

City of Garden Grove
WEEKLY CITY MANAGER'S MEMO
March 28, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council FROM: Lisa Kim, City Manager
Members

I. DEPARTMENT ITEMS

A. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

A memo to provide an update on the amended and restated exclusive franchise agreement with Republic Services for the period of October through December 2023 and an analysis of calendar year 2023 customer service data is attached.

B. PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

An affidavit of publication is attached for items to be heard at the April 18, 2024 Planning Commission meeting.

C. ZONING ADMINISTRATOR PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

An affidavit of publication is attached for items to be heard at the April 11, 2024 Zoning Administrator meeting.

• **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.



Lisa Kim
City Manager

REFUSE CONTRACT IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE
OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2023
MARCH 28, 2024
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impacted routes, ensuring compliance with state limits, and reducing impacts to City roads caused by overweight vehicles.

District staff continues to work with Republic representatives weekly and have monthly meetings to review upcoming contractual requirements such as planning for City events, timing of outreach, and troubleshooting issues or concerns.

Complaints and Missed Pickups

District staff have been actively monitoring the calls and inquiries made from District residents and businesses regarding service failures and delays. Republic provided July through December complaint and missed pickup data on February 22, 2024. Republic's records show there were 1,882 reported missed collections in Q3 2023 and 1,839 reported missed collections in Q4 2023 across all District customer types for standard service collection (these counts exclude bulky item pickups). While the records show a steady decrease in commercial missed collections in October and November after the change in routes went into effect, commercial missed collections rose to their August and September 2023 levels in December. Republic staff alerted District staff of a potential increase in December commercial missed collections due to staffing challenges compounded with unfamiliar routes due to the routing updates. Similar challenges impacted November and December residential routes. Republic expects missed collections to show improvement in Q1 2024 after the Q4 2023 routing changes have been in effect for at least a full calendar quarter.

In comparison to the total of approximately 1.15 million service opportunities in Q4 2023, 0.16% of all service opportunities were reported as missed collections to Republic staff. The contract allows for a 24-hour window for Republic to collect a reported missed container so the actual total for contractually defined missed collection is smaller than the prior noted percentage. Republic has communicated to District staff that their current systems and procedures are not capable of reporting how many missed collections were recovered within the 24-hour period allowed by the Agreement. District and Republic staff are still troubleshooting solutions to gather this additional resolution data. The figures in Attachment A provide additional analysis of Republic's inquiry and complaint log records from January through December 2023.

2023 and 2024 Scholarship Program

The Agreement requires Republic to issue seven \$1,000 (\$7,000 total) scholarships per agreement year for local high school seniors. In the first year of the agreement, both District and Republic staff agreed to delay this program due to the focus on the implementation of SB 1383. As a result, this school year, Republic is doubling the funding amount and is offering 14 \$1,000 (\$14,000 total) scholarships. The scholarship program will be conducted with the annual scholarship program hosted by the Women's Division of the Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce. Information on the program will be released in April 2024 by the Chamber.

Auto-Enrollment for SB 1383 Compliance (No significant changes since last update)

The automatic enrollment program for commercial business properties ended in September 2023. Republic has started a desk top review of account data to ensure the accounts information show service accuracy. Remaining non-compliant generators will be brought into compliance in 2024.

REFUSE CONTRACT IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE
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The automatic enrollment program for multi-family properties began in September 2023 with the first round of notices being mailed. Republic is mailing notices to a selection of non-compliant generators each month. These notices provide the opportunity to meet with a Republic Sustainability Advisor to right-size their current trash services and discuss alternative compliance options. This program was scheduled to be completed in February 2024, but is taking some additional time to ensure all customers receive the services required.

Community Events – 2024 (No change since last update)

Staff and Republic have planned and begun the 2024 Community Clean Up events, which will occur every odd month in a different location, as shown below. All clean-up events will also have electronic (e-waste) collection.

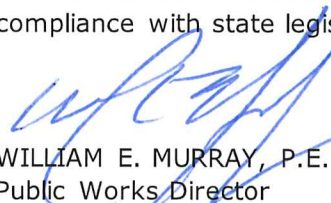
January 27, 2024	Pacifica High School	6851 Lampson Ave
March 16, 2024	Skylark Elementary School	11250 Mac Murray
May 11, 2024	Garden Grove Park	9301 Westminster
July 20, 2024	Ralston Intermediate	10851 Lampson Ave
September 24, 2024	H. Louis Lake Sr. Center	11300 Stanford Ave
November 9, 2024	Public Works Yard	13802 Newhope St

Paper Shredding - The May 11 event will also include the annual paper shredding event.

