

BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

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THE NEWSPAPER OF RECORD FOR BEVERLY HILLS

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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS

☀️ Friday	84° 57°
☀️ Saturday	84° 56°
☀️ Sunday	81° 54°
☀️ Monday	77° 53°
☀️ Tuesday	69° 48°
☁️ Wednesday	67° 49°
☁️ Thursday	65° 47°

City Council Begins New Year in Unprecedented Times

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW



The City Council's first meeting of 2021 took place Jan. 12 Photo by Samuel Braslow

At a time of national upheavals and global uncertainty, the Beverly Hills City Council reconvened for the first time in the New Year to resume the work of local governance. In signs of the times, the Council heard a report on a major projected budget shortfall, with revenue decimated by COVID-19 and the city shouldering growing costs related to protests and security. Then, the Council also discussed the ongoing vaccine rollout and plans to include Beverly Hills in the process. Finally, the Council also started the year with more routine fare, hearing an appeal for a lot line adjustment request for a property in Trousdale Estates.

The City Council discussed a newly

updated budget projection at its Jan. 12 Study Session. The bleak forecast graphed a shortfall of \$10.9 million for the fiscal years 2020-2021, a significant rise from the \$3.75 million projected in June.

"We're at a time and place where, as you can imagine, the news report is not great news, but I don't think it is necessarily unexpected news," Director of Finance Jeff Muir primed the Council at the Study Session.

The city generates the majority of revenue from four sources: property tax, sales tax, Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), and business license tax.

(City Council continues on page 3)

Fire Destroys Beverly Hills Home

BY BIANCA HEYWARD

At 8:34 p.m. on Jan. 9, the Beverly Hills Fire Department (BHFD) received a call for a structure fire at 708 N. Beverly Drive. When BHFD arrived on the scene, a fully involved first and second floor fire was blazing, engulfing the 8,888 square foot home. In total, approximately 40 fire fighters responded from both the BHFD and the Los Angeles County Fire Department. According to BHFD Chief Greg Barton, the official knock down time was 2:23 a.m. the next morning. While there were no fatalities or injuries, the 1931 Spanish style house burned to the ground. The structure was vacant at the time, under construction for renovations. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

"So, this was a very difficult fire to fight simply because we were on a defensive mode," Barton told the Courier. "Early on in the firefight, there was a collapse of two corners of the structure. And at that point, because there was no life hazard inside, and the walls kept coming down, we didn't put the firefighters in there. As the walls were falling in, they were falling into the basement. That put a whole lot of fuel load in there with a lot of void spaces that made it difficult for us to get hose lines in to extinguish the fire. We went to a defensive fire attack where we basically attack the fire from the outside so that we weren't endangering any firefighters."

(Fire Destroys continues on page 15)

Courier Exclusive: Louis Vuitton Men's Temporary Residency Heading to Beverly Hills

BY ANA FIGUEROA

If fashion took a global roadshow, Rodeo Drive would surely be a stop. In the case of the "Louis Vuitton Men's Temporary Residency," Rodeo Drive is not only a stop, it is the final stop of a tour that has transfixed the fashion world since mid-2020. The city will enjoy a unique version of the installation when it debuts on Feb. 5 at 468 N. Rodeo Drive.

The upcoming residency will mark the second time the French luxury house has created a must-see experience at the northern end of Rodeo Drive. First came "Louis Vuitton X," the temporary art and retail project open for five months in 2019 that drew both large crowds and extensive international press. The Louis Vuitton Men's

Temporary Residency will be in place a much shorter time—it closes in early March—but promises to be every bit as engaging. It also comes with a narrative six months in the making. Hailed in the fashion press as one of last year's most memorable experiences, the Courier has exclusive details about what to expect when it arrives here. In a nutshell: expect nothing ever seen before.

Designed to showcase the Louis Vuitton Men's Spring-Summer 2021 Collection, the installation's showstopper is a bright red shipping container "entrance."

(Louis Vuitton continues on page 6)

Audit Recommends Changes to BHCVB Practices

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW

At its Jan. 12 meeting, the Beverly Hills Audit and Finance Committee reviewed an audit of the Beverly Hills Conference and Visitors Bureau (CVB), the marketing organization contracted by the city to promote tourism. The audit, which covered fiscal year 2018-2019, made claims of excessive spending, poor tracking of marketing metrics, lack of oversight, and inappropriate use of funds.

(BHCVB continues on page 12)

Courier Calendar

NOW
THE PALEY CENTER FOR MEDIA -
PALEY FRONT ROW: "PRODIGAL SON"

The Paley Front Row presents a series of new programming with stars discussing their work and revealing behind-the-scenes stories. Watch the stars and creators of Fox's "Prodigal Son" gather with moderator Kevin Frazier to celebrate their show, and for a funny and revealing conversation, including an advance look at season two.

<https://www.paleycenter.org/paleyathome/>

NOW - JAN. 18
"HAPPY PLACE - THE DRIVE THRU
PRESENTED BY SUBARU"

"Happy Place - The Drive Thru Presented by Subaru" is at Westfield Century City through Jan. 18. This reimaged drive thru has been designed to deliver "Happy" and pure entertainment. The experience features over 50,000 square feet and 18 unique and vibrant exhibits to be enjoyed from the safety of the vehicle. To celebrate 2021, there are limited quantities of \$20.21 tickets with code "Happy 2021." "The Drive Thru Presented by Subaru" is at Level 3 of the parking garage of the Westfield Century City, 10250 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, and tickets are priced per vehicle.
<https://www.happyplace.me/>

NOW - JAN. 18
THE BRAID: "AHA MOMENT"

The Braid (formerly Jewish Women's Theatre) kicks off its 13th year with an all-new and hilarious Zoom show about the time you "just knew" that life was about to change for better or maybe for worse. Audiences will see stories about some of life's unforeseen flash events. Lisa Cirincione directs "AHA Moment," and the cast features L.A. favorites, author and comic Judy Carter and master storyteller of The Moth, Vicki Juditz, among others.
<https://the-braid.org/>

NOW - JAN. 21
CONTEMPORARY IRISH ARTS CENTER
LOS ANGELES: THE IRISH SHORT
REEL SERIES II

The Irish Short Reel Series returns to the Contemporary Irish Arts Center Los Angeles (CIACLA) for a second year through Jan. 21. This series of 21 short online films range from drama, comedy, documentary, animation, sci-fi and contemporary storytelling, produced by some of Ireland's most exciting filmmakers. CIACLA is focused on developing a creative platform to support and challenge artists as a means of promoting creative innovation and collaborative initiatives in Los Angeles and across the USA.
<https://ciacla.com/film/>

JAN. 15
LOS ANGELES CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
ALL-DIGITAL 2020-21 SEASON: "LACO
CLOSE QUARTERS"
6:30 p.m.

Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra (LACO) continues its all-digital 2020-21 season, "LACO: Close Quarters" with episodes curated by composer Juan Pablo Contreras. Episode 5, "Contreras, del Águila + Jofre," features the world premiere of Contreras' "Mariachitlán" for Piano Four-Hands and also includes Brazilian composer Miguel del Águila's "Sedución" for flute, clarinet, and piano, and Argentinean composer J.P. Jofre's "Tangódromo." Broadcasts are streamed at LACO's website, YouTube channel and Facebook live.
<https://www.laco.org/laco-at-home/>

JAN. 15
THE LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC-
"IN CONCERT AT THE HOLLYWOOD
BOWL": "MUSICALS AND THE MOVIES"
9 p.m.

The Los Angeles Philharmonic Association and KCET present "In Concert at the Hollywood Bowl." This weekly music television series allows viewers nationwide to experience iconic moments from the LA Phil archives at the Hollywood Bowl. "In Concert at the Hollywood Bowl" premieres on Jan. 15 with "Musicals and the Movies" on PBS stations nationwide, PBS SoCal, pbssocal.org/bowl and on the free PBS app. <https://www.hollywoodbowl.com/about/watch-and-listen/in-concert-at-the-hollywood-bowl>

JAN. 15-17
CENTER THEATRE GROUP: MATTHEW
BOURNE'S "CINDERELLA"
8 p.m. Jan. 15, 2 and 8 p.m. Jan. 16, 1 and 6:30 p.m. Jan. 17

Matthew Bourne's "Cinderella" is a thrilling love story told in dance. A reinterpretation of the classic fairy tale, it features heart-stopping choreography, vivid characters, and is one of New Adventures' most popular and beloved creations. Set in London during the Second World War, the drama features Cinderella and a dashing young RAF pilot. Available for \$10 on the website. <https://www.centertheatregroup.org/digitalstage/premium-events/matthew-bourne-cinderella/>

JAN. 16
LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM OF
ART - FAMILY ART CLASS: "ART GAME!"
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art presents a Family Art Class: "Art Game!" for ages five and over. Using household items and imagination, families work together creatively to invent an art game. Join on the computer or tablet with artist Elonda B. Norris. A Zoom link and art materials list will be sent prior to class, and pre-registration is required. Students are responsible for providing their own art materials.
<https://www.lacma.org/event/family-art-class-art-game-ages-5>

JAN. 16
UCLA'S CENTER FOR THE ART OF
PERFORMANCE - CHARLES LLOYD
"KINDRED SPIRITS"
7 p.m.

UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance presents Charles Lloyd: "Kindred Spirits." The legendary saxophonist, composer, and jazz mystic's performance was prerecorded live at Royce Hall, UCLA. Charles Lloyd is an NEA Jazz Master and recent recipient of the prestigious French honor l'Ordre Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres. The program will be available on CAP UCLA's free online channel on the website.
https://cap.ucla.edu/calendar/details/charles_lloyd

JAN. 16
WALLIS ANNENBERG CENTER FOR
THE PERFORMING ARTS - THE
SORTING ROOM SESSIONS: RICHARD
SHELTON IN "SINATRA: RAW"
8 p.m.

The Wallis' Sorting Room Sessions continue with multi-award winning British actor and singer Richard Shelton presenting a cabaret version of his riveting hit show, "Sinatra: RAW," a gritty portrayal of Sinatra at his final public performance in Vegas that has attracted sell-out crowds in the UK, London, Los Angeles and Australia. Purchase of the digital concert includes 24-hour viewing access.
<https://thewallis.org/Sinatra>

JAN. 16
SANTA MONICA PLAYHOUSE - CRAZY
WOKE ASIANS: "COMEDIANS PARTY
PANEL"
8 p.m.

Santa Monica Playhouse will live-stream once a month the Crazy Woke Asians "Comedians Party Panel Competition" from Jan. 16 to June 19. Each month three comedians battle it out in stand up, sketch comedy, roast/compliment games, blindfold food guessing games and more to win and move forward to next month's show. Audiences vote for the winner each month and help select the champion. Ticket sales benefit Santa Monica Playhouse and Crazy Woke Asians while live shows are shut down.
<https://www.santamonicaplayhouse.com/playhouse-online.html>

JAN. 18
CALIFORNIA AFRICIAN AMERICAN
MUSEUM: 2021 MLK DAY VIRTUAL
CELEBRATION
10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

This year, celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day immersed in music, culture, and community at the virtual festival, which highlights MLK's dedication to labor and workers' rights, and these movements' importance today. Enjoy vibrant programs and activities for all ages including: 10 a.m. Musical Welcome from Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles; 11 a.m. King Study Group; 1 p.m. "Black Workers and Social Justice: From Memphis, 1968, to Today" and 2:30 p.m. Family Story Time and Poetry.
<https://caamuseum.org/programs/special-events/mlk-day-celebration-2021>

Beverly Hills
DOGGY DAZE
90210™

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Enter for a chance to win amazing prizes!
*Official Contest Rules apply - visit our website for more info

Photo Submissions:
Jan 7 - Jan 25

Photo Contest Voting:
Feb 1 - Feb 15

BEVERLY HILLS
Community Services

www.beverlyhills.org/doggydaze90210

(City Council continued from page 1)

With COVID-19 paralyzing the economy since March, the city has seen large decreases in sales tax and TOT, the tax generated from hotel guests.

