

Alive!



Serving over 50,000 City, County and State Employees

LADOT COMMUNICATIONS

Answering the Call

The small-but-mighty team of LADOT Operators coordinates Traffic Officers on the street.

— SEE PAGES 10-13

From front: Daisy Murillo, Administrative Clerk, 3 years of City service, Club Member; Renita Willis, Communications Information Representative III, 18 years, Club Member; and Ivy Garnett, Sr. Communications Operator II, 25 years, Club Member.

Alive! photo by Summy Lam

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The Call to Help

ROBERT'S BLOG

by Robert Larios, CEO, The Club



Club Members might wonder how we develop our stories. This month provides an exceptional example.

Longtime Club Member **Ivy Garnett**, Supervisor of Transportation's Communications unit, wrote to us last October about featuring her department in the paper and Website. That



Club CEO Robert Larios with (front to back) Daisy Murillo, Administrative Clerk, 3 years of City service, Club Member; Renita Willis, Communications Information Representative III, 18 years, Club Member; and Ivy Garnett, Sr. Communications Operator II, 25 years, Club Member.

is a very good place for departments to begin – simply contact us, for we endeavor to please!

Coming up to the holidays as we were, we already had end-of-year content mapped in advance. And we have been careful to plan stories that are primarily inside, due to pandemic protocols. When conditions eased in the new year, we scheduled Ivy and her team.

Alive! tells stories that no one tells, of the good and exceptionally important tasks that City employees do every day. Many people are not cognizant that Transportation has its own dispatcher unit, answering calls from citizens and coordinating Traffic Officers on the street to ease traffic, parking and other issues. They do, and now you know their story. That is our mission, to tell of the good things you are accomplishing.

I am delighted Ivy reached out. You can too – simply write to me at rlarios@employeesclub.com, or use the forms on the *Alive!* Website. Either way, we will get back to you.

Speaking of Members submitting content, we appreciate **Avak Keotahian**, Legislative Analyst, City Council, for sending us the photo of the Retired Councilmembers at the memorial service for **Pat Russell**. That is an important image, and we are honored to publish it.



From left: Robert Larios with Glen Creason, Librarian.

Retirement Roundup

We also congratulate true trailblazers LAPD Assistant Chief **Beatrice Girmala** and LAFD Battalion Chief **Stacy Gerlich** on their much-deserved retirements.

Mapping His Exit

I am at last getting a chance to wish a happy retirement to **Glen Creason**, who retired from the Library late last year. I thoroughly enjoyed my visit with Glen and his famous maps when we featured his department in February

2016. You are an LA legend and icon, Glen. Thank you for your service.

The Club proudly brings you the news of City employees every month. We do this to return value to our many Members and celebrate your lives. Please enjoy the beautiful springtime. *¡Gracias por leer!*

CLUB MOBILE TEAM

Site Visits Are Back!

Club Mobile Team is ready to visit City worksites safely with gear, tickets, insurance, more. Say hi to the Club ... in person again!

The Club never stopped working for its Members during the pandemic. But now that the coast is clearing, so to speak, it's time to revisit our Members and Members-to-Be at sites and yards.

The Mobile Team is ready to visit your worksite Tuesdays through Thursdays. We can't wait to see everybody again!

For your continued safety:

- The Mobile Team brings and wears safety gear.
- The Mobile Team is accepting only outdoor set-ups for now.

See you soon!



At a recent Mobile Team site visit.

Mobile Team Schedule

The Mobile Team sets up in the Harbor area the first Wednesday of every month:

Harbor Boys and Girls Club • 100 W. Fifth St., San Pedro
April 6, May 4, July 6 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Follow Club social media for Mobile Team site visit dates as they are scheduled.

Schedule A Mobile Team Site Visit

To schedule a site visit, contact Lupe Lira, Club Store Manager: (213) 819-0350, or mobile@employeesclub.com



NEW THIS MONTH
ONLINE!
alive.employeesclub.com

Cooking with the Club

Chef Larios savors Italian flavors with a recipe for chicken sausage cavatappi Bolognese with zucchini and Parmesan.



COVER STORY:

Answering the Call 10-13

LADOT Dispatchers coordinate with Traffic Officers to keep the streets safe and moving.

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Get more *Alive!* content at alive.employeesclub.com

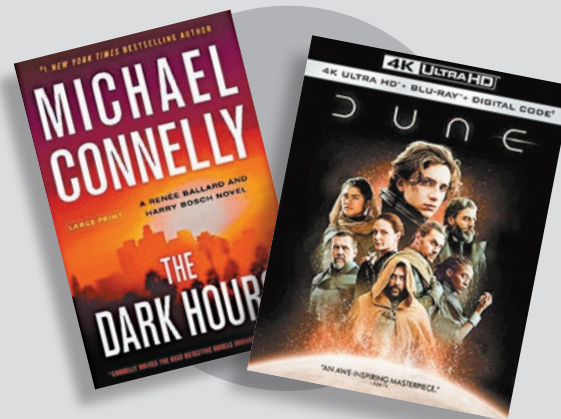
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Library Top 10

See what your fellow Angelenos are reading, watching and grooving to.



John's Picture Perfect

John's Picture Perfect – all the winners from this month's contest on the theme "work gear."



Coloring
with The Club
for Kids

Available Online!

Coloring Contest WIN!

DOWNLOAD ART: alive.employeesclub.com/kidscoloringcontest



**The Club
Is Here
to Help**

Club staff is dedicated to helping our members receive the maximum benefit from their membership. If you have questions, concerns or suggestions about your Club, our counselors are ready to help.

Contact the Club

if you have an event you want covered in *Alive!* or if you have questions about insurance.

help@employeesclub.com
(800) 464-0452

Physical Club Store Hours:

Monday – Friday
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Alive!

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Alive! Staff

John Hawkins and Robert Larios,
Managing Editors
John Burnes, *Editor*
David Jamgotchian,
JILA Associates,
Design and Production

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Terry Carter, *Commanding Officer, Property Division, LAPD*
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Club Members who have questions on these points may write to: alive@employeesclub.com

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Pay Tribute to Your Mom!



CLUB MEMBERS: Pay tribute to your mom this Mother's Day ...with a photo and message of lifelong love, published in *Alive!*.

In our May issue, we'll print a photo of you and your mom (or just your mom) ... and a two- or three-sentence message of Happy Mother's Day from you. Your tribute will also appear on Web *Alive!*, starting just before Mothers Day.

Send in your digital photos and your message now!

To submit, go to:

alive.employeesclub.com/mothersday



Tell Us More About Mom

As part of our Mother's Day messages feature, we're asking for a little bit more:

Tell us more about Mom – what makes her special, a funny or heartbreaking story, a unique memory, a personal tidbit ... **you tell us.**

You'll see a second text box when you submit your regular Mother's Day photo and message. (*Note: We might not be able to print all of them. And we're placing a limit of 100 characters, so use them wisely.*)

DEADLINES:

APRIL 15: to appear in print and online

APRIL 29: to appear online only

GROWNUP COLORING CONTEST

WINNER!

Celeste Cho
LADWP

\$50
Amazon
Gift Card

Celeste received a



Honorable Mention

Phillip Orozco
LADWP



Carolyn Tate
Retired

Other Notable Entries

Albert Jensen LAFD
 Carolyn Tate Retired
 Claudia Yeppez Airports
 Elva Bufford Retired
 Erika Ochoa Animal Services
 Evelyn Fitzpatrick Retired
 George Gonzalez Retired
 Graciela Gonzalez Retired
 Guadalupe Mendoza Retired

Jerome Friez LAPD
 Jesus Valadez LADWP
 John Sosa Airport Police
 Joseph Hsiao LADWP
 Karen Kohles LADWP
 Kathryn Kutsch Airports
 Kimberly Ganier LAPD
 Leticia Lopez Rec and Parks
 Phillip Cortez PW/Sanitation

Phillip Orozco LADWP
 Queenie Wong-Terry LACERS
 Richard Andrade Airport Police
 Salvador Lopez Retired
 Sara Vega Housing
 Steve Wamsley Rec and Parks
 Than Tiet LADWP
 Wendy Rodriguez LAPD

Once again, the grown up Club Members have blown us away!

Alive! publishes its Grownup Coloring Contest only once a year. But when we do, Club Members go above and beyond, and send us some amazing works of art.

Thanks for your contributions, and look forward to another Grownup Coloring Contest in the future!



ABOUT JOANNIE MUKAI

Joannie Mukai was a pioneer as the LA Port's Director of Construction and Maintenance. A passionate supporter in the Employees Club and longtime Association Board Member, she died in March 2010. The Club's annual scholarship program was named in her honor. "She believed in education and training, and in preparing for success," CEO Robert Larios said. "That's what the Club Scholarship is all about, and we're delighted to name it after her. It's a perfect way to keep her memory alive."



Club Accepting Mukai Scholarship Applications

Application is now available. Deadline is 11:59 p.m., June 30, 2022.

Apply Today
 on the *Alive!* Website:
alive.employeesclub.com/scholarship



DEADLINE
 11:59 p.m.,
 June 30, 2022

The 2022 Joannie Mukai Club Scholarship Program, which expects to grant 20 awards of \$500 each, is now accepting applications.

Application and Eligibility

The scholarship program has simplified the application process into one step to include determining of eligibility. Those eligible include Club Members; their spouses; their children, grandchildren, step-children, and foster children; and nieces/nephews who are in college or will be attending an accredited college or university in Fall 2022. There is no age

limit for Member or spouse, but all others must be under 25.

Deadline

All materials must be completed on the *Alive!* Website and submitted electronically by 11:59 p.m. June 30, 2022. Winners will be notified by July 31 before school starts.

The Club Cares

"It is a vital part of the Club that we give back to support the future success of our treasured young people," said Robert Larios, Club CEO. "We encourage all those eligible to take

advantage and apply."

"The Joannie Mukai Scholarship Program is one of the most important ways we celebrate the work and lives of municipal employees," said Association CEO John Hawkins. "Joannie would be delighted at the level of scholarship and volunteerism applicants show every year." ■



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- All Club Members and their spouses of any age; and children, grandchildren, step-children, foster children and nieces and nephews of Club Members under the age of 25; are eligible to apply. Club Members must be in good standing.
- The successful candidate must attend an accredited four-year college or university full time in the fall semester 2022. Current high school seniors matriculating to a four-year school in Fall 2022 are eligible.
- Candidates will be judged for academic excellence, community service and financial need.
- Scholarships are expected to be awarded in equal amounts of \$500 (each).
- Deadline: Applications must be completed online at the *Alive!* Website and submitted electronically by 11:59 p.m. June 30, 2022. All applications must be completed in their entirety and submitted at that time to be eligible. Sorry, but the Club is not responsible for delays in delivery.
- Decisions will be made by Club personnel and will be considered final.
- Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Send questions to the Club Scholarship Committee:
scholarship@employeesclub.com
 or call: (213) 873-1843

Cynthia Ozuna, daughter of Correctional Officer Marcos Ozuna, Retired, State of California, received a stipend last year as part of the Mukai Scholarship Program.



AN EXCLUSIVE CLUB BENEFIT

THE JOANNIE MUKAI CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

Submit Your Application NOW!



DEADLINE JUNE 30, 2022 at 11:59 PM

Twenty deserving students will each receive a \$500 check to help with the costs of tuition, books, and miscellaneous expenses.

Get a jump start on education with the Club's Joannie Mukai Scholarship Program.

All Club Members, including their spouses and children are eligible to apply.

All Club Scholarship applications must be submitted online to the Club by 11:59 PM on June 30, 2022 to be eligible.

EmployeesClub.com

Open Houses: Wait 'Til Next Year, Again

Pandemic once again causes Sanitation to postpone popular open houses.

At a previous Open House



PUBLIC WORKS: Public Works/Sanitation and Environment has postponed its popular slate of open houses again this year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Each spring before the pandemic, each of Sanitation's six waste shed district yards opened to the public in a series of free Saturday events. The Open House program showcased Sanitation's residential curbside collection programs with the promotion of proper recycling practices and information about bulky item collections. Each event featured trash truck and equipment demonstrations in addition to facility tours, information booths, recycling games, and refreshments.

