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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS

	Friday	67° 54°
	Saturday	64° 47°
	Sunday	64° 47°
	Monday	66° 50°
	Tuesday	69° 52°
	Wednesday	74° 52°
	Thursday	57° 50°

Red-Tier Ready: Indoor Dining Holds Promise in Beverly Hills

BY ANA FIGUEROA

Los Angeles County moved into the less restrictive red tier on March 15 as part of the state’s Blueprint for a Safer Economy. The move allowed certain businesses, including restaurants, to resume limited indoor operations. Though occupancy limits apply (25 percent capacity or 100 people, whichever is fewer) and tables must remain at least

eight feet apart, the move to the red tier was welcome news after months of prohibitions. “This transition presents a promising future for our City as we continue to work together toward fully reopening,” said Mayor Lester Friedman in a statement this week. “The phones haven’t stopped ringing. The anticipation is very high,” Giorgio Sease,

General Manager at The Grill on the Alley told the Courier. (Indoor Dining continues on page 15)



Indoor dining this week at Il Pastaio. Photo by Samuel Braslow

Council Votes No Confidence in DA

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW

In a move described as unprecedented, the Beverly Hills City Council passed a resolution of a vote of no confidence in new Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón. Three of the Council’s five members, including Councilmember Lili Bosse, Councilmember Julian Gold, M.D. and Mayor Lester Friedman, argued that Gascón’s progressive policies had made the city less safe and hamstrung law enforcement. The dissenting voters, Councilmember John Mirisch and Vice Mayor Robert Wunderlich, both expressed concerns with the D.A., but had reservations over the outright sanction of a public official as opposed to their policies—a step that none could recall happening before. The move places Beverly Hills in league with the City of Santa Clarita, which passed a no-confidence vote in Gascón on March 9, citing many of the same reasons given by Beverly Hills. “This is really, for me, a watershed

moment,” Mayor Lester Friedman said at the March 16 Study Session. “The criminal element is just taking advantage of the fact that there is no enforcement of the laws that we have on the books.” Gascón assumed leadership of the largest prosecutorial body in the country and the largest jail system in the world on Dec. 7. His victory over former D.A. Jackie Lacey, once viewed as a long shot, came on the heels of a historically large and diverse outcry for civil rights across the country sparked by the killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis Police officer. Lacey herself fell within the crosshairs of local activists who accused her of an overly punitive approach with those convicted of crimes and a too gentle approach with law enforcement accused of misconduct. (Council Votes continues on page 8)

City Council Reviews 911 System

BY BIANCA HEYWARD

The Beverly Hills City Council reviewed the operating efficiency of the city’s Emergency Communications Center (911 dispatch) at its March 16 Study Session meeting, following growing concerns about emergency line wait time. At the meeting, Beverly Hills Police Department’s (BHPD) Captain Elisabeth Albanese detailed how 911 calls are answered and prioritized, summarized the March 4 armed robbery at Il Pastaio from a dispatching perspective and discussed a forthcoming statewide upgrade to the Next Generation 911 network with enhanced capabilities. (City Council continues on page 11)

NOW
THE NORTON SIMON MUSEUM - “A TRIO OF TREATMENTS: CONSERVING MANET”

The Norton Simon Museum presents a series of short videos entitled “A Trio of Treatments: Conserving Manet.” Between 2018 and 2019, the Norton Simon Museum collaborated with the Department of Paintings Conservation at the J. Paul Getty Museum to clean and conserve the Simon’s three paintings by Édouard Manet. In this new video series, Chief Curator Emily Talbot interviews the conservators involved in the project. In this installment, much of which was filmed in the Paintings Conservation Studio at the J. Paul Getty Museum prior to the current closure, Chief Curator Emily Talbot interviews Devi Ormond, Associate Conservator at the Getty. <https://www.nortonsimon.org/learn/multimedia/videos-podcasts-and-lectures/a-trio-of-treatments-conserving-manets-madame-manet/>



NOW - APRIL 22
SANTA MONICA PLAYHOUSE: SPRING THEATRE CAMPS AND CLASSES

The Santa Monica Playhouse presents Spring Theatre Online Workshops and in person Spring Break Theatre Camps. Youngsters explore the thrill of theatre arts, diving into aspects of stage production: script, music, movement, improvisation and performance, all the while making friends, sparking their creativity, and learning to express themselves. There are two six-week online sessions starting on Thursday afternoons from March 18 to April 22, and Saturday mornings March 20 to April 24. Spring Break Theatre Camp running March 29 to April 2 will be in-person. <https://www.santamonicaplayhouse.com/>

MARCH 19
EL CAPITAN THEATRE: DISNEY’S “RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON”

Hollywood’s El Capitan Theatre welcomes guests back to the big screen to see Disney’s “Raya and the Last Dragon” starting March 19 -28 shown in brilliant Dolby Vision Laser Projection and Dolby Atmos Audio Technology. “Raya and the Last Dragon” takes guests on an epic journey to the fantasy world of Kumandra, where Raya must track down an evil force that has returned after 500 years. Show times and tickets are available for purchase on the website. All seats for this engagement are reserved on Mondays-Fridays \$17 adult, \$12 child and seniors; Saturdays-Sundays \$20 adult, \$15 child and senior. <https://elcapitantheatre.com/film-info/raya-and-the-last-dragon>



MARCH 19
THE LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC’S SECOND SEASON OF SOUND/STAGE EPISODE TWO - “A PAN-AMERICAN MUSICAL FEAST”

The Los Angeles Philharmonic presents the second season of Sound/Stage, an online series of new concerts and conversations. With Music & Artistic Director Gustavo Dudamel acting as host, the free online series features new performances by the LA Phil; activist, author and actor Common; Grammy Award-winning gospel duo Mary Mary; opera star Nadine Sierra; Grammy-Award winner singer-songwriter Carlos Vives; and acclaimed pianists Yuja Wang and David Fung; as well as conversations with LA Phil Creative Chair John Adams and renowned chef José Andrés. <https://www.laphil.com/about/watch-and-listen/introducing-soundstage>



MARCH 19 - 21
CENTER THEATRE GROUP - MATTHEW BOURNE’S “THE RED SHOES”

Center Theatre Group is extending its series of beautifully captured New Adventures productions on the Digital Stage with Matthew Bourne’s production of “The Red Shoes.” Streamed five times only, the schedule will be March 19 at 8 p.m., March 20 at 5 and 8 p.m., and March 21 at 1 and 5 p.m. It is based on the film by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger and the Hans Christian Andersen fairytale. www.centertheatregroup.org/digitalstage/premium-events/matthew-bournes-the-red-shoes/.

MARCH 20
FARHANG FOUNDATION: 12TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF NOWRUZ
6 p.m.

Farhang Foundation presents its 12th Annual Celebration of Nowruz. This year’s celebrations will be conducted virtually. Artists from around the world have been invited. Join for a virtual celebration with live performances from the United States, Europe and Iran. The event is free. Registration is required on the website. <https://farhang.org/nowruz/12th-annual-celebration-of-nowruz>



MARCH 20, 21
BEVERLY CENTER CELEBRATES NOWRUZ

Beverly Center is celebrating Iranian New Year, Nowruz. Enjoy cultural entertainment on March 20 at 2 and 3 p.m. and safely watch as Iranian performers dance through levels 6 and 7 and ending in the Grand Court. Face coverings are required at all times. On March 20, visit Beverly Center’s Instagram @beverlycenter for cultural storytelling from local LA-based influencers. <https://beverlycenter.com/pages/happy-nowruz>

MARCH 21
THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART - ADULT ART CLASS: ACRYLIC PAINTING TECHNIQUES
2 - 4 p.m.

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art presents an adult art class “Acrylic Painting Techniques.” From realism to abstraction, study art from LACMA’s collection, learn basic color theory, and find strategies for creating individual work. Students are responsible for providing their own art materials based on recommendations provided by the teaching artist. Preregistration is required. <https://www.lacma.org/event/adult-art-class-acrylic-painting-techniques-9>

MARCH 22
WALLIS ANNENBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, AND YOUNES AND SORAYA NAZARIAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS: “FILMS.DANCE” - “SAME SKY”
9 a.m.

The Wallis has teamed up with the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts and Chicago’s Joan W. and Irving B. Harris Theater to launch “Films.Dance.” Each Monday for 15 weeks, one film will premiere online, on Instagram on the @films.dance account, and the Films.Dance Facebook page. Directed by Grammy-nominated director Andy Hines, the premiere of “Same Sky” on March 22 explores the world, the differences, and a likeness in others. <https://www.films.dance/>

MARCH 23
WRITERS BLOC AND THE BEVERLY HILLS BAR ASSOCIATION: AMANDA TYLER WITH MSNBC’S MELISSA MURRAY
5 p.m.