One factor for the city's financial woes, the city unexpectedly became the site of multiple, recurring protests since the summer—most notably, Saturday's pro-Trump "Freedom Rally." In response, the city has allocated nearly \$3.5 million for public safety expenses, which includes overtime for Beverly Hills Police Department and contracts with two private armed security companies. The city appropriated another \$2 million for costs related to COVID-19.

But the city pointed to a light at the end of the tunnel. With the vaccine rolling out, the city expects its coffers to rebound swiftly from the blow. "The more positive news looking forward is that staff expects revenues to begin recovery, particularly with the vaccine being introduced into the population," the staff report compiled for the Jan. 12 Study Session says.

The city will hear its next update in March to evaluate the status of its financial situation.

For this reason, and because of the ever-growing human toll of the pandemic, the City Council discussed the ongoing vaccination process later that day at the Jan. 12 Regular Meeting.

"This has been a bright light after many months of challenge and in the fight against COVID-19. The vaccine will be one of the biggest tools we have in the fight against this virus," Emergency Management Manager

Meena Janmohamed said.

Beverly Hills currently does not play a role in the distribution of the vaccine, a responsibility carried out by the federal, state, and county governments. Los Angeles County, which models its approach on the state's guidelines, has established a two-phase plan dictating who gets the vaccine first, with each phase subdivided by letters, which are further broken down by tiers. Phase 1A, where the county is currently, covers all healthcare workers and residents of long-term care facilities. Phase 1B, which includes the elderly who are at higher risk for infection, is estimated to begin by February. Phase 1C, expected to begin by March, opens the vaccine up to those 50 to 64 years old and 16 to 49-year-olds with underlying health conditions or disabilities.

But according to Janmohamed, Beverly Hills stands ready to play a more active role in inoculating against the virus. Currently, the county is utilizing "mega-sites" like Dodgers Stadium, but Janmohamed says that the city is prepared to transform Roxbury Park into a vaccine distribution center.

"What we really anticipate the community distribution to look like will take place through these mega sites, and then through local large pharmacies and smaller scale pharmacies that have the capability to mass inoculate, and then eventually down to primary care providers," she said.

Per a recent survey of the city's pharmacies, 17 out of 22 have signed up with the county to register to be vaccine distribution and host sites—"which is I think a really

wonderful number," said Janmohamed.

With minimal federal guidance, the initial rollout of the vaccine has been criticized as inefficient and patchwork.

"We're not supposed to go into tier 1C until March," said Councilmember John Mirisch. "By then the entire country of Israel will have been vaccinated. What's going wrong?"

Janmohamed pointed to some key differences in the approach to public health by officials in Israel and government heads in the United States. From the beginning of vaccine development, "there were opportunities to ramp up production, or secure more vaccine, which we could have done a little more. From my understanding, what the Prime Minister of Israel did is, very early on, [he] secured a partnership with Pfizer. I think you also see a lot of the national leadership in Israel and some of the elected officials really wholeheartedly embracing the vaccine."

Finally, the City Council also handled a more ordinary matter in its Jan. 12 Regular Meeting, hearing an appeal of a lot line adjustment decision for a property in Trousdale Estates. The property falls both in Beverly Hills and the City of Los Angeles, complicating the homeowner's request to create two lots out of the existing three. As it stands now, one parcel of the property lies in Beverly Hills and the other two in Los Angeles.

In August 2019, the homeowner filed a request to redraw the lines such that one parcel crosses city lines, with the other one in Los Angeles. The Planning Commission held a hearing on the request in the fall and determined that the request did not conform

to the city's General Plan "because it would allow a development that could be inconsistent with the scale and character of the Trousdale Estates area," according to the staff report drafted for the meeting.

Attorney Benjamin Reznik, the homeowner's representative, appealed the denial, claiming that the Planning Commission "erred and abused its discretion when it denied a Lot Line Adjustment." The appeal argued, among other points, that the Planning Commission improperly considered future developments in its denial, pointing to public comments made by neighbors expressing concerns about the creation of a larger home by Los Angeles standards.

At the Jan. 12 hearing, though, the City Council seemed poised to side with the Planning Commission in maintaining its right to deny the application. But rather than sustain the denial, the Council opted to extend the discussion to another meeting, where they will discuss a possible ordinance prohibiting lot line adjustments across city boundaries.

"This is a distinctive situation, because the lot line at issue is on the boundary of a city and the request would be to move it to create a block that would span two cities," said Vice Mayor Rubert Wunderlich. "And so I do support the proposal to develop an ordinance that would govern lot line adjustments for the situation in which the lot line adjustment would amount to a change from a lot that formerly had been entirely within Beverly Hills to one that would extend across two cities." ●



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Beverly Hills Fire Chief Barton Given Distinguished Service Award

BY BIANCA HEYWARD



Fire Chief Barton

Beverly Hills Fire Chief Greg Barton received the prestigious Fred C. Cunningham award for distinguished service on Jan. 12, the city's highest recognition for outstanding service to the community. Before being appointed as fire chief in June of 2017, Barton served as Deputy Fire Chief, Shift Battalion Chief, Fire Marshal, Deputy Fire Marshal, Fire Captain, Fire Inspector and Firefighter.

Recently, Chief Barton spearheaded the City's new "Just in Case, BH," program, which was created to keep the community informed and connected during natural disasters or local emergencies.

"I am truly honored and humbled to receive the Fred Cunningham Award," said Barton. "If you do something you like to do,

you'll never work a day in your life. That is so true, I have a dream job as a firefighter and on top of that, I work for the dream community of Beverly Hills. Thank you all."

Barton has completed prestigious programs like the Naval Post Graduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security-Executive Leaders Program, the Los Angeles Fire Department Leadership Academy and the International Association of Fire Chiefs - Fire Service Executive Development Institute.

"The City Council is so pleased to recognize Chief Barton for his remarkable contributions to our community," said Mayor Lester Friedman. "During his 25-year career with our City, Greg has been on the front lines working to save lives, property and keep our City safe. On behalf of the Beverly Hills community, we thank him for his dedicated service and the example he sets for all of us."

A committee consisting of the City Manager, two current City Council Members, a former City Councilmember, the president of the Municipal League, president of the Rotary Club and the president of the Chamber of Commerce unanimously chose Chief Barton for the award. ●

Beverly Hills Salon Owner Recounts Her Actions in D.C. Riot

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW



Gina Bisignano (left) in Washington D.C.

Videos and images have surfaced showing a local Beverly Hills business owner at the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6. A video posted on social media shows Gina Bisignano, owner of Gina's Eyelashes and Skincare and a regular at the Beverly Hills Freedom Rally, exiting the Capitol building through a broken window and apparently encouraging people to enter the building. The events of the day left five people dead, including a member of law enforcement, and left a host of questions in its wake, including: How did a Beverly Hills esthetician with celebrity clients end up at a violent incursion of the nation's Capitol?

After more than two hours of interviews with Bisignano this week, the Courier has tried to piece together the answers.

"Be there, will be wild!" President Donald Trump tweeted on Dec. 19, urging his followers to come to the nation's capital on Jan. 6. Bisignano, like thousands of the President's most devoted supporters, heard the call. She grappled with whether to go before pulling the trigger two weeks before the day, ponying up \$1,000 on airfare and a hotel. She said she felt called upon by Trump to travel to D.C. to change the outcome of the election, which she believes was stolen. "Trump said, patriots, go to D.C.," she told the Courier. "If enough patriots got together to rightfully assemble and put pressure, chant and cheer like we do, they would think, 'Okay, we the people—we the people are speaking.'"

Before the last few months, Bisignano was best known for her meticulous brow work and voluminous, natural-appearing eyelash extensions. Her Yelp reviews, devoted clientele, and busy schedule attest to a deft touch cultivated over decades in the beauty trade. "Gina is not only a sweetheart and your friend, but she is an expert!" one reviewer wrote in 2015.

But since 2016, Bisignano became increasingly concerned with things she saw on the internet—allegations of a nefarious, global web of child molesters and pedophiles in the highest echelons of government and elite society. The claims struck close to one of her greatest concerns, abortion, a practice she abhors as a Christian. As election season progressed and the country became ensnared in COVID-19, Bisignano would join fellow Trump

supporters in the streets of Beverly Hills nearly every Saturday to call for an end to pandemic related restrictions, the reelection of President Trump, and the exposure of the Deep State that opposed him.

She experienced a new form of notoriety in December after a "reopen L.A." protest at the home of County Department of Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer. There, a neighbor captured her repeatedly using a homophobic slur in a video that subsequently went viral, getting picked up by TMZ and other outlets. She later apologized for the language, but by that point, people had discovered her Yelp page and labeled her a "Karen."

Finding support among the community of self-described fellow patriots, many of whom had connected and bonded at the Freedom Rally, she continued to demonstrate for Trump and then against the election results. So, along with at least one other regular from the Freedom Rally, Bisignano went to Washington.

In D.C. on Jan. 6, Bisignano woke up at 7 a.m., put on her Chanel boots and a Louis Vuitton sweater, and left to hear speeches from some of her favorite political figures—the nouveau célèbre brought in by Trump's anti-establishment wave. Before the headline speaker, the President himself, she got separated from her group, who told her they planned to "storm the Capitol."

"I said, 'Don't you want to do Trump's speech?' And they go, 'No, we're going to the Capitol now.' So, I separated and went to Trump's speech," she said. "And I'm like, I didn't know we were storming the Capitol. I should have dressed different."

After Trump's speech, Bisignano joined the throngs of supporters in doing what the President exhorted: "We're going to walk down Pennsylvania Avenue," Trump had said, "and we're going to the Capitol." Bisignano marched near the front of the procession, she said, as the vastly outnumbered Capitol police shrank away from the advancing mob. At the facade of the building, things turned hectic, she recalled, when police deployed tear gas.

(Beverly Hills Salon Owner continues on page 11)

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Security Measures and Vaccines Discussed for Beverly Hills Students

BY BIANCA HEYWARD



On Jan. 12, the Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) held a regular Board of Education meeting during which administrators discussed the COVID-19 vaccine and a new, robust security plan. The Board voted to adopt Resolution No. 2020-2021-020, a comprehensive document that outlines the District's security policies and procedures.

"I'm very excited," Board Vice President, Tristen Walker-Shuman, said. "This is the culmination of two years' worth of planning and discussion and effort. Leading off from Parkland, and we jumped into our agreement with NASTEC and our armed security. So, this is really just a massive yeoman's effort to pull together the infrastructure of what our really holistic, 360-degree security plan is going to kind of be built off of. So, I'm thrilled to vote for this."

The 86-page manual outlines protocols for how to handle fights at school, escorting unauthorized persons from campus, reasonable suspicion, unauthorized firearms and more.

"I just would like to say that this is a starting point for the manual," Board Member Mary Wells said. "Including the revisions that were made today, it will be revised as we continue to develop the security program with consideration for the students, families, teachers and the union."

