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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS

☁ Friday	64° 48°
☁ Saturday	76° 54°
☀ Sunday	82° 56°
☀ Monday	74° 53°
☀ Tuesday	71° 54°
☀ Wednesday	77° 56°
☀ Thursday	79° 59°

Federal Investigation Takes Over Beverly Hills Strip Mall

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW

The strip mall at the intersection of West Olympic Boulevard and South Palm Drive is hardly something to gawk at—upscale by strip mall standards, but still a strip mall. But since March 22, dozens of local and federal agents have taken over the lot.

The Beverly Palm Plaza is home to an eclectic mix of global cuisine of both the casual and white tablecloth varieties, the

obligatory nail salon with two rows of plastic covered pedicure chairs and of course, a Supercuts. What caper could have pulled together the FBI, Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), the Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) and police departments from El Monte and Chino?

“The business is U.S. Private Vaults. It’s a

safe deposit box business,” FBI Spokesperson Laura Eimiller told the Courier.

The FBI is leading the investigation, executing a federal search warrant at the business on March 22. Beyond that, the feds aren’t talking.

(Federal Investigation continues on page 10)



Federal and state law enforcement at the Beverly Palm Plaza. Photo by Bianca Heyward

Courier Exclusive: D.A. Gascón Responds to Council’s No Confidence Vote

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW

On March 16, the Beverly Hills City Council passed a Resolution of No Confidence against Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón. The previous day, a representative for Gascón reached out to the Courier and arranged for an interview with him.

The hour-long interview took place while the resolution was being considered by the City Council. In the interview, Gascón reacted to the resolution against him and responded to criticisms of his policies and directives that the Council brought up during both the afternoon Study Session and the evening Regular Session. (See the Courier’s March 19 story, “Council Votes No Confidence in D.A.”)

After reaching out to the city for additional comment, Beverly Hills Spokesperson Keith Sterling provided the Courier with this response:

“The members of the City Council have already expressed their views publicly regarding District Attorney Gascón and his policies. The discussions can be viewed at the archived City Council meetings of March 16 available at beverlyhills.org.”

(Gascón continues on page 11)

Board of Education Considers New Protocols

BY BIANCA HEYWARD

Three days before the spring recess, the Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) Board of Education convened for its second in-person meeting in the Jon Cherney Lecture Hall at Beverly Hills High School (BHHS). During the March 23 meeting, the Board heard updates on new county COVID-19 health protocols and what the April 8 return of students in grades 6-12 will look like. (New Protocols continues on page 7)



NOW – MARCH 28
CENTER THEATRE GROUP: “TANGO THE MUSICAL”

“Tango The Musical” is presented March 26 at 5 and 8 p.m., March 27 at 5 and 8 p.m., and March 28 at 1 and 5 p.m. Featuring a cast of world-champion Argentine tango couples accompanied by a 10-piece orchestra under the musical direction of pianist Cristian Zárate, “Tango The Musical” celebrates the 100th anniversary of the birth of Argentinian composer and pioneer of tango nuevo, Astor Piazzolla. <https://www.centertheatregroup.org/digitalstage/premium-events/tango-the-musical/>



NOW – MARCH 31
DESCANSO GARDENS: “LA BLOOMS”

Enjoy the explosion of color and beauty at Descanso Gardens with “LA Blooms.” Not only will the cherry blossoms be in full regalia, but more than 30,000 tulip bulbs will be producing a breathtaking assortment of tulips in different colors and varieties. In addition, see the return of the ever-popular Tomatomania. Advance ticketing is required. Descanso Gardens is located at 1418 Descanso Drive, La Cañada Flintridge. <https://www.descansogardens.org/>

NOW – APRIL 10
GALERIE XII LA: “WOMEN.ON.WOMEN (WOW)” EXHIBITION, HONORING THE STRENGTH OF THE FEMALE SPIRIT

Galerie XII Los Angeles presents “Women.On.Women (WOW)” exhibition running through April 10 at their new gallery at Bergamot Station Arts Center (2525 Michigan Ave. Suite B2, Santa Monica), which features four exhibition spaces and is open during COVID-19 for limited-capacity viewings and private appointments. The pioneering show about women seen and emboldened by women showcases the works of five female artists: Patty Carroll, Maia Flore, Mona Kuhn, Ziqian Liu, and Anja Niemi. <https://www.galeriexii.com/EN/event/women-on-women?evt=1c4bc710-f878-4689-b35c-cb2b113edd31>

MARCH 26
LOS ANGELES CHAMBER ORCHESTRA DIGITAL 2020-21 SEASON “CLOSE QUARTERS”: VIOLINIST GIL SHAHAM PERFORMING BOULOGNE 6:30 p.m.

Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra’s (LACO) digital “Close Quarters” series continues with a guest appearance by violinist Gil Shaham, performing Boulogne’s virtuosic Violin Concerto No. 9 in G major on the Orchestra’s groundbreaking Close Quarters interdisciplinary digital series that melds musical and visual arts. The new episode is available to the public at no cost and can be streamed on demand following its premiere on March 26 at 6:30 p.m. on LACO’s website, YouTube and Facebook live channels. A digital pre-concert conversation begins at 5:30 p.m. <https://www.laco.org/close-quarters/>



MARCH 26
UCLA’S CENTER FOR THE ART OF PERFORMANCE: “ZAKIR HUSSAIN AND MASTERS OF PERCUSSION” 7 p.m.

UCLA’s Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA) presents “Zakir Hussain and Masters of Percussion” on March 26 on CAP UCLA Online. Every other year since 1996, Hussain has brought “Zakir Hussain and Masters of Percussion” to America. Widely considered a chief architect of the contemporary world music movement, Hussain has been involved in many historic collaborations with artists including Yo-Yo Ma, Charles Lloyd and George Harrison. CAP UCLA audiences can expect uncanny intuition and masterful improvisational dexterity from Hussain’s performance. <https://online.cap.ucla.edu/videos/zakir-hussain-and-masters-of-percussion/>

MARCH 27
PASADENA SYMPHONY: “PASADENA PRESENTS” SPRING LINE-UP 4 p.m.

Music Director David Lockington and the Pasadena Symphony present the 2020/21 “Pasadena Presents” Spring Season of online concerts through May 22. Enjoy chamber music with a twist, with renowned guest artists performing a popular concerto, and Pasadena Symphony musicians performing chamber music masterpieces. On March 27, Venezuelan pianist Gabriela Martinez performs Grieg’s Concerto, along with pieces by two British composers - Finzi’s Eclogue and Elgar’s whimsical Serenade. <https://pasadenasympphony-pops.org/pasadena-presents/>



MARCH 27
THEATRE 40 - “HOUSE ON THE HILL: MARY ELLEN PLEASANT’S STORY” 7 p.m.

In celebration of Women’s History Month, Theatre 40 presents a Zoom reading of “House on the Hill: Mary Ellen Pleasant’s Story” on March 27. Ms. Pleasant (1814-1904) was the first African American female millionaire, an abolitionist who worked with the Underground Railroad, a champion who sued for the right to ride the trolley car in San Francisco, and who earned the name of Mother of Civil Rights in California. The event is free. However, donations in support of the ongoing artistic activities of the non-profit Theatre 40 will be gratefully accepted on the website. To attend, please use this Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85847463377>. <https://theatre40.org/>

MARCH 27- 28
FARHANG FOUNDATION: KAHYHAN KALHOR - LOST IN THE DESERT SKY

Farhang Foundation presents Kahyhan Kalhor - Lost in the Desert Sky, a concert event. Produced under the artistic direction of Master Kayhan Kalhor, it is featuring all-new music by Master Kalhor in memory of the passing of Iranian singer and cultural icon Maohammad-Reza Shajarian. Special guests include the stage debut of Hadi Hosseini. Register on the website. <https://farhang.org/concerts/kayhan-kalhor-lost-in-the-desert-sky>

MARCH 28
THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART - ANDELL FAMILY SUNDAYS ANYTIME: MERMAIDS, DRAGONS, AND OTHER MYTHICAL BEINGS 12:30 - 9 p.m.

Join for the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) - Andell Family Sundays Anytime. Be creative, discover new art, and have fun - all from the comfort of home. The month of March is dedicated to mythical beasts and beings found in LACMA’s permanent collection. On March 28 (and anytime after), visit LACMA’s YouTube channel to watch teaching artist Sofia Mas make art inspired by dragons, mermaids, and more. The online event is free. <https://www.lacma.org/event/andell-family-sundays-anytime-mermaids-dragons-and-other-mythical-beings>



MARCH 29
WALLIS ANNENBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS: THE STORY PIRATES’ “SLEEP SQUAD” FAMILY-FRIENDLY, INTERACTIVE, VIRTUAL THEATER EXPERIENCE

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts presents “Sleep Squad,” a family-friendly, interactive, virtual theater experience from The Story Pirates and Tony Award-winning producer Eva Price (“Jagged Little Pill,” “Peter and the Starcatcher”), available for purchase over a two-week period beginning March 29 through April 11. “Sleep Squad” is a one-of-a-kind experience that leaps off the screen for performance-like, immersive family fun right at home. Featuring brand-new kid-driven comedy and music, this world-premiere production introduces a special new kind of bedtime ritual for kids ages 4-12. The imaginative on-demand show can be experienced after dinner, before bedtime, at naptime or anytime young “astronauts” feel like going on an adventure into their dreams. It can be experienced in one sitting, or each story can be enjoyed in three 15-minute segments. <https://thewallis.org/Sleep>


MARCH 30 – APRIL 2

THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY - “WHEN WOMEN RISE UP: ADVENTURES IN NATURE CONNECTED: VIRTUAL SPRING DAY CAMP” 10 - 11:30 A.M.

