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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS CA

☁️ Friday	61° 46°
☁️ Saturday	61° 43°
☁️ Sunday	60° 44°
☁️ Monday	66° 43°
☁️ Tuesday	68° 43°
☁️ Wednesday	67° 43°
☀️ Thursday	69° 45°

Aftermath of a Firestorm



Photo by Hart Denton/Photo Assistant Elysée Sanvillé

The Courier commissioned Hart Denton to photograph the aftermath of the deadly Palisades Fire. His work appears on page 11. Above: The Gelson's on Sunset Boulevard in Pacific Palisades was lost in the fire.

Five Arrested After Smash-and-Grab Robbery at Waldorf Astoria Retailer

BY SEAN BECKNER-CARMITCHEL

On Jan 10, a smash-and-grab robbery of a luxury watch retailer on Wilshire Boulevard resulted in five arrests after a brief vehicle pursuit of the suspects. The robbery took place in the afternoon at Wrist Aficionado, which is located in the Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills. One security guard sustained injuries during the robbery and is expected to recover. Police continue to search for additional suspects, according to Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) Public Information Office Lieutenant Kevin Orth.

A spokesman for the Waldorf Astoria told the Courier, "Upon being alerted to the situation, the hotel's security team immediately contacted the Beverly Hills Police Department." The spokesman said, "The safety and security of our guests and team members is always a top priority, and we See ROBBERY, page 6

Beverly Hills Is 'Well Prepared' for Fire Danger, Says BHFD Chief

BY JESSICA OGILVIE

As firefighters continue to battle blazes throughout Los Angeles County, Beverly Hills officials seek to reassure residents that sufficient preventive measures are being taken to guard against flames reaching the city.

At press time, the Palisades Fire in Pacific Palisades had burned 23,713 acres and was at 22% containment. Officials have confirmed eight fatalities and three injuries with 2,869 structures destroyed and 508 damaged.

The Eaton Fire in Altadena had burned 14,117 acres and was at 55% containment. Officials have confirmed 16 fatalities and six injuries, along with 5,356 structures destroyed and 613 damaged.

Speaking to the Beverly Hills Courier, Beverly Hills Fire Chief Greg Barton offered



Fire Chief Greg Barton

details on the current threat to the city, Beverly Hills' history of preventive actions and practical information residents can use See FIRE CHIEF GREG BARTON, page 5

How Residents Can Support Those Affected by Fires

BY SELINA KAUSAR

Devastating fires have torn through Los Angeles County since Jan. 8, destroying entire neighborhoods in Pacific Palisades and Altadena and affecting several others. Thousands of people have been displaced; their homes devastated, and possessions lost. Here's how residents of Beverly Hills can help those in need during this time.

The Rotary Club of Beverly Hills will host "Heart of The Hills," a fire relief drop-off center on Jan. 19. They are requesting toiletries, first aid supplies and new children's, See SUPPORT, page 6

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is January 20

Award-Winning BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

Courier Calendar

NOW - MARCH 2

ICA LA: "AN INCESSANT UNKNOWABILITY: AN ARCHIVE OF PROTEST INSPIRED TYPOGRAPHY AND ITS OPEN SOURCE USES"

WED., FRI. 12-6 P.M.

THURS. 12-7 P.M.

SAT.-SUN. 11-6 P.M.

"An Incessant Unknowability: An Archive of Protest Inspired Typography and Its Open Source Uses" is an exhibition created for ICA LA's Annex gallery in conjunction with the Bookshelf Residency with GenderFail. The installation is based entirely on a publication of the same name in early 2024 by GenderFail. It presents the ongoing series of open-source fonts sourced from and inspired by protest signs of events since the Stonewall Riots in 1969. This exhibition features 12 risograph printed font specimen posters to showcase 10 protest fonts created since 2018. Twenty-five open-source work examples printed exclusively for this exhibition are also featured. These works thematically and broadly fit into four categories: personal, collective, institutional and protest. All featured works were created by others using the open-source permission model, which allows participants to use these open-source fonts freely for their own personal, fundraising or for-profit purposes. ICA LA is located at 1717 E. 7th St., Los Angeles. Admission to ICA LA is free with advanced reservations recommended. theicala.org

JAN. 18

ACADEMY MUSEUM OF MOTION PICTURES: "HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE"

11 A.M.

An adaptation of Diana Wynne Jones' fantasy novel of the same name, Hayao Miyazaki's Oscar-nominated film "Howl's Moving Castle" is a pitch-perfect fairy tale about aging and war, set in a dazzling steampunk world. When young hatmaker Sophie is transformed into a 90-year-old woman by the vengeful Witch of the Waste, she seeks to break the curse with the help of the enigmatic wizard Howl, the fire demon Calcifer, and the magical moving castle they inhabit. Tickets for this screening are \$5 for all guests. The Academy Museum is located at 6067 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles. academymuseum.org

JAN. 18-19

SANTA MONICA PLAYHOUSE: "ALEICHEM SHOLOM"

3 P.M., 7 P.M.

"Aleichem Sholom: The Wit and Wisdom of Sholom Aleichem" will be presented by the Santa Monica Playhouse Jewish Heritage project. This musical is performed in English with just a taste of Yiddish and follows the life of the beloved Yiddish storyteller Sholom Aleichem and his mespoche, spinning tales of his loves and losses, his fame and his failures, his travels, his travails and the tremendous joy and optimism that kept him going against all odds. Tickets are \$35, with discounts available for students, seniors and members of

the military. Santa Monica Playhouse is located at 1211 4th St., Santa Monica. santamonicaplayhouse.com

JAN. 22

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM LA: "ONLINE CLASS: THE HISTORY OF ANTISEMITISM"

4-5:15 P.M.

Holocaust Museum LA presents the opportunity to learn from renowned scholar Dr. Michael Berenbaum. This three-session class will address the roots of antisemitism and its shifting context through millennia. This second session of the course will address the so-called "scientific" antisemitism embraced by Nazi ideology. This is a three-part course, with the next class on Jan. 29. Admission to this class is \$36. holocaustmuseumla.org

JAN. 23

THE WALLIS: "MAKING OF MEMORYHOUSE"

6:30 P.M.

"Making of Memoryhouse" is a documentary film following choreographer Melissa Barak as she dives in head first with her creative team in order to bring a ballet inspired by the Holocaust to emotional life. Through performance and rehearsal clips, as well as interviews and powerful survivor testimony, audiences are brought into the creative process where Barak works on building a theatrical dance experience like no other. A post-screening conversation will feature Barak, Holocaust survivors and Holocaust Museum LA's Chief Impact Officer

Jordanna Gessler. Tickets are \$16.50. The Wallis is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills. thewallis.org

JAN. 25-26

ODYSSEY THEATRE: "DANCE AT THE ODYSSEY: SHELL"

2 P.M., 8 P.M.

Odyssey Theatre presents the next installment of "Dance at the Odyssey" in which dance and sound emerge from a cardboard shelter, blossoming into a landscape of quilts in "Shell," choreographed by Ellen Smith Ahern. Known for combining nature, storytelling and movement to create a lush, dream-expanding sensory experience, Ahern partners with local artists to explore what it means to listen and communicate through diverse bodies and voices for this work-in-progress. A conversation with the dancers follows. The Odyssey Theatre is located at 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles. Free parking is available in an onsite lot. All tickets are \$28. odysseytheatre.com

JAN. 29 - MARCH 2

GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE: "NOISES OFF"

2 P.M., 3 P.M., 7 P.M., 8 P.M.

Geffen Playhouse presents "Noises Off" where doors slam, sardines fly and trousers drop in Michael Frayn's side-splitting British farce about a theater company desperately trying to get their act together. Both onstage and backstage, chaos reigns for a troupe of floundering actors whose forgotten lines, misplaced props and steamy romantic entanglements make it nearly impossible for the show to go on. An uproarious love letter to the theater, "Noises Off" is a peek behind the curtain—where everything that can go wrong, does. Tickets range from \$36-\$155. Geffen Playhouse is located at 10886 Le Conte Ave., Los Angeles. geffenplayhouse.org

FEB. 2

THEATRE 40: "AN EVENING OF INTIMATE CONVERSATION WITH STACY KEACH"

7 P.M.

Theatre 40 will host a conversation with actor Stacy Keach. Keach has had a distinguished career for over six decades, appealing in different ways to different generations for his varied roles on stage, screen and television throughout his long career. Mr. Keach will be interviewed by Maxwell Caulfield. Proceeds from this special evening with Mr. Keach and Mr. Caulfield will go to support the ongoing artistic activities of Theatre 40, the professional theatre company of Beverly Hills, now in its 59th year. Admission to this event is \$50. The event will be held at the Mary Levin Cutler Theatre at 241 S. Moreno Dr., Beverly Hills. Free parking is available in the parking lot beneath the theatre. theatre40.org



Photo by Cheryl Mann Photography

The Wallis will host a screening of the documentary "Making of Memoryhouse" on Jan. 23.