A few weeks before she died, with what would be her final publication, United States Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg and her former law clerk, now Berkeley Law Professor Amanda Tyler, submitted

their manuscript of their collaborative book to University of California Press. The result is “Justice, Justice Thou Shalt Pursue.” “Justice, Justice” includes some of Ruth Bader Ginsberg’s legal arguments she wrote as an attorney fighting for gender equality; her four favorite opinions she wrote as a Justice to the Supreme Court; and plenty of Justice Ginsberg’s commentary about her life and marriage to Marty Ginsberg, much of that previously unpublished. <https://writersblocpresents.com/main/amanda-tyler/>

MARCH 23
HOLOCAUST MUSEUM LA - “HOW MY MOTHER’S SURVIVAL AND OPTIMISM INSPIRED MY LEADERSHIP: A CONVERSATION WITH LILI BOSSE”
11 a.m.

Beverly Hills City Councilmember and former mayor Lili Bosse speaks with Holocaust Museum LA’s CEO, Beth Kean, on the impact her mother’s “never give up” outlook, determination, and optimism had on her drive to become a community leader and activist committed to justice and equity. Lili’s mother, Rose Toren, survived Auschwitz by escaping a death march. See story on pg. 6. <https://www.holocaustmuseumla.org/event-details/how-my-mothers-survival-and-optimism-inspired-my-leadership-a-conversation-with-lili-bosse>

MARCH 24
BEVERLY HILLS WOMEN’S CLUB - BOOK CLUB: “THE FOUR WINDS BY KRISTIN HANNAH”
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

The Beverly Hills Women’s Club Book Club meets the fourth Wednesday of every month. Anyone who loves to read may join in. The book selection for this month is the #1 best-selling phenomenon, “The Four Winds” by Kristin Hannah. Founded in 1916, the Beverly Hills Women’s Club is the oldest philanthropic organization in Beverly Hills. <https://www.thebhwc.org/event-details/bhwc-book-club-the-four-winds-by-kristin-hannah>

MARCH 25
THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY - “WHEN WOMEN RISE UP: A CONVERSATION WITH SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL AND DR. LORI BETTISON - VARGA
7 - 8 p.m.

The Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County (NHMLAC) presents “When Women Rise Up, a conversation between Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell and NHMLAC President and Director Dr. Lori Bettison-Varga.” They will discuss the 2020 election, which resulted in the election of Kamala Harris and the first-ever all-woman County Board of Supervisors. An audience Q&A follows. This event will also preview of the NHMLAC’s exhibition “Rise Up LA: A Century of Votes for Women.” <https://nhm.org/when-women-rise-up>




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New Budget Forecast and New Commissioners Introduced

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW

The Beverly Hills City Council heard its first update since January on the city’s battered finances. In the span of a year, the city has weathered a pandemic, unprecedented civil unrest, and a contentious election season, all adding up to a budget deficit of \$12.8 million. Still, though, the city has reason for hope.

“All things considered, we find ourselves in a bit of a better position than anticipated, and some reason for guarded optimism on signs of recovery,” Director of Finance Jeff Muir said at the March 16 Study Session.

Although the city currently faces a deficit of \$12.8 million, Muir cautioned that this estimate “assumes everything plays out exactly as it is in the budget,” which he said rarely happens. With business tax receipts trending upwards, decreases in forecasted salaries and benefits, a slight reduction in overtime, savings from the Early Retirement/Voluntary Separation Program, and staff vacancies above and beyond what had been previously assumed, Muir reported a projected deficit for the fiscal year of \$7 million. Additionally, Muir said that the city

will benefit from reimbursements for COVID-19 related expenditures and from money from the recently passed stimulus package.

Beverly Hills draws most of its revenue from four sources: transient occupancy tax (a levy on hotel guests paid by hotels); property tax; business license tax; and sales tax. As of its latest tabulation, the city estimates its 2021 budget as slightly less than \$230 million.

The pandemic dealt a uniquely debilitating blow to the city’s coffers. Public health restrictions all but shut down local hotels. In an effort to assist the hospitality industry, the city halted payments of the transient occupancy tax (TOT). At the same time, commerce in the city came to a halt as shopping destinations like Rodeo and Canon became possible viral vectors, sending sales tax figures plunging.

(New Budget continues on page 8)

Connect Beverly Hills Streetscape Plans Revealed

BY BIANCA HEYWARD



Design concepts for Connect Beverly Hills

On March 17, the Architectural Commission held a Regular Meeting during which Commissioners reviewed the preliminary draft design standards for the Connect Beverly Hills streetscape plan. The project establishes aesthetic guidelines for the public right-of-way and the development of new sidewalk designs and pedestrian amenities in advance of the opening of the subway. At the meeting, the Commissioners weighed in on transit shelters, trash cans, street lighting and more. The design recommendations discussed will be incorporated into rebuilding the public sidewalks around the two Metro stations under construction—Wilshire/La Cienega and Wilshire/Rodeo stations—as well as other future streetscape projects. The city’s Transportation Planner and Project Manager, Jessie Holzer, also presented the findings of a design survey that sought input from the community on amenities they would like to see incorporated.

“The community wanted design standard that made the streetscape feel a little more modern, a little more refreshed but still represent that classic and historic Beverly Hills vibe,” Holzer said at the meeting. The findings from the survey indicated that the majority of respondents wanted to see an “organic” feel to the streetscape with sustainable elements that mimic natural forms, and would prioritize passenger drop-off and pickup, bike parking and wayfinding designs.

“We’re starting with Wilshire and La Cienega to prepare for the opening up the purple line subway stations,” Holzer said. “La Cienega in 2023 and Rodeo in 2025. Our intent is that this project can serve as a template for developing future plans and future standards for other streets in the city. Right now, we don’t really have any streetscape standards at all. So that means that anytime we reconstruct the public right-of-way, we don’t have a guide that tells us how to rebuild it and has led to a kind of fragmented streetscape throughout the city.”

The project aims to develop a more cohesive aesthetic that would make Beverly Hills immediately recognizable by the look and feel of the streets. The goal is to create beautiful and welcoming corridors that future subway riders will instantly recognize as Beverly Hills as they emerge from either of the two underground stations. The design standards will include recommendations for types and styles of streetscape amenities.

The Commission narrowed the preliminary design ideas down to one recommendation per amenity category, which will ultimately be in the drafted plan. The options developed were also designed to align with the “garden quality” in Beverly Hills.

The Commissioners voted for “Quinbin” style trash cans, which are clean and cylindrical in shape and a rounded square base. For bike racks, the “loop” option won with its simple form and sculptural, sweeping circle to hold the bike. Commissioners voted for Dero “Fixit” bike repair stations and custom designed transit shelters that both fit the new site requirements and match the streetscape palette. Landscape forms “Jules et Jim Bench and Planter” were also chosen, made from patented high-performance Cast Stone that incorporate a bench design as well. The preferred lighting bollards—used to create more intimate, pedestrian-scaled lighting—were made by BEGA, with a sleek design 360-degree light coverage. For sidewalk paving patterns, the square option was chosen, which is similar to the existing pattern. Lastly, the commissioners chose the wayfinding option to decorate electrical boxes.

To provide feedback, view the draft plan or to learn more about the project, visit <https://connect.beverlyhills.org/>. The Planning Commission will review the draft in late spring this year before the final plan goes before the City Council for adoption this summer. ●



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Beverly Hills Launches Pet-Friendly “As You Wish” Campaign

BY BIANCA HEYWARD



Beverly Hills Pet Ambassadors

The Beverly Hills Conference and Visitors Bureau (BHCVB) announced a new campaign called “As You Wish” that showcases the bespoke service and world-class amenities

found in the city through the lens of five pet ambassadors.

The campaign underscores the city’s array of unique experiences, catering to

the many needs of today’s global travelers—and their furry companions. According to the American Pet Products Association, 37 percent of people travel with pets, a figure that increased by 19 percent over the past decade.

“Over the last year, we have all realized more than ever how important our pets are to us,” Julie Wagner, CEO of BHCVB, said in a March 17 release. “As travelers begin to plan trips again, it’s hard for them to imagine parting with their loyal companions. Beverly Hills is a destination that visitors can count on to welcome both pets – and their owners – with unparalleled amenities and service.”

The new campaign presents each of the five distinct canine personalities as a way to discover Beverly Hills. Whether traveling with family like Fred, on business like Bentley, or on a friend’s getaway with Frankie, each dog provides a unique way to spend the weekend.

