

City of Garden Grove
WEEKLY CITY MANAGER'S MEMO
March 21, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members FROM: Lisa Kim, City Manager

I. DEPARTMENT ITEMS

A. COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

A memo to update the City Council about the city-wide special event, Art in the Park is attached.

B. COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

A memo to update the City Council about the current plans of the 2023-2024 and goals for the 2024-2025 Garden Grove Teen Action Collaboration (GGTAC).

• **OTHER ITEMS**

– SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Copies of the week's social media posts and local newspaper articles are attached for your information.

– MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Items of interest are included.



Lisa Kim
City Manager

City of Garden Grove
INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

To: Lisa L. Kim
From: John Montanez
Dept.: City Manager
Dept.: Community Services
Subject: 2024 Art in the Park
Date: March 21, 2024

OBJECTIVE

To update the City Council about the city-wide special event, Art in the Park, that was held on Saturday, March 9, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Village Green Park.

BACKGROUND

The 'Art in the Park' event is part of the City's continuing efforts to brand and identify Garden Grove's iconic Downtown, while promoting the Re:Imagine Garden Grove mission of bringing more art to the community; the GGUSD shares a similar goal, which is to continue to elevate its arts presence and distinction within Orange County, by showcasing the award-winning artistic talents of K-12th grade art students.

DISCUSSION

The City of Garden Grove, in collaboration with the Garden Grove Unified School District (GGUSD), transformed Village Green Park into an outdoor, interactive art festival for the 6th Annual Art in the Park. The community was invited via the City's many social media platforms, as well as a GGTV3 promotion which aired on KCAL TV. Attendance at the event was an estimated 2,500 people.

Event activities included the Art Car, an opportunity to paint on a classic car transformed into a blank canvas; a Giant Games Playground promoting the City's Camp Grove Day Camp program; a paint a tiny clay pot, then plant a baby succulent booth; a LEGO® Creation Station; ceramics demos and ukulele lessons led by Garden Grove Unified School District teachers and students from Rancho Alamitos High School and La Quinta High School; and a 40' x 60' Paint and Sip tent, which offered pre-paid guests an outdoor painting experience. This class was led by famed Orange County muralist, Melissa Murphy, and featured non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages. Additionally, the City partnered with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Garden Grove, which created a magical masks art activity; and the City's planning division curated a booth showcasing renderings for the Civic Center Park Revitalization Project, with opportunities for event goers to share their feedback via colored leaves that attached to a tabletop tree.

The Art in the Park event also featured live musical performances from GGUSD students, as well as temporary art installations, including a 50-foot long, by 6-foot tall, "RE:IMAGINE" banner along with 20 oversized 8-foot tall easels, displaying GGUSD student artwork.

2024 Art in the Park

March 21, 2024

Page 2

Additionally, GGUSD held their annual Awards Ceremony and First Impressions Student Art Exhibit at the Community Meeting Center and the Courtyard Center respectively. Over 1,000 students and families attended the District's awards ceremony at the Community Meeting Center, in two separate sessions, before making their way to Village Green Park to enjoy the First Impressions Student Art Exhibit and Art in the Park festivities. The exhibit showcases artwork from Pre-K through 12th grade students from across the district.

The Art Exhibit's opening day was Saturday, March 9, and it remained open to the public the week of March 11 through March 14, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

SUMMARY

The 6th annual Art in the Park event, held in collaboration with GGUSD, was held on Saturday, March 9, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Village Green Park. This free event showcased a wide variety of artistic works produced by local artists as well as GGUSD student artwork.



JOHN MONTANCHEZ

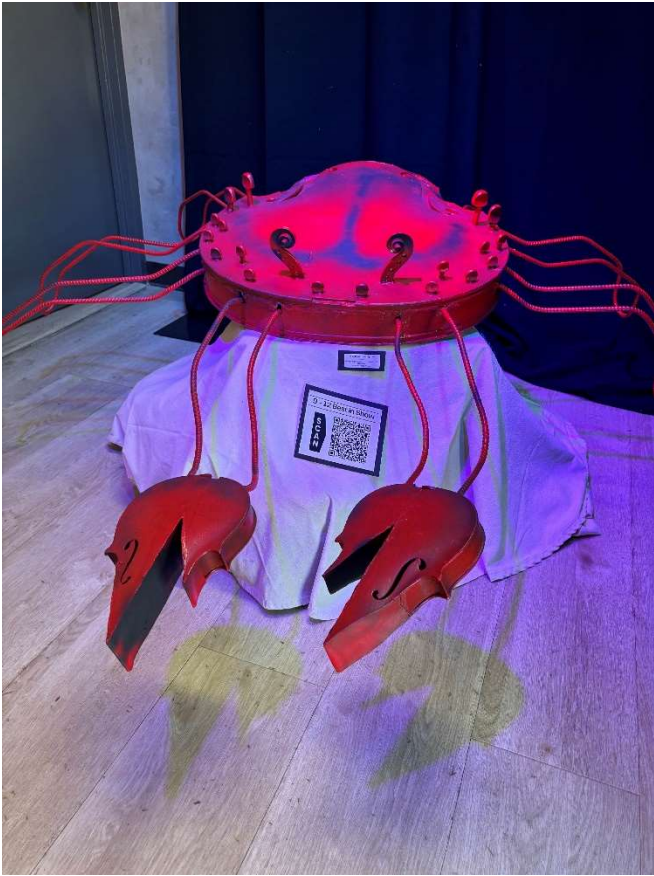
Community Services Director

Mark Freeman

By: Mark Freeman

Community Services Manager

Attachments: 2024 GGUSD First Impressions Art Gallery Photos



GGUSD First Impressions Art Gallery 2024
at the Courtyard Center





GGUSD First Impressions Art Gallery 2024 at the Courtyard Center





City of Garden Grove
INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

To: Lisa L. Kim
Dept.: City Manager
Subject: Garden Grove Teen Action Collaborative (GGTAC) Update

From: John Montanez
Dept.: Community Services
Date: March 21, 2024

OBJECTIVE

To update the City Council about the current plans of the 2023-2024 and goals for the 2024-2025 Garden Grove Teen Action Collaborative (GGTAC).

BACKGROUND

The Garden Grove Teen Action Collaborative (GGTAC) was established in 2021 in response to a directive from the City Council to increase the involvement of local teenagers in volunteer activities and create a youth leadership program that spans across the city. The mission of the GGTAC is to connect Garden Grove teens to their community and peers while providing them with opportunities to advance their future.

During the 2023-2024 school year, GGTAC had a forty four percent (44%) increase in enrollment, with an average of 40-45 teens (ages 13-17) now actively participating from September to May. Throughout the year, the teens were given opportunities to volunteer at various City events and hear from guest speakers on a monthly basis. Additionally, GGTAC has established more partnerships with local non-profit organizations and logged over 390 volunteer hours in the 2023-2024 program, with an additional 110 volunteer hours to be completed at the Art in the Park and Eggscavation events.

DISCUSSION

In efforts to increase teen participation for the 2024-2025 school year, Community Services plans on marketing the GGTAC program by working with all Garden Grove High Schools, distributing flyers at every City facility, using social media boosts to reach all Garden Grove teens including homeschooled Garden Grove students, invite all AVID teachers to the first meeting, add a Peach Jar announcement, and to attend high school Back to School nights.

The goals for the GGTAC program is to give the teens 1-2 volunteer events per month with City events and with our partner agencies. Some of those events will include Eggscavation, Jack O' Lantern Jamboree, and Winter in the Grove. Outside partnership volunteer opportunity goals will be to work with Jingle Jam, OC Food Bank, Boys & Girls Clubs, Bracken's Kitchen, Sister City Association of Garden Grove, Assistance League of Garden Grove, and the Bolsa Chica Conservancy.

During the 2023-2024 program, a survey was sent to participating teens, inquiring about their preferences for guest speakers and topics. The most requested topics were:

- Medical careers in nursing, therapy and pharmaceutical
- Graphics
- Game Design
- Fashion Design and Merchandising
- Interior and Landscape Design
- Engineering

Community Services aims to invite a variety of speakers in response to the survey. These may include the City's Graphics division, as well as career specialists from Concorde Career College, Interior Design Institute, and Boeing.

Lastly, the GGTAC calendar year will end on May 16, 2024, with an Awards Ceremony, with City Council and Garden Grove Community Foundation (GGCF) Board Members invited to participate and hand out service recognitions to the top teen volunteers, along with announcing the winners of the Garden Grove Community Foundation-sponsored 1st annual GGTAC Scholarship program.

SUMMARY

With the goal being to significantly increase teen participation for the 2024-2025 year of the GGTAC, Community Services will: (1) expand marketing efforts at middle and high schools within the Garden Grove Unified School District (GGUSD), (2) improve partnerships with local and County-based service clubs and non-profit groups to offer more volunteer opportunities to the teen participants, (3) secure monthly guest speakers with more varied career paths, (4) find a sponsor for the GGTAC scholarship, and (5) host a Teen Leadership Summit with established partners.

The Community Services Department is committed to expanding the GGTAC program and partnering with other Garden Grove-based organizations to create a more significant youth leadership network. Our goal is to provide teenagers in the city with opportunities to grow and gain valuable life experiences.



JOHN MONTANCHEZ
Community Services Director

Mark Freeman

By: Mark Freeman
Community Services Manager

WEEKLY MEMO 03-21-2024

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Post Performance

March 14, 2024 - March 20, 2024




Review the lifetime performance of the posts you published during the publishing period.









