID-19 fallout, “need is higher today than two years ago,” said Lowry, who points out that the official unemployment rate in Orange County for July — 6.3% — is more than twice the 2.8% rate in February of 2020, before COVID-19 issues were fully crashing the economy.

To be sure, the county is rebounding and “now hiring” signs are common. Some economists predict the loss in unemployment benefits will prompt more people to go back to work (though that hasn’t played out in states that already reduced benefits). And while the delta variant continues to be an issue, the local case rate is starting to drop again, according to the Orange County Health Care Agency COVID-19 [dashboard](#).

Still, Second Harvest is sending about 3 million pounds of food a month into the community, said Keller, who is helping to oversee food bank operations.

Looking at the amount of food given out is one measure. More telling is how many people still need it.

One of the recipients of food from Second Harvest is Family Assistance Ministries, or FAM, a faith-based nonprofit in south Orange County that also provides help with utilities, housing, job search and other services. In July, FAM supplied food to about 10,000 people, well under the 21,000 who got food through the organization in July of 2020 but much more than the 4,800 people fed in July of 2019, said Elizabeth Andrade, FAM’s chief executive.

Who were those 10,000? Andrade said four in 10 were children and 2 in 10 were senior citizens.

The food is meant as a supplement to other resources, such as CalFresh food benefits. But where people were coming to FAM for food about once a month, they now are coming twice a month.

Many of those people, Andrade added, also are struggling to pay rent.

“What we are seeing is how extremely burdened the families coming to us are.”

Trying new things

While the food network is making sure people simply stay fed, the emphasis is on good nutrition.

The state is partially filling the [void](#) left following this year's end of the federal Farmers to Families food box program, which included fresh produce, meat and dairy products. But delivery of the state's version has been delayed as contracts and logistical issues are finalized. And while \$400 million in funding for California's food bank network was included in this year's state budget, 60% of that is targeted toward beefing up the infrastructure — refrigeration, forklifts, trucks — that's used to store and move food. As a result, local food suppliers are innovating as they try to provide fresh food and encourage its consumption.

Last week, [volunteers began planting](#) cabbage at the new 45-acre Harvest Solutions Farm in Irvine that Second Harvest is operating in collaboration with Solutions for Urban Ag and South Coast REC, which owns the Irvine Boulevard property. When harvest arrives next spring, the farm will have squash, zucchini, cucumbers, mini bell peppers, and summer corn. OC Food Bank has had a similar [Giving Farm at Westminster High School](#) since 2017.

South County Outreach in Irvine has partnered with Bracken's Kitchen to create nutritious, individualized frozen meals, and soon will issue videos showing people how to make simple but healthy dishes from items in the nonprofit's food pantry. The videos feature Bill Bracken, the chef who founded Bracken's Kitchen to [feed those at risk of going hungry](#), and two other supporters, Wing Lam, co-founder of Wahoo's Fish Taco, and Charles Antis of Antis Roofing and Waterproofing.

Where access to South County Outreach's food program used to be based on income, the pandemic largely erased that, said LaVal Brewer, its president and chief executive officer.

"Now, it's 'Are you hungry?'" said Brewer. "We don't believe anybody is going to come to steal our free food." He added that people are still asked about their income as a way to help identify if they qualify for additional assistance programs.

South County Outreach went from purchasing \$25,000 worth of fresh food in 2019 to about \$40,000 last year. So far this year the tab is \$54,000, Brewer said. But fundraising is \$300,000 behind where it was at this time in 2020.

The organization works closely with Family Assistance Ministries, which has a [fundraising hunger walk](#) Oct. 17, in helping people find ways to meet rent. "Here's the thing we know — if they can't pay their rent, they're probably hungry," Brewer said. "Or, they are using the money that they have to pay for food."

South County Outreach also is starting a new partnership with Saddleback College and Irvine Valley College to add to their on-campus food pantries for students. At Saddleback, 200 to 300 needy students a month rely on the school's food resource

center, said Jeanne Harris-Caldwell, dean of wellness, social services and child development.

Students, who returned to campus Aug. 23, will be able to come once a week to the school's new and larger food resource center to get several days' worth of groceries. They can also grab a quick snack — a nutrition bar, a piece of fruit — at a smaller food pantry in the Student Services Center, which Harris-Caldwell pushed to open in 2017 to address what's become [a growing issue](#) for college students. "They're food insecure," Harris-Caldwell said. "They really are."

Staff writer Mindy Schauer contributed to this article.

Here's how to help Afghan refugees arriving in Southern California

Local organizations are taking donations and asking for volunteers to help support families who've fled from Afghanistan.



Afghan refugees arrive at Dulles International Airport on Aug. 27, 2021 in Virginia after being evacuated from Kabul following the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.

Organizations need community support to help Afghan families resettle in Southern California. (Photo by OLIVIER DOULIERY/AFP via Getty Images)

By [BROOKE STAGGS](mailto:bstaggs@scng.com) | bstaggs@scng.com | Orange County Register

PUBLISHED: September 3, 2021 at 4:13 p.m. | UPDATED: September 3, 2021 at 10:12 p.m.

When Irvine resident Nasim Fekrat saw reports about Afghan refugees coming to Southern California, he knew he wanted to help.

He also understood their plight. Fekrat immigrated from Afghanistan in 2009. The 38-year-old is now a PhD student at UC Irvine, studying anthropology with a focus on Afghan immigrants' experience and how the war has impacted them.

"I feel how hard it is to leave your home and arrive at a completely strange place," Fekrat said. Plus, he added, "We all need help in one way or another. As the old adage goes, what goes around comes around."

News coverage of Afghans fleeing their country as U.S. forces withdrew and the Taliban took over has prompted residents across Southern California to reach out to local political leaders, media outlets and nonprofits, asking how they can help.

Not everyone has the personal connection, or the language and cultural skills, that Fekrat brings to the table. But organizations working to resettle Afghan evacuees in local communities say there's something everyone can do.

"We are looking for community support to make these families welcome," said Stanford Prescott, a spokesman with the local branch of the International Rescue Committee, which is helping Afghans establish new lives in Los Angeles and San Diego.

One challenge is that some of the Afghans who escaped in the chaos before Tuesday's deadline for U.S. forces to withdraw, and many who are still finding ways out, were not able to get officially designated as "refugees," noted Masih Fouladi, spokesman with CAIR-LA, a [Muslim civil rights group](#) in need of support as it's still trying to help 140 people flee Afghanistan.

While the term is used generically, only *official* refugees are guaranteed certain services. Designated resettlement agencies pick refugees up from the airport, arrange housing, help them apply for Social Security cards, and enroll their kids in school. Federal funding helps cover many of those costs for several weeks after refugees arrive, though groups resettling refugees — including Anaheim-based [Access California Services](#) — still need [financial](#) and [volunteer](#) support to assist the large wave of families now coming.

But there are strict requirements to get official refugee immigration status, Fouladi noted, and the process can take months or even years. So many of the Afghans arriving now are coming under "humanitarian parole" status, which is used for emergency immigration cases. That status doesn't come with the same financial benefits and support system that's in place for official refugees.

Quickly finding affordable housing is the biggest challenge, given the high cost of living in Southern California. But organizations say new arrivals also need help in everything from furnishing their homes to finding translators who speak Dari or Pashto to getting jobs.

That's where local nonprofits — and the community members who support them — come into play.

Here's a roundup of local organizations directly assisting Afghan families as they arrive in Southern California. All are in need of financial support, but they also offer other ways residents can support their efforts.

Sahaba Initiative

This San Bernardino-based nonprofit regularly supports low-income families through a weekly food pantry and other outreach efforts. Now, founding president Arbazz Mohammed said they're preparing to sponsor four or five Afghan families expected to arrive in the next few weeks, at cost of roughly \$25,000 per family.

