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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS

☀️ Friday	68° 53°
☀️ Saturday	73° 55°
☀️ Sunday	71° 55°
☁️ Monday	68° 55°
☁️ Tuesday	69° 54°
☁️ Wednesday	73° 57°
☁️ Thursday	70° 56°

Business With Bosse Begins in Beverly Hills

BY BIANCA HEYWARD



Tommy's Beverly Hills owner Tommy Salvatore and Beverly Hills Mayor Lili Bosse on April 25 Photo by Bianca Heyward

One of many new initiatives launched by Beverly Hills Mayor Lili Bosse came to fruition on April 25, where hundreds of people came out for the first Business with Bosse event held at Tommy's Beverly Hills. Roughly 250 community members, from school board members to city commissioners and nearby business owners, gathered with the mayor over complimentary sliders at the restaurant's outdoor patio and lounge. The Business with Bosse program is designed to spotlight and celebrate different Beverly Hills businesses, showcase city offerings, stimulate the local economy and foster a sense of community.

Every few weeks, Mayor Bosse will visit a different establishment, inviting the public to join her.

"For me, this actually exceeded my wildest dreams," Bosse told the Courier. "It's the first time after two very challenging years, that we as a community can finally come together again. We can smile together again, touch one another together and just celebrate each other and celebrate what we love the most about our community, which is that it feels like an extended family.

(Business With Bosse continues on page 14)

BHUSD Board Considers Diverse Agenda

BY BIANCA HEYWARD

On the heels of Spring Break, the Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) Board of Education met on April 26 with a diverse agenda. The board heard updates regarding the districtwide COVID-19 testing program, approved the appointment of Raphael Guzman as Assistant Superintendent of Business Services and Sandi Tsosie as Director of Technology Services, authorized staff to apply for state funds from the Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and full-day Kindergarten Facility Grant Program, and approved a resolution ordering a Governing Board Member Election to be held on Nov. 8, 2022. Terms for Board Members Rachelle Marcus and Gabriel Halimi, who were appointed last November to fill the vacant seat previously occupied by Tristen Walker-Shuman, are set to expire in December of 2022. Both Marcus and Halimi indicated they will not run for reelection.

The meeting began with a spotlight on Hawthorne Elementary School fifth grade students Enzo Jadidolahi, Mila Fekri, Riley Metcalfe, and Chloe Kaveh who presented on The Butterfly Project, an initiative that educates children on the horrors of the Holocaust. The program is led by special education teacher Liat Canes.

(Diverse Agenda continues on page 18)

Part Two: City Council Candidates Answer the Courier's Questions

BY ANA FIGUEROA



In this second of a two-part series, candidates for Beverly Hills City Council 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 Sharon Nazarian; Vera Markowitz,

Shiva Bagheri, Akshat "A.B." Bhatia, Darian Bojeaux, Kevin Kugley and Robin Rowe).

All of the candidates submitted responses, which have been presented in an order determined by random drawing. Last week, the Courier published responses from Councilmembers Lester Friedman and Robert Wunderlich; Challengers Vera Markowitz, Robin Rowe, Darian Bojeaux, and Akshat "A.B." Bhatia. This week features the remaining candidates: Councilmember John Mirisch; Commissioners Andy Licht and Sharon Nazarian; and Shiva Bagheri and Kevin Kugley.

(City Council Candidates continues on page 10)

Beverly Hills Candidate Forum Stirs Controversy

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW

City Council candidates met for the first of two nights for a forum hosted by the Beverly Hills North Homeowners Association and the Municipal League of Beverly Hills on April 27. Held in the City Council chambers, the forum was structured with two candidates taking the floor at a time. Councilmember Lester Friedman and Human Relations Commissioner Sharon Nazarian appeared together first, followed by Vera Markowitz and Planning Commission Chair Andy Licht, and ending with Councilmember Robert Wunderlich and Darian Bojeaux.

(Controversy continues on page 15)

Courier Calendar

NOW

LACMA X SNAPCHAT: "MONUMENTAL PERSPECTIVES"

LACMA and Snapchat collaboratively present "Monumental Perspectives," an augmented reality (AR) art experience to explore monuments and murals, representation, and history. This second collection focuses on some of the histories of Los Angeles communities to highlight perspectives from across the region. Featured locations include Earvin "Magic" Johnson Park, Algin Sutton Recreation Center, and "The Great Wall of Los Angeles." Community leaders and historians were consulted for this collection by the featured artists, Judy Baca for her work "The River Once Ran," Sandra de la Loza for "What the Willow Whispers," and Kang Seung Lee for "la revolución es la solución." Users can access the AR art pieces at the locations with the associated Snap Lens or virtually on the Snap Map. Guides and further information are available online.

<https://www.lacma.org/monumental-perspectives-collection-ii>

NOW - MAY 8

CITY NATURE CHALLENGE 2022

As part of a collaborative effort between the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles and the California Academy of Sciences, the City Nature Challenge returns for another year, now with global participation. Anyone can find and identify as many species of plants, animals, and life in a city as possible. Participants photograph all wildlife or evidence of wildlife they can find and then upload the photos to the iNaturalist app. The "bioblitz" collection of photos takes place from April 29 to May 2. From May 3 - 8, participants race to identify species present in the photos through the app. Winner cities are determined in three categories: most observations, most species identified, and most participants.

<https://citynaturechallenge.org>

NOW - MAY 8

HAMMER MUSEUM: UCLA CELEBRATION OF IRANIAN CINEMA 6:30 P.M.

The UCLA Film and Television Archive and the Farhang Foundation present the annual celebration of Iranian cinema at the Billy Wilder Theater at the Hammer Museum. The evening of April 29 begins with an opening reception, followed by the UCLA premiere of "Hit the Road." Other scheduled screenings in the following days include "Absence," "Titi," "Exam," "Asteroid," "Light Sight," and more.

Advanced registration for screenings is free online. Reception tickets are available for a \$100 donation per attendee. The Hammer requires that all guests wear masks while indoors.

<https://farhang.org/film-screening/ucla-celebration-of-iranian-cinema-opening-reception-2022>

NOW - MAY 8

MARK TAPER FORUM: "BLUES FOR AN ALABAMA SKY"

TUES.-FRI. 8 P.M.

SAT. 2:30 P.M., 8 P.M.

SUN. 1 P.M., 6:30 P.M.

Center Theatre Group presents a revival of Pearl Cleage's "Blues for an Alabama Sky" at the Mark Taper Forum. The story focuses on a cast of characters, and their lives and dreams in 1930s Harlem during the Harlem Renaissance and the Great Depression. Phylicia Rashad ("Ma Rainey's Black Bottom") directs this production. The cast includes Joe Holt, Nija Okoro, Dennis Pearson, Greg Alvarez Reid, and Kim Steele. Tickets are \$30. All guests must provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination or negative tests. Booster shots are strongly recommended. Masks are required.

<https://www.centertheatregroup.org/tickets/mark-taper-forum/2021/blues-for-an-alabama-sky/>

NOW - JUNE 3

EDWARD CELLA ART & ARCHITECTURE: ADAM BERG: "RESONANCES"

MON.-FRI. 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.

Edward Cella Art & Architecture presents a new exhibition by Adam Berg, "Resonances." The show features paintings and polished steel sculptures inspired by cosmology and energy. On April 29, Berg will be present to informally celebrate his installation, and registration for the event is required in advance.

<https://www.edwardcella.com/exhibitions/123-adam-berg-resonances/>

NOW - JUNE 12

SANTA MONICA PLAYHOUSE: "FINDING BELLE"

SAT. 2 P.M., SUN. 12:30 P.M.

Santa Monica Playhouse presents "Finding Belle" as part of its Family Theatre Musical Matinee series. The play spotlights themes of camaraderie, sharing, and belief in oneself in the modern day. In this production, Cinderella, Snowwhite, Little Bo Peep and Mother Goose navigate a modern world as they try to help the jaded teen Mary-Mary discover herself and find the missing Belle. Prior online reservations are required. Tickets are \$12.50 for children and \$15 for adults. Guests must provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19 (negative tests will not be accepted). Masks must be worn at all times.

<https://www.santamonicaplayhouse.com/finding-belle.html#>

APRIL 30

THE MUSIC CENTER: 43RD ANNUAL VERY SPECIAL ARTS FESTIVAL 9:30 A.M. - 1 P.M.

The Music Center presents the 43rd Annual Very Special Arts Festival, a free event that provides creative opportunities for young people of all abilities. The day will feature performances, art and dance workshops, magic shows, and an art exhibition inspired by the festival theme "The Arts Heal L.A." Performances from Straight Up Abilities, Pas d'ASL Dance Company, Ballet

Folclorico do Brasil, magician Allen Oshiro, and Kizuna Taiko Group are scheduled.

The event will include an ASL interpreter and will be transcribed for those with visual impairment. The Music Center encourages guests to RSVP online.

<https://www.musiccenter.org/tickets-free-events/tmc-arts/very-special-arts-festival-community-day/>

APRIL 30 - JUNE 12

GLORIA GIFFORD CONSERVATORY: "WILLIAMS-WILLIAMS & MILLER (AN EVENING OF ONE-ACT PLAYS)" SAT. 8 P.M., SUN. 7:30 P.M.

Jamaica Moon Productions presents a show of three short plays by two acclaimed 20th Century American playwrights, "Williams-Williams & Miller." The production features two plays by Tennessee Williams, "Moony's Kid Don't Cry" and "Twenty-Seven Wagons Full of Cotton," and another by Jason Miller, "Lou Gehrig Did Not Die of Cancer." This event takes place at the Gloria Gifford Conservatory at 6502 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood. Admission is \$25.

<https://www.tix.com/ticket-sales/tix/497/event/1268420>

MAY 5 - 26

35TH ANNUAL ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL

The largest showcase of Israeli cinema and television in North America returns this month. The festival presents an opportunity for insights from Israeli filmmakers and for cultural exchange. Screenings are available in person at the Lumiere Cinema's Music Hall Theater (9036 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills) and the Laemmle Town Center 5 (17200 Ventura Blvd., Encino). Streaming screenings are also available. Showtimes vary. Individual online screening tickets are \$12 with varying bundles available. An all-access pass is available for \$180 that gives access to all films.

<https://www.israelfilmfestival.com>

MAY 7

ICA LA: INCOGNITO 2022 5-8 P.M.

ICA LA presents the second virtual iteration of the INCOGNITO art benefit sale. This art sale disguises the identity of the artists associated with each art work. After a 30-minute program at the start, attendees will gain access to the online art sale simultaneously. All art pieces are the same size (12 by 12 inches), and each is sold for \$500. The artist that made each work is anonymous (incognito) until after the purchase. Sales of the art benefit ICA LA's exhibitions and public programs. PRECOGNITO, an in-person cocktail reception and preview event on May 5 (7-9 p.m.), precedes the sale and offers an opportunity to view artworks prior. PRECOGNITO will be held at Vielmetter Los Angeles, located at 1700 Santa Fe Ave. Tickets to INCOGNITO are \$150 or \$250 for a pair. Tickets to PRECOGNITO, which includes admission to INCOGNITO, start at \$500.

<https://icalaincognito.org/auctions/>



Nija Okoro and Joe Holt in "Blues for an Alabama Sky" at the Mark Taper Forum through May 8 Photo by Craig Schwartz Photography



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Candidates Complain of Missing Signs

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW



City Council candidates are reporting sign theft Photo by Lisa Bloch

Candidates for Beverly Hills City Council are looking for a sign – or, more accurately, for their signs, which multiple candidates have said have gone missing in the closing weeks of the race.