Pet-friendly activities include spacious parks and fragrant gardens to take morning walks, such as Beverly Gardens Park, Beverly Canon Gardens, Will Rodgers Memorial Park and Coldwater Canyon Park. In addition,

many shops and restaurants are also pet friendly. Alternatively, the campaign suggests ways to pamper your dog such as with a visit to Sparky’s Pet Salon or a sweet dog-friendly treat from the cupcake-dispensing ATM at Sprinkles.

Many of the city’s hotels greet four-legged friends with amenities like homemade treats, dog walking services and plush dog beds. The Peninsula Beverly Hills even offers specialized room service and spa treatments for dogs. At the Beverly Hills Hotel, pet lovers will find bone-shaped dog cookies with customized inscriptions. The Maybourne Beverly Hills treats dogs to fluffy beds, food bowls and to-go water bottles. The AKA Beverly Hills boasts spacious private outdoor areas and is near some of the best dog-friendly parks. The Viceroy L’Ermitage in Beverly Hills offers a Canine Club with plush toys, courtesy bags and dog bed with a portion of the proceeds from the hotel’s pet fee benefiting the local adoption center, called Wags and Walks. ●

Three BHHS Students Named National Merit Finalists

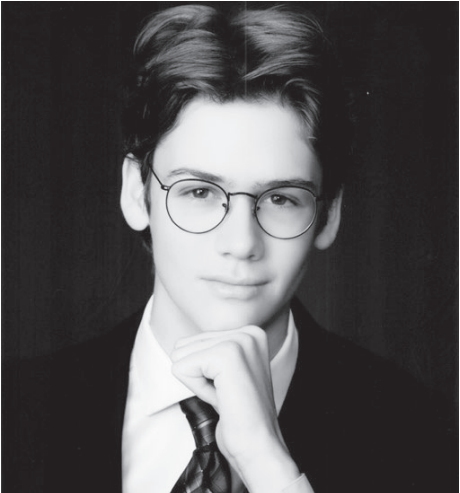


Bradley Moon

Three seniors from the Beverly Hills High School class of 2021 have been recognized as National Merit Finalists. Parsa A Farnad, Bradley K Moon, and Nicholas M Walker “have each exemplified incredible scholarly merit and their achievements are one we celebrate,” said a statement from the Beverly Hills Unified School District. Some 1.5 million students

take the PSAT, National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test in their junior year. Out of those 1.5 million students, some 50,000 of the highest scores qualify for recognition in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Of those 50,000 students, about 16,000, or approximately one-third, qualify as semifinalists and about 15,000 become finalists.

The BHUSD statement added, “It is always exciting to recognize our students’ accomplishments over the years, but throughout a pandemic it is quite outstanding to honor their work especially throughout these times. Without a doubt, we are incredibly excited to see the mountains they will climb and the things they will achieve as they begin their journey upon graduation and as they enter higher education.” ●



Nicholas Walker



Parsa Farnad

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Councilmember Lili Bosse Recalls Her Holocaust Survivor Mother in March 23 Webinar

BY ANA FIGUEROA



Rose Toren celebrates her 90th birthday with her daughter, Councilmember Lili Bosse.
Photo courtesy of Councilmember Lili Bosse

When the Holocaust Museum LA decided to initiate a program on the intergenerational impact of Holocaust survivors, there was little question of their first choice for speaker.

“We wanted to explore second-generation survivors who are having an impact on our community, and immediately came up with Lili Bosse,” Holocaust Museum LA’s CEO, Beth Kean, told the Courier.

Bosse, said Kean, “Is someone that people look up to in our community. She always credits her mother, a Holocaust survivor, and that resonates with us. Also, we wanted to highlight people who are dedicated to kindness and compassion and that is so Lili.”

The resulting March 23 museum-sponsored webinar is entitled, “How My Mother’s Survival and Optimism Inspired My Leadership: A Conversation with Lili Bosse.”

The breadth of the subject matter is scarcely containable in a title. But then, dreams, determination, fate and destiny are not easy to encapsulate.

Bosse’s mother, Rose Orenstein Toren, was interned at Auschwitz as a teenager. As

Allied forces advanced on the camps, the SS began a series of forced inmate evacuations. Toren escaped the Auschwitz “death march” by running out of line and hiding. When she fell asleep, her own mother appeared to her in a dream, warning her to wake up. A short time after the death marches took place in early 1945, Auschwitz was liberated. Toren returned back to her small hometown in Poland to find that she was the sole survivor in her family. Eventually, she emigrated to Israel, where she met her future husband, Jack. They married and moved to New York. The Torens later relocated to Beverly Hills, enticed by promises of excellent schools, top-tier public services and sunshine.

“They moved here because they heard what people still hear now about Beverly Hills. She wanted to provide her only daughter with opportunity,” said Bosse, who grew up here.

The rest is Beverly Hills history.

“When I ran for office the first time, I told everybody that I was an only child of a Holocaust survivor. Some people said to me, ‘Why are you even saying this?’ Having

a mom who was a survivor is really part of the fiber of who I am. She did the Shoah interviews and I found myself watching one of them a lot during 2020. There is a part where she says that she would look in the sky and she would see the clouds. She would say, ‘Beyond the clouds is the sunshine. You never ever give up.’ I grew up hearing ‘never give up.’ She instilled that in me. She told me that the day she passed away [in 2015]. Even her tombstone says, ‘never give up,’” Bosse told the Courier.

The message of hope passed down to Bosse exemplifies a mission of the museum.

“One of the things we focus on is the positive impact survivors have had on their own children and families. We discussed this internally and want to focus more on this. Our goal is to share the intergenerational impact of survivors and highlight second generations success stories,” Kean said.

In Bosse’s case, that success is transcendent.

“What’s interesting is that when my mother was growing up in Poland, she was friends with the daughter of the mayor. That family was not Jewish. They were able to give her false papers. She survived initially because her papers said she was a Polish gentile. She went to a Polish workcamp at first. But, when they discovered she was Jewish, she was sent to Auschwitz,” said Bosse.

A lifetime later, Toren saw her daughter become mayor of Beverly Hills.



she passed away, that’s one thing that has become so important to me,” said Bosse.

It’s also a quest of the museum.

“Survivors are dwindling every day, sadly. It is interesting there are a lot of second generation who want to separate themselves completely. But others in the second and third generation feel a responsibility to be the torch bearers,” noted Kean.

For Bosse, that responsibility is unquestioned.

“Millions of people were murdered. I feel that we have a duty to honor them and to make sure their murder wasn’t in vain and we do something positive with our lives.

“She would say, ‘Beyond the clouds is the sunshine. You never ever give up.’ I grew up hearing ‘never give up.’ She instilled that in me. She told me that the day she passed away [in 2015]. Even her tombstone says, ‘never give up.’”

“It came full circle,” said Bosse, whose works in their own way, now pay tribute to the mayor of that shtetl in Poland.

Bosse said her mother is especially on her mind this time of year. April 10 is Rose Toren’s birthday.

“She was a very dynamic woman. She traveled the world. She went to Egypt and China. She went to places nobody would go to. She had a huge sense of curiosity and love of people,” recalled Bosse.

Most importantly, Toren wanted her story to be told.

“She wanted to make sure that all the next generations knew what happened. My mom wrote two books about her life. She used to speak in different schools to children. Her one request of me was to always keep her story alive. I have found that since

My mother lived through the worst time in the history of mankind but could still find a sense of optimism. She always believed that there’s something good that’s going to come. Her voice is like my moral compass and gives me the strength.”

She added, “I know that I’m an optimist, but this past year was definitely challenging. I’m lucky enough to have a mom that instilled a sense of optimism and faith in something way bigger than me.”

“How My Mother’s Survival and Optimism Inspired My Leadership: A Conversation with Lili Bosse” takes place March 23 at 11 a.m. To register, log on to: <https://www.holocaustmuseumla.org/event-details/how-my-mothers-survival-and-optimism-inspired-my-leadership-a-conversation-with-lili-bosse>. ●

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- LA County residents 65 and older
- Education and childcare workers
- Emergency service workers
- Food and agriculture workers
- People who live or work in congregate living spaces
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For general COVID-19 questions and information, visit: beverlyhills.org/coronavirus or contact the City’s COVID-19 Hotline at 310-550-4680 Monday-Friday • 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

*View the fact sheet from the California Department of Public Health on vaccines for people with high-risk medical conditions or disabilities at [VaccinateLACounty.com](https://www.vaccinateLACounty.com).

(Council Votes continued from page 1)

In the Nov. 3 General Election, Gascón received 54 percent of the vote county-wide. Los Angeles County and Beverly Hills did not see eye to eye, with about the same proportion of residents in Beverly Hills casting their votes for Lacey.