This spring, Adventures in Nature Connected invites children grades K-5 to celebrate the achievements of women in science in a four-day virtual camp. Enroll campers in interactive virtual sessions full of hands-on activities and scientific investigation. Participants will learn about the contributions of women scientists and explore nature, insects, paleontology, the ocean and more. <https://nhmlcac.org/advetures-nature>

MARCH 31
HAMMER MUSEUM: ART TALK ON CHRISTINA FORRER 12:30 p.m.

The Hammer’s curatorial department leads free, insightful, short discussions about artists in Made in L.A. 2020 online. This talk on Christina Forrer is led by Dennis Carr, The Huntington’s Chief Curator of American Art. The link to join will also be posted on the website two hours before the program starts. This program will be recorded, which will be available soon after. <https://hammer.ucla.edu/programs-events/2021/lunchtime-art-talk-christina-forrer>



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Court Strikes Down Beverly Hills Ordinance

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW



Protestors on June 26. Photo by Samuel Braslow

On March 19 a Los Angeles Superior Court judge struck down the Beverly Hills urgency ordinance limiting assemblies in residential areas. Criminal charges against 25 protesters were dismissed, on grounds that the ordinance was unconstitutional. The city has not yet decided whether it will appeal

the ruling.

“In this case a unique circumstance has arisen, the experience of characteristically urban mass protest within a suburban area. Beverly Hills responded with a unique and apparently unprecedented solution: silencing larger groups in public in residential

areas at night,” wrote Judge Mark Windham in a nine-page ruling. “Our State Constitution shares principles of free expression with the First Amendment—their application to this unique circumstance yields what could be characterized as ‘a right not to be silenced in a public forum,’ which invalidates the ordinance.”

“The city believes that the ordinance was constitutional as a temporary restriction on demonstrations in residential areas,” Beverly Hills spokesperson Keith Sterling told the Courier. Even in light of the ruling, Sterling held that a permanent, less restrictive ordinance regulating nighttime demonstrations in residential areas passed in the fall “meets the constitutional requirements of the decision by Judge Windham.”

Following a June 12 protest on a residential street by the activist group Black Future Project, known at the time as Occupy BLM, the city passed Urgency Ordinance No. 20-0-2813. The ordinance limited residential assemblies to “no more than ten” people between 9 p.m. and 8 a.m. “in order to enable residents to sleep.” The measure exempted law enforcement, media, and “any assembly that is silent.”

On June 26, Black Future Project returned

to Beverly Hills to protest the ordinance. “We returned on the 26th because Beverly Hills tried to over-exercise their privilege,” Black Future Project founder James Butler told the Courier.

The group traveled north on Rexford from Santa Monica Boulevard after 9 p.m., equipped with megaphones and a van carrying large speakers. Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) officers in riot gear intercepted the group and made 25 arrests by the end of the night. In the immediate aftermath of the arrests, the department drew condemnation from the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) for detaining protesters for as long as 24 hours.

Beverly Hills was not alone in instituting restrictions on protests. In response to the historic unrest in the county, cities including Los Angeles, Santa Monica, and Pasadena enacted curfews and restrictions on assemblies. But pushback and legal actions soon mounted following mass arrests and then-District Attorney Jackie Lacey and Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer dropped all charges for curfew violations and other minor infractions.

(Protest Ordinance continues on page 7)




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Next Beverly Hills Committee Considers City Policies

BY BIANCA HEYWARD

The March 18 Next Beverly Hills (NBH) Committee meeting included spirited discussion on a number of topics affecting the city. The Committee—comprised of a talented group of civically minded young leaders—is focused on engaging residents between the ages of 25 and 45 through innovative initiatives that address their lifestyle, economic and civic needs. In an ongoing effort to keep the next generation informed, Mayor Lester Friedman and Councilmember Dr. Julian Gold provided Council updates. The meeting agenda also included NBH's civic action items, such as integrating affordable housing in the city's General Plan.

Founded in May of 2015 by then Mayor Gold, NBH is open to residents and non-residents of all ages. Currently, there are 45 members and half a dozen others who are in the process of officially joining. In order to become a voting member, one must attend 50 percent or more of NBH meetings. The chair of NBH is 31-year-old Noelle Freeman, a former Miss California with a background in online marketing.

"The main goal I have is to create a formalized process for having a voice in upcoming policy," Freeman told the Courier. This year, NBH formed a civic action subcommittee and a business and economic development subcommittee; both play active roles in formulating and drafting policy statements. The first subcommittee statement released was in support of extending the city's OpenBH program. The subcommittee will next present the letter to the City Council. According to Freeman, NBH has expressed interest in drafting future statements regarding public art and security in the city.

"We have opportunities to find what's new, and what's different, and what's exciting and what's unique," Gold said at the March 18 meeting. "I look to you and your generations for the answer to what that is and what the next generation of business going forward should look like."

Among the city matters discussed at the meeting were the City Council's recent vote of no confidence in L.A. County District Attorney George Gascón and the 2020 Annual Report on the General Plan and Housing Element Implementation.

"The city is in the process of working on the General Plan which is reviewed approximately every decade," Vice Chair Tiffany Davis said. "And it's something that we should all be aware of and educate ourselves on so we can weigh in on various areas when the time comes."

"The general plan is something that we are by law required to do," Gold said during the meeting. "But it's also an opportunity for us to take stock of where we are in our city and the kinds of things that we would like to see moving forward. It's an opportunity for us to see the future. To envision what we think transportation is going to look like,

what housing is going to look like and what our streets are going to look like."

Gold touched on the work currently before the City Council regarding housing, transportation and mobility in Beverly Hills, and a call to action.

"This is the part where you're very, very, very important," Gold said. "Because, ultimately, it's your future. In order that you create that which you want, it's important that you get engaged as to the decisions and the discussions around this that are progressing."

Following Gold's remarks, Friedman explained the Council's recent vote of no confidence in D.A. Gascón. Friedman noted that the countless hours he spent inside the city's Emergency Operations Center informed his vote.

"When the District Attorney is refusing to prosecute people who the police are arresting, it just takes away the entire morale of the police department to do their job, and that's something that I just can't sit by and let happen. Yes, our Council is talking about creating our own independent prosecutors' arm or enhancing the prosecution arm that we have right now." However, Friedman underscored the costliness of such an undertaking and the need to evaluate if the project is the most effective use of taxpayers' dollars.

"I encourage you to pay attention," Gold said. "If you feel strongly individually about it, get involved and as a group come to a consensus around those issues which are important to you as a group. And then be able to reflect that consensus in the appropriate forum, either in front of the Planning Commission or the City Council."

For millennials and Gen Z, living in Beverly Hills can be prohibitively costly. Many who grew up in the city find living there again as adults inaccessible.

"I do think that there is an issue with affordability and perception," Freeman told the Courier. "If you're looking to live here, there are a lot of things that can be done to lower the costs of housing. One particular issue we were looking at was reducing the minimum size of a one bedroom or a studio. I think that our generation doesn't necessarily need or want these big spaces, and that will help with affordability. In terms of the renting market, there's a perception that it's not affordable."

"What we're really working to figure out is what young professionals want in their city," Freeman told the Courier. "Whether it's setting up shop with your business or being in close proximity to where you work, these are all things to look at. The committee will certainly do research on it and come up with recommendations to make Beverly Hills a viable and attractive place for these young families."

The next Next Beverly Hills Committee meeting is scheduled for April 15. ●

Rotary Panel Looks at Future of Luxury Hotels

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW

The Rotary Club of Beverly Hills held a roundtable discussion on the future of the luxury hotel industry in Beverly Hills on March 24. The subject has risen in urgency since the devastation wreaked on the hospitality industry by the COVID-19 pandemic, tens of billions in lost revenue and a proportionate amount in lost taxes for local governments like Beverly Hills.

The discussion consisted of a panel of hospitality experts.

According to Luxury Hotel Advisors Co-Founder Carlos Lopes, industry analysts are predicting a return to peak pre-COVID-19 occupancy by 2023. Beverly Hills, however, has a slightly rosier forecast owing to its reputation and high-end offerings, Lopes said, estimating recovery by mid-2022.

"You can't compare Beverly Hills with Atlanta or Dallas, or most other major cities. I think we've got to look at Beverly Hills as perhaps the Monaco of California," he said. "This is one of the most exciting destinations in California."

Across the board, the panelists acknowledged the need to transform certain

practices within the industry in order to reassure guests of their safety. As the world has changed over the course of the pandemic, so, too, must hotels and lodgings.

"As a consumer, my world has changed completely. How do you bring that into a hotel?" asked Shane O'Flaherty, Microsoft's Global Director of Travel, Transportation & Hospitality.

O'Flaherty pointed to research that characterized hospitality as one of the "least automated industries on the planet," saying that this moment offers the industry an opportunity to grow.

He posed the following question: "How do you bring digital into [the luxury hotel experience] to create kind of a seamless journey for the consumer and how do we use digital to create that emotional connection with the consumer?" ●

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Councilmember Bosse Taking Part in Vital Voices Fellowship

BY ANA FIGUEROA



Lili Bosse

Beverly Hills Councilmember Lili Bosse is joining an elite global group of women leaders participating in the Vital Voices (VV) Engage 20-21 Fellowship. The prestigious program by the Washington, D.C.-based Vital Voices Global Partnership selects “outstanding women political leaders who are making and influencing policy across the globe” to take part.

Bosse certainly meets that criterion.

She is joined in the Fellowship by 36

exceptional women from 30 countries. They count among their ranks members of Parliament, government ministers, state legislators and heads of key nonprofits.