Councilmember John Mirisch, who is running for his fourth term, said it felt like more signs had gone missing this year than in prior election cycles. (Missing Signs continues on page 14)

City Council Sets Fiscal Priorities for Next Year

BY MICHELE RAPHAEL



The City Council discussed upcoming priorities at recent Study Session

The Beverly Hills City Council met on Tuesday afternoon for its annual priorities-setting session for the next fiscal year. Referencing a robust, 100-page staff report during the three-hour meeting held in City Hall chambers, the City Council focused on key vision statements, fiscal accomplishments in 2021,

and 2022-2023 budget goals in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the start of the session, Assistant City Manager Nancy Hunt-Coffey gave an overview of the strategic budget process. (Fiscal Priorities continues on page 21)



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\$130 per person | \$65 per child under 12

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City Council Tackles Housing Assistance, City Prosecutor, and Metro Security

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW

The Beverly Hills City Council discussed the establishment of a housing assistance program at its April 26 meeting, but opted to continue the matter to a later meeting to iron out key details. The program is meant to cushion the blow to tenants as rent increases return on July 1 amid high levels of inflation.

The program would roll over about \$700,000 in funds left over from a previous renter assistance program established at the beginning of the pandemic. Council members expressed openness to adding additional money.

As part of previous discussions of the program, the Council outlined that applicants should be means tested to show income eligibility; that applicants live in rent stabilized properties, with priority given to seniors, disabled, and families with children in schools in the City of Beverly Hills; and that payments go directly to housing providers.

The Council unanimously agreed that

the program was not ready for prime time and continued discussions to June 21.

City Prosecutor

City Attorney Laurence Weiner updated the City Council on efforts to grant the city prosecutor discretion in prosecuting state misdemeanors.

Currently, District Attorney George Gascón's office handles all state-level misdemeanors, which includes drug possession for personal use, theft below \$950, or assault and battery that does not involve a deadly weapon or serious injury. In most cases, the maximum penalty for state misdemeanors is a \$1,000 fine and/or six months in jail.

While the Beverly Hills City Prosecutor is limited to trying violations of local ordinances, the city can request from Gascón the ability to prosecute state misdemeanors as well. Weiner has long cautioned that the request was a long shot.

(City Council continues on page 21)

Chamber of Commerce PAC and WeHo-BH Dems Make Endorsements

BY SAMUEL BRASLOW

With less than six weeks until the June 7 election, endorsements continue to roll in for the candidates and issues on this year's ballot, with the most recent coming from the West Hollywood-Beverly Hills Democratic Club and the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce Leadership PAC.

The West Hollywood-Beverly Hills Democratic Club has endorsed Councilmembers Lester Friedman and Robert Wunderlich and Planning Commission Chair Andy Licht. For City Treasurer, the club endorses challenger Jake Manaster. Then, the club also encouraged voters to cast "yes" on Ballot Measure TL, which asks whether or not residents want term limits for elected positions in the city.

"The endorsement of my hometown Democratic Club is important to my campaign," Licht told the Courier in a statement. "I am a lifelong Democrat who supports Democratic ideals and I did not change my position supporting the recall of District Attorney Gascon to earn this endorsement."

After conducting one-on-one interviews

with each candidate, the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce Leadership PAC endorsed the City Council campaigns of Friedman and Wunderlich. The PAC backed incumbent City Treasurer Howard Fisher for reelection.

"Lester Friedman and Robert Wunderlich have shown good judgment, character and dedication in their time on the City Council," the PAC said in a statement. "Amongst other important achievements, both have shown dedication to key business issues, such as lowering parking requirements and fees, supporting an innovative and successful outdoor dining program, passing an ordinance permitting more rooftop dining and creating more flexibility for medical office uses."

The PAC praised Fisher for his "extensive experience serving the community" and "steady oversight during the pandemic."

Councilmember John Mirisch has said that he will neither seek nor accept endorsements or support from PACs or public employee unions. ●



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WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2022
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM



Michael J. Libow
invites you to meet Bob and support his re-election to Beverly Hills City Council, along with our Police Officers Association and many others.

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Paid for by Robert Wunderlich for City Council 2022 ID#1440499

Beverly Hills Art Show Returns in May



Flowers at the Art Show Photo courtesy City of Beverly Hills

Now in its 49th year, the City of Beverly Hills will hold its bi-annual spring Beverly Hills Art Show on Saturday and Sunday, May 21 and 22, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Beverly

Gardens Park, along three blocks of Santa Monica Boulevard, from Canon Drive to Rexford Drive. The Beverly Hills Art Show is a free event that brings 150 artists from

all over Southern California, the Southwest and across the nation showcasing artworks in eleven mediums which include ceramics, digital media, drawing and printmaking, glass, jewelry, mixed-media, painting, photography, sculpture and watercolor. All participating artists will exhibit and sell their work, giving attendees a special opportunity to acquire one-of-a-kind originals, limited editions, and newly released pieces.

Several artists who placed first in last year's Art Show will return this May, as well as 37 new artists and a wide array of established and emerging artists showcasing artworks from the traditional to the very contemporary.

Returning is artist and California native, Christen Austin, First Place in Painting, October 2020.

Also returning is Joe Polthakorn Vilaiwan of Vilaiwan Fine Jewelry, who is a second-generation jeweler, where in his native Thailand, learned to develop an instinct for identifying quality stones and metals. At the young age of 14, Joe began designing avant-garde jewelry that today is featured in magazines, on runways and in film, and

appeals to a list of celebrity clients.

Another favorite of the Art Show is photographer Ira Meyer, whose work is collected worldwide and has been published in an array of magazines and newspapers such as National Geographic, Outdoor Photographer and the Los Angeles Times, as well as on the cover of books, greeting cards and calendars. Meyer's work captures astonishing photographs from all over the world.

New to the show is sculptor, Danette Landry, known for her distinctive bronze totems.

In addition to exceptional art, guests can enjoy food and beverages for purchase from these popular Southern California food trucks: Cousins Maine Lobster, Pie 'n Burger, The Deli Doctor, Paradise Truck and Thai Mex Cocina. Convenient, inexpensive parking is located directly across from the show grounds.

(Beverly Hills Art Show continues on page 14)

ONLINE AUCTION MAY 19

ICONIC LOS ANGELES ANTIQUE DEALER

By Order of the US Bankruptcy Court in the Matter of Antiquarian Traders



A Louis Majorelle-Style French Art Nouveau Bed Set, Late 19th Century, \$3,000-5,000



A Lalique "Cactus" Table, Mid-20th Century, \$10,000-20,000



A Victorian-Style Mantel Clock and Garniture Set, 19th Century, \$1,000-1,500



A Pair of French Galle Art Nouveau "Bonheur du Jour", Early 20th Century, \$2,500-3,500



A pair of French Bronze and Marble Tazzas, Early/Mid-19th Century, \$4,000-6,000



Carl Rungius (American 1869-1959), Moose and Mate, 1907, \$20,000-30,000

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Los Angeles Ballet Gala Honors Bari Milken Bernstein



Tara Lipinski and Bari Milken Bernstein
Photo credit Michael Rueter/Capture Imaging for Los Angeles Ballet

Los Angeles Ballet (LAB) celebrated its Season 16 Gala on Saturday, April 23 at the Broad Stage in Santa Monica and honored entrepreneur, philanthropist, and Los Angeles Ballet board member Bari Milken Bernstein, who received The Angel Award. The evening was hosted by Olympic gold medalist Tara Lipinski and chaired by Sharon Davis and Kirsten Sarkisian. The Angel Award is annually bestowed upon an individual who has demonstrated exemplary commitment and passion to Los Angeles Ballet and its mission. A resident of Beverly Hills, Bernstein has been a board member of LAB since its inception and one of its greatest fundraisers.

The Gala followed a performance of Los Angeles Ballet's production of "Bloom" featuring the Los Angeles premieres of "Ghosts" and "Bloom." In "Ghosts," Master contemporary choreographer Christopher Wheeldon transforms the stage into an ethereal realm where ghosts manifest in a dark watery playground. In "Bloom," Belgian-Colombian choreographer Annabelle Lopez Ochoa presents a dance inspired by Puja, a Hindu worship ritual during which offerings of flowers are laid out at the doorstep three times each day.

Now in its 16th season, the Gala supports Los Angeles Ballet's mission to provide world-class performances and provide diverse arts education outreach opportunities

throughout Southern California. As the arts continue to be underfunded and absent from public school curricula, Los Angeles Ballet strives to share the gift of dance with the broadest possible audience and to give back to the community that has so generously supported it. LAB's A Chance to Dance offers free classes for all ages and their Power of Performance provides thousands of free tickets to special needs children and adults, military families, veterans, seniors, and others through collaboration with 50 social service community partners.

Founded in 2004, Los Angeles Ballet is known for its stagings of the Balanchine repertory, classical ballets and its commitment to new works.

Past honorees include Paula Abdul, Lawrence Bender, Sofia Carson, Governor Gray Davis and Sharon Davis, Robert Day, Jenna Dewan, Linda Duttonhaver, Derek Hough, Ghada Irani, Nigel Lythgoe, Lori Milken, Gelila Assefa Puck, Kenny Ortega, Jane Seymour, Adam Shankman, Anastasia Soare, Johnese Spisso and Ben Vereen. ●

35th ISRAEL FILM FESTIVAL

פסטיבל הסרטים הישראלי בלוס אנג'לס

MAY 5-26, 2022

IN THEATERS AND ONLINE

OPENING NIGHT GALA

IsraelFilmFestival.com

MAY 5

OPENING NIGHT GALA

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2022 | 7:30 PM

DOORS OPEN 7:00 PM

SABAN THEATRE, BEVERLY HILLS

Honoring

HENRY WINKLER

2022 IFF Career Achievement Award

Sponsor Luncheon

DAVID WIENER

2022 IFF Humanitarian Award

Sponsor Luncheon

EHUD BLEIBERG

2022 IFF Cinematic Achievement Award

Opening Night Gala

OPENING NIGHT GALA SCREENING

In Celebration of Israel's Independence Day

IMAGE OF VICTORY

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May 5, 2022 - 7:30 pm

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VIP Ticket: \$85
VIP Reception, Award Ceremony and Screening
Followed by Dessert Reception

Regular Ticket: \$36
Award Ceremony, Screening and Dessert Reception

MEET THE FILMMAKERS

LA Premiere

MORE THAN I DESERVE יותר ממה שמגיע לי

Director: Pini Tavger
Special Guest: Actress Anna Doubrovitsky

Screenings:
Saturday May 7 4:45 PM Lumiere Music Hall

US Premiere

DON'T WAIT FOR ME אל תחכי לי

Directors: Danni Raisfeld, Roy Gluska
Special Guest: Actor Omer Hazan

Screenings:
Saturday May 7 7:15 PM Town Center
Monday May 9 7:15 PM Lumiere Music Hall

LA Premiere

TWO שתיים

Director: Astar Elkayam
Special Guest: Actress Agam Schuster

Screening:
Sunday May 8 9:45 PM Lumiere Music Hall

West Coast Premiere

BERENSSTEIN ברנשטיין

Director: Roman Shumunov
Special Guest: Producer Ronen Machlis-Balzam

Screening:
Sunday May 8 9:30 PM Lumiere Music Hall

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PAGE 8

BEVERLY HILLS COURIER

APRIL 29, 2022

Celebrating “High Noon” on its 70th Anniversary

BY ANA FIGUEROA



USC School of Cinematic Arts Dean Elizabeth Daley, Maria Cooper Janis and Amanda Foreman Photo courtesy of Digney & Company

In honor of the 70th anniversary of the iconic American film, “High Noon,” the USC School of Cinematic Arts is hosting a Gary Cooper Retrospective and Exhibition through Sept. 30. The display features Cooper’s two Oscars (including one for “High Noon,” as well as

wardrobe and other authentic items from the film (including one for “High Noon,” as well as wardrobe and other authentic items from the film).