Compost Giveaway - Additionally, the annual Compost Giveaway Event has been scheduled for Saturday, April 13, 2024 at the Municipal Service Center.

SUMMARY

Public Works staff continues to work with Republic and the District’s consultant, HF&H, to implement SB 1383 programs, provide education and outreach to the community, and address service quality issues. All three parties meet monthly to ensure all new elements of the Agreement are being tracked, implemented, and monitored, in addition to daily conversations as issues arise. District staff will continue to ensure constant communication with all parties as the City and District work towards full compliance with state legislation and ensure quality service is provided to all.


WILLIAM E. MURRAY, P.E.
Public Works Director


By: Mark Ladney
Senior Program Specialist

Republic Services Customer Service Calls and Missed Collection Data*

January through December 2023

Table 1: Call Type Summary

Call Type	Count
January	180
Complaint	43
Escalation	137
February	238
Complaint	33
Damage/Leak/Spill	3
Escalation	202
March	44
Complaint	6
Damage/Leak/Spill	1
Escalation	37
April	340
Complaint	14
Damage/Leak/Spill	9
Escalation	317
May	138
Complaint	9
Damage/Leak/Spill	2
Escalation	127
June	362
Complaint	16
Damage/Leak/Spill	6
Escalation	340
July	268
Complaint	18
Damage/Leak/Spill	5
Escalation	245
August	454
Complaint	24
Damage/Leak/Spill	6
Escalation	424
September	275
Complaint	21
Damage/Leak/Spill	1
Escalation	253
October	340
Complaint	14
Escalation	326
November	100
Complaint	5
Escalation	95
December	454
Complaint	23
Escalation	431
Jan - Dec 2023 Total	3193

Figure 1: Jan - Jun 2023 Escalation, Complaint, and Damage/Leak/Spill Calls by Month

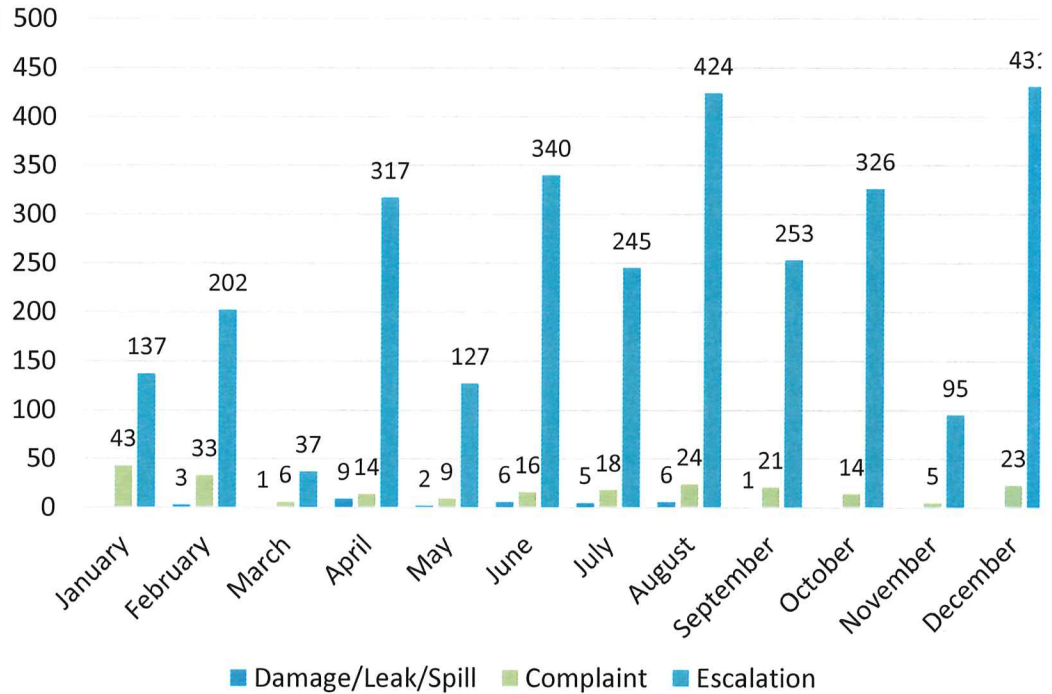
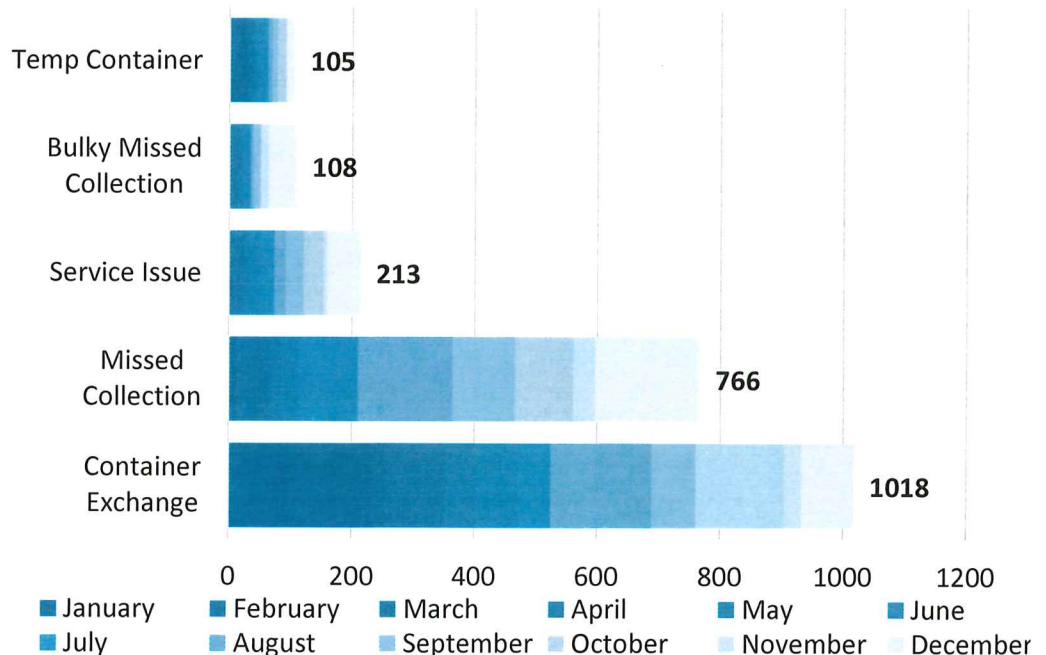


