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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 241 THE WEEKENDER 10/25-10/27 smdp.com

Fast-rising bank expands with new Santa Monica branch





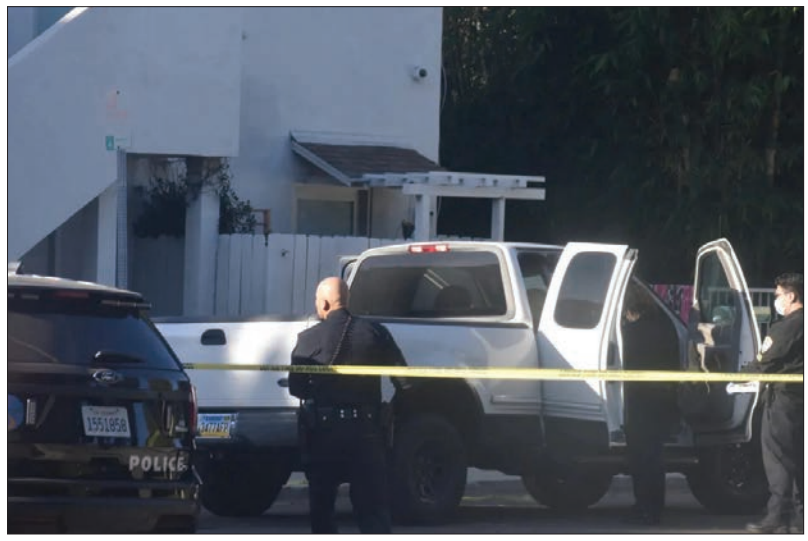




Photos by Thomas Leffler

BANK: A bank named after the California poppy plant expanded its California roots this week with the opening of a new Santa Monica branch. Poppy Bank, named one of the fastest growing banks in the nation by the Inc. 5000 list, the branch at 2729 Wilshire Blvd. welcomed the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce for a ribbon cutting ceremony Wednesday, a ceremony also attended by several Poppy Bank executives. The bank's services include treasure management, commercial, construction and SBA/USDA lending, as well as C-PACE (Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy) financing. Poppy Bank President and CEO Khalid Acheckzai said Santa Monica "is a tight-knight community with a strong cultural and economic influence," and that the bank's "business objectives align well with local community initiatives."

Traffic collision on Cloverfield caused by self-inflicted gunshot wound to driver



Thomas Leffler

POLICE: Santa Monica Police officers responded to a call at 3 p.m. regarding a traffic incident involving a pick-up truck and a motorcycle.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

The driver of a white pick-up truck appears to have taken his own life in an incident on Wednesday afternoon on Cloverfield Boulevard.

Officers from the Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) responded to a call at about 3pm regarding a traffic collision involving a truck and motorcyclist in the 1400 block of Cloverfield

SEE **COLLISION** PAGE 15

Metro shares vision for 17th/SMC affordable housing site

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Metro Los Angeles laid out its preliminary plans for an income-restricted housing development adjacent to the 17th Street/Santa Monica College Expo Line station this week.

Wednesday evening, Metro officials shared its housing vision via a virtual community meeting, planning to take underutilized Metro-owned properties and through collaboration with communities and private developers, build "transit-oriented development" aimed at a range of income levels. A Request for Proposals (RFP) to developers will be released this coming Winter season, with negotiations between Metro and a selected developer set for early 2025.

Having worked through its Joint Development program to develop a bevy of sites already, the 17th/SMC project is part of Metro's 10,000 Home Commitment, a plan to have 10,000 units (5,000 affordable) by

SEE **METRO** PAGE 12



Gary Limjap
(310) 586-0339

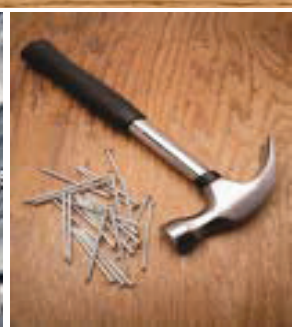
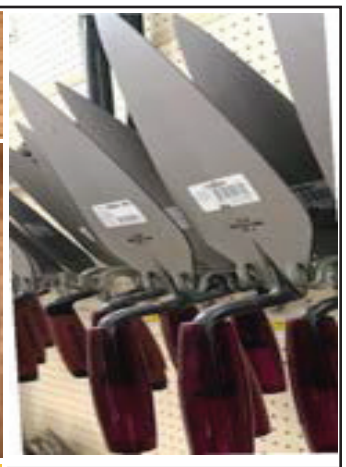
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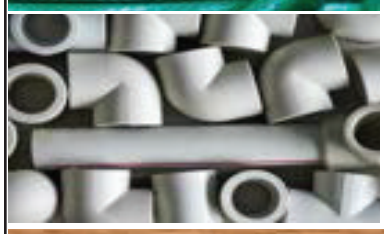
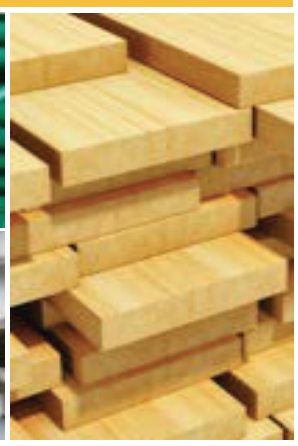
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Santa Monica-born composing prodigy releases first album at 17



Photo by Zach Miscavage

COMPOSER: Santa Monica-born Samuel Siskind has released his first composition album "Awake" at the age of 17.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

The term "prodigy" is often filled with hyperbole, but a Santa Monica wunderkind has certainly earned the label.

At 17 years of age, Samuel Siskind has already crafted a career in music composition, releasing his debut album "Awake" in August and bringing his live music to Newport Beach on Nov. 3 for a show with Choral Arts Initiative. Born in Santa Monica, the former Crossroads School for the Arts & Sciences attendee also earned the 2024 ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Award.

Before he even knew what composition was, music was on the mind of a young Siskind, who had his parents play classical music radio in the car during drives to school. He discovered his brother's upright piano at the age of four, where be began to play with making his own pieces.

"It's just such an incredible area to live in, because there's access to so many musical schools and incredible teachers," Siskind said of his Santa Monica upbringing. "So I was very fortunate to start taking piano lessons and (transitioning) to singing (and) into composition. It's a really great place, environment to be in."

Wanting more out of his musical experiences even in youth, the then-third grade Siskind signed up to perform in the National Children's Chorus LA Chapter, an endeavor he said "changed everything." He also auditioned "on a whim" for an LA Opera production of Noah's Flood, becoming a principal singer which led to further opportunities.

At 11, Siskind was introduced to UCLA Professor Ian Krouse, who became his mentor in the world of composing. Crafting one's own music requires being "like a sponge," he said, taking in as much information as possible in order to have the attributes of a great composer.

"What really makes a great composer, in my eye, is someone who understands who they're writing for, someone who is willing to be flexible," Siskind added. "If you write something and it's not working in rehearsals, (it's) someone who can say 'I have a solution,

SEE **COMPOSER** PAGE 10

Official Endorsements of the Santa Monica Democratic Club



DAN HALL
BARRY SNELL
NATALYA ZERNITSKAYA
ELLIS RASKIN

The only City Council candidates endorsed by the Democratic Party



President KAMALA HARRIS
Vice President TIM WALZ

US Senate (partial and full terms) - Rep. Adam Schiff

US Congress - Rep. Ted Lieu

CA Assembly - Asm. Rick Chavez Zbur

LA County District Attorney - George Gascón

LA SUPERIOR COURT:
Office 39 - George Turner
Office 48 - Ericka Wiley
Office 97 - Sharon Ransom
Office 135 - Georgia Huerta

SMMUSD BOARD OF EDUCATION:
Maria Leon-Vazquez
Jon Kean
Jennifer Smith

CITY BALLOT MEASURES:
Measure F - Yes
Measure K - Yes
Measure PSK - No
Measure QS - Yes

COUNTY BALLOT MEASURES:
Measure A - Yes
Measure G - Yes

STATEWIDE BALLOT MEASURES:
Prop 2 - Yes
Prop 3 - Yes
Prop 4 - Yes
Prop 5 - Yes
Prop 6 - Yes
Prop 32 - Yes
Prop 33 - Yes
Prop 34 - No
Prop 35 - Yes
Prop 36 - No

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California won't solve the fentanyl crisis by punishing people

As a parent, I am deeply concerned about the fentanyl crisis ravaging California. Each day, we are bombarded with heartbreaking stories of lives lost to overdose and families shattered by addiction, a pain I know all too well.

In 2017, I lost my son, Joel, to an overdose. My daughter, Rebekah, was with him when he died and came perilously close to the same fate. Thankfully, she is now in long-term recovery and works in the recovery movement.

Looking back, the saying "you don't know what you don't know" rings true. If we had a better understanding of what Joel was going through at the time, we would have handled the entire situation differently. That's why I'm so committed to ensuring no other family goes through what we went through seven years ago.

No one should have to walk this path alone.

Substance use disorder and opioid use disorder are often surrounded by embarrassment and hushed tones, leaving family and friends feeling alienated and lost. Eliminating stigma, improving education, and increasing treatment and care options are crucial for those at risk, especially as the threat of fentanyl continues to grow.

While the public has become increasingly aware of the dangers of fentanyl, more needs to be done to protect our youth. Fentanyl is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. Even a small amount can be lethal, and because it's often mixed with other substances without the user's knowledge, it dramatically increases the risk of overdose and makes it hard to track.

Although the state has preliminarily reported reduced overdose rates, the California National Guard's Counterdrug Task Force continues to seize millions of pills and thousands of pounds of illicit fentanyl every month.

This crisis won't dissipate any time soon unless California truly bolsters education and access to treatment. By taking away the shame and normalizing substance use disorder as a true chronic disease, we will make it easier for people to ask for help.

Reducing overdoses is just scratching the surface of the problem. However, it's a critical component in many individual recovery journeys, because recovery is not always a linear 30-day stint.

With my son Joel, a typical cycle looked like this: Joel would be arrested for possession and sometimes charged with intent to sell. He'd serve a short sentence and then transfer to a county treatment facility before graduating and starting the cycle over again.

Unfortunately, we are losing too many lives within the cycle, and many are dying from overdoses while serving sentences. Treatment, like education, must be readily available, holistic and person-centered. Beyond ensuring that naloxone is accessible to those in the criminal justice system and beyond, we must also make all FDA-approved reversal agents available.