One particular need, Mohammed said, is to find cars for these families. They're also looking for affordable apartments to rent in the Inland Empire. And donations to their Saturday food pantry are always welcome, since those items will also be used to

support Afghan families. Get more information at sahabainitiative.org or by sending an email to volunteer@sahabainitiative.org.

International Institute of Los Angeles

This organization has been helping immigrants integrate into their new lives in Los Angeles for more than 100 years. They resettled 47 families in August and expect to help 350 Afghan evacuees in the next year.

The institute is looking for families willing to provide temporary housing for newly arriving Afghans — particularly those with families of five or more people — as well as landlords who can help with long-term housing.

They're also creating a bank of volunteers willing to pick evacuees up from the airport, help set up new homes and provide transportation as families get settled. There's a particular need for Dari or Pashto speakers to help with translation, and for employers who have job opportunities for refugees. Volunteers can sign up by clicking the "Act Now for Afghan Allies" button at iilosangeles.org or call 323-224-3800.

World Relief Southern California

This Garden Grove-based nonprofit is the local arm of a Christian humanitarian organization that helps people facing urgent needs around the world in the wake of events such as natural disasters and mass displacement due to conflict — including the 20-year war in Afghanistan.

If area residents are interested in "walking alongside" Afghan families, helping to sponsor them as they arrive, spokesman Jose Serrano said they can contact World Relief Southern California at 714-210-4730 or at jserrano@wr.org.

Residents also can create welcome kits for families, with new toiletry items, cleaning supplies, household items, school supplies and more, then drop those kits off at the Garden Grove office. Find more information and donate at worldrelief.org/socal.

Tiyya Foundation

This nonprofit, with offices in Santa Ana and Los Angeles, has been assisting Afghan refugee families since 2010. But with a new wave of families coming, founder Meymuna Hussein-Cattan said housing is a top priority.

"Anyone who has an extra room, backhouse, mother-in-law suite, etc. that can open their doors, is greatly appreciated," she said.

Residents who have existing Airbnb properties can register to offer them as temporary shelters for Afghan refugees, with fees for 20,000 properties covered by donations to Airbnb's nonprofit arm. Learn more and sign up at airbnb.org/get-involved. The foundation also is accepting gift cards to stores that Afghan families can use to buy supplies such as hygiene items and diapers. Learn more at tiyya.org or 714-547-5050.

International Rescue Committee

The Glendale-based office of this international group also is encouraging Airbnb hosts to sign up for the [Open Homes Program](#) to help provide temporary shelter for Afghan families. For long-term housing, L.A.-area landlords willing to rent to recently arrived refugees can contact Carly.Boos@Rescue.org.

The IRC has established [Amazon](#) and [Target](#) wish-lists for local arrivals, where people can buy items online and have them sent to their office for distribution as needed. They're also recruiting volunteers for a variety of services. More information and sign-ups are at rescue.org/announcement/how-help-our-afghan-neighbors-los-angeles.

Voice of Refugees

This Anaheim-based group partners with churches, companies and volunteers to help refugees build new lives in Southern California. On Thursday, Sept. 2, executive director Joe Guidotti said they helped 75 refugee families get free groceries, clothing and household items. More volunteers, he said, are always needed.

Voice of Refugees accepts donations of gently used clothing and furniture for future giveaway events. They also have a registry through [Walmart](#), where people can buy items such as bedding and microwaves that will be used to furnish homes for arriving Afghan families. To get involved, visit vorservices.org or call 714-277-6843.

Here are more local organizations assisting Afghan families:

- [Afghan Literacy Foundation](#) in Redondo Beach
- [Newcomers Access Center](#) in Pomona
- [Catholic Charities of Orange County](#) in Santa Ana
- [Miry's List](#) in Los Angeles

Man banging head against Garden Grove business detained by police, dies at hospital

By **ERIC LICAS** | elicas@scng.com | Orange County Register

PUBLISHED: September 2, 2021 at 3:06 p.m. | UPDATED: September 2, 2021 at 6:25 p.m.

A man seen banging his head against the ground and the door of a building in Garden Grove died at a hospital after police attempted to restrain him Wednesday, officials said Thursday, Sept. 2.

A member of a cleaning crew called police to report that a man was banging his head against the door of a business they were working at on the 9500 block of Chapman Avenue at about 10 p.m. Wednesday, Garden Grove Police Lt. Mario Martinez said. When officers arrived, they spotted a man matching the caller's description.

Police detained him, Martinez said. At some point while officers were speaking to the man, he started banging his head against the ground.

"The officers restrained him for his own safety and tried to calm him down," Martinez said. "During the course of that, they handcuffed him, then called paramedics."

The man was taken to a hospital, where he was later pronounced dead, police said. His identity was not immediately released.

"There was no use of force" by police during the encounter, Martinez said. He added that preliminary reports do not indicate wrongdoing on the part of the officers involved.

The matter is being independently investigated by the Orange County District Attorney's Office, which is typical whenever a person dies while in law enforcement custody.



CONTACT:
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Community Services Supervisor
(714) 741-5253/gabrielao@ggcity.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media



Tuesday, September 7, 2021

UPCOMING EVENT HELPS LOCAL SENIORS DISCOVER SERVICES AVAILABLE IN OC

The City's H. Louis Lake Senior Center, in partnership with Orange County Strategic Plan for Aging, invites local seniors to attend Turning Silver into Gold, an event designed to help the Orange County senior population discover new resources, tools and services tailored for older adults. The event will be held on Friday, September 24, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at the H. Louis Lake Senior Center, located at 11300 Stanford Avenue. Local seniors unable to attend in-person are invited to join virtually via Zoom. There is no cost to attend in-person or virtually.

Keynote speaker Maddy Dychtwald, an internationally celebrated author and aging expert, joins a panel of educators, program specialists and motivators to discuss new perspectives on health, community, technology, and dating.

In addition, the H. Louis Lake Senior Center will provide information on services and activities currently available at the facility.

The deadline to register for the in-person event is Wednesday, September 22, at 8:30 a.m. To attend virtually, register by Thursday, September 23, by 4:00 p.m. Individuals may register at bit.ly/silver-into-gold-garden-grove.

To learn more about the H. Louis Lake Senior Center, visit ggcity.org/seniorcenter.



CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

CONTACT: Janet Pelayo
(714) 741-5215
Community Services Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media

Friday, September 3, 2021



CITY TO OPEN COOLING CENTER SATURDAY

The City of Garden Grove's public cooling center, located at the H. Louis Lake Senior Center, will open tomorrow, Saturday, September 4, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., due to temperatures forecast to exceed 95 degrees. The center is located at 11300 Stanford Avenue.

Out of courtesy to others, face masks and social distancing will be required. To protect the health and safety of the public, please do not attend if you have been sick or have been in contact with someone who is feeling sick or exhibiting cold or flu-like symptoms.

For more information, please call the H. Louis Lake Senior Center at (714) 741-5253, the Community Services Department at (714) 741-5200, or visit ggcity.org/cooling-center.

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CONTACT:
Ana Pulido, Public Information Officer
Office of Community Relations/GGTV3
(714) 741-5280/anap@ggcity.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media



Thursday, September 2, 2021

CITY SEEKS LOCAL HEROES FOR SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The City of Garden Grove is seeking information on individuals, businesses, and organizations who answered the needs of the community through selfless acts of service during the COVID-19 pandemic. The City is asking the public for help with identifying these local heroes through a multi-language online nomination form available at ggcity.org/ggstrong.

Nominees must live, work, be located, or attend school in Garden Grove, with the heroic act taking place in Garden Grove or having a positive impact on the Garden Grove community.

The local heroes will receive a special recognition from Garden Grove Mayor Steve Jones and the Garden Grove City Council, and their heroic acts will be showcased on the City's website and social platforms.