Figure 2: Jan - Dec 2023 Escalations by Detail Category and Month (Service Related Escalations Only)



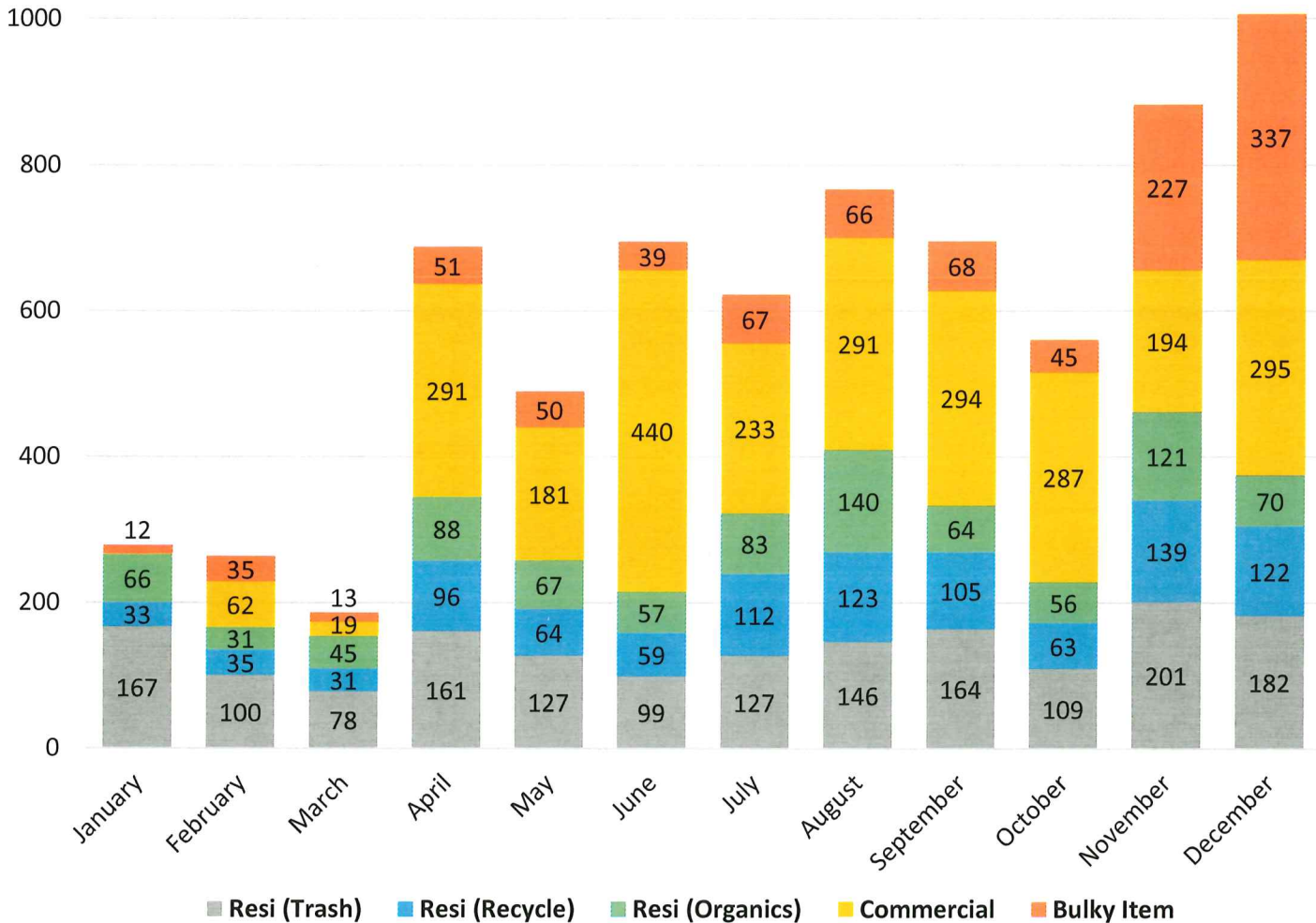
*Analysis based on data provided by Republic per requirements of the franchise agreement.

