

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 1, 2010
TO: City Council
FROM: Kenneth Frank, City Manager
SUBJECT: FRIDAY UPDATES

Skateboarding – The Parking, Traffic and Circulation Committee is recommending a program of regulations for skateboarders to enhance safety for those individuals and to mitigate the impact of skateboards on the community. The PTC Committee has referred the action to the City staff for final comments. The matter will be on a Council agenda either in November or December.

Application for Funding for Homeless Assistance – The City applied through Orange County for funding to help defer the cost of the temporary homeless shelter on Laguna Canyon Road. We have been notified that the City's application was not approved. It appears that the Federal and County guidelines were directed more at programs which provided longer term housing for people who are presently homeless. In fact, the Federal grant guidelines as administered by the County gave applicants a 1.5 preference for permanent housing to get people off the homeless rolls as compared to programs such as Laguna's, which are providing temporary shelter.

New Dispatcher – Next Monday, Beth Fuller will begin working as a Public Safety Dispatcher. Beth is a native Californian and attended Upland High School. She graduated from Cal State San Bernardino in 2006 with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. Beth is currently working on a Master's degree in Psychology. Beth worked for the La Verne Police Department as both a jailer and dispatcher.

Heisler Park Renovation – The final phase of renovations to Heisler Park is scheduled to begin on October 11. The \$2.4 million renovation project involves three areas of the park: the Diver's Cove stairway at the northern end of the park, the Monument Point area surrounding the lawn bowling courts in the central portion of the park, and the North Main Beach area from the Gazebo southerly to Main Beach. The Diver's Cove and the North Main Beach areas should be completed before the end of 2010. The Monument Point area should be completed by May 2011. The Rockpile Beach and Picnic Beach areas that were renovated in 2008 will remain open to the public during project.

More Grant Money – The Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors has approved a grant in the amount of \$488,000 for the Broadway Gateway beautification. This will mean an entirely new landscaping and sidewalk palette from the bus depot to Forest Avenue. The landscaping and paving will beautify an area that is seen and used by many, many people each year, but which has been under maintained for decades.

Red Palm Weevil – A beetle native to Southeast Asia that is a serious pest of palm trees has been found infesting Canary Island date palm trees in northern Laguna Beach near the intersection of Chiquita Street and Hillcrest Drive. The red palm weevil, *Rhynchophorus Ferrugineus*, is considered one of the most destructive pests of palm trees worldwide and its discovery during tree removals in residential plantings in Laguna Beach represents the first time this insect has been found in the United States. The discovery of the red palm weevil represents a serious threat to most common types of landscape palms as well as California's date palm industry. State detection crews will begin deploying traps in the City of Laguna Beach within 400 meters of the infested properties this week.