The recognition is part of the City's Garden Grove Strong campaign which aims to acknowledge and commend the community for displaying compassion and strength during the coronavirus crisis.

To view Garden Grove Strong local stories, visit ggcity.org/ggstrong.

For more information, contact the Office of Community Relations at communityrelations@ggcity.org or call (714) 741-5280.

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MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

September 9, 2021

1. Calendar of Events
2. Minutes from the August 19, 2021 Planning Commission meeting.
3. Agenda for the September 13, 2021 Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commission meeting.
4. Notice of cancellation of the September 16, 2021 Planning Commission meeting.
5. League of California Cities, "CalCities," from September 3, 2021 to September 9, 2021.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 9, 2021 – October 26, 2021

Thursday	September 9	9:00 a.m.	Downtown Commission Meeting, CMC Zoning Administrator Meeting, City Hall, 3 rd Floor Training Room CANCELLED
Friday	September 10		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Tuesday	September 14	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC Special Housing Authority Meeting, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CM
Thursday	September 16	6:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC CANCELLED
Thursday	September 23		\$2 Casual Dress Day
Friday	September 24		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Tuesday	September 28	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC Housing Authority, CMC Sanitary District Board, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CM
Thursday	October 7	6:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC
Friday	October 8		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Tuesday	October 12	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CM
Thursday	October 14	6:00 p.m.	Parks, Recreation & Arts Commission Meeting, CMC \$2 Casual Dress Day
Friday	October 22		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Tuesday	October 26	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CM

GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION
Community Meeting Center
11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, CA 92840

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 19, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Chair Perez
Vice Chair Lindsay
Commissioner Arestegui
Commissioner Cunningham
Commissioner Lehman
Commissioner Ramirez
Commissioner Soeffner

Absent: Arestegui

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Commissioner Ramirez.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC – With the public hearing portion closed for comment, Mr. Shane Swerdlow, the applicant’s representative, stated that the team appreciated the ongoing consideration of the project at 7441 Chapman Avenue and was available for any questions the Commission and Staff may have. One letter was submitted by Mr. Swerdlow on behalf of Craig Lawson & Co., LLC, touching on the proposed project’s characteristics, management style, security, and economic and investment benefits.

AUGUST 5, 2021 MINUTES:

Action: Received and filed.

Motion: Lindsay Second: Lehman

Ayes: (6) Cunningham, Lehman, Lindsay, Perez, Ramirez,
Soeffner

Noes: (0) None

Absent: (1) Arestegui

CONTINUED ITEM – SITE PLAN NO. SP-104-2021 AND INTERPRETATION OF USE NO. IOU-004-2021 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF CHAPMAN AVENUE AND WESTERN AVENUE AT 7441 CHAPMAN AVENUE.

Applicant: 1784 CAPITAL HOLDINGS, LLC

Date: August 19, 2021

Request: Site Plan approval to demolish an existing two-story industrial/office building, and in its place, construct a new 158,694 square foot, six-story self-storage facility on a 1.26-acre site. Also, a request for an Interpretation of Use to determine the compatibility of the proposed self-storage use within Planned Unit Development No. PUD-103-76 (REV. 2018) zone. In conjunction with the request, the Planning Commission will also consider a determination that the project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15332 – In-Fill Development Projects.

Discussion: Staff stated that job creation was only one facet of any project, and that this project would be a long term local investment for the City’s economic development as well as a re-use of a space that had no other development inquiries. In addition to being a storage facility for general purpose, business operators also rent storage to house excess inventory, supplies, and equipment. In regard to crime statistics around storage facilities, a few types include homeless issues, especially near railroads, and commercial and vehicle burglaries. A crime could occur near a property and be referenced to the address to designate a nearest location thereby increasing statistics for a specific site. With the proposed project being self-contained versus open, Police are in support of the project with the caveat that the business would provide additional security measures should the need arise. The proposed project would be subject to the Municipal and Penal Codes. It was noted that the amount of crime associated with storage facilities directly relates to whether or not the business has a good operator.

MOTION 1: To approve Resolution of Denial No. 6028-21 based on the fact that an Interpretation of Use finding was not met as the proposed use was not similar in scale and operational characteristics to other uses permitted in the zone and that the project was not the best use of the property.

Action: The motion failed for Resolution of Denial No. 6028-21 with the following vote:

Motion: Perez Second: Lindsay

Ayes: (2) Lindsay, Perez

Noes: (4) Cunningham, Lehman, Ramirez, Soeffner

Absent: (1) Arestegui

MOTION 2: To approve Resolution of Approval No. 6028-21.

Action: Resolution of Approval No. 6028-21 was approved with amendments that included a modification to Condition No.

58: The operation hours for the office shall be permitted from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. seven (7) days-a-week. Self-storage customers with current account status shall be allowed to access the self-storage area, through security access, from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., seven (7) days-a-week, and the addition of Condition No. 82: In the event security problems occur, and at the request of the Police Department, the permittee, at their own expense, shall provide all reasonable security measures, as requested by the Police Department.

Motion: Ramirez Second: Soeffner

Ayes: (5) Cunningham, Lehman, Lindsay, Ramirez, Soeffner
Noes: (1) Perez
Absent: (1) Arestegui

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS: Commissioner Ramirez mentioned that people were living in a boarded up building on the southeast corner of Brookhurst Street and Chapman Avenue. Police staff were aware and check the location nightly.

MATTERS FROM STAFF: Staff gave a brief description of upcoming agenda items for the September 2nd meeting and mentioned the CEQA 101 (California Environmental Quality Act) presentation would be scheduled for a future meeting. Staff noted that the Housing Element draft EIR (Environmental Impact Report) was available for public review on the City's website along with the Land Use Element, Safety Element, and Environmental Justice Element. The General Plan Update and EIR would be presented at the October 7th meeting. In regard to Cottage Industries, the project was moving forward.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:44 p.m. to the next Meeting of the Garden Grove Planning Commission on Thursday, September 2, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove.

Judith Moore
Recording Secretary



AGENDA

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

September 13, 2021

Council Chamber
11300 Stanford Avenue

REGULAR SESSION - 6:30 P.M.

In an effort to protect public health and prevent the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), we urge members of the public who wish to comment on matters before the Commission, in lieu of doing so in person, to submit comments by emailing nater@ggcity.org no later than 3:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. The comments will be provided to the Commission as part of the meeting record and will be uploaded to the City's website. Members of the public are asked to consider very carefully before attending this meeting in person and are required to wear face masks and maintain a six foot distance from others. Please do not attend this meeting if you have traveled and/or have had direct contact with someone who has travelled to places experiencing high rates of infection or tested positive for COVID-19, or if you are experiencing symptoms such as coughing, sneezing, fever, difficulty breathing or other flu-like symptoms.

Members of the public desiring to speak on any item of public interest, including any item on the agenda except Public Hearings, must do so during Oral Communications at the beginning of the meeting. Each speaker shall fill out a card stating name and address, to be presented to the Recording Secretary, and shall be limited to five (5) minutes. Members of the public wishing to address public hearing items shall do so at the time of the public hearing.

Any person requiring auxiliary aids and services due to a disability should contact the Neighborhood Improvement Office at (714) 741-5206 to arrange for special accommodations. (Government Code §5494.3.2)

All revised or additional documents and writings related to any items on the agenda, which are distributed to all or a majority of the Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commissioners within 72 hours of a meeting, shall be available for public inspection (1) at the Neighborhood Improvement Office during normal business hours; and (2) at the Council Chamber at the time of the meeting.

Agenda item descriptions are intended to give a brief, general description of the item to advise the public of the item's general nature. The Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commission may take legislative action it deems appropriate with respect to the item and is not limited to the recommended action indicated in staff reports or the agenda.