On April 22, Cooper’s only child, Maria Cooper Janis was a guest of honor at a

dinner at the Wilshire Corridor home of Lyn Rothman, which became a commemoration of the film and the golden age of Hollywood that it represented. In attendance were author and historian, Dr. Amanda Foreman, whose father Carl Foreman was the Associate Producer and Oscar-nominated screenwriter of “High Noon.” Also present were USC School of Cinematic Arts Dean Elizabeth Daley, Jill Schary, daughter of legendary studio head Dore Schary, Michael Feinstein, Terrance

Flannery, Tina Sinatra, Tim Zinnemann, son of “High Noon” director Fred Zinnemann, Katie Edelman Johnson, Tim Mendelson, Co-Trustee of the Elizabeth Taylor Estate, Colonel Gerald York, grandson of the famous Sergeant York Gary Cooper portrayed in his first Oscar-winning role. Additional guests included art dealer Suzanne Zada, Broadway producer Mary Cosette, Don Granger, producer of the “Mission Impossible” films and Bernie Bubman. ●



Gary Cooper Exhibit at USC School of Cinematic Arts Photo Courtesy of Digney & Company

IDEAS!

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WITH MAYOR LILI

COME JOIN US **IN-PERSON** FOR OUR **FIRST LIVE** WITH LILI ON *Monday, May 9th* FROM 7 P.M. - 8 P.M. AT CITY HALL

This is an opportunity for Beverly Hills Mayor Lili Bosse to listen to **YOUR** ideas and what you have on your mind!

IN-PERSON: City Hall Municipal Gallery
455 N Rexford Dr.
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

VIRTUAL: To participate: beverlyhills.org/LiveWithLili
To watch: beverlyhills.org/live

WHEN: 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

No RSVP necessary; for more information, visit beverlyhills.org/LiveWithLili

(City Council Candidates continued from page 1)

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. The order in which the candidate's responses appear was selected by random drawing. The Courier **did not edit** any responses.



Andy Licht

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.

Licht: The surge in crime can't be solved by Beverly Hills alone. While we must do more to make the City safer we must recognize that the criminals are coming to our City from other cities. BH needs to become more active in getting the leaders of other cities and the County to do more to solve issues like lack of educational resources,

job opportunities, adequate housing and drug use. We need to prosecute those that do commit crimes. This current experiment isn't working.

- Homelessness is a regional issue and Beverly Hills must take a leading role in solving it. We must work collaboratively with neighboring cities and together figure out long-term solutions instead of temporary band-aid fixes that don't address the root causes of homelessness.

- Attracting more businesses – Beverly Hills is a wonderful place to live, and we need to make sure it's a wonderful place to do business. One thing most everyone agrees upon: our police, fire and blue-ribbon schools depend on the funding generated by our business community. It makes sense to support and encourage more businesses to our City. During this post-pandemic recovery time, it's important that City Council does everything they can to eliminate red tape and make permitting processes easier for businesses that want to expand outside (particularly outdoor dining) so that they can continue to operate safely. As someone that has worked on these issues as Chair of the Planning Commission, I'm uniquely qualified to address these matters.

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.

Licht: We are not going to solve this problem by screaming at Sacramento legislators. As a member of the planning commission, I helped enact a change to the municipal code that allows for mixed-use developments in the City. These types of developments will greatly help the City to meet the Housing Element requirement. This becomes even more important with the arrival of the subway - we can now encourage transit-oriented development, which is much more efficient in many ways. To reiterate, I think it's even more important to have someone with my unique experience as both Chair of the Traffic & Parking Commission and the Planning Commission servicing on City Council as we make these extremely important and long-reaching decisions. I have this expertise and I will be able to make a substantial contribution to this important issue.

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.

Licht: EVERYBODY HAS GOOD IDEAS, BUT I HAVE A PROVEN TRACK RECORD OF GETTING THINGS DONE! My experience on the two most important City Commissions, The Traffic & Parking and The Planning Commissions, has given me the insight to understand what it takes to make policies that will make our city safer and better, but my experience in the private sector is also important. I have the unique set of skills of being successful both in business and in government. That experience will allow me to make a substantial contribution to the City Council from Day One.

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.

Licht: I became a successful film producer because I can bring various groups together and produce successful projects on time and on budget. Those types of skills will be very useful on the City Council. I will make responsible decisions on resident's behalf even when they are not in the room. I am running for my love of Beverly Hills.



Kevin Kugley

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.

Kevin Kugley: Beverly Hills is under constant attack by criminals and the current City

Council is not adequately addressing crime. Hiring security guards (that lack arrest authority) and relying on a County District Attorney clearly didn't work. Perpetrators need to know that when they are arrested by Beverly Hills police officers, they won't be let out the next day. Therefore, I would create a City Prosecutor's office to the job that the County DA won't.

a. The City Council was overly tough on small business during the Pandemic. Instead of helping, they used the business development department to harass and cite the few open businesses. And they are still overly tough, with the Beverly Hills Business tax currently 7 times higher for some industries than others. City Council needs to support small business and I will bring equality to local taxation.

b. As I began campaigning, it became very clear that the Beverly Hills residents and businesses were very unhappy with the actions and directions of the current City Council. There is an overwhelming feeling of disconnection. People should feel their voices are heard ALL year round... not just at election time.

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.

Kugley: I support the mixed-use ordinance on Robertson and other areas that are appropriate. I generally support One Beverly Hills, but it is important not to destroy the existing village atmosphere. However, I don't support tearing down single-family units for multi-family units. I also support subsidizing housing for police officers. The community wants officers to live in the neighborhood. Unfortunately, most live over 30 miles away.

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.

Kugley: I live and work in the real world. I'm not a politician. I'm one of the few candidates not currently on the City

of Beverly Hills payroll. This makes me a candidate of the people, for the people... not a politician that exists mainly in the pocket of large developers and big business. As a successful small businessman, I can provide some desperately needed fresh perspectives on the Council.

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.

Kugley: I am running to repair the damage due to the Council's overall lack of fortitude during the pandemic... that destroyed businesses and continues to drive the worst crime ever seen in Beverly Hills history. My 85-year-old friend was attacked in the middle of the day for his phone. I couldn't simply stand by. My conscience told me I must run for Council. Enough is enough!



John Mirisch

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.

Mirisch: The three biggest challenges facing Beverly Hills at the present are: 1) Enhanced public safety; 2) Threats from Sacramento, including the preemption of local decision-making; 3) Improved fiscal responsibility.

1) Public safety and security is at the top of the list. We deserve a city where we are safe. BHPD has always been the best and we continue to maintain our less than three-minute response time. But because we can't build a wall around Beverly Hills, we have been hit by the increase in crime that has come from events in the world around us.

Beverly Hills is still a lot safer than many surrounding areas, but we can do better. While there are no silver bullets, the entire Council has prioritized public safety and is taking extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of our community. These include:

- Increased police presence through foot patrols, bike patrols and a K-9 presence;
- Hiring more sworn BHPD officers;
- Enhancing the use of private security as a deterrent and force multiplier;
- Continued use of our City's ambassador program to provide assistance to homeless people;
- BHPD Substations at the Metro stations;
- Actively supporting the recall of DA George Gascón;
- Extensive proactive use of technology to help solve and deter crime, such as drones, CCTV's throughout the city, artificial intelligence and additional Automatic License Plate Readers.

Additionally, I support expanding citizen involvement beyond "Neighborhood Watch" and "Just in Case" to offer more opportunities for residents to volunteer in a variety of ways, including citizens' patrol programs, CCTV Monitoring to enhance Real Time Watch, and an expansion of existing reserve programs.

I've also proposed adding two additional mobile command centers, which could be strategically deployed as needed to protect areas of the City subject to specific threats.

2) Sacramento politicians are constantly proposing and passing bills that limit our ability to make decisions about our own

Community. The worst of these bills are about land use, and aim to eliminate single-family neighborhoods, which some Sacramento politicians decry as "racist," "immoral" and "evil."

Please read more about how I will continue fighting back against these attacks in my answer to the next question.

3) Sadly, we continue to treat our residents like ATM's (water rates are just one example). We must do a better job of providing value to residents-for expending our taxpayer dollars. I will continue to be the voice of fiscal responsibility on our City Council.

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.

Mirisch: The state's RHNA (Regional Housing Needs Allocation) numbers are both unrealistic and punitive. A recent audit by the State Auditor completely discredited the California Department of Housing and Community Development's numbers, which are intended to force destructive density and to ensure developer profits. One of the foremost proponents of these policies, state senator Scott Wiener from San Francisco, blatantly admitted: "I don't care how much money developers make."

For the past three years, I have served on the Southern California Association of Government's housing committee. Throughout the RHNA process I have raised objections to Sacramento's ill-conceived anti-community policies.

Our city and some other communities throughout the state are being scapegoated for the state's housing affordability challenges, which stem from a variety of factors not at all of our making, including the State's own failed policies. As mentioned, ideologues in Sacramento are pushing the false narrative that single-family neighborhoods are inherently "racist," "immoral" and "evil."

As a result of unachievable RHNA "targets," the proposed Housing Elements of a vast majority of California cities including BH have not yet been approved. No rational person expects that any substantial number of cities will come anywhere close to achieving new construction of the targets. If these new construction targets were achieved, California would have an even bigger glut of unoccupied residences (there are currently already around 1.2 million vacant units in the state). As a co-founder of the California Alliance of Local Electeds, (<https://www.calelecteds.org/>), I continue to expend my efforts working with other California elected officials to try to protect our communities against these attacks from Sacramento politicians doing the bidding of the Urban Growth Machine.

I alone on the Council opposed the mixed-use ordinance. It limited discretionary review of some projects and was likely to add height and density to the most dense part of town. Realistically, it would do little to meet the affordable housing mandate. I support policies that would encourage residents to add Accessory Dwelling Units. Further, I continue to advocate for needed senior supportive affordable housing so that our seniors can

age in place.

Finally, we should all support the Our Neighborhood Voices Initiative (<https://ourneighborhoodvoices.com/>), which would amend the state constitution to affirm that urban planning, zoning, and land use are municipal affairs, and that communities throughout the state should have the decision-making authority to decide what works best for them.

We need more Community and less Sacramento.

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?

Mirisch: Without a doubt, the past few years have been some of the most tumultuous in the City's history. We have been faced with a series of unprecedented challenges. In many cases, we had to write the playbook about how to handle situations.

I believe that the Council did an excellent job of navigating those challenges. While I most certainly did not act alone, I worked more than full time in doing my share. For example:

- We prioritized the residents' health and safety, and tried to control the forces that threatened to tear the City apart.

- We allocated full appropriate resources to our police department to deal effectively with civil unrest and criminal activity.

- Along with other Councilmembers, I personally spent much time in our City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to provide support to all our employees who worked tirelessly to keep us safe.

- In the midst of all of this, we recruited a new Police Chief.