“This year’s VVEngage cohort represents an incredibly diverse and accomplished group of women,” said Manira Alva, Vice President of Political and Civic Engagement at Vital Voices. “It has never been more important to have women in political leadership leading intuitively and innovatively. We are very excited to work with these 37 women as they continue their political leadership journey...and create lasting change in their organizations, communities, and the world.”

Bosse told the Courier that she was “blown away” to see the list of the female changemakers in the Fellowship with her.

“I view Beverly Hills as such a diverse community, in terms of people who live here and visit here. What excited me is to be surrounded with people from different cultures and countries and hear what they’re doing and how they’ve survived this past year. I can hopefully bring back some new ideas,” she said.

Bosse will take part in a nine-month

curriculum that includes workshops focused on Leadership, Strategic Communications, Political Strategy and Governance. The course work has been developed in conjunction with government leaders around the globe, as well as professors from the Harvard Kennedy School.

The classes are virtual this year due to the pandemic, but that hasn’t dampened Bosse’s enthusiasm.

“We are all in so many different time zones. We’ve met early in the morning to accommodate the participants in Africa and other parts of the globe,” said Bosse.

The VVEngage Fellows will network with political leaders from around the world with whom they can share ideas and best practices. They will also hear from past female heads of state, thanks to a partnership between Vital Voices and the Council of Women World Leaders. The first session scheduled with a head of state will feature Mary Robinson, the former (and first female) President of Ireland.

Founded in 1997, the Vital Voices Global Partnership is one of the most distinguished organizations of its kind. The current Board of Directors includes Inaugural Youth

Poet Laureate Amada Gorman, as well as luminaries such as Hillary Clinton Chief of Staff, Huma Abedin, media executive Tina Brown, actress/activist Sally Field and designer Diane Von Furstenberg.

The overarching mission of the organization is to invest in women leaders who are solving the world’s greatest challenges, such as gender-based violence, climate change and economic inequities. While Beverly Hills may not face the existential challenges that leaders in Africa or South America are dealing with, Bosse said common themes still abound.

“We’ve had some breakout sessions and that was a really exciting way to meet the other fellows. The first ice breaker was to find a commonality. It was an opportunity for all of us to share challenges, our successes and our setbacks, in order to inspire one another,” said Bosse.

She added, “Even though we are from different parts of the world, what I find is that we share the same goals and sense of purpose. We all have a shared vision of wanting to make our community better. Human nature is all very similar, especially at a time when we’ve all faced a pandemic.” ●

COVID-19 Vaccination Information



#BHHealthyCity

THOSE CURRENTLY ELIGIBLE FOR THE COVID-19 VACCINE INCLUDE:

- Persons age 16-64 who have certain severe health conditions or a disability that put them at the highest risk of getting sick from COVID-19*
- Healthcare workers
- Staff & residents at skilled and long-term care facilities
- 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
- Janitorial, custodial and maintenance services
- Transportation and logistics

LA County phone assistance is available for those without a computer: 833-540-0473 • seven days a week • 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

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.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/ImzVaccination.aspx).

(Protest Ordinance continued from page 4)

Beverly Hills stayed the course in pursuing criminal charges.

“Beverly Hills took this extraordinarily aggressive approach and did so on much thinner ice,” civil rights attorney Jeffrey Douglass, who argued against the ordinance, told the Courier.

Given the city’s relatively small size, Beverly Hills outsources its prosecutorial needs to the firm of Dapeer, Rosenblit & Litvak, which filed the charges against the protesters on Aug. 14. City Attorney Laurence Wiener distanced the city from the decision to prosecute at the Sept. 1 City Council Regular Meeting.

“The prosecutor has an ethical duty to determine before he files any charges whether there is probable cause to support those charges,” Weiner said at the time. “They don’t make a judgment either way regarding whether or not this is a good prosecution or a bad prosecution from a political standpoint, and in fact, he doesn’t take direction from the City Council or the Mayor or even me regarding whether he should do that or not.”

As soon as the charges were filed, a team of volunteer attorneys representing the 25 defendants moved to dismiss them. The team, led by Douglas and co-counsel Bess Stiffelman, challenged the constitutionality of the ordinance, noting logical inconsistencies such as the 10-person limit.

“Ten people can make hellacious noise

and under this ordinance, it’s fine. But eleven people making a little bit of noise—they’re criminals,” Douglas said.

Judge Windham sided with the defense, writing, “To be clear, a person within a group of eleven who says...‘Hello,’ or ‘boo’ is subject to arrest! Everyone else in the group would be subject to arrest!”

At the time of the protests, many residents did express frustration and even fear. The police report of the June 26 protest notes that “a large percentage of [the City’s] population is comprised of Iranians and Jews of Christian and Jewish faiths,” many of whom have lost loved ones to “untold atrocities.” To those residents, the report says that the protest “is not merely an intrusion of their peace, rather, it is a terrifying reminder of their past.”

Douglas acknowledged the burden placed on locals by residential protests but argued that the limits on them by Beverly Hills curbed the very freedoms sought by those who took refuge in the United States.

“If I, in my community, have people drive by my home sounding horns at dinner time to communicate something, it’s irritating, and it doesn’t matter whether it’s celebrating a high school graduation... [or] whether it’s a political statement that I passionately disagree with or passionately agree with. I would just as soon nobody honk their horn,” Douglas said. “But the value of having that right and the ability to exercise it is infinitely precious; the alternative is extraordinarily dreadful.” ●

(New Protocols continued from page 1)

Additionally, the Board heard from two teachers who called in to express outrage following the Board’s approval of a reduction in force (RIF) initiative. The move resulted in 10 elementary school teachers receiving pink slip layoff notices last week after returning to in-person learning earlier this month.

Alana Castanon, a sixth-grade teacher at Beverly Vista Middle School and certified President of the Beverly Hills Education Association (BHEA) said: “Beyond the emotional disruption to the teacher’s lives, both personal and professional. These are the same teachers who have spent their year transforming and reinventing their teaching practice, helping to propel our District to great esteem with regard to our online education program.”

While the issue was not addressed again during the meeting, Board President, Rachele Marcus, provided the Courier with this comment:

“Every year, the District asks students to sign an intent to return, and the administration looks at the staffing needs for the coming year based on that information,” Marcus told the Courier. “By law, teachers needed to be notified by March 15th if there is a possibility that their services will not be needed. This is a precautionary measure. No one wants to see this happen, but hopefully these notices will be rescinded and many of the teachers will once again be rehired. We are acting financially responsible, and the surplus has nothing to do with this decision.”

During the Superintendent’s report

portion of the meeting, Dr. Michael Bregy shared that updated health protocols include maintaining three feet of physical distance between student desks, and six feet of distance between staff and student desks. Despite the opportunity to place more kids in the classroom now, Bregy said no changes are being made yet regarding class sizes. For students in grades 6-12, a stable group membership is not required, and it is recommended that interaction be limited to no more than 100 to 120 members, maximum.

With roughly 50 days of school left, about 40 percent of students have opted to remain in virtual learning and about 60 percent returning to in-person instruction. According to Bregy, as of March 23, the District received 1,312 registration responses. Of those, 246 students chose to remain in the Independent Learning Center (ILC), 653 chose to return to in-person and 413 students remaining in a virtual setting. The numbers are reflective of concerns voiced by many BHHS students in previous board meetings who would rather remain virtual than disrupt their schooling again. Within the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), survey results showed less than a third of students are likely to return to in-person learning this year.

“The decision is pretty simple,” Bregy said for BHUSD parents. “Keep what we have virtually for the next 50 days or so of school or come back to an in-person environment that’s a safe environment that fits within the county, state and CDC guidelines.” ●

ALERT

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Beverly Hills Estates of Mind

BY ANA FIGUEROA



Rayni and Branden Williams of Williams & Williams at The Beverly Hills Estates offices. All photos by Ryan West.

If homes have become workplaces, can the opposite be true? Branden and Rayni Williams are staking a new venture on it. The dynamic husband and wife duo behind the Williams & Williams Estates Group juggernaut have launched their own business, The Beverly Hills Estates. The hybrid concierge real estate firm and private club will be –if not quite home – a cool, welcoming place for like-minded professionals to make deals or simply hang out.

The new venture was born of lessons learned during the COVID-19 lockdown, not to mention the Williamses' own stellar track record.

In the past 15 years (first with Nourmand & Associates and then with Hilton & Hyland), the couple has broken sales records, amassed a celebrity clientele, gained coast-to-coast recognition and become household first names in luxury real estate sales. Now, with The Beverly Hills Estates, they're exploring new territory. The Courier recently met the couple in their new offices ahead of an official ribbon cutting set for March 29.

The Beverly Hills Estates is not actually in Beverly Hills, but next door, on the westernmost edge of the Sunset Strip. Mere city boundaries are no impediment to the Williamses' vision, though. Their tag line is "Estate of Mind." And Beverly Hills-ness permeates the business, both in ethos and physical design. The Beverly Hills Hotel and Bungalows, in fact, is a direct inspiration.

Branden related a seminal event that took place at the Pink Palace 15 years ago. "Rayni and I had just met. We were just starting out. We were at the hotel and we saw a man there looking at listings. We had no idea who he was. He told us he was from France, and very disappointed that his offer on a home here had just been rejected," he said.

The two, somewhat boldly, convinced the gentleman to let them show him another home. "He bought it on the spot," said Branden of the \$5.5 million dollar home. "It turns out he was Johnny Hallyday, the Elvis of France."

That initial stroke of luck as rookie agents led to years of successful client meetings

at the hotel. The new office space, said Branden, "represents a combination of our own style meets the Polo Lounge meets the Beverly Hills Hotel pool area. That's how we came up with this, and we're super excited about it. We always wondered why there was no Beverly Hills Estates. So that was the inspiration."

