



Mayor's Report

Newsletter of Mayor Keith D. Curry

■ City of Newport Beach ■ California ■ Winter ■ 2010

Greetings !

This newsletter is designed to keep citizens informed about issues facing our city. I welcome your thoughts and comments on its contents. It is distributed to homeowners and residents associations to assist property managers in keeping residents informed.

I also appreciate hearing from residents on specific issues or problems you may be having with the city.

Please feel free to contact me at (949) 721-9422, (949) 644-0800 or e-mail at curryk@pfn.com.

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CITY SERVICES

Administrative Services	644-3127
Licenses	644-3141
Parking Citations	644-3396
Water/Sewer Billing	644-3050
Building Department	644-3275
City Attorney	644-3131
City Clerk	644-3005
City Manager	644-3000
Harbor Resources	644-3034
Public Information Office	644-3031
Fire Department (Business)	633-3104
Fire Marshall	644-3106
General Services	644-3055
Refuse Collection	644-3066
Streets & Sidewalks	644-3060
Human Resources	644-3300
Information	644-3309
Library	717-3800
Mayor/City Council	644-3004
Planning Department	644-3200
Economic Development	644-3225
Police Department (Business)	644-3681
Police (Non-Emergency)	644-3717
Public Works	644-3311
Recreation & Senior Services	644-3151
Oasis Senior Center	644-3244
Recreation	644-3151
Utilities	644-3011
Virtual FAQs	644-3211

The New Year Takes Shape

This is my first report to you as Mayor. I look forward to leading the city into what will be both an exciting and challenging 2010. It will be exciting because we will open the new OASIS Senior Center, a state of the art facility located at Marguerite and Fifth Ave. We will also break ground on the new civic center and we will commence work on three significant new parks.

It will also be a year of challenges as we address the current national economic slowdown. Employment losses and lower tax revenues continue throughout southern California.

Here in Newport Beach, we are taking several steps to address this situation. Our Fiscal Sustainability Plan is one effort to make it clear as a matter of policy that we as a city are fully focused on multiple efforts to protect our fiscal health and stability and to promote a strong underlying economy. On December 8th, the council approved City Manager Dave Kiff's plan to provide an early retirement incentive to 51 city employees. This will result in a net reduction of 36.9 positions and will allow us the flexibility to reorganize services and utilize lower compensated employees for some functions. Net of the cost of retirement incentives and

backfilling, this plan will generate over \$3 million in annual and ongoing budget savings. We are continuing to work in partnership with our bargaining units to achieve additional budget savings with the goal of preserving our high level of services.

In January, the city opened up its street sweeping to competitive contracting. City crews will bid against private sector providers to see who can most efficiently handle this service.

We have taken steps to create a citizen's Charter Review Commission. The role of the commission will be to make recommendations that will be considered by the voters for updating our City Charter. Our goal is to make the Charter consistent with state laws and to provide more efficiency in city administration.

Protecting the city's financial health is a top priority of the city council and you can expect continued initiatives to address the challenges of this economy in the coming months.

Best wishes to you and your family for the New Year ahead. ■

My Visit with the President

Recently I had the pleasure of participating in the winter meeting of the US Conference of Mayors in Washington DC. Mayors from all over the nation gathered to discuss the common economic and budget issues confronting all cities and to identify ways the Federal government can be more helpful to cities in addressing these problems.

The highlight of the meeting was a visit to the White House to meet with the President and Vice President. Approximately 120 of us attended a reception on the main floor of the White House before being escorted into the East Room for a briefing with Secretary of the Treasury Tim Geithner, economic advisor Larry Summers, and presidential policy advisor Valerie Jarrett. Following the briefing, President Obama and Vice President Biden joined the Mayors to discuss the need to create jobs in our nation and the role cities can play in economic revitalization.

Since our meeting occurred in the immediate aftermath of the Massachusetts Senate special election, it was clear that the President was rethinking his agenda and trying to focus away from health care to economic recovery. Hopefully this reassessment will result in a backing away from the efforts to raise taxes and further

damage our economy. The President was charming and gracious, but he also showed the signs of being under constant political assault. Following our one hour with the President, the Mayors had lunch in the State Dining Room before returning to the conference. I had the opportunity to thank members of the President's Intergovernmental Affairs staff personally for including initial funding for the dredging of lower Newport Bay in the President's budget.

able to speak directly with Rocco Landesman, Chairman of the National Endowment of the Arts on programs that may assist our arts initiatives in Newport Beach.

Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann received a special award for his efforts to promote arts in his city and I came back with several ideas based on things he has done. (Mayor Hanneman is also a fine singer, your mayor alas, is not).



Keith Curry with Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster in the grand entry way of the White House during the Conference of Mayors meeting with President Obama.

It was also a great opportunity to share ideas and thoughts with the other Mayors. For example, Mayor Arlene Mulder of Arlington Heights Illinois is very active in efforts to reduce the impact of O'Hare airport on her community. She advised us of an upcoming

conference sponsored by UC Davis on the impacts of airport-related pollution on air quality and we are now planning to participate. (I would note the other Mayors are aware and very jealous of our Settlement Agreement regarding JWA).