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City Council Discusses Pressing Issues and Future Plans



BY SELINA KAUSAR

The Beverly Hills City Council and Parking Authority met on Jan. 9 to address several key issues, including updates from the police department and public works department, as well as plans concerning One Beverly Hills and the potential impact of the 2026 World Cup.

Although the emergent weather conditions were a key topic of discussion, the council approved the adoption of an encroachment permit and covenant with BH Luxury Residences LLC, owner of the property located at 9900 Wilshire Boulevard. This allows a temporary pedestrian bridge to encroach over North Santa Monica Boulevard to facilitate construction of the \$2 billion One

Beverly Hills project. Construction professionals currently use the crosswalk at the intersection of Santa Monica Boulevard and Wilshire Boulevard to reach the One Beverly Hills construction site from the temporary construction office location. The installation of the proposed pedestrian bridge will facilitate faster, safer and more efficient access to the construction site for these professionals.

As the One Beverly Hills development has progressed, various additional traffic-related reviews and consulting services have been required that extend beyond those initially agreed upon by the city of Beverly Hills and Fehr & Peers, who are assisting the city in reviewing transportation reports and traffic engineering design plans. As a

result, the authorized budget of \$50,000 has been depleted more quickly than originally anticipated and so the council approved an extension to \$100,000. This extra amount will be used to maintain traffic consulting services throughout the multiyear construction period of One Beverly Hills.

Fire Chief Gregory Barton discussed the issue of incorrect evacuation notifications from other agencies after a false evacuation alert was mistakenly sent to millions of Los Angeles County residents on Jan. 9. Barton assured residents that Beverly Hills will issue any evacuation orders directly, if needed. He emphasized the fire department's efforts to continue monitoring the situation closely and their preparedness to respond quickly to any incidents should they arise.

Chief of Police Mark Stainbrook told the council that the Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) is fully staffed and ready to assist the fire department with

any of their needs. "Please, if you see any suspicious activity or incidents of smoke or fire, call 911. Our Real Time Watch Center is also monitoring our cameras and reporting any incidents of smoke or fire in the city," he said.

Stainbrook also shared details on the new technology, including automated license plate readers and aerial coverage drones, that the BHPD is using to enhance law enforcement and intercept criminals before they commit crimes. According to Stainbrook, the department is facing challenges in recruiting new officers due to the current job market but is working to attract qualified applicants. The city has also raised officer pay to be the highest in Southern California, with Stainbrook encouraging community members to refer potential candidates.

Director of Public Works Shana Epstein
See CITY COUNCIL, page 13

More than 100 Women File Lawsuit Against Beverly Hills OB-GYN and Cedars-Sinai

BY SELINA KAUSAR

More than 100 women have filed a new lawsuit against Barry J. Brock, M.D., an obstetrician-gynecologist who formerly worked at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. The plaintiffs allege severe sexual misconduct and abuse at the hands of Dr. Brock.

The lawsuit was filed in Los Angeles Superior Court by law firms Arias Sanguinetti and the DiPietro Law Firm on Dec. 27. The case is filed against Brock alongside institutional defendants Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and two private health clinics where Brock was also employed, Beverly Hills OB-GYN and Rodeo Drive Women's Health Center.

This case follows two prior lawsuits that recounted similar experiences from 60 of Brock's former patients, bringing the total number of women suing Brock to 167.

Anthony T. DiPietro of the DiPietro Law Firm, told the Courier, "We're currently reviewing dozens more and expect to be filing additional cases in the next few weeks."

The complaints allege that despite his position as a trusted and respected doctor, Brock routinely sexually assaulted and harassed these patients, all women, with accusations spanning four decades.

In the most recent complaint, plaintiffs allege a list of sexual violations, including repeated and unwarranted pap smears, breast exams and vaginal or rectal exams, alongside making inappropriate, invasive and sexual remarks during appointments.

Furthermore, Brock reportedly denied patients Cesarean sections and instead performed dangerous vaginal birth procedures,

often using risky vacuum extractions which caused injury to both mother and baby. The lawsuit details, "Brock was known to be such a menace by Cedars-Sinai staff members, that neonatal intensive care unit personnel referred to infants who arrived in the NICU with cracked skulls as "Brock Babies."

According to the complaint, the misconduct committed by Brock was enabled, known, covered up and actively concealed by Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

"Cedars has known about Brock's misconduct for decades," DiPietro said, "But instead of firing him, reporting him to the State Medical Board or law enforcement, the only thing they did was conceal Brock's abuse from the public, the press and the very patients who were entrusting Cedars with their healthcare."

The lawsuit alleges that Cedars-Sinai "actively and deliberately" concealed Brock's behavior from other unsuspecting patients as they continued to employ Brock until his "quiet" suspension in August 2024.

When asked for comment, a spokesperson for Cedars-Sinai said, "The type of behavior alleged about Dr. Barry Brock is counter to Cedars-Sinai's core values and the trust we strive to earn every day with our patients. Dr. Brock no longer has privileges to practice medicine at Cedars-Sinai, and we have reported this matter to the California Medical Board. We recognize the legal process must now take its course, and we remain committed to Cedars-Sinai's sacred healing mission and serving our community.

The Courier reached out to Brock's attorney, Tracy Green, who did not respond to a request for comment. ●

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FIRE CHIEF GREG BARTON, from page 1 to ensure their own safety and that of their community.

“The city of Beverly Hills has always been very proactive and forward thinking,” said Barton, “especially with regards to wildland fires.”

Following the rapid spread of the Palisades Fire, the Eaton Fire and several other smaller blazes last week, much of L.A. County remained under a red flag warning issued this week by the National Weather Service. Some portions of Eastern L.A. County and neighboring Ventura County areas were under an even more severe “Particularly Dangerous Situation” (PDS) warning.

Those warnings expired for most of L.A. and Ventura Counties at 6 p.m. Wednesday, with the exception of several small areas where high winds were expected.

Barton said firefighters are working hard to combat nearby flames but asked residents to remain vigilant.

“I feel very comfortable right now with the progress the firefighters are making on the fires surrounding Beverly Hills,” he said. “However, residents still need to be diligent, and if they see something, please call 911 so that we can address it right away.”

Beverly Hills has long been a leader in fire preparedness. Since 2005, the city has been credited as a Firewise USA site. That designation, given by the National Fire Protection

Association, means the municipality has met certain criteria for fire prevention.

In the case of Beverly Hills, those criteria included working with a representative from the United States Fire Service to assess the hillside area north of Sunset Boulevard, which is designated by California as a very high fire hazard severity zone.

“[The representative] came and did an assessment for us and created a plan of what to do, and that was what we used to base our decisions moving forward,” said Barton.

Those decisions included implementing increased communication with residents, putting up signage for evacuation routes, and the installation of information boxes for visiting firefighters in the event of an emergency, among other actions.

Officials also conduct annual inspections of the area north of Sunset beginning each April, but Barton emphasizes that residents have a year-round responsibility to maintain brush clearance and ensure their homes are up to code.

That means installing a Class A roof, protecting eaves with the condition-resistant materials and covering vents.

The full list of best practices for brush clearing and home construction is available at beverlyhills.org/DocumentCenter/View/3081/Brush-Clearance-Brochure-and-Evacuation-Routes-PDF.

With regards to dangers still facing the

city, Barton noted that the majority of fires are started by embers.

“They’ll land in vegetation, or they’ll land on wood roofs or some type of vulnerable part of the structure, and they will get the structure ignited at that point,” he said.

There is little, if anything, residents or firefighters can do to reduce the likelihood of embers traveling by wind, but the same protective measures—good brush clearance and fire-resistant construction—are still the best means of prevention.

To that end, Barton said Beverly Hills residents have been great collaborators.

“I want to thank the community for their brush clearance and the community being proactive,” he said. “It is definitely a partnership between the fire department and the residents.”

In response to the suggestion that nearby cities may not be as proactive, Barton noted that the city is doing all it can to help.

“Beverly Hills has the ability to enforce codes in Beverly Hills,” he said. “However, we are working with our partners to ensure that they are doing the proper clearance on neighboring properties that directly affect the city of Beverly Hills.”

During a recent Rotary Club of Beverly Hills luncheon, Barton (who is also the organization’s president) fielded a series of questions about the availability of water in the city. The inquiries came amid reports that fire hydrants

in Altadena and Pacific Palisades ran out of water as firefighters attempted to battle blazes in each respective area.

Barton assured residents that this is not a concern in Beverly Hills. In addition to being well-resourced in terms of available water, he noted that the city has emergency connections with the Department of Water and Power on one side and then Metropolitan Water District on the other.

