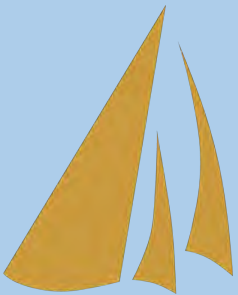


**64th Annual**  
**Employee Service Awards and**  
**Appreciation Luncheon**

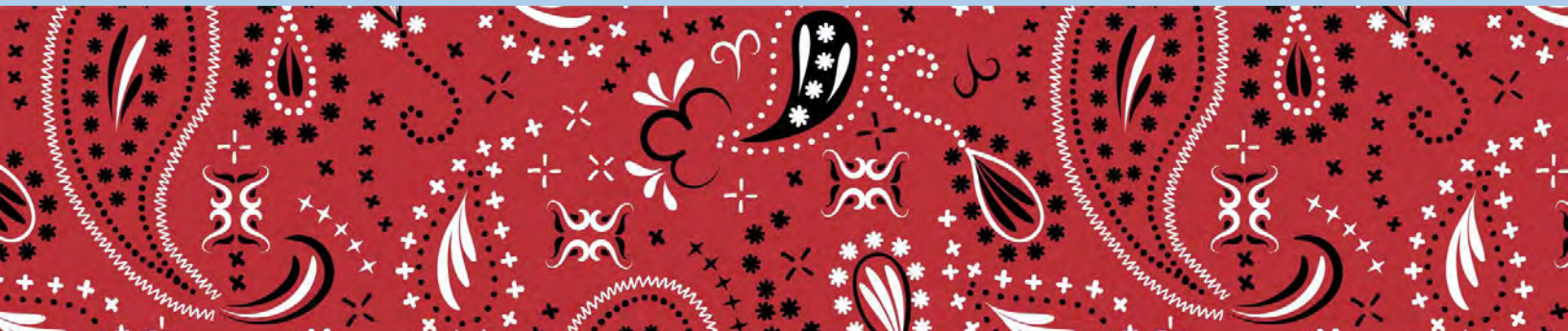
**The Wild Wild**  
**West Coast**



**CITY OF**  
**NEWPORT BEACH**

**June 20, 2024**

**11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.**



# Luncheon Timeline

## Event Co-Chairs

Melissa Hartson, John Pope

## Flag Salute

Mayor Pro Tem Joe Stapleton

## Welcome

Mayor Will O'Neill

## Presentation of Awards

5 Years, John Pope  
10 Years, Melissa Hartson  
15 Years, John Pope  
20 Years, Melissa Hartson  
25 Years, John Pope  
30 & 35 Years, Grace Leung

## Teamwork Award Dorothy Palen Award

Presented by Grace K. Leung

## Special Thanks



# 5 Years of Service



This group is comprised of part-time and full-time employees that are the backbone of City operations, bringing high-quality services, programs, infrastructure, and facilities to the community. Thank you for being a vital part of the team and we hope you continue to grow professionally within the City for years to come. Congratulations on five years, and thank you for your hard work and dedication to the community!

*~ Sean Levin, Recreation & Senior Services Director*



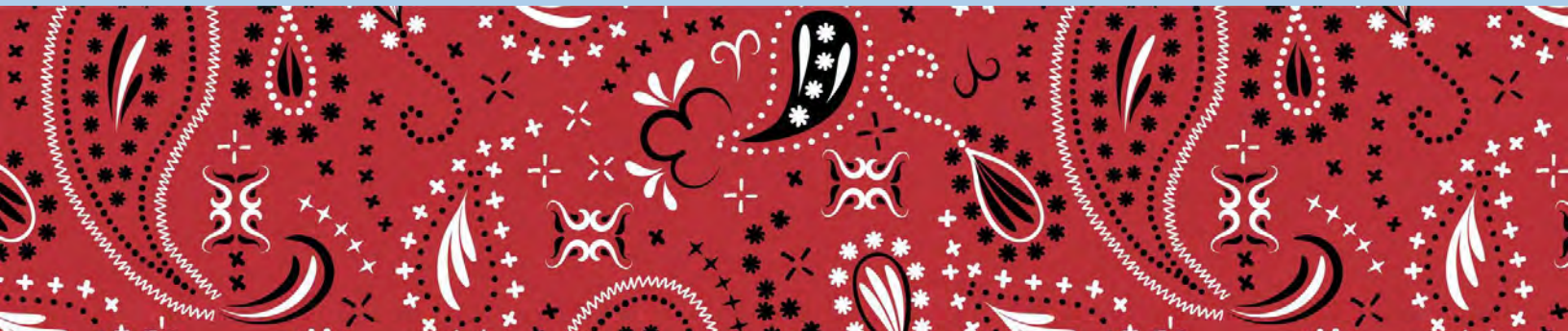
# 5 Years of Service



Caroline Amling  
Dan Aquino  
Ashley Avalos  
Katalina Baljeu  
Trevor Becker  
Matthew Blackburn  
Gidget Brestel  
Carter Britt  
Luke Burgard  
Luis Campos  
Spencer Clark  
Anthony Colindres  
Raul Cortez  
Tyler Easton  
Adam Faludi  
Adam Fischbacher  
Isaac Furnari  
Fatemeh Gholtooghian  
James Gillespie  
Dylan Hamm  
Walid Harding  
Elliott Harrington