The inspiration even extends to the logo for The Beverly Hills Estates, which features a cheery script reminiscent of the Beverly Hills Hotel's emerald-green signage. The exterior of the new offices at 8878 Sunset Blvd. in West Hollywood is painted a similar shade. Inside the two-story, 7,000 square-foot-expanse, a suite of offices on the ground level resembles pool cabanas, with pink flamingos dotting the wallpaper. There's a white player piano, a taxidermy peacock and other homages to the storied hotel.

Branden gestures outside, to the front of the building.

"We also love Sunset Boulevard because we have 500,000 cars driving by. This used to be the Aahs store, which was always memorable. Whisky a-Go-Go is right over there. This building was photographed by Ed Ruscha (the renowned pop artist whose iconic book of photos captured a 2.5-mile long stretch of the Strip). It's the 50-yard line for us. Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, the Sunset Strip, the Bird Streets," he said.

In addition to the individual "cabana" offices, the ground floor of The Beverly Hills Estates offices includes an oversized, serpentine-shaped divan upholstered in crushed green velvet. Against one wall, separated by a customized gold room divider, sits an imposing stone bar, which will offer coffees, fresh juices and croissants to club members. The club/work area also includes several pink-upholstered booths curved around stone tabletops.



The welcome desk and a cabana at the 7,000-square-foot Beverly Hills Estates on the Sunset Strip.



A desk inside one of the cabanas/co-working spaces

“I wanted a really creative space. I wanted music in the background. [It was David Bowie during our visit.] Agents can come here and feel at home, grab something from the barista, use one of the cabanas, use the conference room. Deals happen when you share information. That’s truly what this space is. We want to have more fun. We want an interactive vibe,” said Branden.

The Williamses have carefully curated every aspect of the design and materials used in the office. Surfaces incorporate purple onyx, jadeite, as well as citrine, which symbolizes real estate abundance and wealth. Also prominent are oversized crystal geodes in the rooms, which Rayni selected for their healing properties.

If the ground floor of The Beverly Hills Estates is reminiscent of the iconic hotel, the downstairs space features what Branden describes as a “Sunset rock-n-roll vibe.” The offices house IT and marketing staff. Branden is especially proud of the 25-person conference room with wallpaper featuring the Miami-palm-trees-at-sunset look from the office in “Scarface.” On the wall, a neon sign conveys the movie’s slogan, “The world is yours.”

Of course, the world was already theirs. The Williamses have been superstars at

year ago, I sat at my dining room table and looked at Branden. I said, ‘We’ve never sat still our whole lives.’ We’ve never not wanted to work. We love it. We were deciding at that pivotal moment, ‘Do we go with the standard brokerage house, which is a big commercial space, where everyone has a glass cubicle? Do we plop our model into it? Or do we take away the lessons that we know we are about to live and learn? And though we didn’t think that we would be on lockdown for a year, we did know that the world was changing. We knew the world would go back, but it will never go back the same. We’re doing things this way because our heart was telling us that the world needed change,” she said.

The clubhouse environment relates to the way people are working now, noted Rayni.

“We’re finding that people are thriving more by working from home sometimes. They may be only going to the office a couple times a week in order to lessen the footprint on the environment and lessen the stress of having to sit in a commercial space cubicle. During COVID, we realized more than ever that people and interaction are the number one things that makes us thrive.”

The couple believe that the private club concept (membership is \$2,400 per year)

“COVID taught us to take it back to the basics. In 15 years in this business, we’ve learned that it is a ‘people person’ business.”

Hilton & Hyland for the past decade. In 2019, they closed more than \$726 million in sales. So entrenched are they in the upper echelon of the luxury real estate market that many insiders wondered why they would take on the challenges of their own business. (In addition to the Williamses, the company has 15 other sales agents, with broker Greg La Plant as head of operations.)

“It was just time for us to leave the nest and spread our wings and fly and create our own vibes. They understood,” said Branden, of Hilton & Hyland. “We gave them ten incredible years, and I think we really enhanced the company. We are extremely appreciative for everything that we learned from our mentors,” he added.

Rayni elaborated on that sentiment.

“Branden and I have entrepreneurial thinking. For many years, we stayed with our previous firm because of relationships. We had deep love and appreciation for them. But, in the back of our minds, we always knew that we had to have our own company. That’s just who we are,” she said.

She added that the pandemic was a turning point.

“When the lockdown first happened a

fills a need in the industry.

“COVID taught us to take it back to the basics. In 15 years in this business, we’ve learned that it is a ‘people person’ business. But real estate can be very cutthroat and unfriendly. There is no room for a warm, meet-and-greet kind of environment. It does not exist. We wanted to bring together a concierge-type feeling. Williams & Williams Estates has been established for 15 years and has everything from upholsterers to builders, architects and designers in its Rolodex. Anything our clients need we provide for them. We wanted to invite those lifestyle-type people to have this private membership club and interact and mingle with the brokerage community,” said Rayni.

Artists and writers have had their salons through the ages. This salon for the real estate profession will similarly inspire creativity, as the Williamses envision it.

“When you come in through this door, you’re bringing your trade. And when you leave, you also take away something. You may have met somebody who happens to be visiting from Monaco. That’s really what’s it’s about. It’s about human interaction, which COVID taught us that we all need to have,”



Signage inside Branden Williams' office

said Rayni.

The couple's goal is to have five satellite offices: Los Feliz, the Westside, Malibu, the Valley. “We’re at an age where we’re ready to have our own business. But we’re also ready to bring in all that we’ve dreamed of and wished of a workplace. We’re ready to have a good time,” said Branden.

“We’re not recruiting. We’re letting it grow organically. There is nobody doing this,” added Rayni. “We’re building something, and if you’re aligned with it and it speaks to you, then come talk to us. If you don’t get it, we can’t explain it to you.”

One thing Rani can explain is her belief that the future is bright, both for the industry and for themselves.

“It’s always hard to make market

predictions, however if you look back 10 years and you look back 20 years, you get a good idea of the cyclical market that is real estate,” she said.

“There are a few things that we know, namely, that the home has become the most important asset we can have. Secondly, that we are inevitably facing inflation. Therefore, tangible assets are the best investments we can have. The wonderful thing about real estate that makes it different from any other tangible asset is that you can live in it. It can always become income property, if you need it to be, by simply renting it. And of course, one thing we all need is a place to live.”

Rayni added, “I predict 2021 will be our biggest year yet.” ●



A player piano inside The Beverly Hills Estates

(Federal Investigation continued from page 1)

"We have not commented on the nature of the investigation because the search warrant, the affidavit supporting the search warrant has been sealed by a judge. And in that circumstance we are prohibited from commenting. We are seeking evidence in an ongoing criminal investigation, but we're not able to comment on the specifics," said Eimiller.

Phone calls to multiple businesses in the Plaza yielded just as many clues. "I come to work, I mind my own business," said a Supercuts stylist who identified herself as Carla. "I see a lot of people come in and out. Seems like they're doing good."

Eimiller acknowledged that the presence of an alphabet soup of federal law enforcement agencies might make it difficult for people to access Beverly Palm Plaza. "I want to tell the community that the other businesses in the mall are open for business and we know that we're a nuisance and we appreciate the cooperation and the patience of the community," she said. As for patrons of U.S. Private Vaults, "anyone who is a customer at the business, if they would like to make a claim for their valuables, we are asking them to file a claim form, which we have online at fbi.gov."

Normally, the FBI takes a day to execute a search warrant. But Eimiller said this is a "protracted warrant" that will take five days and dozens of agents working night and day shifts. "It's a painstaking process, which is why we're taking our time," she said. "We're not going to talk about what specifically we're

looking for, but we're dealing with a lot of valuables."

On its website, U.S. Private Vaults touts safe deposit boxes "like those found at banks," but with the promise of two differences: enhanced security and "complete privacy." The business claims to keep no personal data except for encrypted biometric information used to access the safe deposit boxes. Even the paucity of Yelp review seems to reflect the central desire of their clientele, according to its first review on the site.

"Everything is also 100 percent confidential," wrote Yelp user Ben B. in 2015, "so that's probably why no one wants to leave a Yelp review. But I will, because I no longer store things there."

U.S. Private Vaults states in its Frequently Asked Questions in no uncertain terms what cannot be stored in its facility: no "illegal drugs, weapons, ammunition, hazardous materials, illegal contraband and illegally obtained property or the products therefrom." The company claims to conduct checks with dogs trained to detect drugs and hazardous materials.

As for security, breaking in would take a high-wire act à la Mission Impossible or a planning feat à la Oceans 11. Or, of course, a federal search warrant. But barring judicially sanctioned access, one would have to get past a security system as redundant as a one-note saxophone solo. Entering during normal business hours requires no names; rather, U.S. Private Vaults employs a dual biometric security system. Normally, customers submit to an iris scan for access, but the store also

Relaxed Parking for Passover and Easter

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW

Whether or not you celebrate the Passover or Easter Holidays, this weekend will be different from all other weekends with the suspension of several parking violations. The exceptions cover violations relating to time limits, street sweeping, permit parking, and overnight parking. The exemptions began at 6 p.m. on March 25 and will last until 6 p.m. on March 29. The following week, enforcement will cease from 4 p.m. Friday, April 2 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, April 4. For those who are vaccinated, this will allow overnight guests from one household to join for the spring celebrations.

Los Angeles has the fourth largest Jewish population in the world, with a high concentration settled in Beverly Hills. Passover, also known as Pesach, is an eight-day holiday marking the emancipation of the Israelites

from Egyptian bondage. At the heart of the festivities is the Seder, a feast held on the first and sometimes second night of Passover that brings together multiple generations of family and friends in normal times, though people are cautioned to observe COVID-19 safety protocols.