“There’s plenty of water in the hydrants,” he said. “We’ve never drained down. We’re just fine. You don’t have to worry about that.”

Barton and Mayor Lester Friedman have released regular video updates about the fires online, and on Jan. 15, released their final report.

“Unless new conditions warrant, this will be our final video briefing from the emergency op center,” said Friedman. “You will be notified directly from the city of Beverly Hills if conditions change, and you need to take any action.”

Barton used the moment to assure residents once again that the city is as equipped as possible should any fires make their way through.

“I do want to reassure the community, the city of Beverly Hills, we are very well prepared as a city and as a community,” he said. ●

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FDIC 

Director David Lynch Dies at 78



Photo by Featureflash/depositphotos.com
David Lynch

Oscar-nominated director David Lynch, best known for films such as “Blue Velvet” and “The Elephant Man” and the quirky television drama “Twin Peaks,” has died at age 78, his family announced on Jan. 16.

“It is with deep regret that we, his family, announce the passing of the man and the artist, David Lynch,” the family wrote on Facebook. “We would appreciate some privacy at this time. There’s a big hole in the world now that he’s no longer with us. But, as he would say, ‘Keep your eye on the donut and not on the hole.’ It’s a beautiful day with golden sunshine and blue skies all the way.”

No cause of death was released. Last year, Lynch told a British magazine that he would have to retire from filmmaking due to health reasons, saying he had “gotten emphysema from smoking for so long” and he did not want

to leave his home and possibly be exposed to COVID-19.

Lynch was nominated for writing and directing Oscars for 1980’s “The Elephant Man.” He received two more Best Director nominations for “Blue Velvet” and “Mulholland Drive.” He received an honorary Oscar in 2020.

Born in Montana, Lynch gained attention in the 1970s with his noir classic “Eraserhead,” which led to his breakthrough work on “The Elephant Man.” His follow-up to that film was 1984’s ambitious yet poorly received adaptation of Frank Herbert’s novel “Dune,” which starred a then-unknown actor named Kyle MacLachlan.

Lynch rebounded in 1986 with “Blue Velvet,” also starring MacLachlan along with Dennis Hopper and Laura Dern.

He made a major splash with the 1989 cable murder-mystery series “Twin Peaks,” again enlisting MacLachlan as an odd FBI agent investigating the killing of a teenage girl in a fictitious small town. He went on to direct films including “Lost Highway,” “Mulholland Drive,” “The Straight Story” and “Inland Empire.”

Actor/director Ron Howard responded to Lynch’s death Thursday, writing on X that Lynch was “a gracious man and fearless artist who followed his heart and soul proved that radical experimentation could yield unforgettable cinema.”

City News Service ●

SUPPORT, from page 1

men’s and women’s pajamas, undergarments and socks. All donations will go directly to first responders and evacuees. The drop-off will take place from 1 - 4 p.m. at Fire Station 1, located at 445 N. Rexford Dr.

Rotary Club member JR Dzubak told the Courier, “We have an opportunity as a community to come together to make an impact as a collective. We want to make a difference as we do in Rotary because Rotary is about service above self and people of action, and now we’re engaging the entire city of Beverly Hills to take action. That is why it’s important for everyone to participate in the heart of the hills.”

A number of other organizations are also accepting donations to support those

affected by the wildfires. Dream Center is offering emergency shelter to those evacuated in the Palisades and Eaton Canyon Fires. Friends in Deed is a non-profit organization that has opened a Bad Weather Shelter amid the fires and is in need of donations. Direct Relief’s California Fire Relief is also welcoming donations—they provide N-95 masks, medicine and resources to healthcare agencies and first responders in areas affected by wildfires.

A full list of organizations providing supplies, shelter and support to wildfire victims can be found on the city’s website at <https://beverlyhills.org/1514/Donation-Information>.

●

ROBBERY, from page 1

continue to make every effort to ensure all practices and standards are in line with strict safety and security protocols. We are working with the third-party store and cooperating fully with local authorities.”

The suspects fled in several vehicles after the robbery. One of the vehicles, a black Mercedes sedan, was located by the BHPD shortly thereafter. When officers attempted to make a traffic stop, the vehicle did not yield. Officers pursued the Mercedes into Bel-Air, with the pursuit concluding on Sepulveda Boulevard and Moraga Drive. Five suspects were taken into custody, along with evidence and property connected to the robbery.

Orth told the Beverly Hills Courier that no officers were injured during the pursuit or arrests.

Arrested were Alexander Cash, 20; Kolion Beyan, 20; Jordan Jackson, 20; Kevin Turner, 23 and James Knight, 19. All are from Los Angeles. All were booked on suspicion of felony robbery, burglary, organized retail theft and criminal conspiracy. Beyan was additionally charged with resisting arrest,

reckless evading, assault with deadly weapon or force likely to produce great bodily injury and receiving stolen property. Jordan was also booked on suspicion of reckless evading and resisting arrest. Turner was booked on suspicion of reckless evading and resisting arrest. Knight was booked on suspicion of resisting arrest and receiving stolen property.

The charges of organized retail theft are charges newly available to law enforcement pursuant to a statute that went into effect on Jan. 1. A conviction carries a maximum sentence of one year in prison.

The BHPD is still searching for one vehicle as well as several additional suspects. ●



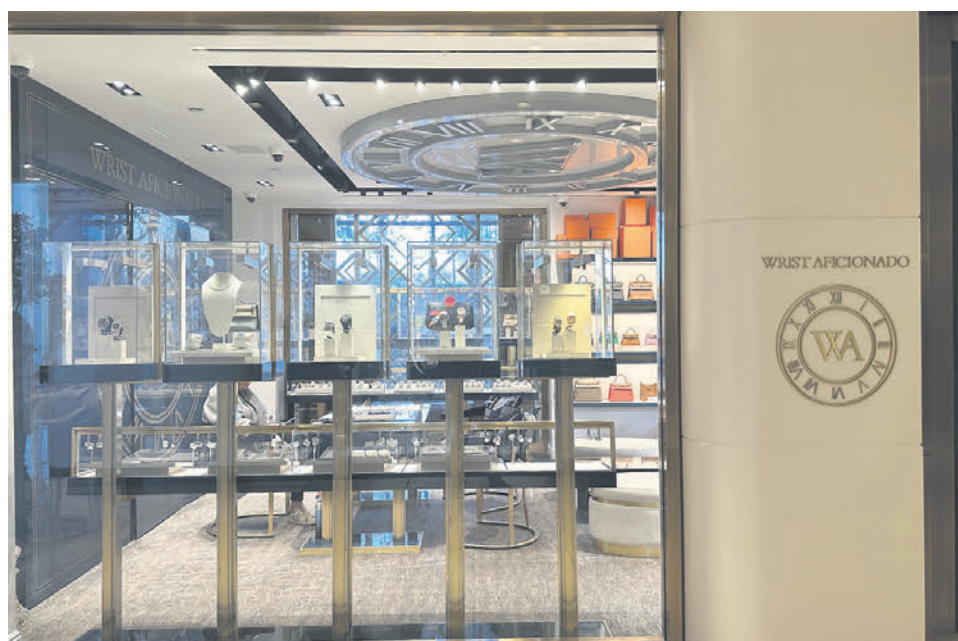
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For further information regarding dates, times and tickets please call the Theatre 40 special events phone number

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www.theatre40.org

'I'm Still Here'—Forever



Photos by Allie Onawale, courtesy of Sony Pictures Classics

The movie Pavia family and friends

BY NEELY SWANSON

Walter Salles, the internationally famous Brazilian director of “Central Station” and “The Motorcycle Diaries,” has gifted us with another film that transcends boundaries. “I’m Still Here,” adapted by Murilo Hauser and Heitor Lorega from the book by Marcelo Rubens Paiva, tells the gut-wrenching and engrossing story of the disappearance of Paiva’s father, Rubens.

It is 1971 and the Paiva family lives comfortably at the beach in Rio de Janeiro. Eunice and Rubens enjoy a quiet life of joy with each other and their five children. Brazil has been under a military dictatorship since 1964 and, for a short time after, Rubens, a congressman in the pre-junta government, had to leave Brazil. Forcibly retired from politics, he works at his architecture firm designing for others as well as the dream house he has planned for his family. But there has been an uptick in government suppression and much like, actually identical to, the “desaparecidos” (the disappeared) in Argentina, also under military control, suspected leftists, so-called agitators, long-haired students and former politicians have been arrested and sequestered from view. Many were never seen or heard from again.

Rubens’ closest friends have chosen

to move to London and beg him to come with them. An optimist at heart, he refuses but allows them to take his eldest daughter with them, fashioning it as a gap year. She has been traveling in dangerous company and the Paivas see the wisdom in removing her from the scene. Unfortunately, his optimism is misplaced and he, too, is soon arrested when a group of men, none in uniform, come to the house. Declaring that he will return as soon as he answers some basic questions, they leave two thugs at the house to monitor the family’s comings and goings. Not only does he not return but more para-militarists arrive at the home to arrest Eunice, subjecting her to a surreal experience in a hidden military jail full of unknowns and the unknowing, many of whom scream in torture.