Campus safety will be ensured through a Security Force, comprised of both contracted armed and unarmed security personnel, who will be stationed at all schools throughout BHUSD. The objectives of the Security Force are as follows: "To promote a secure environment for the district's students, employees and visitors; To provide for the protection of District property against theft and vandalism; To encourage student, staff and public awareness of crime prevention programs."

In the event of an emergency, Security Force personnel may be deployed to any school that requires assistance. Personnel will maintain stations and patrol their assigned school campus areas and facilities to ensure only authorized personnel and students enter the campus. Security Force

Officers will conduct continuous surveillance of the District, with the primary objectives being the protection of students and staff. The Security Force Officer's secondary function is to protect District property, including buildings, grounds, equipment and other assets.

The Board meeting was held the day after Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) announced that all students must receive the COVID-19 vaccine before they can return to campus.

"Our policy for vaccinating children is going to be coming up on our radar very soon," BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Bregy said. "As you know right now, for the Pfizer vaccine, you can be 16 or older. I believe the Moderna vaccine is 17 or 18. And so we are going to be very anxious watching the information to see if there's going to be any student vaccines. We're not aware of any testing that's being done for students, so I think it's a bit premature to make that decision right now."

"I think that most educators are really looking for a solution here, and I think that vaccines are going to be one way that we can get students back into classrooms as soon as possible," Bregy added. "I know that we're going to be moving as quickly as we can to see that vaccines are provided and to who wants them."

During a Jan. 11 briefing, L.A. County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said teachers and other essential worker are slated to be part of the next phase of the immunization process.

"We've extended invitations to people in the state to provide those vaccinations for our staff and perhaps our community," Bregy said. "When it's time, we want to be part of the solution here, and we want to be able to provide vaccines for our staff as soon as we can. And we certainly have the facilities and space to do that."

Provided there are enough doses, those shots could begin as soon as the first week of February. ●

Beverly Hills PD on Full Alert for Inauguration Next Week

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW

As concern looms over potential outbreaks of violence leading up to the presidential inauguration next week, local authorities have issued messages reassuring the public that safeguarding the community was their top focus. The violence at the Capitol on Jan. 6 and the security lapses that enabled it have sparked country-wide concern over the possibility of more violent outbreaks around President-Elect Joe Biden's inauguration on Jan. 20.

"As Inauguration Day approaches and with the potential of increased protest activity across the country, the city is working to ensure your safety. The Beverly Hills Police Department remains in regular contact with our federal, state and local law enforcement partners as we share the latest information," the Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) wrote in a statement. "The Department will be on full alert throughout the residential and business districts leading up to and on Inauguration Day with full staffing and additional support. While we are hopeful for a peaceful week ahead and respect the right of

all to exercise their first amendment rights, violence of any kind will not be tolerated."

With a scaled down national drama playing out in the city's backyard, city officials have already implemented increased safety protocols, including contracting with two private armed security companies. "We have no indication, as of today, of any protest or threats of violence in Beverly Hills," Lt. Max Subin told the Courier.

Beverly Hills Police Chief Dominick Rivetti posted a video message this week saying the agency would be on high alert.

"As inauguration day approaches and with the potential of increased protest activity across the country, the city is working to ensure your safety," Rivetti said. "The Beverly Hills Police Department remains in regular contact with our federal, state and local law enforcement partners as we share the latest information. While we are hopeful for a peaceful week ahead, the department will be prepared and on full alert in our residential and business districts leading up to and on inauguration day." ●



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Exclusive Feature



A rendering of the Louis Vuitton Men's Temporary Residency in Beverly Hills Courtesy of Louis Vuitton

(Louis Vuitton continued from page 1)
The shipping container motif continues on the ground floor, as a backdrop for 1,600 square-feet of retail space. Exterior details of the activation include vinyl window coverings as well as giant inflatable balloon characters, a leitmotif of the entire project. Onlookers – even those stopped in their cars – will be able to share the experience digitally, courtesy of Snapchat codes affixed to the building. Additional details about the project will be provided in subsequent issues of the Courier.

City Support

The Beverly Hills City Council has already given the Louis Vuitton Men's Temporary Residency a green light. The Council approved requests for expedited special event and building permits, and also waived provisions of the city's sign ordinance at its Jan. 12 Regular Meeting.

"During these most challenging times, it is inspiring that Louis Vuitton will once again bring an innovative and creative global happening to our city. This out-of-the-box exhibition incorporates all safety COVID-19 protocols while it showcases our city at the forefront of trendsetting and vision," Councilmember Lili Bosse told the Courier. The Rodeo Drive Committee (RDC) had

previously bestowed its support for the installation.

"This exciting pop-up will add to the visual allure of the street and draw new visitors," said RDC President Nicola Cagliata, in a letter of support.

"During these most challenging times, it is inspiring that Louis Vuitton will once again bring an innovative and creative global happening to our city."

BEVERLY HILLS CITY COUNCILMEMBER LILI BOSSE

Of course, the maisons of Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy (LVMH) are long-standing fixtures in Beverly Hills and Rodeo Drive. In addition to Louis Vuitton, the luxury conglomerate operates retail spaces in the city for brands that include Rimowa, Loro

Piana, Fendi, Celine, Christian Dior, Bvlgari, Berlutti, Sephora, Hublot and Tag Heuer.

With the Louis Vuitton Men's Temporary Residency in Beverly Hills, the company winds down a story that is outwardly playful, yet inwardly profound. Symbols abound in

the vision of Louis Vuitton Artistic Director Virgil Abloh, some more nuanced than others.

On the surface, the shipping containers are not a far stretch for a company whose roots go back to the trunk manufacturing

business. Louis Vuitton has been synonymous with luxury travel for almost two centuries. But, in 2020, the pandemic brought travel to a halt, upending traditional fashion weeks in Europe.

Zoocom with Friends

When Men's Fashion Week in Paris was canceled last June, Abloh saw it as a chance to bring fashion to the people.

"Instead of the doom and gloom, sort of panic approach, I looked at it like, 'Oh, this is the new frontier that we've been asking for in fashion,'" Abloh told WWD in July. "We're in a new era. I feel like this is the pandemic of 2020 with the hard stop between fashion as it was before, and I'm interested in this sort of investigation."

Abloh moved forward digitally, creating a short film called, "The Adventures of Zoocom with friends." The combination live-action, animated work introduced a cast of animated characters inspired by Abloh's trip to a Parisian toy store.

The vividly colored coterie, including a purple dinosaur, a dragon, an orange dog named Joe, a unicorn named Zip and various bird-like creatures spend Paris fashion week engaged in (at times psychedelic) antics across the city. Many are adorned in the signature black-and-white checkered suits, bell-bottoms, brightly hued jackets and retro-looking tees that mark the Spring/Summer collection.

The film closes with live-action shots of workers at the ancestral Paris home of the house's founder. The men pack up LV trunks laden with finery into a shipping container. Before the doors of the shipping container close, however, the animated Zoocom with friends gang manages to stow away. They set sail on a colorful barge from the Seine to the sea, on a fashion adventure that will eventually take them to Shanghai, Tokyo, Miami and finally, Beverly Hills.



Louis Vuitton Men's Temporary Residency in Miami Courtesy of Louis Vuitton | Brad Dickson



Louis Vuitton Men's Temporary Residency in Tokyo Courtesy of Louis Vuitton | Xiaoxi Ka

Egalitarian Message

The notion of taking the collection to an audience rather than the audience coming to the collection is Abloh's way of "embracing the global community of Louis Vuitton," according to the source material released with the collection. It also adds an egalitarian message that has marked Abloh's tenure at Louis Vuitton.

Born in Illinois to immigrants from Ghana, Abloh is the first American of African descent to be artistic director of a French luxury fashion house. He has a degree in civil engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and studied architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Abloh first gained notoriety as creative director for Kanye West. He subsequently launched the luxury streetwear label Off-White (a favorite of Rihanna and Beyonce), and collaborated with Nike. Abloh joined Louis Vuitton in 2018, and the same year

was named one of Time magazine's 100 most influential people in the world. The Men's Spring/Summer 2021 Collection (aptly named "Message in a Bottle") is Abloh's fifth for Louis Vuitton. Accordingly, the numeral "5" appears as a prominent creative element thereof.

In a "manifesto" published last summer, Abloh reiterates a commitment to "continue to hire diverse candidates, financially support BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) and LGBTQ+ causes, shed light on BIPOC-owned companies and LGBTQ+ individuals, work on public-facing initiatives featuring BIPOC role models and LGBTQ+ and will assist organizations promoting a more inclusive workforce."

As Abloh told Vogue last September, "I'm very much cognizant of the time that I couldn't get into fashion shows myself, cognizant of my friends going to Paris and I couldn't go because I couldn't afford a plane



Louis Vuitton Men's Temporary Residency in Miami Courtesy of Louis Vuitton | [BFA.com](https://www.bfaweb.com)

ticket. I was just watching [fashion shows] via social media and through my friends."

Now, every fan of fashion can have a front-row seat in what Abloh hopes will be a cultural exchange. Moreover, the fantastical animated stars of Zooom with friends are meant to serve as more than mere entertainment. They "represent a fundamental belief in inclusivity, the core of the French House's approach to menswear," according to collection source materials.

Indeed, the Zooom with friends crew plays a prominent role throughout the journey.

Passage to Asia

After "setting sail" from France in July, the Zooom crew "resurfaced" in August in Shanghai, the first of two Asian venues to hold in-person debuts for the collection. Actually, Zooom with friends had transmogrified into huge inflatable balloon creatures. They maintained a looming presence on the live runway shows at the port of Shanghai and on the roof of Tokyo's International Cruise Terminal. Both shows were livestreamed around the world.

Inflatable iterations weren't the only form of shape shifting for Zooom with friends. The runways in Asia were full of bags, garments and accessories integrating the characters into designs. Some items featured plush Zooom figures attached to them. A lexicon for the collection described this process of "Zooomification" as a "three-dimensional technique of integrating the Spring-Summer 2021 characters of Zooom with friends into garments and accessories, effectively adorning and animating pieces. Conceived during the lockdown-fueled digitalization of the world in 2020, Virgil Abloh employs this technique to make fashion 'jump through the screen.'"

In addition to the characters, another central theme of the collection is "upcycling." Utilizing the mantra, "No season is an old season," Abloh defined his Upcycling Ideology as "a set of anti-obsolescence ideas to counter overproduction, waste and the culture of disposability." A new Upcycling Signal Logo will attach to reconditioned pieces.

At Sea Once More

After a successful run in Asia, the traveling "Message in a Bottle" installation ventured off to sea again. The collection made its North American debut with a Temporary Residency at the Miami's Design District's Jungle Plaza. Described by the Miami Herald as one of the "crown jewels" of Art Week, the residency included bright red shipping containers and the giant Zooom with friends balloons. Document Journal described the installation as "part runway, part P.T. Barnum performance, replete with the accoutrements of modern technology in an experiential fashion show that activates AR, Snapchat, and QR codes that allow visitors to partake in, and take away from, the traveling show in the form of unique sharable content."

The activation folds up in Miami on Jan. 25. It then travels once again, this time by land. A caravan of the now-emblematic shipping containers will head west. The residency debuts on Rodeo Drive at the same time the "Louis Vuitton: Walk in the Park" public experience winds down in Paris. The Paris residency on Rue du Pont Neuf and the Louis Vuitton Maison Vendôme contains both physical and digital elements, including the chance to interact with the Zooom characters and augmented reality experiences through the LV app that will also be available for users worldwide on Jan. 22.

