

Lawndale Tribune

AND LAWNDALE NEWS

The Weekly Newspaper of Lawndale

Herald Publications - Inglewood, Hawthorne, Lawndale, El Segundo, Torrance & Manhattan Beach Community Newspapers Since 1911 - Circulation 30,000 - Readership 60,000 (310) 322-1830 - January 14, 2016

Inside This Issue

Certified & Licensed Professionals	4
Classifieds	3
Food	4
Hawthorne Happenings ...	2
Legals	6-7
Looking Up	7
Police Reports	3
Seniors	6
Sports	5

Lawndale Elementary Gets Tech



Jimmy Bonilla, 11, shows off his new Sqord.



Pupil enters data to program her Sqord.

Providence Health & Services is teaming with a startup called Sqord to encourage kids to get out and exercise. As children returned to three Lawndale Elementary School District campuses this week after winter break, Providence equipped some 300 fifth-graders at three campuses with Sqord's kid-proof wrist gear that provides an activity tracker, online games and a kid-safe social media app designed to encourage kids to spend more time in active, physical play. Photo provided by Providence Health.

Alex Monteiro Re-Joins City Council Vacancy Candidate List, Residents Plead For Local Hospital

By Derrick Deane

It has been a while since the Hawthorne City Council has had a chance to go through the various city resolutions and needs. With a potential special election to fill a vacant seat on the council still looming, the City Council put that matter aside for a week to a few local issues in an abbreviated 90 minute meeting, Tuesday.

Before the council could dive into those matters, Alex Monteiro, who had withdrawn himself from the pool of candidates for the seat addressed the council to say, "upon my withdraw last week, I received hundreds of phone calls and messages from Hawthorne citizens to inquire as to why I had made that decision."

"I was overwhelmed by the positive feedback and encouragement regarding the years of service I have dedicated to the Hawthorne community," Monteiro continued. "I listened and after careful consideration have decided to ask [the City Council] to reconsider my application to fill the City Council vacancy."

Monteiro, the president of the Hawthorne School District school board admitted that he was going back on his original statement from last week, but said he did so in the best interest of the community.

"I'm not a man that goes back on my word," Monteiro continued. "I guided by my dedication to the education of the Hawthorne youth. It is at the same time that I desire for my community to continue succeed and improve that leads me to every single time there is a meeting here."

Another concern that came up during the public speaking portion of the meeting was the need for better ambulance and hospital services in the city.

City Council candidate Francis Stiglich has spent the past month urging the council to bring a hospital to the city.

"We're located right near the airport. If we have an earthquake or something big, I don't know where we would go," the 97-year-old Stiglich said. "I don't care about my life, I'm old enough to go any day, but I care about these kids."

Stiglich says she spent the recent football season asking parents what hospital their kids would be taken if they happened to get injured. She says that no one really knew.

She said that she would campaign to bring the Mayo Clinic to the city, saying that, "I'm from a small town in Minnesota. We had problems with getting a hospital and [the Mayo Clinic] came in and they fixed it all up."

Meanwhile, resident Kaya Lorlaman spoke about two medical issues regarding ambulances in the city. First, she talked about how she had to call an ambulance for her husband during the holidays. She said that while her husband gets his care at the Veterans Affairs hospital in West Los Angeles, the ambulances weren't able to transport them there.

"Unfortunately, when the paramedics arrived, they told us were not allowed to deliver any patients to the VA hospital and they have to go to the closest hospital," Lorlaman said. "They gave us a choice between Centinela and Little Company of Mary."

Lorlaman said in that circumstance, they decided to go to Little Company of Mary. She says that given the holiday traffic, it took "considerably longer" to get there than go to the VA hospital in West L.A.

"In the case of veterans who get all of their care and have all of their doctors and medical records at the VA hospital, taking them to that hospital which would be faster to get to and have all of those resources available makes more sense to me than going to a civilian hospital where they have no idea who he is or what treatment or any of the medical stuff

that he needs," Lorlaman said.

Lorlaman asked the Council to find out why ambulances are not allowed to take people to the VA Hospital. Mayor Alex Vargas later asked Interim City Manager Arnie Shadbehrr to look into the matter by contacting the Los Angeles Fire Department.

In other city related issues, the Council approved the second payment of \$170,975 or Measure R grant funds to continue the widening and traffic signal modification of three intersections – Inglewood Avenue at El Segundo Boulevard, Crenshaw Boulevard at Rocket Road, and Crenshaw Boulevard at Jack Northrop Avenue. The project will continue on throughout the first part of 2016.

Vargas also requested to re-enact Chapter 17.21 of the Housing Municipal Code that focuses on the design and development of residential and commercial buildings in the city.

"Basically I would like the City Manager and City Attorney to consider putting together a design review board that is made up of professionals within the city of Hawthorne for future development here within the city," Vargas said.

