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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS

☁ Friday	65° 51°
☀ Saturday	73° 57°
☀ Sunday	81° 59°
☀ Monday	84° 60°
☁ Tuesday	79° 56°
☀ Wednesday	73° 56°
☁ Thursday	72° 56°

City Council Candidates Answer the Courier's Questions

BY COURIER EDITORIAL STAFF

The Courier recently asked all 11 City Council candidates to answer a series of four questions for publication. Two of those questions were directed to all of the candidates; two were addressed to the incumbents (Councilmembers John Mirisch, Lester

Friedman and Robert Wunderlich); and two to the challengers (Commissioners Andy Licht and Sharona Nazarian; Vera Markowitz, Shiva Bagheri, Akshat "A.B." Bhatia, Darian Bojeaux, Kevin Kugley and Robin Rowe).

All of the candidates submitted responses,

which will be presented in a two-part series commencing this week. The order in which the candidates appear was selected by random drawing.

(City Council Candidates continues on page 9)



Jaqueline Avant's Murderer Sentenced to 190 Years

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW

Ariel Maynor, the 30-year-old who pleaded guilty to killing Beverly Hills philanthropist Jaqueline Avant, has been sentenced to 190 years to life for Avant's murder and the attempted murder of her security guard on Dec. 1. Prosecutors claimed that Maynor shot the 81-year-old while attempting to rob her Trousdale Estates home.

"Today marks the end of a tragic case that rocked our community. Because of a completely senseless act, Los Angeles lost Jacqueline Avant, a community leader and philanthropist. Her murder sent shockwaves through our community, prompting fear, concern and a tremendous sense of loss," District Attorney George Gascón said in a statement. "Given the sentence today, Mr. Maynor will be ineligible for early parole,

and will spend the rest of his life in prison."

Gascón, whose office secured the guilty plea from Maynor, said the "conclusion of this case also prevents a painful and lengthy process of trial for the Avant family, a process that can be traumatizing."

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Kathryn Solorzano handed down a sentence on April 19 for three life terms in prison, saying Maynor will have to serve a minimum of 150 years. She added an additional 40 years for weapons violations.

In issuing the punishment at the sentencing hearing, Solorzano described Maynor as a "serious danger to society" who had targeted a "completely vulnerable victim." (Jaqueline Avant's Murderer continues on page 7)

Candidates To Take Part in Several Public Forums

BY BIANCA HEYWARD

As the June 7 City of Beverly Hills General Municipal Election approaches, various community groups in Beverly Hills are hosting public events in which local candidates running for City Council and City Treasurer will participate in a Q&A style forum. Eleven candidates are vying for three open City Council seats and three candidates for the position of City Treasurer.

(Public Forums continues on page 15)

Courier Calendar

NOW - MAY 8

HUDSON GUILD THEATRE: "A DEATH-DEFYING ESCAPE!"

SAT. 8 P.M., SUN. 3 P.M.

Hudson Guild Theatre and Comedy Workshop productions present a new dark comedy, "A Death-Defying Escape!" The play stars and is written by Judy Carter, inspired by her own experiences finding love as a lesbian, her Jewish identity, and overcoming her past. The show is available for live performances at the Hudson Guild Theatre at 6539 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles and streaming online. Tickets are \$30. In-person guests must present proof of COVID-19 vaccination and wear masks inside. <https://deathdefyingescape.com>

NOW - SEPT. 4

SKIRBALL CULTURAL CENTER: "I'LL HAVE WHAT SHE'S HAVING": THE JEWISH DELI"

TUES.-FRI. 12-5 P.M.

SAT.-SUN. 10 A.M.-5 P.M.

The Skirball Cultural Center presents an exhibition about the origin and cultural impact of the Jewish Deli. It explores how Jewish immigrants, mostly from Central and Eastern Europe, imported and adapted traditions to create a uniquely American restaurant. On display are neon signs, menus, advertisements, uniforms, photographs, and clips from movies and television, all from delis. Members receive free admission. Tickets are \$18 for general admission, \$15 for seniors and students, and \$13 for children 12 and under. Guests 12 and up must produce proof of COVID-19 vaccination. Masks must be worn indoors and outdoors.

<http://skirball.org/exhibitions/ill-have-what-shes-having-jewish-deli>

APRIL 24

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM LA: "REFUGEES, WAR, AND HATE: UNDERSTANDING THE INTERSECTION OF ANTISEMITISM AND REFUGEE CRISES"

4-6 P.M.

Holocaust Museum LA presents a panel, "Refugees, War, and Hate," in coordination with the grand opening of the new exhibition at the museum, "Hidden History: Recounting the Shanghai Jewish Story." The speakers draw comparisons between the struggles of Jewish refugees in Shanghai before, during, and after WWII and the modern challenges of refugees today. The Museum's Vice President of Education and Exhibits and co-curator of "Hidden History" Jordanna Gessler moderates the panel that includes Congressmen Ted Lieu (CA-33) and Adam Schiff (CA-28). The opening reception of "Hidden History" follows this discussion. Tickets are \$100. Attendees must have proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative test result. Face masks are required inside.

<https://www.holocaustmuseumla.org/event-details/refugees-war-and-hate-understanding-the-intersection-of-antisemitism-and-refugee-crises>

APRIL 25

THE MIDNIGHT MISSION: "REAL TALK WITH THE MIDNIGHT MISSION"

12 P.M., 6 P.M.

The Midnight Mission presents the third virtual roundtable of its series, "Real Talk." In these discussions, panelists from the organization and guests address topics related to homelessness. For this iteration, the primary focus is the importance of reuniting families as a way to help the unhoused, how The Midnight Mission pursues those ends, and what members

of the public can do too. Roundtable panelists include Midnight Mission President and CEO Mike Arnold, Director of HomeLight Family Services Ricardo Rosales, and Alumnus Sara Gabriel. Free registration for the two time slots of this conversation is available online.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/the-midnight-mission-37907194823>

APRIL 26

THE BROAD STAGE: "CUE & A" WITH ROBERT KRAFT FEATURING KRIS BOWERS

7:30 P.M.

The Broad Stage presents "Cue & A" rescheduled from its previous date of Jan. 24. The show includes conversation, clips, commentary, live demonstrations, and an audience Q&A. Specially featured in this session is composer and pianist Kris Bowers ("King Richard," "Bridgerton") with moderator, former president of Fox Music, and Academy Award nominee Robert Kraft. Tickets range from \$55-\$75. The Broad Stage requires that guests produce proof of COVID-19 vaccination and wear masks indoors.

<https://thebroadstage.org/showinfo.php?id=425>

APRIL 28 - APRIL 30

EL CAPITAN THEATRE: "STAR WARS" ORIGINAL TRILOGY SCREENINGS

10 A.M., 1:20 P.M., 4:40 P.M., 8 P.M.

In early celebration of "May the Fourth," the El Capitan Theatre hosts showings of the original trilogy of "Star Wars." "Star Wars: A New Hope (Episode IV)" plays first on April 28. "The Empire Strikes Back (Episode V)" plays on April 29, followed by "Return of the Jedi (Episode VI)" on April 30. Tickets with reserved seats are \$15 for all ages. Guests who show proof of COVID-19 vaccination are strongly

advised to wear masks indoors, but are not required. Those who cannot prove vaccination status are required to wear masks while indoors.

<https://elcapitantheatre.com>

APRIL 30

THE SORAYA: "BROADWAY CELEBRATES THE SORAYA"

7 P.M.

In celebration of its 10th anniversary, The Soraya presents a curated show of Broadway stars. Performers include Eden Espinoza, Joshua Henry, and Megan Hilty, conducted by Music Director Richard Kaufman. Songs from "Sunday in the Park with George and Company," "Wicked," "Hamilton," "Carousel," and more are planned. Tickets range from \$41-\$86. Guests must be able to prove COVID-19 vaccination status or provide a negative test result. Masks must be worn indoors at all times.

<https://thesoraya.org/calendar/details/soraya10>

APRIL 30 - MAY 1

GETTY VILLA: "CASSANDRA, AN AGONY"

SAT. 1 P.M., 4 P.M., SUN. 2 P.M.

The Getty Villa Theater Lab presents a reinterpretation of classical theater with "Cassandra, an Agony." Cassandra is a frequently recurring side character in Greek texts, gifted with prophecy but cursed to never be believed. This production takes those appearances and combines them with original writing to produce a play in which Cassandra is the protagonist, played by Jin Maley. Advanced tickets are required and are \$7. Unvaccinated visitors must wear masks indoors.

https://www.getty.edu/visit/cal/events/vtl_cassandra.html

MAY 3

BEVERLY HILLS WOMEN'S CLUB: MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON CELEBRATION

10:30 A.M.

The Beverly Hills Women's Club presents a luncheon celebration of Mother's Day. The event is hosted by Madeleine Schulsinger and Antonella Carlevaro Rossi. The day begins at 10:30 a.m. with boutique shopping and social hour, and admission to the boutique is free. At 12 p.m. the gourmet luncheon commences, priced at \$175 for members and \$250 for non-members (must be a guest of a member). Tickets purchased within 24 hours of the event or at the door incur a \$25 surcharge.