- While fully complying with law, we took decisive action to stop protests from getting out of control and unduly impacting our residential neighborhoods.

- We ensured that our stellar police and fire/paramedic response time continued during the pandemic. Despite serious resistance, we took measures to ensure that our residents would be protected from the virus interacting with first responders.

- We allowed our restaurants to expand outdoor dining when indoor dining was banned by the county health authorities. I was an early proponent of the parklets which have been such a popular feature of our restaurants and which can continue to enhance our business triangle well beyond the pandemic.

- We worked to protect our renters, more than 50% of our residents, to ensure that families would not end up on the streets because of the effects of the pandemic.

I'm proud of our overall efforts and am convinced that my broad experience, including with all City departments, contributed to the City's creative responses to the challenges we faced and helped us to emerge relatively unscathed. Consequently, we are in a good position to meet the challenges of the post-pandemic world,

Nothing is so good that it can't get better. I believe that I personally, and as a member of the Council, have learned valuable lessons from these experiences that will inform our policies and actions going forward and allow us to be even better.

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?

Mirisch: This question goes to the heart of what the role of the City Council should be in connection with operations at City Hall, but also involves a bit of "inside baseball," so a more detailed explanation follows. But in short: while I don't think the Council should meddle in the day-to-day operations of the management of City services, I have long advocated for the Council to take a more actively collaborative role and general oversight is a part of our responsibility.

Often in the "City manager" form of government, the Council is only operationally involved in the hiring and retention of the City manager herself/himself (sometimes also the City attorney and City clerk). Some City managers make the sole decisions about hiring the police chief, the fire chief and other department heads. Their Councils are not involved in any management decisions.

After years of advocacy on my part, our Council embraced a more substantial and collaborative role, granting the Council an "advise and consent" role in the attraction and retention of key city staff, meaning department heads and above. This includes the Police Chief.

We still have council members who feel the Council's advise and consent role in picking our City's police chief is "micromanaging," but I feel it is an appropriate function for the Council.

As for the allegations against the former chief, the allegations were carefully investigated and the City's responses were consistent with the advice we were given. Sometimes practical considerations militate towards settlement, and we took sound advice from experienced counsel. In exercising oversight and in listening to the expertise of our counsel, we have served the City and its taxpayers in accordance with the highest standards.

Furthermore, the Council has made it clear in no uncertain terms that any form of racism or discrimination within the City is absolutely unacceptable and goes directly against Council policy and our values as a City. My strong belief is that the referenced class action lawsuit is unjustified, unsupported and unsupportable. Through training and culture, the BHPD and its officers do not discriminate against anyone as an Institution. Where mistakes are made and/or policy violations occur from individuals, we demand decisive remedies and appropriate disciplinary measures.

Sadly, also partly because of our name, we are not immune from frivolous or baseless lawsuits. From my perspective, some regrettable settlements could have been avoided or mitigated with more, not less Council involvement.



Sharona Nazarian

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.

Nazarian: The number one job of an elected official is to keep their constituents safe. People don't feel safe. Public Safety and Security is my number one priority and the reason I decided to run. We need safety and security NOW because our community is being targeted. I want to be proactive and address crime before it happens. I will hire more police officers and foot patrols. We need more specialized and undertaker units to address crime by utilizing technology to expedite the hiring process and I will advocate for more competitive salaries. And of course, the Metro will be here before we know it. We need police substations at both stops. We want people to know that we will welcome you to Beverly Hills, but we will not tolerate criminal activity. I will also push to have our own City Prosecutor.

We need to update the Strategic Plan for Beverly Hills. I will push for innovative ideas while ensuring fiscal accountability and maintaining our community feel. I will also focus on sustainable efforts, especially for water. Before COVID, the city had numerous plans and ideas to beautify and fix our aging infrastructure. Those plans fell through the cracks and certain parts

of our city need our attention more than ever. We need to revisit and identify new areas for beautification and revitalization. We live in Beverly Hills and ALL parts of our city need to look and feel like Beverly Hills. Outdoor dining areas can be better planned to protect diners before tragedy occurs. They need to be more uniform and aesthetically pleasing but more importantly, they lack some safety protocols. This issue needs to be immediately addressed.

We are an aging city. Our seniors are an important part of our community, and I will work with them to address their needs. I will also try to strengthen the Nurse Practitioner program. I plan to work closely with the schools and families because we need to encourage young families to come to our city. I will work closely with our schools and families to boost their educational experience. We also need to strengthen the preschool program as a gateway to encourage new families to attend our schools.

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.

Nazarian: This is a mandate brought to us by the state. Our City is already saturated in most areas. We should explore how to best reach this goal while having the least impact on the community as possible. We need to approach this in a thoughtful and meaningful fashion, and not rush the process. The Mixed-Use ordinance could play a role in meeting the Housing Element. We need to have a residents first approach and seek support from the community to locate specific areas that may lend themselves to additional housing. I want Beverly Hills to continue to be a unique oasis where we can say hi to our neighbors, live, work, shop, dine and encourage walkability. And if we can't walk there, I want to improve traffic flow, address speeding and create more parking to alleviate traffic congestion.

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.**

Nazarian: I am a clinical psychologist by education, so listening to people is at my core. I am also a unique candidate because I have worked in LA County and Beverly Hills. I understand governance at different levels and the issues we are facing today, such as homelessness, the mental health and substance abuse crisis, and public safety. I am able to build consensus and unity around issues and policies because I am a proven and effective leader as well as a mental health professional.

My community involvement runs deep. I have been active in Beverly Hills for over 20 years. I am currently a Public Works Commissioner, LA County Commissioner for Alcohol and Other Drugs, Member of the Beverly Hills Police Chief's Advisory Board, and Community Task Force Member of the Beverly Hills Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. I am the immediate Past President of the Rotary Club of Beverly Hills, Former Chair and Commissioner of the Beverly Hills Human Relations Commission, Past Board Member of the Maple Counseling Center, Past Board Member of Sinai Temple, and the list goes on. I have a degree in Psychology from USC and a doctorate in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in Multicultural Psychology.

My three sons grew up in Beverly Hills. They played on AYSO, BHBL, attended CERT, Team Beverly Hills and all served as explorers with the police department. Supporting our community and giving back is in our DNA and a natural way of life. I want to see Beverly Hills continue to be an iconic community where we have the best quality of life, but also plan for the future so it can be a place for our children, grandchildren and young families.

I will bring much needed diversity to the City Council in thought, action and representation. My civic participation, community involvement, proven leadership, and education will help to bring a different perspective to the City Council. I will have a residents-first approach and will find new

ways to help local businesses flourish in this trying environment. But most importantly, Public Safety and Security will always be my number one priority. We must be more proactive in all areas of public safety to continually keep our city safe. I am a great listener and will work closely with our residents to build consensus on behalf of our community.

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.

Nazarian: I am running for Beverly Hills City Council to bring a fresh perspective to resolving issues because I am a problem solver who gets things done! I am accessible, creative, and innovative. I will govern with the highest level of ethics and do what is right. I want to unify our community through a residents-first approach. I am experienced, have energy, and will work hard to be an advocate for our residents. People have asked me how I do so much in a day? I have been this way my entire life, the only difference is that I now post some of what I do on social media @Sharona4BH so our community can get to know me better.

I am proactive, not reactive. We need more of this on the City Council. We have good ideas and plans in the city, but we need improvement on the execution of those plans and stronger fiscal accountability. Creating a policy or supporting a plan does not help the community if there is no proper oversight and follow-through.

We have been very reactive instead of proactive, especially when it comes to public safety. During the COVID pandemic, the protests, and our growing public safety concerns, the community is demanding more from our City Council. We need stronger leadership now. I know I can and will do more. I have the experience, background, and vision to help lead our city. I love our community and will do everything in my power to protect it and our residents with integrity, strength, and unity.



Shiva Bagheri

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.

Bagheri: One of the biggest challenges we are facing in Beverly Hills is high crime. We've had officers that retired or quit after they have been targeted by people like George Gascon and the Democrat's rhetoric of defunding the police. We need to insure our officers that we support them and will not allow those abusing their power to target them.

Our officers should not be used in a manner of citizens harassing other citizens. I blame Mayor Garcetti for telling the public that, "snitches get rewarded." This is a divide and conquer tactic used by people like Hitler. There should be a \$500 fine for citizens harassing other citizens for exercising their constitutional rights. Our police officers should be used for more important matters. Not in this manner. They should not encourage bad behavior amongst citizens but deter it.

We need to recognize the areas in which there is high crime and have officers there all the time. A presence of officers will deter criminals from committing crime.

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.

Bagheri: Regarding this mandate to zone for more than 3,000 new units we should be getting more feedback from the public. Our responsibility to all matters as a city councilman is to be a representative to the public. Has anyone done any polls or surveys on what the public felt about this matter?

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.

Bagheri: The question of “who deserves whom” is exactly what is wrong with politics today. Does anyone really “deserve” the mediocracy, privilege, nepotism, and despotism that has plagued Beverly Hills for the last two years?

I am running for City Council not because I deserve to run or because the public “deserves” me. I am running for public office because I am tired of waiting for someone else to clean house. We desperately need to rebuild Beverly Hills after the unconstitutional lockdowns, not the politicians and corporations of our city. As an ordinary citizen, living in Beverly Hills since 2014, I

have worked as a dance teacher, personal trainer, dog walker, and recently as a house cleaner when my dog walking business was crushed by the unconstitutional lockdowns and cancel culture. As an independent business owner, I have never presumed to “deserve” anything, rather I have always assumed that I need to do my best to serve others and solve problems. The only thing we really deserve is truth, and that’s the one thing that no degree or experience can give you, especially if you’re a political parrot of the mainstream corporate media.

I started the Beverly Hills Freedom Rally to give people an outlet to exercise their First Amendment rights and express their grievances against an overreaching government. One of the most profound quotes was by Thomas Jefferson, “When government fears the people, we have liberty. When people fear the government, we have tyranny,” and after two years of allowing tyrannical politicians to usurp our Constitutional rights, the only thing that we deserve is for justice to be served to those who chose to keep us in fear rather than protect our rights during the lockdowns.

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.

Bagheri: I’m running for City Council because those that are supposed to represent US did not uphold their constitutional oath of office to protect our basic human rights. We had a huge exodus out of California because of these unconstitutional and illegal mandates. How could big corporations, liquor stores, and porn shops be considered essential while the small business weren’t?

Not only did the Beverly Hills City Council violate their oath to serve the people, they violated my basic First Amendment rights by making draconian ordinances to crush my rally and spent \$11,600 to criminally charge me with three counts of unlawful

assembly. That was the tipping point for me. I knew that I had to take action myself and to lead by example. Beverly Hills will have to live with the fact they quarantined healthy people and told asymptomatic people that they could spread Covid-19 when in fact that is blatantly untrue. Where’s the proof of that? The Beverly Hills Council members ran a tyrannical fear campaign on behalf of the New World Order which they call “The Great Reset” or “The New Normal.” The only science that was being pushed was political science. If they really wanted to help people who needed medical attention they would have set up early treatment sites rather than PCR testing sites. Some of the most amazing medical doctors in the world, didn’t cower to fear, and began to work on therapeutic solutions to cure people, not indoctrinate them to prevent serious illness, but those off label cheap drugs were demonized on mainstream media, by corrupt politicians, and so-called medical professionals that are in bed with big pharma. ●

Join Us for First Thursdays! A Cinco de Mayo CELEBRATION!