Mayors are one group, regardless of political affiliation, who are focused on achieving real solutions to the problems and issues facing our cities.

Note: This trip to Washington was not at city expense.

Prior to our visit, First Lady Michelle Obama addressed the Mayors on the issue of childhood obesity. She is leading a major policy initiative addressing this serious issue and I believe we should all consider how we can best assist in reducing this problem resulting from lack of exercise and poor diet by America's children.

In all, nine cabinet members and other high ranking administration officials addressed the Mayors. I was

Council Adopts Fiscal Sustainability Plan

Our current economic crisis gives rise to the question; “What can cities do to protect their economic and fiscal health”? To navigate these difficult waters, I introduced the Fiscal Sustainability Plan. This Plan is a statement of principles and action items, most of which are already underway, that focus our community on the strategies necessary to preserve fiscal stability in Newport Beach.

This Plan begins with the premise that the most important elements are providing a sound underlying economy and a strong business environment. Secondly, it speaks to how we manage our City and articulates the steps necessary to ensure we live within our means. Finally we must protect our community against forces that would seek to divert our revenues or harm our taxpayers. The following are 15 elements, enacted during our first meeting in January, as a Fiscal Sustainability Plan for Newport Beach:

1. The City will proactively seek to protect and expand its tax base by encouraging a healthy underlying local economy.
2. The City will work to protect and enhance the property values of all Newport Beach residents and property owners.
3. The City will encourage shopping, dining and visiting at Newport Beach stores, restaurants and hotels.
4. The City will establish and maintain appropriate cash reserves.
5. The City will manage its Facilities Finance Plan to not exceed the Plan’s 5% of general fund threshold.
6. City revenue performance will be reviewed no less than quarterly and appropriate budget adjustments will be made in advance of the end of a budget year if revenue performance is not meeting projections.
7. The City will initiate a “Results Based Budgeting” approach that allows the public and the city council to prioritize city expenditures strategically rather than simply adjusting legacy expenditures to reflect inflation.
8. The City will implement a Performance Measurement/Management Strategy as part of an ongoing effort to ensure high quality and efficient performance.
9. The City will consider outsourcing of services and equipment when appropriate and where clear, cost effective alternatives exist.
10. The City will make it a priority to be energy efficient in its provision of public services.
11. The City will establish appropriate cost recovery targets for its fee structure and will annually adjust its fees up or down to ensure that the fees continue to reflect cost recovery targets.
12. The City will oppose efforts of the state and county government to divert revenues from the City or to increase the unfunded service mandates on City taxpayers.
13. The City will work in partnership with its employees to ensure fair compensation and that costs related to pension and other benefits are appropriately allocated between employer and employees.
14. The City will vigorously defend itself and its taxpayers against frivolous lawsuits.
15. The City will seek grants and intergovernmental funding assistance to augment city funding.

Taken together, these strategies can help ensure that Newport Beach remains a fiscally strong community with high quality public services. Be assured that the city council is focused on this most important goal.

Newport Beach Services Are Online

Newport Beach encourages its citizens to take advantage of the ability to handle many transactions online in the comfort of your own home. In addition, the city, the police department and the library are connected to FaceBook and Twitter for those of you who prefer these social media outlets.

The following are a list of services available on line, as well as contact information for city Twitter and FaceBook accounts.

Business Licensing

- Business License Application
- Business Tax Review
- Business License Search
- Cancel Business License
- Renew Business License
- Update Business License Information

City Clerk

- Public Records Act Request

City Jobs

- Job Opportunities
- Apply for Jobs
- Salary Schedule

Citations

- Administrative Citation Appeal
- Parking Citation Appeal
- Pay for a Citation

Complaints

- Building, Fire & Municipal Code Complaints
 - Appliances / Furniture in Alleyway
 - Boarding House
 - Fire Code Complaint
 - Garage Inaccessible for Parking
 - Illegal Dwelling
 - Property Maintenance
 - Trash & Debris Complaints
 - Unpermitted Construction
 - Water Quality /Spills

Documents

- Building Permits History
- Council Meeting Agendas & Minutes
- Planning Commission Agendas & Minutes
- Planning Documents

Library

- Apply for a Library Card
- Update Account
- Catalog Search
- Renew Books & Materials

Newport Beach Maps

- Interactive Map
- Map Catalog

Recreation

- Register for a Class
- Special Events

Parking

- Renew Your Permit
- Purchase a Parking Permit
- Parking Citation Appeal
- Pay Your Citation

Permits & Inspections

- Building Permit Inspections
- Encroachment Inspections
- Parking Permits
- Permit/Activity Information
- Plan Check Status
- RBR Information
- Permits Search by Address
- Residential Building Records Search
- Request a Charter Permit

Police

- Online Citizen Reporting
- Vacation Check

Vendors & Bidding

- Become a City Vendor
- Public Works Project Bidding

Water Services

- Start/Stop Water Service
- Pay Water Bill
- Update Billing Information

Social Media

FaceBook

- Newport Beach Police Department
- Newport Beach Public Library (Library, Teen's and Foundation pages)

Twitter

- NBPD (Newport Beach PolicePD)
- Library (npbl)
- City of Newport Beach (newportbeachgov)
- Code & WQ (H2OConserve)