On Easter Sunday, Camden Drive will be closed from N. Santa Monica Boulevard to Park Way from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the culmination of All Saints' Episcopal Church Holy Week observances. All Saints' will hold its first in-person worship service in over a year, complete with a choir and brass band.

Take heed, though. Parking restrictions will remain in the following: anti-gridlock zones, red zones, white zones, disabled zones, drive-ways, alleyways, and yellow loading zones. ●

uses hand geometry recognition as a "backup in case of severe damage or loss of eyes."

As opposed to a fingerprint scan, a hand geometry reader measures the unique shape of one's hand. Again, the company promises that hand shape information "is encrypted in a way that it may only be used to verify access to your box, not identify you."

Then there's the vault itself, a structural steel, reinforced concrete sepulcher of secrets and valuables built by American Vault Corp. to withstand fire, earthquakes, "as well as assaults that could occur in the event of civil

unrest." The vault is monitored 24 hours a day by private security ready to call BHPD in the event of a threat. And lest an enterprising cat burglar breach the vault walls, the inside is equipped with motion detectors and heat sensors.

And as if to suggest one last line of defense, one both paper thin and ironclad, Ben B. writes in his Yelp review, "P.S. They have the 4th Amendment displayed, which I thought was cool." Even the Fourth Amendment, though, has one major backdoor: probable cause. ●



NOTICE OF COMMISSION VACANCIES

The Beverly Hills City Council is seeking qualified residents to fill two vacancies on the

ARCHITECTURAL COMMISSION

Deadline to apply has been extended to
Friday, April 30, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

For more information on the Commission position and to apply online, please visit the City's website at www.beverlyhills.org/applyforacommission or call the City Clerk's Office at (310) 285-2400 to obtain the application form by mail or e-mail.

HUMA AHMED
CITY CLERK

Mitzi McWhorter-Rogers-Conners April 23rd, 1935 - January 20th, 2021



Mitzi Kay McWhorter Rogers Connors, dearly beloved wife, mother and minister. Born in Skiatook, Oklahoma to *Fred and Helen*, and later moved with her family to Kansas City, MO and eventually, as an emancipated minor, to New York City.

She studied at the *High School of Performing Arts* and then the *Neighborhood Playhouse* under *Sanford Meisner* and *Martha Graham*. She went on to work in many productions in summer stock and Off Broadway, most notably as *Cora* in *Leave it to Jane* at the *Sheridan Theatre* in 1959.

Mitzi married actor *Wayne Rogers* in 1960 and moved with him to California.

Shortly after their marriage, she suffered a catastrophic car accident in which she became paralyzed on most of her right side. Her discipline (honed as a dancer) the love of her husband and her faith in God gave her the strength and stamina to learn how to walk, write and speak again and, eventually, raise two children, *Laura* and *William (Bill) Rogers*. *Mitzi* and *Wayne* divorced in 1983. She then pursued her lifelong passion for theology and attended graduate school at *Fuller Theological Seminary*, earning her Master of Arts in Theology degree in 1986 and then began her work at *Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church*. She was a vital part of the BHPC community and cherished her time and the dear friends that she made there. She married *Gerald Connors* in 1989 whom she was with until her death. Together they found shared meaning in their work with *Kairos Prison Ministry*. *Mitzi* and *Gerry* loved to travel together and could often be found traversing the country as they visited various national parks and spent time visiting friends. She was passionate in her work for the Lord, traveling with *Gerry*, and spending time with her grandchildren.

Her light, love and gentle soul will be dearly missed. Her strength of character, kindness, and fierce determination to achieve her goals despite enormous personal difficulty was, and always will be, inspiration to all of those who loved her and whose lives she touched. She is survived by her husband *Gerry*, her son *Bill Rogers*, his wife *Markita* and grandchildren *William* and *Anais*, and by her daughter *Laura Rogers*, *Laura's* husband *Brandon Camp* and grandchildren *Xander* and *Daniel Bienstock* and by her nieces, *Cheryl Clark* and *Katherine Clark Gaines* and her nephew *Kevin Clark*.

(Gascón continued from page 1)

BHC: The Beverly Hills City Council has adopted a resolution of no confidence in you. Can you give us your thoughts about that?

Gascón: I think it's really unfortunate when you consider that under the prior administration of the District Attorney's office, we had a 25 percent increase in violent crime in the county and the City Council never thought about taking a vote of no confidence on the administration that presided over such a large increase. To somehow try to connect some of the reform policies that I've just implemented with any increase in crime in Beverly Hills, or anywhere else for that matter, flies in the face of rational thought. You have to consider what else is driving this and I can't help but think that this is really driven by the tough on crime and philosophy from the '80s and '90s that is still something that people in our community believe in, and obviously at least three members of the Council believe in. But it's completely divorced from any connection to true safety in the community.

BHC: Can you comment on the policies targeted by the no-confidence vote, such as the elimination of cash bail?

Gascón: Here's where science and data actually speak to the effectiveness or the ineffectiveness in our criminal justice system. We know that predicating release on how much money you have in your bank account has no connection with dangerousness. The concept that somehow money bail protects the community is a false concept, but it does a lot for inequality and creates a loss of credibility in the system.

BHC: You also issued a Special Directive to end the use of most sentencing enhancements, which the Council also cited.

Gascón: When it comes to sentencing enhancements, it's a very similar process. There's a lot of data that shows that multiplying how long someone is going to stay in prison doesn't do anything for public safety, but in fact we know that lengthier periods of incarceration have a tendency to create more insecurity. About 95 percent of the people that we send to prison or jail are going to come out, and generally they come out in a worse place. So, enhancements, all they do is create more recidivism, which means less safety. Again, this is data driven.

BHC: The Council also took issue with your Special Directive on not prosecuting certain misdemeanors.

Gascón: We know that people that have mental health problems and people that have substance abuse problems are often incarcerated and their conditions are not being attended to. Providing opportunities for people that have engaged in low level offenses, people that may have mental health problems, people that may have substance dependence problems, giving a hand up to those people, to the interventions that are actually going to be more likely to work and create more safety for our community, is the right thing to do. If the other stuff worked so well, why did we have a 25 percent increase in violent crime?

BHC: Can you respond to something that

our mayor said during the hearing. Namely, "We cannot allow it to be such that a person can go into a store and shop lift \$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."

Gascón: Either this mayor doesn't know the law and he's been misinformed, or he knows and he's being disingenuous. First of all, it's hard to fathom the individual that will go in and count pennies and dollars to make sure that they reach the threshold between a felony and a misdemeanor, which is what he is talking about. None of my directives are related to what the mayor is referring to [theft]—that's Proposition 47, a 2014 measure that I co-authored to increase the felony theft threshold to keep pace with inflation. Since Proposition 47 passed, property crime is down, racial disparity is down, and recidivism is down. So, if property crime in Beverly Hills is up, that would suggest that different strategies at the local level may be necessary in order to address the concerns around theft.

But let's continue in this imaginary world. Let's say that in this imaginary world, you have the thief that walks in with his calculator, starts taking things and adding them up. And he says okay, now I'm at \$949, I'm going to walk out. If they get caught, they can be prosecuted for a misdemeanor, they can actually go to jail for up to six months. So, I have to say that the mayor is either terribly uninformed and I would worry if I were a voter in Beverly Hills, or he's lying, and I would worry about that as well.

Also, particularly in a pandemic, you're not seeing a lot of those types of cases result in custody time, because there's concerns of a pandemic behind bars.

BHC: Some on the City Council opined that you have exceeded your authority as D.A. by, among other things, declining to use sentencing enhancements.

Gascón: Prosecutors make decisions not to prosecute or to prosecute every day. Prosecutors in the state, including my predecessor, often did not pursue three strikes in cases in the interest of justice. The job of the prosecutor is precisely the job of using the huge level of discretion that they're given. And that's why we have mass incarceration, because prosecutors have overused that, not the contrary, actually. Prosecutors in this country everyday make decisions to go forward or not to go forward, what level to prosecute, what things to agree to. This is part and parcel of work that we do every day.

BHC: There has been a lot of talk about crime going up in Beverly Hills and elsewhere.

Gascón: There are some crimes that are up, not only in California, but in other parts of the country, and some crimes that are down. ... Crime doesn't occur in a vacuum; it occurs in the context of whatever is happening around the ecosystem and the pandemic certainly had some impact. There will be criminologists looking at this for years trying to figure out what went down and why and what went up and why. If you look very generally, there are some things that are up nationwide, including California, and there are some things that are down. But nationwide, crime generally is at a historic low, and it continues to be at a historic low.

BHC: Can you describe the conversation you had with Beverly Hills Interim Police Chief Rivetti? Members of the council have characterized them as "unproductive."

Gascón: I find it very interesting that the chief of police would characterize the call as not productive because there were many people in the room, including members of my staff, that thought it was very productive. Here are a few things that were raised during the conversation. The chief complained that property crime was up and that they were being singled out by people from other parts of the community, not necessarily people from Beverly Hills. You can read whatever you want to read into that. He complained that violent crime was up and, again, that it was coming from other parts of the county. He claimed that they have very good data and very good investigative tools to identify pattern crimes. I said, 'Why don't we work together? Let's identify the pattern crimes on violence, so that we can pay particular attention [to those cases].' And I asked him, 'Could you put the data together?' He said that they would. We haven't heard back. Concerning property crime, I mentioned to him how the county and the office of Alternatives to Incarceration are helping us to identify resources. I said that we have some resources in the county, and again, if you can identify patterns, we can work together, and they agreed to do so. Not only did they never [do that], but then within two or three days I get bombarded with over 100 emails from Beverly Hills, clearly cut

and paste emails, saying the same things. Some of them were people giving their true email addresses, some of them, frankly, were people with spoof email addresses. We responded to all of them. But the characterization from the Chief is a little—certainly I believe it to be disingenuous and we're still waiting for him and his staff to provide us with those patterns, involving people that committed crimes of violence.