In his inaugural address, Gascón made good on his campaign promises. He issued a series of Special Directives that made sweeping changes to the charging and sentencing policies of the D.A.’s Office. Among the changes, Gascón directed his deputy district attorneys to no longer seek the death penalty and to no longer prosecute juveniles for misdemeanors and low-level felonies.

The City Council took aim at three Special Directives in particular. Under Gascón’s Pretrial Release Policy, his office eliminated cash bail for any misdemeanor, non-serious felony, or non-violent felony offense. Instead, prosecutors will only seek to hold defendants accused of homicide or violent felonies. Judges can still impose bail, but generally defer to prosecutors on the matter.

Then, under Gascón’s new sentencing guidelines, he instructed prosecutors not to charge first time offenders for a variety of nonviolent misdemeanors, including trespass, disturbing the peace, drug possession, and loitering. The policy dictates that prosecutors send defendants into pre-trial diversion programs as opposed to incarceration.

Finally, the Council pointed to Gascón’s move to end the use of sentencing enhancements, a prosecutorial device that adds time to a sentence under certain conditions. Examples include the Three Strikes Law, committing a crime with a weapon, or crimes related to gang activity. Gascón walked back the change slightly on Dec. 15, clarifying that prosecutors could still seek enhancements for hate crimes, child abuse, elder abuse, sexual abuse, human sex trafficking, and financial crimes.

The vote drew a large number of comments from the public, mostly written, with 116 comments expressing support for the vote of no confidence and 21 against the vote. Alex Trantham, a public defender and alumnus of Beverly Hills High School, said she felt “deeply disappointed” in Friedman and Bosse for requesting the vote. “What I see all the time on the ground, people need mental health treatment, people need services, they need money, they need help getting back on their feet after years of our carceral system consistently making sure that these people never are able to get a job, get housing, and reenter society,” she said.

The vast majority of comments backed the council’s move. Given the sheer volume, the points were summarized by a city staff member. Those who wrote in with support for the vote said that Gascón’s policies “are allowing criminals to victimize citizens with little repercussions.” Another comment said that the policies triggered the PTSD of immigrants who fled to Beverly Hills from places of conflict.

According to Mayor Friedman, the changes in policy have created loopholes that criminals have exploited. “We have to take a stand, in my view, that while there are inequities in the system and while there is a need for more mental health opportunities for people who are incarcerated...we cannot allow it to be such that a person can go into

a store and shoplift \$949-worth and get a citation and have no repercussions because of that. And then they can come back again and do the same thing.”

Notably, Gascón’s new guidelines on declining to prosecute first time misdemeanor offenders does not list petty theft or grand theft, though the memo outlining the policy “does not constitute an exhaustive list.” The memo encourages deputy district attorneys to “to exercise his or her discretion in identifying a charge falling within the spirit of this policy directive.”

Gascón’s sweeping policy shifts have rankled not only those within the DA’s office, but also law enforcement across the county. In the meeting, Gold suggested this frustration extended to the Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD). “Our Police Chief met with Gascón and there was not a productive meeting,” he said. Bosse echoed Gold’s claim in the March 16 Regular Session, saying, “We had our Police Chief actually meet with Gascón, all in good faith, and our Police Chief even said that it was a very unproductive meeting.”

A spokesperson for the BHPD denied that characterization of the meeting. Acting Captain Max Subin told the Courier that the chief and department staff would meet with the D.A.’s office six months from their first meeting to review crime data.

None of the council members cited specific examples of suspects who reoffended after being released under Gascón’s new policies, nor did BHPD provide any examples when asked by the Courier. Beverly Hills has witnessed a series of high-profile crimes over the last few months, most notably a brazen mid-day robbery and shooting at Il Pastaio.

Gold cited one instance of alleged robbery by a juvenile, though the resolution of a vote of no confidence did not list Gascón’s directive on juvenile prosecution as a “Special Directives of concern to the City.”

“The notion that a 17-year-old can hold up a mother and her 14-year-old daughter in one of our parking lots and be charged with pickpocketing, or the equivalent thereof, should offend every resident of this county. That’s effectively what the L.A. District Attorney has done,” Gold said.

According to Special Directive 20-09, prosecutors will charge youth defendants with the lowest possible violation in a particular incident. In Gold’s example, this would mean charging the suspect with misdemeanor grand theft rather than robbery. If the defendant had a “documented history of violence,” it would raise the charge to felony-level grand theft.

According to the January crime statistics released by the BHPD, the most recent month for which data is available, property crime fell 15 percent (138 to 117) from December 2020 to January 2021, though violent crimes rose 20 percent in that same time frame (10 to 12).

But as Mirisch argued, whichever way the data points, one month is hardly enough time to establish a causal trend—let alone three months. “We need to take a more scientific approach, we need to get more evidence, because if we don’t, I think it feels in certain ways like a knee jerk reaction and it will be used against us,” he said.

Both Mirisch and Wunderlich balked at the apparent novelty of the move. “This notion of a no confidence vote towards elected officials that we have problems with

(New Budget continued from page 4)

The city recognized the threat at the outset of the crisis and sprang into action to mitigate the fallout. The city implemented a series of spending reductions and offered employees the option of early retirement programs, including CalPERS Two-year Retirement Program and Cash Incentive Program. As of the Feb. 28 deadline, 40 employees opted for the CalPERS program and 25 elected for the Cash Incentive Program, saving the city \$6.4 million.

“Assuming many of the one-time measures we employed in this year’s budget to reduce expenditures are reversed going into next year, we’re forecasting an approximate deficit of \$4.6 million for next year and just under a million dollars for the following year,” said Muir.

The City Council heard later at the March 16 Regular Meeting recommendations for new city commissioners from various commission interview panels. Four commissions face upcoming vacancies necessitating replacements—Human Relations, Arts and Culture, Design Review, and Planning. Each panel consisted of two council members and the respective commission chair and vice chair.

Interest was high, with between seven to 12 applicants vying for the one vacancy on each commission. If approved by the council, each incoming commissioner would start

the day after the departure of their predecessor. For the Human Relations Commission, the panel recommended Rose Kaiserman to replace outgoing Commissioner Henry Blumenfield, whose term concludes on December 31, 2021. For the Arts and Culture Commission, the panel landed on Pamela Beck to take over for outgoing Commissioner Stephanie Bond, who leaves on June 30, 2022. The panel for the Design Review Commission endorsed Marshall Peck to replace Commissioner Ilona Sherman, whose term concludes on December 31 of this year. Finally, the Planning Commission panel recommended Terri Kaplan to the seat currently occupied by Andy Licht, whose term ends June 30, 2022.

The Arts and Culture Commission panel also suggested that the Council discuss at a later meeting possibly expanding the commission from five to seven members. The recommendations for commissioners will be placed on the formal consent agenda at a future city council meeting.

Vice Mayor Robert Wunderlich expressed excitement at some of the new faces in the applicant pool and encouraged them to remain involved in civic life. For those perhaps discouraged by not making the team in this latest round, he pointed to an upcoming seat on the Architectural Commission. Applications open up next week. ●

or don’t agree with, I believe it’s unprecedented in the history of our city,” Mirisch said.

Mirisch, however, did agree with the three members of the majority in thinking that Gascón had exceeded his authority as DA. “He’s almost making, in some cases, the law. A prosecutor prosecutes. The prosecutor shouldn’t decide which laws to prosecute or which laws not to prosecute, otherwise it becomes arbitrary,” he said.

Wunderlich, who said that he did not vote for Gascón, worried that the move would stoke political rancor and suggested reframing the discussion around the policies rather than Gascón. He said this is how the Council has operated in the past. “When we didn’t like certain things that were adopted by L.A. County, we didn’t vote no confidence in the Supervisors, we called out the policies that we didn’t like,” Wunderlich opined. “When we don’t like certain things coming out of Sacramento, we call out the policies that we don’t like, we don’t vote no confidence in the individuals.”

But for Bosse, Gascón placed himself at the center of the debate by advancing

policies that she views as dangerous to Beverly Hills and its interests. “We saw what happened when we had one incident of crime in our city just two weeks ago and we heard people saying that they never want to come back here again,” Bosse said. “We can’t afford that anymore. We can’t afford to have people in our community not feel safe. And from my perspective, [this vote] is against this particular individual because he is the one that has put these directives in place.”

Editor’s Note:
The Courier conducted an exclusive and extensive interview of Los Angeles District Attorney George Gascón on March 16, the day the Beverly Hills City Council passed the no-confidence resolution. The Courier’s interview delved into the topic of the resolution, as well as the Special Directives cited by the Council. In the interest of fairness, the Courier has chosen to run the Gascón interview in our next issue, after giving city officials the chance to respond to Gascón’s comments. Look for this important story on March 26. ●

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Vaccine FOMO

BY EVA RITVO, M.D.