May 5, 2022 | 5pm – 6:30pm

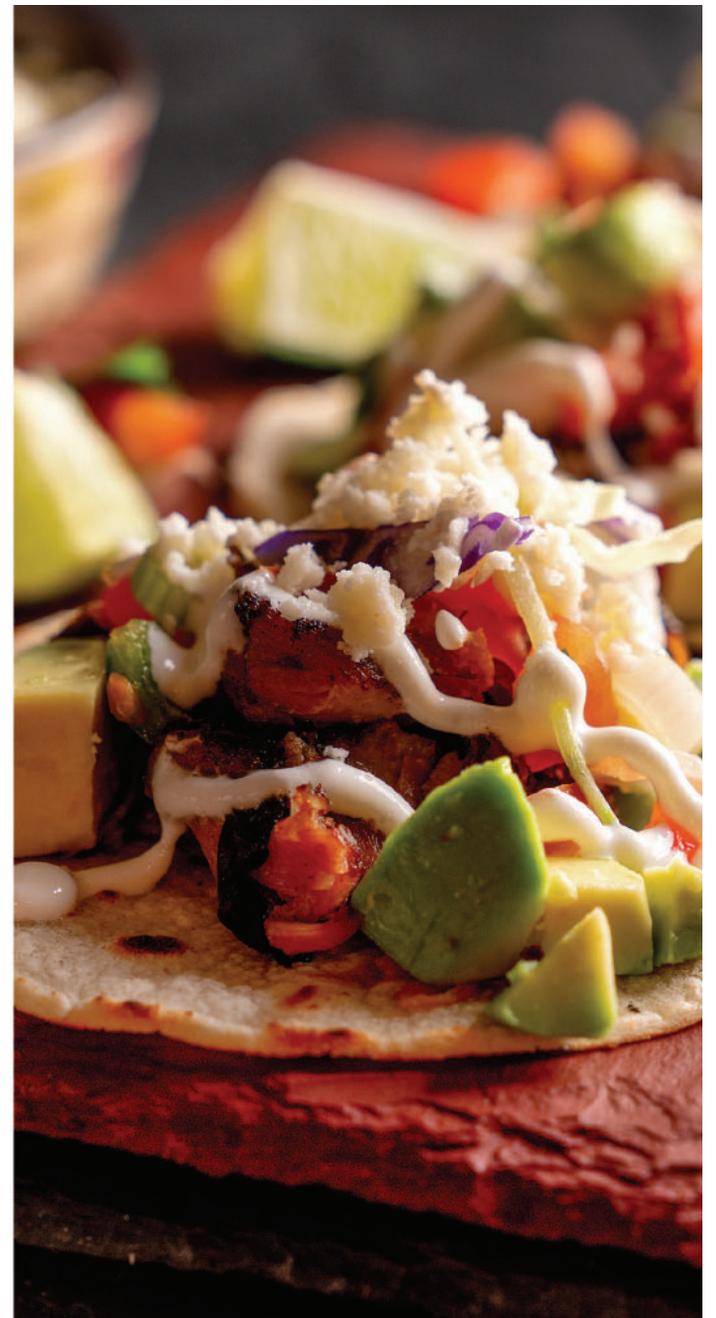
Cinco de Mayo Community Celebration
and Meet & Greet with BHPD

Join us for special Mexican cuisine offerings
by Tommy’s Beverly Hills

Café Patio | 235 N Cañon Drive,
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

First Thursdays Trolley Runs 5pm – 9pm

To view the Trolley map and learn more, visit:
beverlyhills.org/firstthursdays





Bosse addresses attendees at Tommy's. Photo by John Bendheim

(Business With Bosse continued from page 1)

Tonight felt that way. Tonight felt like coming home again."

The relatively new eatery opened on Feb. 15 at 235 N. Canon Drive, occupying the two-story old Bouchon space at Beverly Canon Gardens, which closed in 2017. The restaurant comes from Tommy Salvatore, formerly the manager at Craig's in West Hollywood, and the kitchen is helmed by Executive Chef Vartan Abgaryan. According to Salvatore, Tommy's was "thrilled" to be the first participating business.

"This is another outstanding event that Mayor Bosse is doing to bring the community together," Beverly Hills Fire Department Chief Greg Barton told the Courier. "It really shows off what the city has, what the restaurants are, and what's available."

"It was a wonderful community event,"

Arts and Culture Commissioner Karla Gordy Bristol told the Courier.

"Just being able to look around and see faces that I used to see and meet new residents that have moved here over the last two years, and this is their first face-to-face experience with Beverly Hills," Bosse told the Courier. "It's a way to really showcase our incredible businesses and for the businesses to really experience what the Beverly Hills way is, which is an extended family. It's welcoming, it's loving, and you just felt this vibrancy and electricity tonight. So, the best is yet to come because this is the first, and it just feels magnetic."

The next Business with Bossee events will be held on May 19 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at Chaumont Bakery and on May 23 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Alfred Coffee Beverly Hills. Special offering details are expected to be announced soon. ●

(Missing Signs continued from page 4)

"It certainly feels that way, that signs have been disappearing from places where we know that the property owner gave permission to put them up," he told the Courier.

But he added, "Signs are just one element of the campaign and hopefully people will focus on the issues."

Similarly, Human Relations Commissioner Sharona Nazarian said that some of her signs had disappeared almost as soon as they had been planted.

Planning Commission Chair Andy Licht told the Courier that more than 60 of his signs had gone missing in recent weeks. With the \$80,000 spending limit he and the other candidates agreed to, stolen and missing signs means less money for other campaign expenditures, Licht said.

"Money that was going to be spent elsewhere will now be spent on more signs, which I find very unfair," he said.

He adds that it also costs the campaign exposure and time.

"You're missing impressions," he said. "You miss those opportunities. You can't get those days back. Those days are gone."

The missing signs are not isolated to one area in particular, Licht says.

One supporter gave Licht permission to place signs on his property near the Beverly Hills Hotel, a high visibility area. He planted five signs, all of which disappeared by the

next day. Licht replaced them and again, they went missing.

After a third attempt, they remained up. In that time, City Clerk Huma Ahmed sent an email to candidates explaining that "anyone caught stealing lawn signs may be prosecuted."

Ahmed cited the California Penal Code, which specifically forbids the stealing, damaging, or moving of political signs "with the intent to prevent, substantially alter, or substantially obscure the communication of the sign." First violations can be prosecuted as an infraction or misdemeanor, while second and subsequent convictions constitute a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum of one year in jail and a maximum fine of \$2,000.

The Beverly Hills Police Department told the Courier that it was aware of the issue.

Ahmed told the Courier that the problem was not unique to this election cycle.

"It happens every election. Signs get stolen," she said. Ahmed speculated that the crowded field and tense political atmosphere may be contributing to the high number of signs disappearing. ●

(Beverly Hills Art Show continued from page 6)

The Beverly Hills Art Show is produced by the City's Community Services Department. Follow @CommunityLifeBH on social media to find out the latest about Community Services events, programs, classes and activities. The 2022 Art Show

partners are the Los Angeles Art Association and the Beverly Hills Conference and Visitor's Bureau.

For general information and more about all the artists and the map locations of each artist in the May 2022 Beverly Hills Art Show, visit www.beverlyhills.org/artshow or call 310-285-6830.

Mother's Day

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BRUNCH in the MAIN DINING ROOM
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DINNER in the MAIN DINING ROOM
\$125 per person
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4:30PM - 8:00PM
Live Music

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Beverly Hills, CA 90210
310.492.8868

Tommy's BEVERLY HILLS



Danette Landry, Link of Humanity, bronze with iridescent patina
Photo courtesy City of Beverly Hills

(Controversy continued from page 1)

The remaining City Council candidates and the candidates for City Treasurer answered questions on April 28, after press time. The Courier will update this story online following the forum.

Despite the two-person format, only Wunderlich and Bojeaux responded at length to one another, largely on the subject of mixed-use housing, while the other candidates effectively went one at a time.

The forum took on a combative tone early on, however, in the questions posed to Friedman by former Mayor Bob Tanenbaum, the head of the Beverly Hills North Homeowners Association and a former prosecutor. At one point Tanenbaum's questions prompted the council member to compare them to a cross-examination. Some of the questions drew boos from the audience.

Tanenbaum grilled Friedman on flyers sent out by his campaign showing the council member in photos with the fire chief and police chief, which Tanenbaum said violated a state prohibition on officials in uniform from participating in political activity while in uniform. Friedman argued that the photos had been taken prior to his campaign and did not violate the Government Code as they were not originally intended for political use.

Friedman was also asked why he sought the endorsement of the Los Angeles County Democrats given the nonpartisan nature of Beverly Hills elections. Neither Friedman

nor Licht, who also sought the endorsement, received the endorsement, which went instead to Nazarian and Wunderlich. However, Tanenbaum did not ask those candidates why they had sought the party's seal of approval.

Tanenbaum also followed up with Friedman on a question asked by the Courier that touched on the conduct of former Police Chief Sandra Spagnoli. During her four-year tenure, the city paid more than \$7 million in judgments and settlements due to allegations of racial bias, antisemitism, and homophobia.

"The management of that process was based on legal and insurance decisions and carried out as expeditiously as possible," Friedman previously said in response to the Courier.

Tanenbaum accused Friedman of defending Spagnoli and refusing to let the cases play out in court in front of a jury. Friedman explained that going to trial would risk putting the city on the line for large sums of money "way in excess of what the insurance coverage is."

The tone of the questioning drew criticism from city officials, including Councilmember John Mirisch and Vice Mayor Julian Gold.

"I would characterize last night as disgraceful and something which brings shame on our entire city," Gold told the Courier. "We pride ourselves on our civility. To see

one of our residents and a former mayor behave in such a despicable manner reflects very badly on this community."

In contrast to the questions asked of Friedman, Nazarian was asked about her background and credentials, her charitable work as President of the Rotary Club, her general thoughts on the biggest issues facing the city, and her experience as an immigrant from Iran.

Councilmember John Mirisch said he felt uncomfortable watching the proceedings of the first night.

"It was meant to be a town hall where candidates were able to express their views and it turned into an inquisition," he told the Courier.

Mirisch said that it is expected that all candidates must answer challenging questions.

"It was unnecessarily adversarial. It's one thing to ask tough questions and to ask people to justify their records and to give their perspectives. But this felt like it went beyond that," he said. ●

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MEASURE TL: TERM LIMITS

General Municipal Election is June 7, 2022 – Measure TL will be on the ballot

Voters in Beverly Hills will consider an ordinance that, if approved, would establish a total three term limit during one's lifetime for the offices of City Councilmember and City Treasurer. If the ordinance is not approved, term limits will not be established for the respective offices.

VOTING INFORMATION

WWW.BEVERLYHILLS.ORG/ELECTIONS
OR WWW.LAVOTE.GOV

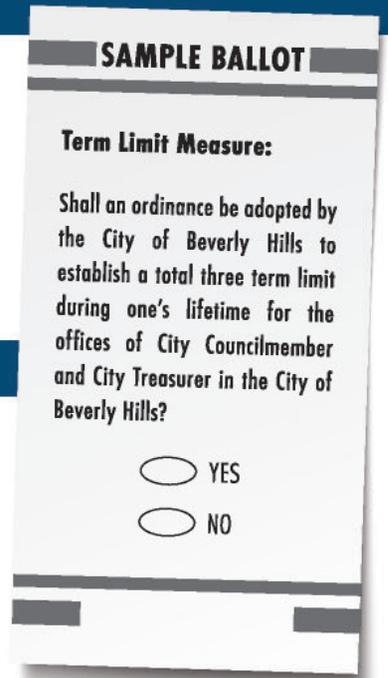
Beverly Hills City Clerk's Office: (310) 285-2400

Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk:
(800) 815-2666

Look for your Vote-by-Mail Ballot:
Week of May 9, 2022

Election Date: June 7, 2022

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LEARN MORE

For more information, please visit beverlyhills.org/measureTL.