In 2018, more than 6,000 residents attended the open houses with more than 230 City Employees who volunteered their time to give back to the neighborhoods they serve.

Speaking for everyone in the City, we miss the popular Open Houses. Until they return, here are some images from previous years.

See you next year! ■



LACERS

LOS ANGELES CITY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM

FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS:

Are You Ready for Retirement?

Here are some current programs to help with your planning.

Webinars: Learn about your retirement options and benefits at an upcoming Planning for Retirement webinar, hosted by the LACERS Member Engagement team. Register via your MyLACERS account. Upcoming dates include:

- Sat., April 5 (9 a.m.)
- Tues., April 19 (4:30 p.m.)
- Thurs., April 28 (9 a.m.)
- Thurs., May 12 (9 a.m.) (Tier 3)
- Tues., May 17 (4:30 p.m.)
- Sat., May 21 (9 a.m.)
- Thurs., May 26 (9 a.m.)

Application Portal Demonstration: Take time to learn about LACERS' exciting new Retirement Application Portal (RAP)! Visit lacers.org/applying-retirement for more details and sign up for an upcoming RAP Demonstration webinar at 11 a.m. Tues., April 5 via your MyLACERS account at <https://mylacers.lacers.org>.

Applying for Retirement Online: Members are encouraged to submit their retirement application 60 days before their retirement date when using LACERS' new Retirement Application Portal (RAP). The RAP is a great asset to LACERS Members that helps to streamline the retirement process. While the filing period is within 30 to 60 days of your retirement date, starting your application early and submitting it on the first day you can at the 60-day-prior mark, will allow for a couple of benefits. These include having ample time to discover any complications and address them without having to move your retirement date, as well as ensuring LACERS staff has time to meet your retirement date request.

For example, if your desired retirement date is March 26, 2022, you would aim to submit your retirement application in the portal on Jan. 25, 2022. For more information, please visit lacers.org/applying-retirement. ■

FOR RETIREES:

LACERS Well Events Coming Up

Register for these virtual events below through your MyLACERS account or by calling LACERS. If you need assistance, email LacersWell@lacers.org Space is limited for each event so be sure to sign up early. To view additional dates and information, visit: lacers.org/lacers-well-events

Kaiser Well-Being Classes on Healthy Eating

These classes will take place on Tuesdays – April 12 and 19 – at 10 a.m. Give yourself a healthy boost and register for the well-being series on healthy eating, hosted by Kaiser Permanente. You are not required to be a Kaiser member, and there is no cost to attend. All LACERS members (active and retired) are welcome to participate

Mom's Computer Technology Class

Mom's Computer will be hosting monthly technology classes throughout 2022 starting at 3 p.m. Wed., April 13. These classes help members navigate the changing tech-

nology landscape and offer tips on using computer, smart phones/tablets, internet, and more.

LA County Well-Being

This three-part series, available to both active and retired LACERS members, will take place on Thursdays – April 14, 21 and 28 at 10 a.m. Whether you are nearing retirement, newly retired or have been retired for some time, you have or will face transitions in your mindset, relationships and lifestyle. These classes will offer tips on how you can effectively navigate your transitions for the best quality retirement possible.

Fitness Made Simple: Exercise Class

Why just talk or dream about exercise when we can "Make Fitness Simple?" Join Coach Sean Foy at 9:30 a.m. Wed., April 20 he helps you train in the comfort and convenience of your own home to realize your personal health and fitness goals!

Brain Health Class

Alzheimer's Los Angeles (ALZLA) is hosting monthly brain health classes, the next being held at 2 p.m. Wed., April 27. The mission is to improve the lives of local families affected by Alzheimer's and dementia by increasing awareness, delivering effective programs and services, providing compassionate support, and advocating for quality care and a cure. Both active and retired members are welcome at this event.

Aging Mastery Program

LACERS' five-week, twice weekly Aging Mastery Program is scheduled three times this year: at 10 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in June and September. This fun, innovative program empowers you to take key steps to improve your well-being. You will learn about healthy eating and hydration, sleep, financial fitness, advance planning, and more. ■

FOR RETIREES:

Tax Information for City Retirees

LACERS is sharing information related to taxes for City Retirees. That information is below.

LACERS 1099-R Forms

LACERS has completed its mailing of 1099-R tax documents to retirees and beneficiaries for the 2021 tax year. Please note that 1099-Rs are sent only to the address on file with LACERS. Therefore, if you have recently moved or changed your address, update it with LACERS as soon as possible by submitting a Change of Address form that is accessible at lacers.org/forms.

Don't want to wait for the mail? Save time by viewing and printing your 1099-R via your MyLACERS online account at mylacers.lacers.org



Have questions about your 1099-R form? Watch LACERS' 1099-R tax form video on

LACERS' YouTube channel at youtube.com/lacersyoutube

Reminder: Tax Form 1095-B and Form 1095-C

Tax season is here, and as you prepare to file this year, please be aware that you may receive one or more forms providing information about the healthcare coverage that you had or were offered in the previous year.

Although proof of health insurance is not required for 2021, most retirees will receive a Form 1095-B, which is sent to them directly from either the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

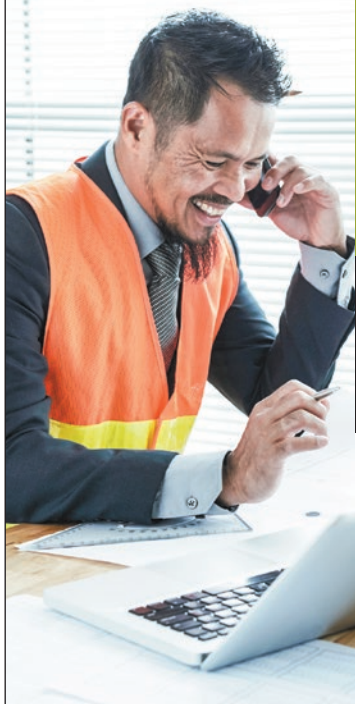
or their health plan carrier through LACERS (i.e., Kaiser Permanente or Anthem Blue Cross). Some retirees may receive both a Form 1095-B and Form 1095-C if they retired within the last year; one will reflect their LACERS coverage and one will reflect their City of Los Angeles coverage while working.

Please do not contact LACERS if you do not receive your form(s) as LACERS does not generate or have access to them. You may request a duplicate directly from your health insurance carrier.

For questions about using Forms 1095-B and 1095-C to file your taxes, please consult with your tax adviser or the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). ■



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Phone and virtual meeting appointments available.

Email: help@employeesclub.com

Or call: (800) 464-0452

LACEA Insurance Services, Inc. ('Employees Club of California') is a licensed insurance agency offering insurance benefits to qualified Club members. The Club's CA DOI Lic. No. is 0B98000.

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Member Services Counselor
(at the Club Store)
tsy@employeesclub.com
Ext. 202

Cheryl Martin
Member Services Counselor
cmartin@employeesclub.com
Ext. 136

Larios In the City

BY ROBERT LARIOS, Chief Executive Officer



Congratulations!

Robert Larios, Club President and CEO, honors Club Members with the coveted Club Retirement Plaque.



Tommy Quiroz

Retired from the LADWP after 33 years of City service.



Richard Cardoza

Retired from LADWP after 35 years of City service.



Ricardo Siciliano

Retired from the LADWP after 35 years of City service.



Carlos Villada

Retired from the LADWP after 32 years of City service.



Bernard Rogers

Retired from the LADWP after 42 years of City service.



Barbara Johnson

Retired from LADWP after 23 years of City service.



Alexander Rabrenovich

Retired from LACERS after 32 years of City service.

Photo by Avak Keotahian, Legislative Analyst, City Council

Gathered for Pat

Former Councilmembers gather at Pat Russell memorial service.



Pat Russell

COUNCIL: A memorial service was held March 12 for Pat Russell, the fourth woman to serve on the City Council and the first to be Council president. She passed away in February 2021; the memorial service was delayed due to the pandemic.

At least five Retired Councilmembers gathered at a memorial service held for the former Councilwoman. In attendance were former Councilmembers Robert Farrell, 8th District; Joy Picus, 3rd District; Ruth Galanter, 6th District; Zev Yaroslavsky, 5th District; and Mike Woo, 13th District. Ruth Galanter was the second woman to be Council President.

The memorial service was held at Holy Nativity Episcopal Church in Westchester.

Pat served on the Council from 1969-87 and was president from 1983-87. Ruth Galanter, who attended the service, was the second woman to head the Council.

“Pat was a community leader, organizer and great soul,” her children wrote in a letter as part of the invitation to the service. “She was a mountaineer. Pat climbed summits named and unnamed, and not all of those summits were mountains. She knew how to accomplish goals, how to inspire others, and also how to survive so as to be able to serve these values. Pat was herself inspired by others – that is, by her recognition that in these things, she was not alone. None of us is.”

The Club thanks Avak Keotahian, Legislative Analyst, City Council, Club Member, for submitting this important photo. ■



At the memorial were former Councilmembers (from left) Robert Farrell, 8th District; Joy Picus, 3rd District; Ruth Galanter, 6th District; Zev Yaroslavsky, 5th District; and Mike Woo, 13th District.



Mayor Garcetti lifts the cover off the new Center for Green Innovation.

Green Streets

StreetsLA introduces its Center for Green Innovation.

PUBLIC WORKS : As part of the City’s growing response to the climate crisis, Public Works’ StreetsLA announced its Center for Green Innovation at a press conference Feb. 15 in North Hollywood.

The Center includes the City’s first two hybrid-electric street sweepers and the infrastructure to support it, including a solar-powered charging station and maintenance, a Roush clean tech hybrid Ford F-650 stake-bed truck.

“We want to deliver basic City services, but do it in a way that brings a green agenda, to you (the citizens),” Mayor Eric Garcetti said at the introduction.

“Environmentalism isn’t just something to be owned by a couple of departments. Every single department should have a chief sustainability officer and look at our City’s green new deal. It will have to be a group effort to meet our ambitious goals to save this planet.”

He then dedicated StreetsLA’s new Center for Green Innovation at the North Hollywood Yard.

Look for more on the new Center in future issues of *Alive!* ■



One of two new plug-in hybrid street sweepers and the solar-powered recharging station at the North Hollywood StreetsLA yard.



Rita Walters

Remembering Rita

Vermont Square branch dedicated to LA pioneer.

Photos courtesy LAPL, Mayor's Office

LIBRARY: On Dec. 11, the City honored the late Rita Walters, the first Black woman to join the City Council and a tireless advocate for the Library and equality, by dedicating the Vermont Square branch for her.



The Vermont Square Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library was dedicated to Rita Walters.



Mayor Eric Garcetti signs the dedication to Rita Walters. With him are (from left) Zev Yaroslavsky, former City Councilman (and LA County Supervisor), and John Szabo, Library General Manager, Club Member.

Rita died in 2020 from the affects of Alzheimer's disease and an infection, according to reports.

She served on the Council for ten years, the LAUSD board for 12 years, and the Library Commission for 15 years.

She began her Council service after winning election in 1991, when she won by a reported 76 votes. Her district, 9, covered most of central LA and downtown at the time.

During her tenure on the Council, she was the chair of the Arts, Health and Humanities Committee, which included policy regarding the Library. ■



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CLUB MEMBER-ONLY SAVINGS

 LOS ANGELES DODGERS CLUB MEMBER EXCLUSIVE SEATING SECTION FIELD BOX MVP SEATS (6FD or 8FD) Each ticket grants you access to the Stadium Club (meals & drinks not included) All games are played at Dodger Stadium	MON, APRIL 4TH @ 6:10 PM EXHIBITION GAME	RETAIL \$77	CLUB \$59
	THUR, APRIL 14TH @ 7:10 PM HOME OPENER GAME	RETAIL \$395	CLUB \$349
	FRI, APRIL 15TH @ 7:10 PM JACKIE ROBINSON JERSEY	RETAIL \$194	CLUB \$169
	MON, APRIL 18TH @ 7:10 PM WILL SMITH BOBBLEHEAD	RETAIL \$150	CLUB \$119
	TUES, APRIL 19TH @ 7:10 PM HOODED SWEATSHIRT/ TACO TUES	RETAIL \$143	CLUB \$99
	WED, APRIL 20TH @ 12:10 PM NO GIVEAWAYS	RETAIL \$119	CLUB \$69
	SAT, APRIL 30TH @ 7:10 PM KIRK GIBSON BOBBLEHEAD	RETAIL \$189	CLUB \$139

THE CLUB DOES NOT CHARGE ANY PROCESSING OR HANDLING FEES!

