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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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Astrophysicist and alien hunter Dr. Avi Loeb to give talk at Amateur Astronomy Club



NASA/SMAAC

SPACED: Astrophysicist and Harvard professor Dr. Avi Loeb wil share some intriguing theories this Saturday at the SMAAC.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

This Saturday, the Santa Monica Amateur Astronomy Club (SMAAC) welcomes astrophysicist and Harvard professor Dr. Avi Loeb, one of the most prominent proponents of the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence.

Scheduled to take place over Zoom, since Dr. Loeb is based on the East Coast, the talk begins at 1 p.m. Pacific Time and will be available to watch both at home by signing up in advance and at the Wildwood School, 11811 Olympic Blvd, where the Club meets every month. Questions will be answered by Dr. Loeb wherever you watch from, but the real action will be with the group when the discussion will almost certainly continue well into the afternoon.

SEE **ASTRONOMY CLUB** PAGE 15

Council approves DEI study and authorizes added renter protections

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

During the last City Council meeting, Item 5H, originally on the Consent Calendar, was pulled by Councilmember Oscar de la Torre and thus opened up for discussion by the Council. The item dealt with the awarding to Colorado-based BBC Research & Consulting, a privately-held economic and market research consulting firm, the contract for a study to explore barriers to diversity, equity and

SEE **COUNCIL** PAGE 15

History of the housed and unhoused, examined at new museum exhibit



Photo by Thomas Leffler

EXHIBIT: The new UN|HOUSED showcase at the Santa Monica History Museum dives deep into the past, present and future of housing, along with the ongoing homelessness crisis.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

A wealth of information from Santa Monica's past and present is featured at the Santa Monica History Museum, with its latest exhibit continuing the location's trend of telling inclusive stories.

On Feb. 2, the museum officially opened its latest main gallery exhibit "UN|HOUSED," diving deep into the history of Santa Monica housing and spotlighting the ever-present issue of homelessness in the city. The exhibit follows in the footsteps of prior engagements such as Broadway neighborhood-based "Broadway to Freeway" and the LGBTQ+ community tale "Coming Out West" in achieving the goals of Museum Executive Director Rob Schwenker. Schwenker noted that the addendum to the Santa Monica Public Library wants to be a valued member of the education community, drive community engagement in exhibitions, and to "be a place where [they're] fostering a sense of belonging and inclusivity."

"We want to be a place where all Santa Monicans feel like they can be seen, and feel like they can see themselves in the stories that we're telling," Schwenker said.

Crafting the gallery space full of information, memorabilia and interactive features was Museum Curator and Collections Manager Anne Wallentine, who said conversations about spotlighting housing began a year ago since the issue is "one of the most important" facing Santa Monica and the broader Los Angeles area. Through different sections of the gallery, the city's history is told from the Tongva people to its modern housing climate.

"We wanted to take that look back at the history of housing and use that subject as a lens into, what makes a home? What are the different styles of architecture? What are some of the policies that have shaped why people have been able to get homes or not in Santa Monica, as well as elsewhere?" Wallentine said.

She added that the exhibition is formed by those questions and

SEE **EXHIBIT** PAGE 12



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Santa Monica shutterbug snaps every step of Endeavour's adventure



Stephen Silberkraus

FINAL FRONTIER: With the orbiter in its "take off" position, it will be securely attached to the external tank and booster "stack."

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Space Shuttle Orbiter Endeavour rolled off the NASA production line in April 1991. It flew a total of 25 missions from 1992 to 2011, clocking over 7,000 hours in space, flying 122,883,151 miles and completing 4,671 orbits of the Earth.

It's named after the Royal Navy full-rig research vessel HMS Endeavour, the first European ship to reach Australia, with Captain James Cook going ashore at what is now known as Botany Bay. This is why the name is spelled in the British manner, rather than the American spelling.

Following its decommission, more than 20 organizations submitted proposals to NASA for the permanent display of an orbiter and NASA announced that Endeavour would be gifted to the California Science Center in Los Angeles. After low level flyovers above landmarks across the city, Endeavour was delivered to Los Angeles International Airport on September 21, 2012. The orbiter was tentatively transported through the streets of Inglewood and Ladera Heights three weeks later to its final destination at the California Science Center in Exposition Park.

Space buff Stephen Silberkraus was there at every single step of the way. From the moment the Endeavour was moved out of the Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB) at Kennedy Space Center (KSC) and prepared for the flight to the West Coast, to actual wheels up on the specially modified 747 transport plane, all the way to touchdown of that aircraft at LAX and even the slow slog through the streets of South Los Angeles, Silberkraus was there.

"There have been lots of people photographing every stage of Endeavour's journey. There were people there for take off, there was a team at the airport for the landing and of course later there were lots for the journey through the city and even for the installation at the Science Center. But as far as I'm aware, I'm the only one that's been at every single stage," Silberkraus said.

"I was at the VAB, in the Orbiter Processing Facility, I walked with her onto the runway and stayed while she was attached to the 747 carrier. Then I jumped on a flight to California and I was there on the tarmac when it landed and was taken to the United hanger to be prepped for the drive to Downtown and then again when it was lifted out of the Center and then repositioned onto the external tank," he said.

What makes this story all the more fascinating is that Silberkraus is very much an amateur photographer. In fact, he says, it's only through sheer good fortune that this has been possible as his career couldn't be more different to that of an aspiring aviation aficionado.

That said, the space industry has always been an influence in his life. His father was an engineer for Douglas and manufactured components for the S-IVB stage of the Saturn V rocket that took men to the Moon. This was the third stage that contained the Lunar Module during launch. After discovering he was too tall to be an astronaut, Silberkraus became a chemical engineer and relocated to Henderson, Nevada. One thing led to another and he met his future wife, invested significantly in property and was even elected as a Nevada State assemblyman, representing Henderson and Clark County.

"Oh, I wanted to be an astronaut, like so many other kids, but I was convinced I was going to be an astronaut," Silberkraus laughs. "I went to Space Camp, then Space Academy and I was already leaning towards engineering, you know, I had everything

SEE **SPACE SHUTTLE** PAGE 6

Local Latina voice channels childhood for McDonald's movie contest



Photo Courtesy Marissa Díaz

FILM: Marissa Díaz is currently a finalist in the McDonald's Spotlight Dorado contest for her film "Fancy Florez's Summer Staycation."

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

One of the world's colossal food conglomerates is aiming to raise the profile of Latino filmmakers and a local voice was eager to lend her unique blend of heartfelt comedy to the nationwide search.

Santa Monica resident Marissa Díaz is on the cusp of clinching an honor from fast food giant McDonald's, as she was recently selected as one of three finalists in the restaurant chain's Spotlight Dorado short film contest. Receiving a $75,000 filmmaking grant by the company, Díaz's film "Fancy Florez's Summer Staycation" is one of three projects currently being voted on, with the winner moving on to shoot a McDonald's commercial promoting next year's contest.

The film is inspired by her childhood in the San Antonio area, where she first widened her interest in the movie and television craft, discovering her life calling.

"I think it was part just loving cameras and loving to take photos and loving to take home videos, I thought that was so fun," Díaz said of her southern Texas upbringing. "Really just making stuff I thought was so exciting ... I remember seeing something like 'Goodfellas' or 'Requiem for a Dream' when I was in high school and just thinking it was the most amazing work of art I'd ever seen, I'd never seen anything like it. It's a world I've never experienced, people I've never seen before [and] I think [filmmaking] was a way for me to look into the lives of others in places I've never been."

Her journey took her to places like New York City and eventually Los Angeles, interning for the likes of the Bravo television network and film companies including Fox Searchlight and MGM. Díaz's biggest break of her young career was assisting Lena Dunham on the fifth season of HBO show "Girls," eventually staying with Dunham for seven years and moving to Santa Monica to run the Los Angeles office of Dunham's production company, Good Thing Going. She added that she fell "totally in love" with the city, wishing to stay local for the foreseeable future.

Branching out on her own the past few years; Díaz went on to produce 16 episodes of the HBO Max show "Generation" as well as the Netflix documentary "Orgasm Inc: The Story of OneTaste." Now with considerable experience under her belt, she embraced her independence and willingness to tell important Latina stories with "Staycation."

"I think so many stories that exist right now within the Latina community are about folks that live in Los Angeles and in New York and while I do live in Los Angeles, I think it's important to bring a voice to the people that live in the middle of the country," she said. "I think those stories haven't been told yet, and I'm excited to be a part of telling those stories."

While she notes that she "loves" that stories based on the coastal cities exist, she wants to "open up" other Latino existences, since the community is entrenched "everywhere." She particularly puts a focus on her Texas roots due to what she deemed "tough opinions" about immigration and the very existence of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans in the state.

"I think [it's] a contentious place to grow up, in a place that's so conservative, and [a lot] of people don't feel that Mexicans should be welcomed in a land that was once Mexico," Díaz added. "I think that breeds a certain culture that we don't see in [Los Angeles]."

Though the area has some rough edges, "Staycation" keeps things light, focusing on the titular Fancy Florez and her quest for a summer of poolside solitude. She wrote the character of Fancy by channeling what it would be like to "go back in time and be a 10-year-old who has all of the knowledge and confidence" she now possesses.

"The childhood dream, the person I wish that I was when I was 10, I wrote about her,"

SEE **FILM** PAGE 11



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **59.4**

FRIDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 2-3ft
Thigh to waist

Fun zone blend of shorter and mid period WNW swells. Morning winds look ok. Early AM high tide slows most spots.

SATURDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 2-3ft
Thigh to waist

Fun zone blend of shorter and mid period WNW swells. New SSW swell filling in as well. Favorable/light wind looking likely, just work around the deep AM high tide. The points will improve later in the day.

Weather

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 58. North northeast wind 10 to 15 mph becoming west southwest in the afternoon.
Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 46. North wind around 10 mph.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 63. Breezy, with a north wind 10 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
Saturday Night: Clear, with a low around 45.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2024/02/09	Fri	02:01 AM	1.57	L
2024/02/09	Fri	08:16 AM	6.80	H
2024/02/09	Fri	3:23 PM	-1.77	L
2024/02/09	Fri	9:42 PM	4.29	H
2024/02/10	Sat	02:49 AM	1.21	L
2024/02/10	Sat	09:00 AM	6.70	H
2024/02/10	Sat	3:58 PM	-1.58	L
2024/02/10	Sat	10:16 PM	4.59	H
2024/02/11	Sun	03:39 AM	0.93	L
2024/02/11	Sun	09:46 AM	6.26	H
2024/02/11	Sun	4:33 PM	-1.16	L
2024/02/11	Sun	10:52 PM	4.86	H
2024/02/12	Mon	04:32 AM	0.77	L
2024/02/12	Mon	10:34 AM	5.55	H
2024/02/12	Mon	5:07 PM	-0.55	L
2024/02/12	Mon	11:30 PM	5.06	H
2024/02/13	Tue	05:31 AM	0.73	L
2024/02/13	Tue	11:27 AM	4.63	H
2024/02/13	Tue	5:41 PM	0.20	L

Daily Lottery

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 2/7
12 21 62 67 69
Power#: 17
Jackpot: 248 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 2/6
2 10 31 44 57
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: 394 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 2/7
25 34 39 42 45
Mega#: 22
Jackpot: 8 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/7
2 14 27 37 38

Daily 3
Draw Date: 2/7
EVENING: 9 5 0
Draw Date: 2/7
MIDDAY: 5 8 0

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 2/7
1st: 07 - Eureka
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:40.58

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Santa Monica Daily Press

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID # 4478 Emergency Generator Maintenance & Repair Services

Submission Deadline is March 7, 2024 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: OpenGov (https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit electronic bids for the:

Airport Mechanical Equipment Replacement
SP2694

Bids will only be accepted through the CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL, OpenGov Procurement or https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. They must be received by the specified date and time. Late bids will not be accepted. Please allow sufficient time for uploading of documents. The bid opening will be electronic, all submitted bids will be viewable by the public via OpenGov Procurement immediately after bid close time.