Table 2: Missed Collections Compared to Service Opportunities

Period	Missed Collections*	Service Opportunities*	% Missed Collections
Q1: Jan - Mar 2023	667	1,246,339	0.054%
Q2: Apr - Jun 2023	1,730	1,342,854	0.129%
Q3: Jul - Sep 2023	1,882	1,102,622	0.171%
Q4: Oct - Dec 2023	<u>1,839</u>	<u>1,146,272</u>	0.160%
Jan - Dec 2023 Total	6,118	4,838,087	0.126%

*Does not include Bulky Item service data.

Figure 3: Jan - Dec 2023 Missed Collections by Month and Service Category (Includes Residential ("Resi"), Commercial (3 Streams), and Bulky Item Service)



AFFP
140786 CUP 259-2024

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF CALIFORNIA }
COUNTY OF ORANGE } SS

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

I am a citizen of the United States; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above-entitled matter. I am the principle clerk of the printer of ORANGE COUNTY NEWS, a newspaper of general circulation, published ONCE WEEKLY in the city of GARDEN GROVE, County of ORANGE, which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of ORANGE, State of California under the date of March 20, 1964, Case Number A-31502; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy (set in type not smaller than nonpareil), has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GARDEN GROVE WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING IN THE COMMUNITY MEETING CENTER, 11300 STANFORD AVENUE, GARDEN GROVE, CALIFORNIA, ON THE DATE * INDICATED BELOW TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER ALL EVIDENCE AND REPORTS RELATIVE TO THE APPLICATION(S) DESCRIBED BELOW:

• THURSDAY, 7:00 P.M., APRIL 18, 2024

Members of the public who wish to comment on matters before the Commission, in lieu of doing so in person, may submit comments by emailing public-comment@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.

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. CUP-259-2024

A request for Conditional Use Permit approval to operate a new religious facility with church services, an accredited bible college, and a child day care, all within an existing 46,287 square foot tenant space. The site is at 10912 Katella Avenue in the NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) 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).

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES are invited to attend said Hearing and express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposal as outlined above, on April 18, 2024. If you challenge the application in Court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing. Further information on the above may be obtained at the Planning Services Division, City Hall, 11222 Acacia Parkway, or by telephone at (714) 741 5312.

Orange County News 3/27/2024-140786

March 27, 2024

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

SIGNED:



Orange County News

Subscribed to and sworn by me this 27th day of March 2024.

00007270 00140786

75 LEGAL
OCN-CITY OF GARDEN GROVE
P.O. BOX 3070
GARDEN GROVE, CA 92842

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF CALIFORNIA }
COUNTY OF ORANGE } SS

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

I am a citizen of the United States; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above-entitled matter. I am the principle clerk of the printer of ORANGE COUNTY NEWS, a newspaper of general circulation, published ONCE WEEKLY in the city of GARDEN GROVE, County of ORANGE, which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of ORANGE, State of California under the date of March 20, 1964, Case Number A-31502; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy (set in type not smaller than nonpareil), has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit:

March 27, 2024

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

SIGNED:



Orange County News

Subscribed to and sworn by me this 27th day of March 2024.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR OF THE CITY OF GARDEN GROVE WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING IN THE COMMUNITY MEETING CENTER, 11300 STANFORD AVENUE, GARDEN GROVE, CALIFORNIA, ON THE DATE * INDICATED BELOW TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER ALL EVIDENCE AND REPORTS RELATIVE TO THE APPLICATION(S) DESCRIBED BELOW:

• THURSDAY, 9:00 A.M., April 11, 2024

The City of Garden Grove Zoning Administrator will hold a Public Hearing in the Community Meeting Center, to consider the request listed below. Members of the public who wish to comment on matters before the Zoning Administrator, in lieu of doing so in person, may submit comments by emailing public-comment@ggcity.org no later than 3:00 p.m. the day prior to the meeting. The comments will be provided to the Zoning Administrator as part of the meeting record.