BHC: How are you viewing the recall effort and the general backlash to your policies?

Gascón: We are at a period of time in our history where our communities are extremely divided. There's a lot of class warfare that is going on. And some people are really attached to the way that we incarcerated people in the past. This election was very heavily contested, but I won by a large margin. This was not a squeaker. Over two million people voted for me. More than a quarter of million people voted for me over my predecessor, and immediately after I got elected, there were people that were unhappy and trying to question the election and the results. There was a movement to recall me within a week after I got elected. I take it very seriously, but it's unfortunate. It's an indicator of the disconnect that some people in our community have with reality and with a system that hasn't worked very well for most of our community and has created greater insecurity, that has created more crime, that has caused the destruction of many communities, but some people still feel very attached to that system. ●



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Birthdays



MARIA BELKNAP
March 28



ISAAC SAMEK
March 30



CELINE DION
March 30



EWAN MCGREGOR
March 31

To our loyal Courier readers: We want to celebrate YOU! Going forward, we'd like our popular Birthday Page to reflect the community as a whole. So we're inviting you to send us your birthdate plus a high-resolution (300 dpi or above) headshot of yourself. Please send it at least two weeks in advance of your birthday, and we'll do our best to include it on our Birthday Page. Send the photos, along with your full name and birthday to: Editorial@BHCourier.com.



Astrology

BY HOLIDAY MATIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Different people inspire you to connect to different parts of your nature. Who has you seeking your better angels? Those are the folks to fill your mind, heart and time with now.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Don't worry. You didn't meet the right person at the wrong time because that's not even a thing. There's only meeting people when you do and making it mean something to you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Around people who don't yet know you, your options are wide open. You can be anyone you want or dare to be. And though it's more work, the same principle actually applies to people who know you well.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). While it's natural to find conflict off-putting, avoiding it altogether would be harmful. Resign yourself to the idea that difficult discussions are often necessary to reach a satisfying compromise.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're drawn to people with a pleasant resting face and an all-around excellent default personality. Usually, you only see those

things when the chips are down and so are defenses, but you have a sixth sense about it now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). To be in a mix where people want what you have is to know the power of leverage. You have had it before and will get it again, once you see and present one of your many gifts in a new light.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You lavish demonstrations of respect, attention and love on those in your circle but sometimes forget that you are part of that circle, too, and arguably the most important part. You put the "you" in "your circle."

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's true that there are many with less than you have, but it's not a cause for you to feel guilty. Instead, move your stewardship to a higher level of doing the most good.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Even though digital clutter doesn't really take up much of your living space, it can rent a disproportionate amount of space in your psyche and to deleterious effect. Good email organization will revitalize.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Leave draining environments. You know who influences you in an exciting direction and should settle for no less. You can never have enough positive influences, so keep up the quest.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). That thing you wished for again and again was not a childish impulse of the past but a calling inside of a chrysalis. It's still growing and will take a new form. What can you do to feed the process?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Is it possible to revere someone without a pedestal? To prop your admired one up too far is to set them up for a fall. Stay on equal footing. There is just as much to admire in the parallel view.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 26). You'll often apply your warrior's heart to causes of peace. That which you beautify and harmonize will attract wondrous attention. You'll receive a remarkable communication. With your great curiosity and the courage to follow it, you'll land in a place of options aplenty! You'll reclaim a powerful desire and aim it more effectively than before. Taurus and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 19, 1, 4, 16 and 22.



Beckham is a six-year-old Cocker Spaniel who weighs 22 pounds and is looking for a new home. If you can help this sweet fellow, please call Shelter of Hope at 805-379-3538. www.shelterhopepetshop.org

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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE UNDER A NOTICE OF DELINQUENT ASSESSMENT AND CLAIM OF LIEN Order No: 05938818 TS No: R18-10047 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A NOTICE OF DELINQUENT ASSESSMENT AND CLAIM OF LIEN, DATED 03/08/2019. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. NOTICE is hereby given that Witkin & Neal, Inc., as duly appointed trustee pursuant to that certain Notice of Delinquent Assessment and Claim of Lien (hereinafter referred to as "Lien"), recorded on 03/19/2019 as instrument number 20190242343, in the office of the County Recorder of LOS ANGELES County, California, and further pursuant to the Notice of Default and Election to Sell thereunder recorded on 4/30/2019 as instrument number 20190389339 in said county and further pursuant to California Civil Code Section 5675 et seq. and those certain Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions recorded on 6/10/1975 as instrument number 546, WILL SELL on 04/22/2021, 10:00AM, Behind the fountain located in Civic Center Plaza, 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona CA 91766 at public auction to the highest bidder for lawful money of the United States payable at the time of sale, all right, title and interest in the property situated in said county as more fully described in the above-referenced Lien. The purported owner(s) of said property is (are): SHERWIN ARYEH, A SINGLE MAN. The property address and other common designation, if any, of the real property is purported to be: 321 N. OAKHURST DR., UNIT 302, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90210, APN 4342-003-031. The undersigned trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Sale is: \$24,724.53. The opening bid at the foreclosure sale may be more or less than this estimate. In addition to cash, trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn on a state or federal credit union or a check drawn on a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. If tender

other than cash is accepted, the trustee may withhold issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. In its sole discretion, the seller (foreclosing party) reserves the right to withdraw the property from sale after the opening credit bid is announced but before the sale is completed. The opening bid is placed on behalf of the seller. Said sale shall be made, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Lien, advances thereunder, with interest as provided in the Declaration or by law plus the fees, charges and expenses of the trustee. THIS PROPERTY IS BEING SOLD IN AN "AS-IS" CONDITION. If you have previously received a discharge in bankruptcy, you may have been released from personal liability for this debt in which case this notice is intended to exercise the secured party's rights against the real property only. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether this sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 916-939-0772 or visit this Internet Website: www.nationwideposting.com

com using the file number assigned to this case: R18-10047. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (916) 939-0772 or visit this internet website www.nationwideposting.com using the file number assigned to this case R18-10047 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. IMPORTANT NOTICE: Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the sale shall be subject to the following as provided in California Civil Code Section 5715: "A non judicial foreclosure sale by an association to collect upon a debt for delinquent assessments shall be subject to a right of redemption. The redemption period within which the separate interest may be redeemed from a foreclosure sale under this paragraph ends 90 days after the sale." Dated: 03/19/2021 Witkin & Neal, Inc. as said Trustee 5805 SEPULVEDA BLVD., SUITE 670 SHERMAN OAKS, CA 91411 (818) 845-8808 By: SUSAN PAQUETTE, TRUSTEE SALES OFFICER THIS NOTICE IS SENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF COLLECTING A DEBT. THIS FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT ON BEHALF OF THE HOLDER AND OWNER OF THE NOTE. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED BY OR PROVIDED TO THIS FIRM OR THE CREDITOR WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NPP0373471 To: BEVERLY HILLS COURIER 03/26/2021, 04/02/2021, 04/09/2021

Public Notices

ORDINANCE NO. 21-O-2835

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING THE BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING PURCHASING OF SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES

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

Section 1. Articles 1, 2 and 3 of Chapter 3 of Title 3 of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code shall be amended as follows:

CHAPTER 3. PURCHASING, PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS AND DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY

ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

3-3-101: INTENT

The intent of this chapter is to establish purchasing procedures for the purchase of equipment, supplies and services, to conform to the California Uniform Construction Cost Accounting Act (Public Contract Code section 22000 et seq.) and to establish procedures for the disposition of property. Nothing in this chapter is intended to require the City to solicit bids for equipment, supplies or services or accept the lowest bid to provide equipment, supplies or services, except as required by State law.

3-3-102: DEFINITIONS

Unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions shall govern the construction of this chapter:

CHANGE ORDER: Change Order means a written authorization from the City directing an addition, deletion, or revision to an awarded purchase order or contract.

CONTRACTING OFFICER: Contracting Officer means the designated City employee authorized by section 3-3-107 of this article to engage in level 1, level 2 and level 3 purchasing transactions.

DIRECTOR OR PURCHASING AGENT: Director of Purchasing Agent means the Director of Finance, or his or her designee.

ELECTRONIC BIDDING PLATFORM: Electronic Bidding Platform means one or more computing or digital software platforms selected by City to solicit and receive written bids for goods, supplies, equipment and/or services as detailed in the rules and regulations adopted by the Director pursuant to this chapter.

PUBLIC PROJECT: Public Project means that term as defined in section 22002 of the California Public Contract Code, or the successor statute thereto.

3-3-103: PURCHASES AND CONTRACTS REQUIRE ISSUANCE OF PURCHASE ORDER

A. In order to more efficiently manage all purchases and other contracts, the City shall issue a purchase order to each vendor who agrees to provide goods or supplies to the City and the City shall issue a purchase order to accompany every contract for the performance of services or public projects unless otherwise authorized by an administrative regulation signed by the city manager or authorized by the rules and regulations adopted by the Director pursuant to this chapter. Except as otherwise provided herein, no contract shall be deemed to be an authorization to proceed with work unless accompanied by a purchase order authorized and executed pursuant to this section, nor shall any vendor or contracting party be authorized to perform any service, perform any public project, or provide any supplies or equipment without first receiving a purchase order authorized and executed pursuant to this section.