If California is serious about saving more lives, our approach cannot only rely on one product or one treatment modality.

I once believed that Joel being in jail was a safer part of his cycle, somewhere he couldn't easily access illicit drugs. However, knowing now how many overdoses occur within the criminal justice system — with some people dying even after receiving multiple doses of naloxone — I realize how misguided that notion was.

We cannot punish drug users. It doesn't work. What is proven to work time and time again is education and treatment. Funding given to communities to address substance use disorder should be used for that — not for more policing, but for community centers, treatment centers, expanded access to reversal agents, and improved data so we actually know if these policies are working.

California has taken positive steps to reverse the opioid crisis, but we can't stop now. No loved one should die from a preventable death. We must change the narrative: less stigma and more opportunities for people to get the care and treatment they need and deserve.

We owe it to our children to create a safer, healthier future.

Pattie Vargas is a mother, author and a grief counselor for The Resilient Journey and the Partnership To End Addiction. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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Surf report

WATER TEMP: **64.4**

FRIDAY
FAIR

SURF: Waist to chest 3-4FT

Getting smaller as SSW swell winds down further, along with the little NW swell. AM winds looking light.

SATURDAY
FAIR

SURF: Thigh to stomach 2-3FT+

Clean and playful early, size nudging up through the afternoon/evening. W/WNW swell to bump up through the PM, along with some new SSW swell. Morning winds look light, nice ebbing tide then too. Watching the tropics.

Weather

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. Calm wind becoming southwest around 5 mph in the afternoon.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 58. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Saturday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 70.
Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 60.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)	High/Low
2024/10/25	Fri	06:54 AM	4.29		H
2024/10/25	Fri	12:05 PM	2.84		L
2024/10/25	Fri	5:25 PM	4.56		H
2024/10/26	Sat	12:31 AM	0.36		L
2024/10/26	Sat	07:21 AM	4.57		H
2024/10/26	Sat	12:56 PM	2.28		L
2024/10/26	Sat	6:28 PM	4.59		H
2024/10/27	Sun	01:07 AM	0.49		L
2024/10/27	Sun	07:43 AM	4.82		H
2024/10/27	Sun	1:35 PM	1.75		L
2024/10/27	Sun	7:18 PM	4.59		H
2024/10/28	Mon	01:36 AM	0.69		L
2024/10/28	Mon	08:02 AM	5.07		H
2024/10/28	Mon	2:09 PM	1.26		L
2024/10/28	Mon	7:59 PM	4.54		H
2024/10/29	Tue	02:00 AM	0.94		L
2024/10/29	Tue	08:20 AM	5.31		H
2024/10/29	Tue	2:40 PM	0.83		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: 10/23
2 15 27 29 39
Power#: 20
Jackpot: 20 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 10/22
8 43 48 58 60
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 229 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 10/23
7 13 19 38 46
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 34 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 10/23
1 17 33 37 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 10/23
EVENING: 1 3 1
Draw Date: 10/23
MIDDAY: 1 5 0

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 10/23
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 12 - Lucky Charms
3rd: 04 - Big Ben
Race Time: 1:47.17

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Santa Monica Daily Press

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
ORDINANCE NUMBER 2793 (CCS)
(CITY COUNCIL SERIES)

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA AMENDING SANTA MONICA MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 9.61: SIGNS, TO INCREASE FLEXIBILITY FOR SIGNAGE IN THE BAYSIDE CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND THIRD STREET PROMENADE AREA, AND MAKE OTHER CHANGES TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC RECOVERY, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND WELFARE

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2793 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

The Ordinance amends Santa Monica Municipal Code Chapter 9.61 to allow greater flexibility for signs in the Bayside Conservation District, including the Promenade and surrounding area. As amended, the Ordinance allows special exemptions to the sign code for establishments with frontage on the Third Street Promenade to allow a substantial increase in permitted, non-animated signage, and to allow for on-premises animated signage within a certain portion of the storefront façade, including digital display screens and 3D signs. It would also allow a longer timeframe for temporary commercial signage, and would exempt signs authorized through City license agreements and Temporary Use Permits. The Ordinance will take effect immediately.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.

City of Santa Monica

SUBJECT: **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSED SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE 2024-25 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN ALLOCATING FEDERAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) & HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP ACT PROGRAM (HOME) FUNDS**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides annual CDBG and HOME entitlement funds to the City of Santa Monica. As a recipient of these federal funds, HUD requires the City to develop a five-year Consolidated Plan along with Annual Action Plans for housing and community development which identify high priority needs and the associated goals, strategies, and resources anticipated over a five-year period. City Council approved the original 2024-25 Annual Action Plan for submittal to HUD on April 23, 2024.

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Monica is proposing a substantial amendment to the 2024-25 Annual Action Plan. The amended plan proposes to reallocate a portion of the City's $1.15 million FY 2024-25 CDBG award to a previously approved CDBG project in need of additional funding.

The Proposed Substantial Amendment to the 2024-25 Annual Action Plan is now available to the public for a 30-day review period beginning October 4, 2024. Both the 2020-24 Consolidated Plan and the Proposed Substantial Amendment to the 2024-25 Annual Action Plan can be viewed at: https://www.santamonica.gov/community-development-block-grant-and-home-investment-partnership-programs
.
Hard copies are available upon request through the Housing and Human Services Department by telephone at (310) 458-8701 or by email at humanservices@santamonica.gov. Written comments may be submitted by November 3, 2024 to humanservices@santamonica.gov or by mail to: Housing and Human Services Department, 1685 Main Street, MS22, Santa Monica, CA 90401. All comments received will be included in the final, amended 2024-25 Annual Action Plan submission to HUD. The City Council is scheduled to consider approval of the amended plan on November 11, 2024.

ESPAÑOL Esto es un aviso público para invitar a cualquier parte interesada a participar en el repaso del Plan Preliminar de Acción Anual del Año Fiscal 2024-25. Si necesita más información, por favor llame a Ivy Chang en la División de Servicios Humanos al número (310) 458-8701.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Don't vote for Oscar

For 25 years, Community for Excellent Public Schools ("CEPS") has advocated for public education in Santa Monica. We have endorsed and campaigned for ballot measures that benefit our schools. And we have endorsed candidates for the Santa Monica City Council, the SMMUSD Board of Education and the Santa Monica College Board of Trustees who we believe are most supportive of public education. This year, CEPS' City Council endorsements are Dan Hall, Natalya Zernitskaya, Barry Snell and Ellis Raskin.

Rarely has CEPS actively opposed a particular candidate. But this year we are making an exception to our normal practice: CEPS strongly opposes Oscar de la Torre's re-election to the Santa Monica City Council and urges Santa Monica's voters to vote in favor of four other candidates.

Recently, the SMDP printed a letter from School Board member Jon Kean revealing de la Torre's statement, made while he was a member of the Board of Education, that "the biggest problem with the School Board is that it's run by the Jews." Although de la Torre denies making this statement, School Board member Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein and other District officials have confirmed its accuracy. As the Reverend (and former Santa Monica Mayor) Jim Conn wrote recently: "Sadly, his words express a frame of reference that diminishes a group of people based on their ethnicity and cultural heritage. It harkens back to an era of bigotry that led to religious wars and pogroms throughout Europe. No one in our time should be sitting in city leadership and espousing such thoughts, especially in a city that calls itself progressive."

This is not the only example of de la Torre's bigotry. In a recent meeting of Northeast Neighbors, de la Torre disrespected City Council candidate Natalya Zernitskaya, a longtime Santa Monica resident with a distinguished record of community service including serving as President of the League of Women Voters of Santa Monica, a leader in the Human Relations Council Santa Monica Bay Area, and a member of the City of Santa Monica's Audit Committee. De la Torre is very familiar with Ms. Zernitskaya, who has spoken numerous times at City Council meetings and in other settings where de la Torre was present and described her family background as Jewish refugees from Belarus (which was formerly part of the Soviet Union and has a long history of antisemitism). Yet, de la Torre stated at Northeast Neighbors: "...I can't even pronounce her last name because I haven't seen her long enough to know who she really is. I don't even know where she comes from."

As longtime Santa Monica resident and community activist Vivian Rothstein has observed: "There are plenty of Americans with complicated last names because we're largely (although not only) a nation of immigrants from across the globe. The question is, do we need a City Councilmember who only respects SOME of us, and not ALL of us? Does he know, or care, who we really are?"

De la Torre's failings as a public official extend far beyond his bigotry. Below are a few of many examples:

- When elected to the City Council in November 2020, de la Torre claimed — without any basis — that he could continue serving as a member of the School Board even though he was advised that under State law his election to the City Council meant he forfeited his School Board seat. When informed he was no longer a School Board member, de la Torre (with the aid of his attorney, Kevin Shenkman) threatened to sue the School District. Ironically, since his departure from the School Board, de la Torre has shown no interest in supporting school district issues, culminating in abstaining from what should have been an easy vote to support a necessary and popular bond measure (Measure QS) which garnered the endorsement of the City Council, with the support of five Council members: Mayor Phil Brock, Mayor Pro Tempore Lana Negrete, and Councilmembers Gleam Davis, Caroline Torosis and Jesse Zwick.
- Upon taking office as a Councilmember, de la Torre began pressuring his new colleagues to concede a lawsuit that he (as President of the Pico Neighborhood Association), his spouse Maria Loya and attorney Shenkman had filed in 2016 challenging the Santa Monica City Charter provisions establishing at-large elections for both City Council and the Board of Education. De la Torre has continued pressuring his colleagues and insisting that he be allowed to vote on the lawsuit, despite his obvious conflict of interest given his spouse's role as a plaintiff and his attorney's role as counsel for the plaintiffs. (De la Torre claims that a judge ruled he has no conflict of interest, but that is false. The judge in question rejected de la Torre's request for a ruling in his favor, pointing to de la Torre's relationship with attorney Shenkman as "the elephant in the room.") De la Torre has proudly shared that he pursued the lawsuit as a matter of spite because the City had discontinued its funding of his non-profit organization (Pico Youth and Family Center) due to his mismanagement, deceit and financial improprieties. The City Council, as required by the City Charter, has defended the lawsuit for more than eight years at great cost to Santa Monica taxpayers.
- At the same Northeast Neighbors' meeting where he disrespected Ms. Zernitskaya, de la Torre threatened the jobs of City employees by calling for a new City Manager who would be directed to demand that City employees resign, followed by a round of begging for reinstatement at reduced salaries. To quote de la Torre: "'But one thing we can do, and we should look into, is hire a city manager who will make everyone reapply for their jobs ... get everyone. So then we're not targeting one staff member or another, we're saying let's have everybody reapply for their jobs.'"