Cassandra Hawks  
James Houlihan  
Nicholas Jacome  
Amanda Jawhary  
Joanne Kessler  
Zane Ketterer  
Zachariah Kittleson  
Jennifer La  
Jennifer Lee  
Michael Martinez  
Connor McManigal  
John Nelson  
Heather Nichols  
August Oeding

Brian Park  
Michael Pasmant  
Steven Ramirez  
Nicholas Richardson  
Harry Rinker  
Tyler Rios  
Alex Sanchez-Valencia  
Micah Santoni  
Lauren Shaeffer  
Samuel Schoubye  
Skylar Sepulveda  
Robert Silva Jr.  
Lorelai Sinacori  
Yolanda Summerhill  
Oliver Teitscheid  
Matthew Torres  
William Tuman  
Michael Vaughan  
Antonio Velasco  
Julio Velasco  
Shane Webber  
Nolan Weisser

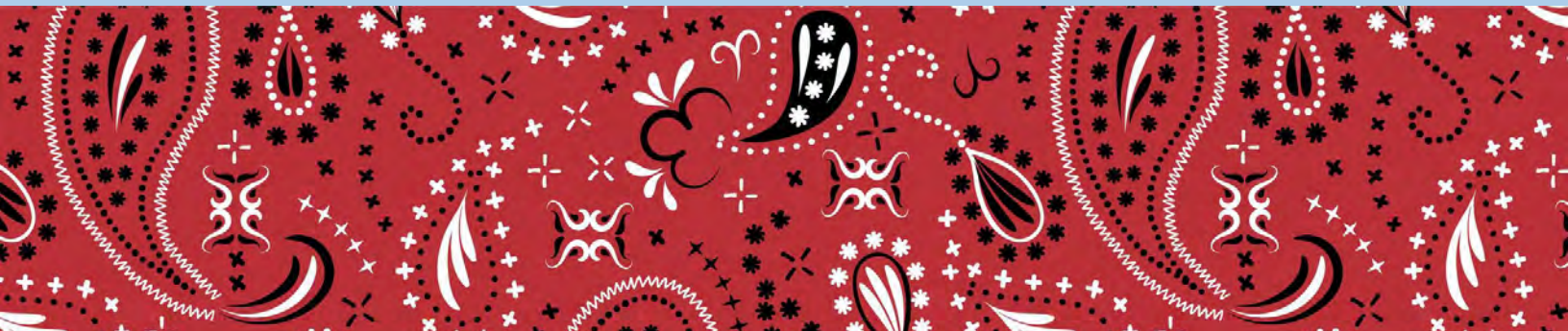


# 10 Years of Service



A decade of unwavering commitment! Your dedication has been a driving force behind our success. You are an invaluable asset to our city. Your experience and knowledge are essential to our continued success. Thank you for your loyalty and hard work.