Here in Beverly Hills, the Louis Vuitton Men's Temporary Residency will be bound by state and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Orders. At present, those orders mandate a reduction to 20 percent capacity based on square footage. The space will be open to the public and utilize a reservation system for entry. The Courier will publish exclusive details regarding early access for readers in future issues.

For a month, at least, the installation will provide Beverly Hills with a colorful reprieve from the lingering pandemic and political disarray. It's also an opportunity to experience a moment in fashion history. "This is my invitation to move forward together with awareness, hope, and determination. You are witnessing unapologetic Black Imagination on display," said Abloh. ●



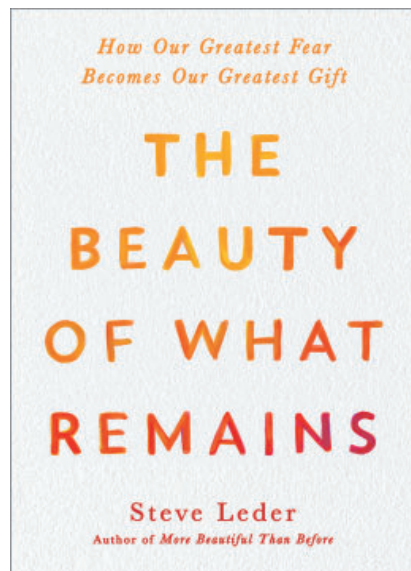
Zooom with Friends Courtesy of Louis Vuitton | Reggie Know and Fashion Figure Inc.

Rabbi Steve Leder on His New Bestseller—A Courier Conversation

BY LISA BLOCH



Rabbi Steve Leder



After graduating Northwestern University, and studying at Trinity College, Oxford University, **Rabbi Leder** received a Master's Degree in Hebrew Letters and Rabbinical Ordination from Hebrew Union College. He is a regular contributor and guest on "The Today Show" and writes often for TIME, Foxnews.com, and Maria Shriver's Sunday Paper. His published essays have appeared in Town and Country, the Los Angeles Times, USA Today and the Los Angeles Jewish Journal, where his Torah commentaries were read weekly by over 50,000 people.

The New York Times called Rabbi Leder's first book, "The Extraordinary Nature of Ordinary Things," "uplifting." His second book, "More Money Than God: Living a Rich Life Without Losing Your Soul," received high honors as did his third book, "More Beautiful Than Before; How Suffering Transforms Us," which reached #4 on Amazon's overall best sellers list in its first week. Newsweek Magazine has twice named Rabbi Leder one of the ten most influential rabbis in America.

Part 2 of 2

Bestselling author, member of our community and the Senior Rabbi of Wilshire Boulevard Temple, Steve Leder's new book, "The Beauty of What Remains, How Our Greatest Fear Becomes Our Greatest Gift," was recently published by Penguin Random House.

Written exquisitely, this book is ultimately not about death, but about leading a more beautiful life because of it. The timing of the book's release is especially relevant today, as there is no better event than a pandemic to prove to each of us that life is temporary and precious.

"Death is the great teacher of life," says Rabbi Leder. The pandemic has forced us to change, to slow down, to eliminate so much, and in so doing, it has revealed the beauty that was there all along. It inspires us to live a more meaningful life, filled with love, devoid of excess and replete with essentials.

In this new book, which became a best-seller on its first day, Rabbi Leder takes us on parallel journeys, one that he experienced as a rabbi and one as a son. After 30 years of guiding thousands of congregants through loss and grief, he is forced to grapple with and confront his own feelings with the passing of his father. Rabbi Leder's message

could not be more welcome, healing and inspiring.

As a member of Wilshire Boulevard Temple for the past 25 years, I have witnessed Rabbi Leder's profound teachings and experienced his immeasurable compassion. This latest book is one of his "greatest gifts" as he shares his wisdom and his life experiences while guiding us to live a beautiful and meaningful life. I was deeply and positively affected by it.

Rabbi Leder graciously granted the Courier the first print interview about the book. This is the second of two parts.

What is "God time?"

God time is my way of saying that certain things cannot be rushed nor can they be slowed down. Grief is like that. There is no wrong way to grieve. And grief is a nonlinear process. Anyone who thinks the shortest distance between two points is a straight line doesn't understand grief. You can't rush healing. You have to allow the experience to unfold in its own way and at its own pace. Now, there are things you can do during that experience to help garner insights. I hope reading the book will be helpful to

people who are grieving, for example. But when it comes to being ready to move on, whatever that means, you're on God's time. You're not in your own dimension of time.

You speak beautifully about memory; memory is light. This touched my heart. If we remember, nothing can ever take our sunshine away.

Only human beings were granted a gift,

the ability to summon the past willfully, into the present, and carry it with us into the future. That's not like a squirrel remembering where the acorns are, which is instinct. You can literally decide I'm going to stop for a moment and think about my mom right now, and you can do it. And that's an extraordinary treasure given only to human beings.

As you know, my father had Alzheimer's and so I saw it up close. When we no longer

"Anyone who thinks the shortest distance between two points is a straight line doesn't understand grief."

have memory, in a sense, we're no longer ourselves. Memory is the most gracious and beautiful gift bestowed upon human beings by God. Without it, we're nothing more than an animal.

The other beautiful thing about memory is that it enables us to round the sharp edges and leave behind what we choose to forget. This is where the book title comes from. We can choose to embrace the beauty of what remains, not just the loss.

In the book, you share a magnificent story about a Stradivarius violin, written as if the violin was playing while the words of the story unfold. The message is about caring for those who have died, but who have not left us.

It was such a profound moment when I learned that even though it's an inanimate object, if you don't play a violin, it dies. The finish and the tone are ruined if it is ignored and not played. It takes us back to this earlier point. Judaism is constructed in a way that requires us to remember the loss of a loved one, at least five times in the year. And of course, there are all the others, the birthdays, the anniversaries, and the ordinary moments during the ordinary days. I often advise people who are grieving that they need to create a daily ritual. I don't care what it is. Look at a picture, read a poem, light a candle to remember your loved one, but create a ritual as a vessel to contain it all. The willful act of memory is healing.

You advise us to live our lives as a good ancestor we will never know. What do you mean by this?

We don't think of ourselves as ancestors, but we are, just not yet. And one of the ways to think about leading a worthy life, a noble life, a meaningful life, a beautiful life is to consciously live as a good ancestor. The Seventh Generation Principle, the law of the great Iroquois Nation, mandated that when the elders deliberated, they had to consider the effect their decision would have on the seventh generation to follow. In other words, live as a good ancestor. That's what it takes to be a good human being. To think beyond yourself.

You talk in the book about a block of stone, and we turn that stone into a statue of our lives. Please elaborate.

I think during the pandemic, it's a particularly helpful way of thinking. There are many beautiful things hiding in plain sight, but we have to stop in order to notice and appreciate them. If you think about Shabbat for a minute, it's mostly a list of rules about what we can't do, not what we have to do, but what we may not do. And that creates the negative space for beautiful

things to flourish. For example, during the pandemic, look at what happens when we stop driving all over town on the freeways. When we stop waiting in line to buy and buy some more, when we stop an aggressive social life, when we stop being away from our children and our spouses, think of all the beautiful things that emerge. It's like a block of marble. You chip away until this beautiful sculpture remains. The sculpture was always in there. The beauty was always in there, but it took removing things chip by chip for it to be revealed. That's another

“Let's think about this new year as the opportunity not to come out of hell empty-handed.”

reason why I called the book, “The Beauty of What Remains.” I am not for a moment dismissing the terrible pain caused by the pandemic. That being said, the cessation of our frenetic lives, where the centrifuge of life was just spinning us apart, to this hunkered down, home centered, tiny handful of people who really matter in our life right now, is very beautiful.

You say, “It is a simple fact that we do not have forever that makes our love for each other so profound.” You use the analogy of a flower.

That's what Wallace Stevens said, “Death is the mother of beauty. Only the perishable can be beautiful, which is why we are unmoved by artificial flowers.”

You appreciate a flower when it's in full bloom, in beautiful colors.

Because, you know, it's temporary. It's a rare moment when you smell that rose. And you also know that its death is required in order for life to go on. Nature is replete with metaphors for the importance and value of death. Nothing would live without it. The lifecycle of a forest is dependent upon death.

In the prologue you explain that this book is your apology. You wanted to set the record straight for the way in which your most popular sermon given the year before your father died, a sermon on death, was shy of the real truth. This revelation was a result of you experiencing death, upfront, at the very core of your

being, with your father's passing. What is that deeper truth you learned?

Before my father died I had already been a rabbi helping people through death and loss and pain for 30 years. I thought I had been doing a pretty good job. I would have given myself maybe an A minus, having officiated more than 1,000 funerals. But when my father died, I realized that what I was saying wasn't the deepest truth. First of all, I rethought my understanding of memory. I have a much better, I think, understanding of the duality of memory. While it's such

a gift, it's also a burden. Memory can be beautiful and it can hurt. There's a duality to memory. And that's the deepest truth.

The other thing that I talk about in the book is I used to say to people in the early days of their grief, “It won't always hurt so much.” And I learned that's false. The truth is it won't always hurt so often. But when it hurts, it hurts every bit as much. I learned that grief is like waves. The waves do grow further apart and they do diminish. But every once in a while, when your back is turned, you get hit by a rogue wave. And it turns you upside down, gasping for air, at the loss. That's the truth of grief. It is not that it doesn't always hurt so much. It just doesn't always hurt so often. Because no matter how long it has been, when loss hurts, it still really hurts. These are just a couple of the things that my father's death forced me to rethink and rearticulate for the people I am caring for.

Your honest, heartfelt admission after experiencing your father's passing serves as a guiding light and an inspiration for all of us about life.

My father's death has made me a better rabbi. It's made me a better man. It's made me a better father, made me a better husband. It's made me a more humane human being. Death and loss can ennoble all of us to live more meaningful lives.

We have all gone through one of the most trying years, and now we have turned the page to a new year. Please provide us

with some words of reflection, optimism, and encouragement for 2021.

There are a number of things I would say. I learned one from a friend of mine who had three different cancers; the third cancer was lethal. When I asked, “what did the first two cancers teach you?” He said, “Time flies, even when you're not having fun.”

The pandemic is going to end. This experience has been scarring and formative for many of us, and ultimately, it's going to end. Sometimes after certain surgeries, when people are depressed, I'm able to say to them, “Everyone gets better from this. You're going to get better.” So, as simple as it sounds, I think remembering that time flies, even when you're not having fun, and that we're going to get through it, is helpful.

I'm grateful for the year that has passed as it has really tested my capacity for gratitude. It's hard to be depressed if you're grateful. But I think this has been a year-long lesson in gratitude for the simplest of things. Look back on the past nine months. Are you not amazed at how you have adapted and found ways to flourish and live and love? Be proud of what we have been through together and apart. Be proud of what you have done, and how you have done it. Know that going forward, no matter what life puts in front of you, you will be a resilient person who will find beauty.

It's true that anyone reading the Beverly Hills Courier newspaper pretty much is on the lucky side of the pandemic. They have a driveway that the paper could land on. Yes, from a Maslow's hierarchy of needs perspective, we are the lucky ones. But we've also done an amazing job. Amazing. Every one of us has gotten to this point through this pandemic. And there is no reason to believe that we are not capable of doing the same and then some in the year to come.