Claridge's Tea Brings Mayfair to The Maybourne Beverly Hills

BY ANA FIGUEROA



Beverly Hills Courier Advertising Director Dina Figueroa sampled Afternoon Tea at The Maybourne Beverly Hills.

A little bit of London landed at The Maybourne Beverly Hills this week, in the form of the legendary Claridge's Afternoon Tea. The Maybourne's iconic sister property has been serving the classic teatime ritual in Mayfair for 150 years. Local residents had the opportunity to experience the Afternoon Tea during its week-long residency (which continues through April 30) here in Beverly Hills. Highlights included a lobster Amuse-Bouche, Claridge's scones made with a 150-year-old recipe and served with Cornish clotted cream, plus a selection of handmade pastries. Laurent-Perrier Champagne, a selection of authentic and exotic teas plus relaxing piano music transported all guests back to a simpler time.

Sing for Hope Piano Dedicated at BHHS



On April 27, Mayor Lili Bosse, members of the Arts and Culture and Human Relations Commissions, BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy and artist Alexandra Nechita attended a ribbon cutting ceremony dedicating the Sing for Hope piano created by Nechita to the Beverly Hills High School Music Program.

The people of Ukraine need your help

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All contributions will provide refugees with basic necessities like shelter, food, blankets, hygiene supplies and money for relocation assistance.

A generous contribution of \$25 or more per person is requested at the door.

• 8 p.m., Friday, May 6th •

All Saints' Episcopal Church in Beverly Hills
504 N. Camden Dr., Beverly Hills CA 90210

For more information call: 310.275.0123
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There are many options to consider when someone you love needs help. Together we will create the solution that's just right for you.

Community Voices

Dear Courier,

Yesterday evening I tuned into the "Forum" for City Council candidates. I was so horrified by the unrelenting disrespect and abuse piled on the head of a sitting Councilmember that I finally turned the "circus" off. Mr. Tannenbaum obviously approached the evening with his own private agenda. When I turned the TV back on, I saw other candidates being treated completely differently, different tone of voice, different sorts of questions. To the best of my observation, the actual community was consulted not at all. This sort of presentation is a complete disservice to our community. If the City is going to allow "public forums" on city property, the presenters need to be appropriate. I will certainly not be watching any more of this charade.

BARBARA LINDER
LIFELONG RESIDENT (60 YEARS)

Dear Courier,

I was appalled at the treatment of Council Candidate Lester Friedman at the hands of the moderators of last night's Muni League/BH North Homeowners Forum. I was under the impression that this was a candidate forum, when it veered off the rails into bad

legal drama territory. Especially considering the softball questions lobbed at the next candidate, which bordered on the "If you were a tree, what kind would you be" level of banality (and then weren't answered). The relentless grilling Councilmember Friedman received seemed a forum more in the Roman "Christians v Lions." It was unseemly, unnecessary, and unwatchable. I was never much of a supporter of Friedman's, but his measured reactions to this inquisition makes me think that not only does he deserve another term, he may deserve sainthood.

TOM PEASE
BEVERLY HILLS

Dear Courier,

Yesterday's Forum conducted in City Hall Council Chambers was at best disappointing and more directly, POORLY conducted and an EMBARRASSMENT.

One of the most important issues, the Gascon Recall and the circulating email, questionably supported by candidate Nazarian, which impacts every resident and every business in our City was given no discussion other than to allow only Nazarian to refute the issue. This was supposed to be an opportunity for the voters to question and engage the candidates.

Instead, what transpired was a blatant attack on a highly respected candidate, City Council Member Lester Friedman. What is even more disturbing than the issue of contentious attack was a four-color mailer with photos of Mr. Friedman taken long ago, before he entered the race. The 'debate' had no relevance to this Forum and confused and disturbed the audience. The moderator attacked Mr. Friedman specifically, for an issue that is common to almost all candidates, using promotional photos, with City Employees to promote their personal campaign.

Again, this was supposed to be a time for the voters to ask questions, get answers and in some cases, challenge the candidate. Instead it was a controlled event by the organizers. The evening turned into a publicity stunt politely benefitting some candidates with 'soft' questions, while attacking others. It

is very disturbing that none of the public were allowed to present questions or identify themselves by name or as a resident. Some candidates took the opportunity to give concrete facts based on their experience and business acumen while others took our time to blankly criticize our Police Department and City Council without any concrete solutions or real business qualifications. I had hoped to address the candidates with incisive questions to make an informed choice for our City's future. Instead all I witnessed; all I got was 3 hours of FREE advertising for the candidates, paid for by us the residents.

ILONA SHERMAN
FORMER HUMAN RELATIONS AND
DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSIONER
BEVERLY HILLS

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What can you do to reduce the fire risk around your home and be prepared:

- Vegetation Maintenance
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Beverly Hills Fire Department Presents Wildfire Community Preparedness Day

When: Saturday, May 7, 2022

Time: 9am until Noon

Where: 1100 Coldwater Canyon (Fire Station #2)

Further information call 310-281-2700

* Educational Material & Handouts provided for Adults and Kids.

Give your home a fighting chance!

Be Firewise ready.

(Diverse Agenda continued from page 1)

Fifth graders watched the award-winning movie, "The Last Butterfly," listened to stories of children who survived the Holocaust and created their own butterflies from clay to represent the 1.5 million children who were killed. The butterflies will be placed on the newly painted mural in front of the herb garden at Hawthorne. The students presented to the board lessons learned since The Butterfly Project kicked off on Jan. 27, International Holocaust Day.

"Our vision is for each fifth-grade year to add to the legacy by creating a butterfly on the butterfly wall," Canes said.

With the passing of Assembly Bill AB 22, access to full-day of TK will be extended to all 4-year-olds in California at no cost to families by the 2025-26 school year. In preparation for what will effectively be another grade level by 2025, the district is seeking funds from the California Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten and full-day Kindergarten Facility Grant Program.

"This first application round is open in April of this year and there will be a second one April of next year," Rob Murray, Director of Demographics and Planning at King Consulting, said at the meeting. "But again, pending this resolution, you will be set to go to put in an application for this funding in the current year."

Each application is for a single school site. Regardless of how many applications are submitted across the state, everyone must get one of their applications funded

before another can go back to get funding for multiple applications. BHUSD is looking to fund three school sites: El Rodeo, Hawthorne, and Horace Mann Elementary School. The funds will go towards adding specialty classrooms with special dimensions specifically for TK and Kindergarten kids. According to Murray, the state is requiring that classrooms be no less than 1350 square feet, including a dedicated restroom.

"There's just a lot of benefit that comes from having the structure of these classrooms," Murray added. "And especially with the increased number of these students coming in, it's at least helpful that there is some funding that the state is making available."

In his Superintendent report, Dr. Michael Bregy provided the board with an update on COVID-19 at the district. After Winter Break, 293 positive COVID-19 cases were reported at BHUSD the week of Jan. 9. After Spring Break, the week of April 17, 17 positive cases were reported in the district. As of April 27, the district is reporting nine positive cases among students, and one among staff. While the district's positive case numbers have drastically decreased since January, cases have almost doubled from early March, when that number was four. With the new dominant BA.2 subvariant and increased gatherings over the Spring Break, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) reported an increase in K-12 student positivity in an April 27 release.



Hawthorne Elementary students Enzo Jadidolahi, Mila Fekri, Riley Metcalfe, and Chloe Kaveh presented on The Butterfly Project at the April 26 Board of Education meeting.

Despite the uptick in cases at BHUSD and nearby schools, the district concluded its weekly PCR COVID-19 testing program on April 22, which had tested all unvaccinated students and a random selection of vaccinated students.

"We are holding our own and doing a really good job of mitigating the spread," Bregy said. "To have nine during this time, we feel really good about. Some of the mitigation efforts that are ongoing, that have become consistent practices, are things that we're continuing to do, and those things are working for us."

The district will continue to offer daily COVID-19 Rapid Antigen testing for all symptomatic and non-symptomatic staff and students at all BHUSD school sites from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through the end of the school year. "We have had a decrease in the need and demand for our testing, but we still have it available," Bregy said. "So, we're looking at returning to the pre-Omicron rush to where we have a rotating cycle." Bregy indicated that the previous rotating testing program, where rapid testing will be available on different school campuses for students and staff depending on the day, will be reinstated next year. However, Rapid Antigen testing will still be available every day at the district office.

With the retirement of Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Wade Roach, and the Director of Information Technology Services, David Damico, the board welcomed two new hires: Raphael Guzman and Sandi Tsosie.

Guzman, with over thirteen years of experience in school district finance, will take over Roach's job. Previously, he served as the Chief Business Official of Inglewood Unified School District, during which time he achieved many positive financial certifications, settled collective bargaining agreements, facilitated the implementation of a new bond measure, and helped the advancement of several construction and facilities projects.

Tsosie, with awards from the California Industrial and Technology Education Association and the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association, will assume Damico's position. Tsosie spent the first 12 years of her career at the Hermosa Beach City School District, with experience as a Career and Technical Education Instructor, Title I and Intervention Coordinator, Student Council Advisor, Detention Coordinator, and Girls' Basketball Coach.

The next Board of Education will be held on May 10 at 5 p.m. ●

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2022

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Birthdays



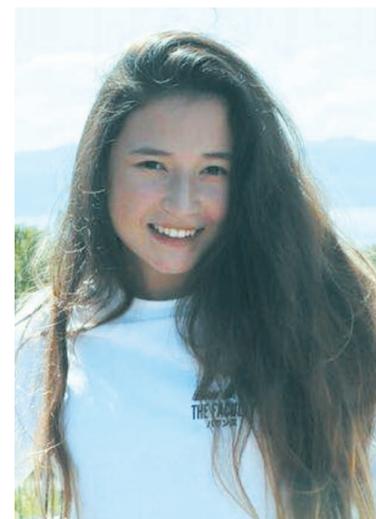
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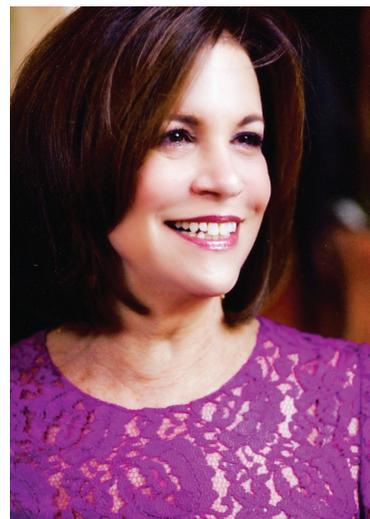
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May 4



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May 5

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). Preconceived notions are obstacles to overcome. Having zero expectations makes it easier to accept what is. You'll be amazed at what you can do when you deal in realities instead of fantasies.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Usually, the things you spend the most time doing will bring you the most results. Today is different. Something you do for only a few moments will be the source of your joy and good fortune.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Don't think about how fun a job is. If it needs to be done, the mature person gets in there and gets it done with as little resistance as possible. The fun happens quite by accident.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The problem may not seem to be about you. And yet, if you're the one having it, it's unlikely a cosmic mistake. The interesting

challenge of the day is in figuring out how much responsibility to take for what's happening.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Social excitement erupts like a fire. Getting it started might take a moment, but once it gets going it will keep going until the fuel is exhausted. Fun times!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Before you add anything, you should think twice because even a small addition can change the entire picture. This cannot be avoided. More moving parts result in more complexity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If you're embarrassed by what you did a few years back, that's an excellent sign of your growth. If you're embarrassed by what you did a few (SET ITAL) weeks (END ITAL) back, good! It's a sign of rapid improvement.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If you want to get good at something, there's much you could add to your practice. But if you want to get great, this will require you to go the opposite direction. Eliminate the extraneous and isolate only what works.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Energy has dipped and progress

has slowed down. Things will pick up after a good rest. If you needed an excuse to take one, consider this your permission slip.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You will connect the dots of a formerly fuzzy sketch. When you help someone learn things for the first time, you will relearn them in the process -- everybody wins!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). People are always trying to influence what you think. Take note

of what you thought before you thought what they wanted you to think. Trust your free associations, first impression and gut responses.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's true that things have taken a different shape from what you'd once envisioned. You'll note how fewer things frustrate and irritate you now. You are growing in compassion, including self-compassion.



