



# FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

A California nonprofit corporation of Sunset Park residents • Box 5823, Santa Monica, California 90409-5823 • FriendsofSP@yahoo.com

## APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs

### City Council

**April 14** At its online meeting on April 14, the City Council took the first major step in addressing changed operations and declining revenues resulting from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency – authorizing City staff to implement a Voluntary Early Separation Incentive Program (VESIP) for eligible staff.

The City relies heavily on revenues impacted by the State and County stay at home orders, including retail, tourism, dining, and entertainment. Projections show that by June 30, the City will have a \$72 million budget gap in the General Fund. Projected deficits for FY 2020–21 show an additional shortfall of \$154 million.

The VESIP will provide monetary incentives for staff who voluntarily choose to leave City employment. They will receive a lump sum of \$15,000 or \$10,000 (depending on their date of hire) and 18 months of medical benefits, and their last day of employment will be May 9.

**April 28** The City Council will hold its regular meeting by teleconference at 5:30 PM. The meeting can be viewed at:

**CityTV:** Cable Channel 16

**Streaming:** <https://www.smgov.net/content.aspx?id=4292>

**Live Stream (Chrome Browser Recommended):** <https://tinyurl.com/yd5qjbvk>

**Agenda:** <https://tinyurl.com/yd8nh6dd>

**May 5** On April 14, Council directed the City Manager to return on or before May 5 with a proposed plan that restructures City operations and balances the City budget in response to the pandemic. Restructuring City operations will focus on foundational programs, emergency response, and economic recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Community Policing

**SMPD Neighborhood Resource Officer**

Michael.Ortiz@smgov.net  
310-458-2201 ext 4135

**Crime Prevention Coordinator**

Halima.Barreto@smgov.net  
310-458-8618

**Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD):** [www.SantaMonicaPD.org](http://www.SantaMonicaPD.org)

**Report An In-Progress, Life-Threatening Emergency:** Dial 9-1-1

**Request Non-Emergency Police Service:** Dial 310-458-8491

### Land Use

Opinion: “Death by 9,000 Cuts” Mario Fonda-Bonardi AIA for SMA.r.t. (Santa Monica Architects for a Responsible Tomorrow)

2/28/20 – *Santa Monica Mirror*

<https://smmirror.com/2020/02/death-by-9000-cuts/>

“Our city is now under siege from the State of California, which has arbitrarily decided that we need to build 8,800 new housing units in the next 8 years (a 20% population increase). Furthermore, two-thirds of these mirage units need to be affordable units under pain of severe State funding withdrawal penalties if your city fails to make “good” progress toward this goal.

**What would such a construction binge look like?** According to the City Planning Department’s own estimate, because many smaller residential buildings would need to be demolished to make room for these new behemoths, we would need to build 10-15% more replacement units to reach their 8,800 new unit goal. In other words, we actually need to build about 10,000 new units. This means 100 new 100-unit buildings, or about 12 such skyscrapers in each of the city’s 8.4 square miles.

**But certainly this would not impact the single-family districts you say?** Actually, they too are under siege by another different Sacramento threat, Senator Weiner’s zombie bill SB 50, which in its evolving formulations wants mandatory 6-8 story buildings everywhere in our City within certain distances to transit stops. His evolving distances have not yet been finalized, but his bill means they could be built anywhere in the City except north of San Vicente or south of Ashland.

This zombie bill keeps getting rejected but keeps coming back because Weiner, having taken over \$500,000 of real estate industry money, still needs to deliver to his handlers....

In reality, the state quota and bills like SB 50 are not intended to produce affordable housing, but to make money for real estate speculators...we need to get the delusional State quota out of our way by just saying NO. Santa Monica, that has a credible affordable housing program, should be truthful to its residents and itself as to how it will realistically add to its affordable housing. It can start by speaking truth to power: the City Council, as the only party that has standing to appeal, has two months to appeal the State’s insane quota. The clock is ticking....”

### Covid-19 Update

Santa Monica extends local emergency and associated orders through May 5. Stay at home unless you need food, a prescription, or a quick jaunt for fresh air. When out for essential trips, maintain six feet of physical distance, frequently wash your hands, and wear a face covering.

**Two weekly Farmers Markets:** Wednesday and Saturday in Downtown Santa Monica, 8 AM to 1 PM, for the duration of the Stay-at-Home order.

**All employees and patrons at open businesses in Santa Monica are now required to wear protective face coverings.** LA County Department of Public Health and CDC call for the general public to use non-medical grade face coverings when out for essential supplies and services.

On April 8, the City issued a revised supplemental order that strengthens the City’s **eviction moratorium**. <https://tinyurl.com/y8397dsp>

LA County temporarily closed all County beaches including Santa Monica Beach, Bike Path, Ocean Front Walk, and beach access points through May 15, 2020. Palisades Park is also closed.

LA County Guidance requires construction sites to designate a Site Safety Representative to monitor and implement recommended COVID-19 safety practices.

**5 Programs to Help You Save Money on Utilities and Food during COVID-19:** <https://tinyurl.com/y7ngkahx>

### City Manager

On April 18, the City Council accepted Rick Cole’s offer to step down from his role as City Manager and unanimously voted to name Lane Dilg as Interim City Manager. Dilg will be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the City of Santa Monica, implementation of City Council ordinances and policies, oversight of 14 departments, and the City’s operational budget. She will also serve as Director of Emergency Services throughout the local emergency as the City responds to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency.