*~ Tonee Thai, Deputy Community Development Director*



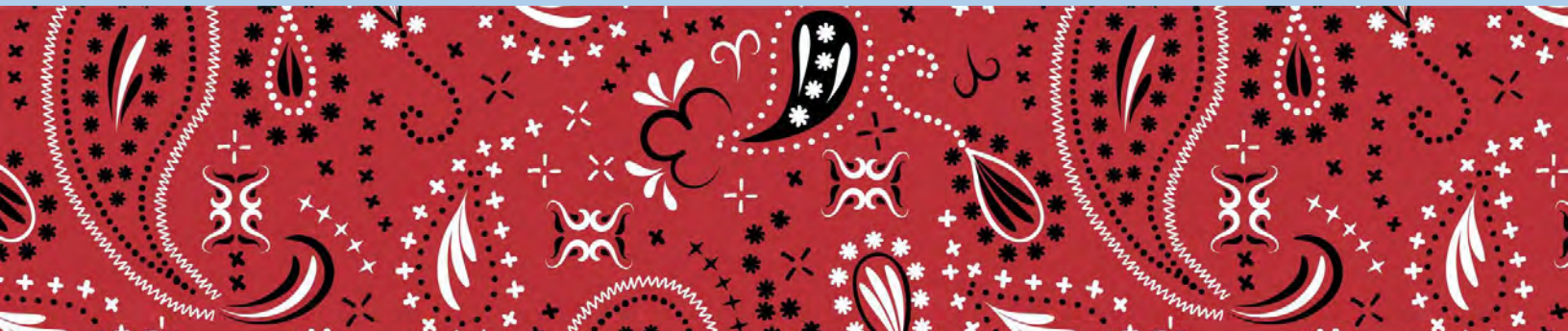
# 10 Years of Service



Donald Chambers  
Travis Cooke  
Benjamin Davis  
Leah Duffy  
Matthew Fear  
Everett Ferer  
Nicholas Gerakos  
Andrew Halloran  
Lucas Heydorff  
Gary Howe

Kenneth Huang  
Gabriel John  
Alexander Johnkins  
Tom Legault  
Zachary Michael  
James Miller  
Bryce Miller  
Connor Miller  
John Miller  
Carrera Mullinax

Jorge Negrete  
Andrew Norton  
Victoria Ortiz  
Daniel Pham  
Christopher Phelan  
Brenden Rafferty  
Theresa Schweitzer  
Damian Shaddow  
Mark Vukojevic  
Andrew Wolf

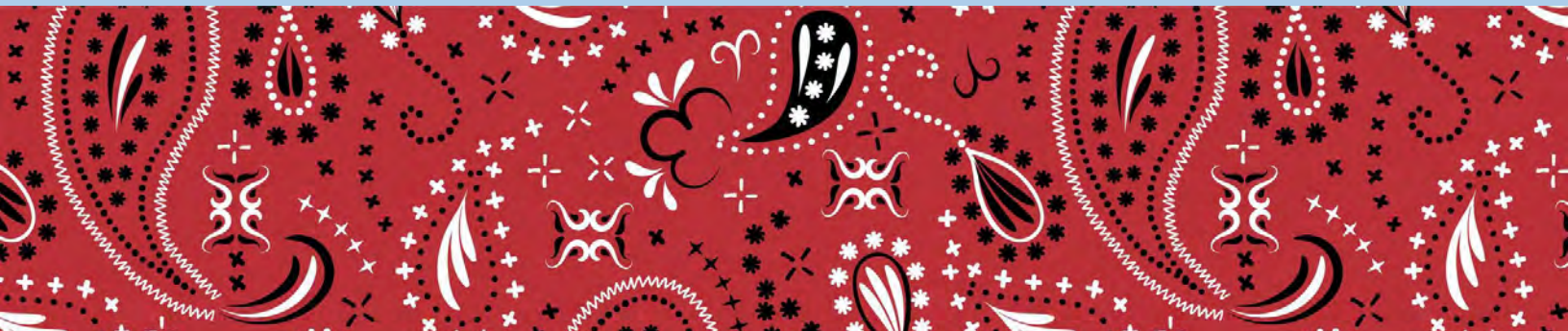


# 15 Years of Service



On behalf of the City and Department Directors, I want to congratulate each of you in the distinguished “15-Year” class of honorees for dedicating a decade and a half to the service of our community. We are a team that works and functions in so many ways to accomplish our mission of providing quality public service. Each of you deserve to be commended for your commitment and expertise to your chosen profession. Most days are about serving others, but today is about recognizing you.