AGENDA

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT
AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

September 13, 2021

Council Chamber
11300 Stanford Avenue

REGULAR SESSION - 6:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL: CHAIR CRAWFORD & COMMISSIONERS BLACKMUN, CHAVIRA,
GONZALEZ, HANSEN, TRAN, WILLIAMS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 26, 2021

C. MATTERS FROM STAFF

1. Public Hearing – Presentation of the FY 2020-21 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) by Program Specialist, Timothy Throne
2. Code Enforcement Update by Chief Building Official, David Dent

F. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS

G. ADJOURNMENT

The next Meeting of the Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commission will be a **Special Meeting on Monday, December 6, 2021**, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chamber of the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, CA.



GARDEN GROVE

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION
OF THE
GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 16, 2021
REGULAR MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Meeting of the Garden Grove Planning Commission scheduled for Thursday, September 16, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, is hereby cancelled.

DATED: September 9, 2021

DAISY PEREZ
CHAIR



CalPERS to consider further adjustments to the discount rate; cities can offer testimony during CalPERS board meeting

Sep 8, 2021

CalPERS' investment returns for fiscal year 2020-21 triggered an automatic reduction in the discount rate, from 7% to 6.8%. Further changes could significantly impact cities.

On September 13, CalPERS will begin a three-day (<https://www.calpers.ca.gov/page/about/board/board-meetings>) **board meeting** (<https://www.calpers.ca.gov/page/about/board/board-meetings>) where changes to the discount rate, the long-term interest rate used to fund future pension benefits, will be discussed. Further changes — which may be voted on in November — could have significant financial implications for cities.

The CalPERS Investment Committee will be presented an informational item titled (https://www.calpers.ca.gov/docs/board-agendas/202109/invest/item08a-00_a.pdf)

Asset Liability Management: Discussion of Candidate Portfolios

(https://www.calpers.ca.gov/docs/board-agendas/202109/invest/item08a-00_a.pdf)

(Agenda Item 8a). This discussion is a part of the CalPERS' Asset Liability Management process, an integrated review of its assets and liabilities, with the intent of informing decisions designed to achieve a sustainable fund.

In July, CalPERS announced that their investment returns for fiscal year 2020-21 was 21.3%. This triggered the Funding Risk Mitigation Policy and an automatic reduction in the discount rate, from 7% to 6.8%. The different risk and return

choices will be presented in the candidate portfolios to board members next Monday with multiple associated discount rates.

Local officials should be prepared to testify during the Investment Committee meeting about how any change to the discount rate could impact their cities.

The discussion and feedback on the various risk and return options will be an important consideration when evaluating potential portfolios for adoption by the CalPERS Board at the November 2021 Investment Committee meeting. The full presentation slide deck is available (https://www.calpers.ca.gov/docs/board-agendas/202109/invest/item08a-01_a.pdf) **online** (https://www.calpers.ca.gov/docs/board-agendas/202109/invest/item08a-01_a.pdf) .

Cal Cities position

The League of California Cities is not in support of a lowering of the discount rate. As the CalPERS Board of Administration considers which candidate portfolio would best suit the needs of the organization and its members, it is crucial that they understand the impacts that increased pension costs have on cities throughout California. City participation in the September meeting will help the CalPERS board understand the city impact their November vote could have.

How to participate

Cities and members of the public can provide testimony by calling (800) 259-4105 on September 13. Those wishing to participate call a few minutes early, enter the queue, and provide their name and organization. The board meeting can be viewed by visiting the (<https://www.calpers.ca.gov/page/about/board/board-meetings/webcast>) **CalPERS Board Webcast webpage** (<https://www.calpers.ca.gov/page/about/board/board-meetings/webcast>) .

If you are interested in sharing the impact that a further reduction of the discount rate or general increased pension costs would have on your city with the

CalPERS board, please provide public comment. Your city's perspective is valued and essential.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Legislative Policy Analyst **Johnnie Pina** (<mailto:Jpina@calcities.org>) .

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Cal Cities makes significant progress on city priorities; city voices are critical in final two days of legislative session

Sep 8, 2021

The current legislative session ends on September 10. Here are the key items cities should take action on.

In the final few days of the legislative session, the League of California Cities has made progress on multiple priority issues for cities, such as funding for several climate-related issues and for implementing SB 1383 (Lara, 2016) organic waste regulations. There are several bills impacting cities that Cal Cities is still actively working on, including Brown Act requirements, housing, broadband, and public safety.

The legislative session ends Friday, Sept. 10., and Gov. Gavin Newsom has until Oct. 10 to sign or veto any bills that reach his desk. City officials should attend **[the Cal Cities Legislative Call to Action webinar \(/detail-pages/event/2021/09/16/default-calendar/legislative-call-to-action-sign-and-veto-requests-to-the-governor\)](#)** on Sept. 15 to learn more about bills pending on the Governor's desk and actions needed by cities.

Brown Act Relief

Last March, the Governor issued Executive Order N-29-20 as part of a series of emergency measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The order, which expires on Sept. 30, allows cities to conduct remote meetings under modified Brown Act requirements. **[AB 361 \(Robert, Rivas\)](#)**

<https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/search.aspx?id=ad485199-37cd-42cd-8217-d19b4d257119&session=21&s=AB%20361&t=bill>) would allow cities to continue holding remote, transparent, and publicly accessible meetings during a declared state of emergency. Cities need AB 361 to pass so that they can continue to provide essential services while prioritizing the health and safety of their residents, especially as COVID-19 infection rates continue to increase.

AB 361 was recently amended into an urgency clause, which means it would take effect immediately upon the Governor's signature. City officials are strongly encouraged to request their legislators vote "aye" on AB 361.

Cal Cities continues to oppose <https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/search.aspx?id=ad485199-37cd-42cd-8217-d19b4d257119&session=21&s=AB%20339&t=bill>) **AB 339 (Lee)** (<https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/search.aspx?id=ad485199-37cd-42cd-8217-d19b4d257119&session=21&s=AB%20339&t=bill>), which would require city councils and boards of supervisors in jurisdictions with populations over 250,000 to provide both in-person and teleconference options for the public to participate in meetings. While this measure has been amended significantly, it still contains flaws that potentially hinder cities' ability to hold practical, transparent, and accessible meetings. Moreover, it undercuts the safety-oriented provisions of AB 361 and unnecessarily endangers the lives of local agency workers.

Organic waste recycling, climate resiliency, and disaster preparedness funding

Cal Cities helped secure funding for several environmental issues in the recently released <https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/search.aspx?id=ad485199-37cd-42cd-8217-d19b4d257119&session=21&s=SB%20170&t=bill>) **SB 170 (Skinner)** (<https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/search.aspx?id=ad485199-37cd-42cd-8217-d19b4d257119&session=21&s=SB%20170&t=bill>) and <https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/search.aspx?id=ad485199-37cd-42cd-8217-d19b4d257119&session=21&s=SB%20155&t=bill>) **SB 155 (Committee on Budget**

and Fiscal Review) (<https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/search.aspx?id=ad485199-37cd-42cd-8217-d19b4d257119&session=21&s=SB%20155&t=bill>) budget-related bills.

If these bills pass out of the Legislature and are signed by the Governor, cities will receive \$60 million in grant funding to implement SB 1383 and \$70 million for organics infrastructure. SB 170 also contains a combined \$170 million for other waste reduction projects, including \$40 million in various grants to further the creation of a circular economy by funding recycling and organic waste infrastructure projects.