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK:
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Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. The Contractor is required to have **C-10, C-20, A or B License** at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

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Santa Monica Daily Press
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If food be the music of love, eat on this Valentine's Day



Photo Courtesy Satdha

VALENTINE'S: Thai-based cuisine spot Satdha has four new dishes as part of a Valentine's Day menu, including Hor Mok, a red lentil curry quiche entree.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica's penchant for great food and awe-inspiring atmosphere comes particularly in handy for February's premiere holiday.

Couples are currently making their plans for Valentine's Day, this upcoming Wednesday and the area's eateries are cooking up intimate and delicious experiences for the occasion. Several of the city's finest food spots have multiple courses in store with pre-fixed menus, along with options that go beyond the dinner itself.

The options begin with two oceanfront hotel favorites, the Fairmont Miramar Hotel and Bungalows and Hotel Casa del Mar. The Fairmont's festivities start with forging female friendships in a special "Galentine's Day" tea service on Saturday and Sunday at 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. Guests will enter the Library and Ocean Terrace to sip and dine on a three-course menu featuring scones, pastries and finger sandwiches paired with a selection of Lot 35 loose-leaf teas. Tickets are $95 and can be purchased online.

Three different restaurants reside within the Fairmont, each with their own offerings on Valentine's Day itself. The Lobby Lounge will have a three-course pre-fixe and à la carte menu with chicken and truffle agnolotti, salmon wellington with crab ragout, and beef stripling and seared scallop surf and turf on the menu. FIG Restaurant's seasonal menu offers specials like slow-cooked Octopus, while the intimate Soko Sushi Bar features the 6-course Omakase menu.

Hotel Casa del Mar invites locals to the "Romance by the Sea" dinner with a welcome glass of champagne and amuse-bouche, appetizers like oysters and kampachi crudo, entree options like Chilean sea bass or Ibérico pork chop, and dessert choices such as banana cream or Cupid's Cake. The dinner is $125 per person.

Throughout February, the hotel is also offering a "Romantic Escape" overnight package including a bottle of champagne on ice upon arrival and a $200 food and beverage credit for dining. The package also guarantees an ocean view table at Mediterranean eatery Terrazza.

Restaurant experiences continue with a four-course pre-fixe menu at Water Grill, curated by executive chefs for $135 per person with an optional wine pairing for $50. Menu highlights for guests are the half-dozen oyster sampler with more than 15 different varieties available, entrees like wild North American hard-shell lobster, and dessert like New York cheesecake.

Thai-based cuisine spot Satdha has a specially curated menu by Chef Gunn Pankum, running from Friday through Valentine's Day. The menu has four new dishes, including Hor Mok, a red lentil curry quiche entree steamed in a banana leaf mold and served with khao tang, a crispy rice cracker.

Another option is Mediterranean restaurant Mon Ami, which is offering a four-course menu for $89 per person, plus a Mediterranean wine pairing for an additional $29 per person. Course choices include a choice of crab cake or truffle risotto, pan seared scallops or petite filet mignon au poivre and a dessert decision between baklava and sorbet.

thomas@smdp.com

Los Angeles' one weird trick to build affordable housing at no public cost

BEN CHRISTOPHER
Special to the Daily Press

The seven-story apartment building planned for West Court Street on the south side of Los Angeles's Echo Park neighborhood doesn't make sense, not if you know anything about affordable housing in California.

All 190 of the proposed units will be reserved for people making under $100,000, which in Los Angeles makes this an "affordable housing" project.

But unlike the vast majority of affordable developments that have been proposed in California in recent memory, no taxpayer dollars are allotted to build the thing. Especially in the state's expensive coastal cities, the term "unsubsidized 100% affordable project" is an oxymoron, but Los Angeles is now approving them by the hundreds.

That's thanks to an executive order Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, signed in December 2022, shortly after being sworn into office. In the year and change since, the city's planning department has received plans for more than 16,150 affordable units, according to filings gathered by the real estate data company, ATC Research, and analyzed by CalMatters. That's more than the total number of approved affordable units in Los Angeles in 2020, 2021 and 2022 combined.

The city has also been the subject of at least two lawsuits and a multi-front political battle over whether and how to turn the mayoral decree — which is only in effect as long as Bass wants it to be and barring a court's decision to end it — into a permanent fixture of Los Angeles housing policy.

The policy was designed to fast-track the approval process for 100% affordable projects. What it perhaps was not designed to do — but has done at a scale that few anticipated — is allow private developers, who rarely dabble in affordable housing and simply look to make as much money as humanly possible from building new homes, to take a second look at a set of state laws that give added benefits to entirely affordable projects.

Throw those two policies together and building new apartments for working class Angelenos is suddenly a booming business.

A 'MONUMENTAL SHIFT' IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING POLICY

Andrew Slocum and Terry Harris, the developer pair behind the seven-story project on West Court Street, represent the type of developer suddenly wading into Los Angeles' affordable housing market. They aren't leading nonprofits or charities. They don't run websites with feel-good mission statements. Both come from the proudly profit-seeking world of "luxury" housing development.

"We are mission driven in the sense that we want to provide housing," said Slocum. But he's pursuing this affordable project, along with two others, because it "made more financial sense."

Harris, a former college basketball player pursuing a post-athletic career in Southern California real estate, put it more bluntly.

"I'm just trying to be as greedy as possible," he said.

Though publicly available data on financing is sparse, an early analysis of the program by the pro-housing advocacy group Abundant Housing LA estimated that roughly three-fourths of affordable units proposed through the policy are doing so without any public money. In some cases, developers, including Harris, are opting to scrap proposed "luxury" apartment projects entirely, re-submitting those plans as 100% affordable.

It's hard to overstate just how weird all of this is.

"I don't think anybody saw this coming," said Scott Epstein, policy director at Abundant Housing LA and one of the authors of that analysis. "When it comes to 100% privately invested projects…I don't think we've ever seen anything close to the magnitude that that has been unleashed."

Between the extraordinary cost of building new apartment buildings in coastal California and the money that a developer can recoup through legally capped rents, traditional affordable housing projects almost inevitably run a sizable financing gap. That gap is almost always filled by public subsidy. A large project might require half a dozen loans, grants and tax bill write-offs from local, state and federal housing agencies. Most of these sources of public finance come with strings attached, which can saddle projects with yet higher costs and further delays.



Photo by Rod Lamkey, CNP/Sipa USA via Reuters

HOUSING: Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass speaks during the ninth Annual Conference of the African American Mayors Association at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington D.C., on April 21, 2023.

Los Angeles' new breed of affordable housing circumvents all of that — at least on paper. None of these units have actually been built yet. But talk to supportive policy advocates and industry players in Los Angeles and you quickly run out of new synonyms for "unprecedented."

"This is clearly a monumental shift in how affordable housing is developed in the state," said Mahdi Manji, policy director at Inner City Law Center, a legal service provider and affordable housing advocacy group in Los Angeles' Skid Row. "We just haven't seen this before."

BUILDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN TWO STEPS

Privately funded developers hoping to crack Los Angeles' affordable housing market tend to follow a familiar pattern.

First, they evoke Bass' order — "Executive Directive 1" — to guarantee and speed up the process.

The order sets a shot-clock of 60 days for the city's planning department to approve or reject a submitted project. As long as that project meets a basic set of criteria, it must be approved. That means no city council hearings, no neighborhood outreach meetings and no environmental impact studies required.

It also means less time getting a project green-lit.

"To go from acquiring a lot to putting a shovel in the ground in less than a year is kind of unheard of," said Steven Scheibe, a small-scale developer working on his first entirely affordable project through Executive Directive 1.

Less time spent paying off debt, making payroll and ensuring skittish investors that the project is a sure thing saves projects on the front end.

Then comes the next step. Most so-called "ED1 projects" also make use of a hodgepodge of statewide "density bonus" laws that allow developers of 100% affordable housing projects to pack far more units and floors onto a given lot than would otherwise be allowed under local zoning rules. These laws also let affordable developers pick and choose from a wide range of goodies and freebies that cut costs further and allow for yet denser development. That means no parking spots, limited open space, smaller rooms and fewer trees.

All those added units mean developers can set the rents lower and still pay themselves back for the cost of construction and then some.

Together the executive directive and the density bonus form a necessary "one-two punch" to make these projects work, said Charly Ligety, a director of research and development at Housing On Merit, a nonprofit that invests in affordable housing projects. "It's, one, 'Oh, I can put 80 units on a single family plot…' and then, two, '…and I can get it approved quickly."

And while Bass' order and the state's density bonus laws are pulling privately funded developers into the suddenly profitable world of affordable housing development, other economic forces are pushing them out of the high-end luxury market: High interest rates have made waiting around on municipal approvals that may never come an especially costly proposition. Los Angeles' recently enacted tax on multimillion-dollar real estate transactions, the so-called mansion tax, has also slowed the fancy apartment building business, said Ligety.

As a result, he said, "market rate developers are discovering affordable housing for the first time."

HOW AFFORDABLE IS AFFORDABLE HOUSING?

Just because something is "affordable" in Los Angeles doesn't mean it's cheap.

To qualify as a 100% affordable housing project under the city of Los Angeles' streamlined treatment, a studio can go for roughly $1,800. Compare that to a traditional publicly subsidized project which could charge as little at $650 for the same unit.

And you can bet this studio doesn't have a parking spot.

Developers flocking to the city's new program are essentially "making a bet," said Gary Benjamin, a land-use consultant who advises developers on how to navigate the city's planning and permitting bureaucracies. The bet is that housing costs are so astronomically out of reach in Los Angeles that even someone making north of $70,000 per year would jump at the chance to rent "a more bare bones product without all the bells and whistles" for what could amount to a modest rent reduction.

That bet is still very much in play. It will be months before the first of the apartments approved under Executive Directive 1 are tenant-ready.

"This is just a whole new product specifically catering to the middle-lower end of the market. That just wasn't a thing that people were doing before," said Benjamin.

In the meantime, the rush of planned development has promised the demolition of existing buildings across the city. In many cases, those are commercial buildings or unoccupied single family homes and both city and state law require developers to pay displaced tenants' relocation costs and to offer them a right to return to the new building. Even so, the planning blitz has at least some low-income Angelenos worried that they will be evicted to make way for "affordable" units that they themselves might not be able to easily afford.

In many parts of the country — and even once upon a time in Los Angeles — the mere fact that a developer could successfully build an apartment building within the price range of someone earning just under the area's typical income would not be cause for celebration — and wouldn't need an emergency declaration to bring about.

