# BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

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THE NEWSPAPER OF RECORD FOR BEVERLY HILLS

BEVERLYHILLSCOURIER.COM

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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS CA

ඵ	Friday	65°   56°
ථ	Saturday	67°   56°
ථ	Sunday	68°   56°
ථ	Monday	70°   56°
ථ්	Tuesday	71°   58°
ථ	Wednesday	73°   59°
ථ	Thursday	73°   58°

## City Council Discusses Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025



The Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget was on the council's agenda this week.

BY CLARA HARTER

In a May 21 Study Session meeting, City Council members voiced their support for the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 to 2025 budget, while also discussing the need to prepare Beverly Hills to meet the financial challenges of the future.

Beverly Hills' immediate financial forecast is sunny, allowing staff to present a balanced \$643 million budget that includes additional funding for police officers, the Public Works Department and capital See BUDGET, page 13

## Beverly Hills Art Show Celebrates, Unites and Inspires Artists

#### BY AMANDA COSCARELLI

For two weekends of the year, the Beverly Hills Art Show transforms Beverly Gardens Park into a place where different versions of the world can exist at the same time. Each booth is a portal through an artist's lens, showcasing how different people, scenes or emotions look from an individual's perspective. The first show of 2024 showcased hundreds of artists on May 18 and 19, before revealing prize winners at the end of the weekend.

Many of the artists had a message that they wanted to portray through their work. Kenneth Gatewood is inspired by children and his works at the show mostly featured a child subject with his own text or news headlines. His piece entitled "Life Choices"



Photo courtesy of Gustavo Santana Best of Show winner, Gustavo Santana, posing amongst his handmade glass works

features a young child looking inquisitively at a list of choices. On one side, it lists things like gangs, drugs and guns above the words "No Future" in bold red and on the other side, it lists things like education, hard See BH ART SHOW, page 11

### Pro-Choice Advocates Press Council on Clinic Matter

#### BY JOEY WALDINGER

During a heated public comment period at the May 21 Beverly Hills City Council meeting, more than twenty people criticized the city for its actions in connection with a proposed clinic for abortion services on Wilshire Boulevard. As the Courier has reported, those actions are the subject of a Los Angeles Superior Court lawsuit brought by DuPont Clinic, PC and Consultants in Obstetric and Gynecologic Ultrasonography and Surgery, PLLC (collectively "DuPont") against the city and several city officials. DuPont alleges that the city improperly interfered with its potential business operations, resulting in a rescission of its lease and subsequent damages.

The public comments before the council on Tuesday reflect the frustration of several advocacy groups seeking greater transparency and some concrete action on the matter. One group, bhforchoice, is pushing for an independent investigation into See CLINIC, page 3

### BHUSD School Board Addresses iPad Use and Classroom Size

#### BY AMANDA COSCARELLI

The Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) Board of Education meeting on May 21 included a spirited discussion about the use of iPads in classrooms. That topic in turn led to a debate about increased classroom sizes at El Rodeo Elementary School this fall. Members of the community argued that the portion of the budget the board set aside for iPads could have gone to hiring additional faculty so that classrooms could remain at the same size as other campuses such as Hawthorne Elementary and Horace Mann See BHUSD, page 13



## **Courier Calendar**

NOW - JUNE 2 **ODYSSEY THEATRE:** "STALIN'S MASTER CLASS" WED.-SAT. 8 P.M. SUN. 2 P.M.

Odyssey Theatre presents "Stalin's Master Class," a wildly comic, musicfilled drama by British playwright David Pownall. Politics collide with art when "Father of the People" Joseph Stalin and Soviet cultural minister Andrei Zhdanov summon composers Sergei Prokofiev and Dmitri Shostakovich to the Kremlin for a vodka-fueled "music lesson." Can artistic expression be forced to conform to political ideology? Tickets range from \$20-\$40 from Saturday-Sunday with paywhat-you-can performances on Fridays. Odyssey Theatre is located at 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles. odysseytheatre.com

NOW - JUNE 3 **ROGUE MACHINE THEATRE:** "HITLER'S TASTERS" FRI, MON. 8 P.M. SAT. 5 P.M. SUN. 7 P.M.

Rogue Machine presents "Hitler's Tasters" written by Michelle Kholos Brooks. A dark comedy based on the largely unknown story of young German women conscripted to taste Adolf Hitler's food for poison, this fictional account explores the way girls navigate sexuality, friendship, and patriotism during the Third Reich. Using an anachronistic retelling of a historical footnote, "Hitler's Tasters" considers what girls discuss as they wait to see if they will survive another meal. Inspired by a 2014 interview with 94-year-old Margot Wölk who, for the first time, revealed her harrowing past as one of Adolf Hitler's food tasters. Margot, a German secretary at the time, was among 15 young women selected for this "honor" at Hitler's Wolf's Lair. Tickets are \$45 for general seating, \$35 for seniors and \$25 for students with ID. Rogue Machine in the Matrix Theatre is located at 7657 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles. roguemachinetheatre.org

NOW - JUNE 23

**THEATRE 40: "THE EXPLORERS CLUB"** THURS.-SAT. 7:30 P.M. SUN. 2 P.M. Theatre 40 presents the comedy "The Explorer's Club" written by Nell

Benjamin and directed by Melanie MacQueen. The play takes place in London, 1879. The prestigious Explorers Club is in crisis: their acting president wants to admit a woman, and their bartender is terrible. True, this female candidate is brilliant, beautiful and has discovered a legendary Lost City, but the decision to let in a woman could shake the very foundation of the British Empire, and how do you make such a decision without a decent drink? Grab your safety goggles for some very mad science involving deadly cobras, irate Irishmen and the occasional airship. Tickets are \$35. Theatre 40 is located at 241 S. Moreno Drive, Beverly Hills. theatre40.org

#### NOW - JULY 28

#### SANTA MONICA PLAYHOUSE: **"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST"** SAT. 2 P.M.

#### SUN. 12:30 P.M.

Santa Monica Playhouse presents the 30th-anniversary production of its celebrated original musical "Beauty and the Beast," a heart-warming adaptation of the original French tale. Set in a fantasy Medieval milieu "long, long ago," a lovely and spirited Beauty takes charge of her fate and molds herself into a most endearing, and definitely unscary, Beast. Ditzy sisters, a befuddled sire and a flamboyantly foppish suitor strew more

than a few thorns along Beauty and her Beast's arduous, and ardor-filled path, but love wins out, allowing all to find their happily-ever-afters and proving that beauty is as beauty does and beauty is, and always will be, in the eye of the beholder. Tickets are \$12.50 for children and \$15 for adults. Santa Monica Playhouse is located at 1211 4th St., Santa Monica.

santamonicaplayhouse.com

#### NOW - JULY 28 ICA LA: "SCRATCHING AT THE MOON" WED., FRI. 12-6 P.M. THURS. 12-7 P.M. SAT.-SUN. 11-6 P.M. ICA LA presents "Scratching at the Moon," the first focused survey of Asian American artists in a major Los Angeles contemporary art museum. The exhibition celebrates the work of an intergenerational group of 13 leading artists in the Asian American community whose contributions to culture are multiple, ranging from their distinctive visual arts production to their commitment to pedagogy to their dedication to research, activism, and community engagement. "Scratching at the Moon" centers on artistic production in Los Angeles to trace the overlapping activities among dynamic communities of Asian American artists who have contributed significantly to the city's art world over the past two decades. This exhibition argues that every body is an archive within which generations of experiences across continents and temporalities are held. The stories expressed by the works on view trouble and expand the understanding of what it means to be Asian American. Admission to ICA LA is free. ICA LA is located at 1717 E. 7th St., Los Angeles. theicala.org



Ali Axelrad, Paige Simunovich and Olivia Gill in "Hitler's Tasters" for Rogue Machine Theatre until June 3

Photo by Jeff Lorch

#### **MAY 29**

**BODYTRAFFIC: "IN PURSUIT OF JOY"** 6 P.M.

LA-based dance company, BODYTRAFFIC's final performance of its home season is on May 29. The last act of the "Perpetual Pursuits" series, "In Pursuit of Joy," will be held at the Avalon Hollywood theater. The Avalon performance will feature "The Act of Becoming" by Fernando Hernando Magadan, "I Forgot The Start" by Matthew Neenan, and additional samplings of BODYTRAFFIC work. BODYTRAFFIC uses the creative spirit of its Los Angeles home as a backdrop for delivering performances that inspire audiences around the globe to simply love dance. Since its founding in 2007 by Artistic Director Tina Finkelman Berkett, the company has held fast to its mission of championing contemporary dance, educating audiences, and inciting positive change. Its goal is simple: get the world moving. Tickets are \$50. Avalon Hollywood is located at 1735 Vine St., Los Angeles.