~ Jeff Boyles, Fire Department Chief



# 15 Years of Service



Matthew Anderson

Bryce Anderson

Elizabeth Arciniega

Black Bogin

Mary Craig

John Curry

Adam Gilbert

William Hume

Justin Keene

Rebecca Lightfoot

Christine Maroney

Matthew Peters

Shelley Pricer

Beau Rains

Heather Rangel

Sean Richards

Chris Sanchez

Michael Striek

Tonee Thai

Michael Zaccaro

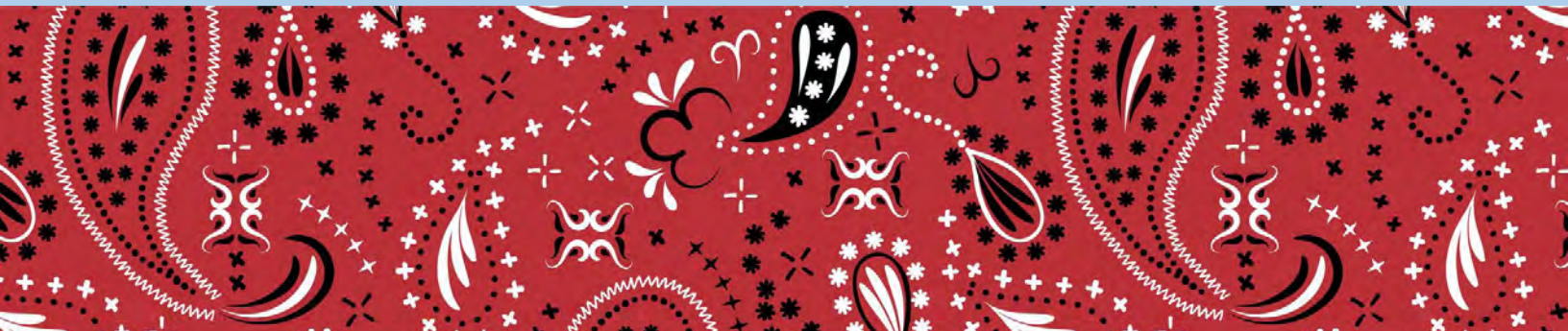


# 20 Years of Service



Twenty years ago, few of you probably could envision yourself in this group of celebrated employees. Back then, 2024 was way into the future. Although the days may have been long, the years have been so short. This City is fortunate to have each of you on our team. Your committed service and dedication to the residents and businesses of Newport Beach deserves much thanks. Congratulations and appreciation to each of you.

*~ Mark Vukojevic, Utilities Director*



# 20 Years of Service



Monica Aguilar

Allen Berger

Dan Campagnolo

Pedro Castillo

Socheata Chhouk

Julie Duncan

Katie Eing

Peter Garcia

Joseph Harrison

Keith Hedenberg

Jason Leftige

Ryan Lindroth

Eric Little

Bryce Madsen

Heather Margulieux

Michael McGill

James Moureaux

Kevin O'Campo

Blanca Olazo

Grant Parsons

Clayton Rinker

Richard Ruffini

Gregory Ruzgerian

Stuart Sherman

Travis Shook

Mark Short

Nicholas Stocks

Jack Turner

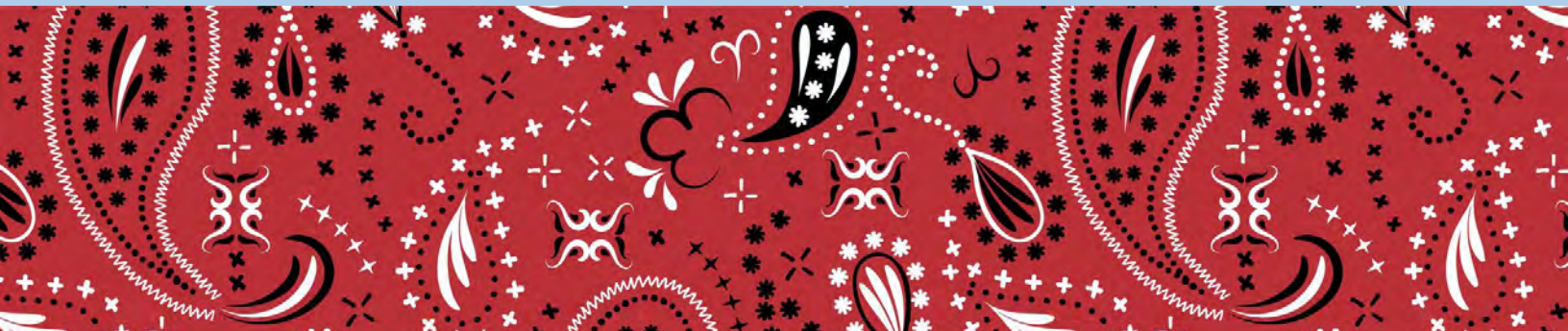


# 25 Years of Service



Congratulations on reaching the remarkable milestone of 25 years of service with the City! Your achievements are a testament to your loyalty, hard work, and passion. Over these many years, your contributions have significantly shaped our success as a team. Mahalo!