"It shouldn't be odd" that a developer might choose to build an $1,800 per month studio without taxpayer support, said Manji with the Inner City Law Center. "It's only odd because we've made it odd."

Though his organization principally advocates for unhoused Angelenos, Manji said he supports the policy, even if units being proposed are "not housing for homeless folks."

Allowing private developers to serve lower- to middle-income renters frees up scant financial subsidies and rental vouchers for people who most desperately need the help, he said. That's especially important this year when the governor is proposing cuts in state affordable housing funding.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING INCENTIVES

Los Angeles' city council is currently mulling a permanent ordinance that would codify the mayor's signature affordable housing policy and put it on a firmer legal footing. The council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee is expected to take it up in the coming weeks.

Timing may be of the essence.

Bass' order is the target of two lawsuits from Fix The City, a local nonprofit that has regularly contested the city's land use decisions going on two decades. In both suits, the group disputes the legal validity of a sweeping 13-month-long housing policy

SEE **HOUSING** PAGE 12

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Re; SMMUSD and Fair Elections

OSCAR DE LA TORRE

Political representation is always a foundational question at the core of a genuine assessment of our democracy. Which system of elections provides the best opportunity for historically marginalized communities to have a voice in our government is at the center of a legal and policy battle in Santa Monica Malibu USD that will be heard this Saturday February 10 th at 9:30am at a meeting of the LA County on School District Organization in the new SMMUSD District Office on 4 th St. This committee has the legal authority to implement a change in school district elections, and we strongly believe that a history of disparities in public school resources and educational outcomes is evidence enough to change the status quo.

As a child growing up in Santa Monica I knew that disparities existed within the city but also within the school system. Growing up in the Pico Neighborhood I attended all southside schools including Will Rogers and John Adams Middle School (where my son Fidel currently serves as student body president). I graduated from Santa Monica High in 1990 and had the honor of being elected student body president by my peers. I went from being a GATE "gifted student" in the 6 th grade to being suspended three times in middle school. I saw many in my community, including siblings get pushed out of Samohi or end up at the continuation high school called Olympic High. Frankly, if it wasn't for several dedicated teachers, coaches and counselors that took an interest in my academic success, I would have surely failed. As a student I experienced the impact of systemic racism in southside schools with a lack proper equipment and supplies.

Educational disparities between North Side and South Side schools are historic. Despite years of parents and students protesting for change and district plans, the achievement gap relegating low income, Black and Latino students to an inferior position academically have not seen much improvement.

Without an adequate and consistent representative voice on the school board, communities historically marginalized can speak out but ultimately lack the power to effectuate the change that will deliver positive educational results for their students. Like many other places throughout the world, the wealthier North Side of Santa Monica has monopolized the power by having a majority of seats throughout the school districts existence.

After graduating with my MA from the University of Texas I returned to Santa Monica and I opened the Pico Youth & Family Center. Soon after we opened, we had Black, Latino, Asian and White mothers calling out SMMUSD for discriminatory practices in the application of suspensions. A new parent group calling themselves Mothers for Justice was formed and they protested school board meetings and produced the report: Institutionalized Racism in SMMUSD: Its impact on Students of Color. The report documented how Black and Latino boys were disproportionately being suspended as a form of discipline and it showed that students who are suspended have a higher drop out/push out rate. My decision to run for a school board seat in 2002 was in response to MFJ's first protest at SMMUSD holding signs that read: Education, Not Incarceration and Suspend Racism, Not Students! When I ran for school board in 2002 I raised $14,000 and won a 4 th place position out of 4 seats open. Two elections later candidates were raising $98,000 to compete for a school board seat. Running for any seat throughout the entire school district is much more expensive than running for a seat within a defined trustee-area. This is another reason why many of us support trustee area elections. Trustee area elections makes democracy more accessible and increases the influence of voters at the neighborhood level and decreases the influence of special interests and big money in school board elections.

In total I served eighteen years on the SMMUSD Board. While on the school board I quickly learned that the power on the school board was controlled by a majority of the Board members that lived north of Wilshire. In fact, since the creation of Santa Monica Malibu School District the political power has been monopolized by School Board members living north of Wilshire. No wonder, it took 12 years to get one course in ethnic studies and even though the school board voted to make ethnic studies a graduation requirement in 2024, the school district has not delivered. As the achievement gap persists, the School Board led by northside leadership voted to eliminate Headstart, a program designed to help prepare young children from low-income families to succeed in school. Many studies have shown that lower income students and students of color have fallen behind due to COVID school shutdowns. Up until recently our school board denied that this was a problem. Illustrating the inequality in treatment and representation, the school board spent millions on the purchase of a new district central office while they closed John Muir elementary school for mold and construction defects.

Those who control a majority of seats on the School Board have the power over the budget and every decision made by school administrators. The years of exclusive governance where the Pico Neighborhood and families on the Southside in general lacked political representation was by design. It was systemic. Any remedy must also be systemic, and we have an opportunity to correct a historic wrong. We invite Santa Monicans who believe that we can do better than the status quo to join us in advocating for fairness in our election system to give fair representation to all neighborhoods and all students that make up SMMUSD.

The LA County Committee on School District Organization has the authority to change our system of elections and they need to hear from us, especially those of us who want a better education system that delivers positive results for our communities. We want to have consistent representation that is accountable to our community not any special interest groups that bank roll their campaigns.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Why I'm NOT voting for George Gascon

CLAUDIA KANNE

George Gascon is a master of "sleight of hand."

Stop George Gascon before he does this to you!

Attorney Bonnie Roadarmel, the wife of Paul Monroe Roadarmel, a Supervising Deputy Attorney General of California who retired just before her arrest, embezzled over $500,000 from my 89-year-old husband and me. Decades before the discovery of the theft, Roadarmel offered to help my husband with his finances but she stole a significant sum from us. We don't know how much in total because we only recovered documents from the past 10 years.

According to the Complaint, in 2023 she was arrested on nine felony charges of grand theft and elder abuse. She was held on $600,000.00 bail! Great job, LAPD West Division officers and detectives but no thanks to George Gascon.

George Gascon (the buck stops here) had a different agenda. His "sleight of hand" at the DA's office put the Magic Castle to shame. It's not just anyone who can make a potentially huge amount of prison time disappear. The DA's office under George Gascon proved once again he will fight for the criminal and destroy the victim, just as he destroyed my 89 year old husband and me!

Bonnie Roadarmel took a no contest plea to two counts of felony elder abuse but her prison time was plea bargained away like a bad dream.

At least one of the elder abuse charges should have required prison time but according to the deal, "EXECUTION OF SENTENCE - PRISON SUSPENDED." In other words, no prison time for either count.

As for felony counts 3,4,5,6,7,8 & 9, dismissed due to the plea negotiation. Again, NO PRISON.

Once the case got to the DA's office, nine (9) Felony Grand Theft Elder Abuse Charges pretty much evaporated into thin air as to any prison time.

There was a similar yet much less serious case (a little over $200,000 stolen, NOT OVER $500,000!) under Jackie Lacey handled by the same DDA as Bonnie's case and that woman was sentenced to eight years in prison. But then, again, that woman wasn't the wife of a Supervising Deputy Attorney General of CA. As if that had anything to do with anything?

Regarding Bonnie's sentence, unless you consider 90 days in jail equal punishment under the law, something's fishy here. Despite the fact that Gascon (the buck stops here) swept Bonnie's crimes under the carpet, the Supreme Court of California took her crimes very seriously. We just saw on the Internet that the California Supreme Court disbarred her this month. Why then, did Gascon give her a slap on the wrist with a feather? I think we know why. Because he could! Well, it's time to say he can't! Los Angeles County deserves better. IF GASCON WINS, WE ONLY HAVE OURSELVES TO BLAME. I'm a Democrat but face it, the Democrats are splitting the vote and by doing that they're handing the win to Gascon. It's not just me saying that. It's all over the Internet. I'm voting for Nathan Hochman. You can read the article on our embezzlement that was printed before her early release online at https://www.sbsun.com/2023/06/23/oc-lawyer-embezzled-500000-from-89-year-old-former-la-boss-and-wife/

SPACE SHUTTLE

FROM PAGE 2

going for me," he said, before adding, "And then I hit a growth spurt in middle school and I hit 6'4", which is too tall to be considered for an astronaut."

Silberkraus says that he very much hopes he will be able to photograph future Artemis missions and document mankind's continued efforts to take the human race into space on a more permanent basis. In the meantime, he will be snapping the Endeavour during each and every stage of the launch stack assembly.

Called "Go for Stack" the change in the orbiter's nature of display is part of the future Samuel Oschin Air & Space Center (named after a Los Angeles entrepreneur and philanthropist), which is currently under construction. Sadly, Endeavour will be off display for several years, until the Air and Space Center opens to the public. The new, vertical display will be 20 stories high, mounted on seismic isolator pads and represents a technical challenge that has never been undertaken outside of a NASA facility.

Endeavour will be attached to the last remaining flight-certified external fuel tank and two solid rocket boosters to form the only full Space Transportation System stack display. The other orbiters, Atlantis (on display at KSC), Discovery (at the Smithsonian in Washington DC) and Enterprise (at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in New York) are not displayed in a full pre-launch position.

The Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center will dramatically expand the footprint and impact of the California Science Center, adding 200,000 square feet of space for exhibits, events and educational programs. It will include three multi-level galleries – Aviation, Space and Shuttle – spanning four floors and covering 100,000 square feet of exhibit space. The rest will be taken up with new special exhibits and an Events Center that will host the Center's exciting lineup of popular changing installations.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

HOA HOMEFRONT

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Fair Housing Laws – Helping Those Who Need It

KELLY G. RICHARDSON, ESQ. CCAL

California and federal law provide important protections for disabled persons. Morally and legally, doing what we reasonably can to help the disabled live as normally as reasonably possible is the right thing to do.

However, requesting residents and responding HOAs don't always fully understand the legal requirements. HOAs are "housing accommodations" under the Fair Housing laws and must comply with them.

California in 2020 adopted Fair Housing Regulations and in 2022 renamed the former Department of Fair Employment and Housing as the Civil Rights Department. The Department has expanded its housing investigation and enforcement staff in recent years. HOA residents, boards, and managers are affected by the regulations regarding disability accommodation.

Here are 11 tips regarding disability accommodation requests, noting the applicable regulations (California Code of Regulations Title 2, Division 4.1, Chapter 5, Subchapter 7).

1. Requests for accommodation of a disability must be kept confidential by the HOA board and manager. (Regulations Section 12176(b)). This means that such discussions by the board must be only in closed session.

2. HOAs are expected to follow an "interactive process" regarding accommodation requests. (Regs. Section 12177) This means that the HOA is expected to dialogue with the requesting resident regarding the requested accommodation.