This week's adoptable pup is Rudy. He's an 10-pound, 11-month-old Maltese mix. If you can help give a young dog a new leash on life, please contact Shelter of Hope at 805-379-3538.

www.shelterhopepetshop.org

(Fiscal Priorities continued from page 4)

“The city’s vision statements can be summarized as: number one, offering an unparalleled quality of life; number two, a unique and friendly character to our residents and visitors; number three, we are a world-class community, offering an extraordinary environment; number four, we are a community committed to safety, innovation, sustainability and service,” Hunt-Coffey shared. “These statements drive the formation of our strategic plans, the City Council priorities and the budget, which include developing department work plans and ongoing tasks.”

Hunt-Coffey then explained that with the retirement of the City Auditor, the City Council elected to have a request for proposal to hire a firm to conduct the internal audit services, and related priorities were moved from the City Auditor’s office to the policy and management department. She also noted that, along with removing two other priorities, city staff would propose that the City Council consider setting three new priorities in the afternoon session: Gale Yard Improvements, a means-tested assistance program for tenants, and an organics recycling and recovery program.

“This afternoon we’ll begin step one of our two-step process,” she said. “Each department head will be invited up to provide a brief description of their priority, provide some high-level accomplishments for fiscal year 21-22, and then review the proposed deliverables for fiscal year 22-23. After each priority is introduced, the City Council will be able to ask questions of staff. The Council can then modify or remove any priority. Finally, we request that the City Council affirm each priority that is remaining on the priority list.”

Priorities for 2022-2023 were then presented by leaders of each city department—community development, community services, finance, information technology, policy and management, public safety, public works and city clerk—and discussed at length by the councilmembers.

Community Development

Priorities for community development discussed included those from 2021—hillside development standards, the Southeast Task Force, evaluating the city’s rent stabilization policy, implementing a seismic retrofit program, further development of preservation incentives and a study on inclusionary housing—as well as new priorities for Gale Yard improvements and a means-tested assistance program for tenants.

Community Services

Among the 2022 priorities for community services, in addition to continuing to promote arts and culture with the “Embrace & Celebrate Culture” theme, the upcoming “Hymn of Life: Tulips” installation by celebrated sculptor Yayoi Kusama, implementing the city’s “Art in Public Places” program and launching “Art Now,” a new initiative to activate storefronts with colorful designs in support of business recovery, is the continued exploration of increasing the city’s green space, including pocket parks. Additional priorities include those from 2021, such as improvements at La Cienega Park and Tennis Center and Greystone Mansion and Gardens, implementing a department strategic plan, and updates on

use of BHUSD facilities for city recreation and the community.

Finance

The priority for finance continues to be a comprehensive review of the city’s cash flow and assets, estimated to be completed by summer 2022.

Information Technology

2022 priorities for IT include broadening the use of technology to improve efficiency in all initiatives, such as continuing to expand public eGov and video offerings, upgrading the city’s parking systems to include smart capabilities and continuing to increase the city’s cyber security measures.

Policy & Management

Moved from the City Auditor’s department since the retirement of the City Auditor, the annual audit plan, including completing an onboarding for an audit firm and providing guidance for a citywide risk assessment, as well as reopening the Trust & Innovation portal are top priorities for the Policy & Management department. Other 2022-2023 priorities include continued property acquisition and development, the Small Business Task Force, business attraction, updating the city’s five-year economic sustainability plan, strengthening and expanding smoking regulations, creating evening activities in the business triangle, leasing city and parking properties, promoting the city, studying the creation of a city health department and exploring creating an office for a city prosecutor.

Public Safety

Expansive priorities for public safety include strengthening firefighting and paramedics, information technology and police capabilities, including continuing to develop the Just In Case program; public outreach and education on social media; First Watch software; CCTV camera deployments; implementing a co-model for a mental health response team; recruitment and career development; launching Phase 1 of a Real Time Watch Center; greater intelligence-led policing efforts, including adding 16 license plate readers, BHPD Alert and expanded drone use; staffing and planning for the upcoming Metro expansion.

Public Works

Comprehensive priorities include centralized customer relations, autonomous vehicles, community video security, La Cienega Treatment Facility, Water Enterprise Plan, subway coordination, reservoir reconstruction and water storage, a public works matrix audit, separate landscape metering, public work space assessment, the Urban Forest Management Plan, higher maintenance of streets and sidewalks in the business district, completing the streets plan and implementing a new organics recycling program. Permanent Rodeo Drive permanent bistro seating consideration has been put on hold, as has planning for South Santa Monica Boulevard until the 2024-2025 fiscal year and upon completion of the Purple Line subway station at Wilshire and Reeves. Other priorities are advancing capital investment in the city and continued water conservation program in response to ongoing drought-relief efforts.

City Clerk

The City Clerk’s office will continue to prioritize the Sunshine Taskforce, an anti-voter fraud initiative and advertising employment opportunities.

Impact of COVID

Hunt-Coffey concluded the session with a briefing on the fiscal impact of COVID. Due to a reduction in the city’s revenue due to the pandemic, the City Council previously authorized a reduction in personnel by offering early retirement programs and voluntary separation programs to decrease the work force. This resulted in budgetary savings for employee salary and benefits to offset the reduction in revenue and help the city

(City Council continued from page 5)

Weiner told the Council that in a discussion with Chief Deputy District Attorney Sharan Wu, “She indicated that District Attorney Gascón is not inclined to give any city, including Beverly Hills, the right to prosecute state law misdemeanors.”

Wu and Weiner have another phone call scheduled for May 23 where they will discuss whether “there was some subset of state law misdemeanors that they might be able to delegate,” but Weiner said he was “not expecting any different results.”

Councilmember John Mirisch floated a recent idea of his, that the city consider becoming a charter city, which does “not have to ask permission from the County DA in order to prosecute state misdemeanors.”

Weiner elaborated on the notion, explaining that Beverly Hills currently exists as a general law city, “which means we are subject to all state laws.” By adopting a charter through “a rather lengthy election process,” cities gain absolute control over “municipal affairs,” a somewhat fluid legal term that could include prosecution of state law misdemeanors.

What the city cannot do, Bosse emphasized in an effort to combat “some misinformation,” is “have our own District Attorney.” This extends to both charter or general law cities, Weiner added.

Metro Security

As part of the agreement between the city and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), the two Metro D Line (formerly Purple Line) stations located in the city must meet a certain level of security staffing.

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) currently polices a majority of the city’s transit system, along with the Long Beach Police Department and the Los Angeles Sheriff Department. As a part of a deal negotiated between the city and Metro, the Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) would provide the security at the Wilshire/La Cienega and Wilshire/Rodeo stations.

But with Metro’s current policing contract set to expire this summer, Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva demanded on April 14 that his department become the only agency patrolling the county’s entire system. If the county declined to do so, Villanueva threatened to pull the entire department out of Metro.

Villanueva’s statements were met by criticism by L.A. County Supervisor Hilda

maintain operational services. While the reduction in personnel has strained capacity for new projects, city staff is learning new and innovative ways to do more with less, such as implementation of the Customer Call Center.

Throughout fiscal years 2020-2022, city staff performed a variety of activities to assist the community with COVID. Those activities have been absorbed into day-to-day workloads for each department as the pandemic is shifting to becoming more endemic. As such, 2022-2023 fiscal years’ proposed deliverables for COVID were not developed as they have become part of each department’s operational tasks. ●

L. Solis, who serves as Chair of the Metro Board, and LAPD Chief Michel Moore.

“The Sheriff’s declaration of pulling out his deputies if the Department isn’t awarded the full contract with Metro should alarm everyone,” Solis said in a statement. “He would essentially be defunding his own department if not awarded a sole contract.”

In response to concerns over Villanueva’s threat first raised by Councilmember Robert Wunderlich, City Manager George Chavez authored a letter against Villanueva’s proposal to Inglewood Mayor James Butts, who represents small cities and jurisdictions on the Metro Board. The City Council approved the letter at its April 26 meeting.

“Our City places the highest priority on the safety of our visitors, residents, and businesses,” Chavez writes in the letter. “Our City believes his proposal would undermine the public safety for people using both the Wilshire/La Cienega and Wilshire/Rodeo purple line stations when they open for service.”

Municipal Code “Cleanup”

The City Council unanimously voted to approve a routine “cleanup” of the city’s municipal code, making several changes described by a staff report as “necessary for the proper interpretation and application of existing regulations.”

“These cleanup items include small semantic changes, the minor modification of regulations to conform to existing City practice or accepted building standards and practices, and the removal or addition of code language that will make the original intent of various code sections clearer,” according to the report.

The Council addressed changes related to height for multifamily and commercial buildings, a change related to fitness facilities, and a clarification related to finishing fences in residential zones. The changes make it easier for commercial and multifamily buildings to make small changes to rooftops, install elevators, and use rooftops for certain amenities.

The changes also added a requirement for fences and walls constructed within five feet of property lines to have a finished appearance on both sides. ●

BHHS Students Attend Space Camp

BY BIANCA HEYWARD



Beverly Vista Middle School students

During their Spring Break, 40 Beverly Vista Middle School (BVMS) students traveled to Huntsville, Alabama to attend a Space Camp at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center – the official visitor center for NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center, which is the U.S. government’s civilian rocketry and spacecraft propulsion research center.

The immersive camp was geared towards students in advanced science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) classes, as well as those in the advanced aerospace classes. Throughout the week, students underwent astronaut training on the 1/6th gravity chair, the Five Degrees of Freedom simulator, and the multi-Axis Trainer. Middle school students launched simulated missions to the International Space Station, the moon, and Mars where they worked as a team to confronted different mission scenarios in flight. Campers also designed and launched their own model rocket, learned about space hardware, built a heat shield for atmospheric re-entry, and learned about commercial space flight companies like SpaceX. ●

Epiphany Boutique Opens on South Beverly Drive



Owner Sherry Andrus celebrated the grand opening of her new Epiphany Boutique on South Beverly Drive on April 21.

Three Candidate Forums Set for May

BY BIANCA HEYWARD

Three candidate forums are scheduled for May, in anticipation of the June 7 City of Beverly Hills General Municipal Election. Eleven candidates are vying for three open City Council seats and three candidates for the position of City Treasurer. 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.