Salles builds his story gradually, introducing us to the normalcy of the Paivas as they play and work and live the small annoyances and joys of every close-knit family. Not ostentatious, but it is clear they are wealthy, with staff, private schools and the leisure of bathing daily in the sea outside their front door.

The family is feeling the loss of the patriarch in myriad ways. His interactions with them all are documented in home movies that they enjoy watching and reliving.



Fernanda Torres

The nightmare intensifies when Eunice is snatched away. Returning home, she is changed and determined, with a steely-eyed focus. There had been rumors for some time that people were being abducted, never to return home. All she has ever wanted, or will want, is a definitive answer. She realizes that she will never be told what his alleged crime was, but she wants, needs to know whether he is still alive and, if so, where he

is being held. This, basically, is what the film is about—the search for truth.

“I’m Still Here” refers to Eunice. It is her daily invocation just to know. Her bravery in the face of defeat is a portrait of valor, fighting against the odds for truth. A woman, alone in an oppressive patriarchy, fights and we follow.

Fernanda Torres, as Eunice, effortlessly exhibits a full range of emotions, sometimes

within mere moments. She makes you care about Eunice and understand the untenable situation into which she has been thrust. She ages before your eyes, and in a casting coup, her mother, the recently deceased Fernanda Montenegro, plays Eunice in her later years. Montenegro, it should be noted, was nominated in 1999 for Best Actress at the Academy Awards for her stunning role in “Central Station.” In a fitting tribute to those two generations, Torres recently won the Best Actress in a Drama at the Golden Globes.

Selton Mello plays Rubens Paiva. Sympathetic, empathetic, joyful, serious, he paints his character with a nuanced palette. Salles and his writers have given each of the Paiva children fully developed characters imbued with adolescent prickliness, loneliness, love and closeness.

This is a powerful story, one that affected far too many. Brazil was only one of many countries whose unelected military dictatorships disappeared their enemies, many of whom were merely exercising a long-abandoned right to dissent. In Argentina, the wives and mothers of the “desaparecidos” still maintain a vigil outside the Casa Rosada (their White House) demanding answers,

answers that rarely come. “I’m Still Here” is about demanding answers.

This is a swiftly moving film that rarely flags. If there is a fault, it is an all-too-common one. Salles had too much that he wanted to say. When he focused on Eunice’s steadfast demand for answers, one that she would maintain for many years, the movie is superb. When he deviated from his focus on the wrongs inflicted on the Paiva family and its political implications, he lessened the impact that he had established. Following Eunice’s activities as she established herself independent of her search became more of a “and then she did this and then she did that” kind of narrative. Yes, Eunice Paiva was an interesting and courageous woman who broke barriers and defied expectations, but this is a movie about a search for answers. By expanding the premise he originally set out, he made the ending feel more like a coda.

This is a must-see movie if only from the standpoint that we should never forget what happened and try to make sure it doesn’t happen again, there or anywhere.

In Portuguese with English subtitles.

Opening Jan. 17 at the Laemmle Royal and AMC The Grove 14. ●



Photo by Adrian Teijido, courtesy of Sony Pictures Classics

The movie Paiva family in 2014



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 tomatometer-approved critic.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

The Council of the City of Beverly Hills, at its regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, **January 28, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard**, in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210, will hold a public hearing to consider:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING SHORT TERM RENTAL REGULATIONS (TRANSIENT USES) FOR SINGLE FAMILY AND MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL ZONES, AND MAKING A DETERMINATION OF EXEMPTION UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

The City Council will consider adoption of an ordinance to amend the short term rental regulations applicable to single-family and multifamily residential zones, which are referred to as “single-family and multifamily transient uses” in the Beverly Hills Municipal Code (BHMC). The Planning Commission previously reviewed this topic at the August 8, 2024 study session and at their November 14, 2024 regular meeting adopted Planning Commission Resolution No. 2076 unanimously recommending the City Council adopt the draft ordinance. The draft ordinance includes, but is not limited to the following changes:

- A prohibition on short term rental uses in any residential zone of the City, including the use of accessory features such as pools or tennis courts;
- A minimum initial lease term of one year for the rental of units in single-family residential zones and a minimum initial lease term of 6 months for multi-family units in the City; and
- Changes to other sections of the BHMC related to short term rentals, such as a penalty fee structure specific to short term rentals.

This summary of the ordinance is prepared and published in accordance with the requirements of Government Code §36933. Pursuant to the requirements of Government Code §36933, a certified copy of the entirety of the text of the proposed ordinance will be available for review during normal business hours at the Office of the City Clerk Office located at City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Second Floor, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 at least five days before the City Council will consider adoption of the ordinance.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This project has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the environmental regulations of the City. Since the project does not authorize construction, and actually imposes greater use restrictions on certain properties to protect the public health, safety and general welfare, there is no possibility that it may have a significant effect on the environment. In addition, the project reflects minor changes in land use limitations, and do not result in changes to land use or density. Accordingly, the City Council will consider a recommendation to find the project categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15305 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Please be advised that pre-entry metal detector screening requirements are now in place at City Hall. Members of the public are requested to plan visits accordingly. Members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending in-person or telephonically, and may view the meeting through live webcast or BHTV Channel 10 on Spectrum Cable. City Council meetings

are broadcast on local Beverly Hills television and on other media platforms. Anyone who participates at the meeting and/or enters the City Council Chamber is subject to having their image displayed. These recordings will remain publicly accessible in perpetuity.

Public Comment Participation:

- Oral Comment/Listen only: (310) 288-2288
- Email: cityclerk@beverlyhills.org
- Video (during public comment only): <http://beverlyhills.org/comment>
- To Watch Video Live: <http://beverlyhills.org/live> or
- On-Demand: <http://beverlyhills.org/citycouncilmeetings>
- In-Person: Submit a Speaker Card to the City Clerk at the meeting

How to Submit Public Comment (Email/Video):

It is recommended that public written comments be submitted to the City Clerk’s office by 12:00 p.m. on the meeting date. Public comments will also be taken during the meeting when the topic is being reviewed by the City Council/Parking Authority. Written comments should identify the Agenda Item Number or Topic in the subject line of the email. The City Clerk will read only the first three minutes (approximately 350 words) of a written comment. In the event of a large number of written comments on one item, written comments may be summarized by the City Clerk’s Office. The entire written comment shall be archived in full as part of the record.

If a comment is received after the agenda item is heard, it will not be a part of the record. Public comment via video conference will be no longer than three (3) minutes per each individual comment, subject to City Council discretion based on the anticipated length in the meeting. In-person speaker cards may be submitted to the City Clerk directly during the meeting.

Any interested person may participate in the meeting and be heard or present written comments to the City Council. According to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge the Council’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.

In Person Participation:

All interested persons are invited to attend and speak on this matter in person. Please see the above information on the location and time of this meeting.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact **Chloe Chen, Principal Planner** in the Planning Division of the Community Development Department at **(310) 285-1194**, or by email at cchen@beverlyhills.org. Please also contact us to add your email to the interested parties list for this ordinance, so that important updates and notifications may be sent to you.

HUMA AHMED
City Clerk



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) 285-2400 (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.

Minding Your Mental Health Amid the Flames



BY EVA RITVO, M.D.

As efforts to contain the fires across Los Angeles continue, the extent of the devastation is difficult to fathom. In last week's article, I discussed the state of shock experienced during a crisis of this magnitude. For many, this feeling will persist for months or even years, depending on one's level of trauma, personal history, and coping mechanisms. For a reminder of steps to take when in shock, please revisit "Navigating the LA Fires: How to Stay Safe and Supported" <https://beverlyhillscourier.com/2025/01/09/navigating-the-la-fires-how-to-stay-safe-and-supported/>.

The emotional toll of last week's events has been just as intense as the physical destruction for many in and around the LA area. Fear, uncertainty, grief and anger have been widespread, leaving many people feeling overwhelmed and exhausted. In times like these, it's crucial to protect not only our physical safety but also our mental health.

Whether you've lost a friend or family member, your home, your neighborhood, or lived through the terror of the unknown, you are most likely experiencing a wide range of fluctuating emotions. Allowing yourself permission to fully feel these emotions can be an important first step in the healing process. Recovery will require time, patience, and support in large quantities.