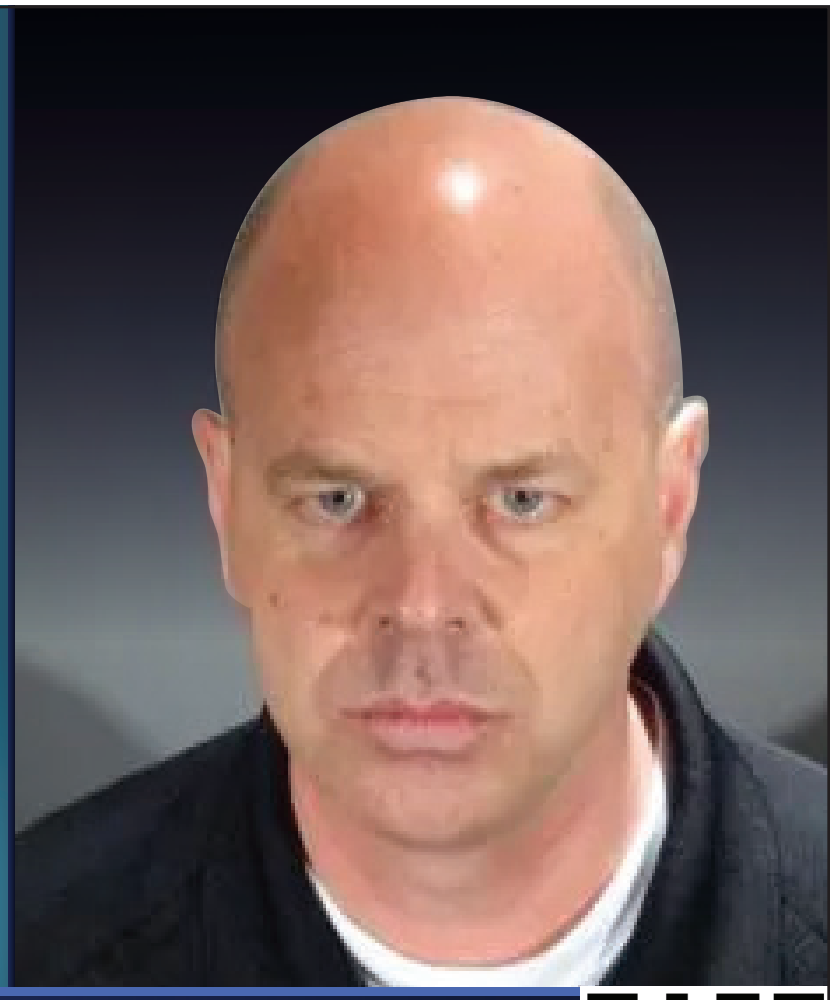
3. If the disability is obvious or already known to exist, the HOA may not require further information regarding the disability. (Regs. 12178(b)). If the disability is not known, the information provided to the HOA should describe and explain how the accommodation will help the resident. (Regs. 12178(c)).

4. The accommodation may be

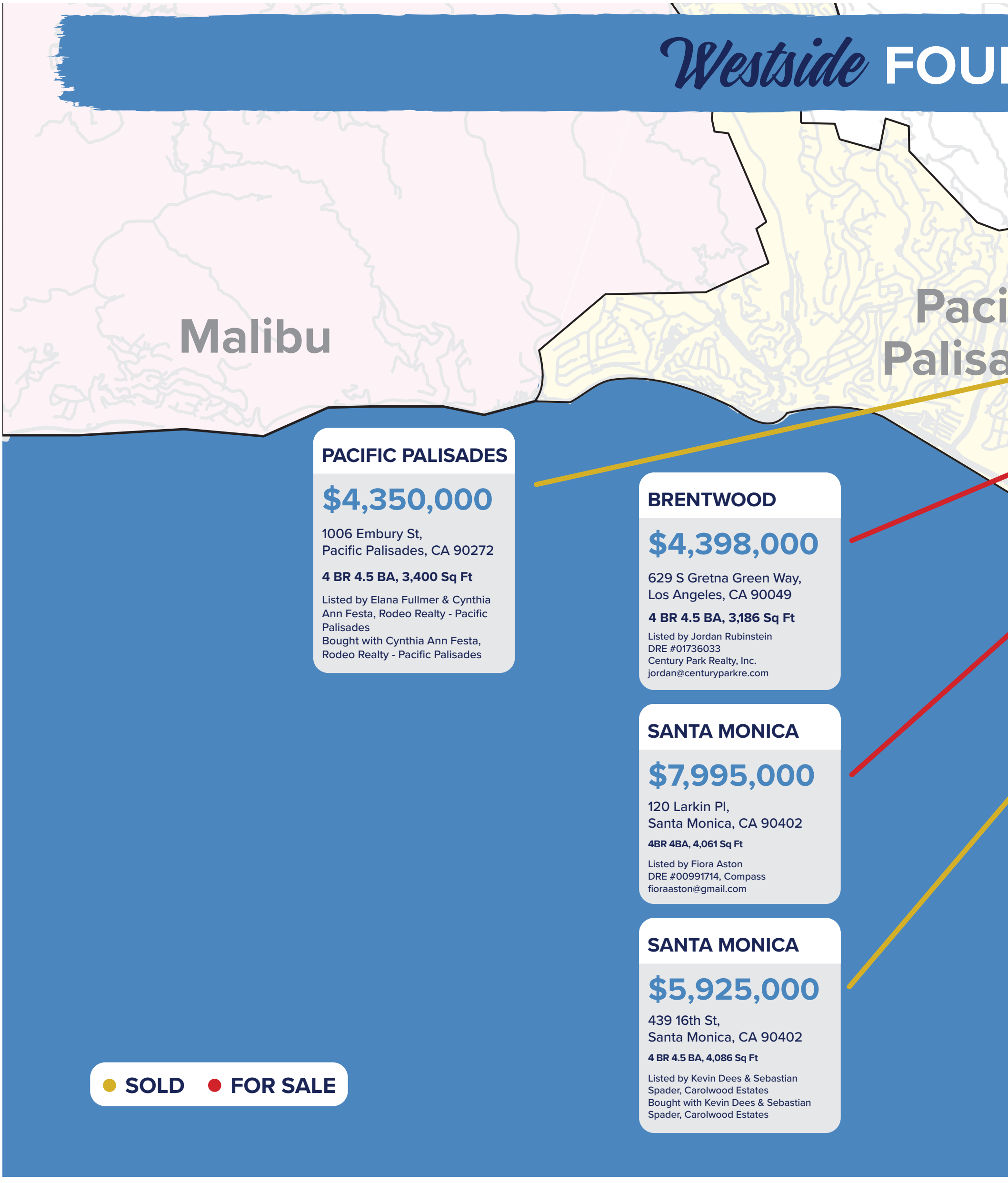
SEE **HOA** PAGE 12

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SEEKING ERIC ULLER TIPSTERS
Do you have information that can shed light on how Eric Uller of Santa Monica's Police Activities League (PAL) was able to sexually abuse hundreds of children in the late 1980s to early 2000s?
- Why were reports that Uller was sexually abusing children ignored?
- Who at PAL or the Santa Monica Police Department had information?
- How was he able to masquerade as a police officer?
Please contact our firm. Your identity will remain confidential. Help fill in the missing pieces of this puzzle so that we can understand how this happened - for almost 30 years.

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Westside FOU



PACIFIC PALISADES

$4,350,000

1006 Embury St,
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

4 BR 4.5 BA, 3,400 Sq Ft

Listed by Elana Fullmer & Cynthia Ann Festa, Rodeo Realty - Pacific Palisades
Bought with Cynthia Ann Festa, Rodeo Realty - Pacific Palisades

BRENTWOOD

$4,398,000

629 S Gretna Green Way,
Los Angeles, CA 90049

4 BR 4.5 BA, 3,186 Sq Ft

Listed by Jordan Rubinstein
DRE #01736033
Century Park Realty, Inc.
jordan@centuryparkre.com

SANTA MONICA

$7,995,000

120 Larkin Pl,
Santa Monica, CA 90402

4BR 4BA, 4,061 Sq Ft

Listed by Fiora Aston
DRE #00991714, Compass
fioraaston@gmail.com

SANTA MONICA

$5,925,000

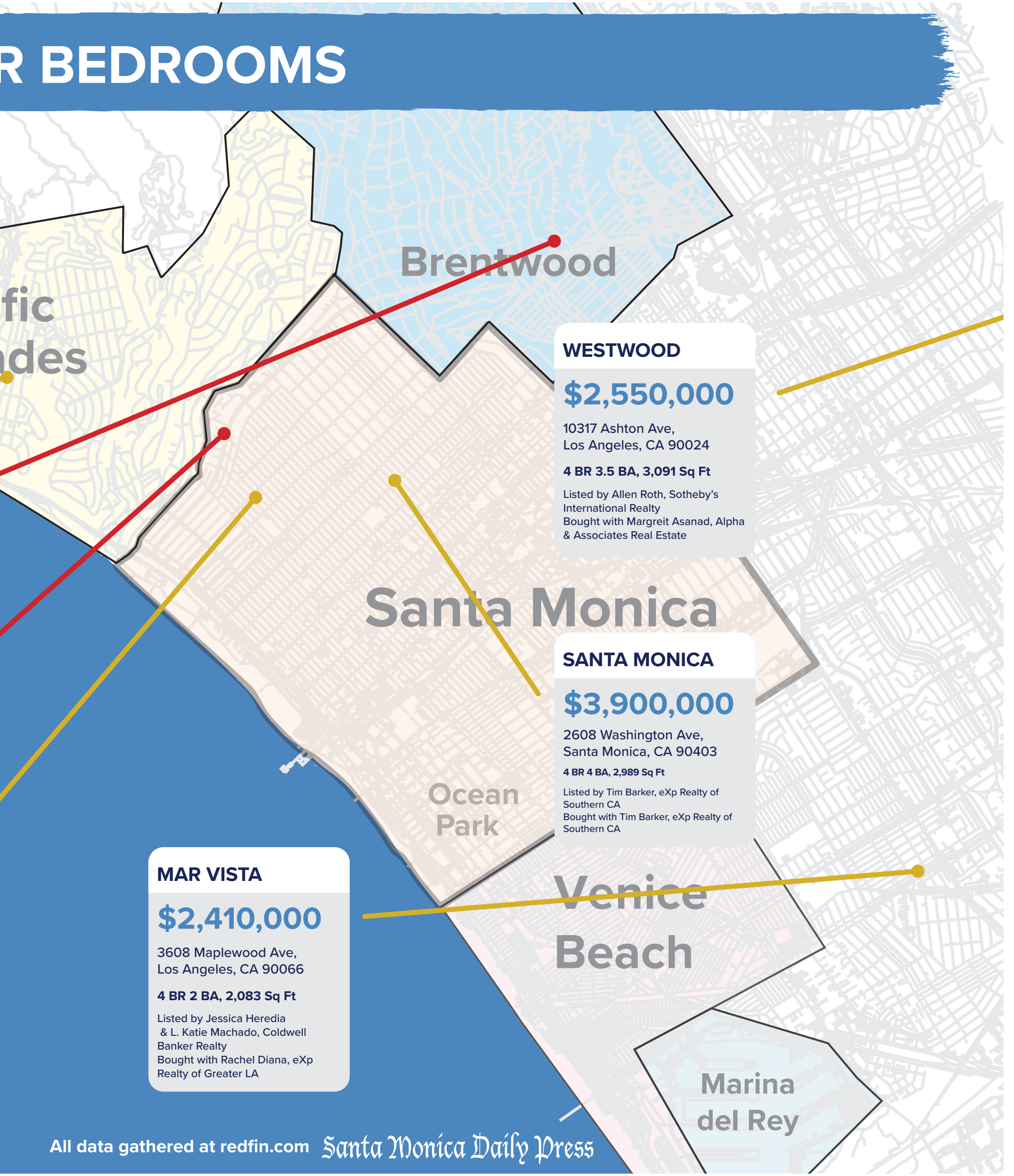
439 16th St,
Santa Monica, CA 90402

4 BR 4.5 BA, 4,086 Sq Ft

Listed by Kevin Dees & Sebastian Spader, Carolwood Estates
Bought with Kevin Dees & Sebastian Spader, Carolwood Estates

● SOLD ● FOR SALE

R BEDROOMS



WESTWOOD

$2,550,000

10317 Ashton Ave,
Los Angeles, CA 90024

4 BR 3.5 BA, 3,091 Sq Ft

Listed by Allen Roth, Sotheby's International Realty
Bought with Margreit Asanad, Alpha & Associates Real Estate

SANTA MONICA

$3,900,000

2608 Washington Ave,
Santa Monica, CA 90403

4 BR 4 BA, 2,989 Sq Ft

Listed by Tim Barker, eXp Realty of Southern CA
Bought with Tim Barker, eXp Realty of Southern CA

MAR VISTA

$2,410,000

3608 Maplewood Ave,
Los Angeles, CA 90066

4 BR 2 BA, 2,083 Sq Ft

Listed by Jessica Heredia & L. Katie Machado, Coldwell Banker Realty
Bought with Rachel Diana, eXp Realty of Greater LA

All data gathered at redfin.com Santa Monica Daily Press

COMMUNITY NEWS

Los Angeles

LA County Invests in Emergency Response to Homelessness

The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a $783 million spending plan for the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative (CEO-HI) in fiscal year 2024-25 that sustains and expands the County's existing homeless services system and ramps up the homelessness emergency response while investing in critical programs.