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. CUP-256-2024

A request for Conditional Use Permit approval to allow an existing adult day health care to expand and operate within two existing commercial buildings with a combined building area of 13,530 square feet. Also, a request to revoke Conditional Use Permit Nos. CUP-188-2020 (REV. 2021) and CUP-208-2021, which previously governed the use of the property. The site is at 8100 Garden Grove Boulevard in the GGMU-1 (Garden Grove Boulevard Mixed Use 1) zone. In conjunction with the request, the Zoning Administrator will also consider a determination that the project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15301 - Existing Facilities - of the State CEQA Guidelines.

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. CUP-258-2024

A request for Conditional Use Permit approval to operate a new restaurant with a new original State Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Type "41" (On-Sale, Beer & Wine, Eating Place) License. The site is at 12155 Valley View Street in the PUD-104-73 (REV. 2018/REV. 2021) (Planned Unit Development) zone. In conjunction with the request, the Zoning Administrator will also consider a determination that the project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES are invited to attend said hearing and express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposal as outlined above, on April 11, 2024. If you challenge the application in Court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Zoning Administrator at, or prior to, the public hearing. Further information on the above may be obtained at the Planning Services Division, City Hall, 11222 Acacia Parkway, or by telephone at (714) 741 5312.

Orange County News 3/27/2024-140785

00007270 00140785

75 LEGAL
OCN-CITY OF GARDEN GROVE
P.O. BOX 3070
GARDEN GROVE, CA 92842

WEEKLY MEMO 03-28-2024

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Post Performance

March 21, 2024 - March 27, 2024

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

Included in this Report

 Garden Grove Police Department



Garden Grove Police Depa...

Fri 3/22/2024 12:03 pm PDT

We continue to celebrate the past and present women of #GardenGrovePD. Civilians, sworn and volunteers; they all...



Impressions	2,517
Reach	2,382
Engagements	394
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	15.7%



Garden Grove Police Depa...

Fri 3/22/2024 12:03 pm PDT



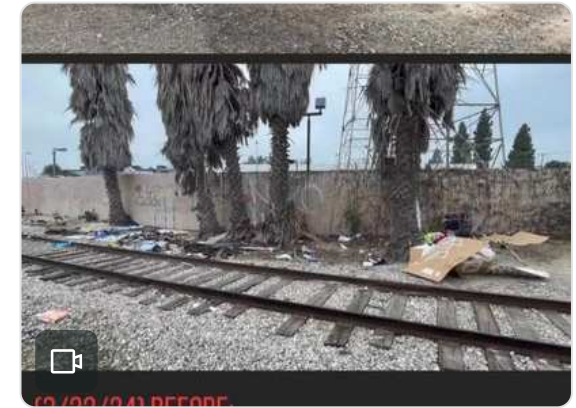
Impressions	—
Reach	—
Engagements	—
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	—



Garden Grove Police Depa...

Sat 3/23/2024 1:15 pm PDT

Outreach & Cleanup Recap #GGPD32 #SRTsaturday #WheresTheSRT #TeamWork Be Well OC Garden Grove...



Video Views	1,482
Impressions	1,482
Reach	1,499
Engagements	37
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	2.5%



Garden Grove Police Depa...

Tue 3/26/2024 9:02 pm PDT

Over the weekend, members of #GardenGrovePD competed in the Annual #BakerToVegas Relay race. This year's...



Video Views	702
Impressions	1,500
Reach	1,489
Engagements	280
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	18.7%



Garden Grove Police Depa...

Wed 3/27/2024 12:01 pm PDT

Please be advised, our Front Desk will be closed today, March 27th, at 4:45 PM, for staff to attend a mandatory meeting....