Included in this Report







 @CityGardenGrove

 Garden Grove City Hall

 gardengrovecityhall

Post	Published Date	Impressions	Average Reach per Post	Potential Reach per Post	Engagement Rate (per Impression)	Engagements	Reactions	Comments	Shares
 Garden Grove City Hall  ⭐ On Tuesday, the #GardenGrove City Council recognized the St. Columban... Post	Fri, Mar 15, 2024 5:00 pm PDT	2,328	2,216	N/A	9.1%	213	56	0	0
 gardengrovecityhall  🍌🚜 Magnolia Park's playground is getting a farm-tastic makeover! From the ne... Post	Mon, Mar 18, 2024 4:55 pm PDT	2,425	2,027	N/A	8.6%	208	163	13	—
 gardengrovecityhall  Are you a Garden Grove resident graduating from a college or university this yea... Post	Tue, Mar 19, 2024 4:27 pm PDT	1,881	1,632	N/A	4%	76	70	3	—
 Garden Grove City Hall  🍌🚜 Magnolia Park's playground is getting a farm-tastic makeover! From the ne... Post	Mon, Mar 18, 2024 4:42 pm PDT	1,299	1,288	N/A	31.5%	409	32	0	0

Post	Published Date	Impressions	Average Reach per Post ▼	Average Potential Reach per Post	Engagement Rate (per Impression)	Engagements	Reactions	Comments	Shares
 gardengrovecityhall  <p>🇰🇷 Join us in wishing our Sister City Exchange Program students and chaperones saf...</p> <p>Reel</p>	<u>Thu, Mar 14, 2024</u> 2:10 pm PDT	903	829	N/A	4.8%	43	34	1	7
 Garden Grove City Hall  <p>🇰🇷 Join us in wishing our Sister City Exchange Program students and chaperones saf...</p> <p>Post</p>	<u>Thu, Mar 14, 2024</u> 2:11 pm PDT	799	770	N/A	3.5%	28	15	0	0
 gardengrovecityhall  <p>🌟 On Tuesday, the #GardenGrove City Council recognized the St. Columban...</p> <p>Post</p>	<u>Fri, Mar 15, 2024</u> 5:00 pm PDT	891	727	N/A	3.8%	34	31	2	—
 Garden Grove City Hall  <p>#DYK today is National Transit Employee Appreciation Day! 🙌🏻Plea...</p> <p>Post</p>	<u>Mon, Mar 18, 2024</u> 8:46 am PDT	675	675	N/A	1.5%	10	3	0	0

Post	Published Date	Impressions	Average Reach per Post	Potential Reach per Post	Engagement Rate (per Impression)	Engagements	Reactions	Comments	Shares
 Garden Grove City Hall  <p>Happy 🍀 #StPatricksDay weekend! If you have plans to celebrate, make sure they al...</p> <p>Post</p>	Fri, Mar 15, 2024 7:00 pm PDT	525	484	N/A	1.9%	10	6	0	0
 @CityGardenGrove  <p>Magnolia Park's playground is getting a farmtastic makeover! From the new play area,...</p> <p>Tweet</p>	Mon, Mar 18, 2024 4:53 pm PDT	218	N/A	4,725	6%	13	0	0	0
 Garden Grove City Hall  <p>Post</p>	Fri, Mar 15, 2024 5:00 pm PDT	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—



Post Performance

March 14, 2024 - March 20, 2024

Review the lifetime performance of the posts you published during the publishing period.

Included in this Report

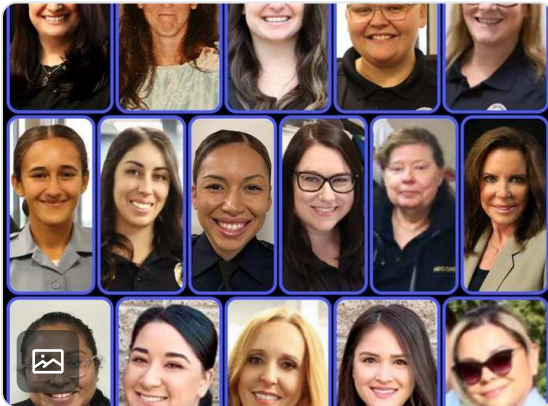
 Garden Grove Police Department



Garden Grove Police Depa...

Fri 3/15/2024 9:01 am PDT

We continue to celebrate the past and present women of #GardenGrovePD. Civilians, sworn and volunteers; they all...

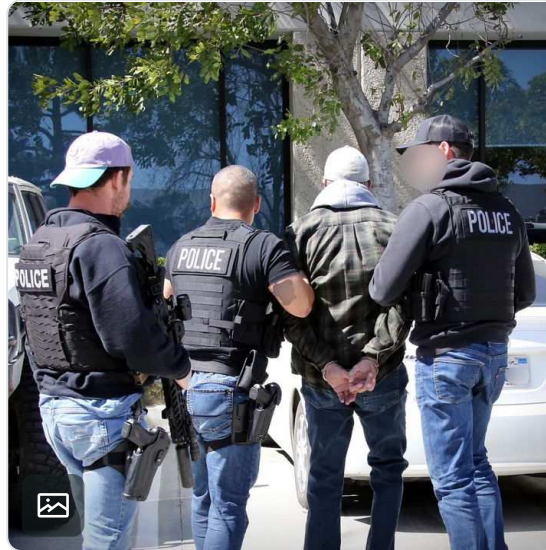


Impressions	2,503
Reach	2,325
Engagements	463
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	18.5%



Garden Grove Police Depa...

Fri 3/15/2024 3:30 pm PDT



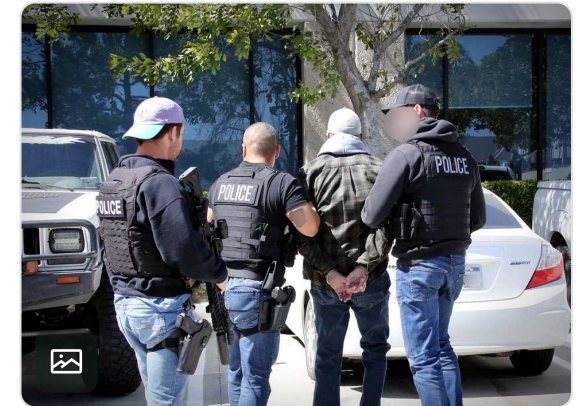
Impressions	—
Reach	—
Engagements	—
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	—



Garden Grove Police Depa...

Fri 3/15/2024 3:30 pm PDT

#GardenGrovePD Detectives had been investigating a case involving a subject that threatened employees of a local...



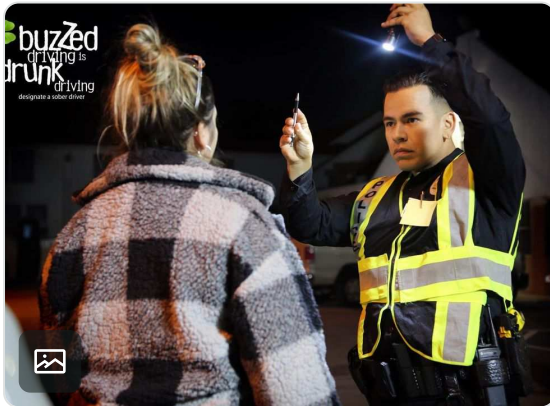
Impressions	5,823
Reach	5,688
Engagements	1,475
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	25.3%



Garden Grove Police Depa...

Fri 3/15/2024 6:30 pm PDT

It's #StPatricksDay weekend! If you have plans to celebrate, make sure they also include designating a sober driver. On...



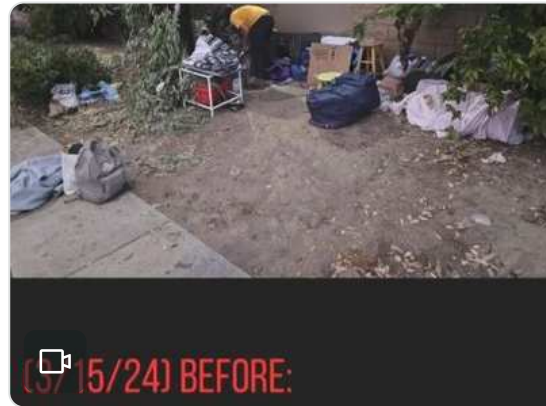
Impressions	1,868
Reach	1,787
Engagements	57
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	3.1%



Garden Grove Police Depa...

Sun 3/17/2024 12:10 pm PDT

Outreach & Cleanup Recap #GGPD32 #SRTsunday #WheresTheSRT #TeamWork Be Well OC Garden Grove City Hall Garde...



Video Views	1,579
Impressions	1,579
Reach	1,666
Engagements	39
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	2.5%

WEEKLY MEMO 03-21-2024

NEWS ARTICLES



CONTACT: Mark Freeman
Community Services Department
(714) 741-5212/markf@ggcity.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media

Monday, March 18, 2024



COMMUNITY INVITED TO MAGNOLIA PARK PLAYGROUND DEDICATION APRIL 9

The City of Garden Grove invites the community to attend a dedication event for Magnolia Park’s new citrus farm-themed playground on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., at 11402 Magnolia Street. The free event will feature a ribbon-cutting ceremony, themed giveaways, and snacks.

The new play area features citrus farm-themed playgrounds for ages 2 to 5 and 5 to 12 with play elements that include colorful play structures, a two-story spiraling slide, an inclusive orbital spinner, and an ADA accessible swing set. Additionally, new outdoor fitness equipment surrounds the perimeter of the play area, allowing caregivers to exercise and watch their children simultaneously.

Visitors can connect with Magnolia Park’s history through a QR code placed on playground signage. When scanned, users can explore a digital archive that details the park’s history as the home of the Wakeham family and their citrus groves from the 1920s to the 1960s.

As part of the overall park improvement project, Magnolia Park’s enhancements also include new rubberized play surfacing, a new picnic shelter with new picnic tables with an ADA-accessible walkway, new perimeter pool fencing, and a complete resurfacing of the main parking lot.