The plan includes $662.3 million for homelessness prevention, outreach, interim housing, permanent housing, and supportive services – all essential elements of the homeless services system – plus an additional $120.7 million to support Pathway Home and other critical projects necessary to scale up and fast-track the County's homelessness emergency response. This spending plan will be funded with $587.2 million in anticipated voter-approved tax revenue; $140 million in additional County funds, and $55.8 million in State Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) grant dollars.

Pathway Home leverages emergency powers and partnerships with local jurisdictions to bring people out of encampments and into immediately available interim housing accompanied by a comprehensive suite of supportive services and, ultimately, into safe, permanent homes. The spending plan also earmarks funding for critical projects, such as the Skid Row Action Plan, and specialized outreach to address recreational vehicle (RV) encampments and those in high fire severity zones in unincorporated communities. This amount also includes opiate treatment, harm reduction, and other efforts to reduce the mortality rate among people experiencing homelessness.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

38 Pathway Home encampment resolution operations projected to serve 1,800 people and remove at least 300 unsafe RV encampments from roadways.

$311.5 million for permanent housing and supportive services.

$240.7 million for interim housing beds to bring people indoors as quickly as possible.

$65.5 million to deploy specialized outreach and engagement teams to help people living in the streets, or who are poised to leave jail settings, by providing medical care, behavioral health supports and connections, and link them to housing and services.

8,332 locally funded rental subsidies, a 65% increase over last fiscal year, to quickly permanently house people who have recently become homeless.

Wraparound services for nearly 27,500 people placed in permanent housing, over 24,000 of whom are in supportive housing and have complex needs such as chronic medical and/or behavioral health conditions.

Supporting nearly 5,000 households to identify housing in the private rental market through efforts such as landlord engagement, move-in assistance, security deposits and new innovations, such as master leasing.

$40.5 million to strengthen the County's collaboration with cities and Councils of Government (COGs) in resolving encampments and co-investing in housing as well as increases in compensation rates for nonprofit organizations contracted to provide interim housing, case management, and other services.

This spending plan was created with input from community members and stakeholders who participated in over 17 Listening Sessions that drew 600 attendees in October and November 2023. Feedback was also solicited from County departments, agencies and nonprofit organizations that constitute the County's homeless services system, people with lived expertise, residents from each of the County's eight service planning areas, Spanish language speakers, and cities and COGs.

COUNTY LEADERS RESPOND

"Los Angeles County's investment in homelessness reflects the magnitude of our commitment to meet the crisis with the urgency it requires," said Board Chair Lindsey P. Horvath. "Funding for families, LGBTQ+ youth, veterans, and small cities are all included as we tailor our services to meet the needs of unique communities and expedite solutions to improve the lives of our unhoused neighbors."

"Since people with the most complex health and behavioral challenges make up the fastest-growing segment of our homeless population, it's imperative that we continue to invest in helping them come inside," added Supervisor Hilda L. Solis. "Not only are we investing in proven solutions, but we're also innovating and providing our frontline workers and partners additional resources to respond urgently to the needs of our unhoused neighbors."

"The County's Pathway Home is demonstrating to be a game changer for bringing people into homes and out of makeshift structures, tents, and RVs," Supervisor Holly J. Mitchellsaid. "The adopted budget strategically invests in what works for housing and supportive services, such as mental health and substance use disorder treatments. The County's intentional investment in the highest impacted communities and people will help turn the tide on ending chronic homelessness."

"The Homeless Initiative spending plan will help expedite urgent, extraordinary action to address the emergency on our streets while preventing more people from becoming homeless in the first place," Supervisor Janice Hahn said. "By leveraging our emergency powers and collaborating more closely than ever with local, state and federal partners, we hope to continue moving towards a Los Angeles County where everyone has a place to call home."

"With this spending plan, we are putting more resources than ever before into helping people in encampments move indoors equipped with support services so they can stay housed, and urgently increasing our supply of housing," stated Supervisor Kathryn Barger. "I'm pleased the plan also increases our County's support of cities' local efforts to address homelessness, just as the Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness recommended."

"This spending plan builds on the momentum created under the local emergency and scales up our efforts to bring more people off the streets, move them into permanent housing and keep them housed," said Chief Executive Officer Fesia Davenport. "With better coordination with our municipal partners and

SEE **BRIEFS** PAGE 12

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NFL's first Super Bowl in Las Vegas has plenty of storylines plus an interesting football matchup

ROB MAADD
AP Pro Football Writer

The first Super Bowl in Las Vegas has everything the imaginary NFL scriptwriters could've wanted.

There's Patrick Mahomes and the underdog Kansas City Chiefs (14-6) aiming to become the first repeat champions in 19 years and trying to solidify their claim to a dynasty with a third Super Bowl title in five years.

There's Brock Purdy returning from a significant injury after rising from "Mr. Irrelevant" to now lead the San Francisco 49ers (14-5) to the brink of a record-tying sixth Super Bowl title that would etch his name alongside Pro Football Hall of Famers Joe Montana and Steve Young.

Of course, there's the glitz and glamor of America's showcase city and the irony of playing a Super Bowl in this gambling capital, an idea that used to be taboo for the NFL.

Did we mention Taylor Swift yet?

Make room for the Grammy-winning superstar to jet into town just in time to see her boyfriend, Travis Kelce, try to win another ring. Swift is expected to fly in for Sunday's game at Allegiant Stadium from Japan after her concert on Saturday.

Kelce, the four-time All-Pro tight end, is focused on limiting the distractions despite fielding numerous questions this week about Swift and their relationship that has captivated millions and attracted a new audience of football fans.

"Show up every day thinking about the now and not too much the future," Kelce said. "Obviously, you gotta prepare for what's ahead but not harp on the past is the biggest thing ... I think we would never try and tie in what we did last year to this year. Every single year is really its own journey."

For the Chiefs, nothing less than hoisting another Vince Lombardi trophy is acceptable so they have the most pressure.

"That expectation has become a demand at this point," Kelce said. "I know the years that we haven't won since we won our first one have felt like the biggest losses of my life. So it's just having that mentality year in, year out, and putting the expectations on yourself, making sure that no one puts higher expectations on us more than us. We're here to win this thing, baby. That's for sure."

Mahomes, the two-time NFL and Super Bowl MVP, is already drawing comparisons to Tom Brady, who won seven Super Bowl rings. Brady won three in his first four seasons as a starter. Mahomes is going for No. 3 in his sixth season.

Even if he wins, it's too early to have the conversation.

"I'm not even close to halfway, so I haven't put a lot of thought into it," Mahomes said. "I mean, your goal is to be the best player that you can be. I know I'm blessed to be around a lot of great players. And so, right now, it's doing whatever I can to beat a great 49ers team and try to get that third ring. And then if you ask me that question in 15 years, and I'll see if I can get close to seven. But seven seems like a long ways away still."

This is a rematch of the game the Chiefs won four years ago to give coach Andy Reid his first championship. Niners coach Kyle Shanahan has been close to winning twice before only to see his teams blow big leads.

He was Atlanta's offensive coordinator when Brady and the Patriots rallied from a 28-3 second-half deficit to win the Super Bowl in 2017. His 49ers team led the Chiefs 20-10 entering the fourth quarter only to watch Mahomes rally Kansas City to a 31-20 win in Miami in 2020.

"Both of them are heartbreaking," Shanahan said. "Those things last awhile. But it's all about getting back there again, and that's what I'm excited for."

Shanahan's dad, Mike, lost two Super Bowls as an offensive coordinator with Denver before going to San Francisco and winning one in 1995. He then won two more as the head coach of the Broncos.

"I remember seeing my dad after those Super Bowls when he was a coordinator in Denver when I was younger and how hard it was on him," Shanahan said. "So I think anytime you get that close and you lose the last one, that's definitely the hardest."

Jimmy Garoppolo was the team's quarterback last time around. Now, it's Purdy, an AP NFL MVP finalist who overcame all the odds and continues to make critics look foolish.

Purdy isn't concerned with proving doubters wrong. He has rare maturity for a 24-year-old that helps him play with confidence and maintain his composure.

"It comes down to how do I do my job really well for three hours against the Kansas City Chiefs' defense," Purdy said.

"That's where my mindset's at. I want to do everything I can to help my team win. I'm focusing on the plays. I'm focusing on what we're trying to do for this week, not getting caught up in all the paparazzi and all that kind of stuff outside."

FILM

FROM PAGE 3

Díaz said. "A person that is so self-assured, has confidence and also has a heart for other people that are hurting."

Giving the project a major visibility boost is the narrator of "Staycation," actor and television personality Mario Lopez, who took note of Díaz's skills by reading her teenage comedy "Cochinas." The Writers Guild of America strike of last summer prevented the two from forming an official project partnership, but the former "Saved by the Bell" star acquiesced at Díaz's request to lend his voice for the McDonald's contest.

Viewing "Fancy Florez's Summer Staycation" and voting in the Spotlight Dorado contest can be done online at SpotlightDorado.com/vote, with the voting period ending Sunday at 11:59 p.m. PST. The winner will be announced in March.

thomas@smdp.com



FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 9

KING TIDES CELEBRATION

Experience one of the wonders of nature, the highest tides of the year with Climate Action Santa Monica. When the planets and sun are at their closest, and the orbits of the earth and sun are just right, the King Tides, the highest tides of the year, will occur. These high tides give us a glimpse into the future of sea level rise and how these changes will affect our beach, coastal infrastructure, and our community. Begins at 7:30 a.m. at Heal the Bay Aquarium, 1600 Ocean Front Walk, Santa Monica. Tickets are free, reserve a spot at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-annual-santa-monica-king-tides-celebration-tickets-759363796557.