Beverly Hills Courier columnist and **Dr. Eva Ritvo** is a psychiatrist with more than 25 years' experience, an accomplished author and global initiative leader. She received her undergraduate and medical degrees from UCLA, and psychiatry residency training at Weill Cornell Medicine.



Vaccine FOMO (Fear of Missing Out)! Vaccine envy! Who ever thought that these would be emotions sweeping the world? COVID-19 has filled our lives with so many challenges, and now we are faced with a new one. Getting a vaccine appointment feels a lot like winning the lottery. At first it may have been easy to be joyful for others' good fortune, but after weeks and now months of seeing others get vaccinated, patience can wear thin. It also creates an imbalance when one member of a "bubble" is vaccinated, and others aren't. It can be painful to be the one who continues to miss out on activities as those around resume pleasures like seeing friends, dining out, shopping and travel. So many of us are feeling worn down from the chronic stress and are not in the best shape to deal with another issue. Yet vaccine envy will be with us for a few more months as we continue to progress out of the pandemic.

Here are some tips if you are feeling vaccine envy:

1. Acknowledge your feelings. Sure, you want to be happy for those getting vaccinated, but it does hurt to be left behind. These feelings are real and deserve space. Share them with a trusted friend or therapist. It is indeed quite upsetting to have to wait. In the U.S., we are used to having speedy access to medical care. It is unfortunate that so many have to wait for such an important intervention. You have a right be upset.
2. Express your concern to the family member or friend who is vaccinated. Discuss how it could impact your relationship and activities.
3. Focus on what you can control. Double down on efforts to not catch or spread COVID-19. Vaccines are only one very modern way out of the pandemic. Stick to the basics so you feel a sense of control over your health

- destiny.
4. Take advantage of the remaining days or weeks of quarantine. What did you want to accomplish during your time of limited activity? Did you always want to play the piano? These last slower days or weeks might be a great time to try (over Zoom of course). Have you put off cleaning your closet and organizing your drawers? There is nothing like a deadline to kick us into gear.
 5. Take your best guess for when you will be vaccinated and start to plan. What do you most look forward to when you are vaccinated? Start to make those plans for late summer and fall.
 6. Keep things in perspective. We are ALL so fortunate that a vaccine was developed so quickly. Even if the wait is a few more weeks, an end is in sight. One year ago, we had no idea what lay ahead and the uncertainty caused so much anxiety. Now we can feel hopeful that more "normal days" will be returning soon in a predictable time frame.
 7. Focus on the herd. By now we know, "we are all in this together." Although we aren't leaving at the exact same time, mere months will separate us. The more our friends and family get vaccinated, the safer we all are.
 8. Consider volunteering at a vaccination site. You will be helping one of the most important efforts of our time, and you will become eligible for your own vaccine sooner. Now that's what I call a win win!
 9. Remind yourself that "this too shall pass." Summer will come and access will become easier and easier with each passing week. Everyone will have access to the vaccines and gradually life will resume for all of us. The 1918 pandemic passed in two years without a vaccine and ushered in the roaring 20's. Better times are ahead! Do your best to stay positive and safe. ●

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

DATE: Thursday, April 8, 2021
Monday, April 19, 2021
Thursday, April 22, 2021

TIME: 7:00 PM, or as soon thereafter
as the matter may be heard

LOCATION: Meeting to be conducted via
teleconference as described
below

PROJECT ADDRESS: 9850, 9876, 9900, and 9988
Wilshire Boulevard
(Site frontage on North Santa Monica
Boulevard and Wilshire Boulevard)



- 72,697 SF, 20' tall hotel restaurant, retail, 36 hotel room, and support area structure (Beverly Hilton Enhancement)
- 12.7-acres of open space, including an 8-acre botanical garden, of which 4.5-acres will be public.

Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (Final SEIR): The Proposed 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. The City of Beverly Hills prepared a Final SEIR to analyze potential environmental impacts associated with the Project. The Planning Commission will review and consider certification of the Final SEIR for the Project. The Final SEIR analyzes the following potential environmental effects of the Project:

- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology/Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Mandatory Findings of Significance
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Public Services
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems

The Planning Commission of the City of Beverly Hills, at SPECIAL meetings on April 8, 19, and 22, 2021, will hold public hearings beginning at **7:00 PM**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard to consider the following requests associated with the One Beverly Hills Overlay Specific Plan Project:

- **General Plan Amendment:** Create the One Beverly Hills Overlay Specific Plan land use designation and apply the designation to the Project site. Amend the text of General Plan Land Use Policy 9.3.
- **Specific Plan:** A new overlay specific plan for the Project site area that includes: 1) the area and components of the specific plan, 2) allowed uses, development standards, and guidelines, 3) operational standards for uses, 4) plan implementation and administration, and 5) conceptual project plans.
- **Zone Text and Map Amendments:** Add the One Beverly Hills Overlay Specific Plan overlay zoning designation to the Beverly Hills Municipal Code and apply the designation to the Project site on the City's zoning map.
- **Development Agreement:** The applicant is seeking a development agreement with the City. The Planning Commission may discuss the terms of the development agreement and make consistency findings with the City's General Plan.

Project Description: The 17.4 acre Project site consists of three properties: 1) the current location of the Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills and Beverly Hilton Hotels (9850 and 9876 Wilshire Boulevard), 2) the former location of the Robinsons-May Department Store (9900 Wilshire Boulevard), and 3) the location of a 76 service station (9988 Wilshire Boulevard). The 9900 Wilshire Boulevard portion of the site has an approved entitlement for 901,514 SF of future development that allows for the construction of up to 193 condominium units and a 134-room luxury hotel (9900 Wilshire Specific Plan). The Beverly Hilton/Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills portion of the site has an approved entitlement (Beverly Hilton Specific Plan) that allows for the future construction of 110 condominium units and demolition and reconstruction of approximately 51,600 SF of retail, restaurant, meeting and office space. The Beverly Hilton Specific Plan totals 973,565 SF in floor area.

The proposed Overlay Specific Plan Project is a unified development plan that would allow for alternative site development of the Project site than the development authorized by the approved 9900 Wilshire Specific Plan, the approved Beverly Hilton Specific Plan, and the C-3 zoning designation applicable to the 9988 Wilshire Boulevard property. The proposed 1,933,436 SF Project includes the following components:

- 162 residential unit, 499,806 SF, 32-story, 410' tall residential building (Santa Monica Residences)
- 141 residential unit, 424,266 SF, 28-story, 369' tall residential building (Garden Residences)
- 37 residential unit and 42 hotel room, 213,966 SF, 11-story, 124' tall hotel/residential building (Wilshire Building)
- 127,324 SF structure containing amenities and support areas, including 30 residential accessory spaces that could be used for staff housing (Promenade)
- 37,562 SF, 31' tall conference center for the Beverly Hilton Hotel

The Final SEIR impact analysis determines that, after mitigation, no significant environmental effects are anticipated except for: significant and unavoidable impacts to cultural resources (historic resources) and noise (in the event construction occurs outside the City's regularly permitted hours).

How to Participate

Pursuant to Executive Order N-25-20, members of the Beverly Hills Planning Commission and staff may participate in this meeting via teleconference. In the interest of maintaining appropriate social distancing, members of the public can participate by listening to the meeting at (888) 468-1195 (participant code 105093) and/or offer comment through email at commentPC@beverlyhills.org. Public comment can be offered during the meeting by calling (310) 285-1020 or via video at <https://www.gotomeet.me/BevPublic>.

Written comments should identify the Agenda Item Number or Topic in the subject line of the email. In order to have written material included in the Commissioners' packet, it must be received no later than 8 calendar days before the date of the hearing.

Comments will be read into the record, with a maximum allowance of 3 minutes per individual comment (approximately 350 words), subject to the Commission's discretion. It is recommended that written comments be submitted prior to the posted meeting date/time. If a comment is received after the agenda item is heard, but before the close of the meeting, the comment will still be included as a part of the record of the meeting, but will not be read into the record.