While this threat calls for actions that are clearly illegal, CEPS is informed that de

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 15

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Fellow Residents

Wow, it's a bore to keep deconstructing the desperate confabulations of SMRR and their puppeteers. But somebody's got to do it! The latest is from Ted Winterer, who presided on the City Council from 2012-2020 (and as the Mayor 2016-2018), and has written a truly hilarious SMDP op-ed in which he wonders why the two incumbents running (Phil Brock and Oscar de la Torre), haven't yet created safer streets in their three years in office when they've been in control for 40. This is also a theme in SMRR mailers.

Well Ted, I've lived in Santa Monica for 32 years and can remember exactly when our city started its downward turn, which coincided with the arrival of you and your SMRR compatriots in 2012, destroying the Santa Monica we all knew and loved. That's not hyperbole. Your exact reign took a city that was thriving, a crown jewel with a sane 4-story development policy, safe streets, and a sophisticated beach vibe that drew people from around the world, and turned it into a chaotic husk of its former glory.

Winterer starts by writing how all the candidates said they would vote for more police. Wow, Ted, that's some really convenient campaign trail gullibility; glad you're coming around on this issue. But your SMRR slate is intrinsically anti-police: they do NOT support Prop 36, a statewide measure polling at 70% approval that will allow police to arrest chronic thieves that now get to steal everything up to $950 without consequences. And the four SMRR candidates are also supporting George Gascon, our criminal friendly LA District attorney who's about to be voted out by county residents sick of his soft on crime policies.

Winterer goes on to say a city with a 750 million dollar a year budget can't afford the 15 million dollars a year it would take to bring our police up to the 300 our police force says they need. That's a mere 2% of our budget that would more than pay for itself if the streets regained a reputation for safety instead of chaos, drawing businesses back to downtown and restoring the 26 million in taxes we're losing every year. In the meantime, maybe audit the 53 million a year the city spends on ineffectual homeless services? Or the ornamental DEI department that most cities, universities, and companies are now debunking and dismantling? You say we can't afford more police, Ted? Well, I say we can't afford not to invest in safe streets, the core responsibility of government.

Winterer goes on... instead of acknowledging our new and well-deserved reputation as an unsafe and unstable city, Ted instead blames our lack of recovery on the people pointing out the problem rather than the problem itself. He says instead we need to "Lure back the customers and businesses with a positive message, increase revenues and then enhance safety even further – that's the shrewder strategy."

Yaaas, Ted. If only people wouldn't point out the weekly rapes, murders, kidnappings, muggings, and general disorder, then surely businesses and tourism would return. Never mind that the city is making national news every week for its random violent crime, according to you it's just a PR problem! Well, as somebody who's been personally attacked twice in two years, once with a deadly weapon blocks from my house near 9th and Wilshire, I'm calling total BS on your gaslighting. Maybe you live in a part of town in which you're not crossing the street to avoid high and unstable transients screaming

SEE **RESIDENTS** PAGE 10

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GUEST COMMENTARY

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Oscar is a man of decency and respect

I read with interest and dismay the letters and other material I received regarding my long-time colleague, Councilmember Oscar de la Torre. The reported incidents occurred many years ago but are just now coming to the surface. None of this is appropriate for my comment since I was not a witness to any of these alleged instances and verbatim quotations. Although I worked in Santa Monica for nearly 30 years as the Rabbi of Beth Shir Shalom synagogue (now Emeritus), I do not live or vote in Santa Monica.

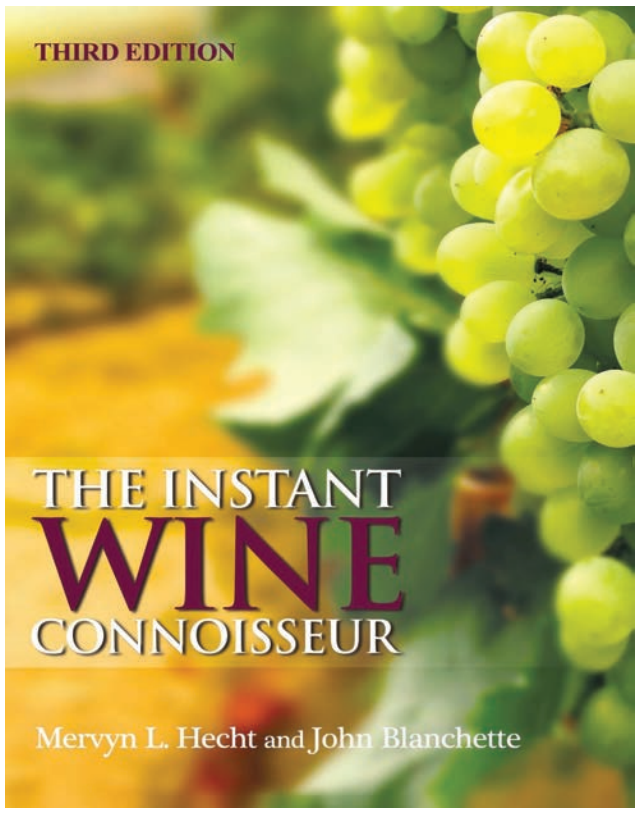
What is appropriate for my comment relates to Mr. de la Torre's personhood. As he mentioned in his letter of response to this newspaper, Mr. de la Torre and I have known each other for a long time. I know him to always act and speak with decency and respect. Our work together involved interfacing different sub-communities in Santa Monica and facilitating their working together on various projects. He approached his work with a clear sense of openness to new perspectives. Ever present is his deep devotion to his Latino community. In his many roles in Santa Monica, Mr. De la Torre commits to be their advocate, ensuring their presence and participation in arenas where they long sought inclusion. He is aware that there are occasions when he is the sole Latino in the room, and his dedicated support of the residents of the Pico Neighborhood may be challenging for some to hear. In my experience, it would be entirely out of character for the Oscar de la Torre I know to express hurtful comments. Again, I was not there, so I cannot confirm or refute the allegations.

It saddens me greatly to see these kinds of accusations flying around Santa Monica, and I hope there is a way to settle the matter via a lie-detector test or a truth commission comprised of local clergy, both of which Mr. de la Torre told me he would participate in so long as everyone involved participated as well.

Many years ago, as a college student, I struck up a conversation with a stranger much older than I as we walked along the beach in Santa Monica. In an unexpected, wide-ranging talk, he gave me one of the most sage and precious pieces of advice I ever received. We spoke about the basics of human nature, truthfulness, and honesty. At one point, he turned to the ocean and, pointing at the waves meeting the sand, said, "You can't get away from yourself any more than the sea can get away from the shore." For all of us who love this city, let us recognize how wonderfully connected we are. Let us be truthful with ourselves and one another. Let us be the sea and the shore.

Rabbi Neil Comess-Daniels, Rabbi Emeritus Beth Shir Shalom, Los Angeles

★★★★★ A light-hearted fun read.
★★★★★ Well written, particularly useful, instantly accessible.
★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

SUBJECT: 22ENT-0075 (Fence Wall Hedge Height Modification)
631 Georgina Avenue
APPLICANT: Gabriel Sandoval
PROPERTY OWNER: Aaron Wilhelm

A public hearing will be held by the Zoning Administrator to consider the following request:

The applicant requests approval of a height modification to allow a proposed 13'-high hedge and an existing wrought iron fence up to 6'-3" in height along the front parcel line, a proposed 13'-high hedge along the south side parcel line, and an existing fence up to 5'-8 ½" high along the north side parcel line in the front setback along 7th Street. The proposed hedge up to 13' in height and fence up to 6'-3" in height exceed the maximum allowable height of 42 inches in the front setback in the Single-Unit Residential (R1) zoning district. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Sections 9.21.050 and 9.04.050(D), fences, walls, or hedges cannot exceed a maximum height of 42 inches within the required front setback as measured from the lowest finished grade adjacent to either side of the fence, wall, or hedge. Pursuant to SMMC Section 9.04.050(D), in the cases of fences, walls, or hedges that are parallel to and within 5 feet of a public sidewalk, grade shall be the elevation of the closest point on the sidewalk. SMMC Section 9.43.080(B) allows an applicant to request a modification to this height limitation in the front setback.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024 AT 10:30 AM**

LOCATION: City Council Chamber, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email to planningcomment@santamonica.gov or via mail to the address listed below. Comments received prior to 5:30 P.M. the day before the meeting will be distributed to the Zoning Administrator prior to the meeting and posted online. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

You may also comment in-person at the Zoning Administrator hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment.

Address your comments to: **Ana Fernandez, Associate Planner**
Re: 22ENT-0075

VIA E-MAIL: planningcomment@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Mail Stop 28
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Ana Fernandez at (310) 458-2200 ext 2431, or by e-mail at ana.fernandez@santamonica.gov. The Zoning Ordinance is available on the City's web site at www.santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (866) 311-7266 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate languages provided that the request is made with 72 hours of the meeting. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL
Esto es una noticia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si desea más información, favor de llamar a Ana Fernandez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431 o envíe un correo electrónico a ana.fernandez@santamonica.gov.

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Vote No: Proposition 33 (Extreme Rent Control)

Editor:

Santa Monica, Berkeley, Oakland and several other cities, including Los Angeles, have well established, very "over protected" RENT STABILIZATION ordinances; therefore, Proposition 33 is redundant, unnecessary and provides no additional RELIEF for direct benefit to California and Santa Monica RENTERS

The 1995 Costa-Hawkins Fair Housing Act simply provided that certain "classifications" of housing would be "exempt from RENT CONTROL: single family homes, condominiums, duplexes, new construction built after 1995, and of course Rental Units that become VACANT.