DANCE THEATRE

Join Invertigo Dance Theatre in an evening of collective cupid creativity and fun at MidiCi Pizza in Marina Del Rey. Starts at 5 p.m. at MidiCi the Neapolitan Pizza Company, 13488 Maxella Avenue Unit 100, Marina del Rey. Meet and greet Valentine's reception from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., dinner consisting of appetizer, one cocktail, salad, pizza or pasta entree and dessert. Tickets $50, Tickets with VIP Seating for extra $50 donation. Tickets can be purchased at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fall-in-love-with-invertigo-dance-theatre-tickets-796183605597.

DANCE AT THE ODYSSEY

Odyssey Theatre Ensemble returns with its annual six-week celebration of contemporary dance that has established the company's unique "Dance at the Odyssey" festival as the go-to place to view new work by cutting edge companies and choreographers. Begins at 8 p.m. with a performance of "How I Became Kinder, and Kinder," by choreographer Azuki Umeda. Tickets $25. Odyssey Theatre is located at 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd. For more, go to odysseytheatre.com.

DRUNK THEATRE

A comedian takes five shots of whiskey in a row and tries to perform an improvised play with five sober comedians. What could go wrong?! Starts at 9 p.m. at Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., Santa Monica. Tickets $20, limited pre-sale discount $18, early bird group discount $15 for groups of 4 or more, VIP seating $35. Tickets can be purchased at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/drunk-theatre-la-the-wildest-improv-comedy-show-tickets-792142769347.

SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 10

VALENTINE'S GLASS SALE

Save the date! A chance to find beautiful, creative, and one-of-a-kind gifts for Valentine's Day. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. In conjunction with the Virginia Ave. Park Valentine's Day Celebration. 2200 Virginia Ave. Proceeds help support the SMC Art Department and events at Virginia Ave. Park.

COMMUNITY GARDEN OPEN HOUSE

Looks like another AMAZING morning at the MAIN STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN. Please join organizers at this monthly Open House, which takes place the 2nd Sunday of each month. Hot coffee, warm conversation and a stroll through the historic Main Street Garden on a cool Saturday morning will put a smile on anyone's face. Reach out to gardens@santamonica.gov if you'd like to put a few hours of volunteer work in on this day. They always have projects we can use help with. In a continued effort to address food insecurity, we are hosting a NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DRIVE in February. Please considering stopping by to say hello and helping us help others. Main Street Community Garden 2318 Main St. 9 - 11 a.m.

UCLA GLUCK TROMBONE QUARTET

UCLA Gluck is coming back to the library! The Trombone Quartet plays a unique set of musical styles, solely on trombones. Their repertoire represents a wonderfully eclectic selection of songs, ranging from the classical canon to popular music and jazz. 10:30 a.m. Palisades Branch Library, 861 Alma Real Drive, Pacific Palisades.

MONTANA AVENUE BRANCH OPEN HOUSE

Join us for an Open House celebration and show your love for the library! The program kicks off at 10:30 a.m. with a special storytime featuring author Angela Joy, reading from her new picture book, Ordinary Days, about the legendary musician Prince. Then get creative with fun crafts for the whole family, enjoy yummy treats, sign up for Open+ self-service, and more. Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Avenue, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 11

HOLLYWOOD ON THE SANTA MONICA BEACH

A glance back in time at Hollywood's influence on Santa Monica Beach that attracted "anyone who was anybody" from Charlie Chaplin to Pres. John F. Kennedy. Authors of Hollywood on the Santa Monica Beach Marc Wanamaker and Arthur C. Verge will share stories and photos from the book, and film historian Michael Yakaitis shows snippets of home movies from Marion Davies and William Randolph Hearst! The talk and Q & A will be followed by a screening of Show People starring Marion Davies. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Hwy 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Come celebrate LA's most exciting sporting event of the year at 1212 Santa Monica on the Third Street Promenade. The game will be on with food and drinks on the sideline. Enjoy a massive projector screen, over 8 televisions, two massive bars, table service, unlimited buffet food and reserved seating. Doors open at 2:30 p.m., buffet available from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Buffet will have choice of chicken wings, beef sliders, chicken sliders, pizza, fries and salad. Game is on at 3:30 p.m. Light Bites menu available from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Afterparty with DJ from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Two guests for $200, three guests for $300, four guests for $400, six guests special "interception table" for $1,000, 12 guests special "red zone table" for $2,000, 18 guests special "hail merry" table for $3,000. Tickets can be purchased at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/super-bowl-lviii-sunday-x-1212-santa-monica-tickets-808532671987.

THE TOLEDO SHOW

Soul singer, jazz man, poet, dancer and choreographer Toledo will be a part of The Toledo Show at Harvelle's Santa Monica, 1432 4th St., beginning at 9:30 p.m. Tickets $12, two drink minimum. For more, visit santamonica.harvelles.com.

HOUSING

FROM PAGE 5

passed by mayoral edict.

"To give emergency powers reserved for earthquakes and horrible storms and true catastrophic emergencies to apply that to housing to override community plans and zoning for an indefinite period of time — it's just not good government and it decimates due process," said Michael Everoff, one of the group's co-founders.

Translating the mayor's order into permanent city law and ending the emergency declaration could weaken Fix The City's legal challenge, at least as it applies to future projects, though Everoff disputed that point. But whether a majority on the city's council will agree to do so — and how much of the mayor's original policy they will opt to rewrite, soften or jettison in the process — is an open question.

Still up for debate: Just how many incentives and waivers the city is willing to grant 100% affordable developers as they make use of the state's density bonus program. So far that decision has been left to the planning department's discretion. That unlimited economizing and supersizing has resulted in projects that are "substantially out of scale" with their surrounding neighborhoods, according to a planning department assessment. The most recent version of the ordinance caps the number of developer freebies at five.

Slocum, the developer of the proposed Echo Park apartment building, said most of his projects would "no longer work" if subject to such a cap. He said he needs eleven or twelve.

'A DECLARATION OF WAR ON SINGLE FAMILY NEIGHBORHOODS'

But the biggest debate over the breadth of the city policy may have already come and gone. Though the first version of the executive order seemed to apply to all housing sites in the city, Bass later came back with an amended order to exempt all of the city's single family neighborhoods. That clarification cut out more than 70% of the city's residentially zoned land and the lion's share of its well-to-do neighborhoods, but not before a handful of projects were approved.

The city has since tried to revoke the approvals of some of those projects. Their fate is now the subject of yet another series of lawsuits, these brought by the pro-housing development legal group YIMBY Law, who argue that the city has to let those developments go ahead. In its first suit on behalf of a proposed 7-story project in the west San Fernando Valley, the group denounced the city for having "buckled to political pressure from 'Not In My Back Yard' constituents."

Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, whose district includes the southwest San Fernando Valley and who opposed approving these under-the-wire affordable projects in single family areas said there's virtually no chance that the council will decide to re-expand the policy to every part of the city. Doing so might have a limited effect anyway: The number of single family parcels that can be turbo-developed under the state's density bonus law is limited.

"While that may be something for the future, right now we're piloting (Executive Directive 1) the way it is," he said. "And as it is, it's a major step forward. To go that extra step…would be a declaration of war with our single family neighborhoods."

That war may be coming to Los Angeles before long. Just as cities across the San Francisco Bay Area were required by state law to redraw their zoning maps to accommodate a massive increase in allowable housing development, the City of Los Angeles has until mid-October to plan for 250,000 new homes.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

HOA

FROM PAGE 7

denied if the person is not disabled, if the requested accommodation is not connected to the disability, or if the accommodation would harm others, among other reasons (Regs. 12179).

5. Assistance animals include "service animals" (trained to perform a needed task) and "support animals" (providing emotional support) Regs. 12005(d). They are not "pets" and are exempt from HOA pet rules. However, they cannot create a nuisance and the animal's owner is still responsible for their actions.

6. Accommodations involving alterations to the person's home are at the cost of the requesting person.

7. Some people insult the disabled by misusing the process to claim a disability simply to gain exemption from a given HOA rule. Such persons are often exposed by the interactive process. I have seen many homeowners claim mobility disability to try to avoid parking rules so they could park on the street or in driveways instead of using their garage, but it's hard to explain why walking further from their home is helpful.

8. DMV handicapped placards or license plates are not by themselves documentation of disability. The HOA is still permitted to seek verification of the disability, even if the person has DMV approval. Unfortunately, too many people misuse this important aid which helps the truly handicapped. HOAs can request direct written verification of the disability and necessary accommodation.

9. Some requested accommodations can be temporary, with the residence required to be restored after the disability ceases or the disabled resident moves out.

10. The Civil Rights Department, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the federal Department of Justice all have helpful information on these subjects.

11. Finally, have legal counsel available to review requests and to guide the HOA through the interactive process.

Kelly G. Richardson, Esq. is a Fellow of the College of Community Association Lawyers and Partner of Richardson Ober LLP, a California law firm known for community association advice. Submit potential column questions to kelly@roattorneys.com. Past columns at www.HOAHomefront.com. All rights reserved®.

EXHIBIT

FROM PAGE 1

more, since they "don't really have all the answers," but wanted locals to begin thinking about the issue more deeply. The gallery begins with a panel on what it means to live in Santa Monica, ranging from basic statistics and why the area is appealing, to the environmental challenges related to being in a coastal city.

An overview of architectural history tells the story of the Tongva homes built from native plant material, followed by Adobe homes influenced by Spanish and Mexican colonization, then the evolution brought upon by American and European residents. To truly tell the tale, the museum has hundreds of thousands of photographs to choose from, as well as materials loaned from places like the Getty.

Parallel to housing history is the city's workforce changes, with much of Santa Monica housing beginning as abodes for railroad workers in the late 1800s before the transition into the beach and resort town seen today. A major addition of population, and thus new construction methodology, was brought on by World War II and the importance of Douglas Aircraft as a local business boon. Among other innovations were the popular Quonset hut, which remains a part of the city via the unique look of Pono Burger at 829 Broadway.

"That was when the city became a majority of renters versus single family homes, either homeowners or people who lived in single family homes," Wallentine added. "That was when there was such an influx of people, they had to build a lot more, density really shot out … you just [saw] this exponential growth, and because of that, you [had] a lot more construction."

In the latter half of the 20th century through today, renter protections were more stressed, rooted in making sure elderly residents could stay in their homes and not be priced out. Schwenker says Santa Monica's history of being "on the cutting edge when it came to renters rights" is particularly topical in 2024, as the Justice for Renters Act will be on the ballot come November. The initiative would repeal the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act, allowing for greater local influence on rent control matters.

The dominant current issue, though, is the ongoing homelessness crisis, which the exhibit visualizes with sets of statistics and memorabilia from groups like the Western Regional Advocacy Project.

"It's important to visualize because it's a big problem," Wallentine said. "I think it's something that is very visible for people who live here, and the idea that everyone really needs a home … [we're] trying to give people a sense of what some of the issues that go into that [are], that it's a really complex problem. It's not just based on an individual, it's based on so many structural things that shouldn't happen."

Along with the information on the gallery walls, the exhibit contains a multimedia presentation depicting homeless issues, such as a testimonial from the Santa Monica Shelter at 505 Olympic Blvd.

"We live in … perhaps one of the most prosperous communities in the most prosperous country in the world, and yet there are many members of our community that don't have their basic needs met," Schwenker added. "Why are we here, why did that happen? Perhaps if we can understand [that], maybe that might inspire some creative solutions."

