



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 09-27-13

Introduction:

- Welcome to the first edition of the Avalon City Council Weekly Update (referred to hereafter as the Council Update). The purpose of the Council Update is to provide you with a brief summary and/or status regarding important issues, City projects or community occurrences/events of which you should be aware.
- The Council Update is not a comprehensive listing of all City activities from every City department for the week (I don't wish to absorb all of your available time reporting out on every matter). And while this is a public document, it is not intended for widespread external distribution. Rather, it is designed as a tool to assist you in constituent relations/updates and public policy formation. Please consider this as you review this document.
- As always, I am available to answer any questions you may have - or suggestions to improve the utility of this tool.

Finance

- Work continued on the Fiscal Year (FY) 12 audit, which has been delayed due to auditor scheduling conflicts. We are hopeful for a December delivery of the audit report. FY 13 audit is scheduled for January.
- PCG staff (Stacey) is scheduled to be @ Avalon City Hall next week to help work on FY 13 audit items and Successor Agency accounting for FY 13.
- State Controllers Report will be completed during October.
- MTA audit will be completed during November.
- At the November 5th City Council meeting, a first quarter FY 14 budget update (complete with unaudited FY 13 revenues, expenses, and fund balances) will be provided.
- It is also anticipated that the Annual Budget FY 13- 14 could be on the City Council agenda for review and consideration at the November 5th City Council meeting as well.

Law Enforcement

- The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) contract calls for six dispatcher positions assigned to Avalon Station. Three are currently filled, and three are vacant. LASD recently interviewed several people, and selected two for the remaining three vacancies. Both are currently going through the background investigation process, which is expected to take several months. If they successfully pass the background check, they will be hired, go through a dispatcher training program and then begin their service as dispatchers. Until these positions are filled, LASD will continue to spend overtime to hire either current Dispatchers or deputy sheriffs to work the dispatch desk.

- Tomorrow (Saturday, 9/28) the Island Company will be sponsoring a Groove Cruise. Fifteen-hundred (1,500) people will be arriving at 9:00 AM, with a final island destination of Descanso Beach. While the plan calls for Groove Cruise customers to spend the day at Descanso Beach, it is anticipated that a number of them will remain in town. Groove Cruise guests are scheduled to depart later in the day at 5:00 PM. The Island Company will have a full security team in place at Descanso Beach, and has contracted with LASD for two (2) additional deputies for an enhanced law enforcement presence.
- In addition to the Groove Cruise, a billion dollar company, who does not want to disclose their identity, will be sending 400 younger employees to the island tomorrow as well (Saturday, 9/28). Through a chartered Newport Flyer vessel, guests will arrive in Avalon at 2:30 PM. Guests will be provided golf carts and drinks at the Blue Water Grill, El Galleon, Luau Larry's and the Marlin Club. Their day concludes at 8:30 PM. Due to the late notice provided to LASD (Tuesday of this week), Captain Fetteroll was only able to hire one additional deputy to work Crescent Avenue during this time period.
- The LASD will be opening the Youth Activities League Tutoring Center this coming Monday, September 30. A flyer is available if you'd like additional information.
- Captain Fetteroll departed the island for vacation on Thursday, and will be returning on Monday morning. Sergeant Ernie Dearmas will assume acting command in Captain Fetteroll's absence, and will be working here as the Watch Commander this weekend. Please advise if you would like me to reach either Sergeant Dearmas or Captain Fetteroll over the weekend.

Grand Prix

- I am working with Wayne Griffin and Greg Bombard to secure commitments from island hotels and Catalina Express to NOT charge cancellation fees for those Grand Prix customers who had made reservations prior to learning of the cancellation of the 2013 Grand Prix. Wayne is developing a list of participating hotels (hopefully this will include ALL hotels on the island), and Greg is consulting with his organization as to the process/protocol Catalina Express would like to have observed for those attempting to cancel their ferry ticket. Both Wayne and Greg are also working to ensure a smooth transition process for those Grand Prix customers who do not wish to cancel their hotel reservations and/or ferry tickets, but would prefer to roll their reservations over to the same weekend the following year for the 2014 Grand. Once I have received all details from both Wayne and Greg, I will draft a letter from the City which will be posted on the Grand Prix and Chamber websites to help disseminate the information. I have kept Buddy Minuto in the loop during my efforts here.

E. Whittley – Council Action Follow-Up

- I am seeking a City Council volunteer (first come, first served) to join an interview committee with me and the City Attorney to interview the two real estate brokers selected to compete for the opportunity to provide brokerage services for the sale of City-owned property at 206 E. Whittley Road. Once I have my volunteer, I will determine windows of potential availability, and will work with the two real estate brokers to set up interviews.

Media Inquiry

- A reporter from the *USA Today* contacted me and Chief Hoefs on Thursday of this week, with an interest in writing both a print and online story regarding our success in nuisance bird abatement and improved water quality via our contract falconry program. I provided the reporter with program highlights furnished by Rocky, but, I also advised the reporter that our improved water quality was largely the result of our sewer infrastructure improvement project with assistance from the falconry program. The reporter was interested in the amount of money the City has spent on the contract to date (public information, of course, which I will furnish to him), as well as our future plans for the program. On the topic of our future plans for the program, I advised the reporter that we are currently exploring potential partnerships with key island stakeholders such that cost saving/sharing may be achieved. I am scheduled to meet with the reporter when he is on the island next Thursday (10/3) for on camera interviews and story video footage purposes.

Housekeeping

- I will be on vacation starting Friday, October 4th through Tuesday, October 8th. I will be back at work on Wednesday, October 9th. In my absence, Denise Radde will be Acting City Manager. During vacation I will be available should you need to reach me via my cell phone (213.364.2699) and email account(s). On that topic (email), please commence sending me email to my City address: bharvey@cityofavalon.com. I am now able to easily receive and send City email directly from my gmail account (onebenharvey@gmail.com) on my iphone and ipad.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Harvey
City Manager
City of Avalon

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- City Department Heads
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