This law also addressed "serial illegal roommate arrangements." As your readers will recall, there were over 10,000 rental units in San Francisco which were Vacant and simply taken "off the market," padlocked and shut. In Santa Monica, perhaps the amount may have been in the range of several thousand or more. Your readers will recall there was an "underground" black market for the rental units wherein unethical realtors and others sold the "keys" to the units for, as reported, $10,000 to $15,000. For example, wealthy motion picture directors, producers, actors, thoracic and reconstructive surgeons bought access to these units. Extreme Rent Control not only contributes to black market misconduct, but also the vast majority of the rental stock in Santa Monica deteriorated. No new roofs, landscaping, tree trimming, or even the maintenance of the laundry rooms. As we drove through the City, we saw that the fascia boards, wood trim and even the exterior stucco was fractured and collapsing and very old. Rental units were not scheduled for Remodeling. It destroyed the small businesses of plumbers, electricians, roofers, pest control or hardware stores.

Effective January 1, 1999, Costa-Hawkins reconfigured our laws, prevented overreaching municipalities such as Berkeley and Santa Monica from initiating vacancy control and other oppressive policies. With an open and free market, units were immediately scheduled for renovation and remodeling. and thousands of new Tenants and families came to our community.

Prop. 33 would merely allow a municipality to re-establish the "old protocols" promoted by SMRR and others, and destroy our limited housing. Owners would go out of business, much like Toys R Us, Bed, Bath and Beyond; and Red Lobster.

All of this special protection needed by Tenants has heretofore been considered, addressed and incorporated in the "Tenant Protection Act," 2019. This 11-page new law, promoted by Tenant activists, and endorsed by former Assemblyperson Richard Bloom, current State Senator Ben Allen, Rob Bonta, David Chiu and others, provided maximum benefit and protection to TENANTS. There is no need for Proposition 33, as it is not only injurious and dangerous, but also unnecessary and redundant. Every Tenant and Owner of a single family home should universally reject Proposition 33. Even the Los Angeles Times, when it discovered that the campaign for Prop. 33 was using hijacked campaign material from Vice President Kamala Harris in a deceptive, fraudulent and disingenuous TV ad, recommended and endorsed No on Prop. 33.

Michael Millman , Santa Monica

Supporting Oscar

Editor:

I am writing to express my support for Oscar De La Torre, who has recently been accused of antisemitism. I believe these accusations are unfounded and do not reflect the true character and intentions of Mr De La Torre.

As a Jewish person and part of the LGBTQ+ community, I have had my fair share of discrimination, and I can confidently say Oscar De La Torre has consistently demonstrated a commitment to inclusivity and equality throughout his career. His actions and public statements reflect a dedication to fighting discrimination in all its forms. He has a flawless record of promoting social justice and supporting diverse communities.

The accusations against Mr De La Torre may stem from misinterpretations or taken out of context. One must look at things like this with an open mind and seek clarification rather than jumping to conclusions.

It is also important to note that Mr De La Torre has received support from various community leaders and organizations who recognize his genuine efforts in fostering inclusivity. This support further confirms that the accusations are not consistent with Mr De La Torres true values.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider the broader context and the actual body of work that Mr De La Torre has contributed to our society. Let us not allow unfounded accusations to overshadow his positive impact and commitment to justice.

Thank you for considering this perspective.

Jeff Klein, West Hollywood

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A Santa Monica Botanical Garden

Editor:

The one hundred ninety-two acres at Santa Monica Airport, "SMACP," offers an excellent opportunity to provide visionary approaches to municipal investments in Santa Monica's future.

A major portion of the land should be dedicated to affordable housing, especially urgently needed housing for families with children who can benefit from Santa Monica's excellent public schools. A smaller portion of the project could explore possible housing for moderate-income families who cannot afford to own a home in Santa Monica. Perhaps an attractive common-interest project with modest houses could be built for Santa Monica moderate-income families and be structured to keep the units affordable using equity-sharing.

This land can also serve and inspire the community with a moderate, perhaps twelve-acre Santa Monica Botanical Garden Park, similar to the outstanding Mathias Botanical Garden at UCLA. The Santa Monica Botanical Garden Park could have walking trails where visitors could see a variety of trees and various plants that bloom. The Mathias Garden has over 3,000 species. Information on that park is here: https://www.botgard.ucla.edu. Also, like Mathias Park, which honors the native inhabitants, the Santa Monica Botanical Park should honor the first people on the Santa Monica land, the Southern California Native American Indians.

At Mathias Park, you can also enjoy hearing bells ring the hours from a nearby church bell tower. A great addition to the Santa Monica Botanical Garden would be an attractive compact bell tower with musical quality bells or chimes at the Park's entrance or a central courtyard.

We can learn from the plans and operations at the successful UCLA Mathias Botanical Gardens.

I would appreciate hearing the Council candidates' ideas on the SMACP.

Thank you for reading my comments. (These are my recommendations. I am not speaking on behalf of any client or organization I may be a member of.)

Paul DeSantis, Santa Monica

Crime in Santa Monica

Editor:

It seems anymore like not a week goes by without news of a stabbing, shooting, assault, rape or home invasion. And there are undoubtedly countless more less-serious crimes, many of which go unreported. Santa Monica wasn't like this 10 years ago. Crime continues to get worse and clearly we need to make changes in order to reverse this trend.

The causes of increasing crime can be argued but I would venture to say that growing crime in our communities is due in great part to weakened law enforcement that has been imposed by our county district attorney as well to permissive local policies with regard to homelessness.

And now we are faced with elections for four of the seven seats on our city council involving two slates of candidates with differing views regarding crime and homelessness.

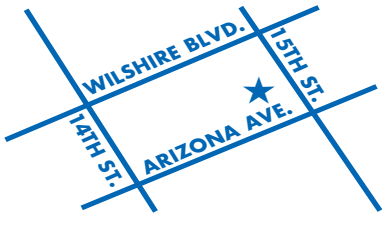
One slate, comprising Phil Brock, Oscar de la Torre, Vivian Roknian and John Putnam, has come out in favor of reducing crime by increasing our police force, fighting against assistance to drug users in our public parks, and tightening rules with regard to use of public areas by homeless people. All four of these candidates are in favor of replacing George Gascon as our county district attorney so that we in Santa Monica can strengthen our own enforcement of laws with regard to criminals.

The other slate, including Barry Snell, Ellis Raskin, Dan Hall and Natalya Zernitskaya , has taken positions more in line with maintaining the status quo. They support the re-election of George Gascon, and thus a continuation of his catch-and-release and no-bail policies for criminals. They favor county programs to distribute drug needles and pipes in our public parks, a program that has served to attract drug users, making many of our residents feel unsafe, particularly for taking their children. And they are against curbing sleeping in our public spaces.

This is a critical election for giving our city leaders a chance to reverse our growing crime trend. I urge all voters who care about the safety for our families, our children and elders, and our many visitors, to vote for the Brock-de la Torre-Roknian-Putman slate. And we need for you to vote for all four in order to have the necessary majority on the city council that will allow it to effect changes.

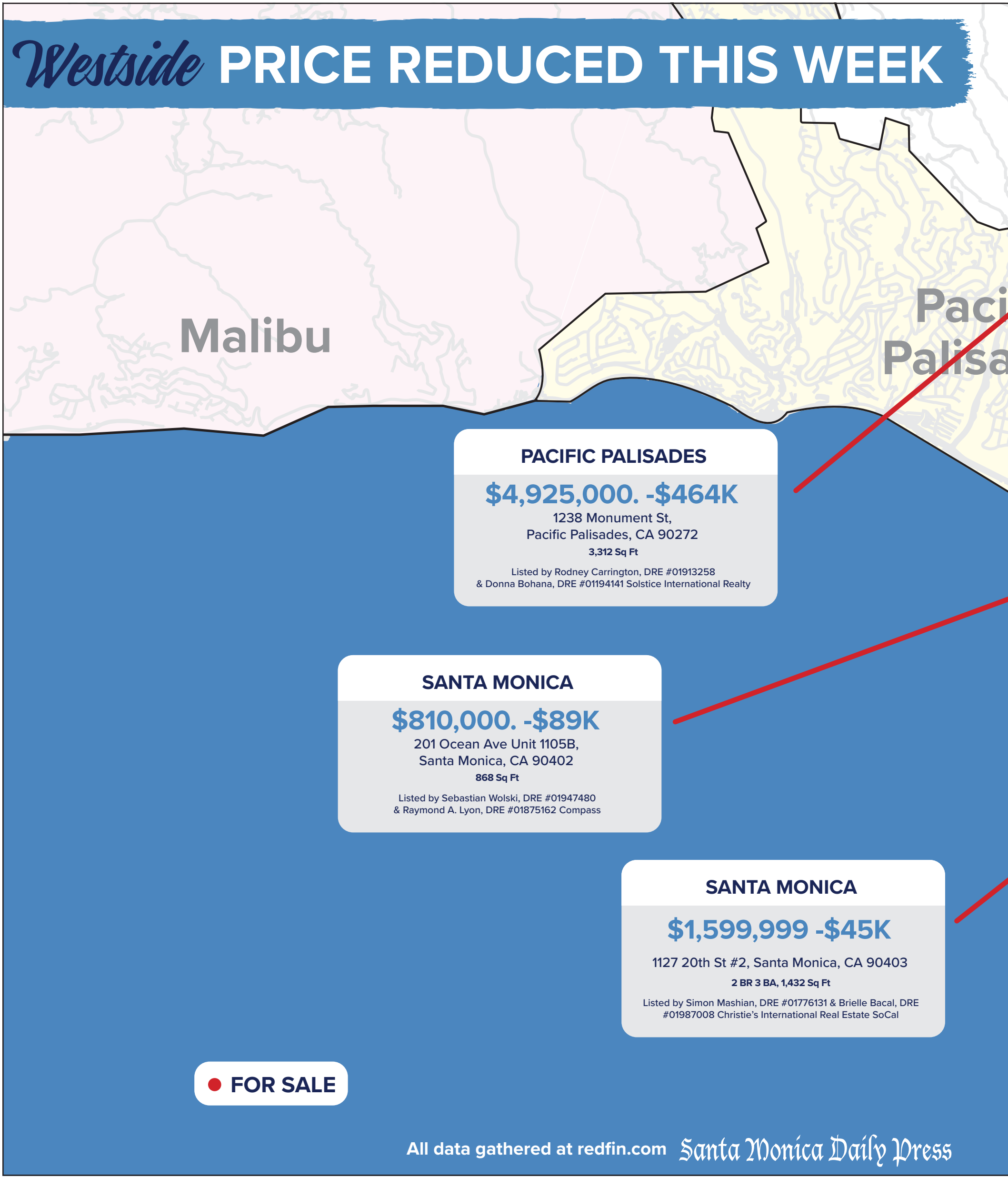
To those voters who are inclined to support the Snell-Raskin-Hall-Zernitskaya slate, perhaps more for ideological reasons, I urge you to re-consider your choices so that we may allow our council to take practical steps to reduce crime and improve the safety and welfare of your neighbors and our community in general.