For more information, contact the Community Services Department at (714) 741-5200.

Christ Cathedral in Garden Grove makes progress on second phase of Our Lady of La Vang shrine

March 14, 2024



Elysabeth Nguyen points to a mosaic held by Fr. Christopher Pham that is going into the Marian Gardens project at Christ Cathedral. Nguyen is chief executive of the OLLV Foundation, which is fundraising and managing the gardens project on behalf of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange. (Courtesy of Bradley Zint, Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange)

Nearly five years after being christened as the new spiritual center for the Roman Catholic Church in Orange County, the Christ Cathedral campus in Garden Grove continues to evolve – including with the expansion of an outdoor worship space held dear by the Catholic Vietnamese community. Already the Our Lady of La Vang shrine has become a centerpiece of many events at the cathedral campus and soon an accompanying Marian Gardens with art from around the world will be ready. Some of those overseeing the project recently returned from visiting artisans in Peru who are at work on some of the pieces that will be displayed.

Nearly five years after being christened as the new spiritual center for the Roman Catholic Church in Orange County, the Christ Cathedral campus in Garden Grove continues to evolve – including with the expansion of an outdoor worship space held dear by the Catholic Vietnamese community. Already the Our Lady of La Vang shrine has become a centerpiece of many events at the cathedral campus and soon an accompanying Marian Gardens with art from around the world will be ready. Some of those overseeing the project recently returned from visiting artisans in Peru who are at work on some of the pieces that will be displayed.

The project is being led by the Our Lady of La Vang Foundation, a nonprofit group born out of a collaboration of church and community leaders that has worked with the diocese on the two-phase project that started with the construction of the shrine to Our Lady of La Vang – an apparition of the Virgin Mary that's said to have appeared to persecuted Catholics in a rainforest in Vietnam in 1798 and delivered messages of love and comfort to them.

Dedicated in 2021, the outdoor shrine features a 12-foot tall statue of the apparition set against a backdrop representing a Vietnamese rainforest.

The second phase will feature a digital library, a mini Garden of Gethsemane, a wall honoring Catholics who were martyred in Vietnam, and the Marian Gardens representing the four mysteries of the rosary. All elements are located near the existing shrine and are set to be publicly unveiled in late May, organizers said.

The foundation has raised more than \$17 million to help bring those ideas to fruition, said its Chief Executive Officer Elysabeth Nguyen.

The gardens will feature four niches containing artwork and symbols that tell the life story of the Virgin Mary through items imported from Italy, Vietnam, Missouri and Peru.

"We hope that through experiencing the garden and attending Masses at the shrine that people will become interested in our blessed mother's life and in Jesus," Nguyen said.

The foundation has hired Artesanos Don Bosco in Peru to create much of the religious art for the Marian Gardens out of mosaics, fusion glass, copper and limestone through its apprenticeship program.

The nonprofit organization trains young people in remote villages to become skilled artisans in carpentry, woodcarving and other trades, capable of producing high-quality, hand-crafted furniture, sacred art and other items.

A handful of project organizers got a sneak peek at the artwork and met the artisans making the pieces when they traveled to Jangas and Chacas, Peru late last month to check on the progress.

Rev. Quang Vinh Chu, pastor at St. Mary's by the Sea in Huntington Beach and a member of the planning group, said he was impressed by the intricate work he saw being done in teams.

"There's so many details," he said. "They are very talented."

Nguyen and other organizers said they are happy to be contributing to the artisans' livelihoods through the project.

"It's touching to know that our project is truly helping others," Nguyen said. "To know that, through Mary, we're impacting other people's lives is the most important part of this trip."

Planning for both phases of the Our Lady of La Vang project has been in the works for eight years, organizers said, and was prompted by the Vietnamese community's request to have a dedicated space on campus where they could worship.

Seeing the apparition integrated into the cathedral grounds was especially important to the many Vietnamese Catholics who attend services there, organizers said, and to the refugees who settled nearly 50 years ago near the church in what has grown to become the largest Vietnamese enclave outside of Vietnam.

Fr. Christopher Tuan Pham, who's been involved with the project since its inception, said that being able to visit a local space honoring Our Lady of La Vang allows those of Vietnamese descent – like himself – to maintain a modern-day connection to her without leaving their new home.

"She not only appeared for our ancestors, but she's truly here for us," said Pham, a parochial vicar at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Westminster. "I don't have to go back to Vietnam to see her. She's here."

Organizers said that while the Our Lady of La Vang shrine remains important to the Vietnamese community, it's also growing in popularity and use among parishioners of all backgrounds.

Groups representing multiple ethnicities hold Masses and special events at the shrine all year long, organizers said, drawing thousands of participants at a time and reflecting the Virgin Mary's "universality."

"She is a true sign of hope for our diocese and unites all her scattered children," said Pham.

These days, the Christ Cathedral is a diverse, bustling place of worship, Nguyen said, with nearly a dozen Masses held there each weekend and seven official languages spoken on campus.

By continuing to roll out new worship spaces, she said, the diocese is showing that it's adapting the cathedral grounds to meet the needs of the congregation and the community.

"It's really true to the slogan of our cathedral, which is 'Becoming Christ Cathedral,'" she said. "At first I didn't really understand what that is, but we've come a long way in the past 10 years. I truly believe the people are building the cathedral."

GARDEN GROVE MỜI CỘNG ĐỒNG THAM DỰ LỄ KHÁNH THÀNH KHUÔN VIÊN VUI CHƠI 'MAGNOLIA PARK'

21/3/2024

Thành phố Garden Grove mời cộng đồng tham dự một sự kiện cắt băng khánh thành cho khuôn viên 'Magnolia Park' vào ngày Thứ Ba, 9 tháng Tư, 2024 lúc 5:00 giờ chiều, tại địa chỉ 11402 Magnolia Street. Sự kiện sẽ có mặt Thị trưởng Garden Grove Steve Jones và các nghị viên Thành phố, kèm theo quà tặng cho những ai tham dự.

Khu vui chơi mới có các sân chơi theo chủ đề nông trại, trái cây dành cho thiếu nhi từ 2-5 tuổi, và 5-12 tuổi với những thiết bị đầy màu sắc, cầu tuột xoắn ốc hai tầng, một ghế quay, và một bộ xích đu có thể sử dụng theo quy định ADA. Ngoài ra, còn có thiết bị tập thể dục ngoài trời mới bao quanh chu vi của khu vui chơi, tạo điều kiện những ai muốn tập thể dục và đồng thời trông chừng con mình.

Mọi người có thể tìm hiểu thêm về công viên thông qua mã "QR code" được đặt trên bảng chỉ dẫn tại sân chơi. Khi quét mã "QR code", người dùng có thể khám phá lịch sử của công viên là ngôi nhà của gia đình Wakeham và những vườn cam quýt của họ từ những năm 1920 đến năm 1960.

Là một phần trong dự án sửa sang nâng cấp toàn công viên bao gồm bọc cao su mới bề mặt khu vui chơi, khu 'picnic shelter' mới nâng cấp với lối đi dành cho người khuyết tật theo quy định ADA, hàng rào mới cho hồ bơi và sửa sang lại bãi đậu xe.

Để biết thêm thông tin, xin liên lạc về Ban Phục Vụ Cộng Đồng (714) 741-5200.



MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS
March 21, 2024

1. Calendar of Events
2. Cancellation notice for the March 28, 2024 Garden Grove Zoning Meeting.
3. League of California Cities articles from March 14, 2024 to March 21, 2024.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 21, 2024 – April 25, 2024

Thursday	March 21	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC \$2 Coaches Casual Dress Day
Friday	March 22		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Tuesday	March 26	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC Housing Authority, CMC Sanitary District Board, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CMC
Thursday	March 28	9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting, CMC
Saturday	March 30	2:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Eggscavation, Atlantis Play Center 13630 Atlantis Way
Thursday	April 4	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC
Friday	April 5		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Tuesday	April 9	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CMC
Thursday	April 11	11:00 a.m.	State of the City, Hyatt Regency Orange County 11999 Harbor Blvd.
		9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting, CMC
Thursday	April 18	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC \$2 Coaches Casual Dress Day
Friday	April 19		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Tuesday	April 23	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC Housing Authority, CMC Sanitary District Board, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CMC
Thursday	April 25	9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting, CMC



NOTICE OF CANCELLATION
OF THE
GARDEN GROVE
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 28, 2024

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Meeting of the Garden Grove Zoning Administrator scheduled for Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Garden Grove Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, is hereby cancelled.

DATED: March 21, 2024

DAVID DENT
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR



Nation's largest pension fund opposes 'reckless' ballot measure

Mar 20, 2024

By *Brian Hendershot, Cal Cities Advocate Managing Editor*

The California Public Employee Retirement System Board today voted 9-0 to oppose the so-called Taxpayer Protection and Accountability Act. The ballot measure would make it harder for voters and their elected officials to raise funding for essential services.

Opponents of the measure have pointed out that it would be harder to [provide essential services](#) — roads, schools, public safety, affordable housing, and water — if the measure passes. Carolyn Coleman, Cal Cities Executive Director and CEO, called it “a wolf in sheep’s clothing” in her testimony.

“While it claims to protect taxpayers, it will endanger public services and put the public employee pension system at risk,” Coleman said. “If passed, this measure would upend local government finances overnight, attacking local governments’ ability to provide essential

public services and meet their pension obligations to the fund and its beneficiaries.”

With just one member abstaining, the board voted to oppose the measure as it would threaten workers’ retirement and healthcare. Individual members called it [reckless, careless, and cynical](#).