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 livestreamed at beverlyhills.org/live. Ken Goldman, Valerie Wisot, and Andrea Grossman will moderate. For more information, contact Kenneth Goldman at kgoldman@kaglegal.com.

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. ●

Police Blotter

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

ASSAULT - AGGRAVATED

4/21/2022, 2:56 p.m. at 400 Block of S. BEVERLY DRIVE

4/17/2022, 12:06 a.m. at 8600 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

ASSAULT - SIMPLE

4/27/2022, 4:50 p.m. at 100 Block of SPALDING DRIVE

4/19/2022, 12:50 p.m. at 9800 Block of S. SANTA MONICA BLVD.

4/17/2022, 7:30 a.m. at 400 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

BURGLARY - COMMERCIAL BUILDING

4/25/2022, 2:23 a.m. at 400 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

BURGLARY - FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE

4/25/2022, 7:45 a.m. at 100 Block of N. HAMILTON DRIVE

4/25/2022, 7:15 a.m. at 100 Block of N. SAN VICENTE BLVD.

4/24/2022, 10 p.m. at 9000 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

4/24/2022, 12:33 p.m. at 9400 Block of DAYTON WAY

4/21/2022, 4:44 p.m. at 300 Block of N. BEDFORD DRIVE

BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL (COMMON AREA)

4/24/2022, 5:18 a.m. at 100 Block of N. GALE DRIVE

BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL (NO ONE HOME)

4/22/2022, 5:52 p.m. at 900 Block of ALPINE DRIVE

4/18/2022, 1 a.m. at 200 Block of EL CAMINO DRIVE

4/17/2022, 2 p.m. at 700 Block of N. CRESCENT DRIVE

DUI ARREST

4/17/2022, 7:38 p.m. at FOOTHILL ROAD / BURTON WAY

4/16/2022, 10:33 p.m. at N. REXFORD DRIVE / SUNSET BOULEVARD

ROBBERY

4/24/2022, 3:50 a.m. at 9800 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

4/22/2022, 2:41 p.m. at 700 Block of ALPINE DRIVE

THEFT FROM COMMERCIAL BUILDING

4/14/2022, 3:41 p.m. at 200 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

THEFT - GRAND

4/15/2022, 5:15 p.m. at 100 Block of N. LA CIENEGA BLVD.

4/13/22, 2:53 a.m. at 100 Block of N. ARNAZ DRIVE

THEFT - GRAND (FROM VEHICLE)

4/14/2022, 4:10 p.m. at 9700 Block of WILSHIRE BLVD.

4/14/2022, 12:30 p.m. at 100 Block of N. MAPLE DRIVE

THEFT - PETTY

4/25/2022, 8:43 a.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

4/23/2022, 3:49 p.m. at 200 Block of N. RODEO DRIVE

4/22/2022, 11:30 p.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

4/19/2022, 3:37 p.m. at 200 Block of S. BEVERLY DRIVE

4/17/2022, 7 p.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

4/17/2022, 11:05 a.m. at 400 Block of N. BEVERLY DRIVE

4/17/2022, 9:31 a.m. at 300 Block of N. CANON DRIVE

4/14/2022, 1:26 p.m. at 600 Block of N. DOHENY DRIVE

THEFT - PETTY (FROM VEHICLE)

4/23/2022, 5:17 a.m. at 900 Block of N. REXFORD DRIVE

4/23/2022, 4:52 a.m. at 600 Block of ALTA DRIVE

VANDALISM

4/26/2022, 12:17 p.m. at 200 Block of S. ALMONT DRIVE

4/26/2022, 10:15 a.m. at 100 Block of N. LA CIENEGA BLVD.

4/23/2022, 1:25 p.m. at 9800 Block of OLYMPIC BLVD.

Public Notices

**RFQual 22-350-39
CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS**

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
345 FOOTHILL ROAD
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210**

**REQUEST FOR PREQUALIFICATION
OF BIDDERS AND PREQUALIFICATION
INSTRUCTIONS**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT DISPATCH UPS
REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Beverly Hills ("CITY") has determined that all bidders for the Police Department Dispatch UPS Replacement Project ("Project") must be pre-qualified prior to submitting a bid on that Project. It is mandatory that all Contractors who intend to submit a bid, fully complete the pre-qualification questionnaire, provide all materials requested herein, and be approved by the CITY to be on the final qualified Bidders list.

No bid will be accepted from a Contractor that has failed to comply with these requirements. If two or more business entities submit a bid as part of a Joint Venture, or expect to submit a bid as part of a Joint Venture, each entity within the Joint Venture must be separately qualified to bid.

An electrical contractor (C10 license) is the prime contractor for this project, and the electrical contractor will need to subcontract with the appropriate contractors for a turnkey project.

Contractor's questionnaire and forms can be downloaded from the City's PlanetBids portal: <https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=39493>

The item is listed as: *Police Department Dispatch UPS Replacement Project*

The last date to submit a fully completed questionnaire is **5:00 PM Thursday, May 5, 2022**. All qualification submittals are required to be submitted electronically via Planet Bids. The electronic submittal system will close exactly at the date and time set forth in this request for qualifications.

The CITY will use these documents as the basis of rating Contractors with respect to whether each Contractor is qualified to bid on the Project, and reserves the right to check other sources available. The CITY's decision will be based on objective evaluation criteria.

The CITY reserves the right to adjust, increase, limit, suspend or rescind the prequalification rating based on subsequently learned information. Contractors whose rating changes sufficiently to disqualify them will be notified, and given an opportunity for a hearing consistent with the hearing procedures described below for appealing a prequalification rating.

While it is the intent of the prequalification questionnaire and documents required therewith to assist the CITY in determining bidder responsibility prior to bid and to aid the CITY in selecting the lowest responsible bidder, neither the fact of prequalification, nor any prequalification rating, will preclude the CITY from a post-bid consideration and determination of whether a bidder has the quality, fitness, capacity and experience to satisfactorily perform the proposed work, and has demonstrated the requisite trustworthiness.

For any questions regarding the questionnaire and the qualification package contact the **Project Manager, Karen Domerchie (email: kdomerchie@beverlyhills.org)**.

The prequalification packages submitted by Contractors are not public records and are not open to public inspection. All information provided will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law. However, the contents may be disclosed to third parties for purpose of verification, or investigation of substantial allegations, or in an appeal hearing. State law requires that

the names of contractors applying for prequalification status shall be public records subject to disclosure, and the first page of the questionnaire will be used for that purpose.

Each questionnaire must be signed under penalty of perjury in the manner designated at the end of the form, by an individual who has the legal authority to bind the Contractor on whose behalf that person is signing. If any information provided by a Contractor becomes inaccurate, the Contractor must immediately notify the CITY and provide updated accurate information in writing, under penalty of perjury.

The CITY reserves the right to waive minor irregularities and omissions in the information contained in the prequalification application submitted, and to make all final determinations. The CITY may also determine at any time that the prequalification process will be suspended for the Project and the Project will be bid without prequalification.

Contractors who submit a complete prequalification package will be notified of their qualification status no later than ten business days after submission of the information.

The CITY may refuse to grant prequalification where the requested information and materials are not provided by the due date indicated above. There is no appeal from a refusal for an incomplete or late application, but re-application for a later project is permitted. Neither the closing time for submitting prequalification packages for this Project will be changed in order to accommodate supplementation of incomplete submissions, or late submissions, unless requested by the CITY in its sole discretion.

In addition to a contractor's failure to be pre-qualified pursuant to the scoring system set forth in the prequalification package, a contractor may be found not prequalified for either omission of or falsification of, any requested information.

Where a timely and completed application results in a rating below that necessary to pre-qualify, an appeal can be made by the unsuccessful Contractor. An appeal is begun by the Contractor delivering notice to the CITY of its appeal of the decision with respect to its pre-qualification rating, no later than two business days following notification that it is not pre-qualified. The notice of appeal shall include an address where the Contractor wishes to receive notice of the appeal hearing. Without a timely appeal, the Contractor waives any and all rights to challenge the decision of the CITY, whether by administrative process, judicial process or any other legal process or proceeding.

If the Contractor gives the required notice of appeal, a hearing shall be conducted no earlier than five business days after the CITY's receipt of the notice of appeal and not later than five business days prior to the date of the Notice Inviting Bids for this Project. Prior to the hearing, the Contractor shall, in writing, be advised of the basis for the City's pre-qualification determination.

The hearing shall be conducted by a panel consisting of three members of the Department of Public Works senior management staff (the "Appeals Panel"). The Appeals Panel shall consider any evidence presented by the Contractor, whether or not the evidence is presented in compliance with formal rules of evidence. The Contractor will be given the opportunity to present evidence, information and arguments as to why the Contractor believes it should be pre-qualified. Within one day after the conclusion of the hearing, the Appeals Panel will render a written determination as to whether the Contractor is pre-qualified. It is the intention of the CITY that the date for the submission and opening of bids will not be delayed or postponed to allow for completion of an appeal process.

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**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 perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information 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 90210; The business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on March 2022: **Irina Dzhaly Ants, Owner** Statement is

filed with the County of Los Angeles: April 06, 2022; Published: April 15, 22, 29, May 06, 2022 **LACC N/C BEVERLY HILLS COURIER**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2022081315 The following is/are doing business as: **HELLO AARON!**

513 N. Rodeo Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90210; **Niloufar Emrani** 513 N. Rodeo Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90210; The business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**, registrant(s) has begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on March 2017: **Niloufar Emrani, Owner** Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: April 13, 2022; Published: April 29, May 06, 13, 20, 2022 **LACC N/C BEVERLY HILLS COURIER**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2022081317 The following is/are doing business as: **FUNKE**

9388 S. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90210; 210 N. Canon Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90210; **9388 Santa Monica Boulevard LLC** 210 N. Canon Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90210; The business is conducted by: **A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY** (#202106111115), registrant(s) has **NOT** begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on: **Kurt Rapaport, Manager** Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: April 13, 2022; Published: April 29, May 06, 13, 20, 2022 **LACC N/C BEVERLY HILLS COURIER**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2022081310 The following is/are doing business as: **ENDEAVOR SOURCING**

1143 S. La Verne Way, Palm Springs, CA 92264; **Ronald Gromfin** 1143 S. La Verne Way, Palm Springs, CA 92264; The business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**, registrant(s) has **NOT** begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on: **Ronald Gromfin, Owner** Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: April 13, 2022; Published: April 29, May 06, 13, 20, 2022 **LACC N/C BEVERLY HILLS COURIER**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2022081312 The following is/are doing business as: **RESEARCH LAB MEDIA**

5330 Lincoln Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90042; **Research Lab LLC** 5330 Lincoln Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90042; The business is conducted by: **A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY** (#202200411142), registrant(s) has **NOT** begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on: **Lisa Jackson, Managing Member** Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: April 13, 2022; Published: April 29, May 06, 13, 20, 2022 **LACC N/C BEVERLY HILLS COURIER**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2022081320 The following is/are doing business as: **PACIFIC MARINA PARTNERS**

2623 S. Holt Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90034; 1702 S. Robertson Blvd. #2009, Los Angeles, CA 90035; **Enrique Mannheim** 2623 S. Holt Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90034; The business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL**, registrant(s) has **NOT** begun to transact business under the name(s) listed on: **Enrique Mannheim, Owner** Statement is filed with the County of Los Angeles: April 13, 2022; Published: April 29, May 06, 13, 20, 2022 **LACC N/C BEVERLY HILLS COURIER**

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).

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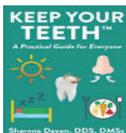
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