<https://www.thebhwc.org/event-details/mothers-day-celebration-luncheon-boutique>



Judy Carter draws from her experiences as a gay woman in her dark comedy production, "A Death-Defying Escape!" at the Hudson Guild Theatre and streaming online from now until May 8. Photo by Jenny Graham



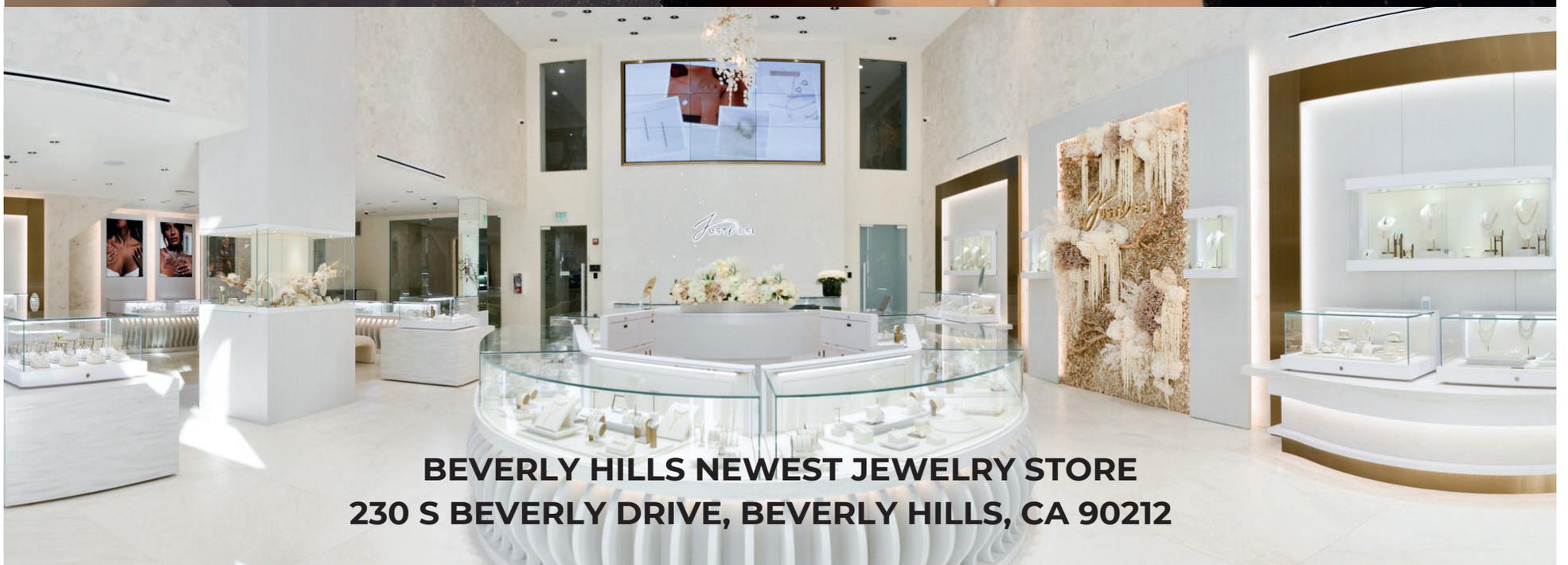
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Even though you will see designs from JustDesi worn by celebrities on the red carpet, it is our mission to make everyone feel like a celebrity. Let mom know she's the star with breathtaking gifts ranging from \$150 to \$250,000. Take a moment to visit the store and you will be treated like family. If you find yourself looking for a one in a million gift, bring us your ideas, sketches, or examples, and together with our full service atelier, we will make it the most unforgettable Mother's Day yet!



BEVERLY HILLS NEWEST JEWELRY STORE
230 S BEVERLY DRIVE, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90212

LAPD Investigating Coldwater Canyon Follow-Home Robbery

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW



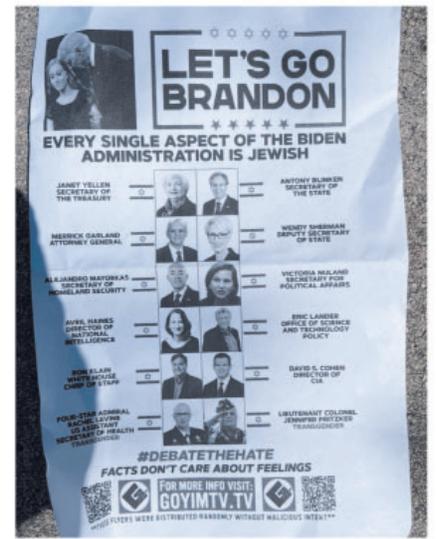
In a continuation of an alarming trend in Los Angeles, four men visiting from Northern California were followed to an Airbnb on Coldwater Canyon Drive and robbed at gunpoint. Suspects made off with goods and cash worth an estimated \$20,000, according to police.

The four victims were visiting Los

Angeles for a birthday celebration and staying at an Airbnb rental property. They left a restaurant around 1:30 a.m. in the Beverly Grove area and told police they felt they were being followed. (Follow-Home Robbery continues on page 16)

Antisemitic Flyers Found on First Night of Passover

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW



Antisemitic flyers distributed around Beverly Hills and Westwood on the first night of Passover Courtesy of Sam Yebri

On the first night of Passover, one of the holiest days in Judaism and a time marked by community and reflection, residents in Beverly Hills and Westwood discovered antisemitic flyers at their homes. For those in

Beverly Hills, one of the only Jewish-majority cities outside of Israel, this marks the third such incident. (Antisemitic Flyers continues on page 16)

Business WITH Bosse

Please join us as we launch the **FIRST** Business with Bosse event this month! This **new** initiative was created by Beverly Hills Mayor Lili Bosse to put a spotlight on local businesses and **just how special they are!**

The community is invited to meet at each showcased business and enjoy a sampling of what makes our Beverly Hills businesses so special.

For more information and to view upcoming events, visit beverlyhills.org/businesswithbosse

Questions? Email us at businesswithbosse@beverlyhills.org

It's time to
*be together
again &
have fun*

as a
community
while
supporting
our local
businesses.



Monday, April 25, 2022

Drop by between 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Tommy's Beverly Hills

235 N Cañon Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

(sample small bites will be available)

Public Works Commission Studies Cabrillo Reservoir

BY BIANCA HEYWARD



The Cabrillo Reservoir at Coldwater Canyon and Cabrillo Drive

Located on city-owned property at Coldwater Canyon Drive and Cabrillo Drive, the Cabrillo Reservoir has been a contentious plot of land for the Public Works Commission since it was abandoned in 1986 due to groundwater infiltration. After the city adopted the Integrated Water Resources Master Plan (IWRMP) in 2020, the Cabrillo site was analyzed for how to

maximize emergency water storage supplies and found a reservoir capacity of 4.3 million gallons (MG). The project would be feasible by reconstructing the site to comprise of two cells of 2.15MG each. **(Cabrillo Reservoir continues on page 15)**

LAPD Chase Ends In Front of BHPD Headquarters

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW



A pursuit that began in Beverly Crest and terminated in front of the Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) headquarters on April 18 led to the arrest of a woman for suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon, according to police.

The street in front of BHPD headquarters, Rexford Drive, was cordoned off to traffic and pedestrians for about 30 minutes, but the incident took place in Los Angeles. The woman, whose name was not immediately released, allegedly fired a shot into the ground during a dispute with another woman in Beverly Crest, according to the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD).

The incident occurred about 9 a.m. in the 9500 block of Highridge Place, LAPD

reported.

BHPD Sgt. Ryan Dolan told the Courier that the department's involvement in the case came about by chance.

"Our officers were assisting the Los Angeles Police Department with a high risk stop of a felony suspect, but it's not our case," he told the Courier. "They were in pursuit and it just happened to be stopped in front of our station."

According to the LAPD, the women were involved in a "residential property" dispute when one of them fired a shot and drove off. The other woman was not wounded, police said.

With City News Service ●



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[HA.com/Boutique](https://www.ha.com/Boutique)

HERITAGE AUCTIONS

Paul R. Minshull #16591. BP 12-25%; see HA.com. Complimentary catalogs are available while supplies last. 64742

Mickey Fine Pharmacy Donates to Ukraine

BY BIANCA HEYWARD

Mickey Fine Pharmacy, in partnership with the Beverly Hills Fire Department and Chief Greg Barton, donated 250,000 face masks to vulnerable communities in the city and to outposts in the Ukraine.



Jeff Gross, owner of Mickey Fine Pharmacy, standing in front of the donation boxes on April 19 Photo courtesy of Mickey Fine

Bosse and Stainbrook Sign 30x30 Pledge

On April 20, Mayor Lili Bosse and Beverly Hills Police Chief Mark Stainbrook signed a letter of intent to participate in the 30x30 pledge, which commits to increase the recruitment, retention, and promotion of women in the Beverly Hills Police Department. The mission of the nationwide 30x30 campaign is to achieve at least 30% female representation in law enforcement by the year 2030.



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Jacqueline Avant Photo by Alex Berliner

(Jacqueline Avant's Murderer continued from page 1)

Sitting in a wheelchair in court, Maynor appeared stoic as Solorazao passed judgment.