[Lisa Middleton](#), who sits on both the CalPERS and Cal Cities boards, said the initiative could “significantly weaken the financial stability of every city and every county in the state of California.” She further noted that the measure could throw government services in “complete disarray” by redefining “simple, normal fees” and requiring a supermajority for new initiatives.

Other board members also had withering comments. “The Taxpayer Deception Act could pull the rug out from underneath millions of public servants who have worked their whole lives to retire with dignity,” said Fiona Ma, California State Treasurer and CalPERS Board Member.

David Miller, Chair of the CalPERS Investment Committee, said it could “eviscerate funding for schools” and “cripple” education for generations.

Yvonne Walker noted that the measure’s retroactivity clause could invalidate over 100 ballot measures and laws. “Every single Californian will feel the aftershock of this disastrous ballot measure,” she said.

The board noted that members of the California Business Roundtable — the measure’s sponsor — benefit from the pension fund’s investments. This includes Blackstone, Kilroy Realty, Hudson Pacific Properties, PepsiCo, Chevron, and Wells Fargo.

“It’s appalling that the same multibillion-dollar real estate interests seeking to invest CalPERS’ members’ money are trying to defund those members’ pensions,” Board President Theresa Taylor said.



Cal Cities pushes for feasibility and flexibility in updated water regulations

Mar 20, 2024

The 15-day public comment period ends on March 27

By Melissa Sparks-Kranz, legislative affairs lobbyist (environmental quality)

Earlier today, Cal Cities and city representatives provided robust input on updated draft [water efficiency regulations](#). The proposed regulations aim to reduce water usage in urban areas over the long term to lessen the need for mandatory water reductions during the next drought.

The State Water Resources Control Board announced the updated [regulations](#) last week as part of a 15-day comment period. The state also released updated [provisional data](#) showing how much water each supplier will need to conserve. Cities represent about half of the nearly 400 affected urban water suppliers in the state.

The updated regulations address many of the concerns Cal Cities initially identified by providing cities and urban suppliers flexibility to meet a complex water savings goal. Cal Cities and other stakeholders provided feedback on the water conservation package during the previous public comment period, in meetings with the State Water Board, and in working discussions.

The challenge ahead is implementation. Residential customers will need to make long-term changes to their indoor and outdoor water usage under the regulations. To achieve water savings, cities and

urban suppliers will need to calculate water usage and create well-designed conservation programs that incentivize change.

What did Cal Cities advocate for?

State regulators included changes that would give local urban water suppliers two more years to come into compliance, rather than potentially being out of compliance when the regulations take effect on January 1, 2025. Overall, the new draft regulations give urban suppliers an additional five years — 2040 instead of 2035 — to create water savings programs and achieve long-term water use conservation. Suppliers need that time to ensure the programs are structured and financed for the long term.

The State Water Board also revised an alternative pathway to compliance for low-income communities that allows suppliers to develop plans that achieve 1% water savings per year. For urban suppliers that need to make a 30% or greater reduction, a similar pathway to compliance exists that achieves 2% water savings per year.

These pathways create a more feasible approach for those facing the most challenging lift. The updated regulations also recognize that recreational and park spaces, pools, and shade trees should continue to be protected.

Conserving is one of many tools in the toolbox, as California's dramatic swings from one extreme weather event to the next grow worse under climate change. The regulations aim to reduce water usage by 500,000 acre-feet — about 1% of the state's total water use according to a recent [Legislative Analyst's Office Report](#). An acre-foot is enough to serve the needs of about three families for a year in California.

What's next?

The 15-day comment period ends on March 27. The State Water Board anticipates finalizing the regulation in August 2024. Cal Cities plans to submit written comments on the updated regulations.

Individual cities that would like to prepare written comment letters should email them to commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line: Comment Letter – Proposed Making Conservation a California Way of Life Regulation. Please forward a copy of your letter to Cal Cities at cityletters@calcities.org.

To join the Cal Cities Water Working Group — or for more resources, information, and updates on the conservation regulations — please email msparkskranz@calcities.org.



Does blocking a constituent on your social media page violate their constitutional rights? The Supreme Court has new guidance

Mar 20, 2024

By Sheri Chapman, general counsel

The U.S. Supreme Court last Friday issued a unanimous decision establishing a new test to determine when a public official's actions on

their personal social media page may violate a person's right to free speech.

The issue before the court in *Lindke v. Freed* was whether a Michigan city manager violated the First Amendment when he deleted comments and blocked a constituent on his personal Facebook page. This page contained both personal and work-related posts. Similar issues have come before the courts before, with different tests and outcomes.

In *Lindke*, the Supreme Court clarified that a public official who prevents someone from commenting on their personal social media page may be considered to be speaking for the government — thus creating free speech concerns — *only* if two conditions are met: The official has actual authority to speak on the government's behalf on that matter and purported to use that authority when speaking on social media.

Writing for the court, Justice Amy Coney Barrett observed, "Freed did not relinquish his First Amendment Rights when he became a city manager." On the contrary, "the First Amendment protects a public employee's right, in certain circumstances, to speak as a citizen addressing matters of public concern."

The court recognized this right could include exercising editorial control over speech and speakers on a public official's personal social media page. It concluded that a public official's authority to speak on behalf of the organization must be rooted in written law or longstanding custom and extend to the type of speech that is in question, finding it must be within the official's "bailiwick."

The court also found that "if the official has authority to speak for the [government], they may have the authority to do so on social media even if the law does not make that explicit."

Notably, the court ruled that if a social media account is labeled as personal or has a disclaimer that the views expressed are personal, there is a heavy presumption that the posts are personal. Absent such a label or disclaimer, the analysis requires a fact-specific review. In

those instances, the posts' content and function are the most important considerations.

The court explained that a post that expressly invokes government authority to make an announcement not available elsewhere is "official." A post that merely repeats or shares otherwise available information is more likely "personal." When there is doubt, other factors come into play, such as whether government resources were used to post.

The court also held the nature of the social media used by the official should be a part of the analysis. It distinguished between deleting comments and blocking access. According to the court, a censorship tool that operates on a page-wide basis would require consideration of whether *any* of the posts involved government speech. "A public official who fails to keep personal posts in a clearly designated personal account therefore exposes himself to greater potential liability," the court warned.

The court sent the *Lindke* case and a similar challenge in *O'Connor-Ratcliff v. Garnier* back to the lower courts for further proceedings consistent with this new test. The *O'Connor-Ratcliff* case centered on two California school board trustees who blocked parents on personal social media accounts that were used for both personal and board-related information.

The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals determined the agency could be liable for the trustees' conduct, finding a close nexus between their use of social media and their official positions. The Supreme Court found that the Ninth Circuit's approach was different from the one described in *Lindke* and remanded the case.

The International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA) filed amicus briefs in both cases arguing that with the increasing dependence on social media, it was imperative to provide local government with a clear, workable standard. Cal Cities is a member of IMLA, participating in advocacy on a national level.



Your voice matters in Washington, US senators tell California elected officials

Mar 20, 2024

By *Brian Hendershot*, *Cal Cities Advocate Managing Editor*

Cal Cities leadership and over 170 city officials took their advocacy to Washington last week as part of an annual [Congressional City Conference](#) and advocacy day organized by the National League of Cities. California officials discussed a range of topics with federal lawmakers, such as climate change, homelessness, fiscal sustainability, and public safety.

Leading the delegation was Cal Cities President Daniel Parra (Fowler, Mayor), First Vice President Lynne Kennedy (Rancho Cucamonga, Mayor Pro Tem), Second Vice President Gabe Quinto (El Cerrito, Council Member), Immediate Past President Ali Sajjad Taj (Artesia, Mayor Pro Tem) and Executive Director and CEO Carolyn Coleman.

Cal Cities officers met directly with key lawmakers, including Representatives Pete Aguilar, Salud Carbajal, Jim Costa, John Garamendi, Linda Sánchez, Adam Schiff, and David Valadao, as well as Senators Laphonza Butler and Alex Padilla.

The two senators had a clear message for the city officials who trekked thousands of miles to Capitol Hill: Your voice matters. Keep coming back and make your voice heard. Tell us your story. Tell us

what's working, so we can support those successes and replicate them.

What did city leaders discuss?

Climate resiliency and disaster preparedness are at the top of the list this year for many city leaders. The group urged Congress to speed up its efforts to prepare, reduce, and adapt to climate change — especially in vulnerable and under-resourced communities. City officials drew attention to issues with the state's long-term water supply and the need for more coordination on wildfire mitigation.

City officials called for an infusion of [resources](#) and [legislation](#) to reduce housing costs and homelessness. They argued Congress should expand successful federal programs and voiced concerns about a possible cutoff to reimbursements for COVID-19 emergency shelters. California cities could lose out on \$300 million in reimbursements if the proposal goes through.

Fiscal sustainability was also top of mind. City leaders called for a speedier appropriations process to provide certainty to cities and the people they serve. They urged Congress to not claw back money approved for local programs and reauthorize a [workforce training program](#).

The delegation called for help on several public safety challenges. In California, police retention and recruitment issues are exacerbating crime rates. Similarly, cities need more funding to address the substance use crisis head-on. As part of this, the group asked for more funding for the [Community Oriented Policing Services](#) hiring program or the [SUPPORT Act](#).

“Local government was too hard”

Cal Cities also hosted its popular evening reception, which featured NLC President David Sander (Rancho Cordova, Mayor) and its signature shrimp platter. Sander had earlier introduced the keynote speaker for the conference: President Joe Biden.

Biden joked he only ran for Senate because “local government was too hard.” He went on to quip: “You all think I’m kidding. They know where you live, they think you can solve every problem, and hold you accountable for everything. So ‘God love you’ as my mother would say.”

Other speakers at NLC’s conference included Pete Buttigieg, Secretary of Transportation; Julie A. Su, the Acting Secretary of Labor; and U.S. Representative Salud Carbajal from California’s 24th District.