#### bodytraffic.com

#### **MAY 29** WRITERS BLOC: NICHOLAS KRISTOF AND RABBI SHARON BROUS 7:30 P.M.

The Skirball and Writers Bloc present an event featuring Nicholas Kristof and Rabbi Sharon Brous. What gets more clicks: politics, atrocities, or the pursuit of social justice? Journalist and columnist Nicholas Kristof doesn't care. What he does care about is reporting what he sees, whether in Africa, Europe, Asia, or here. He has seen it all, and covered it all in his Pulitzer Prize-winning pieces for The New York Times and in his many books. Kristof has used his position as one of the great reporters to focus attention not only on human rights violations in oppressive regimes, but on justice issues here in America. He introduces readers to heroes along the way, in every corner of the world. In his new book, "Chasing Hope: A Reporter's Life," Kristof not only recounts some of his more harrowing encounters, he provides a real sense of optimism as readers meet the individuals who have shown their heroism and their commitment to standing up to injustice. In this event, Kristof will be in conversation with Rabbi Sharon Brous. Rabbi Brous is widely considered to be one of the most influential Jewish leaders in the country, and is the founder of Ikar, a synagogue in Los Angeles. She is a leader in social justice initiatives here and abroad, and has met with presidents and other leaders. General admission is \$25 and there is an option to purchase a general admission ticket and one copy of "Chasing Hope" for \$53. The event is held at the Skirball Cultural Center at 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles. writersblocpresents.com

#### CLINIC, from page 1

the city's actions, especially its communications with vocal anti-abortion groups. Last November, with the help of the reproductive justice nonprofit The Lawyering Project, bhforchoice submitted a public records request seeking information about those communications.

Andrea Grossman, one of the group's founders, said the documents provided by the city only raised more questions.

"The public records dump .... indicate that there were a lot of meetings with paper trails with nothing on that paper," Grossman told the Courier. "We need to know why they weren't recorded, why there are no notes, why it was such a secret. If everything is kosher, why are they keeping it so secret?"

Plaintiffs in the lawsuit have achieved some success in this same pursuit. On May 13, the judge overseeing the DuPont case ruled that the city must turn over an extensive list of personal communications about the proposed clinic from several current and former city officials.

In response to that ruling, the city released a statement indicating that it had already released over 3,000 pages of documentation during discovery. The city, which has a pending motion to strike much of DuPont's complaint, noted that it did not make the decision to rescind DuPont's lease and strongly supports a woman's right to choose.

Mayor Lester Friedman repeated that statement at the council meeting on May 21, but did not deter the speakers from decrying actions that they claimed undermined this position. According to Grossman, more than 50 supporters attended the meeting

"Contrary to the city's public statement ... the public records tell a different story, and we demand answers," said Gay Abrams, another bhforchoice founder. "How did a legal reproductive health clinic get shut down before it even opened? Why were the concerns of non-resident anti-abortion extremists more important than the voices of your constituents?"

Abrams' concerns were echoed by representatives from advocacy groups including L.A. Guild for Reproductive Health, the Feminist Majority Foundation and Heart of L.A, Freedom for All California, as well as health care professionals.

Dr. Kim Bader, an OB-GYN and professor emeritus at USC Keck School of Medicine, said DuPont would have offered late-term abortions, which represent only 1% of abortions performed and are difficult to access even in California, where the right to abortion is enshrined in state law.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union, California limits abortions after the point of viability, as determined by a physician, though abortions can be performed after the point of viability if a physician determines that continuing the pregnancy could harm the woman.

As states across the county have enacted new restrictions after the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, women who require late-term abortions must often cross state lines, Bader said. "The procedure requires very special training and skills. It requires a very dedicated staff. ... They do training beyond just obstetrics and gynecology, and they are committed to the needs of their patients," Bader said. "To deny this service due to fear is reprehensible."

Advocates and supporters of bhforchoice spoke for approximately an hour and a half, but just before the meeting concluded, Friedman announced new public comment rules he would impose at busier meetings.

At meetings with tight agendas, public comments will be limited to 30 minutes and two minutes per speaker before moving to the consent calendar and agenda items. After that, people will have time for additional comments, he added. No council members objected to the changes.

"I do not think it is fair to have those people who have waited as long as they have waited to have their matters on the agenda, to wait for all of the public comments," Friedman said.

Grossman, however, said the new rules will deter many from making their voices heard.

"Who's going to sit around and wait until 10 and sit through the entire council session agenda? Not many," Grossman said. "And one voice, one person who shows up to speak, represents a lot of people who didn't or couldn't attend the meeting."

Additional business before the council on May 21 included the continuation of an appeal of a "Builder's Remedy" application for a 19-story mixed-use development at 125-129 S. Linden Drive. Staff on Oct. 13, 2023 determined that the application was incomplete, and the applicant, 9300 Wilshire LLC, subsequently appealed that decision. This was the fourth time the applicant had requested the hearing be rescheduled, and the council unanimously agreed to continue the hearing until June 27.

One public commenter spoke against the mixed-use proposal, which includes a 73-room hotel, 165 apartment units and a restaurant. Leo Pustilnikov, the developer behind the project, did not respond to a request for comment.

The council on May 21 also approved an updated list of Standby Officers, which is essentially a succession plan in case a council member becomes "unavailable" during a disaster. Each council member was required to list three individuals, in order of succession, to assume their duties during such an emergency.

The updated list was approved as part of the consent calendar and there was no public discussion.

The consent calendar also included a sixthmonth extension of the North Canon Drive closure at Wilshire Boulevard while construction on the Metro D Line Subway Extension Project continues. The council approved a one-year extension of the closure on Sept. 21, 2021, and has renewed that extension several times since.

As the end of the sixth-month extension approaches in December, staff will provide updates on Metro's progress and the council will decide whether to keep the closure up, according to a staff report. •



## News

## Man Arrested After Brandishing Weapon in Beverly Hills



#### **BY ANA FIGUEROA**

A man with a firearm was arrested on May 22 after he led authorities on a pursuit and crashed into another vehicle in the North Hollywood area. Beverly Hills Police Department Executive Officer Lt. Andrew Myers told the Courier that the BHPD responded to a radio call of a man brandishing a weapon during a road rage incident at approximately 7:33 p.m.

"The suspect vehicle was located in the area of Doheny Drive and Beverly Boulevard and immediately fled from BHPD Officers," said Myers. "A pursuit ensued and traversed northbound into the San Fernando Valley. The suspect vehicle became disabled after a collision with another vehicle. The suspect then fled on foot and was apprehended a short distance away."

Myers identified the driver and sole occupant of the vehicle as Gagik Arshakyan, a 26-year-old from Van Nuys, California. He was booked on charges of Assault with a Firearm, Evading a Peace Officer, Reckless Driving, Forged/Altered Vehicle Registration, Possession of a Controlled Substance, Hit and Run Causing Injury, Resisting or Obstructing a Public officer and Assault on a Police Officer. •



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### WIZO Hosts Hostage Families in Beverly Hills



Photo by Lisa Friedman Bloch

Hostage family members who spoke at a WIZO event in Beverly Hills included (from left): Yulie Ben Ami, Ayelet Hakim, Tomer Dahan, Shimon Dahan, Yuval Danzig, Bat-El Danzig (not pictured: Hagay Angrest and Ofir Angrest).

#### BY LISA FRIEDMAN BLOCH

The Women's International Zionist Organization California, WIZO, hosted a delegation of hostages' families at the home of Gina Rapheal, Chair, WIZO California the morning of May 23 in Beverly Hills. The Israeli guests shared horrific stories of family members being taken hostage in Gaza. Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense, the Administration for the Missing and the Kidnapped and the IDF sponsored their visit. Representatives from the offices of Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, Congressman Brad Sherman and Assemblyman Rick Zbur, in addition to Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian and Councilmember Craig Corman were in attendance.

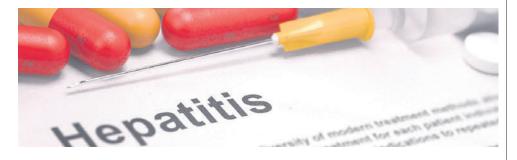
### More Than 50 Cited for Bike and Pedestrian Safety Violations

The Beverly Hills Police Department issued 53 citations for a variety of violations made by drivers during a bicycle and pedestrian safety operation on May 21. The operation took place at various locations throughout the city from 6:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. A total of 59 motorists were stopped and contacted during the operation.

"Safety is a shared responsibility, with drivers holding the greatest responsibility to keep other road users safe," Chief Mark G. Stainbrook said. "We hope this operation serves as a reminder to everyone to practice due care and to look out for one another." The BHPD will be holding additional traffic safety operations later this year.

Questions? Comments? Concerns? The Courier wants to hear from you! Email: editorial@bhcourier.com

### Officials Investigating Local Hepatitis A Infection



The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) announced on May 17 that they are investigating a report of a hepatitis A infection in a Beverly Hills grocery store worker. The patient works at a Whole Foods Market at 239 N. Crescent Drive. Based on the employee's job duties and symptoms while at work, Public Health recommends that anyone who purchased products from the seafood counter section of the store between April 20 and May 13 receive a hepatitis A vaccine if they are not already immune. People who have not received the hepatitis A vaccine or had a previous hepatitis A infection may not be protected from the virus.