EmployeesClub.com

PART 25

Scenes From a Pandemic

Alive! continues its documentation of City employees as they take a multitude of measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are entries from the Club and the City Twitter feeds about City Employees and Club Members at work during this trying time.

LAPD Central Area



“Overnight, the men and women of #LAPD continued our work and presence in the downtown Area. Thank you to our own @LAPDCentralArea Captain Ruiz for the foot beat last night. #SuperBowl

Feb. 10

LAPD South Traffic



“Thanks to all who attended the South Traffic safety fair. This event was greatly appreciated by the community. Keep an eye out for our next safety event. @LAPDHQ @LAPDCaptainHom”

March 5

Public Works StreetsLA



“Today our StreetsLA crew 152 was paving Indiana Ave from 7th Ave to Hampton Drive part of a resurfacing project in #cd11. @MikeBoninLA StreetsLA - making our streets safe and mobile for all Angelenos. @LACityDPW”

March 2

LAPD Northeast Area



“This morning Northeast Area Community Relations and Senior Lead Officers joined Read Across America! We had the pleasure of having our Deputy Chief Labrada join along with Northeast Area Captain. @LabradaAI @LAPDGaryWalters @LAPDHQ”

March 2

Public Works for the Marathon



“Our crew is setting up the @lamarathon (Sunday 3/20/22) using the preproduction @ROUSHcleantech zero-emissions electric stakebed truck. The truck carried this heavy load without consuming fossil fuel or emitting air pollutants. @LACityDPW”

March 17



Above, from front: Daisy Murillo, Administrative Clerk, 3 years of City service, Club Member; Renita Willis, Communications Information Representative III, 18 years, Club Member; and Ivy Garnett, Sr. Communications Operator II, 25 years, Club Member.



Nicole Naylor, Communications Information Representative III, 2 years of City service, Club Member.



Jack Jackson, Communications Information Representative III, 2 years of City service, Club Member.



Cecilia Gomez-Gonzalez, Community Service Worker in the impound unit, 5 years of City service.



Renita Willis, Communications Information Representative III, 18 years of City service, Club Member.



Lisa Hernandez, Communications Information Representative III, 5 years of City service, Club Member.



Ivy Garnett, Sr. Communications Information Operator II, 24 years of City service, Club Member.



Sharon White, Communications Information Representative III, 22 years of City service, Club Member.



From left: Jack Jackson, Communications Information Representative III, 2 years of City service, Club Member; Renita Willis, Communications Information Representative III, 18 years, Club Member; Sharon White, Communications Information Representative III, 22 years, Club Member; Ivy Garnett, Sr. Communications Information Operator II, 24 years, Club Member; Nicole Naylor, Communications Information Representative III, 2 years, Club Member; and Lisa Hernandez, Communications Information Representative III, 5 years, Club Member.

LADOT COMMUNICATIONS

The Tr

Photos by Summy Lam, Club VP of Marketing, and courtesy LADOT

With their ears to the helplines, the small-but-mighty team of Transportation Dispatchers directs the Traffic Officers on the street.

As with most things, the layer underneath the visible layer is the one that makes it all work.

That describes Transportation's Communications unit, a small but strong team of Dispatchers and administrative personnel that does many things – they answer telephone calls for Parking Enforcement, traffic control, Traffic Signal Repair and impound booting for LA.

The unit keeps in touch minute by minute, 24 hours every day, with the hundreds of LADOT Traffic Officers, Official Police Garages, LAPD, LAFD and other City departments to keep traffic moving, to keep your alley free of cars parked illegally, to keep traffic signals working as they were designed, to ensure traffic signs are properly posted, and to provide timely responses to concerned citizens reporting obstructions. The unit is critically important to LADOT in keeping the streets of LA safe and moving.

LADOT Communications handles an average of 30,000 calls per month. That's a lot of coordination for a team of 24 Operators and four Supervisors.

Meet the team in this month's feature, and help *Alive!* give them the recognition they so deserve.

Special thanks to Ivy Garnett, Sr. Communications Information Rep II, and Lt. Susan Rahtz for welcoming us to the unit. ●

Traffic Talkers

ALIVE! INTERVIEW

Street Connection

On Feb. 1, Club CEO Robert Larios and Alive! editor John Burnes interviewed four members of the Dept. of Transportation Dispatch team. They were: Ivy Garnett, Sr. Communications Information Rep II, 24 years of City service; and Communications Information Rep III Renita Willis, 18 years; Gustavo Barba, 28 years; and Alex Gonzalez, 3 years. Ivy, Renita and Gustavo are Club Members. The interview took place via Zoom due to pandemic protocols.

Thanks for joining us today. Let's start with a question for each of you. Talk about your career briefly. What path did you take to get to your current position?

Ivy Garnett: I started as a Traffic Officer back in 1997. I came into Communications in 2003 after a serious injury in the field. I came in and worked for literally for one week in the Communications Center, and I knew that I was here to stay. I've been in Communications since 2003.

Renita?

Renita: I started as a temporary employee at the City Clerk's Office. I worked in a Call Center as a Supervisor. When the position became open for DOT Communications, I applied and I was hired. That was 16 years ago. I've been working as a Communications Representative ever since.

Great. Gustavo?

Gustavo: I started with the City with the Dept. of Water and Power, but I was an exempt part-time employee, so I needed to move on. I came to this position, and I've been here since 1999.

'We try and help everybody we can, the best we can, as fast as we can. The City doesn't stop, and neither do we.'
— Alex Gonzalez, Communications Information Representative III, LADOT

And Alex, talk about your career path.

Alex Gonzalez: I applied for the City in 2017 for this specific position. I went through the process, the testing and interviews and then I started with the City in May 2019.

Ivy, give us a status check. How is the Department doing through COVID?

Alex: As of right now, our staff is doing well. We have had some setbacks since the pandemic started. In the beginning of the pandemic, we had no problems with illness, but of course, it was inevitable that we would eventually. We've had our ups and downs. But throughout all of that, we've been able to manage and keep the Center running.

Were there times when you were interrupted or down for a while?

Ivy: In the beginning, there was quite a bit of a shuffle on how we were going to arrange ourselves. We are in a very small office and we're close together. The idea was to separate, so we had some dispatchers in an alternative location for a while.

Gustavo: We did that for three months.

Connecting to Streets

In general terms, tell us what your team does.

Ivy: The operators dispatch calls. They take in calls from the citizens. They take in calls from the LAPD and the Fire Dept. to dispatch Traffic Officers for traffic control and things of that nature.

I supervise the Operators as far as making sure the calls are put out in a timely way and making sure that the work tickets are clear so that they're understood by any Operator. I make sure everyone's time is recorded properly, that we have enough coverage on the floor and enough coverage for the entire day. That special events are covered. Those are the aspects that I handle.

Renita: We also do signal repair – we also dispatch out for signal and sign repair, when they're not operating or need attention. We dispatch repair crews to fix the signals or if there's a sign that needs to be reposted. We handle accidents or any damage to the City property – we dispatch repairs on those as well.

Gustavo: I take all kinds of calls – Fire Dept., Sanitation, Street Services. Citizens call us about a pothole and we report it to Street Services. I had one this morning.

Alex: Or a tree down.

Renita: Water main breaks, too. It's a lot.

Gustavo: Street Lighting, too. When street lights are out.

Wow. You have a lot of numbers there in your Rolodexes, so to speak.

Gustavo: Yes, we do.

Do you get calls through the City's 311 system?

Ivy: We do not receive calls through the City 311 system. We do receive referrals from 311 that deal with parking, and we also refer citizens to 311 when needed.

Gustavo: We make sure we send them to the right department.

And you're 24/7, correct?

Gustavo: 24/7, seven days a week.

Alex: Everybody's hit on a little bit of what we

do. Like Ivy said, we take calls from citizens, the PD, the FD, sometimes the LADWP and Sanitation for whatever it may be. It might be someone blocking the driveway or in a red zone or in front of a hydrant, to traffic control for a fire or the end of a pursuit or a vehicle blocking an alley that doesn't let the Sanitation truck through. Sometimes people will knock over a stop sign, whether it's on purpose or by accident, and we take all those calls that come into us. We try and help everybody we can, the best we can, as fast as we can because the City doesn't stop, and neither do we.

Ivy: We take on average up to 29,000 to 30,000 calls a month. And we dispatch 5,700 calls a month on average. We are nonstop on the phones and dispatching. Calls coming in, calls going out, our Operators are multitasking.

Gustavo: A lot of it.

Renita: We get a lot of activity regarding the Temporary Toll Dept.

Do you work with Transportation's Special Events Services like big sporting events, or the Oscars, those sorts of things?

Ivy: We are involved, but not in the planning process. When requested, an Operator is assigned to the Command Post for the special event. At the Command Post we assist the LADOT Officer in Charge and work along with the LAPD and LAFD as well as the City Engineers. We're there to provide support to the field personnel.

Renita: We see an increase of calls from the public regarding the closures as well, so we have to give them instructions on how to get out of their residence or to their street.

Ivy: We may have one or two Operators at the Command Center, one Operator and a Supervisor. And then we'll have an additional Operator working here at our Center just to help with the extra influx of calls that we'll get for any Special Event.

The Operators request to work Special Events. When working the Special Events, they are dedicated just to that event, not any other assignments or frequencies.

Impound

Ivy: Also, we work closely with the department's VIPU, the Vehicle Information Processing Unit. They are responsible for every vehicle that we impound. They enter the vehicles into the

— continued page 12



Club CEO Robert Larios chats with Daisy Murillo, Administrative Clerk in the impound section, 3 years of City service.

LADOT

About LADOT Communications

LADOT Communications Operators answer telephone calls and dispatch calls for Transportation's Parking Enforcement, traffic control, Traffic Signal Repair and impound for the entire City of Los Angeles.

The Operators also dispatch calls to the Booting (impound) units, which handle high-priority scofflaws (unpaid citations), as well as enter all information relayed to them into the Paylock, Etims and CLETS systems. The unit processes every impounded vehicle. It's done initially by the Communications Operators and later completed by the VIPU (Vehicle Information Processing) Unit.

Operators answer service calls for parking violations and temporary tow requests from the Los Angeles citizens and dispatch calls from LAPD and LAFD for traffic control.

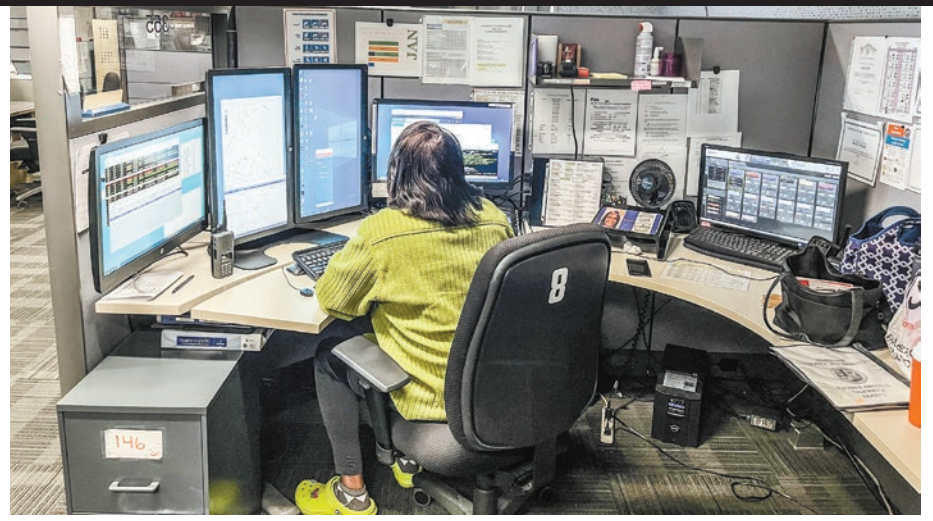
The unit answers on average 30,000 calls every month. Most are calls to be dispatched for parking violations, traffic signal/sign repair or traffic control requests from the LAPD and LAFD.