While most people gradually recover from the emotional aftershocks of a disaster, others will develop Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The following steps can help reduce the risk of long-term psychological sequelae:

1. Anchor Yourself in the Present Moment

Ask yourself: Am I safe right now? Are my loved ones safe right now? If the answer is yes, take a moment to fully engage with your surroundings. Notice the objects around you,

listen to the sounds in your environment, feel the texture of what's nearby, or taste the food you're eating. By anchoring yourself in the present moment, you can calm your mind and reduce anxiety and allow for healing to begin.

2. Calm Your Nervous System

Simple activities like deep breathing, listening to soothing music, taking a warm bath or sipping tea can have a profound impact on your nervous system. These small gestures remind your body that you are safe and you can relax. Take time each day to engage in these acts of self-kindness as a powerful tool to help your nervous system recover.

3. Reestablish a Routine

Although the fires have disrupted our daily lives, finding small ways to maintain a routine can bring a sense of stability and control amid the chaos. Whether it's meal-times, exercise or sleep, consistency in daily activities can help ground you in the midst of uncertainty.

4. Talk About Your Experience

One of the most effective ways to process trauma is by sharing your feelings with trusted friends, family or a support group. Talking about what you've been through can help alleviate feelings of isolation and provide emotional relief. Remember: You are not alone in your pain.

5. Prioritize Rest

As we discussed last week, sleep is crucial for emotional and physical recovery. Aim to rest whenever possible, even if sleep proves elusive. Daytime naps can be particularly restorative if your nervous system feels frazzled. If insomnia persists, consider consulting a healthcare provider for guidance.

6. Recognize the Signs of PTSD

Trauma can harm us psychologically, not just physically. Intrusive thoughts, hyper-vigilance, difficulty sleeping, nightmares, flashbacks, and avoidance of certain situations or conversations may occur during the early days and weeks. If symptoms are debilitating or linger beyond the first month, seek guidance from a mental health professional. Like most diseases, prevention and early intervention are key.

7. Find Professional Support

In addition to the resources mentioned last week, consider the following local services that specialize in treating people after disasters:

- California Hope: Provides crisis counseling and emotional support for disaster survivors (Call 1-800-985-5990 or text "TalkWithUs" to 66746).

- Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health: Offers 24/7 crisis intervention and referrals (Call 1-800-854-7771).

- MySafe:LA: A nonprofit focused on fire prevention and recovery resources for affected families.

- Local Support Groups: Organizations like the Red Cross and United Way offer support groups and recovery events in affected areas.

8. Volunteer

Helping loved ones and neighbors is crucial. By reaching out to others, whether through a kind word, a listening ear, or material support, we not only help those in need but also contribute to our own healing process. Many agencies need support in areas like firefighting assistance, recovery efforts, evacuation, and providing relief to affected communities. If you're looking to volunteer in Los Angeles, explore the following agencies:

- LAFD Volunteering
- American Red Cross LA Volunteering
- LACoFD Volunteering
- California Volunteers
- Salvation Army LA
- California Fire Foundation
- Los Angeles Disaster Response Volunteering
- L.A. Works

9. Donations:

Monetary donations are crucial in these times, and it's important to give wisely. Use platforms like GuideStar and Charity Navigator to ensure your donations are going to reputable organizations with proven track records.

Places to Donate:

- California Community Foundation Wildfire Relief Fund: Supports immediate relief and long-term recovery efforts.

- American Red Cross, Los Angeles Region: Provides shelter, meals and emotional support.

- Direct Relief: Supplies medical resources to healthcare providers.

- United Way of Greater Los Angeles: Aids displaced families and helps rebuild communities.

- California Fire Foundation: Offers financial support for firefighters and victims.

- LA Fire Department Foundation: Supplies equipment for first responders.

- World Central Kitchen: Delivers meals to fire-affected communities.

- GoFundMe: You can donate directly to individuals or families in need.

As we continue to navigate the uncertainty of the upcoming days and weeks, let us prioritize self-care and treat ourselves and others with kindness and compassion. Together, we can overcome our current hardships and work together to build a safer future for all.

"In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity."

– Albert Einstein ●



Beverly Hills Courier columnist Dr. Eva Ritvo is a psychiatrist with more than 30 years' experience practicing in Miami Beach. She is the author of "Bekindr-The Transformative Power of Kindness" and the founder of the Bekindr Global Initiative, a movement to bring more kindness in the world. She is the co-author of "The Beauty Prescription" and "The Concise Guide to Marriage and Family Therapy." She is also the co-founder of the Bold Beauty Project, a nonprofit that pairs women with disabilities with award-winning photographers creating art exhibitions to raise awareness. Dr. Ritvo received her undergraduate and medical degrees from UCLA, and psychiatry residency training at Weill Cornell Medicine.

Aftermath of a Firestorm

Photographer/actor/director Hart Denton set out on Jan. 15 to memorialize some of the destruction inflicted upon lives and property by the deadly Palisades Fire. His images convey entire districts in disarray, landmarks lost and the enduring power of Mother Nature. All photos by Hart Denton/Photo Assistant Elysée Sanvillé



A pristine white gate is all that remains of a destroyed property.



Antioch Street in Pacific Palisades



National Guard positioned on Sunset Boulevard



A tranquil Pacific Ocean as seen from the ruins of a home



Front steps leading up to what was once a home



The historic Topanga Ranch Motel, built by William Randolph Hearst

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Birthdays



ANNETTE SALEH
January 17



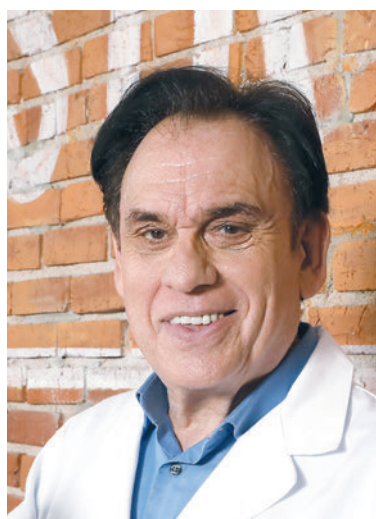
DAVE BAUTISTA
January 18



STEVEN GARDNER
January 19



RAYLENE MEYER
January 19



EARL MINDELL
January 20



AHRYA FAR
January 22



ROCHELLE MAIZE
January 23

BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

TO HELP SHOWCASE OUR COMMUNITY AT ITS BEST, PLEASE SEND A CURRENT PHOTO EVERY YEAR ALONG WITH YOUR FULL NAME AND PHONE NUMBER. ALL PHOTOS MUST BE HIGH-RESOLUTION, AT LEAST 300 DPI.

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



Astrology

BY HOLIDAY MATIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Don't be too hard on yourself for falling off track with a goal. It happens, and it doesn't erase the good work you've done. You can restart anytime, and today brings strategies to make it easier or more sustainable.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Who is on your side? Hopefully you'll lead that club. The better you get at advocating for yourself, the more fitting your opportunities and relationships will be. It all starts with counting yourself as the most important friend in your life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's the temptation to live in comparison -- to weigh your struggles and gains against others. This is a trick. Resist and you gain freedom. People often don't deserve the lot they draw, but here we are, making our moves. What's the next one for you?

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You take matters of service seriously, giving your full attention, paying special notice to the preferences of others. It's not just doing a thing but doing it the right way and with the attitude befitting the best

experience for all. This is what will set you apart now.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Fantastical thinking is a double-edged sword. On one side, it fuels creativity, hope and vision -- the things that inspire us to reach for something greater. But on the other side, it can become a trap if it keeps us in the comfort of dreaming without moving toward action.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Keeping relationships vibrant starts with meeting expectations but truly thrives when you go beyond them. Since expectations are always shifting, staying attuned and adaptable is key. By aiming to surprise and delight, you ensure your efforts resonate -- and today, you'll excel.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). We act in ways that serve our interests, but we are not always conscious of and deliberate in these actions. Your own behavior feels like a mystery, but rest assured, there's a purpose behind it -- even if it's not immediately clear.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You sometimes want to connect with people who are not good for you. Reflect on why you want to reach out. Is it loneliness? Stress? The need for a quick dopamine hit? Knowing what's behind the urge can help you address it in a healthier

way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You relate to people very different from you. They find themselves reflected in your gestures, eye contact, the pause you take before speaking. You'll be the tuning fork vibrating at their frequency.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The funny points of view you encounter delight you. You will accept some realities and challenge others. Your will, mind and imagination determine which goes into what category.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's like you're playing an intensely psychological game of poker. What makes the game so interesting is opponents who are a worthy match. Your sense of truth will be put to the test.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your style works in multiple circumstances. It's like a chameleon -- effortlessly blending yet always leaving a trace of your signature. Your talent now is for making a space for understanding and shaping connections.