Impressions	531
Reach	531
Engagements	12
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	2.3%



Post Performance

March 21, 2024 - March 27, 2024




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







Included in this Report

 @CityGardenGrove

 Garden Grove City Hall

 gardengrovecityhall

Post	Published Date	Impressions	Average Reach per Post ▼	Average Potential Reach per Post	Engagement Rate (per Impression)	Engagements	Reactions	Comments	Shares
 Garden Grove City Hall  <p>Single and multi-family residents can properly dispose of bulky items, such as...</p> <p>Post</p>	Mon, Mar 25, 2024 4:27 pm PDT	3,484	3,206	N/A	4.1%	144	44	8	15
 Garden Grove City Hall  <p>You're invited to attend a free self-defense class to learn effective strategies to stay...</p> <p>Post</p>	Thu, Mar 21, 2024 9:55 am PDT	2,764	2,497	N/A	3.4%	93	21	2	12
 gardengrovecityhall  <p>Single and multi-family residents can properly dispose of bulky items, such as...</p> <p>Post</p>	Mon, Mar 25, 2024 4:54 pm PDT	1,140	1,098	N/A	3%	34	18	0	6
 Garden Grove City Hall  <p>Due to rain in the forecast, the annual Eggscavation event scheduled for this Saturday...</p> <p>Post</p>	Wed, Mar 27, 2024 3:46 pm PDT	993	993	N/A	4%	40	8	0	4

Post	Published Date	Impressions	Average Reach per Post ▼	Average Potential Reach per Post	Engagement Rate (per Impression)	Engagements	Reactions	Comments	Shares
 gardengrovecityhall  Due to rain in the forecast, the annual Eggscavation event scheduled for this Saturday,... Post	<u>Wed, Mar 27, 2024</u> 3:54 pm PDT	990	961	N/A	2.9%	29	23	0	6
 gardengrovecityhall  Story	Wed, Mar 27, 2024 4:10 pm PDT	824	783	N/A	0.6%	5	N/A	0	5
 @CityGardenGrove  Due to rain in the forecast, the annual Eggscavation event scheduled for this Sat., 3/30,... Tweet	<u>Wed, Mar 27, 2024</u> 3:54 pm PDT	—	N/A	4,727	—	—	—	—	—

WEEKLY MEMO 03-28-2024

NEWS ARTICLES

The Tribune

March 27, 2024

Civic Center plan wins approval

BYOC TRIBUNE STAFFON MARCH 27, 2024 • ([LEAVE A COMMENT](#))



A BIRD'S EYE view of the planned Civic Center Revitalization project (City of Garden Grove).

By Jim Tortolano/Orange County Tribune

An historic step towards transforming the central area of the city was taken Tuesday night when the Garden Grove City Council approved an agreement of the design and construction of the Civic Center Revitalization Project.

The agreement with Edgemoor Garden Grove Partners LLC will mean a new police headquarters building, an attached parking garage and a new park in the Civic Center.

The vote was 6-0 in favor with Councilmember John O'Neill absent.

According to city staff, the project will cost an estimated \$152 million. The project is generally located in the area bounded by Euclid Street on the west, Stanford Avenue on the north, Acacia Parkway on the south and 7th Street on the east.

“The police building will be a landmark in our community of safety and security,” said Police Chief Amir El-Farra.

A multi-story parking garage will be built at the corner of Euclid and Acacia, connected to the new 103,000-square foot police building. The existing park – which includes ponds and small waterfalls – will be removed and a new 2.7-acre park created in the northeast corner of the new civic center.

All the council members spoke in support of the project, but three – Joe DoVinh, George Brietigam and Kim Nguyen-Penalosa – also suggested that some sort of “water feature” could be added to the project.

Also Tuesday night, the Community Spotlight honored Joe Hammer for being honored as the Cypress College Americana Citizen of the Year for Garden Grove.

The next meeting of the council is set for Tuesday, April 9 at 5:30 p.m.



CONTACT: Deanna Chumacero
Community Services Department
(714) 741-5200 / deannac@ggcity.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media

Wednesday, March 27, 2024



SATURDAY'S EGGSCAVATION EVENT CANCELED DUE TO WEATHER

Due to inclement weather, Garden Grove's annual "Eggscavation" event scheduled for Saturday, March 30, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., at Atlantis Play Center, located at 13630 Atlantis Way in Garden Grove Park, is canceled. Ticket holders will be contacted for ticket refunds.

For current ticket holders, free goody bags of treat-filled eggs and an activity booklet will be available at Atlantis Play Center, located at 13631 Atlantis Way in Garden Grove Park on Thursday, March 28 and Friday, March 29, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Free photo opportunity with the Easter Bunny will also be available for current ticket holders on Saturday, March 30, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Garden Grove Sports and Recreation Center, 13641 Deodara Drive. Attendees are asked to have a copy of their ticket for smooth check-in.

For more information, contact the Community Services Department at (714) 741-5200.