There is a point I made in the previous book, “More Beautiful Than Before” about going through difficult times. We've all been through hell these past nine months. And when thinking about the new year, the important thing about going through hell is not to come out of it empty handed. Ask yourself, “What am I going to carry with me from this experience? What am I coming out of this hell with that I'm going to make positive use of for the rest of my life?”

Let's think about this new year as the opportunity not to come out of hell empty handed. Loss hurts, but there's a lot of beauty that remains, and you can hold that for the rest of your life.

This is what growing older is. It's loss after loss, and then a gain, and then a loss. Life is ultimately about holding on and appreciating the beauty of what remains. It really is. ●



NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

DATE: Thursday, February 4, 2021
TIME: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
LOCATION: **VIRTUAL MEETING ON-LINE LOCATION**
<https://www.gotomeet.me/CBHCD/events>
 Alternatively, phone access is available at 1-866-899-4679
 Phone Access Code: 954-861-509

PROJECT Beverly Hills Creative Offices Specific Plan Project

The City of Beverly Hills is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the Beverly Hills Creative Offices Specific Plan (herein referred to as “Project”) proposed by the Beverly Hills Land Company (herein referred to as “Applicant”). The public is invited to attend a preliminary “scoping meeting” on **Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.** to comment on environmental issues that should be addressed in the Draft EIR. Due to the on-going public health issues associated with holding in-person gatherings during the Covid-19 pandemic, the scoping meeting will be held virtually. Access to the meeting is available through: (i) the video conferencing link, and (ii) the phone access information identified at the top of this notice.

Project Location: The 2.49-acre (108,216 square-feet [SF]) Project Site is located in the City of Beverly Hills. The Project Site consists of: a 2.11-acre (92,037 SF) private property formerly occupied by railroad right-of-way (commonly known as “Parcel 12” and currently addressed 9220 North Santa Monica Boulevard) and bound by Santa Monica Boulevard to the northwest, Beverly Boulevard to the northeast and Civic Center Drive to the southeast and southwest; and approximately 0.37-acres (16,279 SF) of Civic Center Drive public right-of-way that the Applicant has requested the City vacate and incorporate into the Project Site. The Project Site also includes a 34,756 SF subsurface merger area located 4-feet underneath Civic Center Drive and extending 25 feet from the existing southern property line of the 9220 North Santa Monica Boulevard parcel. The 9220 North Santa Monica Boulevard parcel consists of Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 4342-015-038 and the western portion of APN 4342-015-040. The Project Site is regionally accessible from Interstate 405 (the San Diego Freeway) and North Santa Monica Boulevard. The private property portion of the Project Site is currently undeveloped and the public right-of-way portion of the Project site is the current location of public on-street parking.



Project Description: The Project is a proposal to construct up to 11 new creative office buildings oriented in a linear fashion within the Project Site area, with the development governed by the proposed Beverly Hills Creative Offices Specific Plan. The buildings are proposed to be spaced between 25 to 30 feet apart with on-site landscaping between and surrounding the buildings. The proposed office buildings would range between approximately 8,500 SF and 21,700 SF in floor area and 3 to 4 stories in height (a maximum of 52 to 60 feet tall per the height standards of the proposed Specific Plan). The proposed 4-story structures would be designed with a stepped back partial 4th-story surrounded by outdoor terrace areas. The proposed Project totals approximately 114,202 SF of new floor area. The proposed floor area ratio (FAR) of the Project is 1.24 to 1 when calculated before the Applicant requested merger of existing public right-of-way with Parcel 12 and 1.07 to 1 when calculated based on the post-merger size of the Project Site.

A two-level subterranean parking structure containing 490 parking spaces is proposed. The subterranean parking structure is proposed to extend up to 25-feet south under the Civic Center Drive public right-of-way from the current southern property line of Parcel 12. This subterranean parking structure is proposed to be accessible from four access ramps located in areas that are currently part of the Civic Center Drive right-of-way, which the Applicant is proposing be vacated by the City and merged with the Project Site. The Project would result in the removal of 74 on-street public parking spaces on Civic Center Drive. The Applicant is proposing to replace the spaces with 74 valet operated public parking stalls located within

the subterranean parking structure. A total of 84 public on-street parking spaces would remain on the north site of Civic Center Drive adjacent to the Project Site. One full-time at-grade loading zone adjacent to Civic Center Drive is proposed near the center of the Project Site. Two part-time loading zones (available from 7 AM to 9 AM) located within the City right-of-way are proposed at each end of the Civic Center Drive Project frontage.

The Applicant also owns two vacant properties located east of the Project Site, commonly known as “Parcel 13” (approximately 2.25-acres in size) and “the Triangle” (approximately 0.3-acres in size). These parcels are also former railroad right-of-way and are adjacent to North Santa Monica Boulevard, running from Beverly Boulevard to the eastern boundary of the City of Beverly Hills. As part of the Project, the Applicant is proposing to transfer ownership of Parcel 13 and the Triangle to the City as a public benefit contribution.

Project Construction is anticipated to commence in 2022 and be completed in 2024.

Initial Study: Based on the conclusions of the Initial Study prepared for the Beverly Hills Creative Offices Specific Plan Project, the following areas of potentially significant environmental impact are anticipated to require analysis in the Draft EIR:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Mandatory Findings of Significance

Potential cumulative impacts and potential for growth inducement will also be addressed; and alternatives, including the No Project Alternative, will be evaluated.

Purpose of the Scoping Meeting: The purpose of the scoping meeting is to present the Beverly Hills Creative Offices Specific Plan Project in a public setting and provide an opportunity for a full airing of the environmental issues that are important to the community. The meeting will include a presentation of the proposal and a description of the environmental issues to be analyzed in the Draft EIR. Following the presentation, interested agencies, organizations, and members of the public will be encouraged to present views concerning what environmental issues should be included in the Draft EIR. The oral and written comments regarding potential environmental effects of the Project made during the scoping meeting will be addressed as appropriate in the Draft EIR.

Required 30-Day Comment Period: The City invites all interested members of the public to attend the public scoping meeting. The City also invites written comments on issues related to potential environmental impacts during a 35-day comment period, which starts on **Friday, January 15, 2021** and will conclude on **Friday, February 19, 2021**. Written comments should be addressed to:

Masa Alkire, AICP, Principal Planner
City of Beverly Hills Community Development Department
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, California 90210
Fax: (310) 858-5966
Email: malkire@beverlyhills.org

After the Draft EIR has been prepared, it will be released for public review and comment. The Planning Commission will then hold a public hearing on the Draft EIR and on the Project. Separate notices of the availability of the Draft EIR and of the hearings on the Project will be released at later dates.

The case file on this Project, which includes the plans and applications, is on file at the Planning Division, 455 North Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, California 90210. Copies of the Initial Study are also available in the Planning Division at City Hall and online at www.beverlyhills.org/environmental. If there are any questions regarding this notice, or if you would like to review the case file (plans and applications) or receive copies of available documents, please contact **Masa Alkire, AICP, Principal Planner at (310) 285-1135 or via email at malkire@beverlyhills.org**.

Masa Alkire,
Principal Planner

The meeting is accessible at <https://www.gotomeet.me/CBHCD/events> and oral comment may be provided during the meeting. Members of the public may attend this meeting telephonically at 1-866-899-4679 (access code 954-861-509) to listen to and to provide oral public comment. Written public comment can be offered electronically prior to and during the meeting by emailing malkire@beverlyhills.org. If you are an individual with a disability and need a reasonable modification or accommodation pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please contact (310) 285-1126 prior to the meeting for assistance.

(Beverly Hills Salon Owner continued from page 4)

Video shot by Bisignano and reviewed by the Courier shows Trump supporters and even a member of law enforcement without a gas mask coughing through clouds of white smoke.

Nonetheless, they advanced, reaching an entrance on the west side of the Capitol building. There, a seemingly endless stream of rioters entered the hallway, forming a de facto scrum to push back Capitol police. As police used pepper spray and batons, fresh bodies circulated into the hallway to take the place of the injured and incapacitated. One man yelled "Traitors" after an officer sprayed a few bursts of pepper spray at the crowd.

The rioters began to chant "Shield wall" as they turned stolen police shields against the officers and shot back with pepper spray of their own. Bisignano filmed herself briefly at that moment, standing a few feet above the crowd on a ledge in the hallway. Then, as captured in a video shot by the investigative outlet Status Coup, the scrum began pushing forward, yelling "Heave, ho!" in unison. Police became compacted in the confined hallway, with one officer getting trapped between the shield-wielding Trump supporters and a metal door. In a horrifying series of moments, the officer let out agonized cries as the crowd heaved forward, crushing him. Word soon traveled through the crowd to cease the push, giving the officer time to extract himself.

Soon after this, Bisignano sought shelter on a ledge below a window on the outside of the building. A man wearing a green helmet

with Trump stickers on it began to smash the window with a baton. Others pulled him away before he could shatter the glass, eliciting cheers from the crowd who had labeled him "antifa." Another man soon took his place and pushed the glass out of its frame with a fire extinguisher, a moment captured by photographers. Around this time, Bisignano said she was hit with pepper spray for filming on her phone. People started to climb through the paneless window and into the Capitol, including Bisignano.

Bisignano described the environment as a "war zone." She acknowledged that she went into the building but said that she was experiencing a panic attack and needed to find somewhere safe. "I couldn't breathe. I was having a panic attack. I needed air. Every time I opened my eyes, they were burning. My mouth was burning. Everything was burning, and I couldn't breathe."

Bisignano, whose mascara had plainly run in photos, said she only remained inside for a few minutes to catch her breath and document what was happening.

Bisignano characterizes her role that day as a passive one. She was armed with nothing more than a cellphone and occasionally, a borrowed megaphone. A few videos reviewed by the Courier, however, show Bisignano taking more of an active role than she suggests. In one video, she encourages others to enter through the broken window and into the Capitol. "We need Americans," she calls out as she exits the building. "Come on guys. We need patriots. You guys, it's the way in."

"Who's in there?" A man's voice asks.

"Everybody. Come on, let's go."

As the cellphone camera pans over the throngs in front of the Capitol, a man standing on the ledge beside Bisignano and brandishing a crowbar shouts, "If you have a weapon, then you need to get your weapon."

In another video circulating on social media, Bisignano stands on the same ledge with a megaphone. "Everybody, we need gas masks. We need weapons. We need strong, angry patriots to help our boys, they don't want to leave. We need protection," she calls out.

"We the people are not going to take it anymore. You are not going to take away our Trumpy-bear, you are not going to take away our votes and our freedom that I thank God for. This is 1776 and we the people will never give up. We will never let our country go to the globalists. George Soros, you can go to hell," she adds.

Feet away from her as she speaks, a man in a gas mask swings a baseball bat against the riot shield of a police officer blocking the entrance to the Capitol. Another man sprays a fire extinguisher at the blockade of officers.

"I was caught up, I was scared, I was excited," Bisignano told the Courier. "A guy said to say that over the megaphone. I don't even remember saying it." She also said that there was fighting going on in the crowd, which she attributed to "antifa and BLM."

"We were being beat up by other people," she said.

Since Jan. 6, law enforcement has begun searching for individuals involved in the day's events, combing through social media

and appealing to the public for tips. The FBI and Department of Justice have launched a "24/7, full-bore" investigation into the riot with plans to file hundreds of chargers in the coming weeks. According to acting U.S. Attorney Michael Sherwin, the probe will look at charges ranging from "simple trespass" to "felony murder and even civil rights excessive force investigations."

After people began commenting on Bisignano's Yelp page with photos of her in D.C. and even a link to submit tips to the FBI, she decided to call the FBI proactively.

