

# El Segundo Herald

The Weekly Newspaper of El Segundo

Herald Publications - El Segundo, Manhattan Beach, Hawthorne, Lawndale, & Inglewood Community Newspapers Since 1911 - Circulation 30,000 - Readership 60,000 (310) 322-1830 Vol. 101, No. 25 - June 18, 2009

## City Council Recap: School Filming Fate Still Up in the Air

By Brian Simon

School district hopes to gain additional filming-related revenue are in limbo for now, as the El Segundo City Council on Tuesday night did not move forward with proposed revisions to the local filming ordinance that would have allowed another 20 production days per calendar year. By a 3-1 vote (with Councilmember Don Brann dissenting and Mayor Pro Tem Eric Busch abstaining because he works for a major motion picture company), the Council instead opted to schedule a special one-time meeting with all interested stakeholders to try to resolve the matter once and for all.

Said filming ordinance, adopted in October, 2008 and hailed as a model for other cities, currently limits local filming at a given site to 20 total days over a 12-month period. But last month, El Segundo Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Geoff Yantz asked the Council for 10 additional filming days at El Segundo High School, noting that the campus had already used up its 20-day allotment and could not generate any additional film-related revenue until November 2009. "The need for alternative sources of revenues has never been greater and the ordinance's restrictions will have a significant and negative impact on the quality of education at El Segundo High School for years to come," said Yantz at the time.

To address the issue, a subcommittee comprised of Mayor Kelly McDowell and Councilmember Bill Fisher met on two occasions and came up with the following proposed revisions to the ordinance:

--Increase the number of filming days from 20 to 40 (provided there are no protests received within the proximity of the location). Forty days was actually the District's original request.

--Impose no limits on "non-impact" filming days. (If noise, sound and lights are not detectable to surrounding properties, then those won't count as filming days).

--Move back the production crew wrap-up time from 10 p.m. to 9 p.m.

--Do not allow any filming on weekends.

--Restrict filming at Library Park (because it could take away from school filming days due to a potential overlap of affected residents).

--Assign a "film monitor" to be on-site in order to ensure there are no violations.

--Enforce a "code of conduct" that requires crews to use quieter equipment, among other guidelines.

The Council's ability to vote on the matter in a timely matter became somewhat complicated when it was revealed that the City neglected to provide the California Film Commission with the required 30 days written notice of the proposed revisions. But with the cancellation of its July 7 meeting, the Council could have at least introduced the item on Tuesday and then waited until July 21 to officially act on it in order to be in compliance with the timeline. Fisher hoped

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## Girls Softball U14 All-stars



ESGSU14 All-stars of this year have won the first two very tough tournaments they entered: the La Mirada Memorial Day Tournament and the Torrance Summer Tournament (May 30-31). They have earned 10 victories in 11 games. Back Row: Coach Jack Siadek, Savannah Rose, Anna Farello, Charlotte Hingley, Amy Roach, Coach Brett Palmer, Linnea Palmer, Mandi Yamada, Coach Manny Quintero. Middle Row: Samantha Ruiz, Rochelle Ragan, and Maleigha Quintero. Bottom Row: Chelsea Johnson, Amanda Siadek, and Lauren Thomas. Photo by Mike Rose.

## "Disastrous" Designs

By Brian Simon

Quick, which of these pairs match? Fire departments and defibrillators? Fire departments and CPR training? Fire departments and emergency response classes? Fire departments and art projects?

If you answered "all of the above," you'd be absolutely correct. Even though art and public safety don't seem to have much in common at first glance, a unique collaboration between the El Segundo Fire Department and the Otis College of Art and Design has made for a particularly potent combination.

Based in nearby Westchester, Otis also houses its Graduate Fine Arts Studio in El Segundo and the college has been in continued talks with the City of El Segundo to move its headquarters here. Last year, Otis Integrated Learning instructor Christopher Michlig approached El Segundo Fire Chief Kevin Smith about a potential partnership. Integrated Learning, a relatively new department within the college, gives students the opportunity to "work in trans-disciplinary teams in tandem with a community and/or corporate partner" and to "focus on team building, researching and addressing the needs of their partners as well as implementing real world solutions when possible."

After partnering with Mayor Kelly McDowell's office during the first run of the course, Michlig and his students thought it a logical next step to work with the Fire Department. "Their day-to-day operation dealt with exactly the type of issues central to the course," said Michlig. "Luckily, Chief Smith was extremely enthusiastic about the engagement between the students and his personnel, and he very generously and graciously opened up the Fire Department to the course. As a site partner, the El Segundo Fire Department played a supportive role by providing access to privileged information, resources and personnel."

The second course completed last month was entitled "Collaborating with Catastrophe: Disaster Design." Comprised of 15 students culled from each major (fine arts, digital media, toy design, architecture, landscape and interiors, communication arts, etc.), the class met for three hours at a time once a week over a 15-week period. Class time split between research, presentations, lectures, site visits, guest speakers, in-class studio work and project development.

The goal of the class was for students to create designs addressing the needs of firefighters or the public in the event of a disaster. To facilitate their research, students visited local fire stations on a weekly basis, interacted with firefighters, examined fire

equipment, and asked detailed questions about various operating procedures. Along the way, they developed original concepts for projects they felt could be beneficial in real world applications. As part of the partnership, several firefighters also stopped by the college to provide feedback to the students on the projects.

According to Smith, the end result was eye-opening. "At the end of the semester, the students made presentations to the rest of the student group, the faculty and myself, and I found the collaboration to be amazing in terms of what these students developed," he said. "Although the presented projects were conceptual and would need someone like a

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## El Segundo Fish Co. Makes Splash for local Schools

By Jesse Blake McCann

Customers who walk into the El Segundo Fish Company today are greeted by nets, fishing rods and a mounted marlin on the wall, along with barrels full of peanuts (for voracious diners to scoop up with little bowls) and paper tablecloths with crayons on hand (for the eater with artistic leanings). And last week, this unique and five-year-old seafood restaurant cast out its nets to the community in hopes of catching donations for the El Segundo Education Foundation.

All profits made last Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. went toward the foundation. But that's not all. Owner Allen Shadgoo pledged an additional 20 percent

of the profits from his own pockets. In other words, 120 percent of the profits from those eight hours were donated to the ESEF! Shadgoo knows how to put the wind in his business sails. "I've been in the food industry for a long time, and I know that helping the community is a big part of keeping a business healthy," he said.

Shadgoo has been in the food industry for 18 years. He operates a banquet and catering facility with his family in West Los Angeles. He bought El Segundo Fish Co. three years ago. He really liked the city and wanted to be a part of it; that's why he purchased the seafood restaurant,

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