B. Notwithstanding the above, litigation service contracts shall be exempted from the requirement to issue a purchase order due to the confidential nature of the fees anticipated. Litigation services shall be paid

with a contract in place and the responsible department shall not pay more than the appropriated budget. If additional funding is required, an additional appropriation must be approved by the city council.

3-3-104: UNAUTHORIZED PURCHASES AND CONTRACTS

It shall be unlawful for any officer, employee, or agent of the City to order the purchase of supplies or equipment, or to contract for services or contract for the performance of public projects, or otherwise make any contract in violation of this chapter. Any order, purchase, or contract made contrary to the provisions of this chapter shall not be binding on the City, and the City shall not be obligated thereunder.

3-3-105: PROHIBITION AGAINST SPLITTING PURCHASES

Purchases of supplies, equipment, and services, and the performance of public projects shall not be divided or staged for the purpose of circumventing the requirements of this chapter.

3-3-106: SPECIALIZED CONTRACTING PROCEDURES

Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit the City from using specialized contracting procedures when authorized by state law. If state law authorizes such procedures, they need not also be specifically authorized by this chapter. Such specialized procedures may include, without limitation, prequalification of general contractors or subcontractors and design/build contracting procedures.

3-3-107: PURCHASING LEVELS AND APPROVAL AUTHORITY

Purchasing and contract procedures are categorized into four (4) different levels as set forth in sections 3-3-200 et seq. of this chapter. Each level shall govern purchase orders and contracts of different values. Level 1 shall govern the least expensive purchase orders and contracts and level 4 shall govern the most expensive purchase orders and contracts.

Level 1 purchases may be awarded in the maximum amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) by the head of the City department or his/her authorized designee for which the purchase is made;

Level 2 purchases may be awarded in the maximum amount of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) by the Purchasing Agent or his/her authorized designee;

Level 3 purchases may be awarded in the maximum amount of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) by the city manager or his/her authorized designee; and

Level 4 purchases exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) and shall be awarded by the city council. The city manager's purchasing authority is increased to two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) if the city manager determines: (a) there is an urgent need to enter into a purchase order or contract and (b) the equipment, supplies or services is a budgeted expense as set forth in the City adopted budget. In such case, the purchase and/or contract shall be governed by the regulations applicable to Level 3 purchases and contracts. The purchase order or contract must be reported to the city council at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

3-3-108: BID SECURITY

Bid security shall be required as a condition of submitting a written bid unless deemed unnecessary in writing by the Purchasing Agent. Bid security shall be in the form of a cashier's check or surety bond and shall be no less than ten percent (10%) of the bid amount or such other amount as determined by the Purchasing Agent.

A successful bidder shall forfeit his bid security upon refusal or failure to execute a contract or purchase order with the City. On refusal or failure of the successful bidder to execute the contract or purchase order, the

City may award the bid to the next lowest responsible bidder who is willing to execute the contract or purchase order. In such case, the amount of successful bidder's security shall be applied by the City to the purchase or contract price differential between the successful bidder and the next lowest responsible bidder. The remaining security, if any, shall be returned.

3-3-109: INTERPRETATION OF BID SPECIFICATIONS

Oral interpretation of written bid specifications shall not be made by the City to prospective bidders. If the prospective bidder discovers discrepancies or omissions in any specification, or if the bidder is in doubt as to the meaning of any specification, the bidder shall request a written interpretation or modification from the City. If interpretations or modifications are deemed necessary, the City will then issue a written addendum to all parties known to have received copies of the specifications.

3-3-110: CHANGE ORDERS

A. Any alteration to, amendment of, or deviation from an awarded purchase order or contract as to scope, cost, time for completion, material, or equipment furnished as a part of the purchase order or contract, or any alteration to, amendment of, or deviation from the nature of work to be performed, shall require the completion and issuance of a Change Order or execution of a contract amendment. Additions to work cannot be combined with deletions to work to avoid the Change Order requirement.

B. The appropriate Contracting Officer may approve a Change Order as long as the combined amount of the original purchase order and the Change Order does not exceed the Contracting Officer's purchasing authority. If the original purchase order or contract was approved by the city council, a Change Order may be approved in an amount that does not exceed the Contracting Officer's purchasing authority. All other Change Orders shall be approved by the city council or the person, if any, designated in a contract approved by the city council. No Change Order shall be binding on the City until approved as provided herein.

Change orders shall not be issued unless:

a. The Change Order arises in good faith out of an unknown condition or unforeseen circumstance including, without limitation, unforeseen or unknown quantities of goods and/or services differing materially from the quantities of goods and/or services that were contemplated in the purchase order or contract, or, alternatively, the Change Order arises due to an error in the City's specifications that accompanied the bid solicitation; and

b. The Change Order does not change the purpose of the purchase order or contract; and

c. With regard to a service contract or a contract for public project performance, the Change Order is reasonably related to the scope of work authorized under the original contract; and

d. With regard to the purchase of goods or supplies, the Change Order is required to allow the goods or supplies to fulfill the purpose for which they were intended.

C. Any Change Order for a public project shall be in accordance with the most current edition of the "Standard Specifications For Public Works Construction", adopted by the joint cooperative committee of the Southern California chapter of the American Public Works Association and the Southern California districts of the Associated General Contractors Of California.

3-3-111: ANNUAL REPORT

The Director shall make an annual report to the city council of the level 2 and level 3 awarded purchases and contracts.

3-3-112: EXCEPTIONS TO BIDDING REQUIREMENT

Except with regard to public projects of more than sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000.00), the bidding requirements of this chapter shall not apply in the following circumstances:

A. When the purchase order or contract is for utility or communications services; insurance; freight and courier services; postage; education and training expenses; subscriptions and memberships in professional organizations; attendance at meetings or conventions; and hotel and travel accommodations

B. Where items to be purchased are for resale to the public.

C. When the needed equipment, supplies or services are proprietary items of original equipment manufacturers and/or their authorized exclusive distributors.

D. When the equipment is a component for equipment or a system of equipment previously acquired by the City, and is necessary to repair, maintain or improve the City's utilization of the equipment.

E. Where items to be purchased are circulating library materials, including books, periodicals, films, and recordings; computer software, hardware maintenance services or software maintenance services; food, condiments and similar items; or art.

F. Any contract involving the purchase of supplies, equipment or services entered into with another governmental entity.

G. Any contract for professional services such as attorneys, physicians, architects, engineers, consultants, accountants, specialized printers or other individuals or organizations possessing a high degree of professional, unique, specialized or technical skill or expertise.

H. When the requesting department determines in writing, after conducting a good faith review of the available sources, that there is only one source for the required equipment, supplies or services or that a sole source procurement is necessary to ensure compatibility with existing City equipment. The department requesting sole source procurement shall provide written evidence to support a sole source determination. Such evidence shall be approved by the Purchasing Agent. The city manager may require that negotiations be conducted as to price, delivery and terms. The city manager may also require the submission of cost or pricing data in connection with an award under this section.

I. Emergency procurement as set forth in sections 3-3-206 and 3-3-303 of this chapter.

Nothing in this section prohibits the Purchasing Agent or appropriate Contracting Officer from requiring more stringent bidding requirements for a purchase that falls under one of the exceptions listed above.

3-3-113: MULTIYEAR CONTRACTS

Unless otherwise limited by law, the term of a contract shall be as set forth in the contract, and may include extensions as authorized in the contract. The appropriate Contracting Officer may approve a multiyear contract, provided that the annual value of the multiyear contract does not exceed three times the Contracting Officer's purchasing authority over the entire term of the contract. Otherwise, multiyear contracts shall be approved by the person designated in section 3-3-107 using the total value of the contract.

3-3-114: RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Director is authorized, subject to approval by the city manager, to promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this article.

ARTICLE 2. PURCHASING OF SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES

3-3-200: SCOPE OF ARTICLE

Continue to page 16 >>>

Public Notices

This article shall govern the purchase and contracting of supplies and equipment and services.

3-3-201: DEPARTMENT HEAD PURCHASES; LEVEL 1

Level 1 purchases and contracts may be awarded by the head of the department for which the purchase is made and is authorized without competitive bidding.

3-3-202: PURCHASING AGENT/DIRECTOR OF FINANCE PURCHASES; LEVEL 2

A. Level 2 purchases and contracts may be awarded by the Purchasing Agent and shall require competitive written bidding. Bids shall be solicited and received in writing through an Electronic Bidding Platform, or an alternative method from a minimum of three (3) sources or the open solicitation of bids as set forth in the rules and regulations adopted by the Director pursuant to this chapter.

B. The Purchasing Agent shall award the purchase of supplies, equipment or services to the lowest responsible bidder, or shall reject all bids for the purchase, after the receipt of bids from those who respond to the solicitation. The Purchasing Agent may waive any irregularities or informalities in any bid or bidding.

C. The Purchasing Agent may waive the requirement to solicit written bids if the equipment or supplies are available from only one source as set forth in section 3-3-112(H) of this chapter and may solicit only two (2) bids if the equipment or supplies are available from only two (2) sources.

D. Upon determining that conformance with the procedures set forth in this article would be contrary to the best interests of the City or upon determining that compliance with the procedures would be impractical, the Purchasing Agent may waive, in writing, any or all of the requirements of this section.

3-3-203: CITY MANAGER PURCHASES; LEVEL 3

A. Level 3 purchases and contracts may be awarded by the city manager and shall require competitive written bidding as follows:

1. Bid specifications shall be prepared and written notices soliciting written bids shall be disseminated by an Electronic Bidding Platform, or an alternative method from a minimum of three (3) sources or the open solicitation of bids as set forth in the rules and regulations adopted by the Director pursuant to this chapter. Such notices shall include the closing date of the bid.