LADOT Communications:

- Staffed by 24 Communications Operators III's and (currently) four Sr. Communications Supervisors (two on day shift, one each on PM and AM shifts)
- Operates 24 hours every day

- Operators handle ten frequencies Monday through Friday and cover five areas (Hollywood, West LA, South, Central and Valley areas) as well as TSR (traffic signal repair). They are also responsible for Tac frequencies Boot and B, which handle all scofflaw information on delinquent vehicles with five or more unpaid citations.
- Additionally, they handle the A/E Tac frequencies where all towed vehicles are processed over the radio. The Operators manage ten different frequencies on weekdays, and six on weekends.
- All Operators are responsible for dispatching and answering the telephones simultaneously. They are also responsible for monitoring the emergency lines where the LAPD and LAFD call in and request Officers for traffic control.
- The unit works closely with the VIPU (vehicle information processing unit). The impound unit includes four VIPU Clerks and one VIPU Supervisor.

The VIPU Unit is responsible for completing the process of all vehicles towed in all of the city of Los Angeles. This includes all vehicles towed daily as well as any special event, i.e. parades, ball games, concerts etc. ●



COMMUNICATION REPRESENTATIVES III

- Gustavo Barba
- Leslie Cruz
- Alex Gonzalez
- Lisa Hernandez
- Varsenik Mkrtchian
- Sharon White
- Deundra Williams
- Renita Willis
- Jack Jackson
- Julisa Arellano

- Alicia Babb
- Carol Gardner
- Melissa Arroyo
- David Delgadillo
- Julie Golden
- Kysma Jackson
- Nicole Naylor
- Ruth Pierce
- Yvette Farrow
- Deedra Garcia
- Treasure Mitchell
- Illeana Valenzuela
- Teonta Williams

SR. COMMUNICATIONS OPERATORS

- Ivy Garnett
- Stacy Hernandez
- Winston Dizon
- Rose Divins

VIPU ADMIN. CLERKS

- Irene Gallardo (Supervisor)
- Daisy Murillo
- Linette Faustro
- Bridgette Williams
- Cecilia Gomez

CAPTAIN

- Tom Villarreal

LIEUTENANTS

- Susan Rahtz
- Rodney Smith

ALIVE! INTERVIEW

— Continued from page 11

system, making sure they're processed so that the citizen can locate their impounded vehicle. The vehicles that we impound must be processed immediately. VIPU is definitely an important part of our operation.

They're also Transportation employees?

Ivy: Yes. They're part of LADOT. They don't dispatch calls. Every single vehicle that we impound gets processed through them. They handle everything that we impound. They ensure the vehicles are entered into the CLETS system and the vehicle owners are notified of the impound.

I see. Do you also then coordinate with outside towing agencies to tow impounded vehicles?

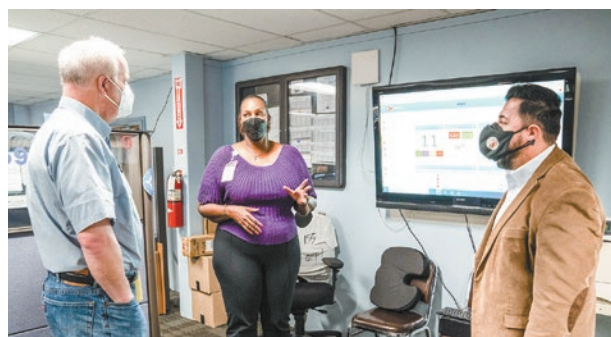
Ivy: Yes, we do.

Gustavo: We work with 18 different Official Police garages. We call them several times a day.

Let's say there's a vehicle accident in a criminal investigation. Do you handle the towing and the movement of that vehicle if it's evidence?

Gustavo: The LAPD handles it. Unless the LAPD requests us to impound it, then we'll contact a tow company. But for the most part, it's LAPD on the crime scene.

Ivy: Any calls where the LAPD is requesting a Traffic Officer for a crime scene or an end-of-pursuit, we must have what is called a Code 4. That means that the crime scene has been secured, and it is safe for the Traffic Officer to direct traffic or assist with an impounding if needed.



Ivy Garnett, Sr. Communications Operator II, Club Member, explains the unit's summary board to *Alive!* editor John Burnes (left) and Club CEO Robert Larios.

Renita: The Fire Dept. will call us for those vehicles set on fire, burnt out vehicles, to get them off the street. The Fire Dept. will call us to tow them.

Ivy: We handle inquiries all the way from the Hollywood Hills down to San Pedro, and then as far east as Boyle Heights-Central over to the beach, West LA, and the Pacific Palisades area. From this small office, we handle all of that. It's just 25 people – the entire amount of operators that we have on all the shifts. We have a huge workload with just a few of us handling it. I'm passionate about Operators and what they do because they work very, very hard.

You impact the citizens of LA a lot more than they realize.

Ivy: Yes. This is true.

Training

What's the training regimen? How does one become an LADOT Operator?

Ivy: After the hiring process, we have a three-week training program, and there are different modules that they go through starting with just City information on how they are to conduct themselves as a City employee. And then we go on to the regular program of how to take telephone calls, how to dispatch and how to handle different frequencies. We have some frequencies that are not like the others, such as our Boot and B frequencies as they're called because those two frequencies handle just scofflaw vehicles – vehicles that are being impounded or booted because of unpaid citations. That would be different from a regular frequency.

Traffic signal repair frequency is also different because they handle just the calls for traffic signal outages as well as sign repair; we have a full course where Operators learn how to handle all of the responsibilities of a CIR. The classroom module lasts for three weeks, then they come into the Communications Center and are trained for an additional two weeks, focusing primarily on answering the telephones and dispatching.

Brief History

Can you give us a brief history of LADOT's dispatch unit? Why was it created?

Ivy: I was not with the department at the inception of LADOT

Communications. LADOT Parking Enforcement became an agency in the 1980s, branching from the LAPD. LADOT Communications worked out of Piper Tech at the time.

Gustavo: I heard it started as a trial case to see if it would work out, and it ended up working out.

Ivy: Right.

Gustavo: It did come from the LAPD. It wasn't 24 hours back then either.

Ivy: Right.

Working Together

Which City of LA Departments do you work with a lot? I know you refer calls to many different departments, but are there other departments that you work with a lot and coordinate frequently?

Alex: We coordinate a lot with of course the LAPD and the Fire Dept. because they call us and request traffic control at different locations. We work with them constantly. As Renita mentioned earlier, we work with the LADWP when we have water main breaks and things of that nature.

Renita: We get a lot of requests from Sanitation regarding vehicles blocking bins or streets with bins. We get a lot of calls about that.

Not the LAPD

Do people confuse you with LAPD dispatch, LAFD dispatch and any other dispatch in the City? What's it like, always having to explain who you are and what you do?

Ivy: People often confuse us with the LAPD, but even more so with 311 thinking that we are City Information. We get callers who call in with an LAPD issue – for example, a moving violation. They're complaining because a car was going down the street too quickly. We get calls like that quite often. But even more so we get calls that are just requests for City information.

Alive! Feature

ALIVE! INTERVIEW

— Continued from page 12

Alex: Moving violations don't involve us. We deal with parking, parking, parking. If it's a vehicle that's illegally parked, that's what we do. If it's moving, that's not us.

Renita: We get a lot of calls regarding individuals living inside of vehicles. These calls are often referred to the enforcement area office, who then needs to coordinate with other City agencies to determine the best possible approach. LADOT Traffic Officers do not cite people, only vehicles.

Alex: I've had citizens calling, saying that there's a dumpster blocking a lane of traffic. Unfortunately, that's not us, that's Sanitation. I've also had citizens call and say there's a piece of machinery, a forklift or a crane, into a red zone and unfortunately, those are items that we can't impound. We don't impound forklifts or cranes or machinery like that. That goes through a Street Use Inspector.

Gustavo: Most of those cranes and big machinery rigs are usually City equipment, so an Officer will not even respond to that or give a ticket or impound because it is a City vehicle.

Ivy: Sometimes people don't like us. The first thing they think of is we're sending Traffic Officers out to give them citations, or we're sending people out to tow their cars. But the citizens forget that we're letting them be able to get out of their driveway safely, allowing them to drive down the street safely and to park safely. We're helping people.

Of course. Do you ever feel the need to call the LAPD and ask them to accompany your Traffic Officer?

Gustavo: It happens.

Renita: There are some hot locations especially in the alleyways where there is only one way in and one way out. It's a safety concern, so they may request the Police Dept. to respond with that as well.

Ivy: Traffic Officer safety is our priority. We do not send Traffic Officers out into any unsafe situations, ever. Our Operators are instructed to verify that the location is secured before an Officer is dispatched.

Officer safety is the top priority for our Operators. That's the number one priority.

Gustavo: Correct.

Alex: I've had a few calls from citizens saying there's someone blocking the driveway and they're refusing to move. And there's an attitude or cussing. Automatically I'm not going to send a Traffic Officer, for their safety. I'll advise the citizen that they have to contact LAPD. Our Officers' safety is number one. If it's not a safe environment, we're not going to dispatch them out.

Do you ever get any calls where people want to park outside their own house, but someone is there already, and they ask you to tow the vehicle away?

Gustavo: All the time.

Ivy: Yes, we do.

Ivy: We have to remind a citizen that the city street is a public street, so everyone can park there. Many times we get calls when the citizen feels like, "I need you to come and remove this vehicle because they parked in front of my house." They don't realize that anyone can come park in front of their house. We become most unpopular then!

We also get calls for a vehicle that's sitting on the street for several days without moving. That's been a really big problem with the pandemic, especially because a lot of people are working at home.

[Note: Abandoned or stored vehicles can be reported by calling (800) 222-6366. The Dispatch Center does not receive these calls. — Ed.]

Alex: Yes.

Ivy: So they have no reason to move their car. They're working at home, they're ordering food in, they're doing Instacart. They have no reason to go outside or to move their car. We have to refer them to our abandoned hotline – an abandoned vehicle is any vehicle that sits on the street for three days or more. That upsets people because they know it's their neighbor's car, but they just want it to move because they want to park there.

Gustavo: Another thing I have noticed due to the pandemic is we get a lot of complaints about cones on the street. They're using a trashcan to save parking spaces. Unfortunately, there's nothing that we can do regarding that.

Alex: One car parked in the middle where two cars can fit. Unfortunately, that's not illegal. There's no parking violation we could allow for that, so that's another time where we become the bad guy when we tell them something they don't want to hear.

Renita: And the disabled parking. Anybody with a placard can park there (not just them). They get upset about that.

What about the uncomfortable situation of encampments on streets. How do you handle that?

Alex: We get a lot of calls on a daily basis regarding people living in their car or a motor home RV parked in front of their house. We go through the steps of asking: Is someone living in the vehicle? Our Traffic Officers don't have much in ways of defending themselves, so if the person living in the vehicle is hostile, that's not a safe environment for our Officers. We refer that to the Police Dept.

Makes perfect sense.

Renita: Overnight parking is also an issue. You can't imagine how many people actually wake up at 2 a.m. to call to report overnight parking – those signs that restrict parking from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. People will call us at exactly 2 a.m. to report it.

Success Stories

Tell us some success stories.

Ivy: Just working through the pandemic alone is a success story for us. We are a very small office, and if two people are down, that's a big thing. We dispatch calls to six different areas: Hollywood, South, Central, Valley, Western and Traffic Signal Repair. If we're down one person, that means someone else has to cover another frequency. Working during the pandemic is a success story for us.