SB 170 also provides funding for climate resiliency and disaster preparedness, including:

- \$50 million for urban greening and urban forestry projects
- \$10 million for regional climate assistance and \$115 million for the Transformative Climate Communities program through the Strategic Growth Council
- \$25 million to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research through the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program for climate resiliency planning and implementation grants
- \$100 million to CalFire, including for priority urban forestry projects
- \$25 million in fiscal year 2022-23 and \$75 million in fiscal year 2023-24 to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research for projects that mitigate the impacts of extreme heat or the urban heat island effect

Similarly, SB 155 makes much-needed appropriations that will help improve cities' climate resiliency and disaster preparedness, including:

- \$200 million continuously appropriated to CalFire for healthy forest and fire prevention programs, prescribed burns, and other fuel reduction projects
- \$350 million to the State Coastal Conservancy for mitigating the impacts and effects of sea level rise, including low-interest loans to local jurisdictions to purchase properties vulnerable to sea level rise

- \$25 million to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research through the Integrated Climate Adaptation Program to establish a grant program to mitigate the impacts of extreme heat or the heat island effect
- \$25 million to the Strategic Growth Council for the establishment of a community resilience centers grant program

Broadband funding

Although (<https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/search.aspx?id=ad485199-37cd-42cd-8217-d19b4d257119&session=21&s=AB%2014&t=bill>) **AB 14 (Aguiar-Curry)**

(<https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/search.aspx?id=ad485199-37cd-42cd-8217-d19b4d257119&session=21&s=AB%2014&t=bill>) and

(<https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/search.aspx?id=ad485199-37cd-42cd-8217-d19b4d257119&session=21&s=SB%204&t=bill>) **SB 4 (Gonzalez)**

(<https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/search.aspx?id=ad485199-37cd-42cd-8217-d19b4d257119&session=21&s=SB%204&t=bill>) received notable tweaks during the

past week, Cal Cities continues to strongly supports both measures. The two bills would prioritize the deployment of broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved communities through the ongoing collection of the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) surcharge. They would also expand the definition of "unserved" to include areas with speeds slightly faster than dial-up, which is obsolete in an internet-driven economy.

AB 14 is now in contingent enactment with SB 4, meaning that each bill addresses a different part of the CASF surcharge. AB 14 now includes an extension of the CASF surcharge for ten years; SB 4 raises the cap of the CASF surcharge to \$150 million. Both bills must be passed to ensure that

(<https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/search.aspx?id=ad485199-37cd-42cd-8217-d19b4d257119&session=21&s=SB%20156&t=bill>) **SB 156**

(<https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/search.aspx?id=ad485199-37cd-42cd-8217-d19b4d257119&session=21&s=SB%20156&t=bill>) , the Broadband Stabilization Act, is

most impactful. SB 156 includes meaningful reforms to the CASF program but

does not include an extension of the surcharge or CASF funding, making AB 14 and SB 4 essential to creating a longer-term broadband funding source for local governments.

Relatedly, Cal Cities remains opposed to

<https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/search.aspx?id=ad485199-37cd-42cd-8217-d19b4d257119&session=21&s=SB%20556&t=bill>) **SB 556 (Dodd)**

<https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/search.aspx?id=ad485199-37cd-42cd-8217-d19b4d257119&session=21&s=SB%20556&t=bill>) , which is on the way to the

Governor for action. Despite securing amendments that narrow aspects of the bill to conform with federal law, the measure still undermines local authority and makes no meaningful progress towards closing the digital divide.

SB 9 (Atkins) Coalition Letter

Cal Cities continues to advocate against several harmful housing bills, including

<https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/search.aspx?id=ad485199-37cd-42cd-8217-d19b4d257119&session=21&s=SB%209&t=bill>) **SB 9 (Atkins)**

<https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/search.aspx?id=ad485199-37cd-42cd-8217-d19b4d257119&session=21&s=SB%209&t=bill>) and

<https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/search.aspx?id=ad485199-37cd-42cd-8217-d19b4d257119&session=21&s=AB%20989&t=bill>) **AB 989 (Gabriel)**

<https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/search.aspx?id=ad485199-37cd-42cd-8217-d19b4d257119&session=21&s=AB%20989&t=bill>) . Notably, Cal Cities is finalizing a

letter signed by over 200 cities to the Governor urging him to veto SB 9.

The 'by right' approval scheme created by SB 9 circumvents the important local government review process that includes extensive public engagement.

Moreover, because there are no provisions in SB 9 that require new housing to be affordable, the new units will remain out of reach for many working-class families.

Rather than passing flawed legislation like SB 9, state lawmakers should work with local governments to provide the tools and resources to streamline local housing approvals and fund affordable housing. Officials should urge the Governor to veto SB 9, as well as any other harmful housing bills that reach his desk.

Cities that wish to sign on to the coalition letter should contact their **regional public affairs manager** (</home/get-involved/regional-divisions>) immediately.

Peace officers: release of records

Cal Cities removed its opposition to

<https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/search.aspx?id=ad485199-37cd-42cd-8217-d19b4d257119&session=21&s=SB%2016&t=bill>) **SB 16 (Skinner)**

<https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/search.aspx?id=ad485199-37cd-42cd-8217-d19b4d257119&session=21&s=SB%2016&t=bill>) earlier this week after some

amendments were made. As previously drafted, the bill would have made every incident involving unreasonable or excessive force and any sustained finding that an officer failed to intervene against another officer using unreasonable or excessive force subject to disclosure. The provision was not practical from an administrative standpoint and would have likely undermined trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve. The bill now only mandates the disclosure of substantiated claims.



Guide to Local Recovery Update: September 8

Sep 8, 2021

The U.S. Department of the Treasury announced seven new policies to accelerate the spending of Emergency Rental Assistance funds and the National League of Cities will host two webinars in the coming week.

The U.S. Department of the Treasury recently announced **seven new policies** (<https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0333>) to accelerate the spending of Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA). The new recommendations are based on feedback collected through site visits and meetings with rental assistance administrators, tenant advocates, landlords, and other stakeholders. If local programs are unable to accelerate the spending of emergency rental assistance, the Treasury Department may reallocate funding to ERA programs in high-need areas.

The National League of Cities (NLC) is hosting two webinars in the coming week. On Sept. 9 at 9:30 a.m., NLC will lead a conversation on the legal and policy considerations surrounding **municipal employee vaccine mandates** (https://nlc-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_anM3iUUQS6GRwOE8tMByrQ?timezone_id=America%2FLos_Angeles), including collective bargaining.

On Sept. 14 at 7 a.m., NLC and other organizations will discuss **how American Rescue Plan Act funds can support long-standing water infrastructure needs** (https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_v5NU8YZkR3ybCIhk0HrkGg), including stormwater and wastewater. Speakers will share several examples of

local government plans for funding and a follow-up document with jurisdiction and national resources for additional questions.

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Guide to Local Recovery Updates

Sep 8, 2021

The League of California Cities is actively involved in gathering, deciphering, and providing cities with the resources they need to access pandemic relief funds, understand eligible uses for those funds, and comply with reporting requirements. Visit the Guide to Local Recovery resource page to explore the resources available to cities.