Receiving vaccination as soon as possible after exposure could help reduce the risk of developing hepatitis A infection. Residents should contact their local pharmacy or medical provider for the vaccine. Public Health is working with the company to ensure employees that are not immune are referred for vaccination.

Hepatitis A is a highly contagious liver infection caused by the hepatitis A virus. It can range from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a severe illness lasting several months. In rare cases, it can cause death.

Vaccination is the best way to prevent disease. Older adults and people with weakened immune systems might benefit from receiving immune globulin in addition to hepatitis A vaccination for prevention after an exposure. Public Health recommends that members of the public speak with their primary care provider and visit <u>http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/diseases/hepa.htm</u> for more information.

### Pro-Palestinian Activists Erect New UCLA Encampment



Protestors gathered at UCLA on May 23 as Chancellor Block testified before Congress.

#### BY JOEY WALDINGER

While UCLA Chancellor Gene Block was being grilled by members of Congress for his handling of pro-Palestinian protests, activists on campus erected a new encampment early on May 23, drawing police in riot gear Photo by Joey Waldinger fied before Congress

who declared the gathering unlawful and dispersed the crowd.

The protesters set up the encampment between Kerckhoff and Moore Halls, using tables and metal fences to seal off the area, while police and security officers created their **See UCLA ENCAMPMENT, page 11** 



#### **Dominique Fung** *Will you keep singing*?, 2021 Oil on linen 94 x 78 inches

Collection of East West Bank. Image courtesy of the Artist and Jeffrey Deitch.

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## Community

### Piesta Pie Bake Contest Returns on June 9



The event on June 9 will include a pie-eating contest.

Beverly Hills bakers will have a chance to show off their talents on June 9, when the annual pie bake contest returns to the Beverly Hills Farmers' Market. Pie Bake a' la Beverly Hills and Piesta will take place from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Contestants need to apply by June 6 to be eligible.

All entries must be made with locally grown fruit in California. Judging is based on appearance, creativity, crust, consistency, and flavor. Farmers' Market money of \$200, \$100, \$50 and \$50 will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place and "Most Pie-utiful," respectively.

The annual Piesta Pie Bake is a free event featuring a pie-eating contest for kids and adults, entertaining pie-themed activities, Kids Zone arts & crafts, musical entertainment, and more!

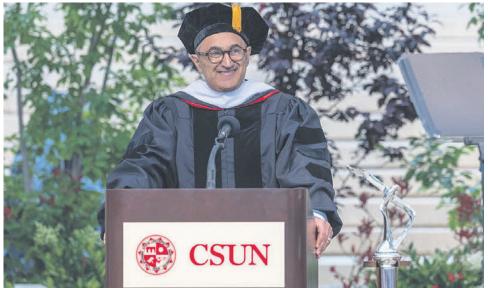
For additional pie bake entry rules or to download an application, visit <u>beverlyhills.</u> <u>org/csevents.</u> •

## David Nazarian Receives Honorary Doctorate

David Nazarian received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters on May 20 from the College of Business and Economics at Cal State University Northridge that bears his name. Nazarian, a CSUN alum ('82, Business Administration) has built a successful career and has given back to the CSU system.

"Don't be afraid to fail and take calculated risk," said Nazarian, after receiving his honorary degree.

The CEO and Founder of Nimes Capital, Nazarian is also known for his philanthropy to a variety of organizations. In 2014, he gave a transformational gift to CSUN's business college, which was named in his honor.



David Nazarian speaks after receiving his honorary doctorate.



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### City Observes Public Works Day



On May 19, the community was invited to come out and enjoy "Public Works Day" at the Beverly Hills Farmers' Market. Those in attendance included (from left): Public Works Commissioner Ben Ritterbush, Chair of the Public Works Commission John Millan, Councilmember Mary Wells, Mayor Lester Friedman, Councilmember Craig Corman and Vice Chair of the Public Works Commission Mark Nehoray.



The Mayor and City Council also recognized city staff in honor of Public Works Day at its May 21 City Council Meeting. Pictured (bottom row): Daniel Boyle, Paul Nguyen, Gardner McKay, Fausto Zagal, Genevieve Row, Eli Benitez, Jovito Enclona; (middle row): Robert Welch, Matt Hilton, Aldo De La Cruz, Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian, Shana Epstein, Mayor Lester Friedman, Councilmember John Mirisch, Councilmember Mary Wells, Tania Schwartz, Alex Kay, Karen Domerchie, Jonathon Chacon; (back row): Michael Hensley, D'Andre Williams, Councilmember Craig Corman, Luis Ramos, Eric Cuevas and Jeff Bartizal

### Gianna Caruso Launches "Hear With You" Foundation

On May 19, hearing loss advocate and CEO and Co-Founder of the luxury brand GIGI C, Gianna "Gigi" Caruso, celebrated the launch of her foundation "Hear With You" at The Grove Lawn in Los Angeles. Caruso's family, including parents Rick and Tina, and brothers Greg, Alex and Justin were on hand to lend support. Guests included comedian Sebastian Maniscalco and his wife Lana Gomez, influencer and reality star Heidi D'Amelio, author and "Selena + Chef" star Raquelle Stevens, members of the hearing loss community and their families, as well as industry professionals, including educators and audiologists.



Rick and Gianna Caruso

Photo by Benjamin Smith

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## **Arts and Entertainment**

## 'Taking Venice'– An American First



Robert Rauschenberg

#### BY NEELY SWANSON

When the United States government, for one brief moment in time, decided they would wield the sword of art and culture against Communism, they stirred up a hornet's nest at the Venice Biennale. This is the story Amei Wallach tells in her fascinating documentary "Taking Venice."

The Venice Biennale has been one of the most important art shows in the world featuring modern art. Winning the Grand Prize could be the launch of a new career or the underscore of an established one. Founded in 1895, it was suspended during the two world wars. Following World War II, it resumed in 1948.

The emphasis was supposed to be on contemporary art although one could argue that the winners from 1948 through 1956 were no longer on the cutting edge. George Braque, Henri Matisse, Raoul Dufy, Max Ernst and Jacques Villon were no longer part of the current avant-garde movement. Those wins did, however, serve to emphasize the preeminence of France as the center of the art world.

International in scope, exhibiting

countries, most financially supported by their national governments, had longstanding invitations to build pavilions to exhibit their entries in a space allocated by the Biennale committee in the Giardini or in the park. The United States, barely an also ran, had a very small building representative of its minuscule offerings over the years. There was no government funding to support U.S. artists. But that changed dramatically in 1964 when the government, under the auspices of the USIA (United States Information Agency), decided that a strong American presence at the world's most important art show could be used as a weapon in the Cold War.

This is more than a movie about an international art competition; it is an investigation into longstanding rumors that the United States allegedly "fixed" the Biennale so their artist, Robert Rauschenberg, could win the Grand Prize. Despite the fact that there has never been any proof that there were payoffs or skullduggery, those rumors persisted. That Robert Rauschenberg was one of the leaders in the new contemporary art movement and more than worthy of recognition seemed to be beside the point. Other national governments supported their representatives, but the fact that, for the first time, the U.S. was providing financial support to a slate of artists entered as part of its delegation seemed to be suspicious. The who, the why and the how is the meat of this film and it's a great history that is entrancing. It never once occurred to me that Rauschenberg should have been controversial. This was, after all, a competition in the arena of contemporary art, and by 1964 Rauschenberg was well established in New York circles.

Robert Rauschenberg caused an upheaval in the New York art scene almost from the time he arrived with his paintings full of "found objects," silk-screened images and painted abstracts. Because he straddled the line between painting and sculpture, he coined the phrase "combine" to illustrate more clearly what he was doing with both media. An encounter at Black Mountain College in 1948 with the composer John Cage and Cage's partner, Merce Cunningham, led to an artistic collaboration with Cunningham's dance company. Rauschenberg would go on to create scenic and costume designs for the

Photos courtesy of Zeitgeist Films/Kino Lorber

dancers, something that would influence the judges years later at the Biennale.

Rauschenberg would work with and have relationships with many of the emerging artists of the day, Cy Twombly and Jasper Johns, in particular. Their new art movement began slowly to gain traction as the Abstract Expressionists ceded precedence. But Rauschenberg refused to be categorized and critics had a difficult time placing him within a context. Nevertheless, by the end of the 1950s, he had arrived at an important juncture. He was represented by Leo Castelli, a gallerist who had become and would remain the leading purveyor of the new art forms. Not only did Castelli represent important Abstract Expressionists like Jackson Pollock, Willem de Kooning and Rauschenberg's former partner Cy Twombly, but he also had literally everyone who was anyone in the new contemporary art movement including Jasper Johns, Donald Judd, Frank Stella, James Rosenquist and a whole roster of what would become the Pop Art movement, including Claes Oldenburg, Andy Warhol, Roy Lictenstein and Ed Ruscha.

Castelli, working with Alan Solomon, the

progressive curator at the Jewish Museum in New York, determined that Rauschenberg deserved to win the Biennale, and be the first American to do so. (Technically he wasn't because an American artist named Mark Tobey won in 1958.) Working with Washington insider Alice Denney whose husband worked for the USIA (but in a more nefarious branch), they set about getting the funding to take a show of the leading contemporary artists (not coincidentally represented by Castelli) to Venice. With Denney's help, they did just that, enlisting Air Force transports and barges to transport these massively scaled paintings.