And another story – there was a power outage in the area that affected our Communications Center for an entire day last December. It lasted longer than we expected. Although we are able to to on a backup generator to supply power to our computers, we were in the dark. The Operators really stepped up. It was not easy because some had to work at an alternative location to answer a very heavy load of incoming calls for service from the citizens, and the other Operators were here at the Communications Center dispatching the calls via handheld radios. Some Operators dispatched using two or three radios because, with the power failure, we were unable to patch the frequencies together as we normally would. We had fun, laughed about it and got the job done for the day.

Alex: We have small successes on a daily basis. If another Operator a question or an issue or a concern and we're close enough where you can hear it, someone will jump in and help.

Ivy: Often we do have to think on the fly.

Gustavo: It does happen when we get something odd, and we discuss it among each other and figure it out and move on to the next one. Team players here.

Alex: I'm not sure if you're familiar with [actor] Steve-O and the stunt he pulled where he duct-taped himself to a billboard [in Hollywood



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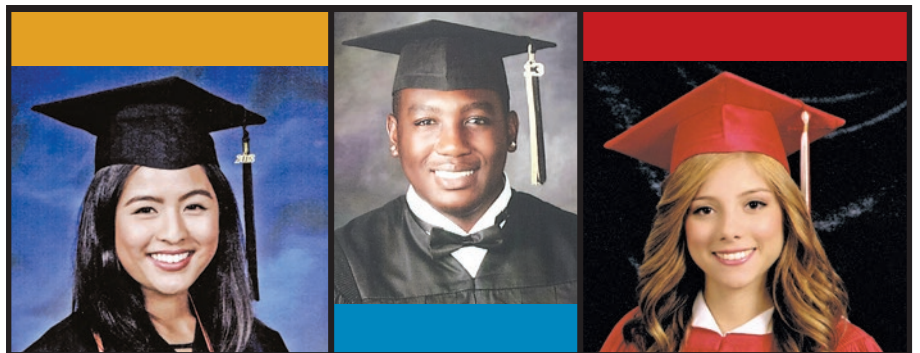
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For Club Members if they purchase by April 30

We also have great rates on Homes, Boats, Motorcycles, RV's, Rental Properties and Apartment Buildings.

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Put your graduation photo in Alive!

Club members: Have you had a family member graduate from elementary school... high school... or college? Send us a photo, and we'll publish it in *Alive!*

Make sure you tell us:

- The name of the graduate.
- The school from which they graduated. If a college, tell us their major.
- Their future plans (briefly)
- The name and department of the Club member they're related to, and how they are related

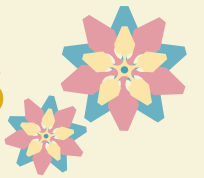


To send a digital photo and your message, go to:
alive.employeesclub.com/graduations

— *Alive!* Interview continues on page 21 and on Web *Alive!*
alive.employeesclub.com



Life's Important Moments



Share your news... and send in a photo!

Have you gotten married? Had a baby? Graduated? Is a family member in the military? Send in a photo and a paragraph, telling us the details. We love to share your good news.

Send your photos and text online:
alive.employeesclub.com/lifemoments



- Births**
- Weddings**
- Graduations**
- Special Achievements**
- Military Service**
- Tell Their Story**

Retirements

View retirements online at: alive.employeesclub.com/retirements-202204

Here's a listing of all those who retired from the City in Feb. 2022. To all we say, welcome to the Best Years!

NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS
Abercrombie, Linda	Administrative Clerk	Public Works	14	Gibbs, Denice	Security Officer	Airports	31	Pascual, Shannon C.	GM Office	LADWP	N/D
Aiwize, Princely O.	Pr. Security Officer	Harbor	20	Grimm, Christian Nickolas	Signal Sys. Electrician	Transportation	22	Ponder, Bonnie Lynn	Sr. Administrative Clerk	LAPD	27
Arimura, Tsukasa	Motor Sweeper Op.	Public Works	16	Guede, Jorge A.	Metering Services	LADWP	N/D	Porter, Sheryl L.	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D
Armendia, Yosu	Programmer/Analyst	ITA	33	Gutierrez, Conrad	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Reyes, Rena Michele	Administrative Clerk	Library	28
Armstrong, Dwight M.	Security Services	LADWP	N/D	Guzman, Maria	Crossing Guard	Transportation	4	Rice, Paula	Messenger Clerk	Library	2
Arrecis, Maria Herlinda	Special Prog. Asst.	Rec and Parks	5	Hare, Carolina I.	Civil Eng. Associate	Public Works	30	Riesen, Christopher W.	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D
Atkins, Delashawn D.	Custodian	Airports	20	Harridsleff, Phillip	St. Services Supervisor	Public Works	20	Rodriguez, Edward	Council Aide	Council	4
Baldwin, Thomas Z.	Civil Engineer Asst.	Housing	6	Holland, David Eugene	Traffic Officer	Transportation	15	Rodriguez, Lorian C.	ITS	LADWP	N/D
Barrett, James A.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	29	Howard, Karen M.	Metering Services	LADWP	N/D	Rodriguez, Martin S.	Water Engineering	LADWP	N/D
Bartlett, Melinda S.	Environ. Affairs Officer	Public Works	36	Horn Bostel Deets, Deborah A.	Landscape Architect	Public Works	21	Rogers, Bernard	Power Supply	LADWP	N/D
Bell, Forrest A.	Power Supply	LADWP	N/D	Jackson, Cynthia V.	Accounting	LADWP	N/D	Russell, Cash W.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	26
Bernal, Bruce William	Sr. Benefits Analyst	LACERS	24	Jaramillo, Martha L.	Exec. Admin. Asst.	Airports	24	Saborio, Mario J.	Management Asst.	Harbor	24
Bolivar, Martha L.	Customer Services	LADWP	N/D	Johnson, Barbara S.	Fleet Services	LADWP	N/D	Samarel, Scott J.	Material Test Eng. Assoc.	Gen. Services	29
Briceno, Michael Joseph	Street Services Sup.	Public Works	24	Johnson, Lisa Marie	Sr. Admin. Analyst	CAO	32	Sambile, Michelle C.	Accounting Clerk	Transportation	33
Brown, Rhonda Lee	Police Service Rep	LAPD	18	Johnson, Mark E.	Equipment Op.	Public Works	37	Sampson, Carl Eric	Asst. Dir. of Finance	Finance	32
Bryant, Joy O.	St. Srvs. Investigator	Public Works	33	Jones, Maurice Tiers	Police Officer	Airports	14	Schaffer, Denis J.	Energy Support	LADWP	N/D
Burnaugh, Geoff W.	Power Supply	LADWP	N/D	Jung, William G.	Budget	LADWP	N/D	Shafer, Clayton F.	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D
Cammiso, Roseann L.	Workers Comp. Analyst	Personnel	9	Kalenga, Allison L.	Public Affairs	LADWP	N/D	Siciliano, Ricardo A.	Metering Services	LADWP	N/D
Campana, Glenn A.	Recreation Facility Dir.	Rec and Parks	17	Kimble, Bobby N.	Custodian	Gen. Services	12	Silva, Delia C.	JFB Facilities	LADWP	N/D
Caputa, Lisiana	Wastewater Treat. Op.	Public Works	36	Kirby, Douglas D.	Power Supply	LADWP	N/D	Smith, Ava H.	Messenger Clerk	Library	15
Cardoza, Richard G.	Metering Services	LADWP	N/D	Kunesh, Craig	Engineering Geologist	Public Works	29	Smith, Madeline	Management Analyst	Public Works	28
Caudill, James Ross	Sr. Personnel Analyst	Harbor	31	La Porte, Mitchell J.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Smith, Stephanie Lynn	Sr. Administrative Clerk	Airports	32
Chavez, Louis R.	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D	Labrador, Manuel Frank	Sr. Equipment Mechanic	Gen. Services	18	Smith, Van W.	Power C&M	LADWP	N/D
Chew, Dorothy K.	ITS	LADWP	N/D	Labrador, Marissa	Sr. Administrative Clerk	Public Works	34	Solano, Jose Antonio	Sr. Gardener	Rec and Parks	25
Ching, Eugene I.	Land Surveying Asst.	Public Works	17	Lacuesta, Edcon	Field Engineer Aide	Harbor	21	Spence, Thomas E.	Real Estate	LADWP	N/D
Cruz, Timothy John	Comm. Electrician	ITA	22	Landry, Victor J.	Public Affairs	LADWP	N/D	Ta, Lynda Dao	Accounting Clerk	Public Works	32
Cutts, Stephen Paul	Envnmtl. Spec.	Public Works	1	Lane, Michael T.	Power C&M	LADWP	N/D	Tamuri, Maureen Theresa	Asst. General Manager	Rec and Parks	2
Deets, Gregory B.	Water Biologist	Public Works	29	Lee McAdory, Auvia P.	Police Service Rep	LAPD	18	Tankersley, Eileen M.	Exec. Admin. Asst.	Harbor	36
De Loach, Richard N.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Lee, Won Ho	Sr. Electrical Inspector	Bldg. & Safety	32	Taylor, Robert W.	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D
De Soto, Anthony R.	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D	Martin, Booker	Custodian	Gen. Services	16	Taylor, Tammie E.	Sr. Administrative Clerk	LAPD	31
Dizon, Marcelino	Power C&M	LADWP	N/D	Martinez, Oscar C.	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	25	Terrazas, Luis Y.	Metering Services	LADWP	N/D
Douglas, Sharon Marie	Sr. Administrative Clerk	Airports	25	Matturi, Elise Yvette	Traffic Officer	Transportation	30	Tirado, Elias Jose	Sr. Systems Analyst	LAPD	20
Dranow, William B.	Flt. Services	LADWP	N/D	McCullough, Eric T.	Animal Control Officer	Animal Services	22	Tocco, Robert C.	Power C&M	LADWP	N/D
Du, Zhi	Envnmtl. Eng. Assoc.	Public Works	29	McPherson, Wendy	Librarian	Library	26	Uster, Mark Edward	Custodian	Public Works	32
Duran, Steven V.	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D	Medina, Carlos F.	Equipment Op.	Airports	24	Van Cise, Eugene A.	Management Analyst	City Clerk	16
Edmonds, Jack L.	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D	Mihalevsky, Svetlana	Recreation Asst.	Rec and Parks	9	Vandenburgh, Gina R.	Water Quality	LADWP	N/D
Elsegood, Erick J.	Water Executive	LADWP	N/D	Mohandie, Krishnan R.	Police Psychologist	LAPD	13	Villegas, Yolanda E.	Administrative Clerk	Library	15
Esparza, Rudy	Metering Services	LADWP	N/D	Montanez, Oscar J.	Heavy Duty Equip. Mech.	Gen. Services	16	Wahls, W. Dean	Sr. Real Estate Officer	Airports	15
Estrada, Yolanda E.	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D	Munoz, Christina Y.	Retirement Plan	LADWP	N/D	Waters, James W.	Power C&M	LADWP	N/D
Evans, Michael E.	Elevator Mechanic	Airports	5	Navarez, Sergio E.	Power Supply	LADWP	N/D	Webber, Amy	Dep. City Attorney	City Attorney	18
Farias, Guillermo J.	ITS	LADWP	N/D	Navarro, Marilyn B.	Sr. Administrative Clerk	LAPD	30	Williams, Anita J.	Water Quality	LADWP	N/D
Fatemi, Nahid	Water Engineering	LADWP	N/D	Nguyen, Thang D.	Power C&M	LADWP	N/D	Williams, Rodney I.	Comm. Info. Rep.	Airports	32
Fechser, Chris H.	Power Supply	LADWP	N/D	Olsen, Steven J.	Sr. Gardener	Rec and Parks	5	Williams, Tony	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D
Fields, Christophe	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	34	Omokawa, Noriaki Wayne	Management Analyst	Public Works	21	Wint, Gary Dane	Sr. Detention Officer	LAPD	26
Francis, David Michael	Street Services Sup.	Public Works	30	Orta, Maximo	Electrician	Airports	32				
Fuentes, Louis S.	Garage Attendant	Gen. Services	20	Ortiz, Daniel P.	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D				
Gaston, Charles L.	Maintenance Laborer	Airports	20	Paris, Dorai B.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D				

N/D = not disclosed

In Memoriam

Our thoughts and condolences are with the family and friends of the following current and retired City employees who have passed away.

DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE					
ACTIVE												
Duval, Jolynn	Rec and Parks	20	Burdette, Allen	N/D	N/D	Hutton, Thomas	Gen. Services	18	Schendel, Mariana	N/D	N/D	
Gipson, Matthew	Airports	15	Burkhardt, C. Michael	Library	14	Ikeda, Irene M.	LADWP	33	Simpson, Teresa A.	LADWP	17	
Haerle, Daniel M.	LADWP	37	Ceballos Jr., Manuel	LADWP	28	Ikeda, Keiichi	LADWP	26	Smay III, George W.	LADWP	11	
Jimenez, Mauricio	Rec and Parks	10	Chamberlain, Robert E.	LADWP	30	Kaelble, Ronald R.	N/D	N/D	Smith, Gordon W.	LADWP	26	
Lyles, Jenai K.	LAPD	22	Cooper, Forster	LADWP	42	Lam, Ronald O.	N/D	N/D	Smith, Kenneth L.	Gen. Services	15	
Morales, Preston R.	LADWP	32	Cooper, Kent H.	LADWP	30	Lee, Sam J.	Airports	27	Smith, Ronald W.	LADWP	25	
Narvaez, Elias G.	Housing	17	Corde, Charles B.	LADWP	25	Low, Jean	Public Works	36	Smythe, David W.	N/D	N/D	
Varela, Tony	LAPD	23	Dasselaa, Carla	Public Works	26	Maldonado, Larry	Gen. Services	19	Solamo, Teofilo L.	Public Works	31	
Willis, George R.	Public Works	2	Davis, Robert J.	LADWP	33	Mangune, Domingo G.	Airports	11	Sonderstrom, Charles	N/D	N/D	
			De Groeve, Albert T.	N/D	N/D	McGarry, Mildred V.	N/D	N/D	Strid, Harvin F.	N/D	N/D	
			Diskin, Thomas P.	LADWP	41	Mischlich, Michael W.	Bldg. & Safety	23	Sumida, George H.	LADWP	34	
			Donald, Shelly	Bldg. & Safety	21	Moore, Elbert	LADWP	40	Swain, Leonard L.	N/D	N/D	
			Espino, Rudolph	LADWP	33	Morgan, Keith D.	LADWP	28	Tolver, Jean T.	N/D	N/D	
			Figuero, Albert K.	N/D	N/D	Navarro Adea, Esterliza E.	Public Works	28	Tunac, Ronald M.	Airports	13	
			Fitzsimmons, Patricia M.	N/D	N/D	Niemann, Frederick	N/D	N/D	Uemara, Roy K.	LADWP	33	
			Garcia, Alex	Public Works	7	Olivier, Kenneth S.	LAPD	38	Vara, Ismael O.	Rec and Parks	7	
			Gomez, George L.	Transportation	26	Palmer, George B.	Rec and Parks	38	Velarde, Frank M.	N/D	N/D	
			Green, Gwendolyn F.	N/D	N/D	Piper, Joseph B.	LADWP	30	Vogel, Barry J.	LADWP	15	
			Greene, Brenda L.	LADWP	46	Prince, Troy L.	LADWP	20	Wilson, Tony L.	LADWP	18	
			Hardin, John H.	N/D	N/D	Ribas, Phyllis A.	N/D	N/D	Wright, Deforest B.	LADWP	21	
			Hodges, Frank H.	LADWP	34	Ryan, Richard J.	LADWP	19	Yarger, William C.	LAPD	30	
			Holzman, Louise R.	Rec and Parks	10	Scheidegger, Juanita M.	LADWP	25				

N/D = not disclosed

Photos courtesy @LAPD911 Twitter feed

Three Dispatchers Retire

Three Retired from LAPD Communications.

In February, three LAPD Dispatchers and Supervisors retired from LAPD/Communications. We thank them for their service!

Karen Brents

LAPD: On Feb. 17, PSR III Karen Brents retired after 33 years of City service. "Her passion for helping our community made her an effective instructor," according to Capt. Alex Vargas. Congratulations Karen!



Karen at her retirement party.



Karen Brents



Karen's retirement shadowbox.

Dorine Thomas

LAPD: On Feb. 22, Sr. PSR Dorine Thomas retired after 36 years of City service. Congratulations Dorine!



Dorine Thomas



Dorine's retirement shadowbox.



Dorine (right) at her retirement party.

Yvonne Thompson

LAPD: On March 17, Sr. PSR Yvonne Thompson held her final roll call after 33 years of service to the City. "A real loss for the working PSRs on the floor," commented Ret. Capt. Dave Storaker, her previous supervisor. "She is one of our best."

Congratulations on your retirement, Yvonne.



Yvonne Thompson with Capt. Alex Vargas



Yvonne's retirement shadowbox.



The Club...

is a family of municipal employees, dedicated to each other's success and advancement.

LIMITED EDITION PERFORMING ARTS presents

Forgiveness
IT'S FOR YOU
by LADY Y SMITH

Club Members SAVE 10%
during April 2022
Use promo code: LOVETHECLUB

\$25 ADMISSION

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2022 • 3PM

WILLIAM & JANE BRISTOL AUDITORIUM
16600 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE
BELLFLOWER 90706

FACE MASKS REQUIRED • ORGANIZER OF 10+ SPECIAL GIFT

Bhavin to AGM

Bhavin Patel promoted to Assistant GM.



Bhavin Patel

ITA: Bhavin Patel has joined the ITA executive team as the department's newest Assistant General Manager for the Infrastructure Bureau.

"I am grateful and proud to be part of the talented, fun and motivated organization for the past 25 years," Patel said. "More so, I am thankful

to our CIO, Mr. Ted Ross, for trusting me and giving me this opportunity to lead the Infrastructure Bureau. I am excited to be part of the executive team and will do my best to continue to build partnerships with our customers."

Bhavin holds a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from Cal Poly Pomona. He started his City career in 1997 at the ITA as a Communications Engineering Associate working on the City Hall Seismic Retrofit, Marvin Braude Building, and other projects. Since then, Bhavin has grown in various areas of responsibility, serving most recently as the department's Director of Communications over Voice, Video and Data Communications.

Congratulations, Bhavin! ■

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.

RLACEI

For Retired Club Members

CONTACT INFORMATION

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)



Ruth B. Perry

Ruth B. Perry, President
Terminal Annex
P.O. Box 86264
Los Angeles, CA 90086
PHONE: (800) 678-4145, ext. 717
EMAIL: Ruth.Perry@RLACEI.org
ON THE WEB: www.RLACEI.org

2022 Executive Board of Directors

- Ruth B. Perry, *President*
- Beverly J. Clark, *First Vice President*
- Mark Blunk, *Second Vice President*
- Loucin (Lucy) Artinian, *Treasurer*
- Verkin (Vicki) Keoseian, *Secretary*

RLACEI DIRECTORS

Dial (800) 678-4145 plus extension

Beverly Anderson, Director	Ext. 702
Loucin (Lucy) Artinian, <i>Treasurer</i>	Ext. 718
Mark Blunk, <i>Audit Chair</i>	Ext. 704
Beverly J. Clark, <i>Publicity Director</i>	Ext. 716
Dennis Harding, <i>Entertainment Director</i>	Ext. 706
Verkin (Vicki) Keoseian, <i>Secretary</i>	Ext. 719
Tom Moutes, <i>RLACEI Director</i>	Ext. 710
Ruth B. Perry, <i>Membership Director</i>	Ext. 717
Elizabeth Torres, Director	Ext. 703

RLACEI RETIREE HELPLINE:

(800) 678-4145, Ext. 0

For retirement assistance, call the Retiree Hotline and leave a message. A Director of RLACEI will return your call and assist you with your concerns.

RLACEI WEBSITE

Visit the RLACEI website www.RLACEI.org to find the latest retirement news. Call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 0 to make suggestions.
EMAIL: Contact@RLACEI.org

MAILING ADDRESS:

Retired Los Angeles City Employees Inc.
Terminal Annex
P.O. Box 86264
Los Angeles, CA 90086

Change of Address?

Please notify Ruth B. Perry, Membership Chair, at (800) 678-4145 ext. 717 or Ruth.Perry@RLACEI.org for a change of address or to add or change your email address. Also notify LACERS, ACEBSA, LAPCU, and LAFUCU as applicable.



Beverly J. Clark

Send in your Interesting News Contributions!

Contact: **Beverly J. Clark**, Publicity Director
Email: Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org or
Phone: (800) 678-4145 ext 716

RETIREE EVENTS

April 14, 2022 Spring Fling
11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. *Grace E. Simons Lodge*
1025 Elysian Park Dr.

June 2, 2022 Tom Stemnock Annual Golf Tournament
Shotgun 7 a.m.
Alhambra Golf Course
630 S. Almansor St.
Alhambra

Aug. 11, 2022 Annual Picnic
11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. *Grace E. Simons Lodge*
1025 Elysian Park Dr.

Dec. 15, 2022 Annual Holiday Party
11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. *Friendship Auditorium*
3201 Riverside Dr.

Reservation Line:
RLACEI events (800) 678-4145, ext. 701



Dennis Harding

Remembering Jean Low

By Dennis Harding, RLACEI Director

Many Retired Public Works/Street Maintenance employees will remember Jean Low, a career long office manager and Secretary to many division heads. Jean recently passed away, after 36 years of City service. To anyone unfamiliar with Jean, she might have seemed to be just a friendly but quite ordinary lady. But to those of us who did know her well, she was a most extraordinary, warmhearted, humble and kind woman, a rare example of human excellence.

As a co-worker, Jean was always helpful, efficient and hardworking, and she had a stellar work ethic. To me she was the epitome of a great Secretary. Jean was a teenager when she was hired by my father, Ed Harding, as a Clerk Typist when he was a General Superintendent. She quickly learned everything about the Division, whereby she soon became essential to the running of the office. She later became Secretary to the many General Superintendents who followed after my father, helping to keep them on track with their responsibilities, and basically keeping them out of trouble.

My father loved Jean like a daughter. All the General

Superintendents who followed him treated her kindly, because they just couldn't treat her any other way. When I became a General Superintendent, I inherited the privilege of having her as my secretary for nearly 20 years. Jean was a treasure. She never had to be supervised; she was always at work; she knew her responsibilities better than I did; and we never had harsh words. She was my friend and protector. I relied on her immensely. She was more than just another employee; she was a tireless helper to me and countless others. Sometimes I would call her "sister" and at other times it would be "mom," as she was all that to me.



Jean Low

I knew I was leaving my successor with the greatest of help when I retired, and Jean with an appreciative boss. When she retired, the division management must have felt they lost an irreplaceable asset.

When Jean passed away, she left her family without a loving mother and grandmother, and all of us without a very special friend. We will remember her always with great fondness. ■

1st Annual Tom Stemnock Memorial Golf Tournament

Thursday, June 2, 2022

The 1st Annual Tom Stemnock Memorial Golf Tournament sponsored by the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc., will be held on Thursday, June 2, 2022 at the Alhambra Municipal Golf Course with a "Shotgun Start" at 7:30 a.m. The course is located at 630 South Almansor Street, Alhambra, CA 91801. Check in is at 7:00 a.m. Free range balls at driving range until 7:15 a.m. • SOFT SPIKES MANDATORY!

- The tournament is open to retired and active employees and friends. The cost is \$75 for RLACEI & Employees Club members. All others pay \$80, which includes greens fees, carts, prizes and lunch at the Alhambra Court restaurant. Lunch only is \$25.00.
- Those interested in participating must complete the reservation form and mail it with your check made payable to: RLACEI by Monday, May 23, 2022.
- Send check and registration form to Ruth Perry, RLACEI, Terminal Annex, PO Box 86264, Los Angeles, CA 90086
- For questions, call or text Ruth Perry at (800) 678-4145 ext. 717 or email: Ruth.Perry@RLACEI.org

2022 Golf Tournament Reservation Form

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Amount Included \$ _____ \$75 for RLACEI and Employees Club Members
\$80 for all others
\$25 for luncheon only

Make checks payable to RLACEI. NOTICE: SOFT SPIKES MANDATORY!