Additional information is available at <https://tinyurl.com/yaayuphx>



## Census

Every 10 years, the federal government is required to count all residents in the United States, regardless of citizenship stats, age, or criminal history, through a national census. The census is occurring now. Your participation is critical to our community because an accurate population count helps ensure that the federal government resources are allocated fairly to fund community programs and services such as public safety, education, transportation, housing, and road maintenance. In California, the census will dictate how \$115 billion dollars is allocated among its cities. You can participate online, by phone, or by mail. For more information visit [www.census.ca.gov](http://www.census.ca.gov) or call 844-330-2020.

## Measure R Senior Exemption for Homeowners

Information to apply for the Measure R Senior Exemption may be found at <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/3905>. The application form and supporting documentation must be completed, signed and returned by June 30, 2020.

In 2008, the voters of Santa Monica and Malibu approved the Measure R parcel tax, which contains a CPI-U adjustment, and allows senior citizens who meet the following criteria to be exempted from the tax: a) Senior property owner must be at least 65 years of age by June 30<sup>th</sup> for the year the exemption application is submitted, and b) Senior must own and be residing in their property as their primary residence.

**How to Apply:** (only use this application form for NEW applications)

Parcels that received an exemption in 2019–2020 and continue to meet the eligibility criteria will be automatically exempted for 2020–2021. If you wish to check your status, please email [MeasureR@smmusd.org](mailto:MeasureR@smmusd.org) with your name and address or parcel number. Download the Senior Citizen Exemption Application form at <https://tinyurl.com/ycjqjw5c>. Phone 310-450-8338

## SMC Main Campus Master Plan

The October 2019 and March 2020 FOSP meetings included presentations about the SMC Main Campus Facilities Master Plan. Charlie Yen, SMC Director of Facilities Planning, was joined by Linsey Graff from the DLR Group.

Topics being considered include Sustainability, Campus Identity, Land Use/Density, Space Utilization/Space Needs, Open Space, Circulation and Parking, Infrastructure, and Campus as Community Resource.

According to the proposed schedule, documentation and approvals are expected by May 2020. The October 2019 PowerPoint presentation is posted at <https://tinyurl.com/yx2whtve>

## Affordable Housing

The City of Santa Monica will open online applications for its Section 8 and Below Market Housing (BMH) programs beginning Friday, May 1st, at 8 AM.

This is an opportunity for both Santa Monica residents and workers. The Section 8 program provides rental subsidies to low-income families to help pay rent. The Below Market Housing program offers housing opportunities for a range of households at varying income levels, from extremely low income to incomes as high as \$94,700 for single households and higher for bigger families. You do not have to be experiencing a financial hardship as a result of COVID-19 to apply.

Applications will be available in English and Spanish and will only be accepted online at [www.santamonica.gov/housing](http://www.santamonica.gov/housing). Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis, but documents to support income and city priorities will need to be downloaded with the application.

The Housing Division is available to help walk applicants through the process, particularly those who require reasonable accommodation or language assistance. Leave a message at (310) 458-2232 after the applications opens on May 1. If you know someone who could take advantage of the program, but does not have access to a computer, the City encourages you to help, while maintaining social distancing. For more information on the waitlist, housing programs, and to apply, visit [www.santamonica.gov/housing](http://www.santamonica.gov/housing)

## FOSP Board of Directors

Zina Josephs, President  
 Clare Thomas, Vice President  
 Charles R. Donaldson, Secretary  
 Vivien Flitton, Treasurer  
 Nikki Kolhoff, Land Use Committee Chair  
 Cathy Larson, Airport Committee Chair  
 Peter Donald  
 Ofer Grossman  
 Alex Novakovich

## Landmarks

The January 2020 FOSP Board meeting included a visit from Landmarks Commissioner Ruth Shari, third term real estate licensee on the Commission. She is also a long time Sunset Park resident and homeowner.

She introduced a new brochure—the first since 2003—which is intended to educate homeowners and stakeholders on the preservation program in the City of Santa Monica. Replete with photos of notable landmarks, brochure topics include: the criteria for designation, preservation incentives and benefits, the Historic Resources Inventory (HRI), how to apply for designation, and how alterations proceed with an historic property, among others.

References to extensive online information/websites are in the brochure. Commissioner Shari is available to answer questions from anyone in the neighborhood at [RuthShari@aol.com](mailto:RuthShari@aol.com). The Landmarks Commission staff liaison is Steve Mizokami in the City Planning Department at 310-458-8341.

Additional information about historic preservation in Santa Monica is posted at <https://tinyurl.com/ya5flb8n>

## Electric Lawn Mower Rebate – South Coast AQMD

Participants can purchase a new cordless electric lawn mower at any retail center or online. You must have an old, operational gas mower to scrap. You must live within the South Coast AQMD's 4-County jurisdiction. Only one rebate is allowed per household. If the purchase price (not including taxes and delivery) of the cordless electric lawn mower with battery and charger is \$250 or less, the eligible rebate is \$150. If \$251 to \$400, the eligible rebate is \$200. If \$401 or more, the eligible rebate is \$250. Go to [www.aqmd.gov/lawn-mower](http://www.aqmd.gov/lawn-mower) for more information. You can also email [LawnMower@aqmd.gov](mailto:LawnMower@aqmd.gov) or call 888-425-6247 (Tuesday-Friday).

## Sunset Park Crime Mapping: January 1 through March 31, 2020