"Taking Venice" is remarkable not just for the story about Rauschenberg's eventual win but also for all the background information on many of the players. Documentaries could be made just about Castelli and Solomon who shaped contemporary art forever. Alice Denney, now in her 90s, gives insight into the USIA sponsorship and the work that went into mounting the show. Archival and present-day footage show Castelli and his ex-wife Ileana Sonnabend reveling in the details of a politically rife journey. Sonnabend would go on to represent all the Castelli artists when she opened her own gallery in Paris. A more amicable divorced couple you will never find.

There were several factors fighting, in some cases battling hard, against the Americans. Lobbying for an American juror was treated as suspicious. Nevertheless, one was found who fit in seamlessly. But the real snag was the exhibition space. Because the American pavilion was so tiny, Denney, Castelli and Solomon requested that they be able to use the empty American Consulate building to show the works of the artists they had brought. The Biennale committee agreed to the use of the Consulate. Denney, on her way back home, reminded Solomon and Castelli to get that agreement in writing. They did not and when a new Biennale president arrived, he refused to honor the gentlemen's agreement. This was but another obstacle for the Americans to overcome and Wallach does an excellent job of laving out the minefield that was still to be crossed.

After all these years, it's difficult to fathom the extent of the controversy, so much of it political and not artistic. Although not internationally known at the time, the show set up at the Consulate exhibited not just Rauschenberg, but also Jasper Johns, Jim Dine, Claes Oldenburg, Frank Stella and John Chamberlain, all now household names and no longer of the avant-garde. How the American team overcame the interdiction of the American Consulate as a viable space is inventive and created yet more controversy. It's no spoiler to reveal that Rauschenberg did, eventually after much ado (really about nothing), win. But it was a win that, for him, was tainted because it made him question his right to the prize. It was a monumental moment that seemed to be diminished to a footnote for him, much like the asterisk after Roger Maris's home run record. Wallach gifts us with much footage, both archival and contemporary, of Rauschenberg both pre and post the Biennale.

You don't have to love art to love this movie, although I do love both; but as a thriller with a known ending it also works on an entirely different level. The cast of characters are all interesting and the significance of the win turned the art world upside down, not because of who Rauschenberg was but because it spelled the end of Paris as the capital of the art world and marked the beginning of New York as that center. I'm sure the Parisians felt the same way the New Yorkers did when the center shifted to Los Angeles a few years ago.

How do you steal such a prize? Beats me. He didn't, but it's still a meaty discussion. Opening May 24 at the Laemmle Royal.



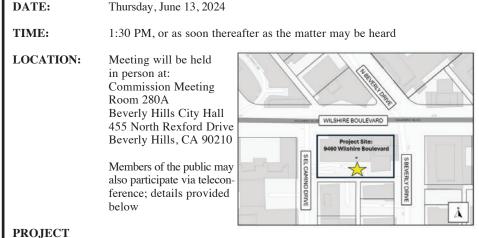
Neely Swanson spent most of her professional career in the television industry, almost all of it working for David E. Kelley. In her last full-time position as Executive Vice President of Development, she reviewed writer submissions and targeted content for adaptation. As she has often said, she did book reports for a living. For several years she was a freelance writer for "Written By," the magazine of the WGA West, and was adjunct faculty at USC in the writing division of the School of

Cinematic Arts. Neely has been writing film and television reviews for the "Easy Reader" for more than 10 years. Her past reviews can be read on Rotten Tomatoes where she is a tomato-approved critic.



BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING



ADDRESS: 9460 Wilshire Boulevard (Cross Street: El Camino Drive)

The Planning Commission of the City of Beverly Hills, at its REGULAR meeting on Thursday, June 13, 2024, will hold a public hearing beginning at **1:30 PM**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard to consider the following:

**Conditional Use Permit Amendment.** A request to amend the operating hours for a previously approved Conditional Use Permit (CUP) at **9460 Wilshire Boulevard.** The CUP for the vehicle sales use was previously granted by the Planning Commission on August 24, 2023, with approved operating hours from 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Monday through Friday, and 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM on Saturdays, with the opportunity to host one special event per month on Sundays. The request is to amend the operating hours in order to allow the vehicle sales use to be open from 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM on Sundays, in addition to the previously approved operating hours.

This project has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.), the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 15000 et seq.), and the environmental regulations of the City. Upon review, the project appears to qualify for a Class 1 Categorical Exemption (Existing Facilities) in accordance with the requirements of Section 15301 of the state CEQA Guidelines. This exemption is applicable to the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use. Accordingly, the Planning Commission will consider a recommendation to find the project exempt from the environmental review requirements of CEQA.

#### How to Participate

In the interest of maintaining appropriate social distancing, members of the public can participate in, watch or listen to the commission meetings through the following methods:

- In Person: Submit a speaker card to the Recording Secretary at the meeting.
- <u>Oral Comment:</u> Call (310) 288-2288, select Option 1 when prompted. You will be placed on a brief hold, and called upon to make a comment at the appropriate time.
- <u>Video Comment</u>: <u>https://www.beverlyhills.org/BevPublic</u>, enter passcode: 90210 when prompted.
- Written Comment: Email commentPC@beverlyhills.org
- Audio Only: Call (310) 288-2288, select Option 2 when prompted.
- <u>Watch LIVE</u>: BHTV Channel 10 on Spectrum Cable or
- www.beverlyhills.org/watchlive

It is recommended that written public comments be submitted to the Planning Commission Recording Secretary by 11:30 AM on the meeting date. Public comments will also be taken during the meeting when the topic is being reviewed by the Planning Commission. Written comments should identify the Agenda Item number or topic in the subject line of the email. In order to be read at the meeting, written comments will be allowed with a maximum of 350 words, which corresponds to approximately three (3) minutes of speaking time.

If a comment is received after the agenda item is heard, it will not be a part of the record. Any written comments received by end of the day on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, will be attached to the agenda report regarding this item. Any comments received after Tuesday, June 4, 2024, but prior the public hearing, will be distributed to the Commission under separate cover. According to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge the City's action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing. Please note that any comments received prior to or during the public hearing will be considered as part of the public record.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact **Philip Coronel, Associate Planner** in the Planning Division at (**310**) **285-1173**, or by email at **pcoronel@beverlyhills.org.** Copies of the associated application materials are on file in the Community Development Department, and can be reviewed by contacting the project planner listed above.

#### Sincerely:

Philip Coronel, Associate Planner



Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Beverly Hills will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance, please call (310) 285-1126 (voice) or (310) 285-6881 (TTY). Providing at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notice will help to ensure availability of services. City Hall, including the Council Chamber and Room 280A, is wheelchair accessible. The City Hall Council Chamber and Room 280A are also equipped with audio equipment for the hearing impaired.



DATE:

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, June 13, 2024 1:30 PM. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard

TIME:	1:30 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard
LOCATION: PROJECT	Meeting will be held in person at: Commission Meeting Room 280A Beverly Hills City Hall 455 North Rexford Drive Beverly Hills, CA 90210 Members of the public may also participate via telecon- ference; details provided below
ADDDECC.	0000 North Conte Manier Development

ADDRESS:

**9900 North Santa Monica Boulevard** (Between Moreno Drive and Charleville Boulevard)

The Planning Commission of the City of Beverly Hills, at its REGULAR meeting on Thursday, June 13, 2024, will hold a public hearing beginning at **1:30 PM**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard to consider the following:

<u>Conditional Use Permit</u>. A request by Cain Development, LP (the "applicant") for an amendment to a previously approved Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow for temporary construction related uses on the property located at 9900 North Santa Monica Boulevard (the "Project Site"). This request would allow for the Project Site to be used for temporary construction offices, parking, and a mock-up area associated with the construction of the One Beverly Hills project located at 9900-9876 Wilshire Boulevard (the "Construction Site"). This request also includes a temporary access bridge for construction personnel spanning across North Santa Monica Boulevard between the Project Site and the Construction Site. The bridge component of this request is contingent upon approval of an encroachment permit by the City Council, which would occur at a future hearing date.

This project has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.), the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 15000 et seq.), and the environmental regulations of the City. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15164 an Addendum will be prepared to the previously certified 2021 One Beverly Hills Overlay Specific Plan Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SCH NO. 2020090048), which concludes that the proposed changes or additions do not result in any new or greater environmental impacts than were previously analyzed, disclosed, and mitigated. None of the conditions in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 (Subsequent EIRs and Negative Declarations) are present and no additional environmental review is required.

#### How to Participate

In the interest of maintaining appropriate social distancing, members of the public can participate in, watch or listen to the commission meetings through the following methods:

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- the appropriate time.
  <u>Video Comment</u>: <u>https://www.beverlyhills.org/BevPublic</u>, enter passcode: 90210 when prompted.
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If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact Andre Sahakian, AICP, Project Manager in the Planning Division at (310) 285-1121, or by email at <u>asahakian@beverlyhills.org</u>. Copies of the project plans and associated application materials are on file in the Community Development Department and can be reviewed by contacting the project planner listed above.