FOURSOME		Member RLACEI	Member Club	Guest				
Name		(check all that apply)						
Golf Shirt Size								
(Circle Size)								
1. _____	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. _____	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. _____	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. _____	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

— RLACEI CONTINUES PAGE 18

Looking for a Board Member With Computer Skills

Computer savvy RLACEI Board Director needed!

Experience and skills in Webpage maintenance, Facebook management and extensive Microsoft Office proficiency particularly wanted. Other computer skills greatly appreciated.

If you enjoy working with and assisting City retirees, join us.

For more information on this position contact:

Dennis Harding at: (800) 678-4145, ext. 706
 Email: Dennis.Harding@RLACEI.org or
 Beverly Clark at: Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org



RETIREES ON THE MOVE

Meet Lupe Ortiz

By Beverly J. Clark, Publicity Director

Lupe Ortiz retired on May 8, 2021, after more than 36 years with the City. She worked in various departments, including Public Works/Sanitation and /Street Services, Economic and Workforce Development, Housing, Rec and Parks, Police Commission, Fire Commission, Library, Transportation and Personnel. During her City career she held several positions, including Clerk Typist, Sr. Clerk Typist, Commission Executive Assistant, Management Analyst, Sr. Personnel Analyst and Personnel Director. Lupe says, "The ability to move around and work for so many departments not only gave me the opportunity to gain a wealth of experience but make life-long friends."



Lupe Ortiz



Lupe and her husband Bill.

How are you enjoying retirement?

"While I truly enjoyed my City career and the opportunities that were afforded me, I can truly say that I love being Retired. Since retiring in May, I have spent time traveling with my husband, family and friends. My husband Bill and I have been married 10 years, and one of our future goals is to ride our Harley across the United States after he retires in June. The best part of

retirement, though, is being able to wake up at any time and lay around the house doing nothing, if I choose."

How did the pandemic affect your lifestyle?

"During the pandemic, I stayed at home like a lot of people. But now that it's safer to venture out, I plan to attend art shows, read more and spend more time with Mom shopping. I am also looking forward to enrolling in photography and flower arrangement classes."

Words of wisdom?

"My advice to newly hired employees is to make a commitment to contribute into Deferred Compensation. It was the best thing I did toward my retirement. For those thinking of retirement, attend a LACERS retirement seminar as soon as possible and consult with your financial planner to make sure that you will be financially secure." ■



Lupe Ortiz with her family.

Refer a Friend, Get a \$25 Target Gift Card

Let your fellow City Retiree friends know about the great benefits of being an RLACEI member. Encourage them to call (800) 678-4145, ext. 717, or visit the Website at RLACEI.org, to join today!

- 100 gift cards are available to be won.
- Refer a Friend Campaign begins January 1, 2022.
- Once they join RLACEI and mention you, the gift card is yours!

What are you waiting for? Refer a friend today!



A New 2022
RLACEI Event!

Spring Fling



WIN PRIZES!
only RLACEI members will be eligible to win prizes

Come join the fun!

Thurs., April 14, 2022
 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Grace E. Simons Lodge
 1025 Elysian Park Dr.
 Los Angeles, Calif. 90012



Open to all Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. members.
Proof of Vaccination and Mask Required

RSVP: (800) 678-4145 Ext. 701 – no later than April 7, 2022
 Limit one (1) RLACEI member plus one (1) guest at no cost.





RLACEI 2022 SPRING FLING EVENT RESERVATION

NAME _____

PHONE (_____) _____

EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

NUMBER OF ATTENDEES: 1 or 2 (check one box)



Email this information by April 7 to: contact@RLACEI.org or
 Mail to: RLACEI, P.O. Box 86264, Los Angeles, CA 90086



RETIREES UPDATE



Tom Moutes

When COLA Increase Seems Insufficient

by Tom Moutes, RLACEI Director
 Email: Tom.Moutes@RLACEI.org

We all feel it – gas prices skyrocketing, food prices rising, rents getting higher. Currently, we are seeing increases in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) unlike anything we have seen in the last 40 years! While I'm sure we will all appreciate the extra 3 percent COLA in our monthly checks starting in July, isn't there more that can be done?

Most LACERS Retirees are well aware of the potential for up to a 3 percent annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), with a "banking" for future years of increases in the CPI beyond the permitted 3 percent COLA. But, did you know that Section 4.1023 of the City Administrative Code allows the City Council to provide a discretionary COLA that goes beyond the 3 percent annual cap?

The good news is that, as frequently as every three years, the Council can grant a discretionary COLA above the annual amount that the LACERS Board adopts. Because inflation has been subdued for so long, the Council has not granted a discretionary COLA for many years.

The bad news is, despite the staggering inflation we have been dealing with lately, this probably is not the right time for the Council to adopt a discretionary COLA. The bad timing has to do with how the Administrative Code section is written. If I'm reading the section correctly and my math is accurate, the maximum discretionary COLA the Council could adopt right now is 0.45 percent. This is due to the three-year averaging that the Code requires. If the Council was to adopt the 0.45 percent now, it could not grant another discretionary COLA for at least three years.

However, if the inflation we are experiencing lasts throughout this calendar year, there is a good chance the discretionary COLA the Council could adopt next year could be significantly higher than 0.45 percent. I hope the Council will keep this possibility in mind next year. Stay tuned! ■

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.

RLACEI

— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

LACERS BOARD UPDATE

LACERS Sets COLA Amount for 2022

by Michael R. Wilkinson, LACERS Commissioner

Email: MikeWilkinson4LACERS@gmail.com



Michael R. Wilkinson

The LACERS Board has set the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) that will be effective on July 1, 2022. LACERS sets the COLA based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all urban consumers in the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim Area as measured by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 12-month average increase in this CPI for 2021 over the previous year is 3.8 percent. The COLA is capped at 3.0 percent for Tier 1 members and capped at 2.0 percent for Tier 3 members. Tier 3 members are those who were hired on or after Feb. 21, 2016. Please note that this is an average CPI. The

Bureau of Labor Statistics also sets a monthly CPI measuring against the CPI for the previous year. This number can be very different from the average number, especially this past year.

Tier 1 members get the benefit of a COLA bank whenever the CPI is greater than 3 percent. The excess is put in a bank to be used in a future year when the CPI is less than 3 percent. So, most Tier 1 members start this year with nothing in the COLA bank and will add 0.8 percent. If next year's COLA is 1.0 percent, they would get to tap that COLA bank to get a 1.8 percent COLA.

Many pension plans that have COLAs use a different method or a different measuring time period to set the COLA. I generally hear from members at this time of year asking why we aren't getting the same COLA that a different plan receives. You have heard the old saw about the "grass is always greener on the other side of the fence." It applies here.

Some plans use a national CPI, and some set it for a calendar year or another fiscal year. It will be different, but these differences tend to average out over the years. Social Security, for instance, uses a national CPI, the Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers. It also uses a non-standard fiscal year to measure it.

A final thought on the reason the CPI used to set a COLA may not be the same as your actual cost of living: The CPI is based on an average which is based on a basket of products and services for food, transportation, clothing, housing, energy, medical expenses, recreation and education.

It's an average; it isn't you specifically.

Let's say your house is paid for, so your housing expenses would be lower than the average, but you bought a new car where the CPI is projecting that perhaps only one consumer in three will buy a new car. This moved you away from the average consumer and your expenses did not match the CPI. Your actual cost of living will likely be more or less than the CPI based on how your costs measure up against the average consumer. ■

Become an RLACEI Member

RLACEI is dedicated to advocating for retiree interests. We are over 5,500 strong! Members of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. enjoy all RLACEI events such as the golf tournament, member picnic and holiday party with FREE membership to the Employees Club with access to all group benefits (insurance, discounts, etc.).

Call (800) 678-4145 x717, or visit our website at RLACEI.ORG and join today!

Follow RLACEI on Facebook



Connect to RLACEI on Facebook, and you'll be eligible to win a \$5 gift card for See's Candies or Starbucks or one RLACEI reusable cloth bag.

Prizes will go to the first 150 to like the RLACEI Facebook page.

YOU COULD WIN!



How to enter

CURRENT RLACEI MEMBERS: Follow us on Facebook

OTHER CITY RETIREES: Join RLACEI and like us on Facebook

March Winners

New RLACEI Members – Welcome!: Jacinto Gomez and Sonia Robinson

Following RLACEI Facebook Page: Angelito Jabido

Congratulations for joining RLACEI and our Facebook page! Follow RLACEI here: www.facebook.com, and search for "RLACEI"

A Trailblazer Says Goodbye

Assistant Chief Beatrice Girmala retires after 37 years of City service.



Assistant Chief Beatrice Girmala

LAPD: During the Police Commission meeting March 15, the Commission announced that Assistant Chief Beatrice Girmala, would be retiring by the end of March. She leaves the City with more than 37 years of City service.

Last year, she became the LAPD's first female Assistant Chief to serve as the Director of Office Operations, overseeing the department's entire patrol personnel.

Commissioner Eileen Decker said Girmala was the only woman in LAPD history to have held all three Assistant Chief positions during her career.

Assistant Chief Girmala retires as the Director, Office of Operations. As Director, she was responsible for overseeing four geographic bureaus that cover the entire City and all uniformed patrol resources. She also oversaw the Public Engagement Section, which emphasizes the department's commitment to community outreach to include the Cadets, Reserves and Volunteers Unit, the Police Orientation Preparation Program (POPP) and Police Academy Magnet School (PAM).

Assistant Chief Girmala is a 37-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department. She is a lifelong resident of Los Angeles who enjoys the diversity and energy that define LA.

Assistant Chief Girmala graduated from UCLA with a degree in political science, public administration and public law, graduating with honors.

She began her LAPD career in 1985 and was first assigned to Pacific Area. Upon completion of probation, she was assigned to Van Nuys Area, and then Southeast Area.

In 1988, a Field Training Officer position opened at Hollywood Area, and dedicated eight years to Hollywood Patrol Division. In 1997, she achieved the rank of Sergeant and was assigned to Central Area before returning to Pacific Area.

She returned to Hollywood Area in 1999, first as a Field Sergeant, and then as an Assistant Watch Commander, Sergeant II. In 2003, she was recognized by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce as a "Woman of Distinction," receiving that honor for her efforts in Hollywood Area. The year she was promoted to Lieutenant and assignment to Hollenbeck Area as a Watch Commander, and then as Watch Commander in Central Area.

In 2006, she completed Command Development School and was promoted the following year to Captain in the Devonshire Area. She was promoted to Commander of Employee Relations Group in 2013.

In April 2015, she was promoted to Deputy Chief and became the Commanding Officer of Operations-West Bureau. During her tenure there, she oversaw the smooth implementation of the Digital In-Car Video system to all OWB geographic Areas.

In June 2016, after 31 years of experience with the Department, she was promoted to Assistant Chief. ■



Assistant Chief Beatrice Girmala (center) with Retired LAFD Chief Joe Castro (left) and the late Mr. LA, former Councilman Tom LaBonge, Club Member.

So Long, Stacy

Batt. Chief Stacy Gerlich, Obama Champion of Change, retires after 35 years of City service.



Batt. Chief Stacy Gerlich

LAFD: Battalion Chief/EMT Stacy Gerlich, Executive Officer of the Administrative Operations Bureau, retired in February after 35 years of City service. She was one of the department's most decorated employees. Her duties at retirement included Gender Equity Officer, LGBTQ Liaison, Department Resiliency Officer, Department Sustainability Officer and the Behavior Health Program. She is considered an expert in disaster preparedness.