Kai is a 6-month-old, 7-pound chihuahua in need of a new home. If interested in adopting her, please contact Kim Sill at Shelter of Hope at 310-770-3571.

shelterhopepetshop.org

CITY COUNCIL, from page 4

provided an update on the department's efforts in the wake of the heavy winds and fires, with the aim of ensuring that if the city loses power, water can still be moved. "We start Public Works' operational period the minute we get the signs that we're going to have a windstorm," she said. "We've had staff here for mitigation of preemptive debris removal, topping off fuel for vehicles and generators, and filling the reservoirs like we do for when there's any red flag incident." The most useful thing concerned residents can do, Epstein said, is turn off sprinklers to

help conserve water for firefighting efforts.

Barton was asked about the fire department's plans to keep up with increased demand from the upcoming completion of Metro, One Beverly Hills and more housing units, while maintaining current response times. He said that a full-time rescue unit was created ahead of the construction of One Beverly Hills, as they anticipated an increase in call volume from the new development. Consequently, the fire department is monitoring the call load data from other Metro stations to understand the potential impact on their resources and is prepared to request

additional support from the City Council if needed to maintain their response times.

Mayor Lester Friedman and Stainbrook also confirmed that preliminary meetings regarding the World Cup in 2026 are now underway. Stainbrook informed the council of three main areas of focus—namely, management of additional tourists, security concerns and potential economic implications. The mayor acknowledged that the

World Cup could provide an economic boost for the city through increased tourism and spending. However, with an increased number of visitors likely to come to Beverly Hills over the World Cup period, the city wants to reassure the local community that they will take a proactive approach to maximize safety and limit crowds ahead of the games. ●

www.beverlyhillscourier.com

Letter to the Editor

What Is The City of Beverly Hills Doing to Make Sure The Next Fire Is Not As Devastating?

Dear Editor,

I am sure every member of the Council, every city employee, every reporter for the Courier, and every resident of Beverly Hills are filtering the horrific news of the fires through the lens of how we can protect ourselves from this tragedy. While most people think about Beverly Hills from the perspective of the "Flats," Trousdale, Benedict Canyon and Coldwater Canyon hillside areas have similar topography as the Palisades.

I write this Letter to the Editor not to be critical of the city, its employees or its elected officials. Quite the contrary, I believe in many of the issues I have listed below, the city's record would provide welcome comfort to its residents. Hopefully, this letter will spawn a discussion that provides needed reassurance and possibly stimulates ideas for further review and discussion.

Unfortunately, Beverly Hills is not an island surrounded by water. We are surrounded by the city of Los Angeles, the city of West Hollywood and parts of unincorporated Los Angeles County. What those cities do and don't do impacts the level of fire safety and risk of danger that we face in Beverly Hills, even as the Beverly Hills Fire Department continues to maintain a Class I rating from the Insurance Services Office, an elite distinction carried by only a few fire departments in the nation.

Here are some issues that I worry about so that our beloved city might avoid the tragedy that has fallen on our neighboring communities.

1. Evacuation Protocols

Does the city have an evacuation protocol for moving people out of the hillside areas that is efficient and effective for both the residents and to facilitate emergency vehicle response? The city of Los Angeles failed miserably here. Palisades residents were told to abandon their cars and even leave their purses behind and walk to PCH.

We need to make sure we have multiple routes of egress and ingress for residents fleeing en masse and emergency vehicles rushing to the scene.

Most importantly, residents need to know these evacuation routes and the city should conduct live drills.

2. Water Supply and Water Pressure

The city has back up water supplies, but are they accessible for firefighting? Is the water pressure sufficient to allow every fire hydrant in the hillside areas sufficient water pressure to fight a massive blaze?

How would the use of all the hillside fire hydrants impact water pressure elsewhere in the city? Would there be sufficient water pressure to fight a fire in the flats if there was a massive wildfire in the hillside areas? No municipal water system is designed for every fire hydrant to be used at the same time.

But black swan events, while extremely rare, do happen. A black swan event is an event that has a very low probability of occurrence, but when it does it has a massively detrimental effect. It became popular to characterize such events as the Global Financial Crisis of 2008 when Lehman Bros and AIG failed and were required to be rescued by the federal government.

The mayor has done an excellent job letting the residents know that the water is safe for drinking. What would it take in an emergency for this directive to change and how does the city prepare for when the water is no longer potable?

3. Fire Department Budget

Does our fire department have all the resources it needs? According to press reports, the Mayor of Los Angeles made significant budget cuts to their fire department's budget.

Is the fire department fully staffed? I would hope that there are only a few open positions at BHFD.

Is there any additional training the fire department could use?

What technology is available to both the owners of residential and commercial buildings that might be useful?

Does the BHFD have relationships with private firefighting services and fire protection companies like Wildfire Defense Insurance Services <https://www.wdisinc.com/>? Such a service is one of the reasons that the Palisades Village is still standing.

This service would supplement the BHFD in an emergency. It is similar to what the police department does with Covered 6, the outside armed security firm contracted by the city. For policing, it has become an effective force

multiplier. The same might be the case with a private fire protection service.

4. Building Code Revisions

This is a time to take a comprehensive look at our building codes, much like every city did after the Northridge earthquake and created earthquake retrofitting requirements for new and existing buildings.

Here is a preliminary list of areas to review.

Hardscape is not necessarily the enemy. Landscaping is the fuel to feed fires. Let's not sacrifice safety and fire protection for beauty.

Trees and shrubs should be a safe distance from utility lines and buildings. A branch or limb that falls off during a windstorm and cuts a power line creates the heat that is one of the three elements needed for fire. A branch or limb that falls off during a windstorm and lands on a building is the fuel for a fire. The third element needed to create fire is oxygen and the wind amplifies that readily available component.

Typically, it takes 2 to 10 minutes for a fire to consume a home. Because of the high winds, the Palisades Fire is taking 1 to 2 minutes to consume a home. Let's have fire safety trump design review.

Should hillside homes be required to have fire retardant sprinkler systems on their roofs? This might be the case for new construction but older homes with certain type of roofs might need to be retrofitted.

Should homes with flammable roofs be required to be retrofitted with nonflammable roofing material?

5. Utility Lines Underground

Should the city consider a program of gradually replacing above ground utility lines by putting them underground, especially in hillside areas? While hugely expensive, I am sure the cost is much less than the loss from the Palisades fire. How many wildfires could have been prevented if these lines were underground?

6. Community Awareness

The city has a wonderful CERT (Community Emergency Response Training) program. The council and local press should encourage residents to avail themselves of these resources. Refresher courses in CERT are available and should be widely publicized. This would entail a larger budget for these services.

What to pack in your GO bag—this is a

decision you should have already made and not something you do when you have 5 minutes to evacuate under an emergency order. The time to think about scanning analog photos and storing them in the cloud is now. Cloud computer storage eliminates the need to include desktops in your GO bag.

7. Flood Control

As anyone who has survived a massive wildfire knows, heavy rains are typically paired with wildfires and that brings flooding. Often the flooding is as devastating or greater in terms of damage than the fire that preceded it. Once the last ember is doused, flood control should be top of mind.

Does the city have sand and burlap bags and the resources to put sandbags where needed to control the floods? This would be a good question to ask now rather than during the rainy season.

8. Helping Our Neighbors

As we turn our attention inward to learn lessons from this horrible disaster, let us not forget about our family and friends who may have lost everything or those who are displaced because they are not allowed to return to their damaged but not destroyed homes and require temporary housing for an uncertain period of time.

When a friend showed me a plastic bag from Target with socks, underwear and toilet articles and remarked: "This is everything I own," I was reminded of how lucky and fortunate we are.

What can we do to help our neighbors who are less fortunate? The city needs to think about what resources would benefit the residents of Pacific Palisades, Malibu, Santa Monica, Brentwood, Altadena, Flintridge, and La Canada who may have lost everything and how to help those communities.

Successful emergency preparedness is all about planning so that when the emergency strikes, checklist mentality kicks in and people respond with confidence because they know the drill.

Respectfully,
Mark Schwartz ●

Fun and Games

SUDOKU
01/17/25 ISSUE

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SUDOKU ANSWERS
01/10/25 ISSUE

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PUZZLE ANSWERS
01/10/25 ISSUE

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- - -	WORKER	PETE	HOPES
UNDER	DINE	- - -	CHARTS
HOODED	NDA	ROGUE	TOTO
- - -	SET	ANTELOPE	EVES
KETTLES	PAD	LADED	
TAMIL	SURGED	CMON	
ALONE	TREAD	PHU	ATM
- - -	DRIVES	TRISH	HASH
DEPP	EMILE	VENTI	INTO
ALOO	MOVES	- - -	DANCES
PTA	NED	AMOUR	TAINT
LAYS	FRAPPE	TINTS	
MOYER	BOG	SAFARIS	
DIRE	UPARROWS	DEC	
ODES	BESSET	ION	WHARFS
- - -	BACKER	SNAG	ETHAN
RAIMI	OOZE	DASHED	LINE
AIDED	SUES	OTTER	ANTE
GRAN	TDS	MAYER	SOAR

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THE NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE
01/17/25 ISSUE

ALL THINGS CHANGE
BY KAREEM AYAS / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Kareem Ayas is a high school teacher of English literature and film studies in Harlem. He grew up in Syria and Lebanon, moved to the United States in 2014 and started solving the Times crossword with co-workers during lunch breaks. Soon his puzzle habit led to constructing. Kareem says he gets his best theme ideas "as I walk my dog at midnight while listening to Duran Duran." Keep your thinking cap on, because he adds, "More often than not I start with the question 'What crossword rules can I break?'"