#### Sincerely:

Andre Sahakian, AICP, Project Manager



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Mayor Lester Friedman with First Place and Special Category winners

#### BH ART SHOW, from page 1

work and respect above the words "Bright Future." This is one of many watercolors Gatewood has painted with the hopes of changing a common cycle for children in low-income neighborhoods.

Another artist, David Stewart Klein, is similarly interested in making a cultural impact through his paintings. Klein told the Courier that he has always loved portraying human subjects. After feeling isolated by the pandemic, he's been inspired to remind others that they're not alone. His painting, "Covid John from Ralph's" portrays a man whom he met in a supermarket during the pandemic.

Another exhibiting artist, Guillermo Zuniga, is both a painter and a digital photographer. The South Bay artist was born in Peru but has lived in the United States for most of his life, so he chooses to photograph parts of Los Angeles that feel most like home. At the show, he displayed collections from Santa Monica, Venice, Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach.

Some artists at the show told the Courier that they simply paint because they're inspired. It's their way of sharing their creative process with the world. Jennifer Rae Ochs finds inspiration in cities around the world and her contemporary style combines various layers of acrylic paint to portray the eccentricity of each place. At the show, she displayed pieces in black, white and gold that, to her, are reminiscent of the glam rock of the 1980s.

An expressionist artist, Robin Walker, is inspired by music. He paints scenes based on how they felt rather than how they may have actually looked. A big part of this process, for him, involves music, as it instantly influences the people in a room. Sometimes, he just puts music on and paints exactly what he feels. He confessed to the Courier that one of his favorite sources of inspiration is listening to Albert Hammond Jr. play guitar for The Strokes, which played a large role in creating his piece titled "Life of the Party."

Glass artist Gustavo Santana took home the award for Best of Show. His vibrant mouth-blown and sandblasted pieces have caught the attention of many, including former President Bill Clinton a few years ago. Santana likes to work in his garden, so oftentimes his pieces are inspired by flowers or animals such as hummingbirds, bees and other garden creatures. As an animal lover, he explained, he's been working on a few beehive-inspired pieces to support the endangered species. But as an artist, he can't help but be inspired by everything around him. "You know, sometimes I could be watching TV, and I see something, and it gets in my mind, and then I draw it, and then I put it on [my art]," he told the Courier. What makes Santana's work so special is that each piece is one of a kind. Because of the extensive process it takes to create just one of his perfume bottles, vases, or paperweights, no two pieces are ever the same.

The Mayor's Purchase Award went to Larry Sterling, for his piece, "Our Colorful Country." Additional winners included Shawn Waco (Most Original); Matt Vacca (Best Display) and Alex Paul (Best New Artist).

For those who weren't able to attend the May art show, artists will return to Beverly Gardens Park in October. •



Mayor Friedman with artist Larry Sterling

## Letter to the Editor

#### Dear Editor,

At the Tuesday (May 21, 2024) City Council meeting there were extensive and heart-felt public comments made about the city's interference in the DuPont Clinic lease and how leadership apparently succumbing to the veiled threat of protests and possible worse that comes with the intolerance and moral hypocrisy of anti-abortionist groups not from our community. I share common cause with those speakers.

Now the City Council has an opportunity to do the right thing.

The city has not always acquitted itself. In the case of a recent police chief, long after it became apparent that either the then-chief was in fact engaged in totally inappropriate conduct or, to be charitable, was free from blame but was still the ineffective chief executive of a divided and distracted department, the City Council, City Manager, and City Attorney did what? They completely dug in their heels and backed, and kept backing, the chief even as the complaints, lawsuits, and evidence piled up. It was pretty obvious in the moment, and not simply 20/20 hindsight, that the chief was no longer effective.

This was a monumental governance failure. It embarrassed the city and brought no honor to the council members when, at long last, they were compelled to do the right thing and terminate the chief, but only after badly losing pretty much all of the numerous lawsuits.

So here we sit with a new Mayor and two new members. The last council made a mistake, which was reinforced by senior city staff who were (and I hope this is the case) just following the direction provided

### UCLA ENCAMPMENT, from page 5 own perimeter to block people from entering.

Police occasionally clashed with protesters as they entered the encampment, and protesters at one point surged past the police perimeter to deliver water to the encampment, according to City News Service.

By approximately 1:15 p.m., police had cleared the area in front of the encampment, and protesters moved to Murphy Hall to continue the demonstration, chanting "Long Live the Intifada" and blocking a part of Charles E. Young Drive.

Marie Salem, a media liaison for the protesters, told the Courier the action was not directly in response to Block's testimony but a continued effort to pressure the university to divest from Israel, disclose its finances and offer amnesty for students who have been arrested.

"We're here because our demands have not been met and the administration refused to come to the table," Salem said.

Salem said the demonstration was organized by a group called the Collective Liberation of Palestine composed of various advocacy organizations, and some demonstrators carried picket signs saying, "UAW Rank & File Workers for Palestine."

United Auto Workers Union Local 4811, which represents 48,000 unionized academic workers across the UC system, called on its UCLA workers to strike beginning May 28. to them, albeit perhaps too zealously.

I would encourage the current council to break the mold of intransigence. Reexamine the consequence of the decision that was made (whether it was done openly or through collusion) and the impact of that decision on the residents of the city and our neighbors. We undoubtedly need the services of both a family planning clinic and a thoughtful and community-focused Mayor, City Council, City Manager, City Attorney, and department heads.

To double down on the mistake is to relive the Police Department fiasco, perpetuate the lawsuit underway, and to continue to take a bath in the court of public opinion.

When I was a commissioner, we tried things and rolled them back when we were wrong. The council members have commission experience and know how to do this. It also remediates this prominent issue that will otherwise be the regrettable legacy of our Mayor and council members.

Now is a wonderful opportunity to serve the community and bring some honor back to our elected, appointed, and employed leadership. Act expeditiously to re-create the environment that welcomed the DuPont Clinic and other providers, and erase the stain of perpetuated bad governance that put us in this dreadful and completely avoidable situation.

Sincerely,

David Seidel

During the Congressional hearing, Block came under fire from House Republicans who questioned him about the violence that took place on April 30 when a pro-Palestinian encampment was attacked by counter-protestors. Block said its police department has not yet made any arrests, and the LAPD was helping to identify perpetrators of the violence.

Before that encampment was engulfed in violence and ultimately dismantled, many Jewish students said they were intimidated by it, as videos went viral of protesters denying access to Jewish students who did not renounce Zionism, and demonstrators repeated chants like "from the river to the sea" which has been deemed antisemitic by the Anti-Defamation League.

Block's hearing, along with leaders of Northwestern and Rutgers universities, was third since Hamas's Oct. 7 attack on Israel in which House Republicans criticized universities for actions that they said allowed antisemitism to spread on campus.

Representatives for UCLA, the UCLA Police Department and UAW 4811 did not immediately respond to requests for comment. •



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Happy Belated Birthday NAOMI URMAN May 20



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#### BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

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PLEASE SEND THE PHOTOS WITH AT LEAST TWO WEEKS NOTICE TO: EDITORIAL@BHCOURIER.COM



**GLORIA JENNINGS MILKOWSKI** May 28

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll get a compliment and other validating signals that you're on the right track. Avoid the temptation to bask in your glory. This is no time to relax. Stay focused on improving.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). People trust you. This is why you have enough information inside you to sink any one of your friends, associates or loved ones with one sentence. If tempted to tell, just know, it would hurt less to slip with your feet than your mouth.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You are performing at a high level, but you can't feel it because being inside you feels about the same as it has all along this process. Circumstances in the room, the condition of your tools, general nerves -- they only enhance your show.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Try not to get hung up on perfection. Having a polished result won't matter. Things are going fast. Your time is better spent solving a number of problems instead of trying to make one thing perfect.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). In the ever-changing world, knowing things can be overrated. Today you'll end up throwing something you thought you knew out the window. This is, ultimately, where some knowledge belongs -- jettisoned.

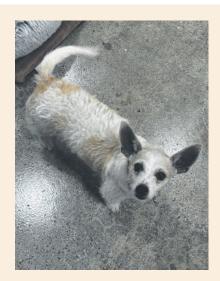
JEFF LEVINE

May 29

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Even as a director, you can't always control the direction the scene takes. Some actions have a force too strong for one person to thwart or even steer, but it can be influenced, nudged along to excellent effect.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A quest is in order, but what's the aim? One quest that's always worthy is the quest to become masterful at reading people. Even familiars have more to offer once you tune into their frequency and adjust your own accordingly.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Think about the best things people have told you. When you first heard the wisdom, you didn't think much of it. That's the way wisdom is -- it sticks around and waits for you to be mature enough to understand its meaning.