Chief Gerlich has two master's degrees in organizational management and homeland security studies from the Naval Postgraduate School. She completed a Certificate in the Psychology of Leadership and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion from eCornell University. She has held many Departmental positions in her tenure, including CERT Commander, Los Angeles Regional Critical Incident Planning and Training Alliance, Community Risk Reduction Commander, EMS Training Officer, EMS Battalion Captain and Operations Valley Bureau, EMS Resilience Officer. Stacy is also a guest lecturer at California Lutheran University in leadership.

She served as a Champions of Change during the Obama administration.

In August 2021, Stacy received the Pinnacle Award from the Los Angeles Women in Fire Service (Women in Homeland Security) Association.

Congratulations, Stacy, and thank you for your extensive and impressive service to the City of LA, and the country. ■

Earth Day Returns, Modestly

Sanitation provides small events to honor Mother Earth.

At a previous Earth Day.

PUBLIC WORKS: Before the pandemic, Public Works/Sanitation and Environment produced a big Earth Day event. But that celebration was canceled the last two years.

As things begin to ramp up again, the Bureau offers three smaller events to mark Earth Day.

They are:

- Arbor Day
Mt. Carmel Rec Center
April 9, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Join City Plants and LASAN for a tree-planting celebration like no other!
- Celebration of the Land
MacArthur Park Lake
April 23, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Learn more about the MacArthur Lake Stormwater Rehabilitation Project and visit other LASAN exhibit booths.
- Open House
Chatsworth Reservoir
April 23, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Join LASAN's biodiversity team for a "bioblitz."
- Earth Day Celebration
Tarzana Neighborhood Council
April 30, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Join LASAN for a home composting demonstration.

Information: www.lacitysan.org/earthdayla ■



Meet the New Lieutenants

Transportation promotes five.



The new Lieutenants, front row, from left: Lt. Monique Serrato, Western and Valley Divisions, 20 years of City service, Club Member, and Lt. Tracy Floyd, Hollywood Parking Scofflaws Unit, 34 years, Club Member. Back: Lt. Gerry Cervantes, Special Events Unit/Hollywood Division, 21 years, Club Member; Lt. Michelle Jackson, Crossing Guard Unit/Western Division, 32 years, Club Member; and Lt. Alden R. Marsh, Training Division/Hollywood Division, 15 years, Club Member.

LADOT: Last September during the pandemic, LADOT promoted five to the rank of Lieutenant. They are: Lt. Monique Serrato, Western and Valley Divisions, 20 years of City service; Lt. Tracy Floyd, Hollywood Parking Scofflaws Unit, 34 years; Lt. Gerry Cervantes, Special Events Unit/Hollywood Division, 21 years; Lt. Michelle Jackson, Crossing Guard Unit/Western Division, 32 years; and Lt. Alden R. Marsh, Training Division/Hollywood Division, 15 years.

All five are Club Members.

The Club congratulates the five new Lieutenants, and we thank Linda Marsh, wife of Lt. Alden Marsh, who suggested to her husband that he contact *Alive!* to share the news of the promotion. "It's not official until it's in *Alive!*," she said. Well said, Linda! ■

Celebrate With Cheryl!

Popular Club Counselor Cheryl Martin is turning 63 next year and celebrating in Greece. Sign up now to join the fun!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Travel dates: Oct. 13-21, 2022 (nine days)
- Starting price: \$4,069, double occupancy, including air and hotel
- Deposit: \$99 down with monthly payment arrangement, or \$500 down per person at the time of reservation.
- Final payment date: Aug. 4, 2022
- Important notes: Travelers must have their passport information at time of booking. First-come, first-served basis. Seats are limited.

Mykonos ... Santorini ... and mainland Greece! Head with Cheryl Martin for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the Aegean in October 2022.

"Celebrate my 63rd with me in Greece!"

EMAIL: cmartin@employeesclub.com
PHONE: (213) 819-0794



To register and for more information, go to: www.grouptoursite.com/cherylmartin
Reservation tour number 70295428



John's Picture Perfect Contest

The Club's online photo contest, organized by Association CEO, John Hawkins

This month's contest theme:
Springtime

Club Members only.
Good luck!

The Club's online photo contest, organized by Association CEO John Hawkins, has a monthly theme. For April, we're looking for images of springtime. Send us something awesome!

Submit your best photos, and be in the running for a prize.

DEADLINE: April 12

Submit your photos online here:
alive.employeesclub.com/pictureperfect



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Congrats, Ted

GM Ted Ross wins SoCal CIO of the Year.



Ted Ross

ITA: Congratulations go to ITA General Manager Ted Ross, Club Member, for being selected as an ORBIE SoCal CIO of the Year winner for 2021.

The SoCal CIO of the Year ORBIE Award honors chief information officers who have demonstrated excellence in technology leadership. CIOs are typically recognized in multiple categories, based on the size and scope of their organization and responsibilities.

Nominated by others and competing with more than 47 prominent Southern California CIOs, Ted was honored with this unique award. Ted shares this recognition with all the ITA staff who have worked tirelessly over this last year to deliver responsive, responsible, and excellent technology at the City of Los Angeles.

Since inception of the first CIO of the Year Awards in 1998, over 500 CIO of the Year winners have received the prestigious ORBIE Award.

The ORBIE Award is synonymous with the excellence the award represents, meticulously handcrafted from steel and crystal - symbols of honor and achievement. The ORBIE signifies exceptional leadership, innovation, and vision; representing the characteristics and qualities that inspire others to achieve their potential.

The ORBIE award is produced by Inspire CIO Leadership Network, a professional peer group with chapters in most US cities. ■



Sgt. II Andy Hudlett

Goodbye, Andy

Sgt. II Andy Hudlett retires.

LAPD: On March 10, an event was held to mark the retirement of Sgt. II Andy Hudlett, Watch Commander, LAPD/Harbor Area. Andy retires after 32 years of City service.

Congratulations on your career, Andy! ■



At Andy Hudlett's retirement event.

Alive! AROUND THE WORLD

The Holy Land

Lech Kuzmicki, Retired, Public Works/Engineering, visited the Holy Land in February with his wife and 30 other people from around the globe.

"I am standing in the front of the ancient fourth-century Church of Nativity in Bethlehem. We visited many other historic sites around Israel and Palestine."



Letter From Long Beach

Capt. Michael Barnes, Retired, Harbor, celebrated St. Patrick's Day in Long Beach.

St. Patrick's Day at Home

How we Americans like our holidays, be they religious or political, and especially when it's somebody else's holiday. At the top of that list is St. Patrick's Day! According to American folklore, St. Patrick's Day is the one day of the year when everybody is Irish.

As an English-American myself, it always mystified me the lengths that people in America went to celebrating St. Patrick's Day. Sure England had its fair share of Harp and Guinness adverts on television, with little people (aka leprechauns) dancing under rainbows enjoying pints of brew. But there were no green rivers of beer, no oddly shaped green hats or young attractive ladies in very short dresses giving away armloads of green trinkets.

Since immigrating to America, I have had the pleasure of celebrating St. Patrick's Day with friends in Boston, Los Angeles and Long Beach. I have enjoyed the marching pipe bands, riding on the open-air double decker buses in the glorious California sunshine, drinking cold beers with friends in green hats, or sipping Jameson's from a flask while standing knee deep on snow-covered sidewalks, cheering on the scantily clad baton-twirling dancers, the kilned pipers and Minutemen marching and firing their muskets while braving the cold weather to show their support for St. Patrick in the South Boston St. Paddy's Day parade.

Interestingly, St. Patrick was not Irish by birth. He was born most likely at the end of Roman rule of (possibly) Wales. Many of the stories traditionally associated with St. Patrick, including the famous account of him banishing all the snakes from Ireland, are false. These tales are products of hundreds of years of exaggerated storytelling and a hint of metaphor.

It was a long time ago (in the 400s AD), but the truth most likely is that at the age of 16, Patrick was kidnapped by Irish raiders from his home and taken back to Ireland, where he spent the next six years as a slave in County Mayo tending sheep, living a rather isolated life, far away from other people. Lonely and afraid, he turned to religion for solace, becoming a devout Roman Catholic. Believing that God had spoken to him, he walked nearly 200 miles from County Mayo to the eastern Irish coast, where he managed to escape back to Britain.

There he experienced a second revelation. The revelation told him to return to Ireland after 15 years of religious training to convert the pagans. Over the centuries St. Patrick's life story has been embellished and exaggerated with exciting tales of historical events, told by storytellers who have always been an important component of the Irish culture.

So, this year, as COVID fades away, once again we were able to ride the pub crawl buses and attend the downtown Irish pipe band parades celebrating St. Patrick. I enjoyed corned beef and cabbage at Gallagher's, my favorite Irish bar where I expected to drink copious amounts of ice-cold adult beverages.

Slainté! May your heart always be full, and may your glass never be empty.

— Capt. Michael Barnes



Wee man at the door.



Get Way to pub crawl on the St Paddies day.



Meeting old friends.

Take Alive! with you, wherever you go!



- Snap a high resolution photo of you holding Alive!
- Go to: alive.employeesclub.com and click "SEND TO ALIVE" in the menu. You'll find a convenient online form to send your text and pics for publication.

LADOT COMMUNICATIONS

The Traffic Talkers

ALIVE! INTERVIEW — Continued from page 13

in August 2020]? We got the call from Fire Dept. for traffic control. I was broadcasting the call and the Officer asked what was the nature of it. The notes just said, "Man taped to billboard." I went ahead and repeated that to her, and she was a little confused. She asked me to repeat it, so I did. And then when she finally got to the location, an Officer came over the radio and asked, "Well, is he taped to the billboard?" And she said, "Roger, he is taped to the billboard!"

Ivy: Some calls from citizens are strange. I had one call where they asked us to direct traffic for a dog crossing a street. We will not send a Traffic Officer out there to run around and look for a dog. The caller was directed to Animal Control.

In our office, we have a familial atmosphere. We like to do things occasionally like have dress days for breast cancer awareness or sports days. We've done those kinds of things in the past just to kind of keep it livened up. Before the pandemic, we'd do things like pot-lucks and things like that.

Gustavo: To keep our morale going. It may not seem like a stressful job, but it can be very stressful.

And every now and then we get phone calls where they just want to talk. We listen to them to make them feel better. Some of them are going through some hard times. Some of them cry to us.

A Passion

What do you wish people knew about what your department does?

Renita: Well, we don't just sit there and answer the phones. They think we're just sitting here in an air-conditioned building answering phones. We have a large workload; we do so much more than that.

Ivy: And although we're able to transfer calls to different agencies, we're not City Information. We do handle it. We'll take the call and transfer it to the right location.

What do you love about what you do? What gives you great satisfaction about your job?

Gustavo: Great satisfaction.

Ivy: When I started working as a Communications Operator, I enjoyed the fact that I can help the citizens from a telephone. I like it when I get a call when someone replies, "Thank you. That was helpful. Thank you for letting me know that." Sometimes we get in a situation where we're able to educate the citizen because they don't understand certain things. When I'm able to do that, I like that. It makes me feel good.



Club CEO Robert Larios chats with Daisy Murillo, Administrative Clerk in the impound section, 3 years of City service.

Gustavo: When you can educate them and refer them to the right division, or explain to them what our department actually does versus somebody else – that makes me feel good, too. Educating the citizens. We do that a lot.

Ivy: When we get the opportunity to keep a Traffic Officer safe and handle it well, that's also gratifying. To be able to keep the Officer calm in emergency situations while getting the information needed, and contact the appropriate agencies that can assist them, that is a good feeling. It feels like you have accomplished your job for the day.

Renita: I like dealing with the citizens, especially if I can help them. I like training. I train new hires for Traffic Officers who may have been injured in the field, and they come in for light duty. We're all always training each other, actually. There's always something new to learn.

Gustavo: We are the first contact before anyone gets dispatched. The dispatching, the ticketing, the calls, the transfers, all of the above – If it doesn't come through us first, nothing happens for the day. We're constantly busy. The phones are constantly ringing. Twenty-four hours every day of the week.

Everyone, thanks for talking to us today. We appreciate all you do for the City.

Gustavo: Thank you.

Renita: Thank you.

Ivy: Thank you so much for talking to us.

Alex: Thank you.