



The Week in Review

City Manager Grace K. Leung
January 10, 2020

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, January 14
City Council Study Session
City Hall, City Council Chambers
100 Civic Center Drive
4 p.m.

Tuesday, January 14
City Council Meeting
City Hall, City Council Chambers
100 Civic Center Drive
7 p.m.

[\(Insider's Guide\)](#)

Thursday, January 16
Finance Committee Meeting
Crystal Cove Conference Room,
(Bay 2D)
100 Civic Center Dr.
3 p.m.

Thursday, January 16
Zoning Administrator Meeting
City Hall, Corona del Mar
Conference Room (Bay1E)
100 Civic Center Dr.
3 p.m.

Thursday, January 16
City Arts Commission Meeting
Small Conference Room
Central Library
1000 Avocado Avenue
5 p.m.

Homeless Update

Success Stories - Last week, City Net worked to place a Veteran client in the Friendship Shelter in Laguna Beach. The City Net staff is also actively working on getting his HUD Veterans Administration voucher for securing permanent housing. The Veteran had been staying at the Newport Transportation Center. He is now sheltered and stabilized. City Net is the contracted social services agency working in collaboration with the Homeless Liaison Officer and Homeless Coordinator to house people experiencing homelessness.

Housing Action Plan and Housing Element Update Advisory Committee

At its January 14 meeting, the City Council will review an item in response to the 4,832 new housing units that are estimated to be distributed to Newport Beach through the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) process. This item will include staff's recommendation on how to proceed with a Housing Action Plan, which outlines a twelve-point plan with four main objectives: (1) Pursue legislative amendments to assist the City in obtaining compliance with the Housing Element adoption deadline of October 15, 2021; (2) Find ways to reduce the RHNA number; (3) Review priorities of the General Plan Update process to focus on housing; and (4) Collaborate regionally with other jurisdictions.

The third recommendation is to focus the General Plan Update effort to concentrate on updating the Housing Element, Land Use Element, and Circulation Element. This will mean that the current General Plan Update Steering Committee could be dissolved and a new committee, the Housing Element Update Advisory Committee, would be created with a narrower purpose. The Housing Element Update Advisory Committee would provide a public forum for community participation and would help guide policy decisions related to the state-mandated Housing Element update.

Visit the City's website for a complete listing of meetings and events at newportbeachca.gov/events.

The RHNA process affects the entire region and state. There will be much more to come on this, as we continue to move towards the objectives of staff's suggested Housing Action Plan.

End of Year Submittals

The Building Division took in 10 times the number of new construction/major remodel project plan submittals during the last three working days of 2019 in comparison to a typical workweek. This level of plan submittals will likely set us approximately eight weeks behind in delivering projects to customers. The significant increase in submittals is attributable to new Building Standard Codes that became effective January 1, 2020. Providing excellent customer service is the highest priority and we will continue to make adjustments to assist customers with time sensitive projects.

Fiscal Year 2018-19 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

The City has finalized the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019. The CAFR is a very important document as it is the compilation of the City's financial statements, which comply with specific accounting standards established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). A CAFR is different than a typical annual report in that it presents more comprehensive financial information in order to help the reader better understand the City's overall financial standing. Issuing a CAFR is not required, but it represents a best practice in government finance and is one of the reasons the City is able to sustain its Aaa credit rating.

Additionally, the City has applied for the annual Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) award of "Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting", a prestigious award. The City has prepared a CAFR for the past 26 years and has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting each of those years. In order to receive the Certificate of Achievement, a government unit must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized CAFR.

Preparation of this report was accomplished through the efficient and dedicated services of everyone in the City's Financial Reporting Division.

Newport Coast Community Center Maintenance

The Newport Coast Community Center (NCCC) is starting off the New Year in style with a resurfacing of the wood classroom flooring. The project required the removal of the top coat, smoothing of imperfections and recoating of the flooring surface. The renovation will be enjoyed by classes, camps and events held at NCCC for years to come!

Insider's Guide for the Newport Beach City Council Meeting on January 14, 2020

Our next City Council meeting is Tuesday, January 14. Items that may be of interest are highlighted below. The entire agenda, and all reports, can be viewed [here](#).

Study session begins at 4 p.m. for this meeting to discuss the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) and the City's Proposed Action Plan, as detailed earlier in this newsletter. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) has submitted an RHNA methodology that results in an allocation of 4,832 housing units for Newport Beach, accelerating four decades worth of planning and development into the next decade. This methodology was developed without input from the City. Staff will provide an update on this methodology, the next steps in the RHNA approval process, and proposed next step for the City, including the establishment of a Housing Element Update Advisory Committee. The action plan is also on the regular agenda for City Council action.

The regular session begins at 7 p.m. and the following are items of note:

- On the consent calendar is the submittal of a grant funding application to OCTA for the West Coast Highway and Superior Ave/Balboa Blvd Intersection Improvement Project. The grant would provide funds for the second pedestrian/bicycle bridge, over Coast Highway. The City received grant funds for the first bridge over Superior Avenue, which is now under design.

- Also on the consent calendar is acceptance of a grant from Hoag for the Newport Beach – Surfer Awareness in Lifesaving Techniques Program (NB-SALT), a new public education effort to teach community members lifesaving skills to provide emergency care prior to the arrival of first responders. This timely intervention can reduce the likelihood of death or disability from an ocean-related injury, a real benefit for our community.
- The consent calendar also includes an update on the City’s efforts in addressing homelessness. The City Council and staff will continue our focused efforts in both regional and long-term solutions for housing and shelter, as well as specific strategies to assist those in need in our community right now. This complex issue will not be resolved quickly but we have made progress and will continue to build on that.
- In addition to the Housing Action Plan, current business includes adjustments to speed limits. As required by state law, the City has reviewed posted speed limits as prescribed by the California vehicle code and most are recommended to remain unchanged with the exception of six streets. Two street sections are recommended for increase and four are recommended to be decreased. All six are detailed in the staff report.