Meet Yuki. He is a 10-pound, 7-month-old poodle-Jack Russell mix that needs a new home. If interested in this very friendly boy, please contact Kim Sill of Shelter of Hope at 310-770-3571.

shelterhopepetshop.org



Astrology BY HOLIDAY MATIS

RACHEL SILVER

May 25

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You have natural ability and a charisma that draws people in, but you don't rely on these gifts because they are not the foundation of your success. It's behaviors, habits and routines that will do all your heavy lifting.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're in a labyrinth of sorts. Don't worry about getting it right. Just remember the truth -- this thing is just made of shrubs. At any point, you could get through them if you had to. For now, pay attention and keep moving.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Fear is as normal a part of the human experiences as is having thumbs. Many people don't have thumbs, and they are still as human as any because thumbs don't define you. Fear shouldn't either.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). People who say they are funny often aren't. Also, people who say, "That's funny" but don't laugh can't be trusted. The proof is in the embodiment of a thing. You'll be amused at what you embody today.

#### BUDGET, from page 1

improvement projects. But fiscal rain clouds loom on the horizon and city expenditures are projected to exceed revenues in future budget cycles.

All five council members said they were comfortable with the proposed FY 2024 to 2025 budget –which is expected to return before the council in a June 18 formal meeting–and agreed it will be essential to develop new cost saving and revenue-raising measures going forward.

"We are Beverly Hills and there's a level of service that is expected not only in police and fire, but also in community services," said Mayor Lester Friedman. "I think that we need to be cognizant of being able to meet those expectations and the reality that we need to have the money to spend on it. I think it's going to be a balance that we're

#### going to be looking at throughout this year."

City staff proposes 24 enhancements to this year's budget, totaling \$14.4 million. Of this, \$7.7 million will go to the Police Department, \$5 million to private security and \$2.4 million to the Public Works department.

The BHPD plans to hire seven new police officers and one police sergeant to address public safety needs around the upcoming metro station and supportive homeless housing in Beverly Hills.

Station 1 of the Metro Purple Line Extension at La Cienega Boulevard and Wilshire Boulevard is expected to open in the spring of 2025. Beverly Hills also intends to provide 30 units of permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless through a partnership with Step Up on Second.

#### BHUSD, from page 1

Elementary. Despite hearing the concerns, the board approved the motion to purchase iPads to assist with elementary level classes at El Rodeo and Horace Mann.

The approval of 100 new iPads came after El Rodeo's new principal, Sarah Kaber, explained the benefits of using them in science classrooms and special education. Most of the devices are used in Maker Space, which is a hands-on science class for all age groups. Within this class, iPads assist students in computer science and 3D printing. A large portion of them are also used for students with an individualized education program, to teach lessons digitally, where each student would otherwise be unable to have a teacher's undivided attention. Kaber also spoke about the benefits of using iPads as early as transitional kindergarten (TK) to show students how to move their mouths to pronounce certain words. The use of these devices would be extremely limited in TK.

The motion to purchase the devices passed in a 3-1 vote, despite a heated discussion about the negative effects of screen time at an early age. During public comment, the board heard from Dr. Jane Tavyev Asher, director of the division of child neurology and neurodevelopmental disabilities at Cedars-Sinai. She cited research that indicates that using iPads to learn to read and write puts young pupils at a disadvantage.

She also brought up a 2019 study that found that every 30 minutes of classroom screen time resulted in a drop in standardized test scores, pointing out that she fails to see a positive impact of iPad use in TK through second grade. "I haven't seen any evidence that specifically and especially in this young age group, that there is a good element in the screen exposure," she said.

The discussion about iPad usage transitioned into a different argument as parents voiced their concerns about another fiscal issue. When El Rodeo reopens this fall, some students will move from other schools to the new campus. But while fourth-grade classroom sizes averaged 21 students at other schools, those at El Rodeo are expected to average 29, increasing classroom size by 38%. This is because El Rodeo will have three fourth-grade classes instead of four. Parents addressed the board, suggesting that the money being put into iPads could be put into hiring additional teachers instead.

Michael Bastan, a BHUSD parent, spoke over Zoom. He pointed out that the maximum classroom size in California is 29.9 students. This means that El Rodeo would be less than one student away from the state maximum. "Is this what the best for our kids looks like?" he asked. He then suggested that BHUSD should hire one more teacher and, if there is not enough money in the budget, he promised that the community would help fund it. "I promise, whether it's through the PTA, BHEF [Beverly Hills Education Fund] or even a community campaign, we parents will raise the money needed," he said. "[My wife] and I pledge to donate more than what our portion would be for the cost of that one additional teacher." He also recommended putting the \$60,000 going toward the iPads into hiring a new teacher instead.

Molly Rabbanian, a mother of two, was concerned about her incoming kindergartener and fourth grader, who will be moving from Hawthorne to El Rodeo in the fall. "This change to our students is not only a disservice to children, but also a disservice to our teachers," she said. "And it's disrespectful to expect one teacher to actually teach, guide and educate and properly discipline 29 students that are known to already have behavioral difficulties."

The board addressed concerns by explaining that the iPad budget has already been set aside and is not to blame for class size. They also reassured parents that the devices are used minimally in younger grades, and are used to enhance the regular curriculum, not change it. • The private security funding will be used to assist police officers and provide patrols in residential and retail areas. Meanwhile, Public Works intends to use its increased funding for sustainability initiatives as well as the maintenance of city infrastructure and facilities.

"I am comfortable with this budget, including the enhancements with regard to public safety and I'm certain that everyone can see that as a priority here especially when it comes to Metro," said Councilmember Mary Wells. "I'm also very happy to see we are having enhancements around our community services in the parks as well as electrical resilience and for our water sustainability."

The budget also includes \$85.6 million for capital improvements, including projects for water infrastructure; street, sidewalk and traffic safety; facilities and parks; vehicle fleet expansion; and technology enhancements to improve public safety.

Other budget increases are due to the growing costs. This includes a \$4.5 million increase for staff salaries and benefits, a \$3.0 million increase in liability funds to accommodate current and anticipated claims activity and a \$1.4 million increase in insurance costs.

Fortunately, all of the city's "big four" revenue streams have rebounded to pre-pandemic levels. This includes sales tax, business license tax, transient occupancy

Metro

(aka hotel) tax and property tax.

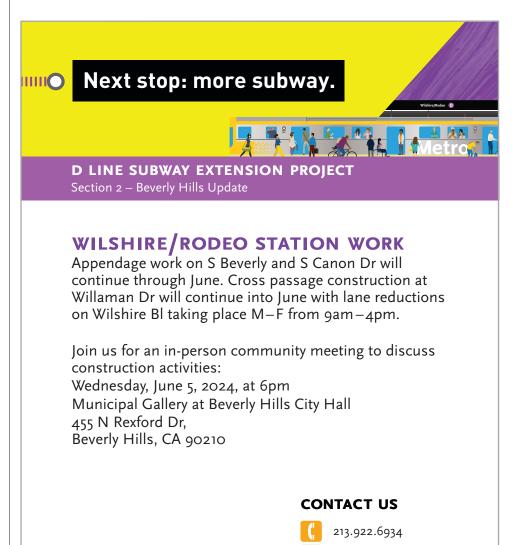
However, part of the reason why the city can balance the budget this year is due to one-time funds from development agreements and public benefit contributions-money it will not be able to rely on in future budget cycles.

"I have real concerns about the forecast going forward in the future and how we're going to find cost cutting," said Councilmember Craig Corman, noting that the loss of the Cheval Blanc project was a harsh blow to the city's future finances.

While Corman is hopeful about the possibility of increasing revenue through taxes, he noted that this "is not a done deal" and will require support from the city's voters.

In determining new strategies to strengthen the city's finances, the council will be working from recommendations made by the Blue-Ribbon Committee on Long-Term Strategic Financial Planning, an initiative started by former Mayor Dr. Julian Gold.