Deputy District Attorney Victor Avila presented the court with audio recordings of two phone calls Maynor made from jail in which he laughed about the murder and bragged that he would not receive the death penalty or life without parole because of changes implemented by Gascón.

"I'm gonna get out of jail," Maynor said on the call, according to a prosecution sentencing memorandum. "I'll probably do like 20...25, get out, you feel me?"

Avila detailed how Avant was shot in the back around 2 a.m. after confronting Maynor, who then fired "multiple shots" at a security guard as he escaped to a vehicle. Later that same morning, Maynor broke into

a Hollywood Hills home. In the process of burglarizing the residence, he shot himself in the foot with the same AR-15 style rifle used to kill Avant.

According to the memo, phone records indicated that Maynor had researched the Avants and their home address prior to the murder. Avant's husband, Clarence, is a titanic figure in the music industry referred to as the "Godfather of Black Music."

Avila read a statement in court on behalf of Avant's daughter, former Ambassador and film producer Nicole Avant. "There are no words to describe the cruel and vicious acts of the defendant. We are shattered," the statement read. "My mother devoted every cell of her body to help others. To have her life taken so brutally, is devastating."

"The grief is immeasurable," Nicole's statement said. Marcus Huntley, an attorney representing Maynor, said at the hearing that Maynor had a turbulent childhood characterized by mistreatment in the foster care system.

"His upbringing is how we got to this situation," Huntley said.

Gascón referred to the phone calls in a briefing following the hearing, saying that Maynor showed "little or no remorse" for the crime.

"In this case, Mr. Maynor made a series of jail calls that speak to no remorse and that are very disturbing in nature and also speaks in part to why the sentence today is appropriate given the circumstances," he said.

Maynor represented an indictment of the carceral system and how it "fails our

communities," Gascón said at a briefing following the sentencing.

"Right now, people go to prison and, in essence, they get a degree in crime. It's no surprise that the outcomes make us less safe," he said.

Maynor had been in and out of prison since the age of 12, Gascón said. As previously reported by the Courier, by the time he shot Avant on Dec. 1, Maynor had spent nearly 10 years in prison for two separate charges of second-degree robbery, with additional charges of domestic violence, grand theft, and inflicting great bodily injury.

Just months prior to December, Maynor was released on parole from his latest stint in prison for second degree robbery with enhancements for a prior felony.

"He was released with no reentry program and no path for success," Gascón said. "This case highlights the futility of our system. We can punish Mr. Maynor, but never do other things that would perhaps have led to a different outcome."

Chief Mark Stainbrook, who had previously expressed concern over the prosecution of Maynor under Gascón, said that he was satisfied with the resolution.

"We are content with the outcome of the criminal case against Ariel Maynor for the killing of Jacqueline Avant," he said in a statement to the Courier. "Our hearts are with the Avant family as they continue to process this horrific tragedy."

Avant's murder and Mayor's subsequent arrest came only days after Stainbrook's appointment to the role of police chief.

Stainbrook has received praise from city officials for his handling of the case.

The family of Avant made a recent and rare public appearance at the installation ceremony of Mayor Lili Bosse, including Nicole, Clarence Avant, and Nicole's husband, Netflix co-CEO Ted Sarandos. Nicole joined Bosse on stage to swear in the mayor, a personal friend.

The Avant-Sarandos families issued a joint statement following the sentencing, which read:

"The Avant-Sarandos Families are grateful to Beverly Hills Police Chief Mark Stainbrook and the Beverly Hills Police Department, Beverly Hills Fire Department and Paramedics, Los Angeles Police Department - Hollywood Division, Attorney Shawn Holley, Beverly Hills Mayor Lili Bosse, and Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney Victor Avila for their unwavering dedication to public service and for the swift justice of our beloved Jacqueline Avant."

In a statement to the Courier following the sentencing, Bosse reiterated her sympathies for the family. She also praised the Beverly Hills Police Department.

"The Beverly Hills Police Department worked tirelessly to gather evidence, conduct a thorough investigation and bring this suspect to justice," she said.

An outspoken proponent of the effort to recall Gascón, Bosse thanked the BHPD for its role in securing a guilty plea, avoiding "a trial in the troubling era of George Gascón."

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Earth DAY

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION AND COMPOST EVENT

April 24th, 2022
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.*

*Event will end at 12 p.m. or when the truck is full (whichever comes first)

Civic Center Drive and 3rd Street

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Here's your chance to shred your old documents safely, securely and pick up some compost for **FREE**.

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- Drop off only.
- 50lbs limit per vehicle.
- Face coverings are mandatory when interacting with staff.
- Staff will not open vehicle door or enter vehicle cabin.
- First come, first served.
- Stage parking line will be on Burton Way in front of courthouse and the corner of Civic Center Dr. Exit through the alley on Foothill Rd.
- For more information, please visit BEVERLYHILLS.ORG/EARTHDAY

For more information please contact: Public Works (310) 285-2467 or AskPW@Beverlyhills.org



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: Thursday, May 12, 2022
TIME: 1:30 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard

LOCATION: Commission Meeting Room 280A
Beverly Hills City Hall
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Members of the public may also participate teleconference; details provided below

PROJECT ADDRESS: 9400 Olympic Boulevard
(nearest cross street: South Cañon Drive)



The Planning Commission of the City of Beverly Hills, at its **REGULAR** meeting on **Thursday, May 12, 2022**, will hold a public hearing beginning at **1:30 PM**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard to consider a request to renew the following entitlements approved by Planning Commission and associated with the operation of the Avalon Hotel and restaurant at the property located at **9400 Olympic Boulevard**:

Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Renewal. Renewal of a CUP to allow an existing restaurant located on the ground floor of the Avalon Hotel to remain open to the public.

Development Plan Review (DPR) Renewal. Renewal of a DPR to allow for the existing restaurant to continue to operate open air dining within a pool area courtyard in the center of the hotel.

Extended Hours Permit Renewal. Renewal of an Extended Hours Permit allowing for the operation of the existing restaurant and open air dining uses during extended hours from 7 A.M. - 11 P.M. daily on a property located in a Commercial-Residential Transition Area.

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

How to Participate

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

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

It is recommended that written public comments be submitted to the Planning Commission Recording Secretary by 11:30 AM on the meeting date. Public comments will also be taken during the meeting when the topic is being reviewed by the Planning Commission. Written comments should identify the Agenda Item number or topic in the subject line of the email. In order to be read at the meeting, written comments will be allowed with a maximum of 350 words, which corresponds to approximately three (3) minutes of speaking time. If a comment is received after the agenda item is heard, it will not be a part of the record. Any written comments received by end of the day on Tuesday, May 3, 2022 will be attached to the agenda report regarding this item. Any comments received after Tuesday, May 3, 2022, but prior the public hearing, will be distributed to the Commission under separate cover.

According to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge the City's action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing. Please note that any comments received prior to or during the public hearing will be considered as part of the public record.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact **Alvaro Gomez, AICP, Associate Planner**, in the Planning Division at **(310) 285-1142**, or by email at agomez@beverlyhills.org. Copies of the project plans and associated application materials are on file in the Community Development Department, and can be reviewed by contacting the project planner listed above.

Sincerely,
Alvaro Gomez, AICP, Associate Planner



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

www.beverlyhills.org

(City Council Candidates continued from page 1)

All candidates were given the chance to opine on the issues they feel most pressing to the city, as well as provide concrete solutions to addressing them. We also asked about the state mandate to zone for more than 3,000 new units over the next eight years under the Regional Housing Needs Assessment, a controversial requirement that has put local governments across California in a bind. Finally, we asked incumbents to reflect on their handling of the prior two years of turbulence and the relationship between the City Council and the police department, which has found itself in headlines repeatedly in the last few years. Challengers were asked to justify their candidacies—the life experiences that makes them fit for office and the specific policies or decisions of the previous City Council that they disagreed with. While this space is inadequate for all the questions and answers necessary to make an informed decision on June 7, we hope it adds to the growing body of data for Beverly Hills voters as they continue to weigh their options. Note that the Courier **did not edit** responses.



Lester Friedman

Courier: The challenges currently facing the City of Beverly Hills have generated much discussion. The community is looking for solutions. Please identify the three issues you find most vexing and explicate the solutions you would propose for each.

Friedman: Safety is the overarching issue, whether it is feeling safe on our streets, in our public spaces or secure in our homes. I'm proud the Council is continuing many of the initiatives I led as Mayor during the pandemic. We're continuing to hire more police officers, deploy armed private security patrols and increase foot and motorcycle patrols. BHPD has been incredibly successful in capturing criminals. The new Real-time Watch Command Center will further reduce response time. It's time to build a police substation near La Cienega and fully staff it. And we need to be in a preventive mode. We're giving the department the tools they need, expanding

our use of technology, cameras, license plate readers, drones and artificial intelligence.

Safety is also about community health. It's time to expand our nurse practitioner program so residents on limited income do not use emergency rooms as the doctor's office. I want to hold a health summit with our local hospitals and local agencies to prepare for the next emergency. The days of being reactive are over. The tools and knowledge are available, and we should be incorporating these community minded solutions to protecting health.