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Turmoil</p> <p>7 Protagonist of Arabian folk tales</p> <p>14 /</p> <p>19 They might be sewn in at a beauty parlor</p> <p>21 Mustangs sometimes race with them</p> <p>22 Many a Quentin Tarantino film role</p> <p>23 Classic Chevys</p> <p>24 Vanity fare?</p> <p>25 Super-excited</p> <p>26 Donkey Kong, e.g.</p> <p>27 Some chords</p> <p>29 Trash</p> <p>30 Unhappy spectators</p> <p>31 Live interview shout-out</p> <p>32 Common sales promotion</p> <p>34 End of fall?</p> <p>38 Increases</p> <p>39 Made less effective, in gamer slang</p> <p>40 Like some picture frames</p> <p>41 Part of a fishing line to which a hook is attached</p> <p>43 Characters from Homer and Herodotus?</p> <p>44 Goes higher, at an auction</p> <p>47 Part of a modern assembly line</p> <p>50 Some works of Pablo Neruda</p> | <p>54 Landmark featured in "Roman Holiday"</p> <p>57 Reveals everything</p> <p>59 Biblical inspiration for Caleb, in Steinbeck's "East of Eden"</p> <p>60 Landscaper's roll-out</p> <p>61 Jason of "Aquaman"</p> <p>62 Sign on a tray at a cash register ... or a hint to entering 32-Across</p> <p>71 Like Sherlock Holmes's "game"</p> <p>72 Away from work, for short</p> <p>73 Bit of plankton</p> <p>74 Place for some light rest?</p> <p>78 Band with the 2001 No. 1 hit "How You Remind Me" ... or a hint to entering 54-Across</p> <p>84 Long-running tour title for Taylor Swift</p> <p>85 Cultural meeting place</p> <p>87 Washington airport, informally</p> <p>88 Smartphone precursors, for short</p> <p>89 Typical features of locker rooms</p> <p>92 European capital said to be the site of the first decorated Christmas tree</p> <p>93 Gin or djinn, e.g.</p> <p>96 Part of overalls</p> <p>98 Mercilessly harsh treatment, in an expression ... or a hint to entering 117-Across</p> | <p>101 Pivot without warning ... or a hint to entering 19-Across</p> <p>103 Not straight, in a way</p> <p>104 Pilot</p> <p>105 Questionable gift, for short?</p> <p>106 Musician once nicknamed "The Beale Street Blues Boy"</p> <p>108 One of 10 on each end of a beer pong table</p> <p>111 Tough-guy title role</p> <p>112 "Nice going!"</p> <p>114 Harsh "reading"</p> <p>116 Part of a bridal gown</p> <p>117 1/4</p> <p>118 Registers</p> <p>119 Some bank deposits</p> <p>120 Mentee</p> <p>121 Start to boil</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DOWN</p> <p>1 Like most Iraqis</p> <p>2 Pack (down)</p> <p>3 Perfect for a salad, say</p> <p>4 Something often rolled over, for short</p> <p>5 Was deeply affected by something</p> <p>6 No longer in service?</p> <p>7 Passed with flying colors</p> <p>8 Agonizing occurrences in online games</p> <p>9 Bit of text pontification</p> <p>10 Baby in a cave</p> <p>11 Spreads</p> <p>12 Sound of spring?</p> <p>13 Potentially lethal snake</p> <p>14 Some multimasted ships</p> <p>15 "Quit hounding me!"</p> |
|--|---|--|

ANSWERS FOUND IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER...

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p>65 Many, many moons</p> <p>66 Rejections</p> <p>67 Weird Al Yankovic's parody of the song "Lola"</p> <p>68 Little suck-up?</p> <p>69 Antlered animal</p> <p>70 Many moons</p> <p>75 Gordimer who wrote "The Conservationist"</p> <p>76 Non- (unwelcome)</p> | <p>77 Major K-pop septet</p> <p>78 Nonverbal OK</p> <p>79 Privy to</p> <p>80 The Flash's civilian identity ____ Allen</p> <p>81 Bickering</p> <p>82 Structure for a shark dive</p> <p>83 1980s Chrysler debut</p> <p>86 Brain piece</p> <p>88 Oxygen atoms have eight of them</p> <p>90 Queen's realm</p> | <p>91 One working the knight shift?</p> <p>93 Mena of the "American Pie" films</p> <p>94 Elemental</p> <p>95 Pretty soon</p> <p>96 Parisian eatery</p> <p>97 Effect</p> <p>99 Storing, as some ashes</p> <p>100 Vice president with a Nobel Peace Prize</p> | <p>101 Fruit pastries</p> <p>102 Put off</p> <p>106 Head shop purchase</p> <p>107 Memory unit</p> <p>108 Pacify</p> <p>109 Sch. with the Daily Bruin newspaper</p> <p>110 Vet's concern</p> <p>112 TikTok, for one</p> <p>113 "Busy" one</p> <p>115 Litt'un</p> |
|--|---|---|---|

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 - AGGRAVATED

1/1/2025, 1:46 a.m. at 800 Block of SIERRA DRIVE

ASSAULT - SIMPLE

1/5/2025, 8:37 a.m. at N. SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD / WILSHIRE BOULEVARD

1/3/2025, 1:15 p.m. at 200 Block of S. BEVERLY DRIVE

BURGLARY - COMMERCIAL BUILDING

1/12/2025, 11:40 p.m. at 8900 Block of OLYMPIC BLVD.

1/1/2025, 1:40 a.m. at 9300 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

1/1/2025, 12:46 a.m. at 8300 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

BURGLARY - CONSTRUCTION SITE

1/4/2025, 9:06 a.m. at 500 Block of ARDEN DRIVE

1/3/2025, 9:38 p.m. at 500 Block of ARDEN DRIVE

BURGLARY FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE

1/13/2025, 1:20 p.m. at 9700 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

1/10/2025, 3:30 p.m. at 100 Block of S. CRESCENT DRIVE

BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL (ACCESSED GARAGE ONLY)

1/4/2025, 2:30 p.m. at 400 Block of N. ROXBURY DRIVE

BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL (HOME OCCUPIED)

1/12/2025, 6:21 p.m. at 300 Block of S. PALM DRIVE

BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL (NO ONE HOME)

1/9/2025, 5:22 a.m. at 800 Block of N. LINDEN DRIVE

DUI ARREST

1/1/2025, 7:44 a.m. at CHARLEVILLE BOULEVARD / S. ALMONT DRIVE

ROBBERY

1/10/2025, 12:29 p.m. at 9800 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

THEFT FROM COMMERCIAL BUILDING

1/1/2025, 5:28 p.m. at 9600 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

THEFT - GRAND

1/10/2025, 4 p.m. at 300 Block of N. BEVERLY DRIVE

1/3/2025, 4:20 p.m. at 400 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

THEFT - PETTY

1/12/2025, 5:52 p.m. at 300 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

1/12/2025, 1:10 p.m. at 8700 Block of CHARLEVILLE BLVD.

1/12/2025, 12:20 p.m. at CAROLYN WAY / MARILYN DRIVE

1/10/2025, 12:05 p.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

1/9/2025, 8 p.m. at 200 Block of S. ELM DRIVE

1/9/2025, 3:10 a.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

1/8/2025, 4:07 p.m. at 200 Block of N. CRESCENT DRIVE

1/8/2025, 12:31 p.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

1/8/2025, 5:23 a.m. at 600 Block of MOUNTAIN DRIVE

1/7/2025, 4:19 a.m. at 200 Block of EL CAMINO DRIVE

1/6/2025, 7:35 p.m. at 9000 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

1/4/2025, 4:33 p.m. at 9400 Block of OLYMPIC BLVD.

1/2/2025, 10:55 a.m. at 200 Block of REEVES DRIVE

THEFT - PETTY (FROM VEHICLE)

1/2/2025, 4 p.m. at 1200 Block of BEVERLY GREEN DRIVE

VANDALISM

1/13/2025, 1:31 p.m. at 500 Block of N. PALM DRIVE

1/1/2025, 10 a.m. at VIRGINIA PLACE / S. RODEO DRIVE

Public Notices

OBITUARIES

John R. Sutton



John R. Sutton died on 12/27/24 in Woodland Hills, CA. He was preceded in death by his parents Robert and Mona Sutton. John loved golf, dogs, movies and a good book. John worked in various sales positions with CBS Television in LA, San Francisco and New York.