Guide to Local Recovery Update: September 8

The U.S. Department of the Treasury recently announced seven new policies to accelerate the spending of Emergency Rental Assistance funds. Additionally, the National League of Cities is hosting two webinars in the coming week — one on municipal employee vaccine mandates and another on using American Rescue Plan Act funds to address long-standing water infrastructure needs. **[Read the full update \(/detail-pages/news/2021/09/08/guide-to-local-recovery-update-september-8\)](/detail-pages/news/2021/09/08/guide-to-local-recovery-update-september-8)**

Guide to Local Recovery Update: August 25

The reporting deadline for the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds is August 31! The U.S. Department of the Treasury has **[released a video walkthrough of the treasury portal for the interim report and recovery plan \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=umxVcfD4p1U\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=umxVcfD4p1U)**. Here's a list of all the other **[Treasury Department resources available to cities \(/detail-pages/news/2021/08/25/guide-to-local-recovery-update-august-25?sf-lc-status=Master&sf-content-action=preview&sf-auth=kq8ePMrc8eOHtmEtsFUmn/QBFVcrrB6D+ioo1gBS8aMVxbF9GOYMvTOEbxstumDjtf3nzLiqzzarO+LBPJYC0q31SPe9JAE6eedPhdMchNw7MifRKTN/Va3OJSHEqRruXRDxxYe\)](/detail-pages/news/2021/08/25/guide-to-local-recovery-update-august-25?sf-lc-status=Master&sf-content-action=preview&sf-auth=kq8ePMrc8eOHtmEtsFUmn/QBFVcrrB6D+ioo1gBS8aMVxbF9GOYMvTOEbxstumDjtf3nzLiqzzarO+LBPJYC0q31SPe9JAE6eedPhdMchNw7MifRKTN/Va3OJSHEqRruXRDxxYe)**

[bszzEqz6KoTz203EYsxhWUgNGQpjMocDWExmRbvtBtuKUYhj3bOcGs6b9WxRwEDsu3tzq9kOgiAQ0wMgxu5KTwzDTbMk1U/nJ9ffa6I3D6KMV4B7j5zCuRKtsaL13OdtzLTjFjyj07Lz3iP1FDyM72koNutZdv93fLND92CSCR0wgJgBQStoE243b1QwIEgFdBRKLF0Y5VzaZQFgU5LFPPhI0pXsO4fWwE4lvYA6yxBDzgNGASF/TPIhBbLCgOINuF3TyfjEne095iD1+R6zsXYJ7NKAEEAAA==\)](#) .

Guide to Local Recovery Update: August 18

The Federal Emergency Management Agency announced yesterday that it will continue to reimburse local governments for Project Roomkey costs through the rest of the year. Additionally, the United States Department of Agriculture recently made up to \$500 million in grants available to rural communities to help expand access to COVID-19 vaccines and healthcare services. Lastly, the National League of Cities will hold a webinar on how cities can use American Rescue Plan funds to support small businesses and entrepreneurs. **[Read the full update \(/detail-pages/news/2021/08/18/guide-to-local-recovery-update-august-18\)](#)** .

Guide to Local Recovery Update: August 11

This week in Guide to Local Recovery: The U.S. Senate passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, a significant step forward on \$550 billion in new federal infrastructure investments; the League of California Cities submitted a support letter for Senator Alex Padilla's Amendment #2584. New resources are available for cities as well, including new information about the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds recipient reporting portal. **[Read the full update \(/detail-pages/news/2021/08/11/guide-to-local-recovery-update-august-11\)](#)** .

Guide to Local Recovery Update: August 4

City leaders are encouraged to join the League of California Cities in urging Congress to pass the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, a comprehensive infrastructure package; and a number of webinars are available this month on how cities can utilize American Rescue Plan funds to advance equity in their

communities. [Read the full update \(/detail-pages/news/2021/08/04/guide-to-local-recovery-update-august-4\)](#) .

Guide to Local Recovery Update: July 28

Cal Cities, along with 400 other city officials and organizations, signed a letter about the need for federal infrastructure funding. Written by the National League of Cities (NLC), the letter urged Congressional leadership to pass a comprehensive infrastructure package and outlined the top priorities of local governments. City officials are encouraged to sign a similar letter to their congressional delegation. Cal Cities also released an updated version of its American Rescue Plan Act revenue loss calculators, which includes minor changes based on member feedback. Additional resources, such as NLC's list of [\(https://www.nlc.org/covid-19-pandemic-response/arp-local-relief-frequently-asked-questions/\)](https://www.nlc.org/covid-19-pandemic-response/arp-local-relief-frequently-asked-questions/) **FAQs from city officials about the** [\(https://www.nlc.org/covid-19-pandemic-response/arp-local-relief-frequently-asked-questions/\)](https://www.nlc.org/covid-19-pandemic-response/arp-local-relief-frequently-asked-questions/) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, are available as well. [Read the full update. \(/detail-pages/news/2021/07/28/guide-to-local-recovery-update-july-28\)](#)

Guide to Local Recovery Update: July 21

The League of California's strong support of SB 156 paid off, with Governor Newsom signing the [\(https://www.gov.ca.gov/2021/07/20/governor-newsom-signs-historic-broadband-legislation-to-help-bridge-digital-divide/\)](https://www.gov.ca.gov/2021/07/20/governor-newsom-signs-historic-broadband-legislation-to-help-bridge-digital-divide/) **historic broadband legislation** [\(https://www.gov.ca.gov/2021/07/20/governor-newsom-signs-historic-broadband-legislation-to-help-bridge-digital-divide/\)](https://www.gov.ca.gov/2021/07/20/governor-newsom-signs-historic-broadband-legislation-to-help-bridge-digital-divide/) on Tuesday. The \$6 billion investment — \$5.2 billion from federal dollars — is designed to bridge the digital divide and ensure equitable digital access to underserved and unserved communities. A general overview of SB 156 can be found on Cal Cities' [website \(/detail-pages/news/2021/07/15/state-passes-historic-6-billion-broadband-investment-agreement\)](#) .

Cal Cities also submitted comments about the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund [\(https://www.regulations.gov/document/TREAS-DO-2021-0008-](https://www.regulations.gov/document/TREAS-DO-2021-0008-)

[0002/comment](https://www.regulations.gov/document/TREAS-DO-2021-0008-0002/comment)) **Interim Final Rule** (<https://www.regulations.gov/document/TREAS-DO-2021-0008-0002/comment>) to the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Cal Cities requested further clarity, guidance, and flexibility for local governments on issues such as public health, economic impact, and infrastructure. The full letter can be found on the Treasury Department's (<https://www.regulations.gov/comment/TREAS-DO-2021-0008-0653>) **website** (<https://www.regulations.gov/comment/TREAS-DO-2021-0008-0653>) .

Finally, the Treasury Department released an (<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRPFAQ.pdf>) **updated FAQ** (<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRPFAQ.pdf>) for **Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Interim Final Rule** (<https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds/recipient-compliance-and-reporting-responsibilities>) on July 14. The update clarifies eligible uses of water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, as well as questions about revenue loss and fund eligibility for nonprofit or private organizations.

Guide to Local Recovery Update: July 15

The U.S. Department of the Treasury has released several resources on its Compliance and Reporting Guidance for Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) recipients. Additionally, several recovery-related webinars are available later this month, including a Government Service Administration Procurement training. Lastly, the deadline to submit comments and recommendations to the Treasury Department on the Interim Final Rule is on July 16. **[Read the full update.](#)** (</detail-pages/news/2021/07/15/guide-to-local-recovery-update-july-15>)

Guide to Local Recovery update: July 7

The National League of Cities (NLC) will host a two-day conference on July 8-9 in collaboration with NLC's Race, Equity and Leadership (REAL) department. More than just a public health crisis, the coronavirus pandemic has revealed and

exacerbated racial inequities prevalent in our communities. This conference will consist of discussions and workshops centered around building equitable community leadership and will be followed by a panel of conference speakers.

NLC will also host a virtual event about how the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) can be used to support inclusive economic recovery. The event, Utilizing ARPA Funding to Advance Cooperative Business Ownership, will be held on July 27. With community wellness in mind, this event will cover ways in which cities can support the creation and retention of local, high quality jobs to help ensure an equitable rebuilding of local economies and communities.