And of course, there's the city's financial safety. We faced a major crisis during the pandemic as revenue from hotels and restaurants plummeted. I'm proud we were able to keep cuts away from resident services. We moved quickly to help struggling businesses with BH Open. I led the Council in creating the outdoor dining program that continues to be so successful. Now, it's time to apply the city's design standards for their screens on the street so they look as good as the food they serve. And we need to be attractive to new businesses and help ensure their viability with timely approvals and openings. There were important lessons from the pandemic. I want to increase the city's rainy-day fund to have more of a cushion and deploy innovative new ways to support our biggest source of revenue, businesses.

The community's safety and security is always the first order of business. It's a multilayered challenge that requires experience and knowledge to protect. As we move into the next phase of reopening and returning to a normal life, I want to apply my experience to that process.

Courier: Beverly Hills is under a mandate to zone for more than 3,000 new units over the next eight years. To date, the city's response to this Housing Element requirement has not

been approved. What does your idea of compliance look like? In your response, please touch upon the role that the city's Mixed-Use ordinance could/should play in meeting the Housing Element mandate.

Friedman: The State imposed 3,000 units in eight years is incomprehensible. The Council's job is to respond and at the same time fight to maintain our residential and small-town character. We passed the mixed-use ordinance, which demonstrates the city's commitment to creating the units needed as appropriately as possible. We must find a way to comply with the State's demands or lose control over aspects of our zoning. Then where will we be? Unable to protect the quality of life we all came to Beverly Hills to enjoy. Like other cities that were not initially approved, I am confident our housing element will be accepted, AND we will find the balance that protects the residential, small-town character of the Beverly Hills. I'm committed to fighting for who we are as a community.

Courier: We have gone through perhaps the most consequential two years in the history of the city, from civil unrest to a global pandemic. How did the City of Beverly Hills benefit from your presence on the City Council during your last term?

Friedman: As Mayor for the first year of the pandemic and during the civil unrest, I'm proud of what we accomplished. I led the hiring of more police and put more patrols on the streets with armed private security to support them. The outdoor dining program helped restaurants stay in business. I oversaw the emergency rent ordinance that temporarily helped many renters. And we made sure the economic crisis didn't diminish resident services. I'm running for a second term to apply the lessons learned to make Beverly Hills safer, healthier and more prosperous. I have the experience and

ideas to help guide our city into the bright future we all want.

Courier: The city prides itself and is very supportive of its police department. Yet, you were in office during a period when the city paid more than \$7 million in judgments due to allegations against a former police chief. Moreover, the police department has also been named in a class action that alleges racial discrimination. Explain your understanding of the oversight function that the City Council plays regarding the management of essential services, such as the police department. And do you feel that you have served the city and its taxpayers well in handling the above two matters?

Friedman: City Council oversees policy decisions. While the Council doesn't run day-to-day department operations, in the end, the responsibility is ours. The prior chief was hired in 2016, and after various allegations were upheld, resigned in 2020. The management of that process was based on legal and insurance decisions and carried out as expeditiously as possible. Our city was very fortunate to have Chief Dominick Rivetti become the Interim Chief. His talents and experience were perfect for the times. We worked closely to address these concerns. The Council is working with our permanent Police Chief Mark Stainbrook to make sure our community is safe, secure and respectful. And we're working to ensure there is no basis for any allegation of impropriety against our department. The dignity of and respect for every resident and visitor is a guiding principle that must be upheld. This is the City Council's policy and how we want our representatives to respect and interact with the public, whether in uniform or civilians working in City Hall.



Vera Markowitz

Courier: The challenges currently facing the City of Beverly Hills have generated much discussion. The community is looking for solutions. Please identify the three issues you find most vexing and explicate the solutions you would propose for each.

Markowitz: Most importantly, the Council is responsible for not only managing administration, administrative functions, public service, information technology and the budget but also human resources and good hiring practices that ensure that taxpayer money is not wasted on ill-conceived programs and frivolous lawsuits. The first role and responsibility of government is to ensure the safety of its citizens. The current Council has been an unmitigated failure. Crime is up and the morale of our City's police personnel is down. Our sworn officers do not have the support and resources needed to ensure that Beverly Hills remains a safe place to live, work and raise a family.

My top priorities include increasing the number of Beverly Hills PD sworn officers and detectives and returning the department to its rightful place as the premiere police department in the nation.

Another of my top priorities is to ensure that our water supply is safe, clean, affordable and plentiful. According to several reports, Beverly Hills is at dangerously low water reserves. In the event of any act of natural disaster or act of terrorism, the residents of Beverly Hills, by some estimates, would be without drinkable water within 24 hours. This is shameful and puts our community at risk. This issue can be further exposed given the fact that Beverly Hills has yet to underground all power lines and replace obsolete transformers that spark fires.

In wake of the many scandals that have plagued the Beverly Hills City Council, I am running with the goal of restoring the integrity of the Council and rebuilding public trust. If elected, I pledge to enact sweeping

reforms to ensure that the Beverly Hills City Council meet the highest standards for ethics, fairness, and accuracy. I will work to ensure a more transparent, accessible and efficient city government.

Courier: Beverly Hills is under a mandate to zone for more than 3,000 new units over the next eight years. To date, the city's response to this Housing Element requirement has not been approved. What does your idea of compliance look like? In your response, please touch upon the role that the city's Mixed-Use ordinance could/should play in meeting the Housing Element mandate.

Markowitz: I support mixed housing in limited areas. However, it is vital that we protect the character of Beverly Hills and our older neighborhoods from Sacramento's political mandates.

One of my top priorities on the Council will be the creation of a new General Plan that would prevent special interest and bureaucrats from mandating development projects that are outsized and do not fit with the integrity of our neighborhoods. We need land use and development policies that reflect the history, values and our unique quality of life. Given the impending mandate in its current form we must immediately address the issues of the removal of car lanes that would create choke points, create programs to install left turn arrows and synchronize traffic lights. Metro must also address the issues of electric bus (DASH) and shuttle service that is necessary to link to proposed major rail service.

Courier: You feel that you deserve a spot on the Beverly Hills City Council. What relevant experience, tested abilities and credentials do you bring to the table that the current incumbents or other challengers do not possess? Why would your presence on the City Council provide a better mix of talent on that body? WE WILL NOT PRINT ANYTHING IMPOLITE,

but if you feel that your qualifications surpass those of other specific candidates, you may address that topic.

Markowitz: I have lived here in Beverly Hills for over 50 years. This city is where I raised my children and the city I love. My work with Team Beverly Hills has given me valuable insight into the inner workings of Beverly Hills and the unique challenges our city faces. As the Co-Founder and Director of Just In Case BH, I have fought to keep our community safe and prepared for any emergency our community may face. We have many serious problems in Beverly Hills that have been ignored or are being treated with nonsensical “solutions” that only serve City Hall interests and exacerbate and divide us. To move forward and to finally resolve these issues, I am a strong believer in learning from our community and neighbors. I believe citizen input is essential. Enough of these temporary fixes that help no one. I believe we must have a vision towards a long term solution. I’m running for Beverly Hills City Council to continue fighting for our neighborhoods. At this pivotal moment, the choices we make will have an enormous

impact on our neighborhoods, our environment, our schools, our safety and Beverly Hills’ future.

Courier: Are you running because you don’t approve of the performance of the current City Council? If so, please point to a particular decision or initiative – or lack thereof – that you disagree with. If you are running for any other reason, please elaborate. (It is ok to say that you are running because you simply think it is time for a change, or because you always wanted to hold elective office.) We want to understand what is motivating you to take this move.

Markowitz: Beverly Hills City Council has failed us. They have forgotten that they are our public servants. City Hall insiders have stacked the field of candidates putting special interests ahead of our community. It is time that we have our seat at the table and the residents, small business owners, and families who love our way of life here in the Beverly Hills have their say. It’s time we have a council member that puts our neighborhoods and residents first. Six

years ago, I learned that the City Council had failed to properly vet candidates and hired an incompetent police chief. She had multiple lawsuits against her before she was hired in Beverly Hills. I was a lone voice for over 4 years of speaking in front of the Council and relating all the atrocities that the police rank and file were subjected to. As a result of this failure, 50 of our best police officers left and sought new employment or retired from the department. In addition to the loss of our city’s finest police officers, the city was subsequently sued and has settled over \$15 million dollars in law suits. The residents of Beverly Hills demand better. Enough is enough of this failed leadership. Our community cannot afford to continue on this path of failed leadership. I believe I am the right candidate to make City Hall work for us because I will do what I’ve been doing my entire life – fighting to improve the quality of life for everyone in Beverly Hills.



Robin Rowe

Courier: The challenges currently facing the City of Beverly Hills have generated much discussion. The community is looking for solutions. Please identify the three issues you find most vexing and explicate the solutions you would propose for each.

Rowe: Just three? During the decade the Incumbents have held office the City Council has done so many vexing things.

One, the Incumbents increased by 40% the police budget, while at the same time making Beverly Hills alarmingly less safe. They are now running for reelection on campaign promises of future unlimited police budget increases.

Two, the Incumbents have obstructed construction of affordable housing in Beverly Hills. Their opposition is so fierce that in one unguarded moment an Incumbent said affordable housing in Beverly Hills would happen only “over my dead body.” Then, with undeserved hoopla, the Incumbents passed a Mixed-Use Ordinance that at best could add only a few affordable units. When it resulted in building none, the Incumbents said it’s not them, but the fault of the public

for not wanting affordable housing.