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 **Masa Alkire, AICP, Principal Planner**, in the Planning Division at **(310) 285-1135**, or by email at malkire@beverlyhills.org. 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,
Masa Alkire, AICP, Principal Planner



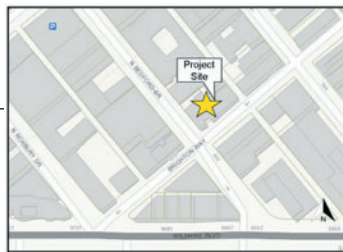
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: Thursday, April 8, 2021
TIME: 1:30 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard
LOCATION: Meeting to be conducted via teleconference as described below
PROJECT ADDRESS: **9647 Brighton Way**
 (Intersection of Brighton Way and North Bedford Drive)



The Planning Commission of the City of Beverly Hills, at its REGULAR meeting on Thursday, April 8, 2021, will hold a public hearing beginning at **1:30 PM**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard to consider the following:

A request for a Conditional Use Permit to allow a non-retail use (real estate office) to occupy a ground floor street frontage of more than 30' within the Pedestrian Oriented Area of the City for the building located at **9647 Brighton Way**. The proposed real estate office would occupy approximately 45'-9" of ground floor street frontage along Brighton Way and approximately 83'-2" of ground floor street frontage along North Bedford Drive. Pursuant to Beverly Hills Municipal Code § 10-3-1655.B, the Planning Commission may issue a Conditional Use Permit to allow a non-retail use to occupy any space within the Pedestrian Oriented Area of the City.

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 Sections 15301. The Class 1 Categorical Exemption is applicable for operational changes and minor interior alterations within an existing commercial building. Accordingly, the Planning Commission will consider a recommendation to find the project exempt from the environmental review requirements of CEQA.

How to Participate: Pursuant to Executive Order N-25-20, members of the Beverly Hills Planning Commission and staff may participate in this meeting via teleconference. In the interest of maintaining appropriate social distancing, members of the public can participate by listening to the meeting at (888) 468-1195 (participant code 105093) and/or offer comment through email at commentPC@beverlyhills.org. Public comment can be offered during the meeting by calling (310) 285-1020 or by video via at <https://www.gotomeet.me/BevPublic>.

Written comments should identify the Agenda Item Number or Topic in the subject line of the email. In order to have written material included in the Commissioners' packet, it must be received no later than eight (8) calendar days before the date of the Hearing.

Comments will be read into the record, with a maximum allowance of three (3) minutes per individual comment (approximately 350 words), subject to the Commission's discretion. It is recommended that written comments be submitted prior to the posted meeting date/time. If a comment is received after the agenda item is heard, but before the close of the meeting, the comment will still be included as a part of the record of the meeting, but will not be read into the record.

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 **Judy Gutierrez, Associate Planner** in the Planning Division at **(310) 285-1192**, or by email at jgutierrez@beverlyhills.org. 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,
 Judy Gutierrez, Associate Planner

NEWS

(City Council continued from page 1)

Albanese also discussed an option called RING (Regional Interagency Next Generation 911), that would allow the Department to utilize regional support during high volume call incidents. The City Council directed staff to proceed with finding another local law enforcement agency to partner with who can assist in high-volume situations until the Next Generation 911 system goes live next year.

The item was placed on the agenda at the request of Mayor Lester Friedman and Councilmember Lili Bosse in response to concerns from residents who received a busy signal when they dialed 911 on March 4. In the hour following the shooting, dispatchers answered 92 incoming phone calls.

According to Albanese, who oversees the 911 dispatch, the first emergency call related to the robbery was received at 2:09:33 p.m. and answered within seven seconds. "As you can imagine, with a crime like that occurring at two o'clock in the afternoon on a very busy street, the dispatch center received an influx of emergency calls in a very short period of time," Albanese said.

During the incident, three male suspects approached a victim seated on the patio of Il Pastaio restaurant when one of the suspects, who was armed with a handgun, pointed it at the victim. The suspects removed the victim's watch from his wrist while he was seated and then a struggle ensued over the handgun, which ultimately resulted in the discharge of the weapon.

Following the first 911 call, 24 additional emergency calls were received in the two and a half minutes following, between 2:09:34 p.m. and 2:12:00 p.m. Of those 24, nine calls were answered within the following timeframe: four seconds, seven seconds, seven seconds, 12 seconds, 13 seconds, 55 seconds, 55 seconds, 65 seconds and 76 seconds. The remaining 15 callers disconnected the line before a dispatcher answered. Of those 15 missed calls, 14 were accounted for after the calls were returned by dispatchers. "After that two-and-a-half-minute period, our dispatchers were able to successfully answer all subsequent 911 calls from that point forward," Albanese said.

"The CCTV (closed-circuit televisions used for surveillance) captured part of the shooting," Albanese said. "And we can determine that the shooting itself occurred about 18 seconds after 2:09 p.m. in the afternoon. We received the first 911 call at 2:09 p.m. and 33 seconds, and that call was answered by a dispatcher within seven seconds. The first caller was able to provide us with great detailed information that helps us get pertinent information to quickly dispatch our unit. The dispatcher keyed in the information into our computer aided dispatch (CAD) program, and a second dispatcher who was monitoring the room and heard that there was a shooting incident was already looking at his screen to determine which units we had closest available to respond."

The Department reported the dispatch of police personnel at 2:10:16 p.m. and fire personnel at 2:10:40 p.m. The first police unit arrived on the scene at 2:11:47 p.m., 91 seconds after dispatch, and the first fire unit arrived at 2:13:32 p.m., 172 seconds after dispatch.

Beverly Hills operates its own Emergency Communications Center, which is housed in the police station and staffed 24/7. The unit is responsible for the intake of emergency, non-emergency and administrative calls related to police, fire and parking enforcement

services. The space is equipped with seven custom designed CAD workstations.

Once a dispatcher answers a call and inputs information such as a phone number and location, a second dispatcher who handles the radio communication sends the appropriate resources to the call. The goal, according to Albanese, is to answer every 911 call within 15 seconds.

In 2020, the Communications Center processed 184,319 calls. Of those, 154,667 were inbound calls and 29,652 outbound calls. Of those inbound calls, 26,921 were answered 911 calls and 13,342 were answered 10-digit emergency calls. The remaining 114,404 were non-emergency or for administrative services.

"These two things happen simultaneously," said Albanese. "Sometimes callers get frustrated because they think that the emergency resources are not on the way when the call taker continues to ask more questions. But as soon as the call taker enters the call into the window, second dispatcher is simultaneously sending emergency resources. So, even though the call taker may be on the call longer asking additional questions the emergency resources have already been dispatched."

However, when there's an influx of 911 calls, the most critical call is the first. Dispatchers rely on the first caller who reports the emergency to give the police an accurate depiction of where the incident is and what is happening. In high call volume situations, after that first call is taken by the dispatcher, all subsequent calls are quickly vetted to determine if the call is related to the initial emergency or about a secondary, unrelated emergency.

"In the event that there are any unanswered 911 calls, we have some technology that assists the dispatcher to ensure we do not miss a secondary emergency," Albanese said.

Next year, through the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), the entire state will transition from the current 911 system to an IP-based Next Generation 911 system. The new system improves the location accuracy to ensure emergency calls are properly routed. "One of the added benefits in Next Generation 911 is the ability for agencies to transfer automatically overflowing calls to another agency within the state to help," Albanese noted.

While the Next Generation 911 system is already underway, it will not be operational until the beginning of 2022. In the interim, the Department identified a possible short-term solution to make sure that no 911 call goes unanswered, regardless of an influx. Beverly Hills, along with a network of seven other local agencies, have joined the RING program. RING operates essentially as a smaller, regional version of the Next Generation 911 program.

"One of the benefits of the RING program is it allows agencies to work remotely from one of the other seven agencies," Albanese said. "Meaning that, in theory, in the event of a station evacuation here in Beverly Hills, our dispatchers could relocate to one of our partner agencies, sit down at their console, be able to log in and start answering calls for Beverly Hills from another location."

She added, "So, although this system was not designed to provide a method to manage an overflow of 911 calls in concept, it could be used for this purpose. We need to do a little more research to see if this will be a viable option to help support 911 calls in the future." ●



Members of the public may listen to this meeting telephonically at (888) 468-1195 (participant code 105093). Written public comment can be offered electronically prior to and during the meeting by emailing commentPC@beverlyhills.org. Oral public comment can be offered during the meeting by calling (310) 285-1020. Live meeting coverage will be available via BHTV Channel 10 on Spectrum Cable and webcast live at www.beverlyhills.org/watchlive. If you are an individual with a disability and need a reasonable modification or accommodation pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please contact (310) 285-1194 prior to the meeting for assistance.