~ Avery Maglanti, IT Manager

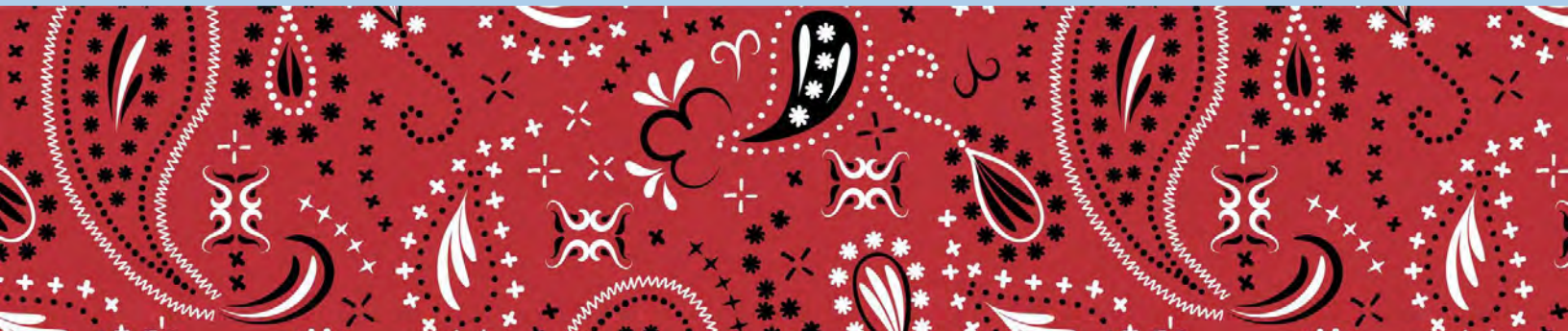


# 25 Years of Service



Peter Belden  
Bryan Bello  
Seanne Carney  
Emily Chiu  
Mark Garman  
Daniel Hill  
Matthew Keyworth  
Richard Knight

Matthew Meyer  
Casey Parks  
Michael Schiavi  
Ryan Stadlman  
Bob Stein  
Brett Sutherland  
Lisa Walters  
Anthony Wilson



# 30 Years of Service



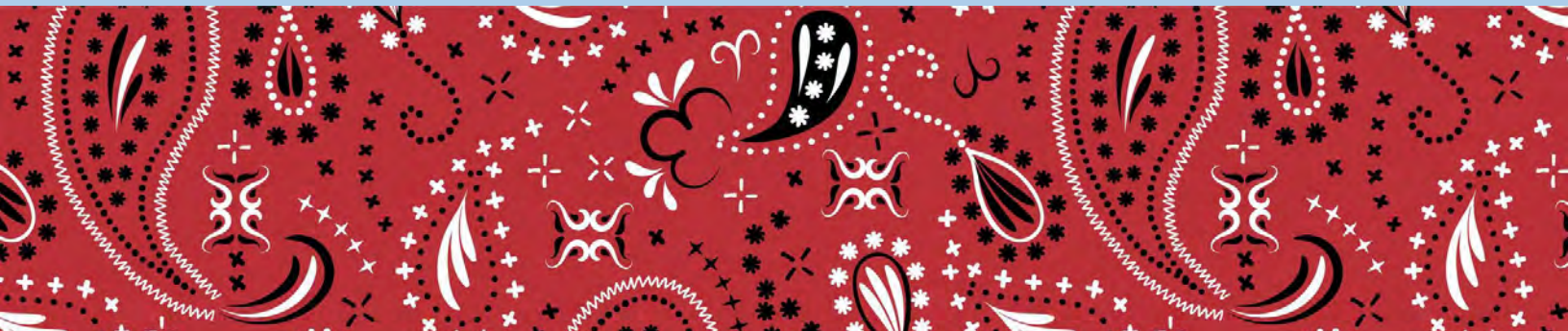
Erin Finnen

Thorsten Hegberg



Toan Van

Mike Wojciechowski



# 30 Years of Service

Erin Finnen

Library Clerk I  
Library Services

Erin has been a dedicated and loyal employee in Library Services for over 30 years. Throughout her tenure, she has demonstrated a strong work ethic, exemplary performance, and a commitment to the City's Core Values.

With her thorough knowledge of procedures and processes, Erin is an invaluable asset to both the Library and the City of Newport Beach.

Aside from being a wonderful employee and coworker, Erin has many interests. She is a world-traveler and has visited five continents and many, many countries throughout.

Erin has been a long-time Anaheim Ducks and Angels fan. She worked at the Laguna Playhouse for many years. Erin has acted as an extra in a few movies; most notably in the film *Breaking 2: Electric Boogaloo*.

Erin graduated from Mater Dei High School and then attended University of California, Irvine. Coincidentally, she loves to read; her favorite genre is fiction.

Congratulations Erin!



# 30 Years of Service

## Thorsten Hegberg

Lifeguard II  
Fire

Thorsten was born in Germany and raised in Oceanside. He is happily married to his wife, Claudia, and has two adult sons: Quinten and Taigen.



Thorsten has paddled the Catalina Channel three times, and most recently was on the USA bodysurfing team, which went to Hawaii for the World Championship.

Thorsten's other hobbies include: surfing, backpacking in the Sierras and spending time in Nicaragua.

He started his career as a lifeguard with the City of Newport Beach in 1994. During his career as a lifeguard, Thorsten taught junior lifeguards for eight seasons and is currently the Vice President of Association of Newport Beach Ocean Lifeguards (ANBOL).