Faustino Garza, Santa Monica

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Westside PRICE REDUCED THIS WEEK



PACIFIC PALISADES

$4,925,000. -$464K

1238 Monument St,
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

3,312 Sq Ft

Listed by Rodney Carrington, DRE #01913258
& Donna Bohana, DRE #01194141 Solstice International Realty

SANTA MONICA

$810,000. -$89K

201 Ocean Ave Unit 1105B,
Santa Monica, CA 90402

868 Sq Ft

Listed by Sebastian Wolski, DRE #01947480
& Raymond A. Lyon, DRE #01875162 Compass

SANTA MONICA

$1,599,999 -$45K

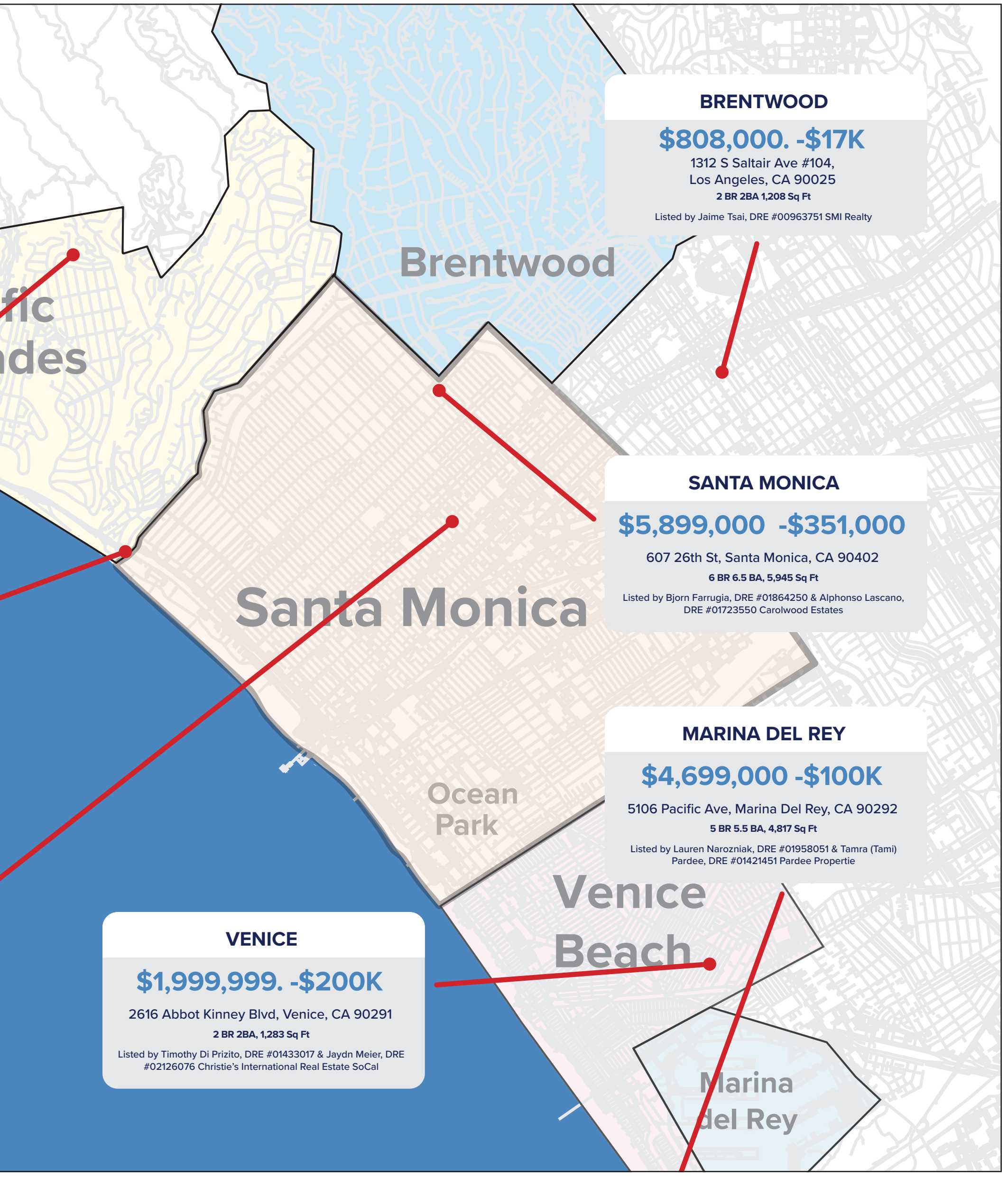
1127 20th St #2, Santa Monica, CA 90403

2 BR 3 BA, 1,432 Sq Ft

Listed by Simon Mashian, DRE #01776131 & Brielle Bacal, DRE #01987008 Christie's International Real Estate SoCal

● FOR SALE

All data gathered at redfin.com Santa Monica Daily Press



BRENTWOOD

$808,000. -$17K

1312 S Saltair Ave #104,
Los Angeles, CA 90025

2 BR 2BA 1,208 Sq Ft

Listed by Jaime Tsai, DRE #00963751 SMI Realty

SANTA MONICA

$5,899,000 -$351,000

607 26th St, Santa Monica, CA 90402

6 BR 6.5 BA, 5,945 Sq Ft

Listed by Bjorn Farrugia, DRE #01864250 & Alphonso Lascano, DRE #01723550 Carolwood Estates

MARINA DEL REY

$4,699,000 -$100K

5106 Pacific Ave, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292

5 BR 5.5 BA, 4,817 Sq Ft

Listed by Lauren Narozniak, DRE #01958051 & Tamra (Tami) Pardee, DRE #01421451 Pardee Propertie

VENICE

$1,999,999. -$200K

2616 Abbot Kinney Blvd, Venice, CA 90291

2 BR 2BA, 1,283 Sq Ft

Listed by Timothy Di Prizito, DRE #01433017 & Jaydn Meier, DRE #02126076 Christie's International Real Estate SoCal

COMPOSER

FROM PAGE 2

I have a way to make this work.' Someone who is empathetic to the performer, someone who is cognizant of the performer … because at the end of the day, what we write is up to them to interpret."

Siskind began working on his own interpretations of his environment when the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020. He ended up leaving Los Angeles during the pandemic to stay with family in Montana, leaving him alone with the mental stressors impacting his generation.

"While I was up there, I like so many other adolescents at the time, I was feeling isolated, I was feeling alone and so deeply frustrated that we could not be together, that we could not step into a room and create music and do these things together," he said.

These feelings led to him doing something uncommon for a composer, writing his own poetry to set to music. Over the course of three years, these compositions turned into "Awake," a musical buffet that incorporates jazz and inspiration from conducting icons like Gustav Mahler. The musical ideas, Siskind said, were all under the idea of how his generation can make their "voices soar" amidst mental struggles.

"I think that mental health is a big overarching theme of something that we need to work on together, especially for adolescents and for younger people, and that's really something that I hope that through my music, that I can approach and I can help younger folks connect with each other and share their dreams and get through difficult times," Siskind said.

Siskind's vision was co-signed by his elders, such as Grammy-nominated baritone Johnathan McCullough and Georg Solti Conducting Award winner Christopher Allen, who both lended their talents to "Awake." Siskind called both "incredibly generous in believing in me to create this project."

"I first knew Samuel as a principal singer with a strong baritone voice, but then found out that he composed as well," McCullough said of the prodigy. "I asked to hear some of his pieces and knew right away that he had a very special talent. It is vitally important that the music we make spreads messages of what we are passionate about and Samuel does just that."

Siskind will be sharing his passion in Newport Beach for the opening performance of Season 13 of Choral Arts Initiative, his first time performing tracks from "Awake" in an experience he still has trouble believing is his new reality.

"It's really quite exciting and it's always really surreal," he said of bringing live music back to the Los Angeles community. "I remember being a little kid going to the LA Phil on Saturdays and watching … I'm this little kid watching the conductor and the composer and the musicians on stage, and for me to be standing on that stage now is really quite surreal."

"Awake" is now out on all major streaming platforms. To purchase tickets for the Choral Arts Initiative show, visit choralartsinitative.org.

thomas@smdp.com

RESIDENTS

FROM PAGE 5

obscenities at you, but most residents are, and we'd like a bit of the compassion you and SMRR show the perpetrators. I've heard SMRR council members cite the 2023 FBI stats about how violent crime was down 2.1% nationally despite people's sense that it was rising. Well, the FBI just revised it and in 2023 violent crime went up nationally to 4.3%. Look it up. But we in Santa Monica already knew it from what we see every day.

The bottom line is Santa Monica has an active substrate of disorder that smothers tourism and our recovery. From this substrate sociopathic criminals emerge to predate on residents (and the truly needy) making the streets unsafe, which is obvious to anybody walking them. This can only be solved by proactive policing, including:

Arresting transients for the "minor" crimes of public use of hard drugs, vandalism, shoplifting, intoxication, etc.

Running them for parole violations and warrants to weed out the felons.

Simultaneously targeting the dealers by restarting our undercover unit.

Rinse and repeat until our reputation as easy pickings with soft enforcement gets turned around.

This is why we need 300 police who can apply consistent pressure on those who come here to victimize. Only this will allow people to choose Santa Monica over Culver City, where I went last week, for a day off; CC is actually safe, with none of our disorder or crime. But they have a moderate city council that passed ordinances against sleeping in public, public intoxication, etc.—something else the SMRR candidates are against that Safer Santa Monica is for. Because people, what we have now IS NOT NORMAL, as much as SMRR tries to downplay it.

This mediocre SMRR slate trying to claw back power is out of touch with the times and the moderate trend of the Democratic party in the state. SMRR (Ted) you've had your time. And your cluelessness about what really concerns Santa Monicans runs deeper than election lies. You are morally confused as to what real compassion looks like because you don't really care. You like to tell yourselves self-congratulatory stories about "our values," while allowing residents to be victimized by predators and addicts who lash out on their way down to dying on our the streets. It's NOT compassion, it's virtue-signaling. And accusing life-long Democrats of being MAGA, or screaming that rent control will be lost if Safer Santa Monica wins, are truly despicable lies.