Additional contributions by Rachel Vincent, [director of strategic communications and marketing](#).

City of Garden Grove
WEEKLY CITY MANAGER'S MEMO
March 21, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members FROM: Lisa Kim, City Manager

I. DEPARTMENT ITEMS

A. COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

A memo to update the City Council about the city-wide special event, Art in the Park is attached.

B. COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

A memo to update the City Council about the current plans of the 2023-2024 and goals for the 2024-2025 Garden Grove Teen Action Collaboration (GGTAC).

• **OTHER ITEMS**

– SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Copies of the week's social media posts and local newspaper articles are attached for your information.

– MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Items of interest are included.



Lisa Kim
City Manager

City of Garden Grove
INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

To: Lisa L. Kim
Dept.: City Manager
Subject: 2024 Art in the Park

From: John Montanez
Dept.: Community Services
Date: March 21, 2024

OBJECTIVE

To update the City Council about the city-wide special event, Art in the Park, that was held on Saturday, March 9, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Village Green Park.

BACKGROUND

The 'Art in the Park' event is part of the City's continuing efforts to brand and identify Garden Grove's iconic Downtown, while promoting the Re:Imagine Garden Grove mission of bringing more art to the community; the GGUSD shares a similar goal, which is to continue to elevate its arts presence and distinction within Orange County, by showcasing the award-winning artistic talents of K-12th grade art students.

DISCUSSION

The City of Garden Grove, in collaboration with the Garden Grove Unified School District (GGUSD), transformed Village Green Park into an outdoor, interactive art festival for the 6th Annual Art in the Park. The community was invited via the City's many social media platforms, as well as a GGTV3 promotion which aired on KCAL TV. Attendance at the event was an estimated 2,500 people.

Event activities included the Art Car, an opportunity to paint on a classic car transformed into a blank canvas; a Giant Games Playground promoting the City's Camp Grove Day Camp program; a paint a tiny clay pot, then plant a baby succulent booth; a LEGO® Creation Station; ceramics demos and ukulele lessons led by Garden Grove Unified School District teachers and students from Rancho Alamitos High School and La Quinta High School; and a 40' x 60' Paint and Sip tent, which offered pre-paid guests an outdoor painting experience. This class was led by famed Orange County muralist, Melissa Murphy, and featured non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages. Additionally, the City partnered with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Garden Grove, which created a magical masks art activity; and the City's planning division curated a booth showcasing renderings for the Civic Center Park Revitalization Project, with opportunities for event goers to share their feedback via colored leaves that attached to a tabletop tree.

The Art in the Park event also featured live musical performances from GGUSD students, as well as temporary art installations, including a 50-foot long, by 6-foot tall, "RE:IMAGINE" banner along with 20 oversized 8-foot tall easels, displaying GGUSD student artwork.

2024 Art in the Park

March 21, 2024

Page 2

Additionally, GGUSD held their annual Awards Ceremony and First Impressions Student Art Exhibit at the Community Meeting Center and the Courtyard Center respectively. Over 1,000 students and families attended the District's awards ceremony at the Community Meeting Center, in two separate sessions, before making their way to Village Green Park to enjoy the First Impressions Student Art Exhibit and Art in the Park festivities. The exhibit showcases artwork from Pre-K through 12th grade students from across the district.

The Art Exhibit's opening day was Saturday, March 9, and it remained open to the public the week of March 11 through March 14, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

SUMMARY

The 6th annual Art in the Park event, held in collaboration with GGUSD, was held on Saturday, March 9, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Village Green Park. This free event showcased a wide variety of artistic works produced by local artists as well as GGUSD student artwork.



JOHN MONTANCHEZ

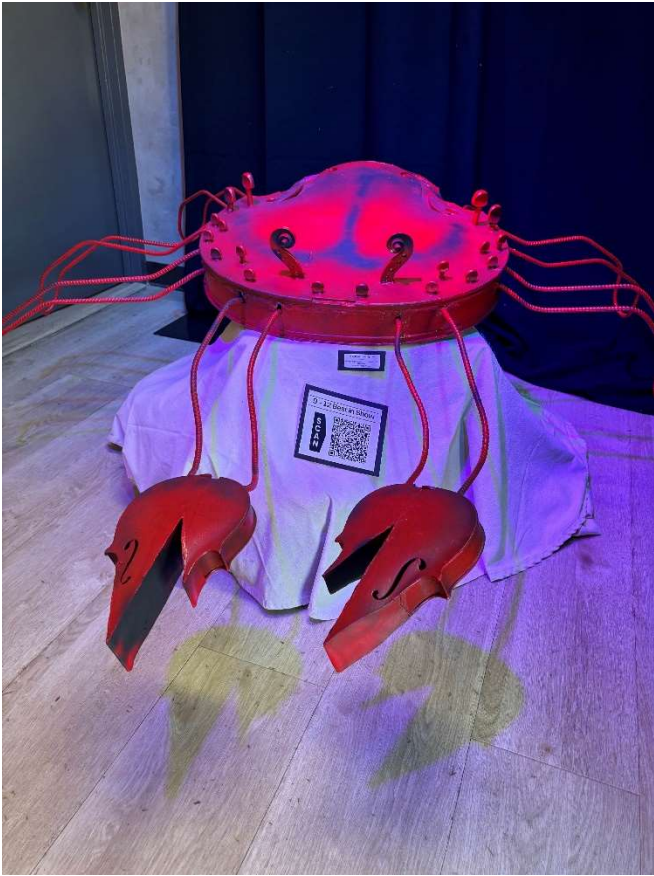
Community Services Director

Mark Freeman

By: Mark Freeman

Community Services Manager

Attachments: 2024 GGUSD First Impressions Art Gallery Photos



GGUSD First Impressions Art Gallery 2024
at the Courtyard Center





GGUSD First Impressions Art Gallery 2024 at the Courtyard Center





City of Garden Grove
INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

To:	Lisa L. Kim	From:	John Montanez
Dept.:	City Manager	Dept.:	Community Services
Subject:	Garden Grove Teen Action Collaborative (GGTAC) Update	Date:	March 21, 2024

OBJECTIVE

To update the City Council about the current plans of the 2023-2024 and goals for the 2024-2025 Garden Grove Teen Action Collaborative (GGTAC).

BACKGROUND

The Garden Grove Teen Action Collaborative (GGTAC) was established in 2021 in response to a directive from the City Council to increase the involvement of local teenagers in volunteer activities and create a youth leadership program that spans across the city. The mission of the GGTAC is to connect Garden Grove teens to their community and peers while providing them with opportunities to advance their future.

During the 2023-2024 school year, GGTAC had a forty four percent (44%) increase in enrollment, with an average of 40-45 teens (ages 13-17) now actively participating from September to May. Throughout the year, the teens were given opportunities to volunteer at various City events and hear from guest speakers on a monthly basis. Additionally, GGTAC has established more partnerships with local non-profit organizations and logged over 390 volunteer hours in the 2023-2024 program, with an additional 110 volunteer hours to be completed at the Art in the Park and Eggscavation events.

DISCUSSION

In efforts to increase teen participation for the 2024-2025 school year, Community Services plans on marketing the GGTAC program by working with all Garden Grove High Schools, distributing flyers at every City facility, using social media boosts to reach all Garden Grove teens including homeschooled Garden Grove students, invite all AVID teachers to the first meeting, add a Peach Jar announcement, and to attend high school Back to School nights.

The goals for the GGTAC program is to give the teens 1-2 volunteer events per month with City events and with our partner agencies. Some of those events will include Eggscavation, Jack O' Lantern Jamboree, and Winter in the Grove. Outside partnership volunteer opportunity goals will be to work with Jingle Jam, OC Food Bank, Boys & Girls Clubs, Bracken's Kitchen, Sister City Association of Garden Grove, Assistance League of Garden Grove, and the Bolsa Chica Conservancy.

During the 2023-2024 program, a survey was sent to participating teens, inquiring about their preferences for guest speakers and topics. The most requested topics were:

- Medical careers in nursing, therapy and pharmaceutical
- Graphics
- Game Design
- Fashion Design and Merchandising
- Interior and Landscape Design
- Engineering

Community Services aims to invite a variety of speakers in response to the survey. These may include the City's Graphics division, as well as career specialists from Concorde Career College, Interior Design Institute, and Boeing.

Lastly, the GGTAC calendar year will end on May 16, 2024, with an Awards Ceremony, with City Council and Garden Grove Community Foundation (GGCF) Board Members invited to participate and hand out service recognitions to the top teen volunteers, along with announcing the winners of the Garden Grove Community Foundation-sponsored 1st annual GGTAC Scholarship program.

SUMMARY

With the goal being to significantly increase teen participation for the 2024-2025 year of the GGTAC, Community Services will: (1) expand marketing efforts at middle and high schools within the Garden Grove Unified School District (GGUSD), (2) improve partnerships with local and County-based service clubs and non-profit groups to offer more volunteer opportunities to the teen participants, (3) secure monthly guest speakers with more varied career paths, (4) find a sponsor for the GGTAC scholarship, and (5) host a Teen Leadership Summit with established partners.

The Community Services Department is committed to expanding the GGTAC program and partnering with other Garden Grove-based organizations to create a more significant youth leadership network. Our goal is to provide teenagers in the city with opportunities to grow and gain valuable life experiences.



JOHN MONTANCHEZ
Community Services Director

Mark Freeman

By: Mark Freeman
Community Services Manager

WEEKLY MEMO 03-21-2024

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Post Performance

March 14, 2024 - March 20, 2024


Review the lifetime performance of the posts you published during the publishing period.