"She couldn't do my lashes last week because she was too busy being a white supremacist terrorist at the insurrection attempt on 1/6/21," one recent comment reads.

"I was being portrayed on Yelp as a terrorist," she said. "I wanted to clear my name. Everyone in Beverly Hills knows I'm not—I am a Christian."

Bisignano said she called the FBI on the morning of Jan. 12, but was placed on hold and had to go to work before she spoke with anyone.

She has grown increasingly worried about legal ramifications and personal danger, at first insisting she had nothing to worry about because "I didn't do anything," to worrying that she could serve time. Already, Bisignano said that she is receiving threatening phone calls.

"My life is over, I'm going to jail," she said in tears. "I'm going to lose my son." ●



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The Beverly Hills Visitor Center, run by the CVB. Photo by Samuel Braslow

(BHCVB continued from page 1)

It also made recommendations to correct the above. While agreeing to most of the recommendations, the CVB also pushed back against some of the findings, on grounds the audit lacked context and failed to consider the realities of luxury marketing.

Beverly Hills generates significant amounts of revenue from tourism, much of which comes from the taxes paid by the city's many luxury hotels. In addition to the city's many services, those taxes also fund the CVB, which serves as the city's marketing

arm to support the tourism industry. While the CVB began as part of the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce, it became independent in 2008, operating as a contractor for the city. In fiscal year 2018-2019, the CVB had a budget of \$5,102,251. In that same time period, Beverly Hills saw 7.4 million tourists who spent \$2 billion, both directly and indirectly. In the last year, the COVID-19 pandemic has dealt a crippling blow to both the city's tourism industry and the CVB, which reduced its staff from 10 to five.

The audit credits CVB for "recent steps

to strengthen its financial practices," but it says the agency has not gone far enough. "Notwithstanding these improvements, we found that the CVB had weak internal financial management practices, including improper segregation of duties and several personal expenses made by the CVB CEO. These expenses are questionable and do not appear to directly support the CVB's mission of promoting the City of Beverly Hills as a high-end travel destination."

"The way the auditors wrote the report was sometimes out of context," Wagner told the Courier. "They just made sweeping statements because they don't really get how we do business."

Peter Humig, regional vice president and general manager of the Beverly Wilshire and chairman of the CVB Board of Directors, provided some of that context, arguing that the CVB is punching above its weight class. "This is a super small team who is up against New York and Singapore and Hong Kong and London— huge cities," he told the Courier. "The city of Beverly Hills, in that specific year where the audit was conducted, had done really well. Hotels were full, retailers reported record sales, restaurants were doing really well."

The audit, authored by City Auditor Eduardo Luna, faulted the CVB for spending \$2.9 million on targeted marketing events without tracking the success of the events with "post-event metrics." Luna further dinged the Bureau for the amount spent on marketing, which he described

as "excessive."

"Special events include receptions and private dinners with costs ranging from a few thousand dollars to over \$60,000 per event," the audit reads.

The audit lists three marketing expenditures in particular that it deemed "excessive or frivolous." In one instance in October 2018, the CVB treated 10 guests from a Las Vegas conference to salon services including makeup, hair blowouts, barber services, and chair massages. The total price tag for the experience was \$2,160. In June 2019, the CVB held a private dinner in San Francisco at the 3-star Michelin Restaurant Quince. The event hosted 60 local meeting planners and travel agents and ran a bill of \$64,857. The audit also lists a \$53,862 dinner at New York 3-star Michelin restaurant Le Bernardin in October 2019. But as the CVB's fiscal year ends in July, this event technically fell outside the scope of the audit—an apparent error on the auditor's behalf.

The audit recommended that the city establish meal and beverage guidelines for dinner events. Additionally, it recommended establishing metrics to judge the return on investment generated by marketing events. The CVB agreed to both recommendations.

At the committee meeting, the CVB defended the expensive events as necessary to marketing expensive products. "The CVB's task is to sell one of the most exclusive destinations in the world, and, therefore, when they meet with clients on site, it has to be commensurate with the product or

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offering,” Humig told the committee. Or, as Wagner put it to the Courier: “Luxury begets luxury.”

Vice Mayor Robert Wunderlich acknowledged the difficulty of tracking the success of marketing and advertising. “Half of my dollars spent on advertising are wasted, I only wish I knew which half it was,” he said, recounting an old business joke. “And that’s because of the difficulty of trying to discern the impact from advertising.”

Mayor Lester Friedman sympathized with the need for the CVB to spend money to make money, but also felt that the optics were too negative during a pandemic and fiscal crisis. “When the perception of spending public funds at the rate that they’re being spent is out there and we have as many issues as we have, certainly now, but just in general, it’s that optic that is really difficult to deal with. And I think that we need to find a balance.”

The audit also identified spending by Wagner that it characterized as “excessive and personal in nature.” This included use of chauffeured cars and a personal tour in Oman charged as a business expense.

Over the course of the audited period, Wagner used town car services 10 times at a total cost of \$1,555. The audit points out that “the City’s travel policy states that the City will reimburse the employee for the cost of taxi rides or shuttle service to the airport—and we note the specificity of the use of the terms taxi and shuttle services.”

In April 2019, Wagner went on a personal

sightseeing tour in Oman while on a layover between business trips. The tour was booked by the CVB’s travel agent, who invoiced the CVB for the \$1,210 cost. The audit faults Wagner for being in a position to approve all CVB credit card statements, including the statement for the tour. “By approving all of the transactions in this credit card statement, the CEO self-approved the charge for her personal tour,” it reads.

The mistake was caught soon after being made, and in May, the travel agent issued a \$852.79 refund check to the CVB. The remaining \$357.21 was not covered until September 2020, “when this issue was brought to her attention during the course of our review,” according to the audit.

Both the chauffeured cars and the tour expense have simple explanations, Wagner contests. “I explained to them that I have rheumatoid arthritis and so I cannot carry in my own luggage,” she explained to the committee. “And so, the reason why I take a car service is because Uber and taxis won’t lift my bags for me. So when I have heavy luggage, which I do when I’m traveling more than a few days, I need assistance.”

As for the tour, Wagner said that the travel agent accidentally charged it to the business card instead of her personal card. She admitted, though, that they didn’t initially catch the \$357 discrepancy in the reimbursement. “So now we’re creating a process and procedure that tightens up some of how we do our reporting, so that mistakes like that won’t happen again,” she said.

“At the end of the day, there was a \$357 mistake,” she said.

The audit recommended that CVB more tightly regulate the use of chauffeured cars and to require all expenditures by the CEO be subject to dual approval. Furthermore, the audit suggested that the CVB submit monthly spending reports to the city. The CVB agreed with most of the recommendations. It noted that chauffeured cars might be necessary for “sales missions when courting high end sales accounts or accommodations for medical reasons.” It further requested that the monthly spending reports be changed to quarterly reports.

Even as the CVB promotes high end tourism, the audit faulted the employees for staying at luxury hotels. Out of 28 trips, the audit identified eight stays at luxury hotels like the Four Seasons in Dubai, the Narcissus in Riyadh, and the Sheraton in Kuwait. A five day stay that Wagner took at the Shangri-La Al Husn in Muscat, Oman, ran the CVB nearly \$3,200. The bills for these expenses sometimes included laundry, valet, and room service. “These expenses were either submitted for reimbursement or paid using the CVB credit card,” the audit notes.

“These travel expenses went undetected because the CVB does not have guidelines establishing spending limits for travel expenses including lodging, meals, hotel incidentals and business entertainment,” the report reads.

Wagner cited this is an example of how the audit took things out of context. “My

excessive spending was because I stayed in hotels internationally that were in safe neighborhoods, which is part of our policy: safety comes first,” she said. “When you go to India, you usually end up staying in a Four Seasons or St. Regis, because that’s the safest place that you can stay.”

The audit advised the CVB to prohibit staff from receiving reimbursements for personal costs during work travel. It also recommended that CVB follow the city’s Travel and Meeting Expense Policy, which dictates the procedures for reimbursing employees for out-of-pocket expenses paid in the course of official business. The CVB fully endorsed not allowing staff to receive reimbursements for personal expenses but argued that the city’s policy on travel expenses would not fit for the CVB’s work and suggested another one in its place.

Although she feels that the audit missed the mark, Wagner still views it as a growing opportunity for the CVB. “This has been a great opportunity, because it’s really helped us identify some areas where we’re just too loosey goosey,” she said. ●

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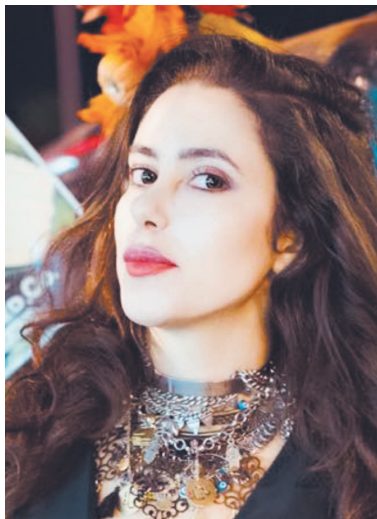


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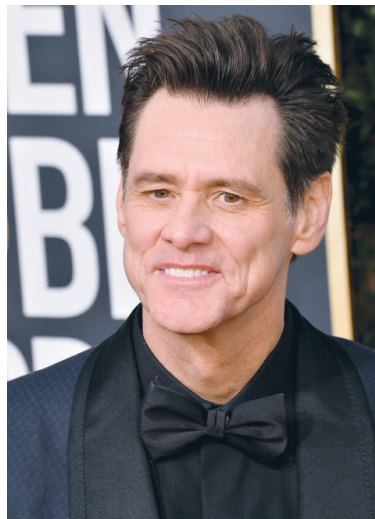
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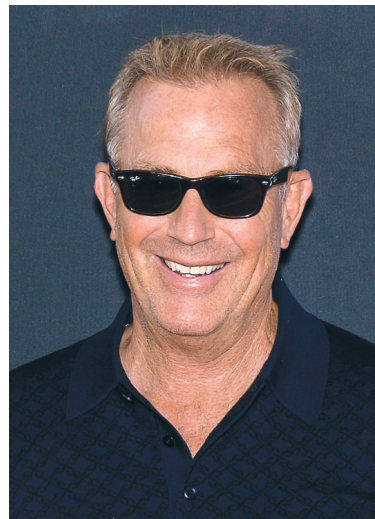
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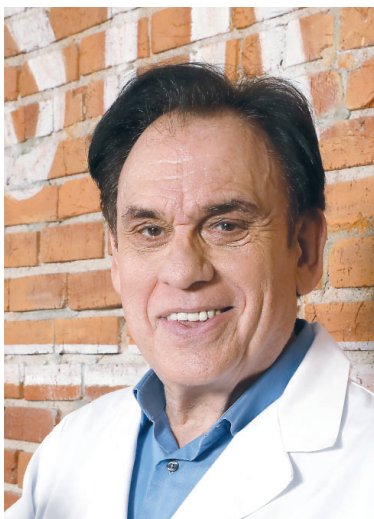
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Astrology

BY HOLIDAY MATIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A feeling of progress is an exhilarating high. The actual length of the stride forward isn't the point. That it's forward at all -- that's a gift wrapped in the shiny paper of hope.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Before you tend to the typical things, carve out time for those unusual pursuits. They will hold you in good stead, becoming more interesting to you as you delve deeper. You, in turn, become more interesting to others.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The value of love is beyond anything that can be quantified. Those who are counting what has been exchanged are ultimately exchanging something other than love. It's fine, as long as you recognize the difference.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). One myth is that people who feel great and have lots of energy get the best results. The truth is that astounding and important things happen from all kinds of moods, so appreciate whichever one you happen to be in.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You are

afraid to require things of people because you want it to be easy for them to be around you. What you're not understanding is that people need to be needed. Requiring something of them is a gift.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). What is said is important, but who is saying it is even more important. Some words must come from you, and other sentiments will be better received coming from a different voice.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're so concentrated on your deliverables that you don't even consider what it's going to feel like to enjoy the fruits of your effort. Good. It will be a surprise.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When people praise your vision and follow-through, you can't fully bring yourself to accept the credit. That's because you're honest. You realize that you got here, at least partly, by accident.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can mostly, but not totally, be your own coach. You need someone to show-off to, impress and be accountable to and encouraged by. This, however, can be accomplished in the briefest of interactions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When you work, you work hard. This is why it's so important that you choose

the best things to work on. Hint: It's probably not the task being tossed to you. Forget about the others for a minute. What do you want?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You prefer that the people around you be happy, and you'll make efforts to that end, all the while realizing that no one actually makes another person happy, though it's possible to create environments more or less conducive to joy.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It will be obvious -- the possession that no longer serves a purpose, the baggage that has both spiritual and actual

weight, the subscription you don't use or habit that you've outgrown. This calls for ruthless subtraction.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 15). The secret to winning at your game is refinement. In matters important to you, you'll review your process, pour over data, invent improvements to try, reassess the data, double down on what's working, cut out what's not and endlessly strive for mastery. Your relentless attitude pays you in an abundance of joy. Leo and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 30, 1, 27 and 17.