After his career with CBS Television, John became a Sr. Sales Representative for A&B Airline Advertising, Norm Potter Direct and Charter Digital Media.

John retired in 2014 to spend more time perfecting his golf game and socializing at the Bel Aire Country Club. John was most proud of his dog rescue efforts. He rescued over 30 senior dogs from the animal shelters in West Los Angeles.

PUBLIC NOTICES

SUMMONS (CITATION JUDICIAL) CASE NO: 21STCV43764

NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS:

SEUNGOH YOO, an individual; THE FUKUDA FAMILY TRUST DATED JUNE 27, 2009; THE MASATOSHI YAMABAYASHI AND SHIRLEY MIYUKI YAMABAYASHI REVOCABLE TRUST; PATRICIA KIKUE FUKUDA, an individual; STEPHEN WAYNE FUKUDA, an individual; BOBBY MINORU MATSUMOTO, an individual; ROBERT MATSUMOTO, an individual; MASATOSHI YAMABAYASHI, an individual; SHIRLEY MIYUKI YAMABAYASHI, an individual; and DOES 1 TO 100, inclusive.

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:

AIDAN KORTE, an individual.

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.

The name and address of the court is:
Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles
150 Commonwealth Avenue, Alhambra CA 90012

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney is:
Gevork Gazaryan, Esq. DOWNTOWN LA LAW GROUP
910 South Broadway, Los Angeles, California 90015
(213) 389-3765 (State Bar No: 327350)

Date: 10/30/24
By: David W. Slayton, Clerk • C. Padilla, Deputy
Judicial Officer: Ian C. Fusselman
BHC• Published 12/27/24, 01/03/25, 01/10/25, 01/17/25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2024254004 The following is/are doing business as: LINCOLN OAKS VILLAGE 140 WEST HILLCREST DRIVE, THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91360; PROPERTIES, LLC, 9201 Wilshire Boulevard suite 305, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY registrant(s) has HAS begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on December 2024: PROPERTIES, LLC, Michael Moray, Managing Member. Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: December 16, 2024; Published: December 27, 2024 January 3, 10, 17, 2025 LACC N/C

PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2024252183 The following is/are doing business as: DAVID ABRAMS DBA GRAND JEWELERS 287 S. ROBERTSON BLVD #197 BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90210; DAVID ABRAMS, 197 S. Robertson Blvd #197, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; The business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL registrant(s) has HAS begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on December 2024: David Abrams, Owner. Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: December 12, 2024; Published: January 3, 10, 17, 24, 2025 LACC N/C

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE (UCC 6105) Escrow No. BU-3874-YL

Notice is hereby given that a bulk sale is about to be made. The name and business address of the Seller is:

(1) The name of the Seller: DOGUE, LLC A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

(2) Name of the Business being sold: DOGUE SPA
(3) Business address(es) of the Seller(s) is: 8278 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046

(4) The location in California of the chief executive office of the Seller is: 8278 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046

(5) All other business names and addresses used by the Seller within the past (3) years, as stated by the Seller is: NONE

(6) The name of the Buyer is: LE COOKIE BEAR LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (7) The address of the Buyer is: 44880 VIA VAQUERO, TEMECULA, CA 92590

(8) General description of the assets of DOGUE SPA to be sold is described as: FURNITURE, FIXTURE, AND EQUIPMENT located at: 8278 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046

(9) The Bulk Sale is intended to be consummated at the office of: SECURED TRUST ESCROW, INC., C/O BELL SANTIAGO, ESCROW OFFICER, 21111 VICTOR ST, TORRANCE, CA 90503, TEL: (310) 318-3300; EMAIL: INFO@SECUREDTRUST-ESCROW.COM; Escrow No. BU-3874-YL

(10) The anticipated date of the bulk sale is JANUARY 30, 2025

(11) The last day for filing claims by any creditor shall be JANUARY 29, 2025, which is the business day before the anticipated sale date specified above.

(12) This Bulk Sale is not subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2.

DATE:
BUYER: LE COOKIE BEAR LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
ORD-3127367

PUBLIC NOTICES

ORDINANCE NO. 25-O-2907

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING THE BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING PUBLIC CONTRACT BID LIMITS

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council hereby amends and restates Section 3-3-301 ("CONTRACTS FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS") of Article 3 ("Public Works Contracts"), of Chapter 3 ("PURCHASING, PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS AND DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY") of Title 3 ("TAXATION, FINANCE, PURCHASING, AND RISK MANAGEMENT") to read as follows:

"3-3-301: CONTRACTS FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS:

The following procedures shall govern the award of contracts for public projects:

A. Public Projects Of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars Or Less: Public projects of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00) or less, may be awarded by negotiated contract, or may be awarded by purchase order. A contract or purchase order shall require competitive written bidding as described in section 3-3-202 of this chapter unless the Purchasing Agent determines that a different competitive bidding procedure is in the best interest of the City. In such case, the Purchasing Agent may solicit written bids as provided in section 3-3-203 of this chapter or solicit written bids as provided in section 3-3-204 of this chapter.

B. Public Projects Of More Than Seventy Five Thousand Dollars, But Less Than Or Equal To Two Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars: Public projects of more than seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00), but less than or equal to two hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$220,000.00), shall require competitive written bidding as described in this subsection.

1. Bid specifications shall be prepared and notices inviting bids shall be solicited as set forth in subsection B2 of this section.

2. All notices inviting bids shall be sent to: a) the construction trade journals specified in California Public Contract Code section 22036, or b) a list of qualified contractors, identified according to categories of work and which has been developed in compliance with the criteria issued by the California Uniform Construction Cost Accounting Commission, or c) both, unless the supplies, equipment or services are proprietary. Such notices shall be sent not less than ten (10) calendar days before bids are due. The notices shall describe the project in general terms, how to obtain more detailed information regarding the project, and the time and place for the submission of bids.

If all bids received are in excess of two hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$220,000.00), the city council may, by passage of a resolution by a four-fifths (4/5) vote, award the contract at two hundred thirty five thousand dollars (\$235,000.00) or less, to the lowest responsible bidder, without complying with the bidding procedures set forth in subsection C of this section, provided that the city council determines that the cost estimate of the project was reasonable.

C. Public Projects Of More Than Two Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars: Public projects of more than two hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$220,000.00) shall require competitive writ-

PUBLIC NOTICES

ten bidding. A notice inviting bids shall be published and sent in compliance with the provisions of California Public Contract Code section 22037, or the successor statute thereto. In addition, bid plans and working details shall be adopted by the city council for all public projects exceeding two hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$220,000.00).

D. Bid Requirements: When written bids are requested, the bids shall be submitted to the electronic bidding platform or an alternative method in accordance with the Public Contract Code and as set forth in the rules and regulations adopted by the Director pursuant to this chapter and shall not be opened until the time and place designated in the bid specifications. Bids must be received prior to the bid deadline to be considered.

E. Award: When bids are solicited, the appropriate Contracting Officer or the city council shall award the bid to the lowest responsible bidder, or reject all bids pursuant to Public Contract Code section 22038, or its successor statute. The Contracting Officer or the city council may waive any irregularities or informalities in any bid or bidding".

Section 2. Severability. If any section, subsection, subdivision, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or place, is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the final decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall be and remain in full force and effect.

Section 3. Publication. The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation published and circulated in the City within fifteen (15) days after its passage in accordance with Section 36933 of the Government Code, shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance, and shall cause this Ordinance and her certification, together with proof of publication, to be entered in the Book of Ordinances of the Council of this City.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall go into effect and be in full force and effect at 12:01 a.m. on the thirty-first (31st) day after its passage.

Adopted: January 9, 2025
Effective: February 9, 2025

LESTER J. FRIEDMAN
Mayor of the City of Beverly Hills, California

ATTEST:
HUMA AHMED (SEAL)
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
LAURENCE S. WIENER
City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:
NANCY HUNT-COFFEY
City Manager

YES: Councilmembers Wells, Corman, Mirisch,
Vice Mayor Nazarian, and Mayor Friedman
NOES: None
CARRIED

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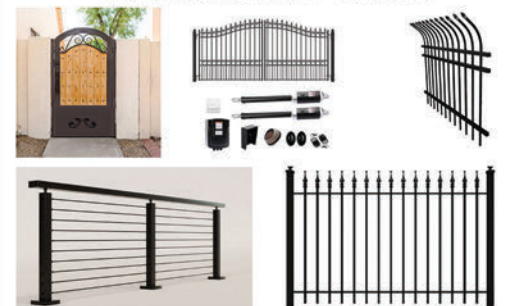
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