Though Schwenker stressed that the Museum isn't "an advocacy group," he believes calling for widespread input on the issue is part of the Museum's role as an education tool.

"What I hope is that if we present topics, and we talk about things that provoke thought, maybe we inspire policymakers and other members of the community to do things that will really drive making this a better place to live for everybody," he said.

The UN|HOUSED exhibit is available to view at the Museum, 1350 7th St., Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday-Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. General admission tickets are $5, with admission free for Museum members, children under 17, seniors 65+, students, active duty military, veterans, and SNAP/EBT cardholders. For more, visit santamonicahistory.org.

thomas@smdp.com

BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 10

investments in solutions we know make a difference, LA County is urgently putting its resources to work to solve this crisis."

ABOUT THE HOMELESS INITIATIVE AND MEASURE H

The Board's emergency declaration on January 10, 2023 tasked the Homeless Initiative with coordinating the County's emergency response.

The Homeless Initiative funding recommendations represent a significant portion, but not all, of the County's investments to address and prevent homelessness, which also include the mainstream work of the County Departments of Health Services, Mental Health, Public Health, Public Social Services, and several other agencies.

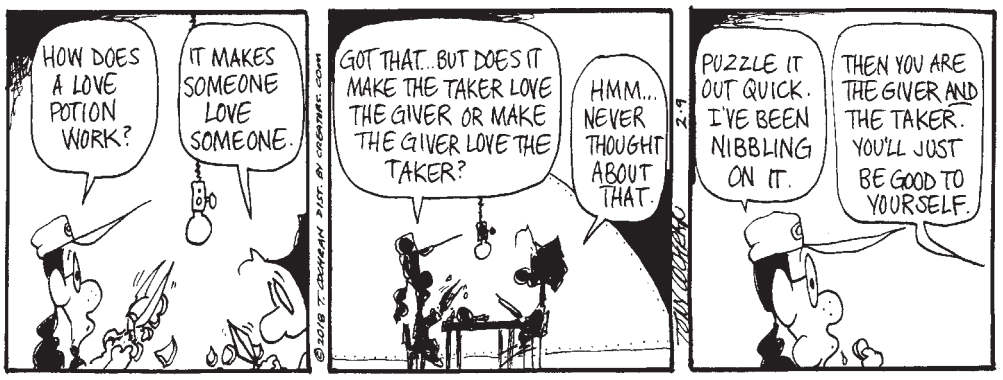
The Homeless Initiative administers funding from Measure H, a quarter-cent sales tax approved by over two-thirds of County voters in 2017 to create the first revenue stream dedicated to addressing and preventing homelessness. It also administers HHAP grant dollars, $114 million in Housing and Homeless Incentive Program funding (HHIP) over five years, plus an annual $100 million Affordable Housing (AH) Program Budget which, along with other funding sources, supports the creation and preservation of affordable housing, and other activities. HHIP and AH funding are separate from the spending plan released today.

In the six-and-a-half years since Measure H was enacted, the County's commitment to addressing the homelessness crisis has resulted in more than 104,000 people finding permanent housing, more than 143,000 placements into interim shelter, and 31,500 people prevented from becoming homeless in the first place.

SUBMITTED BY CHRISTINA VILLACORTE, LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOMELESS INITIATIVE

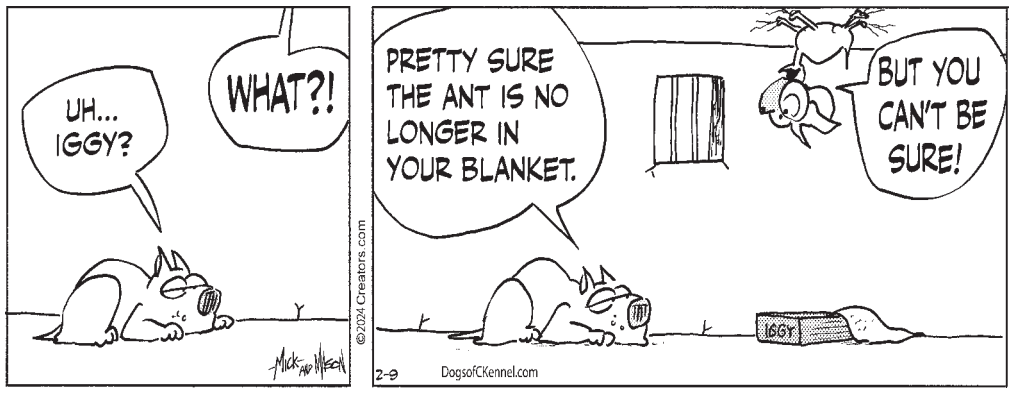
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



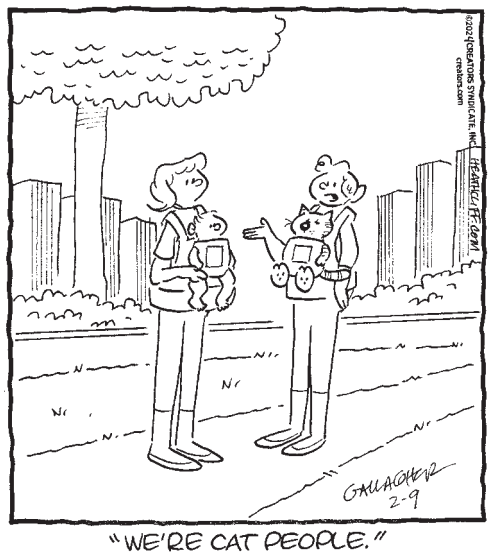
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 16 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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Feathered friends

R	N	S	H	O	R	E	B	I	R	D	W	A	L	C
E	O	I	B	C	H	P	A	R	G	O	T	O	H	P
H	O	B	U	R	H	N	I	G	H	T	J	A	R	E
S	S	P	I	G	E	O	N	D	L	A	R	K	E	E
I	T	N	M	N	N	T	I	K	O	E	L	E	T	W
F	R	T	E	A	P	E	R	C	H	D	U	O	E	E
G	I	H	L	H	T	R	P	A	E	U	O	T	T	E
N	C	R	O	M	Y	N	A	E	D	C	I	E	T	I
I	H	U	D	V	N	E	N	W	I	K	A	K	F	R
K	S	S	Y	B	E	E	O	A	S	L	W	O	A	S
E	D	H	F	U	U	R	V	G	W	A	E	O	N	T
R	E	L	P	L	C	R	G	A	H	S	S	D	T	O
U	E	C	L	I	P	E	C	U	R	H	E	A	A	R
Z	S	M	E	C	N	A	T	S	I	D	M	A	I	K
A	L	B	A	T	R	O	S	S	G	G	U	L	L	E

Adelie penguin	Distance	Kite	Raven
Albatross	Dodo	Koel	Rhea
Azure kingfisher	Duck	Lark	Robin
Choice	Eagle	Melody	Scrub
Claw	Eggs	Myna	Seeds
Clip	Emu	Nightjar	Shorebird
Coot	Erne	Ostrich	Soar
Crow	Fantail	Owls	Stork
Darter	Gull	Peewee	Swan
Diet	Hawk	Perch	Teal
	Hens	Photograph	Thrush
	Hover	Pigeon	Tree

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
How the body works

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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 9)

Welcome to a year of delights when it will be a joy to find beauty in the ordinary, and a thrill to create the extraordinary. More highlights: You'll be a fierce competitor in the games that matter to you. The vibrant energy you bring to work situations will serve as a magnetic force that draws people and money to you. Attractions will arise out of unlikely scenarios. Sagittarius and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 10, 4, 40 and 2.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's a time to "dance like no one is watching" and this isn't it. The moves need refinement. Someone will be watching and you'll give yourself every chance at feeling good about your performance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's funny how it's sometimes easier to give your unconditional love and acceptance to those you don't know than it is to tolerate the flaws of familiar loved ones. But if you can reduce expectations of interactions, there will be more room for the love to flow in.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll make a casual presentation, which will get you ready for something bigger. As awkward as it may be to stumble your way through it, this is what you need to do to be graceful when it really matters.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When you like a thing, you know. You know right away. You don't have to know everything about a subject to do that. The parts that are for you will call out to you. You'll sample many delights and land on a few favorites.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The universe isn't trying to trick you, but there will be surprises that could make you feel any number of ways. Offer the benefit of doubt to all. Choose interpretations that make you feel loved and supported.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your success formula today involves devoting big energy to small things. What's important is not the size of the task, but love you bring to it. Friends with a background very different from yours will be especially helpful.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). People extend trust in their own timing and for their own reasons. It's something you wouldn't try to rush, because then you'd be saying "trust me" and everyone knows that the one who says "trust me" is the least trustworthy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Can you envision something a little bigger? Pull it like taffy to see how far the idea can stretch without breaking. Your exercises in mental flexibility will lead to creative breakthroughs.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You know right away when a thing is not for you. Your "yes" and "maybe" answers take much longer. You'll get a feel for a thing, gather more facts, see it in different lights and times. It's not a process to rush.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your power move: get someone's attention and then get right to the point. You're interested in making things happen quickly for people. You'll attract the same from others. When people value your time, they value you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You don't wait for things to be happy about; you're just happy and then sweet things happen. The warmth and kindness of your smile will brighten days, starting with your own and encompassing the entire world via a butterfly effect.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be the recipient of admiration. Give yourself unselfconsciously over to it and let yourself be respected and praised whether or not you feel you've earned it, because it is impossible to know the extent of what you mean to others.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

D	E	N	S	■	M	O	V	E	R	■	B	E	L	A
O	R	E	O	■	I	R	E	N	E	■	A	N	O	N
M	A	G	N	A	C	A	R	T	A	■	B	R	A	D
■	■	L	A	T	H	■	Y	A	D	A	Y	A	D	A
T	H	E	R	E	I	N	■	I	M	S	■	G	E	L
I	O	C	■	E	G	O	■	L	E	T	T	E	R	S
M	E	T	A	■	A	V	A	■	■	R	U	S	S	O
■	■	■	P	A	N	A	M	A	H	A	T	■	■	■
G	L	O	S	S	■	■	I	T	O	■	U	R	S	A
R	E	P	E	A	L	S	■	O	N	O	■	E	I	D
A	C	E	■	N	E	E	■	B	O	L	O	G	N	A
S	A	N	T	A	A	N	A	■	R	E	B	A	■	■
P	R	A	M	■	P	A	S	T	A	S	A	L	A	D
E	R	I	E	■	U	T	T	E	R	■	M	I	K	E
D	E	R	N	■	P	E	O	N	Y	■	A	A	A	A

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

7	8	6	1	2	5	3	4	9
1	4	9	7	3	6	5	2	8
3	5	2	9	4	8	7	1	6
6	2	5	3	7	9	1	8	4
8	1	7	4	6	2	9	3	5
9	3	4	5	8	1	2	6	7
4	6	1	2	9	7	8	5	3
2	9	8	6	5	3	4	7	1
5	7	3	8	1	4	6	9	2

			3	1	9			
7			5			3		9
	3			4		5	1	
	1				4			2
4		2		9		8		6
9			2				7	
	4	5		6				
2		7			3			4
			4	2	7		8	

