



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 1-09-15



*Memorial Service for Timothy D. Mitchell held at the Casino Dive Park
Thursday, January 8, 2015*

All City Departments – Memorial Service, Scattering of Ashes and Celebration of Life for Tim Mitchell

As all of you know from your attendance yesterday, it was a very solemn, sad, and yet very special day here in Avalon yesterday as we memorialized Tim Mitchell's life, scattered his ashes to the sea, and celebrated his spirit. Truly I cannot think of a better send off, and I am so thankful for all of the City staff's time and effort to make this event so dignified, heartfelt and fitting for a fallen hero. I extend my extra special thanks to Harbor Master Bray, Chief Krug, Jen Monroe and Dennis Jaich for their teams' extensive efforts and care to chase down all the details, coordinate all the events, line up all the logistics and just generally to make yesterday run like a top (which it most certainly did).

The participation from public safety agencies around the State was jaw-dropping. Since the occasion of the 2007 Island Fire Incident (yes, I was on the island for that event, though I wasn't working for the City of Avalon at that time), I have not seen so many different public safety representatives here in Avalon. I took the Catalina Express boat over to the island from San Pedro yesterday, and met many of the public safety personnel who came to pay their respects and demonstrate their agencies' support, camaraderie and solidarity. You could tell the type of day it was going to be by the police and fire boat escort that Catalina Express received across the channel (see the picture, below):



Here's a partial listing (in the event that I've inadvertently left any agencies out) of those who were in attendance yesterday (personnel, boats, etc.):

- Morro Bay Harbor Patrol
- Port San Luis Harbor Patrol
- Santa Barbara Harbor Patrol
- Ventura Harbor Patrol
- Port Hueneme Harbor Patrol
- Channel Islands Harbor Patrol
- Santa Monica Harbor Patrol
- Marina Del Rey Sheriffs Harbor Patrol
- Sheriffs ESD vessels and Helicopter
- Sheriffs Lake Patrol vessels
- Manhattan Beach Police Department
- Redondo Beach Harbor Patrol
- LA Port Police
- California State Fish and Wildlife vessels
- Coast Guard Captain of the Port and staff with 87' Cutter Black Fin, 45' Patrol Boat and Helicopter
- LA County Supervisor Knabe and Staff
- LA County Fire Chief Osby and Command Staff
- LA County Sheriffs Command Staff

- LA County Lifeguards Baywatch Cabrillo, Isthmus and Avalon
- Long Beach Fire 90' Fire Boat and 32' Rescue Boat
- Seal Beach Lifeguards
- Orange County Sheriffs Harbor Patrols (Huntington, Newport and Dana Point)
- Newport Beach Fire/Lifeguard Boat
- Oceanside Harbor Patrol (2 Boats)
- San Diego Port Police boats
- San Diego County Sheriffs Honor Guard
- Los Angeles County Sheriffs Honor Guard
- Los Angeles County Fire Honor Guard
- Los Angeles County Sheriffs Bagpiper

Outside of public safety personnel and dignitaries that were a big part of yesterday's services, local organizations, businesses and individuals GREATLY contributed to helping the City. Here is a partial listing (because, again, I know that I will unfortunately likely inadvertently exclude someone) of those who helped us out yesterday:

- Santa Catalina Island Company - shuttle bus, easels
- Catalina Island Resort Services - reception food, public address sound equipment, stage, chairs
- The Metropole Market Place -- conference room & courtyard for overflow
- Zest Catering & Events - reception set-up, staffing, drinks
- The Lobster Trap - reception food
- Seaport Bistro - reception food
- Catalina Coffee and Cookie Company - coffee station at ceremony & reception
- Catalina Express - cross-channel service & Little Farnsworth Spreading of Ashes Transportation
- Drew Mauck - photography/videography
- Nicholas Woods & Justice Ramming - Reception Slideshow
- Local Musicians - reception music

Below you'll find a picture of the Casino building, illuminated in blue in honor of Tim Mitchell and the Avalon Harbor Department on Wednesday and Thursday nights this week:



Lastly, as a reminder, the celebration of life for **Bruce Ryder** is scheduled for **tomorrow, Saturday, January 10th @ 11:00 AM at the Marlin Club**. The Marlin Club has obtained a special ABC permit to allow for mourners to gather inside and outside the establishment during the ceremony (in case anyone asks you).