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MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

March 28, 2024

1. Calendar of Events
2. Meeting minutes for the March 7, 2024 Garden Grove Planning Commission Meeting.
3. Cancellation notice for the April 4, 2024 Garden Grove Zoning Meeting.
4. League of California Cities articles from March 22, 2024 to March 28, 2024.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 28, 2024 – May 2, 2024

Thursday	March 28	9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting, CMC
Saturday	March 30	2:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Eggscavation, Atlantis Play Center 13630 Atlantis Way CANCELLED
Thursday	April 4	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC CANCELLED
Friday	April 5		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Tuesday	April 9	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CMC
Thursday	April 11	11:00 a.m.	State of the City, Hyatt Regency Orange County 11999 Harbor Blvd.
		9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting, CMC
		6:00 p.m.	Parks, Recreation and Arts Commission Meeting, CMC CANCELLED
Thursday	April 18	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC \$2 Coaches Casual Dress Day
Friday	April 19		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Tuesday	April 23	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, CMC
Thursday	April 25	9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting, CMC
		6:00 p.m.	Parks, Recreation and Arts Commission SPECIAL Meeting, CMC
Thursday	May 2	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC

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

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 7, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Arbgast
Commissioner Cueva
Commissioner Cunningham
Commissioner Laricchia
Commissioner Lindsay
Commissioner Paredes
Commissioner Ramirez

Absent: Cueva, Ramirez

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Commissioner Paredes

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC – None.

February 15, 2024 MINUTES:

Action: Received and filed.

Motion: Arbgast Second: Laricchia

Ayes: (5) Arbgast, Cunningham, Laricchia, Lindsay, Paredes

Noes: (0) None

Absent: (2) Cueva, Ramirez

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION: The Assistant City Attorney reviewed the Code of Ethics and the Brown Act, which covered pertinent ethics, open meetings, and land use, and also gave a presentation on housing laws and new legislation.

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS: Commissioner Arbgast mentioned the Wharf restaurant on Main Street was having pool tournaments. Staff would look into the matter. Also, staff stated that Smoking BBQ would have a soft opening in March and that Phase 1 of Brookhurst Triangle was complete, Phase 2 was in plan check, and Phases 3 and 4 were yet to come with a mixed-use component as well.

MATTERS FROM STAFF: Staff gave a brief description of future agenda items for the March 21st meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:23 p.m.

Judith Moore
Recording Secretary



GARDEN GROVE

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION
OF THE
GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION
APRIL 4, 2024
REGULAR MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Meeting of the Garden Grove Planning Commission scheduled for Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, is hereby cancelled.

DATED: March 28, 2024

JOSH LINDSAY
CHAIR



Cal Cities moves recovery housing reform forward

Mar 27, 2024

By Caroline Grinder, *legislative affairs lobbyist* and Brian Hendershot, *Cal Cities Advocate managing editor*

Cal Cities is leading the charge on four bills this session that would ensure drug and alcohol recovery facilities follow state regulations and provide high-quality treatment. The measures would address longstanding challenges facing many cities by creating more oversight and transparency that protects residents and holds bad actors accountable.

While Cal Cities has sponsored [similar measures](#) in the past, the Legislature and Governor have yet to pass comprehensive legislation that addresses these concerns.

The challenge

Residential [recovery housing](#) can provide a safe place for people to receive support and ultimately integrate back into their communities. Studies show that when done correctly, residential treatment [can improve patient outcomes](#) and increase completion rates. When done wrong, the opposite can happen. Patients can relapse, become homeless, and in extreme cases, die. Too many facilities in one area can also undercut one of the chief appeals of residential treatment programs: rehabilitation and support services in a therapeutic environment that is part of a community.

The Orange County Register documented many of these issues in a 2017 series titled [Rehab Riviera](#) and in the years since. The five biggest counties in Southern California — most notably Orange County — have nearly [eight times as many facilities](#) as the five biggest counties in Northern California.

Many residents have expressed concerns about the ability of the state to respond to such claims. According to *The OC Register*, there are just under 20 inspectors for the nearly 2,000 rehab centers in California. As the number of facilities continues to rise, the state faces a major hurdle in monitoring and regulating these facilities.

Four possible reforms

Recovery housing can play a key role in supporting vulnerable residents and safer communities. However, the state must also address the need for more oversight, accountability, and transparency. Compliance with state licensing laws is essential to safeguarding every person's well-being and care — both inside and outside recovery homes.

Cal Cities' sponsored measures would address these concerns while upholding the purpose and integrity of neighborhood care programs. A measure introduced by Asm. Laurie Davies and co-sponsored by Cal Cities, [AB 2081](#), would require licensed

treatment facilities to publicly disclose any violations on their website. [AB 2574 \(Valencia\)](#) would codify a 2019 case law that determined that unlicensed recovery homes operating as part of a licensed treatment facility located elsewhere may be considered unlawful business use within a residential zone.