Thorsten enjoys the excitement of being a lifeguard and looks forward to the years to come serving as a lifeguard for the City of Newport Beach.



# 30 Years of Service

Toan Van

Water Quality Coordinator  
Utilities

Toan Van began his career with the City of Newport Beach as a part-time Utilities Aide on February 7, 1994. His dedication and hard work earned him a promotion to full-time Utilities Specialist in 2010. By 2016, he was promoted to his current position as the Water Quality Coordinator.



As the Water Quality Coordinator, Toan is responsible for overseeing the city's drinking water program and the cross-connection program.

These critical programs require him to collaborate with various regulatory agencies, ensuring that all necessary reports are prepared and submitted to maintain compliance. There are many regulations that often change, and Toan does a great job keeping up with them. These responsibilities require him to possess many certifications issued by both the state and county. Toan is a highly valued member of both the Department and the City. His expertise and commitment are instrumental in maintaining the city's high drinking water quality standards.

In his free time, Toan enjoys painting and sketching, surfing, riding his bike, and golfing. One of his most cherished memories is golfing at Pebble Beach with family and friends.



# 30 Years of Service

Michael Wojciechowski

IT Supervisor  
City Manager's Office

Mike is our IT Operations Supervisor, contributing significantly since May 1994 at the age of 24. Starting in the Community Services Department at the Library, Mike has held various titles in the City, including MIS Technician and Senior MIS Specialist. He was promoted to IT Operations Supervisor in 2006, overseeing the daily operations of the City's IT infrastructure and networks.



One of Mike's most remarkable achievements was during the construction of the Central Library, where he designed, specified, and implemented the Library's technology systems, notably bringing the first internet connection to the City.



In his free time, Mike enjoys spending quality time with his wife and three children. He is an outdoor enthusiast who loves surfing, mountain biking, riding motorbikes, and camping. With a career marked by innovation and dedication, Mike continues to enhance the City's technological landscape while balancing his love for family and adventure.