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BHFD climbing aerial ladder. Photo courtesy of BHFD

(Fire Destroys continued from page 1)

“It took a little while,” Barton added. “It was a large home. There are some walls standing and there's part of the house that's still standing, but it's going to be almost a total loss.”

The cause of the fire remains unknown, but investigators began searching the scene the following day. However, due to the nature in which the walls burned inwards, officials say it's not yet safe to start digging through the material and debris.

“We did reach out to our area partners and requested an arson dog with a handler to come out and walk through the area as

well to try to look for accelerants or anything else,” Barton told the Courier. “Just trying to rule out any possible reason why that fire occurred. It's probably going to take a few weeks before that report is done because it is such a large area.”

During the incident, there were several tall Palm trees that caught on fire on the 600 and 700 blocks of Beverly Drive from ember casts from the fire carried by the wind without being extinguished.

While the fire was successfully contained to one structure, the houses on the north and on the south side were evacuated and protected. ●

Police Blotter

The following incidents of arson, assault, burglary, theft and vandalism have been reported. Streets are usually indicated by block numbers.

**BEVERLY HILLS
BURGLARY -
RESIDENTIAL**

1/7/2021, 300 Block of S
CANON DR

THEFT OF AUTO PARTS

1/10/2021, 9000 Block of
WILSHIRE BLVD

ASSAULT - SIMPLE

1/8/2021, 0-99 Block of N
LA CIENEGA BLVD

1/10/2021, 1200 Block of
COLDWATER CANYON DR

**THEFT - GRAND (FROM
VEHICLE)**

1/7/2021, 200 Block of S
STANLEY DR

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

1/10/2021, 9000 Block of
WILSHIRE BLVD

ROBBERY

1/12/2021, 100 Block of
PECK DR

1/12/2021, 8900 Block of
WILSHIRE BLVD

**THEFT - PETTY (FROM
VEHICLE)**

1/7/2021, 200 Block of S
BEDFORD DR

ARSON

1/9/2021, 700 Block of N
BEVERLY DR

VANDALISM

1/11/2021, 300 Block of S
MAPLE DR

THEFT - PETTY

1/8/2021, 300 Block of N
RODEO DR

1/10/2021, 300 Block of S
ELM DR

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SUDOKU
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PUZZLE ANSWERS
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THE NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE
01/15/21

OH, FOURPEAT'S SAKE!
BY ALEX BAJCZ / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Alex Bajcz, of Morris Plains, N.J., is an assistant professor of biology and environmental science at Drew University. He studies how and why plants produce fruits — he says he's one of the few biologists who get to eat his research. The name Bajcz is Hungarian. Since that's difficult for American tongues, his family pronounces it "badges." This is Alex's sixth Times crossword and second Sunday. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 What a deadline increases
 - 9 Dental brand
 - 14 Neaten (up)
 - 19 Jet routes
 - 20 First name in flying history
 - 21 "___ the Doughnut," children's book series
 - 22 Classic saying originated by John Donne
 - 24 Like oxfords, but not slippers
 - 25 Really put one's foot down
 - 26 Shaded
 - 27 ___ O's (breakfast cereal)
 - 28 Love, love, love
 - 29 Population grouping, informally
 - 31 Aid for making a tiki-bar cocktail
 - 34 Isn't attending solo, say
 - 38 Bouncer's requests, for short
 - 39 Beethoven title woman (whose identity is unknown)
 - 40 Supreme Egyptian deity
 - 41 Standing on the street
 - 44 Carpenter ___
 - 45 Pin number?
 - 48 "Glad to have you back, dear!"
 - 52 Actor/TV host Joel
 - 55 To take this, paradoxically, might signify taking a stand
 - 56 Wedding exchange
 - 57 The D-backs, on scoreboards
 - 58 Quack doctor's offering
 - 59 London neighborhood west of Covent Garden
 - 62 Most expensive block
 - 64 Kirghizia or Byelorussia: Abbr.
 - 67 Quick hit
 - 69 Word in the Declaration of Independence but not the Constitution
 - 70 ___ Rachel Wood of "Westworld"
 - 71 "Can't you ___?"
 - 72 Post-interruption question
 - 75 Plant used in making biofuel
 - 77 ___ Schomburg, Harlem Renaissance figure
 - 78 Haiti's ___ de la Tortue
 - 79 Like some coffee and sprains
 - 82 Heedless
 - 86 "Fantabulous!"
 - 87 First ruler of a united Hawaii
 - 91 Boot attachment
 - 92 ___ Pre✓
 - 94 Loan option, briefly
 - 95 Like a narrow baseball win
 - 96 Fixture whose name translates to "small horse"
 - 99 Result of the '64 Clay/Liston fight
 - 101 Hitting the ground heavily
 - 103 Relatively light foundry product
 - 108 Wash. neighbor
 - 109 Lavishes affection (on)
 - 110 Super-quality
 - 111 "This one's all mine!"
 - 113 Like about 97 percent of U.S. land
 - 117 Óscar ___, 1987 Peace Nobel from Costa Rica
 - 118 Potful in some Italian kitchens
 - 121 Given (to)
 - 122 Stock-exchange worker
 - 123 Makes Don nod?
 - 124 Things that can be closed with a zip
 - 125 Brains
 - 126 Least spicy
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Trashes
 - 2 ___ shield
 - 3 Bombeck who wrote "At Wit's End"
 - 4 Participates in a mosh pit
 - 5 Los Angeles port district
 - 6 Sea urchin, at a sushi bar
 - 7 Took another take
 - 8 Isaac's firstborn
 - 9 Meditation sounds
 - 10 Click the circular arrow button, say
 - 11 Aids for sleepyheads
 - 12 Top part of an I.R.S. form
 - 13 Red morning sky, to sailors
 - 14 Part of an Italian sub
 - 15 Some pricey handbags
 - 16 Things Wyoming and Nevada lack
 - 17 Guy who hosts "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives"
 - 18 Overnighting option
 - 20 It's been performed more than 1,000 times at the Met
 - 23 Kan. neighbor
 - 30 Title for a lady
 - 32 Be outta sight?
 - 33 Alice in Chains genre
 - 34 Atlanta hoopster
 - 35 Repeated word in Hozier's 2014 hit "Take Me to Church"
 - 36 Base of an arch
 - 37 Video call annoyance
 - 42 Falling-out
 - 43 Mammal's head and heart?
 - 44 "Pokémon" cartoon genre
 - 46 High-ranking
 - 47 Chutzpah
 - 49 Call to mind
 - 50 Like Parmesan and pecorino
 - 51 "You do it ___ will"
 - 53 Stick (to)
 - 54 That guy
 - 60 Cheri of old "S.N.L."
 - 61 "With what frequency?"
 - 62 "The Masque of the Red Death" writer
 - 63 Duck
 - 64 Tries for a fly
 - 65 Film character who says "That'll do, Donkey. That'll do"
 - 66 Payback
 - 68 Christensen of "Parenthood"
 - 69 Grammy winner Stefani
 - 73 Classic work by Karel Capek
 - 74 Whitney for whom a Connecticut museum is named
 - 76 Certain security officer
 - 79 Prez No. 34
 - 80 Quick pick-me-up?
 - 81 Send forth
 - 83 Atmospheric prefix
 - 84 Ostracize
 - 85 Be left undecided
 - 88 Watered-down rum
 - 89 Common lecture length
 - 90 Giant in fairy tales?
 - 93 Queen Anne's royal family
 - 97 "Let me clarify ..."
 - 98 Trashes
 - 99 Yellow-brick-road traveler
 - 100 Folds and stretches
 - 102 Backpacker's lodging
 - 103 Make lemonade from lemons, so to speak
 - 104 Peter of "Casablanca"
 - 105 "The Dick Van Dyke Show" co-star
 - 106 Wood stain has a strong one
 - 107 Tiny ___
 - 112 Hurtful remark
 - 114 Ploy
 - 115 Pocket rockets, in poker
 - 116 In the event that
 - 119 Symbol on a Junction Ahead sign
 - 120 Future zygotes

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Public Notices

**CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
345 FOOTHILL ROAD
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210**

**REQUEST FOR PREQUALIFICATION
OF BIDDERS AND PREQUALIFICATION
INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE:**

**CITY HALL TOWER SEISMIC UPGRADE
AND SHELL AND CORE IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Beverly Hills ("CITY") has determined that all bidders for the CITY HALL TOWER SEISMIC UPGRADE AND SHELL AND CORE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT ("Projects") must be pre-qualified prior to submitting a bid on that Project. It is mandatory that all Contractors who intend to submit a bid, fully complete the prequalification questionnaire, provide all materials requested herein, and be approved by the CITY to be on the final qualified Bidders list.

No bid will be accepted from a Contractor that has failed to comply with these requirements. If two or more business entities submit a bid as part of a Joint Venture, or expect to submit a bid as part of a Joint Venture, each entity within the Joint Venture must be separately qualified to bid. The last date to submit a fully completed questionnaire is **2:00 PM Thursday, February 4, 2020**. Contractors are encouraged to submit prequalification packages as soon as possible, so that they may be notified of omissions of information to be remedied or of their prequalification status in advance of the prequalification deadline for this Project.

Answers to questions contained in the questionnaire (posted on PlanetBids) are required. Contractor's qualifications are required to be submitted electronically.

Contractors are responsible for submitting and having their qualifications accepted before the closing time set forth in this invitation. NOTE: Pushing the submit button on the electronic bid system may not be instantaneous; it may take time for the documents to upload and transmit before the qualifications is accepted. It is the Contractor's sole responsibility to ensure their documents are uploaded, transmitted, and arrive in time electronically. The City of Beverly Hills will have no responsibility for documents that do not arrive in a timely manner, no matter what the reason.

The CITY will use these documents as the basis of rating Contractors with respect to whether each Contractor is qualified to bid on the Project, and reserves the right to check other sources available. The CITY's decision will be based on objective evaluation criteria.