Three, for a decade the Incumbents have funneled more than a million dollars a year of city funds into a no-strings-attached grant to the Beverly Hills Unified School District. Incumbents have campaign promised that BHUSD has their total support. Meanwhile, the School Board has diverted over \$16 million of school bond construction funds into mounting a series of losing lawsuits to delay Beverly Hills subway construction, in coordination with the City Council. Auditors and former School Board officials have said diversion of school bond construction funds is illegal, that it must be used for construction.

If elected to City Council, my one vote in opposition to any City Council nonsense may not seem like much. A meaningful change I can accomplish on the City Council is to increase transparency to make it hard for Beverly Hills politicians to avoid public scrutiny.

Courier: Beverly Hills is under a mandate to zone for more than 3,000 new units over the next eight years. To date, the city’s response to this Housing Element requirement has not been approved. What does your idea of compliance look like? In your response, please touch upon the role that the city’s Mixed-Use ordinance could/should play in meeting the Housing Element mandate.

Rowe: That 3,000 new units number may be outdated. The state mandate for new affordable housing units in Beverly Hills was 3,000 in 2020. The state mandate calls for another 300 new units each year. Beverly Hills is 3,600 units short in 2022. If the City Council continues to accomplish nothing building affordable housing, as it has for a decade, then in eight years Beverly Hills may expect to be 6,000 affordable housing units short.

It was recently reported that the state lost a lawsuit that challenged how many affordable housing units a community needs. The lawsuit asserted the state’s number was calculated incorrectly and is

too low. It hasn’t been announced yet what the new higher number required of Beverly Hills may be.

To solve a massive Beverly Hills housing shortfall requiring building thousands of new units means the construction of high-rise residential towers. Adding a few units through Mixed-Use, if that idea could work, won’t make a difference. We may expect the state to enforce the affordable housing law, to force Beverly Hills to act, as California already has done by suing Huntington Beach.

I would have us build affordable housing earmarked for Beverly Hills workers. I would not repeat the mistake Chicago made of building, in a luxury neighborhood, large subsidized housing intended for the destitute. I lived in Chicago next to the notorious Cabrini Green projects. Chicago’s Gold Coast neighborhood is still plagued by crime and the gangs that the projects attracted, even after Cabrini Green was deemed a failure and has since been torn down.

Courier: We have gone through perhaps the most consequential two years in the history of the city, from civil unrest to a global pandemic. How did the City of Beverly Hills benefit from your presence on the City Council during your last term?

Rowe: Being more relevant to my performance, I answered your Incumbent questions instead.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, I worked for the United Nations World Health Organization managing a new program to train doctors worldwide to save lives at risk during disasters.

Courier: The city prides itself and is very supportive of its police department. Yet, you were in office during a period when the city paid more than \$7 million in judgments due to allegations against a former police chief. Moreover, the police department has also been named in a class action that alleges racial discrimination. Explain your understanding

of the oversight function that the City Council plays regarding the management of essential services, such as the police department. And do you feel that you have served the city and its taxpayers well in handling the above two matters?

Rowe: The KTLA news headline was, “Beverly Hills police chief retires after city pays millions to settle lawsuits alleging she engaged in racism, anti-Semitism, harassment.” Anyone who read the legal briefs from the lawsuits knows the Beverly Hills police chief was also accused of being homophobic and a nymphomaniac. That Beverly Hills hired an attractive nymphomaniac female police chief who sexually harassed male police officers, and that Hollywood has yet to produce a movie-of-the-week to share such a lascivious story, seems implausible.

When Beverly Hills hired its first female police chief, Vogue magazine published an interview with her in which the Chief said she’s a “change agent” who will root out any discrimination in the police force. The discrimination lawsuits brought against the Chief were not from marginalized citizens, rather from Beverly Hills police officers who said the Chief mistreated them. The City Council paying off these police-on-police lawsuits created so much scandal against the Police Chief that she eventually resigned. The police department that removed its avowed reformist police chief has subsequently been charged in an unrelated class action lawsuit for systemic racial discrimination.

It’s been highly publicized how much Beverly Hills police officers suing the police chief received. How much the City Council has paid out for police brutality and discrimination lawsuits brought by abused citizens is something only the City Council knows. It does not show in the City budget.



Darian Bojeaux

Courier: The challenges currently facing the City of Beverly Hills have generated much discussion. The community is looking for solutions. Please identify the three issues you find most vexing and explicate the solutions you would propose for each.

Bojeaux: 1. Issue: Crime against businesses, customers, and residents.

Solution: In addition to what the BHPD is doing in increasing cameras, using drone surveillance, allowing officers to hear incoming calls; and allowing residents to know what is going on; the BHPD should also increase monitoring of cameras, and increase officer foot patrol, in pairs, in the triangle. It is much better to increase the number of police officers than to use private security services which are much less threatening to thieves.

2. Issue: 3 or 4 council members making major changes to height limits, parking requirements, and city zoning and doing what they want to do instead of taking into consideration what residents want for the city.

Solution: Stop deviating from the general plan with spot zoning, unless the project is first submitted to the residents for a vote.

3. Issue: The lack of affordable housing caused by the city's failure to make it easier for residents to build guest houses on top of

garages, and to build other ADU's. The city should have jumped on such a project the month RHNA new housing requirements came out, to spread increased density evenly and fairly throughout the city. Instead, the Planning Commission and city have dragged their feet for years now, due to a combination of incompetence and attempting to push increased density on to the main streets for the benefit of city officials who do not live near the main streets, all to the detriment of residents who live near main streets. If the city had acted promptly, many more guest houses would have been built by now and we would have been able to get more credit for ADU's in the housing element plan which was bungled by the city.

Solution: Allow posthaste guest houses to be built over garages; allow zero setbacks in the rear of the property unless problematic for neighbors; allow at least 450 sq. ft. of paving in front of a home for increased off-street parking for two cars plus a walkway; the city should hire engineers who can assist residents with their plans for a reasonable cost; the city should publish in a booklet everything that needs to be done to obtain a permit for an ADU with all necessary information; the city should provide low cost pre-approved models for ADU's, but not low quality models; the city should significantly reduce all applicable fees for permitting ADU's.

Courier: Beverly Hills is under a mandate to zone for more than 3,000 new units over the next eight years. To date, the city's response to this Housing Element requirement has not been approved. What does your idea of compliance look like? In your response, please touch upon the role that the city's Mixed-Use ordinance could/should play in meeting the Housing Element mandate.

Bojeaux: See 3 above which is incorporated here by reference. One reason the housing element was not approved is that the city violated Government Code §65583(c)(9) which required the city to make a diligent effort to achieve public participation in developing the housing element plan. Instead the city just passed the mixed-use ordinance during the height of the pandemic, against the wishes of most

residents, and the mixed use ordinance rezoned for over three times RHNA new housing requirements. The city should have never increased height limits within the mixed use ordinance – residents did not want that, and the city should have, in addition to making it easier for residents to build guest houses and ADU's early on, reached out and worked with owners of large existing commercial buildings to interest them in adaptive re-use of their buildings for mixed use. The city should have also required the One Beverly Hilton project to include affordable housing.

Courier: You feel that you deserve a spot on the Beverly Hills City Council. What relevant experience, tested abilities and credentials do you bring to the table that the current incumbents or other challengers do not possess? Why would your presence on the City Council provide a better mix of talent on that body? WE WILL NOT PRINT ANYTHING IMPOLITE, but if you feel that your qualifications surpass those of other specific candidates, you may address that topic.

Bojeaux: I am an attorney, and attorneys are ideally suited to serve on the council because of their education, experience, and familiarity with the law. Of course that is much more the case if the attorney is willing to dig in, research, and learn about the subject matter which comes before him. That is not to say that a non-attorney cannot do the same thing with some effort. In fact council member John Mirisch who is not an attorney, digs in and makes himself very knowledgeable about the subjects which come before him. On the other hand, I have seen council members who have no idea about their subject matter because they have not tried to learn about it, so they just ask questions to staff, and rely on the position of a staff member instead of doing their job as a council member.

Also, I think that I am more in touch with and care more about what residents want for the city, and I would defer to residents rather than abuse power and force my preferences for the city onto the residents as this city council majority has done.

Courier: Are you running because you don't approve of the performance of the current City Council? If so, please point to a particular decision or initiative—or lack thereof— that you disagree with. If you are running for any other reason, please elaborate. (It is ok to say that you are running because you simply think it is time for a change, or because you always wanted to hold elective office.) We want to understand what is motivating you to take this move.

Bojeaux: Yes, I do not approve of the performance of the current City Council majority. The city failed its residents by not promptly helping residents build guesthouses over garages and ADU's in a timely manner. I disagree with the City Council majority's passing the mixed use ordinance, which raised height limits, decreased parking requirements, and zoned for three times the new housing required by RHNA. I disapprove of the City Council majority's ignoring the wishes of the majority of residents who weighed in. The City Council majority was also unfair to residents by refusing to extend their time to gather referendum signatures, due to the pandemic, so that the mixed use ordinance could be placed on the ballot for residents to decide.