# 35 Years of Service



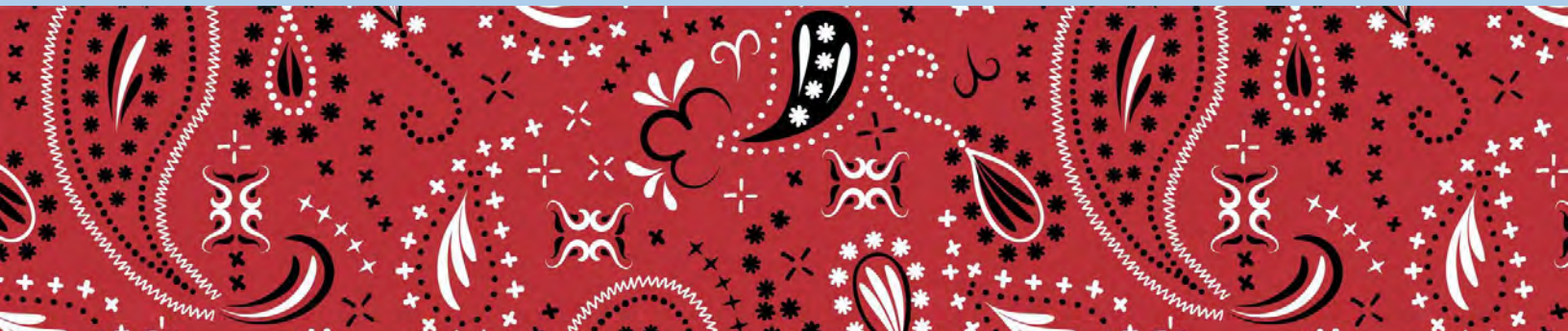
Duc Bui

Edmond  
Derhouanesian



Michael Payne

Janine Williamson

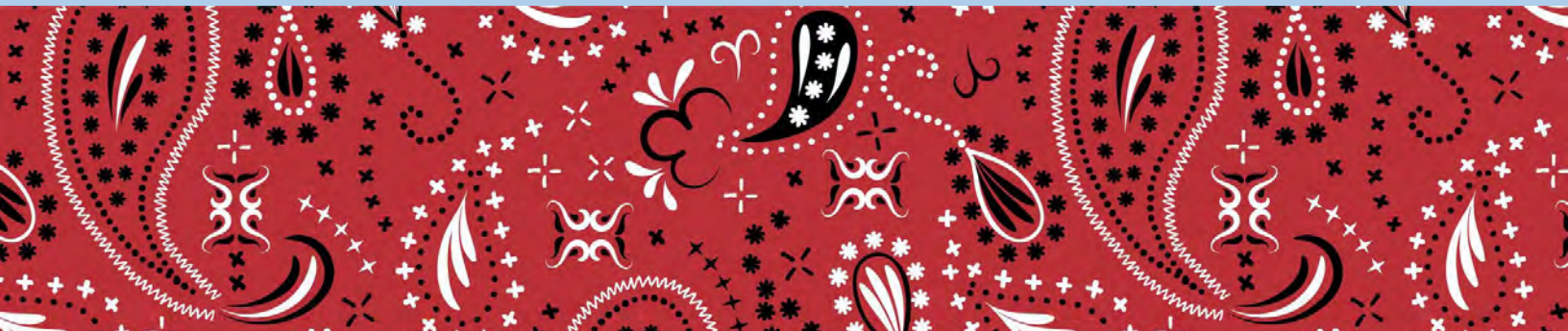


# 35 Years of Service

Duc Bui

Senior Fiscal Clerk  
Finance

If you've ever stopped by Duc's desk, you can't miss his collection of rubber ducks. This collection is not of his own doing but from fellow employees who have thought about Duc in their travels and brought back a festive rubber ducky for him. This is just the one example of Duc's impression, relationships, and level of service he has with his coworkers over his years in Newport Beach. He has made many lifelong friends at the City and keeps in touch with many that have since retired. Duc has worked 35 years, all in the Finance Department, holding positions in accounts payable, payroll, mailroom, and currently oversees the central warehouse. One of his most recent accomplishments was assisting the Fire Department in establishing the EMS warehouse. This project was years in the making, and Duc played an integral role in setting it up for success. In his spare time, you will find Duc spending time with his wife and two children. He loves going to the movies with his son and traveling to new places, like skiing for the first time this past year in Brian Head. Duc also enjoys Popeye's Chicken on Tuesdays and making coffee every morning for his wife, even though he is not a coffee drinker. Duc loves the outdoors and spending time tending to his garden. But his guiltiest pleasure of all is the Korean dramas! Thank you, Duc for your hardworking, dedicated, easy going attitude. We are all so thankful to know you and work with you!



# 35 Years of Service

## Edmond Derhovanesian

### Equipment Mechanic I Public Works

Edmond Derhovanesian is a dedicated and highly skilled professional and is being recognized for an impressive 35 years of exemplary service with the City of Newport Beach.

He started his career with the City as an Equipment Service Worker in 1989 and was promoted to Equipment Mechanic in 1995. Throughout his career in Fleet Maintenance, Ed has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to excellence and a profound dedication to his work. Ed's colleagues and supervisors have consistently praised his technical expertise, reliability, and willingness to mentor and support fellow team members.



Ed's professional success is complemented by a rich and fulfilling personal life; he has been happily married to his wife Jasmene for 43 years, and together they have raised two wonderful children: a son, Jason, and a daughter, Jennifer. Ed is also a proud grandfather to three beautiful granddaughters: Amara, 4 years old, Zara, 10 months old, and Lily, 9 months old.

Ed has a personal passion for teaching Martial Arts. As a 3rd-degree black belt, he finds great joy in teaching self-defense classes, sharing his knowledge and skills with others. Ed is also a licensed phlebotomist. For 15 years, he worked at Irvine Regional Hospital and Mission Hospital in Laguna Beach, demonstrating his versatility and dedication to helping others in the medical field.



# 35 Years of Service

Michael Payne

Library Clerk I  
Library Services

Mike has been working part-time at the Library for 35 years, which he finds a little mathematically problematic; does that equate to somewhere between 17 and 18 full-time years?



Mike began working for the City before the Library had its first security system, before any of the books had barcodes, before library computers had been installed. During his tenure, Mike's seen three of the four library buildings completely rebuilt, and he's hoping to be here to see the fourth one's revitalization as well.

Mike has had half a dozen novels published; three of which you can check out from the Library. He has sold another four or five dozen short stories to science fiction and fantasy magazines, has posted more than 5,000 pages of comics he's written and drawn to various websites, and put out a book containing the 443 daily poems he wrote while the Library and branches were closed to the public during the pandemic.



So, that might explain why Mike has kept the "part-time" thing going for so long!



# 35 Years of Service

## Janine Williamson

### Fiscal Specialist Finance

Janine has been a valued member of the City of Newport Beach team since January 1989, dedicating her career within the Finance Department. In the beginning, computers were uncommon, and everything was done manually by paper records and handwritten receipts, which is hard to imagine today! She has witnessed the introduction of technology and was part of the implementation of Community Plus and the integration of Tyler Munis.