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Birthdays



JOSEPHINE FAR
March 19



JOAN AGAJANIAN QUINN
March 20



JIM DOSS
March 20



SPIKE LEE
March 20



REESE WITHERSPOON
March 22



JESSICA CHASTAIN
March 24



ELTON JOHN
March 25



KEIRA KNIGHTLY
March 26



Astrology

BY HOLIDAY MATIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A person with a good attitude sees a mixed-bag opportunity and thinks of making the most of it. But you don't have a good attitude. Your attitude is stellar. You absolutely know you'll crush the coal into a diamond.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Looking past people's limitations, searching for their beauty, seeing it, pointing it out... these are some of the ways you make others happy. So much of that happiness will splash back onto you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The work of love isn't a doing/acting/fixing job today. The work of love is a listening gig, an "entering in the spirit of another" practice, a task that encompasses receiving and relaxing.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). What you're hearing will mentally trigger a story about the time it happened to you, but you won't tell that story. Instead, you'll give your support generously without flipping focus your way.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You like to know what others are doing, but even more interesting to you is why they are doing it. You're not content with the

first reasons that surface. Your fascination kicks in with the deeper ones.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You would like it if people would understand what's important to you, but when they don't, you simply show them again, no fuss. People often need multiple examples to internalize knowledge.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). As the second air sign of the zodiac, you have intimate knowledge of the kind of wonders that can arrive on the wind. Psychic breezes will kick up today, not so hard as to blow you off course but just strong enough to gently rock you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Setting things straight works wonderfully in a linear situation, like a library shelf. As for the biological and emotional world, circles and wiggleness are the norm. There's no sillier futility than trying to set wiggly things straight!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The silence between two people is as unique as the sound of their shared language. As you listen to a quiet punctuated by words, you'll hear clearly the heart's intention.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). What do you want? You've been choosing for the good of others, but if you're not happy too, no one will be happy. Make yourself smile first, and then watch the

other faces alight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Integrity is power. Loyalty, honor, stoicism, duty -- all the qualities that could fit into the themes of heroic drama will also apply to your role and the current scene of which you are definitely the hero.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Even great beauty isn't recognized by all. Some see it. Many miss. You have the sort of thoughtful, intelligent eye that can and will see many different kinds of beauty, even when it's enshrouded

in ordinariness.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 19). A guiding realization: Other people's definition of success is great for them but would be a hollow win for you. You have your own version and will embody it. You commit to what's important, and life shifts to support those priorities. You'll have excellent luck attracting the right resources and relationships. Gemini and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 30, 22, 27 and 16.



Mr. Peanut is a three-year-old Dachshund/Beagle mix who weighs approximately 20 pounds. He would love to find a new home and family to call his own. If you can help Mr. Peanut, please call Shelter of Hope at 805-379-3538.
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SUDOKU 03/19/21 ISSUE								
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THE NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE
03/19/21

THEY ALL LAUGHED
BY JACOB STULBERG / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Jacob Stulberg, of Otis, Mass., is a second-year law student at New York University, currently taking classes remotely. He's been making crosswords for The Times since 2013. Jacob is a longtime fan of the publication mentioned in 101-Across. When he was 11, he wrote a letter to the editors, which they published, correcting their use of the term "gluteus maximus." — W.S.

- ACROSS**

1 Some rappers

4 Music genre for Carmen Miranda

9 Pioneer in 35mm. cameras

14 Bit of bait

18 His face overlooks Havana's Plaza de la Revolución

19 Fire —

20 See 67-Across

21 Refurbish

22 Architectural innovation jokingly predicted by 101-Across in 1982

26 Actress Perez

27 Performer's showcase

28 Gave out

29 God of love

30 Goofy images, perhaps?

32 Kitchen brand whose name becomes an animal after adding a T

33 Old N.Y.C. subway inits.

36 Wish-list items

38 Grooming tool jokingly predicted by 101-Across in 1979

41 "Gotcha"

43 ___ Sea, whose eastern basin has become a desert

44 Either spy to the other in "Spy vs. Spy"
- 45 Prop in a Shakespeare tragedy

47 Abbr. at the end of a planner

48 Classic board game derived from pachisi

50 Place to order a cassoulet

52 Writing aid jokingly predicted by 101-Across in 1967

55 Therefore

56 ___ block

57 Midnight trip to the fridge, say

58 "Yellow Flicker Beat" singer, 2014

59 Type of headsail

62 Super-duper

63 Shake off

65 Hammer out, say

66 "___ Lisa"

67 With 20-Across, yearly

68 Some sports car options

69 Painter Paul

70 "Them's the breaks!"

72 Butler played by Gable

73 Winter sport jokingly predicted by 101-Across in 1965

75 Treadmill settings

77 They're not known for neatness

78 Word connecting two place names

79 Word connecting two last names

80 Taters

81 Ragamuffin

82 Nominee's place
- 84 Telephone feature jokingly predicted by 101-Across in 1961

89 Porters, e.g.

92 Stampede member in "The Lion King"

93 Manual readers

94 "___ fun!"

95 Early smartphone model

96 Italian lager

98 Square thing

100 Like some rights and engineers

101 Satirical cartoonist, born 3/13/1921, known for dreaming up ridiculous inventions ... or are they?

107 Ransacks

108 Peter the Great and others

109 Eponym of an M.L.B. hitting award

110 Jellied British delicacy

111 Goes down

112 Fender product, for short

113 Windows forerunner

114 Droll
- DOWN**

1 Phil of "Dr. Phil"

2 Intensity of color

3 When the president may make a pitch

4 Ump's call

5 Comedian Wong

6 Gym array

7 Sweet bread

8 Not as scarce

9 Language not traditionally written with spaces between words

10 Ambient musician Brian

11 Like Bach's first two "Brandenburg" Concertos

12 Like dice, shapewise

13 Finding it funny

14 Off the mark

15 Substance that helps a spaceship's fuel burn

16 Direct

17 It's greener the higher it is, for short

21 Glow, in a way

23 Narrow inlet

24 Part

25 ___ of Man

31 Exposed to high heat, in a way

32 Cosmetics brand with "Face Anything" ads

34 Ex-QB football analyst Tony

35 Word repeated before "again"

37 Move stealthily

38 Big part of the S&P 500

39 "It's co-o-old!"

40 Toss in a chip, maybe

42 Hid

45 Org. concerned with performance rights

46 Mace, for one

48 Oodles

49 "___ From Muskogee" (Merle Haggard hit)

50 Cartoonist Dave famous for "The Lighter Side of ..."

ANSWERS FOUND
IN NEXT
WEEK'S PAPER...

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- 51 How anatomy charts are drawn

53 Mormon church, for short

54 Blow

55 "Mountain of God," in Exodus

58 Longtime name in cinemas

59 Hire calling?

60 Like slapstick comedies

61 Feature of a Care Bear's belly
- 64 Oodles

65 Hazard on an Arctic voyage

66 1960s style

68 Blues ensemble?

69 Slices easily (through)

71 Brush brand

72 Command+Y, on a Mac

73 Swizzle

74 Cartoon speech bubble, often

75 Whirled around

76 Sting, e.g.
- 77 Egg holders

80 Droop

81 Most sinewy

82 Its coat of arms features a marlin and flamingo, with "the"

83 Baseball's "Big Papi"

85 Since

86 Principles

87 Russian assembly

88 Gutter nuisance in cold climates

90 Apt surname for a ho-dog vendor?
- 91 Alone

97 Gobbles up

99 Suet alternative

100 Survivalist's stockpile

101 It might come in a yard glass

102 High toss

103 Crew's control?

104 ___ diavolo (in a peppery tomato sauce)

105 Year-round Phoenix hrs.

106 Sticky stuff



Spago L'Extérieur Photo by Eric Denq

(Indoor Dining continued from page 1)

The exact reopening date at The Grill is still to be determined, said Sease. “All our employees are calling to see when they can come back. But we want to first make sure everything is safe. Stay tuned. We will be back soon, just as we were. Once again we will be the top power lunch venue in all of Beverly Hills.”

Il Pastaio Manager Carolina Drago surveyed the scene at the Canon Boulevard mainstay the day after dining reopened. “Of course, we are very excited to have the inside and more of our regulars coming in. But the feeling was very intense yesterday. It was a good feeling, a beautiful feeling. It's been one year to see everything empty and then to see people sitting inside was beautiful. ... We are so grateful. Beverly Hills for us is like a home,” Drago told the Courier.

The city's hotels have been especially hard-hit by the pandemic. As restaurants have expanded outdoors with parklet space, hotels have also made creative use of outdoor space for dining.

“We have been able to welcome our Beverly Hills community to the beautiful Avec Nous al fresco dining space over the past few weeks,” said Scott Berger, General Manager of Viceroy L'Ermitage Beverly Hills. “Not only will it be nice to see life and energy back inside our interior dining rooms, but it will also create more opportunities and hours for our staff to engage with guests,” noted Berger.