When it comes to public safety, the only choice in this election is as clear as its name, the Safer Santa Monica Slate: Oscar de la Torre, Vivian Roknian, Phil Brock, and John Putnam. This will give the council enough votes to truly change direction. Enough is enough of SMRR and their SMDC enablers. Let Safer Santa Monica finish the job that Phil and Oscar started.

It will be a relief to stop pointing out the obvious in what is essentially the same letter I've written since 2016.

Arthur Jeon, Santa Monica

SMMUSD
SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Important: There is an Error on Ballots in Santa Monica and Malibu Regarding the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) Facility Improvement Bond Measures QS and MM

Santa Monica area voters vote only on SMMUSD Bond Measure QS

Malibu and unincorporated area voters vote only on SMMUSD Bond Measure MM

The Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder / County Clerk (RR/CC) mistakenly included BOTH Measure QS and Measure MM on BOTH Santa Monica and Malibu ballots in error.

Measure QS pertains only to Santa Monica voters and schools. Measure MM pertains to only Malibu voters and schools.

The election for each measure will be determined by the voters in each area. Measure QS will be decided by the votes of Santa Monica voters. Measure MM will be decided by the votes of Malibu voters.

SMMUSD created two improvement/voting areas in 2018 for the purpose of addressing important school facility needs within the Santa Monica area, and separately, important school facility needs within the Malibu area. These areas are known as School Facilities Improvement District No. 1, encompassing Santa Monica ("Santa Monica Schools SFID") and School Facilities Improvement District No. 2, encompassing Malibu ("Malibu Schools SFID").

More info regarding the ballot error: tinyurl.com/Registrar-Recorder

Learn more about Measures QS and MM.
www.smmusd.org



FRIDAY | OCTOBER 25

MOVIE IN THE PARK

5 - 9 p.m. Colorado Center Park, 26th St. and Broadway Ave. Get ready for a thrilling evening under the stars as BXP and the Santa Monica Police Department presents "The Nightmare Before Christmas." Bring your picnic baskets, blankets, lawn chairs and your Halloween spirit for a cozy night filled with laughter, chills, and some of your favorite characters. The fun begins with face painting at 5 p.m., movie starts at 6:30 p.m.

SOCCER SKILLS CAMP

6 - 8 p.m. Santa Monica High School Football Field, 601 Pico Blvd. Led by the talented Samohi boys soccer team players, this fun-filled evening of soccer skills and games is perfect for young athletes ages K-6th grade. Learn new tricks, make new friends and have a blast on the field. Fun and supportive environment, all skill levels welcome. Bring cleats, shin guards, soccer ball and a water bottle. $35 per player, pizza and drink included, to purchase visit: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4FACAA29A1FECE9-51208874-friday#/.

HALLOWEEN BAR CRAWL

8 p.m. - 2 a.m. The Brixton, 2827 Pico Blvd. This Halloween season, experience the ultimate zombie apocalypse with the Walking Dead Halloween Bar Crawl. Round up your zombie crew, slip into your most creative costumes and prepare to crawl your way through 6+ bars with access to epic Halloween drink deals. Participating bar locations are The Brixton, Mom's Bar, The Room, The Nickel Mine, Lanea and 121 Santa Monica. Tickets also apply for Saturday, October 26th and Thursday, October 31st. Tickets $20, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/2024-halloween-bar-crawl-walking-dead-santa-monica-bar-crawl-3-days-tickets-1022656371737.

TITANIC MASQUERADE HALLOWEEN PARTY CRUISE

8 p.m. - 12 a.m. Entertainer Yacht, 13755 Fiji Way, Marina del Rey. Set sail for a haunted masquerade ball on the Marina del Rey harbor. Prepare for the ultimate Halloween costume party cruise that will be transformed into a haunting Titanic, with an all-star lineup of LA's top DJs. Tickets $47, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/titanic-masquerade-los-angeles-halloween-party-cruise-tickets-855120858507.

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 26

TRUNK OR TREAT

9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Santa Monica Elks Lodge #906, 1040 Pico Blvd. Join for a spooktacular time at a free in-person event where kids can trick or treat from car to car in a safe and fun environment. Dress up in your favorite costume and get ready for a morning of candy and community spirit.

BELONGING- A SOUND INSTALLATION

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Annex Community Meeting Room, Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. This 4-channel sound installation is a dynamic sonic tapestry that weaves together the voices of Santa Monica's community and its soundscape, responding to the profound questions, "Do you feel you belong here in Santa Monica? How? When? Where?" This is a project by Freewaves and is funded by the City of Santa Monica's Art of Recovery initiative.

DEA DRUG TAKE BACK

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Santa Monica Public Safety Facility, 333 Olympic Dr. National Take-Back Day is a safe, convenient and responsible way to dispose of unused or expired prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications. For other participating locations visit DEAtakeback.com.

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS CELEBRATION

2 - 8 p.m. Third Street Promenade. The annual Día de los Metros Celebration on Third Street Promenade is back, featuring live entertainment, large-scale art, a Latinx pop-up market, community altars, kids arts and crafts, face painting and games for all ages. To RSVP for free, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dia-de-los-muertos-celebration-in-downtown-santa-monica-tickets-1014028876667.

BEYOND THE VISIBLE

5 - 8 p.m. Gallery 612, 612 Santa Monica Blvd. Joanna Becket's solo exhibit will have its opening reception, supported by Madre Mezcal. Exhibit runs through November 9. Gallery hours are Friday and Saturday 1 - 9 p.m., Sundays 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

PENNY LANE CENTERS' 55TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

6 - 10 p.m. Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows, 101 Wilshire Blvd. A night of celebration filled with music, dancing and good company. Don't miss out on this special event where we honor the legacy of Penny Lane and embrace our future. Black tie attire requested. Tickets $350, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/penny-lane-centers-55th-anniversary-gala-tickets-872321947427.

CELEBRITY OPERA SERIES

7:30 p.m. Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th St. Soprano Angela Gheorghiu dazzles as she makes her highly anticipated return to BroadStage's Celebrity Opera Series, gracing the stage alongside the tenor sensation Freddie de Tommaso, making his West Coast debut. Tickets $105-$130, to purchase visit: https://broadstage.org/tickets-shows/calendar/angela-gheorghiu-freddie-de-tommaso/.

SUNDAY | OCTOBER 27

VIVA LAS VEGAS

3 - 5 p.m. Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th St. The Santa Monica College Emeritus Concert Band presents a combined performance with the Santa Ana College Concert Band under the direction of Adam Gerling. Free performance. See smc.edu/events or call 310-434-4306 for details.

LADIES SALSA DROP-IN CLASSES

4:45 - 5:30 p.m. Capoeira Besouro Studio, 2116 Pico Blvd. For those eager to delve into the vibrant world of salsa without committing to a full series, the Ladies Salsa Drop-In Classes have you learning the sultry moves, fiery footwork, body isolations and more. Tickets $15, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ladies-salsa-drop-in-classes-embrace-the-rhythm-tickets-873023947127.

MONDAY | OCTOBER 28

PIZZA PARTY AT BODEGA WINE BAR

Every Monday Night at Bodega, every bottle of wine you purchase gets you a pizza half off! 6 p.m. -Close. 814 Broadway.

VIRGINIA AVE PARK ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

The Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board (VAPAB) serves as an advisory body to the Recreation and Parks Commission and the Director of Housing and Human Services Department. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave, 7 p.m.

AIRPORT COMMISSION

The Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council in matters pertaining to the administration of Santa Monica Municipal Airport and other aviation matters affecting the City. The Airport Commission meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. 7 p.m. 1685 Main Street.

PIZZA PARTY! A COMEDY SHOW

What do you get when you have LA's sauciest comedians and three boxes of hot pizza? A Pizza party! Join us the fourth Monday of the every month for a comedy show with the funniest pepperonies in town... when it when it comes to comedy they deliver! 7:30 - 9 p.m. The Crow, 2525 Michigan Ave Unit F4. $15. https://jetbook.co/e/pizza-party-a-comedy-showxg7o

MONDAY CELLAR NIGHTS AT ESTER'S WINE SHOP & BAR

Monday Cellar Nights are 4-10 p.m. and are a really cool way to try a glass of something rare or fancy from our high-end collection, without committing to the whole bottle. We've popped open luxurious Champagnes, baller Burgundies, small allocations from top California winemakers and more. 1314 Seventh Street.

TUESDAY | OCTOBER 29

ACRYLIC/OIL PAINTING WORKSHOP TUESDAY

The adult acrylic/oil workshop is $48.00 plus the cost of canvas (canvas available for purchase in studio). Workshop cost includes easel set up, paint, brushes, apron, 2 hours of instruction and clean up.
ALL levels.
In this workshop each student will work on their own project with guidance from an instructor. Acrylic/oil workshops are free form; bring us your vision and we will aid you in curating the image you idealize.
This workshop allows you to work at your own pace. Some students start & finish a project in one session, while others dive into their project deeply and work on a piece for multiple sessions (also dependent on size of canvas).
All acrylic/oil workshops are geared towards beginner/intermediate students learning & developing skill including, but not limited to, color theory/mixing, composition, light vs shadow, brush work, and finding form.
Paint Lab, 1453 14th St
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/acrylicoil-painting-workshop-tuesday-tickets-942645146007

WRITER'S WORKSHOP WITH JASMYNE BOSWELL

Learn to overcome writer's block, structure your outline, and start writing your next story with author, writing coach, and editor Jasmyne Boswell. Limited seats available. Email library@santamonica.gov for reservations. Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 5 - 7 p.m.