Throughout her service, Janine has advanced to the position of Fiscal Specialist in Revenue. She has handled a variety of responsibilities, including cashiering, hearings, revenue budget forecasting, cost allocation and fee study, and providing excellent customer service. Currently, Janine oversees Parking Operations. In this role, she has achieved many successes, such as a parking contract administrator, multiple pay-by-cell vendors, purchase of new license plate recognition equipment, and managing parking and permit activities. Janine collaborates with other departments on general parking issues and coordinates parking needs for various construction projects within the City.

Outside of work Janine is a dedicated mother to three young adults. She has proudly raised her children in Costa Mesa and enjoys spending her spare time gardening and traveling. During her 35 years with Newport Beach, Janine has been a huge part of the Finance Department's growth and success. Her hard work and dedication have made a positive impact on the City of Newport Beach.



# Dorothy Palen Award

## About the Award

After 47 years of dedicated service to the City of Newport Beach, Dorothy Palen retired in 1993 from the City's Finance Department. Every year since her retirement, a Newport Beach City employee who best exemplifies the characteristics of Dorothy Palen has been selected as Employee of the Year.

## Nomination Criteria

- **Cooperation:** Accomplishes his/her job tasks and establishes cooperative working relationships with other City employees and customers.
- **Dependability:** Demonstrates that he/she is reliable, trustworthy and dependable.
- **Integrity:** Shows his/her commitment to the ethical code that reflects the values of the organization.
- **Initiative:** Is a self-starter who is willing to originate action without instruction and/or has introduced new ideas to improve job processes or customer service.
- **Judgment:** Exhibits the ability to perceive, distinguish, evaluate, and form sound opinions after due consideration and deliberation.



# Dorothy Palen Award

## 2024 Top 5 Finalists



**Duc Bui**  
Senior Fiscal Clerk



**Gary Clemente**  
Police Lieutenant



**Cassandra Hawks**  
Records Specialist



**Nicholas Ott**  
Senior Animal Control Officer



**Ryan Stadlman**  
Senior GIS Analyst



# Door Prize Donors

Thank you!

## City Departments

City Clerk's Office  
City Manager's Office  
Community Development  
Fire and Firefighters Association  
Harbor  
Library Services  
Police  
Public Works  
Utilities

## Outside Donors

**BOXHAUS**<sup>®</sup>

**curl FITNESS**<sup>®</sup>



**VEA**

NEWPORT BEACH  
A MARRIOTT RESORT & SPA



# Special Thanks

Thank you!

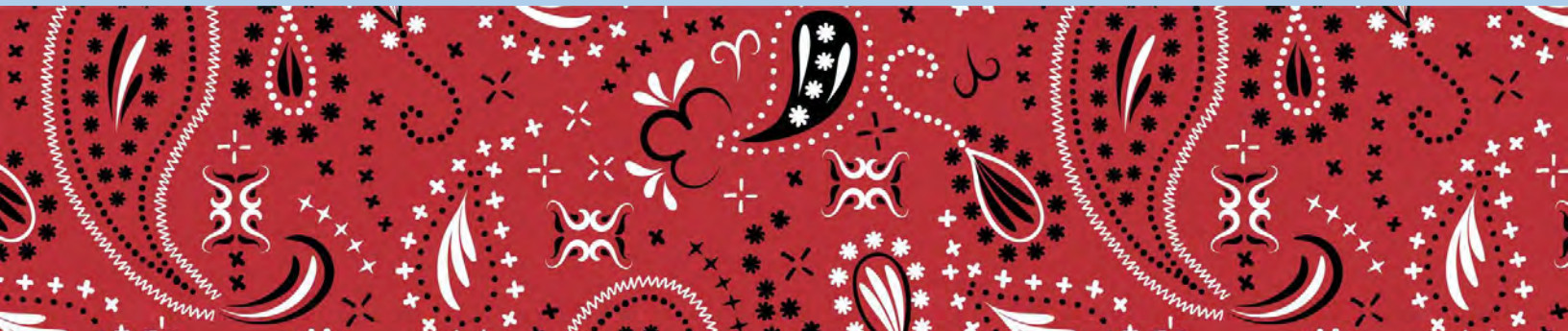
**Steve Rosansky**

President and CEO

Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce



To all the City of Newport  
Beach employees, thank you  
for all that you do!



# 2024 Committee



## Co-Chairs

Melissa Hartson, John Pope

## Committee Members

Anthony Alannouf

Kyle Aube

Brandy Banks

Cherise Bloom

Marlene Burns

Alondra Cruz

Tawny DeAnda

Maddy Gallardo

Cassandra Hawks

Andy Hayes

Francine Jacome

William Kresan

Bella Marler-Mulvenna

Savannah Martinez

Jonathan Muñoz

Erika Nilsson

Jeremy Rodriguez

Cynthia Shintaku

Felipe Soto

Charles Springer

Pat Rusas

Shane Webber