Included in this Report









 @CityGardenGrove







 Garden Grove City Hall

 gardengrovecityhall

Post	Published Date	Impressions	Average Reach per Post	Potential Reach per Post	Engagement Rate (per Impression)	Engagements	Reactions	Comments	Shares
 Garden Grove City Hall  ⭐ On Tuesday, the #GardenGrove City Council recognized the St. Columban... Post	Fri, Mar 15, 2024 5:00 pm PDT	2,328	2,216	N/A	9.1%	213	56	0	0
 gardengrovecityhall  🍌🚜 Magnolia Park's playground is getting a farm-tastic makeover! From the ne... Post	Mon, Mar 18, 2024 4:55 pm PDT	2,425	2,027	N/A	8.6%	208	163	13	—
 gardengrovecityhall  Are you a Garden Grove resident graduating from a college or university this yea... Post	Tue, Mar 19, 2024 4:27 pm PDT	1,881	1,632	N/A	4%	76	70	3	—
 Garden Grove City Hall  🍌🚜 Magnolia Park's playground is getting a farm-tastic makeover! From the ne... Post	Mon, Mar 18, 2024 4:42 pm PDT	1,299	1,288	N/A	31.5%	409	32	0	0

Post	Published Date	Impressions	Average Reach per Post	Potential Reach per Post	Engagement Rate (per Impression)	Engagements	Reactions	Comments	Shares
 Garden Grove City Hall  Don't forget to gather your bulky items and bring them to tomorrow's ██████████ ██████... Post	<u>Fri, Mar 15, 2024</u> 10:18 am PDT	1,340	1,258	N/A	4.5%	60	11	0	0
 Garden Grove City Hall  Are you a Garden Grove resident graduating from a college or university this yea... Post	<u>Tue, Mar 19, 2024</u> 4:23 pm PDT	1,258	1,240	N/A	3.6%	45	11	0	0
 gardengrovecityhall  Happy 🍀 #StPatricksDay weekend! If you have plans to celebrate, make sure they al... Post	<u>Fri, Mar 15, 2024</u> 7:00 pm PDT	1,224	1,157	N/A	3.2%	39	30	0	9
 gardengrovecityhall  Don't forget to gather your bulky items and bring them to tomorrow's ██████████ ██████... Post	<u>Fri, Mar 15, 2024</u> 10:21 am PDT	1,086	884	N/A	2.9%	32	31	0	—

Post	Published Date	Impressions	Average Reach per Post ▼	Average Potential Reach per Post	Engagement Rate (per Impression)	Engagements	Reactions	Comments	Shares
 gardengrovecityhall  <p>🇰🇷 Join us in wishing our Sister City Exchange Program students and chaperones saf...</p> <p>Reel</p>	<u>Thu, Mar 14, 2024</u> 2:10 pm PDT	903	829	N/A	4.8%	43	34	1	7
 Garden Grove City Hall  <p>🇰🇷 Join us in wishing our Sister City Exchange Program students and chaperones saf...</p> <p>Post</p>	<u>Thu, Mar 14, 2024</u> 2:11 pm PDT	799	770	N/A	3.5%	28	15	0	0
 gardengrovecityhall  <p>🌟 On Tuesday, the #GardenGrove City Council recognized the St. Columban...</p> <p>Post</p>	<u>Fri, Mar 15, 2024</u> 5:00 pm PDT	891	727	N/A	3.8%	34	31	2	—
 Garden Grove City Hall  <p>#DYK today is National Transit Employee Appreciation Day! 🙌🏻Plea...</p> <p>Post</p>	<u>Mon, Mar 18, 2024</u> 8:46 am PDT	675	675	N/A	1.5%	10	3	0	0

Post	Published Date	Impressions	Average Reach per Post	Potential Reach per Post	Engagement Rate (per Impression)	Engagements	Reactions	Comments	Shares
 Garden Grove City Hall  <p>Happy 🍀 #StPatricksDay weekend! If you have plans to celebrate, make sure they al...</p> <p>Post</p>	Fri, Mar 15, 2024 7:00 pm PDT	525	484	N/A	1.9%	10	6	0	0
 @CityGardenGrove  <p>Magnolia Park's playground is getting a farmtastic makeover! From the new play area,...</p> <p>Tweet</p>	Mon, Mar 18, 2024 4:53 pm PDT	218	N/A	4,725	6%	13	0	0	0
 Garden Grove City Hall  <p>Post</p>	Fri, Mar 15, 2024 5:00 pm PDT	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—



Post Performance

March 14, 2024 - March 20, 2024

Review the lifetime performance of the posts you published during the publishing period.

Included in this Report

 Garden Grove Police Department



Garden Grove Police Depa...

Fri 3/15/2024 9:01 am PDT

We continue to celebrate the past and present women of #GardenGrovePD. Civilians, sworn and volunteers; they all...

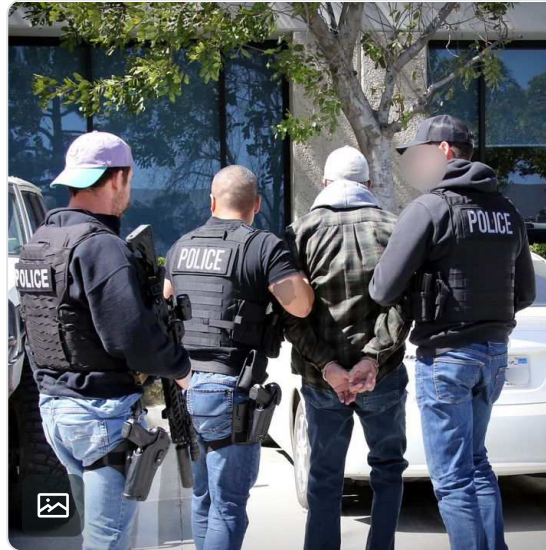


Impressions	2,503
Reach	2,325
Engagements	463
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	18.5%



Garden Grove Police Depa...

Fri 3/15/2024 3:30 pm PDT



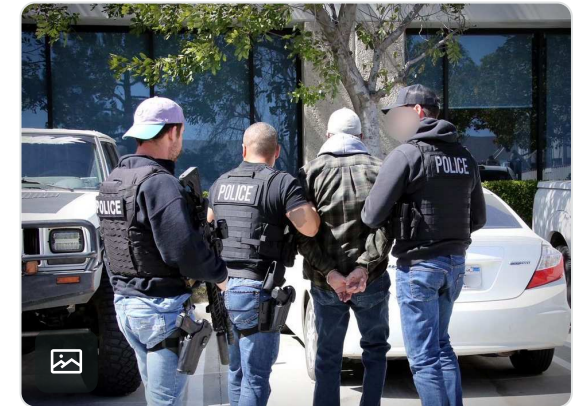
Impressions	—
Reach	—
Engagements	—
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	—



Garden Grove Police Depa...

Fri 3/15/2024 3:30 pm PDT

#GardenGrovePD Detectives had been investigating a case involving a subject that threatened employees of a local...



Impressions	5,823
Reach	5,688
Engagements	1,475
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	25.3%



Garden Grove Police Depa...

Fri 3/15/2024 6:30 pm PDT

It's #StPatricksDay weekend! If you have plans to celebrate, make sure they also include designating a sober driver. On...



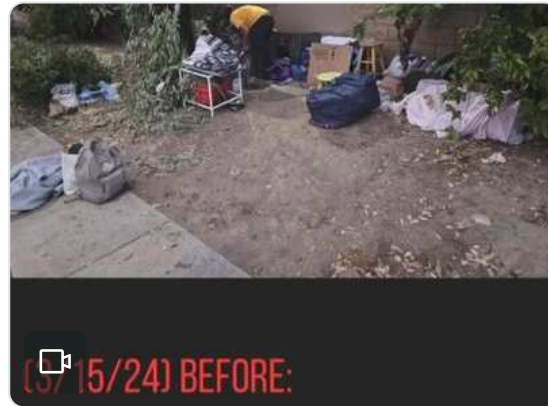
Impressions	1,868
Reach	1,787
Engagements	57
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	3.1%



Garden Grove Police Depa...

Sun 3/17/2024 12:10 pm PDT

Outreach & Cleanup Recap #GGPD32 #SRTsunday #WheresTheSRT #TeamWork Be Well OC Garden Grove City Hall Garde...



Video Views	1,579
Impressions	1,579
Reach	1,666
Engagements	39
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	2.5%

WEEKLY MEMO 03-21-2024

NEWS ARTICLES



CONTACT: Mark Freeman
Community Services Department
(714) 741-5212/markf@ggcity.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media

Monday, March 18, 2024



**COMMUNITY INVITED TO MAGNOLIA PARK PLAYGROUND
DEDICATION APRIL 9**

The City of Garden Grove invites the community to attend a dedication event for Magnolia Park’s new citrus farm-themed playground on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., at 11402 Magnolia Street. The free event will feature a ribbon-cutting ceremony, themed giveaways, and snacks.

The new play area features citrus farm-themed playgrounds for ages 2 to 5 and 5 to 12 with play elements that include colorful play structures, a two-story spiraling slide, an inclusive orbital spinner, and an ADA accessible swing set. Additionally, new outdoor fitness equipment surrounds the perimeter of the play area, allowing caregivers to exercise and watch their children simultaneously.

Visitors can connect with Magnolia Park’s history through a QR code placed on playground signage. When scanned, users can explore a digital archive that details the park’s history as the home of the Wakeham family and their citrus groves from the 1920s to the 1960s.

As part of the overall park improvement project, Magnolia Park’s enhancements also include new rubberized play surfacing, a new picnic shelter with new picnic tables with an ADA-accessible walkway, new perimeter pool fencing, and a complete resurfacing of the main parking lot.

For more information, contact the Community Services Department at (714) 741-5200.