City Manager's Office – Smart for Two

A few weeks back, a mass mailing went to every box holder within the 90704 zip code from the Smart Center of Laguna Niguel, part of Mercedes-Benz of Laguna Niguel (MBLN). This was a promotion for the Smart for Two electric drive vehicle. While businesses may advertise to residents – within the regulations of the Avalon Municipal Code, and with a City of Avalon business license – the language in the flyer for the Smart car was misleading, and not approved by the City of Avalon. While the City is actively exploring transportation opportunities and what that could mean for our community, there is NO CITY policy “pushing to remove all gas powered golf carts”. As the Avalon community explores transportation values and opportunities, the City should remain technology neutral, meaning the City does not have an agenda to push one technology onto the community. With all that in mind, the City will continue to evaluate opportunities as they present themselves and assesses whether it is worth pursuing. We are looking to build relationships and establish mutually beneficial partnerships, and to that end the City has worked with MBLN, not to push the Smart car, but to create options for residents to choose from, and hopefully stimulate more opportunities with more organizations. We are looking to be proactive, not passive. However with this recent mailer MBLN has overstepped and misrepresented the City. The City has not endorsed any one vehicle, technology or company. Instead we are willing to be working partners with anyone who presents a promising opportunity that we feel has the potential to deliver. Because of this misrepresentation the City wants to clarify our boundaries and intentions, and at this point deems it necessary to return the loaner Smart car to MBLN. This does not mean we will not continue to work with MBLN, as well as the local dealerships and other organizations as we evaluate Avalon's transportation design, but we want to be clear on the role we are taking in this community effort.

Chief Administrative Officer/City Clerk's Office - Code Enforcement #4- Illegally Dumped Items

We have all seen it. We all (likely) wonder why that junk is sitting on the side of the road, and who put it there? Ultimately, our Code Enforcement team is responsible for spotting these items, or responding to a report on these unsightly items. Code has to follow a strict procedure once identified. They must first red tag the items. Next, they document and investigate where the item(s) came from, and try to determine why the item(s) was placed at that particular location. Lastly, Avalon Environmental is contacted in case they need to pick up the item. A red tag identifies the item as being potentially eligible for disposal. Once the red tag is affixed there is a 72 hour window before the item may be picked up. The City found it necessary back in 2006 to enter into a contract with the landfill contractor in order to assist with the disposal of these illegally dumped items. Unfortunately, this is an additional cost to the tax payer.

Below you'll find a couple of pictures of items illegally dumped around town recently:



Chief Administrative Officer/City Clerk's Office - Christmas Tree Disposal

Just a final reminder again that Christmas tree disposal is taking place at the former Horse Stables location. **Tree drop-offs may occur thru January 14, 2015.** All lights, ornaments, decorations, tinsel, and stands need to be removed prior to tree drop-off.

Finance and Harbor Departments – Donations to Tim Mitchell's Family

We have received a couple inquiries as to whether donations may be made to the City in the name of Mr. Mitchell, and whether these donations would be tax deductible. The answer is yes - monetary donations may be made out to the City on behalf of Mr. Mitchell. These donations will be tax deductible, and the City will oversee the process to make sure the donations make their way to the Mitchell family, or to the designated, specified purpose. The City will be able to handle the accounting associated with these donations, and make certain these donations are handled appropriately. Additional inquiries about this may be directed to either the Harbor Master or the Finance Director.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Harvey

Ben Harvey
City Manager
City of Avalon