[SB 913 \(Umberg\)](#) would allow cities to collaborate with the state to investigate and enforce existing licensing laws. Under [AB 2121 \(Dixon\)](#), the state would also need to notify cities when it approves a license within their jurisdiction and implement distance requirements consistent with those for other group homes.

[What's next?](#)

Legislators are out of town for spring recess. They return to Sacramento on April 1, marking the start of the legislative cycle in earnest.

Policy committees will also resume in April. These meetings are great opportunities for city officials to voice their support for Cal Cities' recovery housing package. Stay tuned for opportunities to take action and help advance these bills through the legislative cycle. Some sample letters of support for Cal Cities' recovery housing bills are already available online.



State climate laws and disaster preparedness top Cal Cities' environmental agenda

Mar 27, 2024

By *Melissa Sparks-Kranz, legislative affairs lobbyist (environmental quality)* and *Brian Hendershot, Cal Cities Advocate Managing Editor*

Cal Cities has made state climate laws, disaster preparedness, and local climate action its top environmental priorities this year.

The Cal Cities-sponsored [SB 972 \(Min\)](#) would help cities meet their [organic waste diversion goals](#). A [2023 report](#) found that the amount of organic waste in landfills increased by a million tons between 2014 and 2020, a trend at odds with the goal of reducing methane emissions. Legislators have introduced about a dozen bills in response.

Sen. Dave Min plans to amend SB 972 to require CalRecycle to strengthen its assistance efforts for cities actively working to reduce organic waste in landfills and methane emissions. CalRecycle would also need to report back to the Legislature on the organic waste diversion progress and how to better align the law with the state's other climate goals where organic waste could be re-used.

Another Cal Cities-sponsored measure, [AB 2330 \(Holden\)](#), would streamline the process for vegetation removal and fuel management in Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) near urban communities. Long timelines are delaying local efforts in areas most at risk of catastrophic wildfires. The size and severity of wildfires in California have increased, with 20 of the most destructive wildfires occurring over the past four years. AB 2330 would also require the state to overlay existing critical habitat maps with FHSZ maps to identify lands that could benefit from the streamlined permitting process.

Climate action investments

Cal Cities is advocating for a climate bond, with some key caveats. [AB 1567 \(Garcia\)](#) and [SB 867 \(Allen\)](#) — two \$15 billion climate bond bills from 2023 — would invest in a range of areas, including sea level rise, green spaces, water, and extreme heat. Cal Cities has a support if amended position for both bills. It is urging the authors to ensure funding for above- and below-ground water storage, organic waste diversion, zero-emission public fleets, and other critical areas.

Cal Cities anticipates the bond will shrink to about half its current size to move forward. The Governor's proposed budget reflected an 11% reduction of over \$5 billion in climate change programs due to the growing budget deficit. A climate bond would provide the long-term capital and infrastructure funding needed for cities and communities to continue advancing climate programs.

What's next?

Legislators wrapped up the first round of major bill introductions earlier this month and are now out of town for spring recess. They return to Sacramento on April 1, marking the start of the true legislative debate in earnest.

Legislative policy committees will also resume then. These focused meetings are great opportunities for city officials to voice their support and opposition to specific legislation. Cal Cities prepares sample letters of support and opposition for some key bills, which are already [available via the Cal Cities bill search](#).



Cal Cities' advocacy informs upcoming sea level rise science guidance

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By Melissa Sparks-Kranz, *legislative affairs lobbyist (environmental quality)*

The importance of local climate change adaptation policy and practices along California's coast took center stage in recommendations Cal Cities and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) sent this month to the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) as part of the public process to update the state's [draft sea level rise guidance](#). OPC advances science-based policies and actions through partnerships to protect California's coast. The state agency last published the best-available sea level rise guidance in 2018. The [2024 draft guidance](#) updates sea level rise projections through 2150. State, tribal, local, and entities can use the report for coastal adaptation projects, resilience planning, and funding investments.

The Cal Cities [Coastal Cities Group](#) engaged with OPC during the public comment period and provided [written comments](#). Cal Cities and CSAC — representing 61 cities and 19 counties along the coast — urged the agency to better recognize local planning and adaptation efforts as integral to addressing sea level rise.

Cal Cities and CSAC also highlighted several technical concerns. The various sea level rise scenarios are helpful for anticipating climate change. However, the guidance is also deeply uncertain about the projected scenarios and what the climate could be 100 years from now. Cal Cities advocated for clarifications that allow local governments to distinguish how and when to use the projected scenarios for risk assessment, planning, design, and implementation efforts.

Local agencies will take this science and incorporate it into their plans for future infrastructure and housing along the coast. Agency staff anticipates presenting the final guidance to OPC for review and adoption at its [June 4, 2024 meeting](#).