MINDTRAVEL LIVE-TO-HEADPHONES 'SILENT' PIANO CONCERT IN SANTA MONICA

Join organizers for an evening of music + mindfulness as MindTravel brings a live-to-headphones 'silent' piano concert back to Santa Monica! 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Hwy. $20 https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mindtravel-live-to-headphones-silent-piano-concert-in-santa-monica-tickets-1042195965187

MIXOLOGY CLASSES AT FIG AT FAIRMONT MIRAMAR HOTEL & BUNGALOWS

Shake up your night: master the art of craft cocktails at FIG's mixology class!
Join us for an unforgettable evening of creativity and craftsmanship at FIG's exclusive Mixology Class Series, held in the intimate setting of our private dining room - Potting Shed.
Under the expert guidance of a seasoned mixologist, you'll learn the art of crafting signature cocktails that are as visually stunning as they are delicious. From selecting the finest ingredients to mastering the perfect shake, stir, and garnish, every step of the process will be carefully explained and demonstrated. Cocktails and bar snacks are included! $45, https://www.fairmont-miramar.com/experiences/#!/event/7e2959cc-fd4a-4cb4-a896-85044eff2764

IE LOS ANGELES CAREER WORKSHOP

IE Los Angeles will be hosting a career workshop to help support the IE community with making connections and finding future job opportunities. We have a rockstar panel to provide recommendations for navigating networking in Los Angeles and give advice for the current career ecosystem. Lionsgate Entertainment, 2700 Colorado Avenue. $20, https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ie-los-angeles-career-workshop-tickets-1038472478137

Santa Monica Daily Press

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	Vacation Rentals	Real Estate	Computer Services	Fitness	Tutoring

Announcements



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METRO

FROM PAGE 1

2031. So far, 2,362 units have been completed, 930 of those affordable.

"As part of our effort to bring more complete, equitable, transit-oriented communities to Los Angeles, we also build housing on our vacant and underutilized Metro property, and we've been doing it for some time, but in the last several years, we really have honed our focus on housing, and we've adopted our informal tagline and mission to build as much housing as possible, as quickly as possible, for those who need it most," Metro Joint Development Deputy Executive Officer Wells Lawson said.

The development, which according to the Metro website is slated for a unit range of 275-380, is planned to be built over four parcels of land just south of Colorado Ave. between 16th and 18th St. Metro Joint Development Principal Transportation Planner Mica O'Brien presented the outline for development space, with no building details to be shared until a developer is chosen.

O'Brien stated that the easternmost parcel on the corner of Colorado and 18th is an underutilized Metro Park and Ride lot with 65 parking stalls, which she added was underutilized due to roughly 90% of transit riders arriving at the station by means other than a car.

The largest parcel is currently leased to Crossroads Elementary School for bus and car parking, as well as carpool pickup and drop-off. The remaining parcels between 16th and 17th St., O'Brien noted, were "vacant in terms of transit."

Out of the over 400 responses received by Metro thus far, the potential need to keep parking available for local destinations like Crossroads and SMC was one of the top concerns. Wells stated that there is consideration to include that any RFP should include "at least 100" of "community spaces" that can supplement any parking space loss from development.

He added that the plan is to require RFPs to "prepare a plan" that would continue to provide for safe access to the schools and other local spots.

"We're going to make sure that the developers come forward with a plan that includes those pickup and drop-off facilities for the cars and buses, and the walk, bike and roll kind of means to getting to areas ... we will be selecting a developer that has the chops to manage that," Wells said.

For questions related to the would-be residents of such a development, Wells said he is not sure about the percentage of affordable units yet or the background of any future unit occupiers, but that Metro policy prioritizes income-restricted housing. Demographic data taken by the organization found that within a mile of the 17th/SMC station, 45% of the population is rent-burdened, meaning spending more than 30% of monthly income on rent.

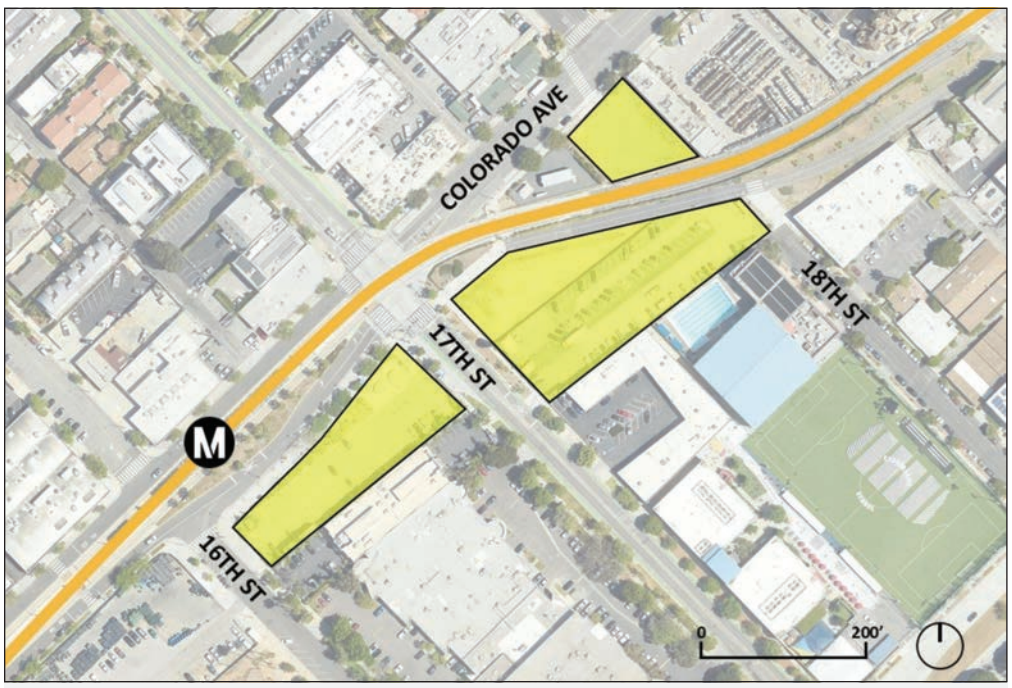
The data also showed that 95% of housing in the area is occupied, with O'Brien adding that they know "low residential vacancy drives up rent," adding to the goal of creating housing "for those who need it most."

"Given the incomes and housing cost burdens in the area, we see this site as having the potential to address some of the challenges that area residents are facing," O'Brien said.

After a developer is chosen for the site, the developer-led public engagement period will begin in Spring 2025, followed by Metro Board considering a recommendation of the project in early 2026. If all financing for the project is secured, construction would be slated to begin in early 2027.

For those that missed the community meeting, a community input survey is currently available at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HLK2NDP.

thomas@smdp.com



Courtesy Graphic

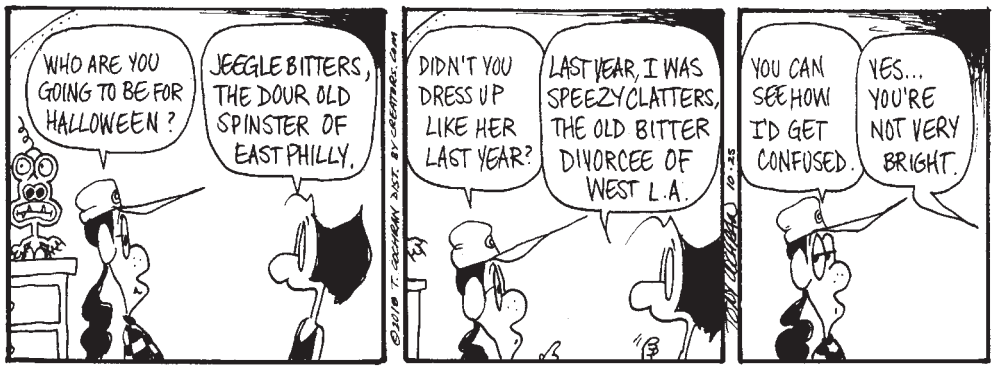
METRO: An affordable housing development could be constructed around the 17th Street/ Santa Monica College Expo Line station in 2027.

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Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

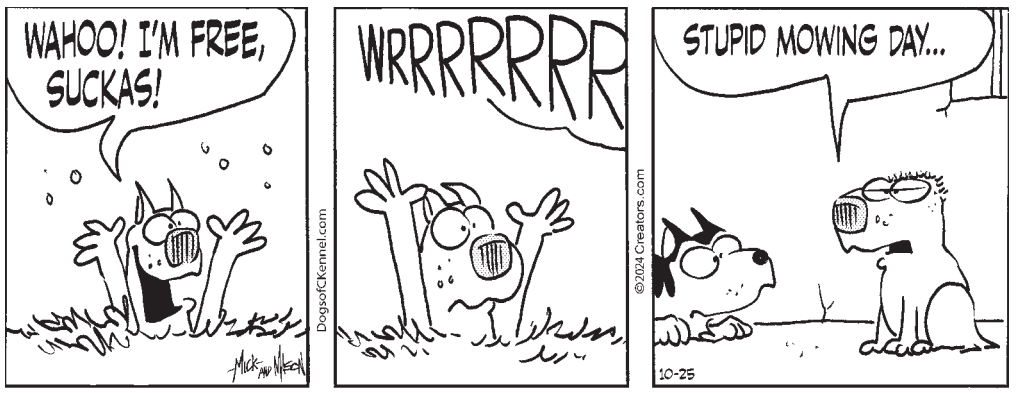
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



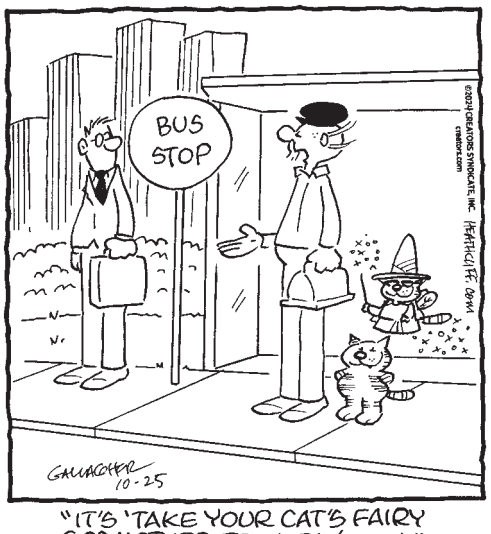
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



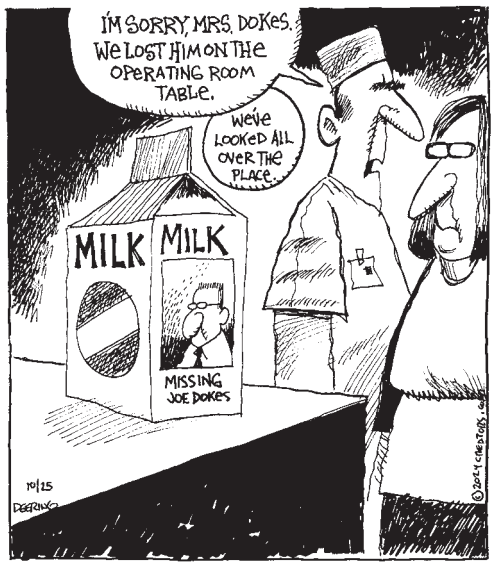
Heathcliff

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 15 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 6374