Christ Cathedral in Garden Grove makes progress on second phase of Our Lady of La Vang shrine

March 14, 2024



Elysabeth Nguyen points to a mosaic held by Fr. Christopher Pham that is going into the Marian Gardens project at Christ Cathedral. Nguyen is chief executive of the OLLV Foundation, which is fundraising and managing the gardens project on behalf of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange. (Courtesy of Bradley Zint, Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange)

Nearly five years after being christened as the new spiritual center for the Roman Catholic Church in Orange County, the Christ Cathedral campus in Garden Grove continues to evolve – including with the expansion of an outdoor worship space held dear by the Catholic Vietnamese community. Already the Our Lady of La Vang shrine has become a centerpiece of many events at the cathedral campus and soon an accompanying Marian Gardens with art from around the world will be ready. Some of those overseeing the project recently returned from visiting artisans in Peru who are at work on some of the pieces that will be displayed.

Nearly five years after being christened as the new spiritual center for the Roman Catholic Church in Orange County, the Christ Cathedral campus in Garden Grove continues to evolve – including with the expansion of an outdoor worship space held dear by the Catholic Vietnamese community. Already the Our Lady of La Vang shrine has become a centerpiece of many events at the cathedral campus and soon an accompanying Marian Gardens with art from around the world will be ready. Some of those overseeing the project recently returned from visiting artisans in Peru who are at work on some of the pieces that will be displayed.

The project is being led by the Our Lady of La Vang Foundation, a nonprofit group born out of a collaboration of church and community leaders that has worked with the diocese on the two-phase project that started with the construction of the shrine to Our Lady of La Vang – an apparition of the Virgin Mary that's said to have appeared to persecuted Catholics in a rainforest in Vietnam in 1798 and delivered messages of love and comfort to them.

Dedicated in 2021, the outdoor shrine features a 12-foot tall statue of the apparition set against a backdrop representing a Vietnamese rainforest.

The second phase will feature a digital library, a mini Garden of Gethsemane, a wall honoring Catholics who were martyred in Vietnam, and the Marian Gardens representing the four mysteries of the rosary. All elements are located near the existing shrine and are set to be publicly unveiled in late May, organizers said.

The foundation has raised more than \$17 million to help bring those ideas to fruition, said its Chief Executive Officer Elysabeth Nguyen.

The gardens will feature four niches containing artwork and symbols that tell the life story of the Virgin Mary through items imported from Italy, Vietnam, Missouri and Peru.

"We hope that through experiencing the garden and attending Masses at the shrine that people will become interested in our blessed mother's life and in Jesus," Nguyen said.

The foundation has hired Artesanos Don Bosco in Peru to create much of the religious art for the Marian Gardens out of mosaics, fusion glass, copper and limestone through its apprenticeship program.

The nonprofit organization trains young people in remote villages to become skilled artisans in carpentry, woodcarving and other trades, capable of producing high-quality, hand-crafted furniture, sacred art and other items.

A handful of project organizers got a sneak peek at the artwork and met the artisans making the pieces when they traveled to Jangas and Chacas, Peru late last month to check on the progress.

Rev. Quang Vinh Chu, pastor at St. Mary's by the Sea in Huntington Beach and a member of the planning group, said he was impressed by the intricate work he saw being done in teams.

"There's so many details," he said. "They are very talented."

Nguyen and other organizers said they are happy to be contributing to the artisans' livelihoods through the project.

"It's touching to know that our project is truly helping others," Nguyen said. "To know that, through Mary, we're impacting other people's lives is the most important part of this trip."

Planning for both phases of the Our Lady of La Vang project has been in the works for eight years, organizers said, and was prompted by the Vietnamese community's request to have a dedicated space on campus where they could worship.

Seeing the apparition integrated into the cathedral grounds was especially important to the many Vietnamese Catholics who attend services there, organizers said, and to the refugees who settled nearly 50 years ago near the church in what has grown to become the largest Vietnamese enclave outside of Vietnam.

Fr. Christopher Tuan Pham, who's been involved with the project since its inception, said that being able to visit a local space honoring Our Lady of La Vang allows those of Vietnamese descent – like himself – to maintain a modern-day connection to her without leaving their new home.

"She not only appeared for our ancestors, but she's truly here for us," said Pham, a parochial vicar at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Westminster. "I don't have to go back to Vietnam to see her. She's here."

Organizers said that while the Our Lady of La Vang shrine remains important to the Vietnamese community, it's also growing in popularity and use among parishioners of all backgrounds.

Groups representing multiple ethnicities hold Masses and special events at the shrine all year long, organizers said, drawing thousands of participants at a time and reflecting the Virgin Mary's "universality."

"She is a true sign of hope for our diocese and unites all her scattered children," said Pham.

These days, the Christ Cathedral is a diverse, bustling place of worship, Nguyen said, with nearly a dozen Masses held there each weekend and seven official languages spoken on campus.

By continuing to roll out new worship spaces, she said, the diocese is showing that it's adapting the cathedral grounds to meet the needs of the congregation and the community.

"It's really true to the slogan of our cathedral, which is 'Becoming Christ Cathedral,'" she said. "At first I didn't really understand what that is, but we've come a long way in the past 10 years. I truly believe the people are building the cathedral."

GARDEN GROVE MỜI CỘNG ĐỒNG THAM DỰ LỄ KHÁNH THÀNH KHUÔN VIÊN VUI CHƠI 'MAGNOLIA PARK'

21/3/2024

Thành phố Garden Grove mời cộng đồng tham dự một sự kiện cắt băng khánh thành cho khuôn viên 'Magnolia Park' vào ngày Thứ Ba, 9 tháng Tư, 2024 lúc 5:00 giờ chiều, tại địa chỉ 11402 Magnolia Street. Sự kiện sẽ có mặt Thị trưởng Garden Grove Steve Jones và các nghị viên Thành phố, kèm theo quà tặng cho những ai tham dự.

Khu vui chơi mới có các sân chơi theo chủ đề nông trại, trái cây dành cho thiếu nhi từ 2-5 tuổi, và 5-12 tuổi với những thiết bị đầy màu sắc, cầu tuột xoắn ốc hai tầng, một ghế quay, và một bộ xích đu có thể sử dụng theo quy định ADA. Ngoài ra, còn có thiết bị tập thể dục ngoài trời mới bao quanh chu vi của khu vui chơi, tạo điều kiện những ai muốn tập thể dục và đồng thời trông chừng con mình.

Mọi người có thể tìm hiểu thêm về công viên thông qua mã "QR code" được đặt trên bảng chỉ dẫn tại sân chơi. Khi quét mã "QR code", người dùng có thể khám phá lịch sử của công viên là ngôi nhà của gia đình Wakeham và những vườn cam quýt của họ từ những năm 1920 đến năm 1960.

Là một phần trong dự án sửa sang nâng cấp toàn công viên bao gồm bọc cao su mới bề mặt khu vui chơi, khu 'picnic shelter' mới nâng cấp với lối đi dành cho người khuyết tật theo quy định ADA, hàng rào mới cho hồ bơi và sửa sang lại bãi đậu xe.

Để biết thêm thông tin, xin liên lạc về Ban Phục Vụ Cộng Đồng (714) 741-5200.



MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS
March 21, 2024

1. Calendar of Events
2. Cancellation notice for the March 28, 2024 Garden Grove Zoning Meeting.
3. League of California Cities articles from March 14, 2024 to March 21, 2024.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 21, 2024 – April 25, 2024

Thursday	March 21	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC \$2 Coaches Casual Dress Day
Friday	March 22		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Tuesday	March 26	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC Housing Authority, CMC Sanitary District Board, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CMC
Thursday	March 28	9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting, CMC
Saturday	March 30	2:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Eggscavation, Atlantis Play Center 13630 Atlantis Way
Thursday	April 4	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC
Friday	April 5		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Tuesday	April 9	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CMC
Thursday	April 11	11:00 a.m.	State of the City, Hyatt Regency Orange County 11999 Harbor Blvd.
		9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting, CMC
Thursday	April 18	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC \$2 Coaches Casual Dress Day
Friday	April 19		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Tuesday	April 23	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC Housing Authority, CMC Sanitary District Board, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CMC
Thursday	April 25	9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting, CMC



NOTICE OF CANCELLATION
OF THE
GARDEN GROVE
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 28, 2024

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Meeting of the Garden Grove Zoning Administrator scheduled for Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Garden Grove Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, is hereby cancelled.

DATED: March 21, 2024

DAVID DENT
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR



Nation's largest pension fund opposes 'reckless' ballot measure

Mar 20, 2024

By *Brian Hendershot, Cal Cities Advocate Managing Editor*

The California Public Employee Retirement System Board today voted 9-0 to oppose the so-called Taxpayer Protection and Accountability Act. The ballot measure would make it harder for voters and their elected officials to raise funding for essential services.

Opponents of the measure have pointed out that it would be harder to [provide essential services](#) — roads, schools, public safety, affordable housing, and water — if the measure passes. Carolyn Coleman, Cal Cities Executive Director and CEO, called it “a wolf in sheep’s clothing” in her testimony.

“While it claims to protect taxpayers, it will endanger public services and put the public employee pension system at risk,” Coleman said. “If passed, this measure would upend local government finances overnight, attacking local governments’ ability to provide essential

public services and meet their pension obligations to the fund and its beneficiaries.”

With just one member abstaining, the board voted to oppose the measure as it would threaten workers’ retirement and healthcare. Individual members called it [reckless, careless, and cynical](#).

[Lisa Middleton](#), who sits on both the CalPERS and Cal Cities boards, said the initiative could “significantly weaken the financial stability of every city and every county in the state of California.” She further noted that the measure could throw government services in “complete disarray” by redefining “simple, normal fees” and requiring a supermajority for new initiatives.