Guide to Local Recovery update: June 30

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed legislation to extend the state's eviction moratorium through September 30, 2021, and clear rent debt for low-income Californians that have suffered economic, pandemic-related hardship. Additionally, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has opened the application portal for the Emergency Connectivity Fund. The \$7.17 billion program provides funding for schools and libraries to buy laptops, tablets, WiFi hotspots, modems, routers, and connectivity to help students stay connected when they're off school premises. **[Read the full update. \(/detail-pages/news/2021/06/30/guide-to-local-recovery-update-june-30\)](/detail-pages/news/2021/06/30/guide-to-local-recovery-update-june-30)**

Guide to Local Recovery update: June 23

Non-entitlement cities have until tonight, June 23 at 11:59 p.m., to access the American Rescue Plan Request for Fund Portal. Additionally, the U.S. Department of the Treasury has released clarifications on several eligible use criteria, most notably broadband infrastructure. The new language around broadband is a big win for local governments. Finally, the Treasury Department also released Compliance and Reporting Guidance for metropolitan cities, which builds on the Interim Final Rule issued on May 10. **[Read the full update. \(/detail-pages/news/2021/06/23/guide-to-local-recovery-update-june-23\)](/detail-pages/news/2021/06/23/guide-to-local-recovery-update-june-23)**

Guide to Local Recovery update: June 16

Cal Cities, along with a team of city finance professionals and the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers (CSMFO), created a revenue loss calculation tool to help cities determine their American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation spends. The tool incorporates the latest Treasury Department's Guidance and its applicability to local government finance in California as understood by our team of finance professionals. Two versions of the calculator have been prepared to support cities' choice to use fund basis (modified accrual) or government-wide (full accrual) financial records.

- [\(3c6d0f04-c4c9-420f-a16d-4cb7ee43f1256d-4cb7ee43f125&-4cb7ee43f1256d-4cb7ee43f125&\) \(3c6d0f04-c4c9-420f-a16d-4cb7ee43f1256d-4cb7ee43f125&-4cb7ee43f1256d-4cb7ee43f125&\) \(3c6d0f04-c4c9-420f-a16d-4cb7ee43f1256d-4cb7ee43f125&-4cb7ee43f1256d-4cb7ee43f125&\) Revenue Loss Calculator \(Government-wide – Full Accrual\) \(3c6d0f04-c4c9-420f-a16d-4cb7ee43f1256d-4cb7ee43f125&-4cb7ee43f1256d-4cb7ee43f125&\)](#)
- [\(436bd839-6143-448f-82cb-3f8c06dd5aa4cb-3f8c06dd5aa4&-3f8c06dd5aa4cb-3f8c06dd5aa4&\) Revenue Loss Calculator \(Fund Basis – Modified Accrual\) \(436bd839-6143-448f-82cb-3f8c06dd5aa4cb-3f8c06dd5aa4&-3f8c06dd5aa4cb-3f8c06dd5aa4&\)](#)

The calculator will be updated and improve as Treasury Department guidance evolves. Cities will be able to calculate revenue at multiple points throughout the program. [Read the full update. \(/detail-pages/news/2021/06/16/guide-to-local-recovery-update-june-16\)](#)

Guide to Local Recovery Update: June 11

Gov. Gavin Newsom took **executive action** (<https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/6.11.21-EO-N-07-21-signed.pdf>) on June 11 to terminate the state's stay-at-home order and tiered Blueprint for Safer Economy. Measures that were included in the blueprint to protect public health, such as physical distancing, capacity limits, and the county tier system, terminate on June 15. The

Governor also **issued an executive order** (<https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/6.11.21-EO-N-08-21-signed.pdf>) to begin the “winding down” of the 58 executive orders that have been implemented since the beginning of the pandemic. The provisions will sunset in phases, beginning later this month through September.

The California Department of Finance (DOF) American Rescue Plan Request for Funds Portal for non-entitlement cities is now live.

(<https://esd.dof.ca.gov/recovery-fund/login>) Cities **categorized as non-entitlement cities** (<https://www.dof.ca.gov/budget/COVID-19/Small%20City%20Allocations%20-%20ARPA/CFRF%20Allocation%20Schedule.pdf>) (NEU) must access this portal to receive their first tranche of funds. All applications are due no later than 11:59 p.m. on June 23, 2021. DOF discussed the funding portal with city officials during a League of California Cities webinar earlier this week. The webinar included a robust Q & A and is **available for review** (https://youtu.be/ZW0GcVks_2I), along with the presentation slides. **Read the full update.** (</detail-pages/news/2021/06/14/guide-to-local-recovery-update-june-11>)

Guide to Local Recovery Update: June 9

The California Department of Finance (DOF) unveiled its **American Rescue Plan Local Fiscal Recovery Fund webpage** (https://www.dof.ca.gov/budget/COVID-19/Local_Fiscal_Recovery_Fund_Allocations/) for non-entitlement cities and discussed the upcoming funding portal with city officials during a League of California Cities webinar earlier today. The program covered the state’s responsibilities, eligible usages, the application and distribution process, reporting requirements, and the portal itself. The webinar included a robust Q & A and is **available for review** (https://youtu.be/ZW0GcVks_2I), along with the presentation slides. **Read the full update** (</detail-pages/news/2021/06/09/guide-to-local-recovery-update-june-9>)

Guide to Local Recovery Update: June 2

The California Department of Finance (DOF) has released the Coronavirus Local

Fiscal Recovery Fund allocations for non-entitlement cities, and is preparing to distribute over \$1.2 billion in American Rescue Plan payments to 291 California non-entitlement cities. **Register now** (https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Sn0LI8JfRnWdrVYeYRaJ-w) for the next Guide to Local Recovery webinar on June 9 from 9:30-10:30 a.m., where experts from DOF will provide information about how cities can navigate the state's submission portal, when cities can expect funding, as well as answer any general American Rescue Plan questions.

Guide to Local Recovery Update: May 26

Earlier this week, the U.S. Department of the Treasury released guidance on the distribution of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to non-entitlement cities. These guidelines were issued to assist the California Department of Finance (DOF) in issuing final city-by-city allocations and to help develop the process for distributing non-entitlement city funds. The League of California Cities has been in communication with DOF to determine the timing of the release of the final allocations and the distribution process, and will be hosting a webinar with DOF in the coming weeks. **Read the full update.** (</detail-pages/news/2021/05/26/guide-to-local-recovery-update-may-26>)

Guide to Local Recovery Update: May 19

The U.S. Department of the Treasury has launched its own American Rescue Plan information hub, which includes a Fiscal Recovery Funds FAQ and the interim final rule. The FAQ will be updated periodically in response to stakeholder questions. The White House and the Treasury Department will also address the interim rule during an NLC-hosted webinar and Q & A on May 20 at 1 p.m. PST. We also hosted a webinar on the American Rescue Plan for more than 400 city officials today. Representatives from the National League of Cities discussed eligible uses for entitlement cities. The webinar **recording** (https://zoom.us/rec/share/8X_MvknJY-6i6vAnjQy2XOHhwkI7x7IaF1Ztybv8-jM3Op8Tu7saXtS0lpi6OHM.4Iv_VGB8Q8W-Q0LA) and slides are available for those who missed it. **Read the full update** (</detail-pages/news/2021/05/19/guide-to-local->

[recovery-update-may-19\)](#)

Guide to Local Recovery Update: May 12

The portal for local governments that will receive their money directly from the U.S. Department of the Treasury is now live. This **portal** (<https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-fund/request-funding>) is for cities classified as Metropolitan Cities under the American Rescue Plan. Local governments designated as non-entitlement units are also eligible to receive Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, as provided in the American Rescue Plan. However, they will receive this funding from their applicable state government, not through this link. **Read the full update** (</detail-pages/news/2021/05/12/guide-to-local-recovery-update-may-12>)

Guide to Local Recovery Update: May 10

The U.S. Department of the Treasury released guidance May 10 on the distribution of \$8 billion for California cities in the American Rescue Plan Act. To learn more, sign up for Cal Cities Legislative Action Days May 13, where Cal Cities will provide an overview of the new guidance. Be sure to check the new resources added to the Federal Guidance and Resources tab below to read the new guidelines and access the final city-by-city allocations.