The CITY reserves the right to adjust, increase, limit, suspend or rescind the prequalification rating based on subsequently learned information. Contractors whose rating changes sufficiently to disqualify them will be notified, and given an opportunity for a hearing consistent with the hearing procedures described below for appealing a prequalification rating.

While it is the intent of the prequalification questionnaire and documents required therewith to assist the CITY in determining bidder responsibility prior to bid and to aid the CITY in selecting the lowest responsible bidder, neither the fact of prequalification, nor any prequalification rating, will preclude the CITY from a post-bid consideration and determination of whether a bidder has the quality, fitness, capacity and experience to satisfactorily perform the proposed work, and has demonstrated the requisite trustworthiness.

The prequalification packages should be submitted electronically via PlanetBids. For any Questions regarding the questionnaire and the qualification package contact, Mandana Motahari (email: mmotahari@beverlyhills.org).

The prequalification packages submitted by Contractors are not public records and are not open to public inspection. All information provided will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law. However, the contents may be

disclosed to third parties for purpose of verification, or investigation of substantial allegations, or in an appeal hearing. State law requires that the names of contractors applying for prequalification status shall be public records subject to disclosure, and the first page of the questionnaire will be used for that purpose.

Each questionnaire must be signed under penalty of perjury in the manner designated at the end of the form, by an individual who has the legal authority to bind the Contractor on whose behalf that person is signing. If any information provided by a Contractor becomes inaccurate, the Contractor must immediately notify the CITY and provide updated accurate information in writing, under penalty of perjury.

The CITY reserves the right to waive minor irregularities and omissions in the information contained in the prequalification application submitted, and to make all final determinations. The CITY may also determine at any time that the prequalification process will be suspended for the Project and the Project will be bid without prequalification.

Contractors may submit prequalification packages electronically via PlanetBids. Contractors who submit a complete prequalification package will be notified of their qualification status no later than ten business days after submission of the information.

The CITY may refuse to grant prequalification where the requested information and materials are not provided by the due date indicated above. There is no appeal from a refusal for an incomplete or late application, but re-application for a later project is permitted. Neither the closing time for submitting prequalification packages for this Project will be changed in order to accommodate supplementation of incomplete submissions, or late submissions, unless requested by the CITY in its sole discretion.

In addition to a contractor's failure to be pre-qualified pursuant to the scoring system set forth in the prequalification package, a contractor may be found not prequalified for either omission of or falsification of, any requested information.

Where a timely and completed application results in a rating below that necessary to pre-qualify, an appeal can be made by the unsuccessful Contractor. An appeal is begun by the Contractor delivering notice to the CITY of its appeal of the decision with respect to its prequalification rating, no later than two business days following notification that it is not pre-qualified. The notice of appeal shall include an address where the Contractor wishes to receive notice of the appeal hearing. Without a timely appeal, the Contractor waives any and all rights to challenge the decision of the CITY, whether by administrative process, judicial process or any other legal process or proceeding.

If the Contractor gives the required notice of appeal, a hearing shall be conducted no earlier than five business days after the CITY's receipt of the notice of appeal and not later than five business days prior to the date of the Notice Inviting Bids for this Project. Prior to the hearing, the Contractor shall, in writing, be advised of the basis for the City's pre-qualification determination.

The hearing shall be conducted by a panel consisting of three members of the Department of Public Works senior management staff (the "Appeals Panel"). The Appeals Panel shall consider any evidence presented by the Contractor, whether or not the evidence is presented in compliance with formal rules of evidence. The Contractor will be given the opportunity to present evidence, information and arguments as to why the Contractor believes it should be pre-qualified. Within one day after the conclusion of the hearing, the Appeals Panel will render a written determination as to whether the Contractor is pre-qualified. It is the intention of the CITY that the date for the submission and opening of bids will not be delayed or postponed to allow for completion of an appeal process.

**SUPERIOR COURT OF
CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF
LOS ANGELES**

**CASE NO: 20SMCP00448
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
FOR CHANGE OF NAME**

In the Matter of the petition of:
Aracely P. Plateroti

To all interested person(s):
Petitioner:

Aracely P. Plateroti
current residence address:
**310 N. Crescent Dr. #309,
Beverly Hills, CA 90210**
filed a petition with the **Superior
Court of California, County of
Los Angeles,
1725 Main St.,
Santa Monica, CA 90401,
Santa Monica Courthouse,
on December 22, 2020**

for a Decree changing names
as follows:

Present Name:
ARACELY P. PLATEROTI

Proposed Name:
**ARACELY AMADEUS
PLATEROTI**

The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING:
Date: **February 11, 2021**

Time: **8:30am** Dept: **K**

Room: **A-203**

The address of the court is:
**Superior Court of California,
County of Los Angeles,
1725 Main St.,
Santa Monica, CA 90401,
Santa Monica Courthouse.**

Reason for name change:

**"I want to resume my
maiden name."**

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information in the foregoing petition is true and correct.

Signed: **Aracely P. Plateroti**

Judge of the Superior Court
Laurence H. Cho,

Sherri R. Carter,
Executive Officer/Clerk,

By: Stacey Watson,
Deputy Clerk

Dated: **December 22, 2020**

Published: **December 25,
2020, January 01, 08, 15,
2021**Beverly Hills Courier

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT 2020215858**

The following is/are doing business as:

1) **BUILDING CAPITAL 2) BCI
REALTORS 3) BCI REALTY**

9595 Wilshire Blvd. #900, Beverly Hills, CA 90212; **Building Capital, Inc.** 9595 Wilshire Blvd. #900, Beverly Hills, CA 90212; The business is conducted by: **A CORPORATION**, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed October 2000: **David Thomas Parry, President**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: December 15, 2020; Published: December 25, 2020, January 01, 08, 15, 2021 **LACC N/C**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT 2020213844**

The following is/are doing business as:

**MPK FITNESS 344 S. Elm Dr. #4,
Beverly Hills, CA 90212; Marie P.
Knecht 344 S. Elm Dr. #4, Beverly Hills,
CA 90212;** The business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed February 2012:

Marie P. Knecht, Owner: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: December 11, 2020; Published: December 25, 2020, January 01, 08, 15, 2021 **LACC N/C**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT 2020213846**

The following is/are doing business as:

1) **PROMOLEAGUE 2) PORTALYSS
PRODUCTIONS 3) KELEVISION
PRODUCTION 1008 Larrabee St.,
West Hollywood, CA 90069; Kelly
Dennis 1008 Larrabee St., West
Hollywood, CA 90069;** The business

is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed November 2015: **Kelly Dennis, Owner**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: December 11, 2020; Published: December 25, 2020, January 01, 08, 15, 2021 **LACC N/C**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT 2020213848**

The following is/are doing business as: **BIOPOLIS MEDICAL SUPPLY 22395 S. Western Ave. #303, Torrance, CA 90501; Personal Space MB, LLC 22395 S. Western Ave. #303, Torrance, CA 90501;** The business is conducted by: **A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**, registrant(s) has **NOT** begun to transact business under the name(s) listed: **Julian Chan, Secretary**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: December 11, 2020; Published: December 25, 2020, January 01, 08, 15, 2021 **LACC N/C**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT 2020213850**

The following is/are doing business as:

OHIO WEST PROPERTIES

11655 Ohio Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90025; **Bennett B. Cohon, Trustee, The Survivors Trust 3654 Motor Ave. #11, Los Angeles, CA 90034; Bennett B. Cohon, Trustee, The Marilyn Cohon Bypass Trust 3654 Motor Ave. #11, Los Angeles, CA 90034;** The business is conducted by: **A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP**, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed March 1992: **Bennett B. Cohon, Trustee**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: December 11, 2020; Published: December 25, 2020, January 01, 08, 15, 2021 **LACC N/C**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT 2020213852**

The following is/are doing business as:

MOTOR PROPERTIES

3654 Motor Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90034; **Bennett B. Cohon, Trustee, The Survivors Trust 3654 Motor Ave. #11, Los Angeles, CA 90034; Bennett B. Cohon, Trustee, The Marilyn Cohon Bypass Trust 3654 Motor Ave. #11, Los Angeles, CA 90034;** The business is conducted by: **A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP**, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed January 1989: **Bennett B. Cohon, Trustee**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: December 11, 2020; Published: December 25, 2020, January 01, 08, 15, 2021 **LACC N/C**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT 2020213854**

The following is/are doing business as:

BUNDY DRIVE PROPERTIES

1706 S. Bundy Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90025; **Bennett B. Cohon, Trustee, The Survivors Trust 3654 Motor Ave. #11, Los Angeles, CA 90034; Bennett B. Cohon, Trustee, The Marilyn Cohon Bypass Trust 3654 Motor Ave. #11, Los Angeles, CA 90034;** The business is conducted by: **A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP**, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed November 1994: **Bennett B. Cohon, Trustee**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: December 11, 2020; Published: December 25, 2020, January 01, 08, 15, 2021 **LACC N/C**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT 2020213856**

The following is/are doing business as:

MIDVALE PROPERTIES

3645 Midvale Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90034; **Bennett B. Cohon, Trustee, The Marilyn Cohon Marital Property Trust 3654 Motor Ave. #11, Los Angeles, CA 90034; Bennett B. Cohon, Trustee, The Marilyn Cohon Bypass Trust 3654 Motor Ave. #11, Los Angeles, CA 90034;** The business is conducted by: **A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP**, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed January 1983: **Bennett B. Cohon, Trustee**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: December 11, 2020; Published: December 25, 2020, January 01, 08, 15, 2021 **LACC N/C**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT 2020225604**

The following is/are doing business as:

CONTINUING CREATIVITY

469-1/2 S. Bedford Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90212; **Philip Charles Rosenblum 469-1/2 S. Bedford Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90212;** The business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**, registrant(s) has **NOT** begun to transact business under the name(s) listed: **Philip Charles Rosenblum, Owner**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: December 28, 2020; Published: January 01, 08, 15, 22, 2021 **LACC N/C**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT 2020224538**

The following is/are doing business as:

SMILE BOUTIQUE GROUP

239 S. La Cienega Blvd. #300, Beverly Hills, CA 90211; 8619 Reseda Blvd. #205, Northridge, CA 91324; **Ron I. Zeidler, DMD, Inc. 3754 Cody Rd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91403;** The business is conducted by: **A CORPORATION**, registrant(s) has **NOT** begun to transact business under the name(s) listed: **Philip Ron Zeidler, President**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: December 23, 2020; Published: January 08, 15, 22, 29, 2021 **LACC N/C**

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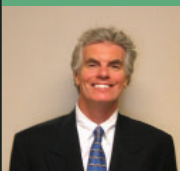
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08
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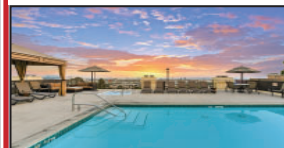
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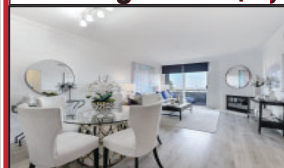
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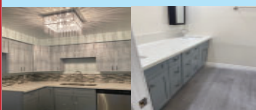
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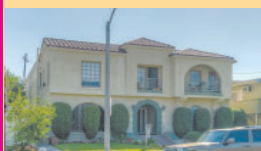
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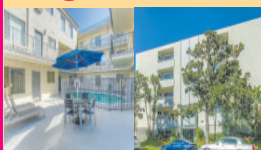
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