Newsday Crossword

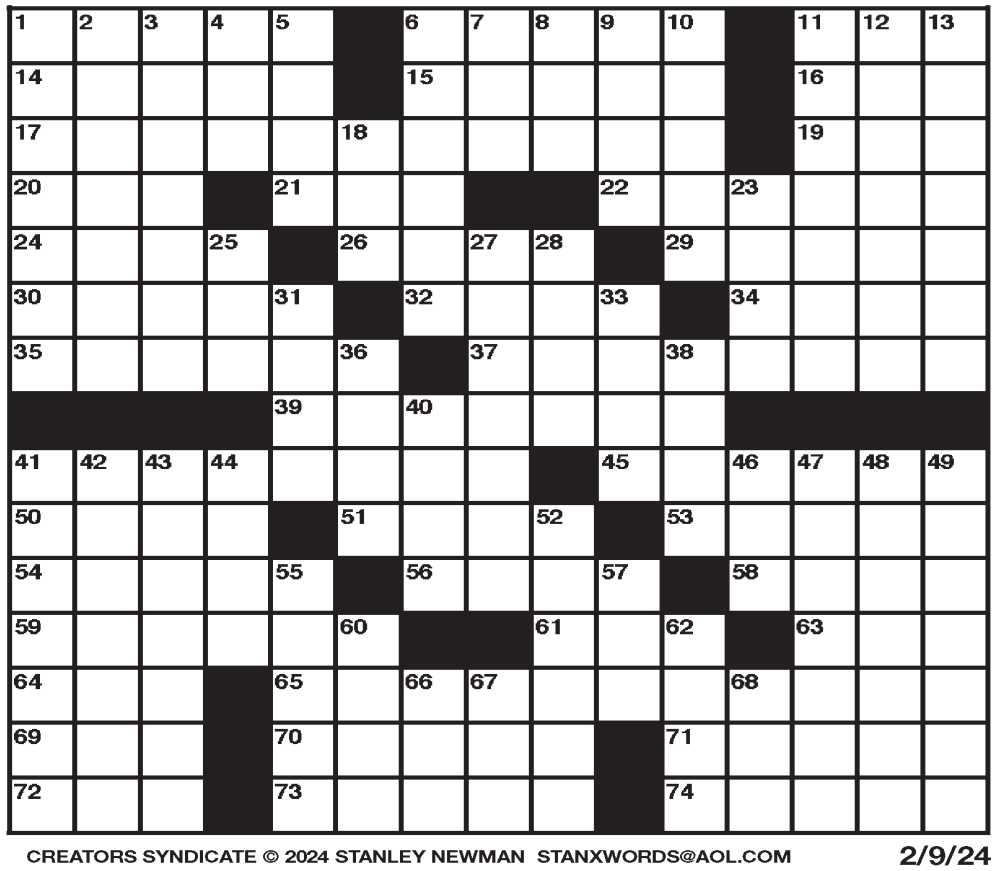
PICTURE THIS by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 *Fear Street* series author
6 Brie coatings
11 Degree GWB earned
14 Picker-upper
15 Former Heat star
16 Be under par
17 Start of an 1880s ad slogan
19 Reviewer of books
20 USPS piece
21 Pacific state school
22 Newspaper notices
24 "All clear"
26 Hamlet's cousin
29 With 59 Across, the slogan's subject
30 Compound in dynamite
32 Fair-hiring agcy.
34 Mommy's mommy
35 With 39 Across, coiner of the slogan
37 Erik and Leif
39 See 35 Across
41 Application for ribs
45 Middle of slogan
50 Typography measure
51 Stiffly formal
53 Beast evoked in *Grand Canyon Suite*
54 Skating show venue
56 Quaint complaint
58 Term of endearment
59 See 29 Across
61 Surpass
63 Hair holder
64 Adjectival ending
65 End of slogan
69 Where Senators meet Sharks
70 Undermine
71 Chin smoother
72 Charleston-era weapon
73 Eminent
74 Pint-size

DOWN

1 Creating, as costumes
2 Term of endearment
3 Become comfortable with
4 Touch of frost
5 Shade close to beige
6 Charleston-era weapon
7 Ending for walk or run
8 See 66 Down
9 Golden Ticket guy
10 Well-groomed
11 Taxiway topper
12 The Wright's flier
13 Word associated with 33 Down
18 Predictive no.
23 Sold out
25 Make a slip
27 Didn't go home?
28 Diet/exercise app
31 S-shaped arch
33 Seafood offering
36 Inspiration for John Wayne
38 Social slight
40 Doubtless
41 Typesetter concern
42 Fearsome swimmer
43 Magnesium chloride in bags
44 Bamboo, e.g.
46 Spot for suds
47 Circus apparatus
48 He's heard in *Pretty Woman*
49 Road warning
52 Tangled, as tresses
55 Tolkien half-elf
57 Play follower
60 Dynamic starter
62 Saucy
66 With 8 Down, common URL suffix
67 Lyrical lines
68 R&B singer Corinne Bailey ___



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MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords

ASTRONOMY CLUB

FROM PAGE 1

Dr. Loeb is arguably best known for ruffling feathers in the scientific community for suggesting that 'Oumuamua — the first cosmological object officially classified as "interstellar" that sailed through our solar system in 2017 — could have been an alien spacecraft. A real life Dr. Hans Zarkov, if you will.

Discovered by Robert Weryk at the Haleakalā Observatory in Hawaii, 'Oumuamua had no bright coma or dust tail, like most comets. Moreover, it has a peculiar shape, vaguely resembling a flattened cigar, plus its small size more befitted an asteroid than a comet, but the fact that it was accelerating away from the sun is what perplexed scientists.

When it was first observed, 'Oumuamua was about 21 million miles from Earth and already heading away from the Sun. It's estimated to be between 300 and 3,000 ft long, with its width and thickness both estimated between 115 and 548 ft. Being classified as "interstellar" means that its origins are suspected to be from beyond the Oort Cloud, which marks the boundary to our Solar System.

The Cloud is, in essence, a mind-meltingly massive minefield of ice and rock, loosely kept in place by the Sun's gravity. If you think of the distance from the Earth to the Sun (approximately 93 million miles) as 1 AU (Astronomical Unit) then the Oort Cloud begins, way, way past Neptune at about 1,000 AUs. Even Voyager 1, the furthest a man-made object has ever traveled and the first to pass the outer planets, still has a very long way to go before it reaches the Cloud.

It gets even more brain-bogging, as the Cloud is wider than the radius of the actual Solar System, at approximately 100,000 AUs wide, where our Solar System is less than 100 AUs wide. It will take another 300 years or so for Voyager 1 to reach the inner edge of the Oort Cloud and possibly about 30,000 years to fly beyond it.

"We have very little data about the object ['Oumuamua] because by the time we discovered it, it was already leaving our solar system. So whatever evidence we have cannot conclusively tell us what it is," said Milla Ivanovska, President of SMAAC.

According to Ivanovska, four interstellar objects have been discovered, including two meteors and a comet. However, 'Oumuamua exhibited a highly unusual flat shape and non-gravitational acceleration, although it is possible that escaping gas from evaporating frozen liquid has contributed to the object's delta-v, or change in velocity.

> We have very little data about the object ['Oumuamua] because by the time we discovered it, it was already leaving our solar system. So whatever evidence we have cannot conclusively tell us what it is
>
> - Milla Ivanovska, President of SMAAC

"Some scientists believe it's actually something relatively new, what's being called a 'dark comet' in the scientific community," Ivanovska says. In essence, this is an object very similar in make up to a regular comet, but it doesn't produce a distinctive "tail."

Or, is this object a hollowed-out spacecraft, a research vessel, or possibly an ark even? We accept the idea that life does exist outside of the solar system simply because of the utterly incomprehensible number of planets that orbit stars in the universe. The issue is distance and consequently the amount of time needed to cross vast intergalactic distances. So why wouldn't a technologically advanced species use something as useful as an asteroid for long distance travel? It's perfectly plausible.

Dr Abraham "Avi" Loeb is an Israeli-American theoretical physicist who works on astrophysics and cosmology and he has been Director of the Institute for Theory and Computation at the Center for Astrophysics at Harvard since 2007. In 2015, he was appointed as the science theory director for the Breakthrough Initiatives of the Breakthrough Prize Foundation.

Founded in 1981, the SMAAC is open to absolutely everyone. The club holds monthly talks on a variety of topics usually on the second Friday of every month at the Wildwood School. To attend the meeting via Zoom, or for any other inquiries, send an email to samoastronomy@gmail.com.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

inclusion (DEI) in the City's procurement and contracting practices for the Finance Department.

The cost of the study is not to exceed $175,000 over a two year period with future year funding contingent on Council budget approval.

"One of the questions that I have is, in terms of baseline data, are we requiring now, to understand our procurement practices, a box check where people can self identify race, ethnicity, gender and so forth?" De la Torre asked.

Oscar Santiago, Director of the Finance Department, fielded the question, responding, "Yeah, we do not. That's one of the things that we're hopeful will be brought to light so we can implement these things."

"So right now, we wouldn't be able to say, for example, 80% of all vendors that contract with the city are of one group or another, we can't do that?," asked de la Torre. Santiago replied that the external consultant would undertake that as part of the project. They will be looking at contractors and subcontractors and identifying this key information in addition to an availability analysis.

"So, the good news is that we're going to begin collecting that data so we have some baseline data to understand where we currently are as an organization on the questions of equity and procurement," said de la Torre in conclusion.

At which point Councilmember Caroline Torosis joined the discussion. "Okay, well, since you pulled it ... I think you probably know this, but we've actually established an Office of Strategic Contracting Equity within the county of LA and I would say that I would be disappointed if this actually takes two years to figure this out," she said. "Because there's a lot of information out there about what local municipalities are doing wrong and what they could be doing better with respect to equity and contracting with the city."

Torosis added that she'd love to see the CIty establish a 25% utilization goal in a preference program for local small business enterprises and even potentially look at social enterprises where there's a public benefit to the work that the business is doing.

"There are a lot of ideas already out there that have been reported on. I would also just say that the Center for Nonprofit Management has been leading this work regionally, especially for our smaller nonprofits to help them access these contracts. And I'm happy to be a resource and a partner, if that's something that's helpful or not. I feel very deeply that this is important," she said.

> Renters make up the majority of our Santa Monica community, and many have called this city home for years
>
> - Phil Brock, Mayor

The motion to move ahead was made by de la Torre and seconded by Torosis and passed unanimously 7-0.

Council also approved a slate of added protections for renters, including prohibitions against drastic rent increases, unjust evictions and harassment. The updates are in addition to robust renter protections already in place, and in response to a regional increase in eviction filings resulting from the expiration of COVID-related protections, along with the ongoing housing crisis.

The action will result in amendments in the Tenant Protection Code, Housing Anti-Discrimination Code, Tenant Relocation Code, Tenant Harassment Code and Tenant Buyout Agreements Code. These amendments are meant to solidify protections for the city's renters - approximately 70% of Santa Monica residents - and create greater housing stability.

"Renters make up the majority of our Santa Monica community, and many have called this city home for years," Mayor Phil Brock said. "It is critically important that families who make up the fabric of our city have the ability to stay here."

The approved amendments will take effect 30 days after the second reading of the ordinances, which will take place at the council meeting scheduled for Feb. 13.

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