Chocolate and Bunnies

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

Acclaim	Eggs	Kisses	Ritual
April	Entertain	Lamb	Solace
Baking	Faith	Life	Song
Bury	Gifts	Lovely	Sweets
Candles	Good Friday	Mass	Unity
Carrot	Hats	Miracle	Vigil
Church	Hope	Music	Visit
Crucifixion	Hot cross	Paper	Zest
Death	buns	Prayer	Zigzag
Dine	Hunt	Purple	
Ducks	Industrious	Risen	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 25)

You'll commit to what keeps your heart shining, and your energy is irresistible. Many will bask in your radiant warmth, which is manageable because you create rules and systems for everything from finance to social life and all the adventures in between. More highlights: You'll take a course, then teach one. You'll double your money with a flip. You'll invent a fix. Gemini and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 9, 14, 19 and 6.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). To keep your restless mind from running wild, focus on what you want to experience, not on your fears. Your dreams will be blueprints, your support system the scaffolding that allows you to build your new reality.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Strangers notice your special charisma right away, though your close circle has grown accustomed to it. That can be a good thing, as too much attention can be draining. Anyway, all it takes is a little distance for them to see you anew.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The messages coming from within you may be at odds with the ones you're hearing from the outside. This is a case in which your subconscious has a sense of the story that has yet to be public.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When you're tired, exercise can invigorate you more than taking a nap. In that spirit, though energy may wane, push through. The momentum is building, and if you step away for a break, you'll miss out.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's an area of life in which you haven't found what works — yet. There's no shame in it, and in fact, it would be a shame to pretend otherwise. Keep exploring. You'll find it soon.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The difference between feeling happy and feeling stressed will be navigated by setting your expectations strategically. Plan to be able to use only part of what you make. Expect to produce a lot, and use only the best of it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You want to do a thing, then you do it. It seems simple enough, but it's remarkable to risk feeling a fool, or decide that success doesn't matter in the least. What matters is that you do what you say, and you say what you do.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The good guys aren't always good, the bad guys aren't always bad and the ingenue isn't always in peril. Among honest cheats and righteous liars, you'll observe, take note and navigate the complexity like a pro.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). One of the most challenging parts of change is not knowing where to start. An outside perspective makes this easier. If you're open to asking a teacher, friend or stranger, you'll get the helpful bird's-eye view of your patterns.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A relationship can feel like a secret world built for two. You'll be inspired to share your thoughts, knowledge and support, and you'll feel compelled to demonstrate what makes you different from the rest.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Once you settle into the right mindset, the thing that seemed daunting becomes something very simply handled. It will have to do with your social approach. Your natural charm will melt away the toughest exterior.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A simple act of politeness will go a long way. It all stems from the real respect you have for others. You hold high standards for yourself, but you don't expect others to do as you do, and you don't assume to know their challenges.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

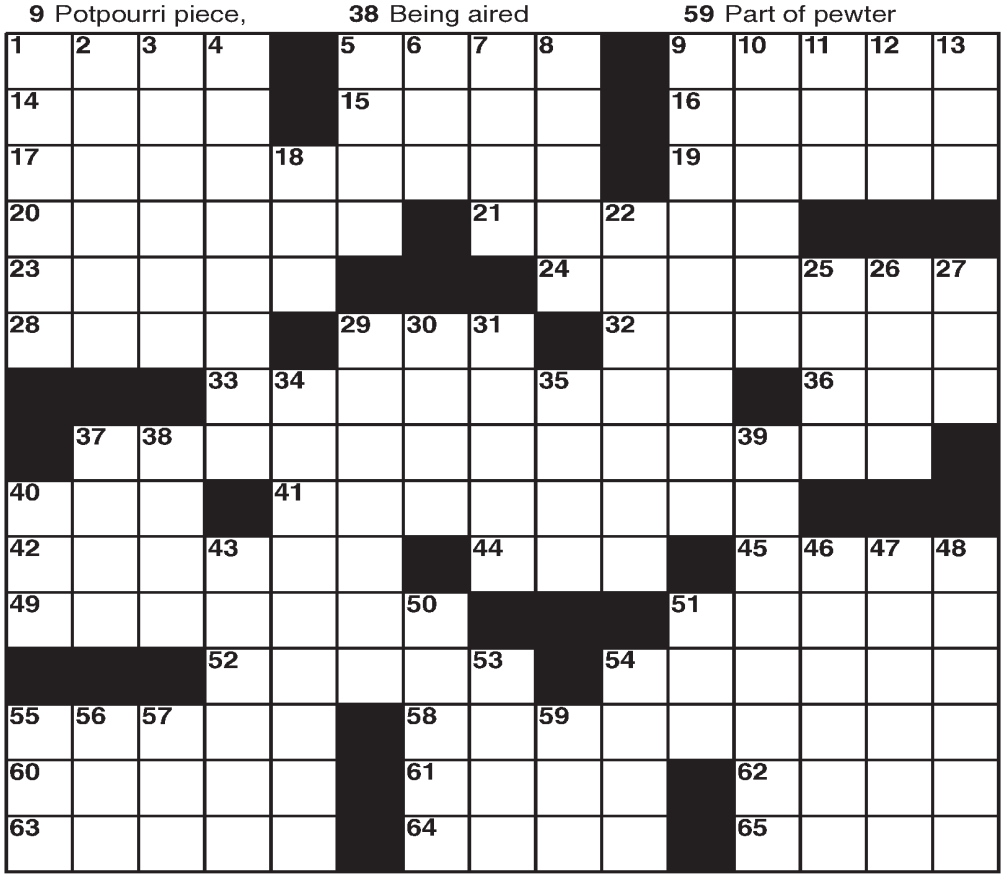
SODA SPEAK by S.N. & Robert Francis
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Toss out
5 Upscale retail chain
9 Chill out
14 Atlas section
15 Alter text
16 Held in reserve
17 University of West Florida home
19 Battle mount
20 Scarlett O'Hara's maid
21 Hawk or Raptor
23 Golf course
24 First pope
28 Perimeter
29 Very loudly, to Liszt
32 Wiggle room
33 Berated
36 Ending for elect
37 Colorado mountains
40 Fish feature
41 Straighten out
42 California Zephyr operator
44 Figure out
45 "That's a relief!"
49 Celebrant
51 Kick around
52 Try to buy
54 Cue
55 Capital of Liechtenstein
58 Exceed in shouting
60 Stroke of luck
61 Nordic gear
62 Discontinued iPod model
63 Carried out
64 Safari setup
65 Flip out

DOWN

1 Sancho Panza's mount
2 Log-on need
3 De Beers business
4 Master openers
5 Exec. department head
6 Hoopla
7 Industrial oven
8 Shots in the dark
9 Potpourri piece, perhaps
10 Admittance
11 Tell it like it isn't
12 Hotshot
13 Crossed out
18 1-Down, for one
22 On the loose
25 Bit of kindling
26 Roof section
27 Pumpernickel grain
29 Washed out
30 Zip around
31 Crumbly cheeses
34 Evened out
35 Completely cooked
37 Street performer
38 Being aired
39 Recent arrivals
40 Quite a distance
43 Chew out
46 Of a Scottish philosopher
47 Word on some euro coins
48 Janitor's implement
50 Fowl place
51 Rainbow shape
53 Heat up in a hurry
54 Cry for attention
55 Military Families Mo. supporter
56 Rather like
57 Excavated
59 Part of pewter



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10/25/24

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

COLLISION

FROM PAGE 1

Blvd, between Broadway and Santa Monica Blvd.

According to the Police Department, the motorcyclist was already up, back on his feet and had only minor injuries.

When checking on the driver of the truck however, officers discovered him deceased in the rear seat of the vehicle from a single self-inflicted gunshot wound. The coroner is responding.

No one else was injured in the incident. The driver of the truck is approximately 20 years old and not from California. No additional information is available at this time and the SMPD will be investigating.

Anyone with any information is encouraged to call the SMPD Watch Commander (24 hours) at (310) 458-8427.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 4

la Torre's threats have already hurt the morale of many City employees. The result would be a slowdown and possible disruption of City services upon which Santa Monica residents depend.

During de la Torre's years in public office, his personal grievances have taken center stage. He has caused the diversion of millions of dollars of Santa Monica taxpayer money that could have been used for public safety, public education and other community priorities, into paying lawyers. This is a disservice to our community, which deserves leaders who put the City's commitments to its constituents first.

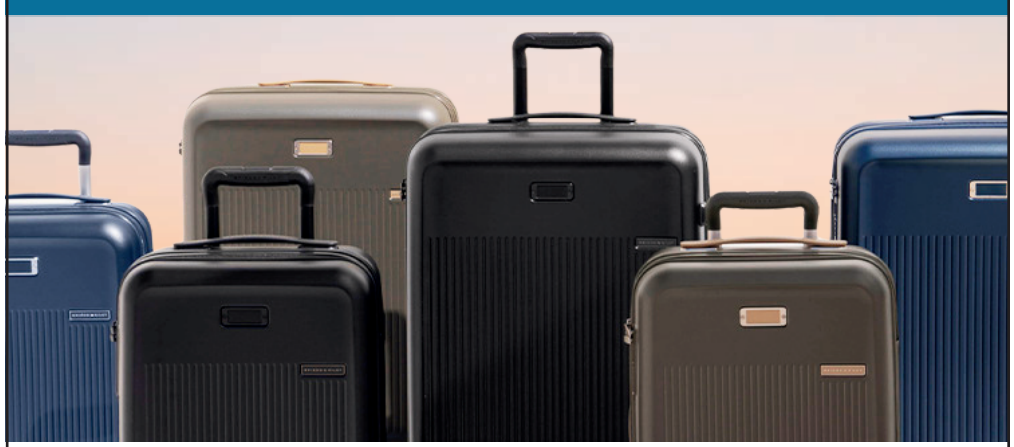
CEPS has had enough of de la Torre's bigotry, antics, misconduct and deceit, a small sampling of which has been described above. The list goes on. Santa Monica deserves more from its elected officials – a lot more. The voters should say NO to de la Torre.

Submitted by: Sirinya Matute and Ted Winterer on behalf of Executive Committee of Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS)



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