On April 18, the committee presented 10 potential strategies for raising revenues to the City Council. These include hikes to the transient occupancy tax and sales tax; expedited real estate leases on city-owned properties; increasing city parking fees; and reforming the project planning and permitting processes to make it easier for businesses to operate in Beverly Hills. •



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## **Fun and Games**

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#### PUZZLE ANSWERS 05/17/24 ISSUE

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### BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

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ACROSS	54 Fixed	105 Mountain nymph	27 Certain streaming	26	-						27					28	29			30				
1 Depicts unfairly 6 Monitor	<ul><li>56 Dal ingredients</li><li>57 Note in the B major</li></ul>	107 Waterproofing material	library 29 Push notifications,				31								32				33		34			
11 Fruits exchanged on Chinese New Year	scale 58 Programming	108 Picture book with characters like Odlaw, Wizard	e.g. 32 They're kept under wraps	35	36	37						_		38		-	1			39	_			
8 "Moo, Baa, !"	language used in government	Whitebeard and Woof	<b>33</b> "Kidding!"	40	-				41				42			5	43				- A	44	45	46
(classic children's book)	and banking 60 Triple	112 Batter-fried bento	<b>35</b> Things to stub out, for short	47	-			48		49		50				51				52	53			
0 Egg, in Spanish 1 Where to find signs	61 Cloud nine, so to speak	dish 114 Part of a princess	36 Have a side in common	54	-		-		55		56	_	-		-		-		57		-		$\vdash$	
with circles, squares and diamonds	62 No more than	costume 116 Nike and others	37 Actor Eric	· · · · ·				58		59				60	_			61						
2 "My only request"	66 Formula 1 tour stop since 2023.	117 Palm-tree product	<ul><li>38 Starts to fall</li><li>39 Trawl for personal</li></ul>					56		59				60				61						
4 Young's partner in accounting	informally	used in skin care 118 Statistical calculation	information 42 O'Malley Dillon	62	63	64	65		66			- 3	67		68		69				70			
5 Original host of MTV's "Total	<ul><li>68 O.C.'s region</li><li>70 Negative contraction</li></ul>	119 Safe investment options, informally	of the Biden White House	71	-			72				73		74		75			1	76				
Request Live"	71 "Sounds right to me"	120 Secret option?	44 Clock innards	77	-		-		-		78	-	-		79	-			80		81	82	83	84
6 Stay cool	73 Boy band that went on hiatus in	121 Factory	45 to go																					
8 Bit of body art 0 They come in twice	2023 for army service	122 "Barbie" director Gerwig	46 Many an attendee of Gertrude	85						86								87		88				
a day	<b>75</b> No fan		Stein's Paris salons	89				90	91				92				93		94		95			
1 Metal ring that holds a pencil's eraser	77 " in the Rain"	DOWN	48 Start of a winning row <b>50</b> Go on and on about				96					07			_								<u>                                     </u>	
2 Title Disney character	78 Camper's vessel	1 Hunk of meat	<b>51</b> "The cause of, and				90					97				98			ľ	99				
of 1998	80 Struck	2 Vegetable with a "dinosaur" variety	solution to, all of	100	101	102	-		103		-		-		104	-			-					
4 Overhaul	85 Fried chicken, cornbread, collard	3 Civil rights activist	life's problems," per Homer Simpson		-																			
5 Tourist destination in Baja California	greens, etc.	Baker	53 Celebrity chef Roy	105			1	106		107				108								109	110	111
Sur	86 Property at an	4 Suspense-building	55 Group of witches	112	-				113			114	115			-		116					$\vdash$	-
8 Band shirts?	intersection	words	57 Two family dwolling	1	1	I								r	- 1								1 1	1

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intersection 38 Band shirts? 88 Actor Pascal of "The Last of Us" 40 Letter-shaped construction piece 41 Zoomed, perhaps 89 Author Rand Dr. \_\_\_\_, talk-show host with the catchphrase "Get some" **42** Beam at a bar 90 Pulitzer-winni author Jennifer 43 Dr. 92 Fair-hiring inits.

44 Test for an M.A. seeker

49 Lady Gaga vis-à-vis Billie Eilish, e.g.

52 Multipurpose tool for a mountaineer

**ANSWERS FOUND** IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER...

93 Like some kisses 95 Wart-covered critter 96 Digital "container" associated with Bitcoin

47 Hit the gas 98 Dystopian classic whose title comes from "The Tempest"

100 Metonym for the

103 Stuck

U.S. Congress, with "the"

104 Tarot card featuring

a howling wolf

words 5 Schedules 6 Ride 7 Mysterious glows

8 Focus for a pitching scout? 9 Rx chain

10 Jet setting
11 Prominent figure at the Academy Awards
12 Studio behind "Bringing Up Baby"
12 More informal
64 Kept going and get 65 Breakfast brand with a rhyming slogan
67 Refused to answer question

13 More informal version of 70-Across 14 Low points

15 School group

16 Fished with traps, perhaps 17 Parental authority

19 Spiritual hermitage 23 Core

57 Two-family dwelling 59 Frequent antagonist of Winnie-the-Pooh

61 Have something 62 Home to the

University of Montana

64 Kept going and going

answer questions69 One buying a stuffed mouse, perhaps

72 Van Halen's contract once had one that specified no brown M&M's 74 Olympic event since 1968

82 What squiggly lines can represent 83 Russia's \_\_\_\_\_ Mountains 84 Maiden name of an 1860s first lady 86 What can symbolize 50

76 Good or bad name,

81 It might come with

for short

79 Not against

a plunger

78 Against

87 Was thick (with) 91 Spot for recess on a rainy day 94 Like some short tennis matches 96 Keep rhythm with, 97 Al \_\_\_\_, discus thrower in the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame

98 1995 blockbuster with numerous historical inaccuracies

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with marshmallows 101 \_\_\_\_ Joliot-Curie, chemist daughter of Marie 102 Primate that exists only on the world's fifth-largest island 104 Pang

99 Blowing away

100 Drink often served

113 Where Simone Biles 106 Daft Punk and Outkast, for two

won four golds 115 Source of much U.S. immigration in the 1840s: Abbr.

108 Polemology is the

study

of them

111 Greek peak

109 Word on some

yogurt labels

110 Bug-bite preventer

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BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

## **Police Blotter**

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



#### ASSAULT - SIMPLE

5/11/2024, 12:04 p.m. at 8900 Block of BURTON WAY

#### BURGLARY -CONSTRUCTION SITE

5/18/2024, 6 a.m. at 9300 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

#### BURGLARY -RESIDENTIAL (NO ONE HOME)

5/19/2024, 8:48 p.m. at 1200 Block of MONTE CIELO DRIVE

5/13/2024, 3:41 a.m. at 300 Block of S. ELM DRIVE

#### DUI ARREST

5/19/2024, 2:40 a.m. at S. PALM DRIVE / GREGORY WAY

5/10/2024, 6:14 p.m. at 400 Block of N. CRESCENT DRIVE

#### MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

5/13/2024, 11:22 p.m. at 200 Block of N. LA PEER DRIVE

#### **ROBBERY**

5/17/2024, 9:10 a.m. at LEXINGTON ROAD / ALPINE DRIVE

5/17/2024, 2:30 a.m. at 9200 Block of BURTON WAY

5/11/2024, 10:40 p.m. at S. CRESCENT DRIVE / OLYMPIC BOULEVARD

#### SHOPLIFT ROBBERY

5/14/2024, 8:19 a.m. at 400 Block of N. CRESCENT DRIVE

#### THEFT - GRAND

5/20/2024, 3:38 p.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

5/19/2024, 4:44 p.m. at 9700 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD. 5/18/2024, 7:45 p.m. at 200 Block of N. BEVERLY DRIVE

5/18/2024, 6 p.m. at 400 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

5/18/2024, 4:20 p.m. at 300 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

#### 5/16/2024, 2:10 p.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

5/13/2024, 1:07 p.m. at 9900 Block of SUNSET BLVD.

5/12/2024, 5:04 a.m. at 9800 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

5/11/2024, 5:16 p.m. at 9700 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

#### THEFT - GRAND (FROM VEHICLE)

5/17/2024, 4 p.m. at 300 Block of N. ALMONT DRIVE

#### THEFT - PETTY

5/17/2024, 11:40 a.m. at 9100 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD. 5/16/2024, 4:45 p.m. at 200 Block of N. CRESCENT DRIVE

5/16/2024, 2:26 p.m. at 400 Block of S. CLARK DRIVE

5/14/2024, 12:06 a.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

5/13/2024, 7:07 p.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

5/12/2024, 9:45 p.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

5/11/2024, 11:28 p.m. at N. SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD / N. CANON DRIVE

5/11/2024, 6:01 p.m. at 9400 Block of OLYMPIC BLVD.

5/11/2024, 6:45 a.m. at 1500 Block of CARLA RIDGE

5/10/2024, 7 p.m. at 9900 Block of DURANT DRIVE

#### VANDALISM

5/17/2024, 4:30 p.m. at 300 Block of S. REXFORD DRIVE

5/17/2024, 12:19 a.m. at 400 Block of N. REXFORD DRIVE

5/15/2024, 5:30 p.m. at 400 Block of S. OAKHURST DRIVE

5/13/2024, 12 a.m. at 8400 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

5/12/2024, 11:49 p.m. at 9300 Block of OLYMPIC BLVD.