When asked by Councilwoman Angie Reyes English about why there was a need for this when the Planning Commission already exists, Vargas answered that, "based on some limitations in regards to state code and protocol, the Planning Commission can't do certain things."

"This might be an alternate solution to giving ourselves some oversight," Vargas added.

There will be a public hearing regarding the matter at the next regular council meeting scheduled for January 26.

A third matter regarding a moratorium on high density apartments and mixed use projects in the city was tabled since Councilman Nilo Michelin, who was set to present the discussion item was not in attendance. •

Weekend Forecast

Friday
Partly
Cloudy
62°/50°



Saturday
Partly
Cloudy
67°/51°



Sunday
Partly
Cloudy
67°/52°



School Uniform Policies Approved For Five Hawthorne Campuses

By Cristian Vasquez

For several years half of the schools in the Hawthorne School District have required their students to wear a school uniform. Thanks to the school board's approval of five resolutions to implement school-wide uniform policies, as of Thursday, Jan. 7 the remaining schools will have their students dressed in new and matching attire.

The approved resolutions were for Kornblum Elementary School, Ramona Elementary School, Bud Carson Middle School, Hawthorne Middle School and Prairie Vista Middle School.

"When you try to implement a school uniform, you have to give at least a six months notice to families but we actually gave them a year," Hawthorne School Board member Luciano Aguilar said. "We wanted to give them [families] every opportunity to learn about it [uniform policy], to tell us what they thought about it and the majority of them supported it."

Families from the affected schools were invited to share their thoughts, comments and concerns at any of the 16 presentations

hosted by district officials to discuss the uniform policy. Board members share that there was overall support expressed by the parents attending the public hearings and among the reasons mentioned for wanting the uniform policy implemented were safety.

"It helps in being able to recognize who is

during school hours.

"You also limit the gang attire and that type of stuff," Aguilar said. "We do have kids that are getting older and we want our kids to identify more with their school."

However, there was opposition to the uniform policy by some parents who cited

"It helps in being able to recognize who is whom, so when you go onto a school site you would immediately know who is supposed to be there and who is not supposed to be there."

whom, so when you go onto a school site you would immediately know who is supposed to be there and who is not supposed to be there," Aguilar said. "I have spoken to some police officers that shared that they are able to better recognize the kids that are in our high school."

The uniform policies are also expected to have an impact outside of the schools with regards to safety since they will also help to identify any students out on the street

the financial burden it would impose on them, while other parents considered that the uniform policy was a hindrance to their child's individuality and ability to express themselves via fashion.

"We covered the price issues by making it available to them [parents] to obtain uniforms by filling out an application from the school district," Aguilar said. "We would give them assistance by providing a few uniforms for them to help cut the cost."

Each school has been able to determine the color of the uniform for its student population through the use of their own school site committee, which is made up of teachers, parents, administrators and students.

"The uniforms include a solid color collared shirt with a twill fabric bottom," Dr. Helen Morgan shared through her Message from the Superintendent on the district website. "In an attempt to make the acquisition of uniforms as simple as possible we have kept the requirements very basic."

It took a little more than a year but now that the resolutions have been approved and the policies put into effect, district officials are happy that every district school has its kids in uniform.

"We want to build a culture and want everyone to look at all of our schools the way that they look at our charter school," Aguilar said. "We had to give everybody ample opportunity to speak their mind and tell us what they thought about it, that is why we had so many meetings and that is why it took so long; by law we can't just come in and say it is changing tomorrow." •



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El Niño

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Be Prepared, Stay Informed

10 Ways to Weather El Niño

- 1. Create an emergency kit,** today! If you've already got an emergency kit prepared, check it regularly.
- 2. Check your car.** Make sure your car's tires have good tread and that your windshield wipers work well. Your headlights should always be on in the rain!
- 3. Check your house.** Clear your outdoor drains and gutters of any leaves, dirt or debris. Secure trash, recycling bins and any other items that have the potential of blowing or floating away. Have weakened trees inspected by an arborist.
- 4. Got flood insurance?** Consider purchasing flood insurance. Keep in mind, most flood policies have a 30-day waiting period.
- 5. Use sandbags.** Sandbags can be utilized to help protect your home and property before a storm.
- 6. Don't risk your life.** During significant storm events, avoid waterways, flood control channels and the ocean, which can all

rapidly swell and become extremely dangerous. NO PLACE outside is safe when lightning is in the area!

- 7. Have Emergency Alerts sent to your mobile phone and email.** Register at lacounty.gov/emergency, or simply search "Alert LA County" on the web.
- 8. Download "The Works,"** LA County's FREE app for iPhone and Android, to report storm-related problems.
- 9. Prevent stormwater pollution.** Rain washes everything into storm drains that lead to our rivers and ocean. Secure household hazardous waste with tight-fitting lids and store these items in covered areas.
- 10. Capture rainwater.** Prepare your landscaped areas to capture and retain more water by using compost. Collect rain that falls on your roof by installing rain barrels.