2. Bids shall be submitted to the Electronic Bidding Platform or an alternative method in writing and must be received prior to the bid closing date and time. Bids shall not be reviewed until the date and time designated in the bid specifications.

B. With regard to the purchase of supplies, equipment or services, the city manager shall award the purchase to the lowest responsible bidder, or shall reject all bids. The city manager may waive any irregularities or informalities in any bid or bidding.

C. The city manager may waive the requirement to solicit bids if the equipment or supplies are available from only one source as set forth in section 3-3-112(H) of this chapter and may solicit only two (2) bids if the equipment or supplies are available from only two (2) sources.

D. Upon determining that conformance with the procedures set forth in this article would be contrary to the best interests of the City or upon determining that compliance with the procedures would be impractical, the city manager may waive, in writing, any or all of the requirements of this section.

3-3-204: CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL; LEVEL 4 PURCHASES

A. Level 4 purchases shall be awarded by

the city council and shall require competitive written bidding as follows:

1. Bid specifications shall be prepared, and notices inviting written bids shall be solicited by an Electronic Bidding Platform, or an alternative method from a minimum of three (3) sources or the open solicitation of bids as set forth in the rules and regulations adopted by the Director pursuant to this chapter.

2. Bids shall be submitted in writing to the Electronic Bidding Platform or an alternative method as set forth in the rules and regulations adopted by the Director pursuant to this chapter, and must be received prior to the bid closing date and time. Bids shall not be reviewed until the date and time designated in the bid specifications.

B. With regard to the purchase of supplies, equipment or services, the city council shall award the bid to the lowest responsible bidder, or shall reject all bids. The city council may waive any irregularities or informalities in any bid or bidding.

C. The city council may waive the procedures required by this section if the city council determines that the equipment or supplies are available only from one source as set forth in section 3-3-113 of this chapter and may send a notice inviting bids to only two (2) prospective bidders if the city council determines that the equipment or supplies are available from only two (2) sources.

D. Upon determining that conformance with the procedures set forth in this article would be contrary to the best interests of the City or upon determining that compliance with the procedures would be impractical, the city council may waive, by motion or resolution, any or all of the requirements of this section.

3-3-205: ALTERNATIVE PURCHASING PROCEDURES

In lieu of the purchasing and bid procedures set forth in this article, the following alternative purchasing procedures may be used in the discretion of the Purchasing Agent for the purchase of supplies, equipment or services in excess of Level 1 department head purchases.

A. Purchases from the California department of general services, pursuant to California Government Code section 54205, or the successor statute thereto.

B. Purchases from any joint powers agency or any agency with which the City has entered into a joint powers agreement for purchase of equipment or supplies; provided that the city manager determines that the item can likely be obtained at a cost which is less than the City could likely obtain through the purchasing procedures set forth in this article.

C. Purchases of supplies, equipment or services where competitive bid procedures have already been utilized, such as purchases from federal, state or county governments, including, state of California agencies, counties, cities, joint power agencies, special districts, and nonprofit agencies whose main purpose is to assist cities or other public entities, and the supplies or equipment are supplied to the City at the same or better price, as was obtained through the competitive bid procedures of that entity.

3-3-206: EMERGENCIES

A. In case of a locally declared emergency or if the city manager determines there is an emergency situation, the city manager, the assistant city manager or the director of emergency services, is authorized to expend City funds without limitation on amount and without following the purchasing or bidding procedures otherwise required by this article. An emergency purchase shall be limited to those supplies, equipment or services necessary to satisfy the emergency need.

B. Expenditures made during a locally

declared emergency, or in an emergency situation as determined by the city manager must be reported to the city council at the next regular council meeting if approval for such expenditures would otherwise have been made by the city council.

C. As used in this section, an "emergency situation" is defined as an urgent unforeseen situation that threatens life, property or the general public health and safety.

D. The Director shall, subject to approval by the city manager, promulgate rules and regulations to implement emergency purchasing practices that comply with state and federal law.

ARTICLE 3. PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS

3-3-301: CONTRACTS FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS:

The following procedures shall govern the award of contracts for public projects, whereas the limits referenced in section 3-3-107 shall indicate the threshold for approvals by the city council:

A. Public Projects Of Sixty Thousand Dollars Or Less: Public projects of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000.00) or less, may be performed by City employees, 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 Sixty Thousand Dollars, But Less Than Or Equal To Two Hundred Thousand Dollars: Public projects of more than sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000.00), but less than or equal to two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00), 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 thousand dollars (\$200,000.00), the city council may, by passage of a resolution by a four-fifths (4/5) vote, award the contract at two hundred twelve thousand five hundred dollars (\$212,500.00) 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 Thousand Dollars: Public projects of more than two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00) shall require competitive written 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 thousand dollars (\$200,000.00).

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.

3-3-302: CONTRACTING AUTHORITY FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS:

The City officials set forth in section 3-3-200 et seq. of Article 2 of this Chapter 3 shall have the authority to approve contracts for public projects in the amount that corresponds to their purchasing authority as set forth in those sections.

3-3-303: EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT:

In addition to any other exemption from bidding requirements set forth in this chapter or otherwise provided by law, in a situation determined by the city manager to constitute an emergency for a public project pursuant to Public Contract Code sections 22035 and 22050 or in a locally declared emergency city council delegates to the city manager, the assistant city manager and the director of emergency services the power to order any action pursuant to Public Contract Code sections 22035 and 22050. The city manager, the assistant city manager, director of emergency services shall comply with the applicable provisions of section 22050.

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 his/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: March 16, 2021
Effective: April 16, 2021

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:
GEORGE CHAVEZ
City Manager

JEFF S. MUIR
Director of Finance

VOTE:
AYES: Councilmembers Gold, Bosse, Mirisch, Vice Mayor Wunderlich, and Mayor Friedman
NOES: None
CARRIED

Classifieds

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
Dept: 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
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 Dept: 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: Laurence H. Cho,
Sherri R. Carter,
Executive Officer/Clerk,
By: **Brian McClendon**,
Deputy Clerk
Dated: **March 10, 2020**
Published: **March 26, 2021, April 02, 09, 16, 2021**
Beverly Hills Courier

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**

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 2021064652
The following is/are doing business as: **THE KEYSTONE** 344 N. Beverly Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90210; **Keystone Partners, Inc.** 344 N. Beverly Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90210; The business is conducted by: **A CORPORATION**, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed February 2021: **Maxwell O Abbott, President**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: March 16, 2021; Published: March 26, April 02, 09, 16, 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**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2021050825
The following is/are doing business as: **THEORY LAW** 737 S. Genesee Ave. #310, Los Angeles, CA 90036; **Rodney Yaddi** 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 Yaddi, 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: **TOP "A/V" RATED BEVERLY HILLS LAW FIRM CAN HELP YOU.**
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\$100K OR MORE
CONTACT:
LAW OFFICES OF THOMAS P. RILEY, P.C.
WWW.TPRLAW.NET
(310) 677-9797
Fortitudine Vincimus

NOTICE— Fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (See Section 14400, et seq., Business and Professions Code).

NOTICE OF HEARING:
Date: April 30, 2021
Time: 8:30 AM Dept: 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.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
CASE NO: 20SMCP00400
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

In the Matter of the petition of: **Sabina Halina Gadecki**
To all interested person(s):
Petitioner:

Sabina Halina Gadecki
current residence address: 310 N. Crescent Dr. #302, Beverly Hills, CA 90210

filed a petition with the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main St., Room #102 Santa Monica, CA 90401, Santa Monica Courthouse, on March 10, 2020 for a Decree changing names as follows:

Present Name: **SABINA HALINA GADECKI**
Proposed Name: **SABINA HALINA GADECKI RICH**

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

NOTICE OF HEARING:
Date: April 23, 2021
Time: 8:30am Dept: K
The address of the court is: Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main St., Room #102 Santa Monica, CA 90401, Santa Monica Courthouse.

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

Signed: **Sabina H. Gadecki**
Judge of the Superior Court: Laurence H. Cho,
Sherri R. Carter,
Executive Officer/Clerk,
By: **Brian McClendon**,
Deputy Clerk
Dated: **March 10, 2020**
Published: **March 26, 2021, April 02, 09, 16, 2021**
Beverly Hills Courier

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**

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 2021064652
The following is/are doing business as: **THE KEYSTONE** 344 N. Beverly Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90210; **Keystone Partners, Inc.** 344 N. Beverly Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90210; The business is conducted by: **A CORPORATION**, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed February 2021: **Maxwell O Abbott, President**: Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: March 16, 2021; Published: March 26, April 02, 09, 16, 2021 **LACC N/C**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2021050825
The following is/are doing business as: **TOP "A/V" RATED BEVERLY HILLS LAW FIRM CAN HELP YOU.**
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Fortitudine Vincimus

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Time: 8:30 AM Dept: 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.

02 ANNOUNCEMENT



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PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2021050825
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38 SECURITY SERVICES

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

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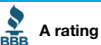


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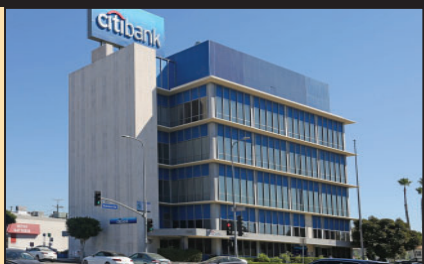
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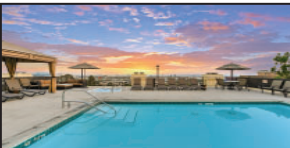
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