I disagree with the City Council majority's approval of the One Beverly Hilton project because (1) it allowed an 11 story building across the street from El Rodeo School which will throw shade on the school; (2) it exempted the developer from providing any affordable housing whatsoever; (3) the development agreement for the project was pre-negotiated without being submitted for public input, and was not well-negotiated; (4) parking requirements for the site were reduced by 1/3 and substandard parking was approved; and (5) the City Council majority ignored the concerns of residents.

I believe the Cheval Blanc project, an overly massive hotel going up to 9 stories, is being proposed for the village because the developer knows that at least three of the incumbent City Council members will vote in favor of it regardless of what residents want. And that is another reason I would like the composition of the city council to be changed.



Robert Wunderlich

Courier: The challenges currently facing the City of Beverly Hills have generated much discussion. The community is looking for solutions. Please identify the three issues you find most vexing and explicate the solutions you would propose for each.

Wunderlich: Ensuring public safety - The immediate challenge is safety. We are experiencing a regional increase in egregious crimes. Safer is not sufficient. We must be safe on an absolute scale. We have done a lot and have to do more. We increased officers, added private security, planned for Metro substations, added 1000s of cameras and drones, and called for the recall of DA Gascon. In a second term, I will prioritize adding officers – for current needs, to replace retirees, and for the coming of Metro – and increasingly being proactive to prevent crimes before they happen – considering alternative

deployment strategies, increasing real-time monitoring, and increasing use of artificial intelligence. With many new officers, I will also emphasize training to ensure that we police in the Beverly Hills way.

Fostering a vibrant economy while preserving our quality of life - Why do I want to foster a vibrant economy? Ultimately, this must be for the benefit of our residents. A vibrant economy provides resources we need for our superior services. However, vibrancy cannot come at the expense of our quality of life. We want only the right development in the right place. We must be careful that as we provide for a strong commercial base, we protect our residential neighborhoods. During the Vietnam War, an officer famously said: "We had to destroy the village to save the village." That is the opposite of what we have to do. We have to strike the balance to ensure the commercial vibrancy of our City and preserve its

character.

Ensuring a sustainable city: economic, community, and environmental - We need the vitality of a generationally diverse population - what I refer to as community sustainability. We have to provide safe, quiet neighborhoods for residents from kids to seniors and for multi-family housing to offset the cost of living in Beverly Hills. I championed early childhood education, an important attractor for families and formed an ad hoc for senior affordable housing. Climate change is a global crisis. We are in a severe drought which will be increasingly common in the future. I was a champion of joining the Clean Power Alliance such that residents by default now receive their electricity from 100% renewable sources. (City Council Candidates continues on page 13)

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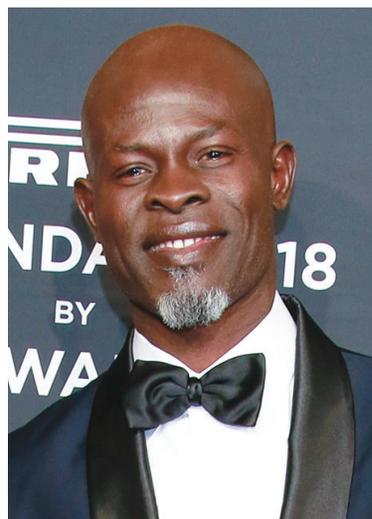
Birthdays



DEV PATEL
April 23



CAROLINE BLOCH
April 24



DJIMON HOUNSOU
April 24



MIGUEL PREY TORRES
April 24



TODD SILVER
April 25



JESSICA ALBA
April 28



SHERI ROSENBLUM
April 28

To our loyal Courier readers:
Thank you for making our Birthday Page more popular than ever. Going forward, we want to make sure that we showcase our community at its best. Please send us a current birthday photo every year, along with your name and phone number in case we have any questions. All photos must be high-resolution, at least 300 dpi. 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 to editorial@bhcourier.com and make sure to put "Birthday Page" on the subject line.



Astrology

BY HOLIDAY MATIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). One thing you'll be extremely good at is forming friendships and weaving them into larger networks. This opens many resources for this weekend's projects.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Being generous feels wonderful but don't cheat yourself, or feelings turn to shades of loss, sadness, anger and pain. When in doubt, do nothing until you're sure about what you can afford, emotionally and otherwise.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There will be deals presented to you. Beware of situations where the money is more important than the work. Tonight will be like a fast car: safety first, then have a blast.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Group goals should technically be easier to reach because the work is divided. Keep in mind that if the work isn't more or less equally divided, there will be resentments when it's time

to divvy up the prize.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll achieve what only mature people are able to: You'll be an objective witness to your own behavior. Feelings are not puppeteers. You will acknowledge your emotions without letting them drag you around.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Peer pressure is a fact of humanity. Wherever people are, there's a pressure to conform to their opinions and behaviors. It's a good reason to spend as little time as possible with people who undervalue you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Stories get exaggerated, pictures get altered, facts get tampered with. You'll get a better sense of things you witness firsthand, but even then, there are obstacles to perfect perception.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The logic you followed before suddenly seems less reliable. You'll navigate with something different. An innate knowing rises up to move you past other kinds of processing. It's like the decision is making itself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You don't have to be perfect to

be loved, liked or included. You don't have to be perfect to be persuasive, effective or accomplished. You don't have to be perfect, period.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's as though you can feel someone thinking about you and sense the subsequent reach out before it happens. It's because you are connected at a deep level, working through a joint karma.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Keep pushing through the

challenge. Things may not come to fruition as quickly as you'd like, but you can trust that eventually you will know the deep satisfaction of having accomplished what you set out to do.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You bring warmth to interactions. People feel safe with you and there's a sense that you're all on the same side. Where mysteries and manipulation once existed, someone will let down their guard and tell you how it really is.



This week's eligible puppy for adoption is Marco. He's a 1-year-old, 10-pound, poodle mix. To adopt this sweet boy, please contact Shelter of Hope at 805-379-3538.

www.shelterhopepetshop.org

(City Council Candidates continued from page 11)

I have been closely involved with increasing to 25% our water that comes from local sources, a substantial increase. In a second term, I will lead to mitigate climate change and ensure reliable resources.

Courier: Beverly Hills is under a mandate to zone for more than 3,000 new units over the next eight years. To date, the city's response to this Housing Element requirement has not been approved. What does your idea of compliance look like? In your response, please touch upon the role that the city's Mixed-Use ordinance could/should play in meeting the Housing Element mandate.

Wunderlich: Beverly Hills was assigned an unrealistic Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) objective of over 3,000 additional housing units. The City is not required to build that number of units, but is required to have zoning that would not prevent the housing from being built. We submitted a plan to the State to address our RHNA requirement, for which the State has requested additional information. It is important that our Housing Element be approved because, if it is not, then the State can impose additional mandates further restricting our local control.

Our mixed-use ordinance is an important component of our plan, but the mixed-use ordinance did not originate in connection with RHNA. I was one of two City Councilmembers who suggested that a City policy regarding mixed-use in general should be evaluated rather than taking a spot zoning approach. I believe mixed-use can foster an attractive village atmosphere, bolstering our neighborhood shops, increasing opportunities for more affordable housing in the City, and providing alternatives for declining office and large retail uses. Subsequently, the value of mixed-use in connection with RHNA compliance arose.

Any new housing development would have to replace existing current uses, posing economic hurdles beyond those present in areas with open space or lower land values. I believe the concerns that the mixed-use ordinance could lead to widespread development and densification are not warranted. The same density bonuses had previously been allowed in our residential neighborhoods with little impact. The economics of developing housing in our City poses challenges. Since the ordinance was passed, we have had a handful of inquiries and I believe no actual projects going forward.

We also are supporting the use of ADUs and building additional housing consistent with our existing codes to achieve our RHNA obligation.

We are challenging RHNA politically and legislatively. RHNA imposes increasing density obligations on our City, even though we are a fully built-out city with a long-term stable population. Accordingly, although we believe we have complied with RHNA, which, if we had not, could lead to additional State mandates, we continue to work toward reforming the RHNA process.

Courier: We have gone through perhaps the most consequential two years in the history of the city, from civil unrest to a global pandemic. How did the City of Beverly Hills benefit from your presence on the City Council during your last term?

Wunderlich: Many residents, businesses, and the City were affected by the pandemic deeply. I advocated for measures to keep our population healthy. As an economist, I played an instrumental role in the City's financial recovery. We reduced operating expenses, provided incentives for early resignations, and reduced capital expenditures such that we continued to provide exceptional services and are emerging strong from the pandemic.

We were proactive in seeking new businesses that fit Beverly Hills and retaining our

existing businesses. The results are apparent. Our property values have increased. Retail sales are back to pre-pandemic levels. Our hotel occupancy is returning. Our streets are more vibrant than they were pre-pandemic.

For our residents, we provided protections from the pandemic and from challenges that exist unrelated to the pandemic. We put into place a moratorium on evictions and rent increases, from which we are now emerging. I was a leader in establishing a rent assistance program to pay landlords directly on behalf of renters. We protected our residential neighborhoods from the increased development made possible by SB 9, in which two duplexes would be allowed to be built on a single-family lot, by adopting quantitative criteria allowed under SB 9. I led in outlawing fractional ownership to preserve the community feel of our neighborhoods, adopting ordinances to protect our hillsides, implementing slow streets and other measures to help keep our neighborhoods quiet, and collaborating with our schools to excel at early childhood education.