Other board members also had withering comments. “The Taxpayer Deception Act could pull the rug out from underneath millions of public servants who have worked their whole lives to retire with dignity,” said Fiona Ma, California State Treasurer and CalPERS Board Member.

David Miller, Chair of the CalPERS Investment Committee, said it could “eviscerate funding for schools” and “cripple” education for generations.

Yvonne Walker noted that the measure’s retroactivity clause could invalidate over 100 ballot measures and laws. “Every single Californian will feel the aftershock of this disastrous ballot measure,” she said.

The board noted that members of the California Business Roundtable — the measure’s sponsor — benefit from the pension fund’s investments. This includes Blackstone, Kilroy Realty, Hudson Pacific Properties, PepsiCo, Chevron, and Wells Fargo.

“It’s appalling that the same multibillion-dollar real estate interests seeking to invest CalPERS’ members’ money are trying to defund those members’ pensions,” Board President Theresa Taylor said.



Cal Cities pushes for feasibility and flexibility in updated water regulations

Mar 20, 2024

The 15-day public comment period ends on March 27

By Melissa Sparks-Kranz, legislative affairs lobbyist (environmental quality)

Earlier today, Cal Cities and city representatives provided robust input on updated draft [water efficiency regulations](#). The proposed regulations aim to reduce water usage in urban areas over the long term to lessen the need for mandatory water reductions during the next drought.

The State Water Resources Control Board announced the updated [regulations](#) last week as part of a 15-day comment period. The state also released updated [provisional data](#) showing how much water each supplier will need to conserve. Cities represent about half of the nearly 400 affected urban water suppliers in the state.

The updated regulations address many of the concerns Cal Cities initially identified by providing cities and urban suppliers flexibility to meet a complex water savings goal. Cal Cities and other stakeholders provided feedback on the water conservation package during the previous public comment period, in meetings with the State Water Board, and in working discussions.

The challenge ahead is implementation. Residential customers will need to make long-term changes to their indoor and outdoor water usage under the regulations. To achieve water savings, cities and

urban suppliers will need to calculate water usage and create well-designed conservation programs that incentivize change.

What did Cal Cities advocate for?

State regulators included changes that would give local urban water suppliers two more years to come into compliance, rather than potentially being out of compliance when the regulations take effect on January 1, 2025. Overall, the new draft regulations give urban suppliers an additional five years — 2040 instead of 2035 — to create water savings programs and achieve long-term water use conservation. Suppliers need that time to ensure the programs are structured and financed for the long term.

The State Water Board also revised an alternative pathway to compliance for low-income communities that allows suppliers to develop plans that achieve 1% water savings per year. For urban suppliers that need to make a 30% or greater reduction, a similar pathway to compliance exists that achieves 2% water savings per year.

These pathways create a more feasible approach for those facing the most challenging lift. The updated regulations also recognize that recreational and park spaces, pools, and shade trees should continue to be protected.

Conserving is one of many tools in the toolbox, as California's dramatic swings from one extreme weather event to the next grow worse under climate change. The regulations aim to reduce water usage by 500,000 acre-feet — about 1% of the state's total water use according to a recent [Legislative Analyst's Office Report](#). An acre-foot is enough to serve the needs of about three families for a year in California.

What's next?

The 15-day comment period ends on March 27. The State Water Board anticipates finalizing the regulation in August 2024. Cal Cities plans to submit written comments on the updated regulations.

Individual cities that would like to prepare written comment letters should email them to commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line: Comment Letter – Proposed Making Conservation a California Way of Life Regulation. Please forward a copy of your letter to Cal Cities at cityletters@calcities.org.

To join the Cal Cities Water Working Group — or for more resources, information, and updates on the conservation regulations — please email msparkskranz@calcities.org.



Does blocking a constituent on your social media page violate their constitutional rights? The Supreme Court has new guidance

Mar 20, 2024

By Sheri Chapman, general counsel

The U.S. Supreme Court last Friday issued a unanimous decision establishing a new test to determine when a public official's actions on

their personal social media page may violate a person's right to free speech.

The issue before the court in *Lindke v. Freed* was whether a Michigan city manager violated the First Amendment when he deleted comments and blocked a constituent on his personal Facebook page. This page contained both personal and work-related posts. Similar issues have come before the courts before, with different tests and outcomes.

In *Lindke*, the Supreme Court clarified that a public official who prevents someone from commenting on their personal social media page may be considered to be speaking for the government — thus creating free speech concerns — *only* if two conditions are met: The official has actual authority to speak on the government's behalf on that matter and purported to use that authority when speaking on social media.

Writing for the court, Justice Amy Coney Barrett observed, "Freed did not relinquish his First Amendment Rights when he became a city manager." On the contrary, "the First Amendment protects a public employee's right, in certain circumstances, to speak as a citizen addressing matters of public concern."

The court recognized this right could include exercising editorial control over speech and speakers on a public official's personal social media page. It concluded that a public official's authority to speak on behalf of the organization must be rooted in written law or longstanding custom and extend to the type of speech that is in question, finding it must be within the official's "bailiwick."

The court also found that "if the official has authority to speak for the [government], they may have the authority to do so on social media even if the law does not make that explicit."

Notably, the court ruled that if a social media account is labeled as personal or has a disclaimer that the views expressed are personal, there is a heavy presumption that the posts are personal. Absent such a label or disclaimer, the analysis requires a fact-specific review. In

those instances, the posts' content and function are the most important considerations.

The court explained that a post that expressly invokes government authority to make an announcement not available elsewhere is "official." A post that merely repeats or shares otherwise available information is more likely "personal." When there is doubt, other factors come into play, such as whether government resources were used to post.

The court also held the nature of the social media used by the official should be a part of the analysis. It distinguished between deleting comments and blocking access. According to the court, a censorship tool that operates on a page-wide basis would require consideration of whether *any* of the posts involved government speech. "A public official who fails to keep personal posts in a clearly designated personal account therefore exposes himself to greater potential liability," the court warned.

The court sent the *Lindke* case and a similar challenge in *O'Connor-Ratcliff v. Garnier* back to the lower courts for further proceedings consistent with this new test. The *O'Connor-Ratcliff* case centered on two California school board trustees who blocked parents on personal social media accounts that were used for both personal and board-related information.

The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals determined the agency could be liable for the trustees' conduct, finding a close nexus between their use of social media and their official positions. The Supreme Court found that the Ninth Circuit's approach was different from the one described in *Lindke* and remanded the case.

The International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA) filed amicus briefs in both cases arguing that with the increasing dependence on social media, it was imperative to provide local government with a clear, workable standard. Cal Cities is a member of IMLA, participating in advocacy on a national level.



Your voice matters in Washington, US senators tell California elected officials

Mar 20, 2024

By Brian Hendershot, *Cal Cities Advocate Managing Editor*

Cal Cities leadership and over 170 city officials took their advocacy to Washington last week as part of an annual [Congressional City Conference](#) and advocacy day organized by the National League of Cities. California officials discussed a range of topics with federal lawmakers, such as climate change, homelessness, fiscal sustainability, and public safety.

Leading the delegation was Cal Cities President Daniel Parra (Fowler, Mayor), First Vice President Lynne Kennedy (Rancho Cucamonga, Mayor Pro Tem), Second Vice President Gabe Quinto (El Cerrito, Council Member), Immediate Past President Ali Sajjad Taj (Artesia, Mayor Pro Tem) and Executive Director and CEO Carolyn Coleman.

Cal Cities officers met directly with key lawmakers, including Representatives Pete Aguilar, Salud Carbajal, Jim Costa, John Garamendi, Linda Sánchez, Adam Schiff, and David Valadao, as well as Senators Laphonza Butler and Alex Padilla.

The two senators had a clear message for the city officials who trekked thousands of miles to Capitol Hill: Your voice matters. Keep coming back and make your voice heard. Tell us your story. Tell us

what's working, so we can support those successes and replicate them.

What did city leaders discuss?

Climate resiliency and disaster preparedness are at the top of the list this year for many city leaders. The group urged Congress to speed up its efforts to prepare, reduce, and adapt to climate change — especially in vulnerable and under-resourced communities. City officials drew attention to issues with the state's long-term water supply and the need for more coordination on wildfire mitigation.

City officials called for an infusion of [resources](#) and [legislation](#) to reduce housing costs and homelessness. They argued Congress should expand successful federal programs and voiced concerns about a possible cutoff to reimbursements for COVID-19 emergency shelters. California cities could lose out on \$300 million in reimbursements if the proposal goes through.

Fiscal sustainability was also top of mind. City leaders called for a speedier appropriations process to provide certainty to cities and the people they serve. They urged Congress to not claw back money approved for local programs and reauthorize a [workforce training program](#).

The delegation called for help on several public safety challenges. In California, police retention and recruitment issues are exacerbating crime rates. Similarly, cities need more funding to address the substance use crisis head-on. As part of this, the group asked for more funding for the [Community Oriented Policing Services](#) hiring program or the [SUPPORT Act](#).

“Local government was too hard”

Cal Cities also hosted its popular evening reception, which featured NLC President David Sander (Rancho Cordova, Mayor) and its signature shrimp platter. Sander had earlier introduced the keynote speaker for the conference: President Joe Biden.

Biden joked he only ran for Senate because “local government was too hard.” He went on to quip: “You all think I’m kidding. They know where you live, they think you can solve every problem, and hold you accountable for everything. So ‘God love you’ as my mother would say.”

Other speakers at NLC’s conference included Pete Buttigieg, Secretary of Transportation; Julie A. Su, the Acting Secretary of Labor; and U.S. Representative Salud Carbajal from California’s 24th District.

Additional contributions by Rachel Vincent, [director of strategic communications and marketing](#).