At the Beverly Hilton, a new outdoor dining experience called Sant'olina has debuted on the rooftop. The venue, in conjunction with the prolific h.wood Group, offers Mediterranean and Israeli cuisine infused with a Southern California flair.

“We've transformed the space upstairs. Sant'olina is beautiful, both day and night. We're excited to be able to offer some indoor dining there in a couple of weeks. We think it is going to be very popular because of the views and the space up there,” the Beverly Hilton's General Manager Sandy Murphy told the Courier.

The Beverly Hilton recently completed a \$35 million property-wide hotel renovation. The venerable main dining venue, Circa 55, is still under renovation. It will reopen in the next few months, said Murphy.

At Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills, Jean-Georges Beverly Hills is reopening for indoor (and outdoor) dining on March 19. The lounge area will offer a small a la carte menu designed for pre-dinner or post dinner cocktails and bites.

“I am thrilled that indoor dining is able to resume at Jean-Georges Beverly Hills with our special six or eight-course tasting experience offered Thursday through Sunday evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. We cannot wait to welcome guests back into the award-winning restaurant after many months and will do so in a safe and socially distanced manner,” Vanessa Williams, General Manager at Waldorf Astoria Beverly



Indoor dining returned on March 15. Photo by Samuel Braslow

Hills told the Courier.

Safety, of course, remains at the top of the reopening conversation. Barbara Lazaroff, ASID, Co-Founder and Co-Owner of Spago, Beverly Hills and Co-Founder of the Wolfgang Puck brand told the Courier that her staff keep an eight-foot-long pole handy, to mark required distances between tables.

“It is a great thing that we are opening up. For those who chose not to participate in OpenBH or those that didn't have the space, obviously the ability to open somewhat indoors is a blessing. But it is not a panacea for people to believe that things are fine and restaurants are now all well and good. Twenty-five percent still doesn't work for a lot of restaurants. Can you imagine if you have a small restaurant, and you can only open up 25 percent? That might only be a few tables,” said Lazaroff.

At Spago, the new red tier rule means they can use their inside patio and perhaps a portion of indoor dining space. But for now, operations are concentrated on the 120' X 50' clear outdoor dining tent dubbed Spago L'Extérieur. The city approved the erection of the tent outside Spago, against the muraled Metro construction wall on Canon Drive.

“I worked very hard for the wall. We are happy about it. I appreciate the city, all the

stakeholders and everyone who took a lot of effort with us to get it. It is festive, it is doing what we hoped it would do. It's allowing us to generate some profit to keep the restaurant viable. But, until restaurants open up at least 50 percent, most or at least some cannot sustain themselves,” said Lazaroff.

As for the vaunted Spago name, Lazaroff said she hopes to “one day be back to the business we once were. We want to be an asset to Beverly Hills. We want to continue to help the city with projects they have, and to help support all of our guests' charities.”

For the past 37 years, Spago has raised funds by holding a Passover Seder to benefit MAZON, the Jewish hunger charity.

“Last year we did it on a to-go basis. Our guests were incredibly generous. We were able to generate \$10,000 for MAZON. The challenge this year is that we don't have the staff in place and we still can't gather for events. So, we are going to put some Passover items on our menu March 27 and 28. I'm hoping people will consider what they did last year and make a donation to Mazon.org. Next year, we hope to be back. But we have to be careful on every point. We can't run until we learn to walk. We're just learning to walk again.”

With Samuel Braslow ●



Giorgio Sease, General Manager of The Grill Photo by Samuel Braslow

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PUBLIC NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
CASE NO: 21STCP00782
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

In the Matter of the petition of: **JULIAN GERSHFELD**
To all interested person(s):
Petitioner:
Julian Gershfeld
Presently over 18 years of age, current residence: 2339 Achilles Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90046 filed a petition with the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 on March 10, 2021 for a Decree changing names as follows:

Present Name: **Julian Gershfeld**
Proposed Name: **YURY GERSHFELD**
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: MAY 10, 2021
Time: 10:00 AM
Department: 74
ROOM: 735
The address of the court is: 111 N. Hill Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Reason for name change: Petitioner is already known by HIS proposed name wishes to be known by his proposed name in all personal/business affairs. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.
Signed: **Julian Gershfeld**
Judge of the Superior Court: Michelle Williams Court Clerk: Sherri R. Carter Deputy: N. Miramontes
Dated: March 10, 2021
Published: 03/19/21, 03/26/21, 04/02/21, 04/09/21
BHC-R25360

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
CASE NO: 21SMCP00069
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

In the Matter of the petition of: **RYAN NIMA TABATABAI**
To all interested person(s):
Petitioner:
Ryan Nima Tabatabai
Presently over 18 years of age, current residence: 504 North Crescent Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 filed a petition with the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 on February 23, 2021 for a Decree changing names as follows:
Present Name: **Ryan Nima Tabatabai**
Proposed Name: **RYAN JAMES ZOHOURY**
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: April 30, 2021
Time: 8:30 AM

PUBLIC NOTICES

Department: K
The address of the court is: 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401
Reason for name change: Petitioner is already known by HIS proposed name wishes to be known by his proposed name in all personal/business affairs. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.
Signed: **Ryan Nima Tabatabai**
Judge of the Superior Court: Lawrence Cho
Clerk: Sherri R. Carter
Deputy: T. Rhodes
Dated: February 23, 2021
Published: 03/05/21, 03/12/21, 03/19/21, 03/26/21
BHC-R25321

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2021039726
The following is/are doing business as:
SHARP AND ASSOCIATES PR
1516 N. Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90046; **Pamela Sharp** 1516 N. Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90046; The business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed January 2021: **Pamela Sharp**, **Owner**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: February 12, 2021; Published: February 26, March 05, 12, 19, 2021 **LACC N/C**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2021039724
The following is/are doing business as:
SMALL TOWN WEIRDO
312 S. Beverly Dr. #7150, Beverly Hills, CA 90212; **Molecule Productions, LLC** 312 S. Beverly Dr. #7150, Beverly Hills, CA 90212; The business is conducted by: **A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed January 2021: **Adam Reich**, **Member**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: February 12, 2021; Published: February 26, March 05, 12, 19, 2021 **LACC N/C**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2021039728
The following is/are doing business as:
RMC MENTAL HEALTH
9041 W. 24th St., Los Angeles, CA 90034; **Riana Chagoury-Leake** 9041 W. 24th St., Los Angeles, CA 90034; The business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**, registrant(s) has NOT begun to transact business under the name(s) listed: **Riana Chagoury-Leake**, **Owner**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: February 12, 2021; Published: February 26, March 05, 12, 19, 2021 **LACC N/C**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2021050823
The following is/are doing business as:
DOCTORS' CHOICE TRUST
528 Palisades Dr. #706, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272; **Doctors' Choice Personnel Service, Inc.** 528 Palisades Dr. #706, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272; The business is conducted by: **A CORPORATION**, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed January 2021: **Terri Mathieson**, **CEO**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: February 26, 2021; Published: March 12, 19, 26, April 02, 2021 **LACC N/C**

02 ANNOUNCEMENT



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PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2021050827
The following is/are doing business as:
BLUME INDUSTRY
144 S. Camden Dr. #D, Beverly Hills, CA 90212; **Ronald Gromfin** 144 S. Camden Dr. #D, Beverly Hills, CA 90212; The business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed February 2020: **Ronald Gromfin**, **Owner**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: February 26, 2021; Published: March 12, 19, 26, April 02, 2021 **LACC N/C**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2021050825
The following is/are doing business as:
THEORY LAW
737 S. Genesee Ave. #310, Los Angeles, CA 90036; **Rodney Yadi** 737 S. Genesee Ave. #310, Los Angeles, CA 90036; The business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed November 2018: **Rodney Yadi**, **Owner**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: February 26, 2021; Published: March 12, 19, 26, April 02, 2021 **LACC N/C**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2021050829
The following is/are doing business as:
CABRELLA SHIPPING INSURANCE
7164 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90046; **Meslee Insurance Services, Inc.** 7164 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90046; The business is conducted by: **A CORPORATION**, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed April 2015: **Benjamin J. Meskin**, **President**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: February 26, 2021; Published: March 12, 19, 26, April 02, 2021 **LACC N/C**

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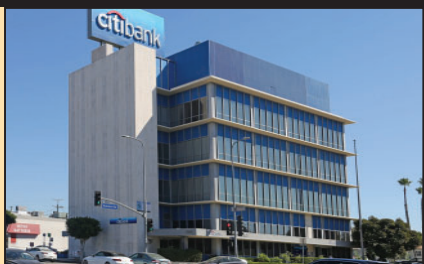
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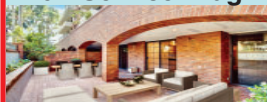
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