We also experienced a period of unprecedented demonstrations of various types in our City. We adopted and are continuing to add a variety of measures in response to the regional increase in crime, which I addressed in a separate question regarding the most pressing challenges for our City. As regards the demonstrations and civil unrest in particular, we passed a series of ordinances and adopted additional protective policing practices to mitigate the demonstrations while preserving required First Amendment rights and avoiding escalation. In particular, I was instrumental in developing the ordinances protecting our schools.

Courier: The city prides itself and is very supportive of its police department. Yet, you were in office during a period when the city paid more than \$7 million

in judgments due to allegations against a former police chief. Moreover, the police department has also been named in a class action that alleges racial discrimination. Explain your understanding of the oversight function that the City Council plays regarding the management of essential services, such as the police department. And do you feel that you have served the city and its taxpayers well in handling the above two matters?

Wunderlich: City Council sets policies, establishes objectives, provides resources, develops political and legal solutions, recruits key personnel, and works with the Chief regarding operational practices to provide our exceptional policing services.

This question addresses particular litigation and personnel issues, for which confidentiality requirements limit what I can say.

In general, and applicable to the lawsuits addressed in the question, the claims in a lawsuit are simply allegations, not findings or conclusions.

The context behind the lawsuit alleging racial discrimination was rampant EDD fraud and other criminal behavior. Our police were leaders in discovering the EDD fraud that ending up costing the State \$billions. Those arrested were found to have suspect debit cards, cash, and illegal weapons.

As regards the litigation involving the former chief, there are many reasons to settle litigation, separate from whether the allegations are accurate or significant, including the risk of a jury trial with Beverly Hills as a target, the potential award of attorney fees, and the availability of insurance recovery. We were well-served by settling this litigation so that, unhindered by past impediments, we could move forward with Interim Chief Rivett and new Chief Stainbrook.



Akshat "A.B." Bhatia

Courier: The challenges currently facing the City of Beverly Hills have generated much discussion. The community is looking for solutions. Please identify the three issues you find most vexing and explicate the solutions you would propose for each.

Bhatia: Here are three biggest issues for me and the reason why I am running.

A) I feel our city is not safe anymore and we must make our city safer for our residents.

Criminals should not be allowed to get away with crime in our city. As a father of two young kids, the current situation troubles me, and that's why I will strongly support the RECALL OF GEORGE GASCON and make sure police have the funding they need to do their job right. You can find the recall petition on my website and since last month I am personally organizing events every week to recall Gascon.

B) I feel there is lack of coordination and involvement between council and our schools. We need to strengthen ties between the City Council and School Board to make sure our children have the best facilities and resources they need to succeed.

C) I strongly believe small businesses are lifeline of our city. As a small business owner, I want to support small businesses. During the Covid lockdowns, many businesses shut down because they weren't considered "essential workers." As the next city councilman, I will fight for your businesses, advocate for less taxes and red tape which unfortunately exist in our city.

Courier: Beverly Hills is under a mandate to zone for more than 3,000 new units over the next eight years. To date, the city's response to this Housing Element requirement has not been approved. What does your idea of compliance look like? In your response, please touch upon the role that the city's Mixed-Use ordinance could/should play in meeting the Housing Element mandate.

Bhatia: I won't comment on this for now.

Courier: You feel that you deserve a spot on the Beverly Hills City Council. What relevant experience, tested abilities and credentials do you bring to the table that the current incumbents or other challengers do not possess? Why would your presence on the City Council provide a better mix of talent on that body? WE WILL NOT PRINT ANYTHING IMPOLITE, but if you feel that your qualifications surpass those of other specific candidates, you may address that topic.

Bhatia: I feel current city council missing the gap between experience and a young fresh mind like me who represent young families and will bring new ideas. I strongly feel I can bridge that gap.

Courier: Are you running because you don't approve of the performance of the current City Council? If so, please point to a particular decision or initiative—or lack thereof— that you disagree with. If you are running for any other reason, please elaborate. (It is ok to say that you are running because you simply think it is time for a change, or because you always wanted to hold elective office.) We want to understand what is motivating you to take this move.

Bhatia: I decided to run for office primarily because of safety/small business/school issues. I saw the city going downhill in the past 2 years. I notice families are living in fear. Residents of our city don't deserve this. I notice our small businesses have gone through a lot starting from covid lockdowns, to BLM riots and now everyday smash and grab.

Since my kids go to public schools in BH, I notice there is lack of coordination and communication between city and school boards and I want to work on that.

So yes, overall I am running because I want to work on above mentioned issues and it is time for change. ●

(Public Forums continued from page 1)

The goal of the events is to inform voters about the candidates in a transparent and impartial setting. All of the sessions will be periodically rebroadcast on BHTV 10 leading up to Election Day and are available to the public on-demand anytime at beverlyhills.org/elections.

The Beverly Hills North Homeowners Association and The Municipal League of Beverly Hills

April 27 and April 28, 7-9 p.m.
The forum will be held at the Beverly Hills City Council Chambers and live streamed at beverlyhills.org/live. For more information, contact 424-253-4100.

(Cabrillo Reservoir continued from page 5)

While the city's IWRMP consultant, Hazen and Sawyer, initially identified the cost for the work associated at approximately \$14 million, a 2021 report projected a probable cost of approximately \$29.7 million – nearly double the budget. Since then, city staff have explored less expensive options and water storage alternatives to increase efficiency in water operations. At its April 14 meeting, the Public Works Commission recommended the installation of reservoir management systems (RMS) at the city's three largest reservoirs that would allow them to operate at higher levels with consistent water quality. Instead of a costly reservoir at the Cabrillo site, staff recommended a \$14.2 million project with a .3-million-gallon pump station forebay, a move that would add redundant fire services to the hillside areas, increase emergency water storage, and make the city less dependent on the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. The City Council will provide further direction regarding how to best utilize and fund the Cabrillo Reservoir at its priority setting meeting on April 26.

"Every day we don't proceed on adding storage is rolling the dice in my opinion," Public Works Commission Chair Charles Alpert said. "Whether it's a fire, whether it's an earthquake, whether it's a terrorist situation, who knows what the world brings to our door, and I don't think we have enough reservoir as is. I think the RMS system is good. I don't think it's the most we can do. And I think that's what I think we should recommend to Council."

The city owns a property on Monte Cielo Court that houses a small pump station serving the upper zones in Beverly Hills. According to staff, the 15-year-old pump station has reached the end of its useful life, and the proposed forebay option at Cabrillo would replace it. The new pump station would provide operational flexibility and facilitate greater water distribution capacity when moving water from lower zones to upper zones. While the Cabrillo Reservoir, originally constructed in 1918, is not currently operational, the city collects raw, natural spring water formed there to help irrigate ornamental grass on the Sunset Boulevard medium.

Technically, a forebay is not a reservoir. "That is just a section tank that feeds the pump station," Vince Damasse, the city's Water Resources Manager said. "The pump station has to take water from something, from a volume of water and it's just a suction

Southwest Beverly Hills Homeowners Association

May 3, 7-9:30 p.m.
The forum will be held at the Beverly Hills City Council Chambers and live streamed at beverlyhills.org/live. For more information, contact Kenneth Goldman at kgoldman@kaglegal.com.

"The Southwest Homeowners have held a Candidate Forum for more than 30 years during each municipal election," Southwest Beverly Hills Homeowners Association board member Kenneth Goldman told the Courier. "We try to ask good questions and to be fair to all candidates. Toward the end of the Forum we will take questions from the audience. It's always been really well

to the pump station." Part of the proposed project will have a dedicated transmission main that will go from Cabrillo to upper hillside zones, providing fire flow. Due to the depth of the forebay, the site work and construction costs associated with demolishing the reservoir and building the pump station is \$8.2 million.

"It serves exactly what we want it to do," Damasse said. "It's not a reservoir. That's why you don't see a big tank, it's not protruding off the ground... Nobody even will know it's there. And it will serve the redundant fire flow needs that we need."

The city's top three largest reservoirs are Greystone with a capacity of 19.3 million gallons, Coldwater Canyon with a capacity of 8.3 million gallons, and Sunset with a capacity of 6 million gallons.

According to Damasse, by investing in three fully automated Reservoir Management Systems at these sites with chemical feed systems that can be controlled remotely, the city would add 8.45 million gallons to its emergency water storage. "So that's like building an 8-million-gallon reservoir somewhere else," Damasse said. "You just gain it by changing the way you operate a reservoir." Currently, the \$1 million RMS systems are included in the proposed capital improvement budget, which will go before the City Council for approval in May. If approved, work would begin July 1. "Each system at each site takes about 12 months to construct," Director of Public Works Shana Epstein told the Courier. "I would say at least 24 months from all three sites."

Building a forebay at Cabrillo would move the city closer to its emergency storage goal of a seven-day supply during peak months when the reservoirs are at their lowest operational level—a number identified by staff to be 4.8 million gallons. "Any other smaller alternative as far as reservoirs, we're going to have to acquire funding for that for construction," Damasse added regarding the Cabrillo site.

"We don't have many options for more reservoirs," Alpert said. "So don't preclude this location as a reservoir. Whether the Council wants to spend all that money for it, I don't know. I would advocate for it. I mean, when the emergency comes and we don't have water, there's no price tag for that."