5/11/2024, 1:07 p.m. at 300 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

5/10/2024, 11:30 a.m. at 200 Block of N. CRESCENT DRIVE

## **Public Notices**

	1			
PUBLIC NOTICES	PUBLIC NOTICES	PUBLIC NOTICES	PUBLIC NOTICES	
<ul> <li>NOTICE TO BIDDERS for the</li> <li>WILSHIRE BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENTS - CRESCENT DRIVE INTERSECTION AND SPOT REPAIRS PROJECT within the Cities of BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA</li> <li>BIDS - Sealed proposals for the WILSHIRE BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENTS - CRESCENT DRIVE INTERSECTION AND SPOT REPAIRS PROJECT at various locations within the City of Beverly Hills, California, will be received up to the hour of 2:00 p.m. (Pacific Time), on Thursday, June 27, 2024, via Planetbids. Bid results will be sent to all bidders through Planetbids and the award of the contract will be made during a subsequent meeting of the City Council.</li> <li>Refer to webpage: https://vendors.planetbids.com/portal/39493/bo/ bo-detail/114570</li> <li>SCOPE OF THE WORK – The work to be done shall consist of fur- nishing all the required labor, materials, equipment, parts, implements, supplies, and permits necessary for, or appurtenant to, the construction and completion of the project indicated above in accordance with the Standard Drawings and the Specifications prepared for this project. In general, the project consists of the addition of a crosswalk with traffic signal improvement, extension of a sidewalk, curb ramp replacements, full section pavement reconstruction, adjustment of existing utility</li> </ul>	FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2024071074 The following is/ are doing business as: 1) ASHER REAL ESTATE 2) JAZZY ENTERPRISES, LLC DBA: ASHER REAL ESTATE 4342 Redwood Avenue #C311 Marina Del Rey, CA 90292; Jazzy Enterprises, LLC 4342 Redwood Avenue #C311 Marina Del Rey, CA 90292; The business is conducted by: <u>A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY</u> reg- istrant(s) has NOT begun to transact business under the name(s) listed: Jazzy Enterprises, LLC, Paul Asher, Member; Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: April 2, 2024; Published: April 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024 LACC N/C (Reprint May 3, 10, 17, 24, 2024) FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2024096122 The follow-	is filed with the County of Los Angeles: MAY 8, 2024; Published: May 17, 24, 31, June 7, 2024 LACC N/C FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2024099831 The following is/ are doing business as: GARDEN OF PALMS 22041 Clarendon St. Suite 100, Woodland Hills, CA 91367; PACIFIC CREST RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES, INC. 22041 Clarendon St. Suite 100, Woodland Hills, CA 91367; The business is conducted by: <u>A CORPOPRATION</u> AI #ON: 2329972 registrant(s) has begun to transact busi- ness under the name(s) listed on January 2000: PACIFIC	STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2024098402 File No. 20191770417 Date Filed: June 18, 2019 Name of Business: CHRIS JACOBS REAL ESTATE 439 N. Canon Dr. Suite #300, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; FORWARD BEVERLY HILLS, INC. 439 N. Canon Dr. Suite #300 Beverly Hills, CA 90210; The business was conducted by: <u>A CORPOPRATION</u> regis- trant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) list- ed on June 2019: FORWARD BEVERLY HILLS INC. David Bailey, President; Statement of Abandonment is filed with the County of Los Angeles: MAY 7, 2024; Published: May 24, 31, June 7, 14, 2024 LACC N/C	SUHH
<ul> <li>full section pavement reconstruction, adjustment of existing utility boxes, concrete and pavement demolition, removal and haul away, replacement of pavement striping and markings, and incorporation of the City of Beverly Hills Wilshire Blvd- La Cienega Blvd Streetscape Standards sidewalk elements (tree, benches, pedestrian lighting, specialized sidewalk pattern, etc.) at the intersection of Wilshire Boulevard and Crescent Drive. In addition, the project includes other off-site improvements_along Wilshire Blvd between Peck Drive and Rexford Drive. Such work includes curb and gutter replacement, repair and installation of bus pads, pavement spot repairs, and catch basin deck replacements along Wilshire Boulevard. The project may require the work to be performed at night, on weekends, or with other working hour restrictions depending on the work activities or coordination with other permitted work.</li> <li>Copies of the Specifications and Proposal Form may be inspected and downloaded from the City's webpage (<u>http://www.beverlyhills.org/tags/bids/</u>). Then click on the link "PLANET BIDS".</li> </ul>	ing is/are doing business as: MAGNE EDUCATION 9100 Wilshire Blvd 400W, Beverly Hills, CA 90212; BEVERLY HILLS DENTAL LABORATORY, 9100 Wilshire Blvd 400W Beverly Hills, CA 90212; Cathy Mancuso Boyack 139 S. Beverly Drive Suite 320, Beverly Drive Suite 320, Beverly Hills, CA 90212; The business is conducted by: <u>A CORPOPRATION</u> regis- trant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed ON MAY 2024: Beverly Hills Dental Laboratory, Susie Traboulsi, CFO; Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: MAY 3, 2024; Published: May 10, 17, 24, 31, 2024 LACC N/C	SUPERIOR COUR COUNTY OF CASE NO: 2 ORDER TO 3 FOR CHAN In the Matter of the pe Stephanie Ann Shep To all interested perso Stephanie Ann Shep address: 1880 Centu Los Angeles, CA 900 the Superior Court o Los Angeles, 1725 M 90401. Santa Monica 2, 2024 for a Decree follows:	AT OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES 24SMCP00227 SHOW CAUSE GE OF NAME tition of: berd on(s): Petitioner: perd current residence iny Park East E 1600 067 filed a petition with f California, County of Main St. Santa Monica, a Courthouse, on May be changing names as	
<ul> <li>Crescent Dr Intersection Improvement Project for this work has been prepared and the said estimate is \$1,348,000.</li> <li>PRE-BID MEETING AND SITE VISIT – A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on June 4, 2024, at 10:00 am in Conference Room 217 of the City of Beverly Hills Public Works Building located at 345 North Foothill Road, Beverly Hills, California, 90210.</li> <li>No allowances for cost adjustment will be made if Bidders fail to adequately examine the premises before submitting a proposal.</li> <li>BIDDER'S QUESTIONS – All questions shall be emailed to Christine Chung at cchung@beverlyhills.org. Question submission is due June 11, 2024, at 2:00pm. Any questions submitted after the due date and time will not be responded. Inquiries received via telephone, fax, or in-person will not receive a response.</li> <li>CITY CONTACT – Any questions or requests for information can be directed to the project manager, Christine Chung, P.E., at cchung@</li> </ul>	FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2024097272 The following is/ are doing business as: 1) OPTIX 2) OPTIX EYEWEAR 2926 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90403; MYOPTIX, INC. 2926 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90403; The business is conducted by: <u>A</u> <u>CORPOPRATION</u> AI #ON: 1263074 registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on JUNE 1990: <b>MYOPTIX, INC.</b> <b>Robert Zakheim, President;</b> Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: MAY 6, 2024; Published: May 10, 17, 24, 31, 2024 LACC N/C	The court orders that in this matter shall ap the hearing indicated if any, why the petitic should not be granted to the name changes file a written objection sons for the objection before the matter is and must appear at cause why the petition If no written objection may grant the petition <b>NOTICE OF HEARIN</b> <b>Date:</b> June 28, 2024 <b>Time:</b> 8:30 AM <b>Department:</b> K The address of the co	phanie Ann Suganami t all persons interested pear before this court at below to show cause, on for change of name d. Any person objecting described above must in that includes the rea- at least two court days scheduled to be heard t the hearing to show in should not be granted. is timely filed, the court in without a hearing. IG:	ITRIE E
beverlyhills.org. <b>CONTRACTORS LICENSE</b> - In compliance with Public Contract Code Section 3300, the City has determined that the Bidder must possess at least one of the following licenses: <u>"A"</u> <i>THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY BID OR ALL THE BIDS AND TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY OR IRREGULARITY IN ANY BID, BUT IF THE BIDS ARE ACCEPTED, THE CONTRACT FOR THE IMPROVEMENT WILL BE LET TO THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER FOR THE PROJECT AS A WHOLE. WE PUBLISH DBA's, SUMMONS NAME CHANGE, BIDS AND NOTICE TRUSTEE'S FOR MORE INFO CALL: 310-278-1322</i>	FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2024099819 The following is/ are doing business as: MELROSE GARDENS 22041 Clarendon St. Suite 100, Woodland Hills, CA 91367; NATIONAL LIFE, INC. 22041 Clarendon St. Suite 100, Woodland Hills, CA 91367; The busi- ness is conducted by: <u>A</u> <u>CORPOPRATION</u> AI #ON: 2865447 registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on March 2007: NATIONAL LIFE, INC. Yaacov Isaacs, President; Statement	90401 Reason for name already known by he es to be known by he personal/business aff I declare under pena laws of the State of Ca ing is true and correct Signed: Stephanie A Judge of the Superin Lawrence H. Cho Clerk: David W. Slay Deputy: C. Coleman Dated: May 2, 2024 Published: 05/10/24, 05/ BHC-R28509	change: Petitioner is r proposed name wish- er proposed name in all airs. Ity of perjury under the alifornia that the forego- t. Ann Sheperd or Court:	

PAGE 16

## Classifieds



## Classifieds



BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

## Classifieds



## - 4]4



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 11964 MODJESKA PL
 MAR VISTA
 \$6,495,000

 PAUL SALAZAR
 310.492.0737
 | DRE 01763227



•

1143 LINDA FLORA DRBEL-AIR\$7,395,000DAVID KRAMER, CHRISTIAN HOSE, PAUL SALAZAR, MARIO REITHAAR310.490.8266| DRE 00996960, DRE 02218728, DRE 01763227, DRE 02097247

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1018 CHAUTAUQUA BLVD|PACIFIC PALISADES\$21,995,000DAVID KRAMER, ANDREW BUSS|310.691.2400|DRE 00996960, DRE 01999669

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**Forbes**