U.S. Department of the Treasury now has a **website** (<http://www.treasury.gov/coronavirus>) where people can learn more about COVID-19 economic relief, programs, and assistance for state, local, and tribal governments.

The California COVID-19 Rent Relief program

(https://housing.ca.gov/covid_rr/index.html) has funds to distribute, and is urging California city governments to share this resource with impacted individuals in their communities. Landlords who participate in the program can get reimbursed for 80 percent of an eligible renter's unpaid rent, and eligible renters whose landlords choose not to participate in the program may apply on their own and

receive 25 percent of unpaid rent between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021. Paying 25 percent by June 30, 2021 can help keep the tenant in their home under the extended eviction protections in **SB 91**

(https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB91)

(2021). Visit the **Housing is Key website**

(https://housing.ca.gov/covid_rr/index.html) to learn more.

Guide to Local Recovery Update: May 5

U.S. Department of the Treasury now has a **website**

(<http://www.treasury.gov/coronavirus>) where people can learn more about COVID-19 economic relief, programs, and assistance for state, local, and tribal governments. The **California COVID-19 Rent Relief program**

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(2021). Visit the **Housing is Key website**

(https://housing.ca.gov/covid_rr/index.html) to learn more.

Guide to Local Recovery Update: April 28

Today, the League of California Cities hosted the latest installment of its new Guide to Local Recovery webinar series, focused on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) cost reimbursement for eligible programs and services under FEMA's Public Assistance Program. The webinar featured leaders with representatives from FEMA and the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to provide an opportunity to ask questions and get clarity on reimbursable costs. The webinar **recording**

https://zoom.us/rec/play/Hr64SUkw_ADOU5c4eD_0W573umzGJEwUplpo5-ZQ_LmMthSB6H_fERcXF8rSHWWe2RgwGWofjyWYRbVH.3qn24fnZHWgrAsiG

and slides are available online. Next week, the White House is hosting regional briefings on the **American Jobs Plan** (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/31/fact-sheet-the-american-jobs-plan/>) and **American Families Plan** (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/28/fact-sheet-the-american-families-plan/>), and the briefing for California is Monday, May 3 at 2 p.m. All cities are invited to attend, and the briefing will be hosted by Daniel Hornung, special assistant to the president for Economic Policy. **Register** (<https://pitc.zoomgov.com/j/1603766325?pwd=SUtrWVRnajJyWmg5QTg3V01iTTRSUT09>) for the briefing.

Guide to Local Recovery Update: April 21

The U.S. Department of the Treasury has **released new steps** (<https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-fund>) that all cities need to take to receive their city allocation under the local relief included in the American Rescue Plan. The rescue plan was signed into law in March 2021, and includes \$65 billion in much-needed direct and flexible relief for every city in the country, with an anticipated \$8.3 billion for California cities. While the Treasury Department has not released the final city allocations, you can find city-by-city estimates on the National League of Cities **website** (<https://www.nlc.org/resource/estimated-local-allocations-in-the-american-rescue-plan/>). **Read the full update.** (</detail-pages/news/2021/04/21/guide-to-local-recovery-update-april-21>)

Guide to Local Recovery Update: April 14

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) published this week a **Notice of Funding Opportunity** (<https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2021-04/FY%202021%20RAISE%20grants%20NOFO%20%28Final%29.pdf>) to apply for \$1 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 discretionary grant funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants. Projects

for RAISE funding will be evaluated based on merit criteria that include safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness, state of good repair, innovation, and partnership. Within these criteria, the Department will prioritize projects that can demonstrate improvements to racial equity, reduce impacts of climate change, and create good-paying jobs. To provide technical assistance to prospective applicants, DOT is hosting a **series of webinars** (<http://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/outreach>) during the FY 2021 RAISE grant application process. The deadline to submit an application is July 12, 2021 at 5 p.m. EST. On April 12, the White House released state-by-state fact sheets that highlight the urgent need in every state across the country for the investments outlined in the new federal infrastructure proposal. The fact sheet for California can be found on the **White House website** (<https://whitehouse.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f620288bb41dd81f9c715ef4d&id=74d04bf158&e=d97cf1e38b>)

Guide to Local recovery update: April 7

As cities await final guidance from the U.S. Department of the Treasury on the allocation amounts and reporting process for the local relief included in the American Rescue Plan, now is the time for cities to begin identifying their priorities and developing a system to track and report the funds. The sooner priorities for local recovery are identified, the faster people can get back to work, operations can be stabilized, and those most impacted by COVID-19 can receive support. The National League of Cities **frequently asked questions** (https://www.nlc.org/resource/arp-local-relief-frequently-asked-questions/?utm_campaign=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=informz&utm_content=fa-newsletter-20210403&utm_term=text-resource&_zs=vJKfb&_zl=awIV2) about the American Rescue Plan local relief can help cities prepare while we await official guidance.

Guide to Local Recovery Update: March 31

The Biden Administration announced **a federal infrastructure plan** (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/31/fact-sheet->

the-american-jobs-plan/), which outlines more than \$2 trillion in federal investments to rebuild and expand infrastructure in our cities and towns across the nation. Cal Cities is encouraged by the proposal, as repairing and modernizing aging infrastructure is key to economic recovery and more jobs in our cities and nation. We look forward to sharing more details on the plan as they become available.

Local recovery update: March 24

The passage of the historic American Rescue Plan means over \$65 billion will be delivered directly to cities of all size. Now the real work begins. What are your local priorities for this funding? The National League of Cities (NLC) is conducting a short survey to gauge how conditions, from the economy and infrastructure to housing and education, have changed this past year, and how new funding will be used to address these challenges. The results will be part of NLC's research efforts to showcase local leadership during the pandemic. They will also shape the type of strategies and programs NLC is developing to help communities leverage newly available funds. Make your voice count and participate in the survey! Please respond no later than Tuesday, March 30.

Guide to Local Recovery Update: March 17

As city officials begin to put the unprecedented local relief from the American Rescue Plan into action to continue critical services and jumpstart recovery in their communities, Cal Cities is here to answer questions and support your efforts with tools and resources. For more information on the American Rescue Plan and what's in it for cities, read Cal Cities Executive Director and CEO Carolyn Coleman's message to city officials. and review the Cal Cities [special briefing](https://zoom.us/rec/play/SEjtz_yS_jtL4PLawym8kaF9JloYBHE0Y3e_fJztHZtxKIUz3cZ5JwBRQap51gnVeg7bh_xKvrW6cM-6.2P_bfCjF1VI5KPRV?autoplay=true) (https://zoom.us/rec/play/SEjtz_yS_jtL4PLawym8kaF9JloYBHE0Y3e_fJztHZtxKIUz3cZ5JwBRQap51gnVeg7bh_xKvrW6cM-6.2P_bfCjF1VI5KPRV?autoplay=true) for city officials. The National League of Cities has provided an American Rescue Plan [implementation update](https://www.nlc.org/article/2021/03/12/everything-you-need-to-know-about-covid-relief/?utm_campaign=Federal-Advocacy&utm_medium=email&utm_source=informz&utm_content=federal-advocacy-) (https://www.nlc.org/article/2021/03/12/everything-you-need-to-know-about-covid-relief/?utm_campaign=Federal-Advocacy&utm_medium=email&utm_source=informz&utm_content=federal-advocacy-

[covid-relief-weekly-20210316&utm_term=image-featured&_zs=Sq77a&_zl=9W8U2\)](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/American-Rescue-Plan-Fact-Sheet.pdf) , which includes the latest on recovery priorities, relief funds, and bill summaries. Also, the White House has created a **fact sheet** (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/American-Rescue-Plan-Fact-Sheet.pdf>) for the American Rescue Plan, as well as a **summary of its impact on California** (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/ARP-State-Fact-Sheet-CA.pdf>) . These are first of many resources in our guide to local recovery that we will be offering in the coming weeks and months.

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