"I urge people to consider that the best course of action is to use the right amount of water," Epstein told the Courier. "That is the strongest effort that our community can do towards resiliency is just using the right amount of water and not wasting it." ●

received and, I think, helpful to the voters to know where each candidate stands. We try to get very specific responses from the candidates."

Beverly Hills Active Adult Club

May 9, 1 p.m.
The forum is being held at the Roxbury Park Community Center to discuss topics of interest to the senior community.

Rotary Interact and Teen BHEF Candidate Forum

May 11, 5 p.m.
The student run event will be held at the Cherney Lecture Hall at Beverly Hills High School. Students will prepare the questions as well as moderate the event. To RSVP, email manager@bhef.org. The event will be recorded and streamed by KBEV. ●



City Council candidates at Chamber of Commerce forum Photo by Samuel Braslow

Next stop: more subway.

PURPLE (D LINE) EXTENSION TRANSIT PROJECT
Section 2 – Beverly Hills Update

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE
Construction activities to build the Wilshire/Rodeo Station continue primarily underground at Wilshire Bl and Rodeo Bl. Material deliveries will continue during day and evening hours.

TRAFFIC ALERT
From 9am–4pm, Wilshire Bl may be reduced to two lanes in each direction between El Camino Dr and Crescent Dr.

MEETING HOURS
Community Construction Update webinars are typically held virtually on the first Wednesday of the month, from 12–1pm. Please join us on May 4 and June 1, 2022, at noon. Please visit metro.net/purple for additional details.



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Bicyclist Hit on Rodeo Drive

BY BIANCA HEYWARD

Early Thursday morning, the Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) responded to an “auto versus a bicycle traffic accident” at the intersection of Rodeo Drive and North Santa Monica Boulevard. The collision was reported shortly after midnight on April 21 and resulted in major injuries sustained by the bicyclist who was transported to a local hospital by ambulance. According to the BHPD, the injured man remains hospitalized, and the cause of the accident is still

under investigation.

While other outlets reported the incident was fatal, BHPD’s Lt. Giovanni Trejo disputed that.

“This accident was not a hit-and-run and not a fatality,” Trejo told the Courier. “We don’t have information on any other accidents in the area involving a fatality and a hit-and-run driver.” ●

(Follow-Home Robbery continued from page 4)

They say they spotted a luxury SUV following them and didn’t go directly to their rental property. Instead, they drove until they said they lost the SUV following them, then returned to the Airbnb.

However, when the victims parked their car in the driveway and got out, they say they were robbed by three suspects armed with guns. The suspects stole the property they had on them in the driveway and proceeded to take the four men into the home at gunpoint.

The incident represents yet another data point in the trend of so-called follow-home or follow-off robberies targeting wealthy Angelenos. The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) reported a total of 221 follow-home robberies up to April 11.

Law enforcement took notice of the trend in early 2021, noting that victims were regularly followed from locations frequented by high net worth individuals, such as Melrose Avenue, the Jewelry District, and high-end restaurants and nightclubs. LAPD claimed that suspects targeted victims based on their jewelry or cars.

LAPD Captain John Tippet, the commanding officer of the Robbery-Homicide Division and head of the Follow Home

Task Force, told the LAPD Board of Police Commissioners on April 12 that “this is a phenomenon that, prior to last year, was almost unheard of.”

“In the month[s] of September and October, we monitored a pattern of increased robberies that included multiple vehicles and multiple armed suspects working in a coordinated effort to rob victims of their high-end cars and or jewelry,” Tippet said. “In my 34 years in the LAPD, I had never seen this type of criminal behavior in such large groups coordinating to conduct attacks on unsuspecting citizens to take their property and/or vehicles.”

Following the formation of the task force in November, LAPD began making arrests. As of April 12, the task force had made four murder arrests, six attempted murder arrests, and 24 robbery arrests involving 47 robberies.

Tippet said the task force has identified 17 gangs involved in the surge of robberies, though he could not say how many incidents had connections to specific gangs.

Data presented by the task force showed a steep decline in follow-home robberies since its formation. During a four-week period from October to November, LAPD reported 45 incidents. That, compared to just 10 incidents during a four-week period in March, is a decline of 78%. ●

(Antisemitic Flyers continued from page 4)

“It is regrettable and concerning that opportunists choose to spread their hate on any day, but particularly on a day of celebration and with so much meaning,” Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) Executive Officer Lt. Giovanni Trejo told the Courier. “BHPD stands with our community to denounce this and all messages of hate. We are sympathetic to the concerns expressed by our community members, and we continue to provide a high level of visibility by adding more officers in the area, including private security officers.”

The flyers appeared similar to those from the previous two incidents, declaring that “Every Single Aspect of the Ukraine-Russia War is Jewish.” The flyers proclaimed the anti-Biden phrase “Let’s Go Brandon” along with the statement, “Every Single Aspect of the Biden Administration is Jewish.”

The leaflets also repeated phrases contained in the other flyers, including, “Every Single Aspect of the COVID Agenda Is Jewish.”

Residents discovered similar pamphlets on Nov. 28, the first day of Hanukkah, and then again on Dec. 18. According to Trejo, this latest batch of flyers were distributed around the northern parts of the city.

All three of the incidents appear connected to the Goyim Defense League, a “loose network of individuals connected by their virulent antisemitism,” according to the Anti-Defamation League.

Trejo said that the department is “aware of the Goyim group, but we would prefer to wait for the investigation to be completed before arriving at a conclusion.”

Activists on social media had warned that “White Lives

Matter” groups were planning a national day of action for April 16. BHPD did not immediately answer whether the department was aware of the warnings.

Mayor Lili Bosse, whose parents survived the Holocaust, decried the incident on Instagram along with a photo of the flyer.

“This was sent to me from a resident who woke up to this antisemitism at their front door along with other streets in our city and Los Angeles. During Passover and Easter weekend. Hate will NEVER Win,” she wrote.

Sam Yebri, an attorney running for Los Angeles City Council in District 5, shared images of the flyer on Twitter.

“I never want to have to make a post like this, especially on the eve of one of our most sacred Jewish holidays, but this is a matter of public safety. Earlier today, residents in Westwood, in my neighborhood, found shocking and offensive antisemitic propaganda delivered to their front yards,” he posted. “Be advised, stay vigilant, and remember: only sunlight can drive out darkness.”

While the flyers contain hate speech by any standard, even hate speech enjoys protections under the First Amendment, complicating the job of law enforcement in countering the harassment.

“It is challenging to maintain a balance between criminal activity and protected behavior. We strive to maintain fair and just policing practices to ensure everyone’s rights are protected,” said Trejo. “We have an extensive network of in-house experts and professionals, federal and state partners, whom we brainstorm ideas with to come up with the best possible approach to challenging situations.” ●

Public Notices

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).

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2022049238

The following is/are doing business as:

- 1) COMEDY STORE PRODUCTIONS
- 2) COMEDY STORE FILMS

1990 S. Bundy Dr. #510, Los Angeles, CA 90025; Comedy Store Records 1990 S. Bundy Dr. #510, Los Angeles, CA 90025; The business is conducted by: **A CORPORATION** (#C4660002), registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed March 2021: **Robert Wheeler, Treasurer:** Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: March 03, 2022; Published: April 01, 08, 15, 22, 2022 **LACC N/C**

BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

CASE NO: 22LBCP00073 ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

In the Matter of the petition of: **Edward William Morgan III**

To all interested person(s):

Petitioner:

Edward William Morgan III

current residence address:

1108 Saint Louis,

Long Beach, CA 90804

filed a petition with the

Superior Court of California,

County of Los Angeles,

275 Magnolia

Long Beach, CA 90802,

Governor George

Deukmejian Courthouse,

on March 21, 2022

for a Decree changing names

as follows:

Present Name:

Edward William Morgan III

Proposed Name:

Raheem Ahmed Asaad

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: **May 12, 2022**

Time: **8:30am**

Dept: **#26**

The address of the court is:

Superior Court of California,

County of Los Angeles,

275 Magnolia

Long Beach, CA 90802,

Governor George

Deukmejian Courthouse.

I declare under penalty of per-

jury under the laws of the State

of California that the informa-

tion in the foregoing petition is

true and correct.

Signed:

Edward William Morgan III

Judge of the Superior Court

Michael P. Vicencia,

Sherri R. Carter,

Executive Officer/Clerk,

By: Javier Ballesteros,

Deputy Clerk

Dated: **March 21, 2022**

Published: **April 08, 15, 22,**

29, 2022

Beverly Hills Courier

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2022073766

The following is/are doing business as:

DAYLENE FINE ARTS

330 N. Crescent Dr. #109, Beverly

Hills, CA 90210; **Irina Dzhaly Ants**

330 N. Crescent Dr. #109, Beverly

Hills, CA 902104; The business is

conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL,** regis-

trant(s) has begun to transact busi-

ness under the name(s) listed on

March 2022: **Irina Dzhaly Ants,**

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County of Los Angeles: April 06,

2022; Published: April 15, 22, 29,

May 06, 2022 **LACC N/C**

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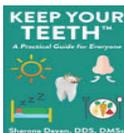
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