

DISTRICT UPDATE



CITY OF PASADENA | MARCH 1, 2021



Dear Friends,

I will be hosting a Virtual District 7 Meeting on Thursday, March 11th at 5:00 p.m. on Zoom. During the meeting, we will have updates from Police Chief John Perez, Director of Public Health Dr. Ying-Ying Goh, and Transportation Director Laura Rubio-Cornejo. Members of our audience will be able to submit questions to each of our speakers.

Welcome to District 7

Vice Mayor
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District 7
Liaison
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To join the meeting:
click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83520005609>

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Or Telephone:

Dial US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 346 248 7799

Webinar ID: 835 2000 5609

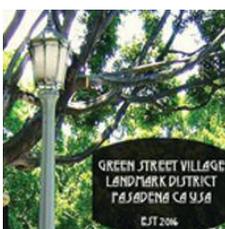
This week, our monthly constituent coffee will take place via Zoom Thursday, March 4th at 8:00 a.m. If you would like to participate:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6609721839>



[South Lake Business Association](#)



[Green Street Village](#)



[Playhouse Village](#)

[Pasadena COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

[Pasadena COVID-19 Vaccination Information](#)

[Pasadena COVID-19 Vaccinations Dashboard](#)

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Stay safe!

Andy

PASADENA COVID-19 INFECTION RATES AND HOSPITALIZATIONS CONTINUE TO DECLINE AS VACCINES ARE DISTRIBUTED

Great news: Our new daily reported cases of COVID-19 are continuing to decrease - down last week to a 7 day average of 14 cases from the prior week of 16 cases.. Last week, officials at Huntington Hospital reported treating 57 COVID-19 patients with 13 individuals in the ICU. Hospitalizations have continued to decline there since mid-January.

This news, coupled with the fact that 71% of Pasadena residents age 65 and older have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, is very encouraging. This high rate of vaccination have been made possible in part through the efforts of the Pasadena Public Health Department and Huntington Hospital with high-volume vaccination dispensing sites and mobile vaccine strike teams.

Our Health Department and Huntington Hospital are planning a series of community-located clinics in the coming weeks and months to serve older adults with less healthcare access. Even with limited quantities of vaccine allocated by the state to Pasadena, the City's priority is to ensure that all eligible residents and workers in the hardest hit communities have easy and equitable access to vaccines.

COVID-19 mortality is highest among seniors. Over 84% of COVID-19 fatalities in Pasadena have been in people over age 65. Vaccinating this group remains a high priority. Pasadena residents 65 and older who need access to COVID-19 vaccine can [submit an inquiry form online](#), or contact the Citizen Service Center for more information at (626) 744-7311, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

[Public Health Reopening Protocol for Outdoor and Indoor Youth and Recreational Adult Sports](#)

Currently, only healthcare workers, residents and staff at long-term care facilities, emergency workers and first responders, and Pasadena residents who are age 65 or older are eligible to be vaccinated. Thousands of additional vaccine doses are now available at federally-run sites and commercial pharmacies. Eligible Pasadena residents should sign up at myturn.ca.gov or contact their healthcare provider or local pharmacy for vaccine availability.

For more information on vaccine availability at local pharmacies, visit:

[Watch Mayor Gordo's 2021 State of the City Address](#)

- Rite Aid: www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/covid-qualifier
- Vons: www.vons.com/pharmacy/covid-19.html
- Pavilions: www.pavilions.com/pharmacy/covid-19.html
- Ralphs: www.ralphs.com/rx/covid-eligibility
- CVS: www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine
- Walgreens: www.walgreens.com/topic/promotion/covid-vaccine.jsp

And finally, the City Council has a joint meeting with the Pasadena Unified School Board today at 3 p.m. One agenda item will take up the reopening of schools in PUSD.



2021 STATE OF THE CITY

For those of you who may have missed Mayor Gordo's State of the City Address, a copy of his script here: [2021 State of the City: A Time Like No Other](#). In his presentation, Mayor Gordo outlined the City's COVID-19 response including nearly \$1 million in rental assistance to residents impacted by COVID-19, the Great Plates program which provided healthy meals to seniors while helping to subsidize our local restaurants, funding for over 150k meals for PUSD students and their families, and funding of \$572,000 for food banks, pantries and feeding programs, which in turn has provided meals to over 27,000 residents of Pasadena experiencing food insecurity.

Economically, while the City has spent approximately \$30 million in pandemic related expenses and lost about \$30 million in revenue, the City is still on solid ground with General Fund Reserves at \$2.5 million in Operating Reserve, \$41.3 million in Emergency Reserve and \$12.8 million in the Section 115 Trust. Of course, concerns about the financial health of the Rose Bowl and the Convention Center loom, and the pandemic has had a disastrous impact on our local businesses.

Mayor Gordo also addressed crime rates in our City. While overall crime has dropped 20% in Pasadena in the last year, we had a troubling 50% increase in victims of a shooting, and have already seen 7 shootings in 2021. In the last

two months, Pasadena Police officers have confiscated 50 guns, with a total of 300 guns confiscated last year. This disturbing trend mirrors the national rates where violent crime has increased 35%. While these violent acts are not occurring in District 7, it saddens all of us that they plague any part of our City. The Police Department is doing everything possible to address this issue. In addition to working with faith-based and community groups, PPD has more officers on patrol now than in the last 10 years and foot patrols have been increased in and around several city parks where many of these incidents have occurred. The Public Safety Committee continues to closely monitor this difficult situation.

We remain hopeful that with COVID-19 infections decreasing, vaccinations increasing and forecasts for GDP increases in the next year, we will have a much better 2021!

PASADENA CITY COUNCIL APPOINTS JESSICA RIVAS TO DISTRICT 5 SEAT



District 5 resident and attorney Jessica Rivas has been appointed to fill the District 5 council seat vacated by Victor Gordo when he started his term as mayor in December. The council came to the unanimous decision after interviewing and hearing presentations from Rivas and three other candidates during a special meeting on Feb. 4. She was sworn in as the District 5-appointed council member by City Clerk Mark Jomsky following the council's action. In accordance with the City Charter, Rivas will serve in the appointed position until the office is filled by District 5 voters during the next general municipal election cycle in 2022.

Rivas has spent her career working in the public sector and currently serves as a deputy county counsel for Los Angeles County. She previously worked as a deputy attorney general with the California Department of Justice and as a judge advocate in the Army Reserves. Rivas most recently served on the City of Pasadena's Northwest Commission and previously served on the City's Commission on the Status of Women. I am pleased to welcome her to the Council.

COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MARCH 15

The City is now accepting applications for the initial nominations for appointment to the commission, with appointments to occur in the coming weeks. The application for those interested in serving as a commission member is available online [here](#).

The Oversight Commission will be composed of 11 members, with each City Council member nominating one (for a total of eight), and three members nominated from community-based organizations. Commissioners will be paid \$100 per meeting and will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement before being sworn in. The Public Safety Committee will soon be

determining the rules and regulations for the Commission, possibly in conjunction with the Independent Auditor.

Those who are interested in serving are encouraged to apply by 5 p.m. on March 15, 2021, to be part of the pool of applicants to be considered for the initial appointments to the 11 available vacant positions.

For questions, additional information, or to be sent an application by mail, please contact the mayor's office at (626) 744-4333.

PASADENA PREVAILS IN LAWSUIT REGARDING TRANSFER OF ELECTRIC RATE REVENUES

The City of Pasadena has prevailed in a class action lawsuit that challenged the annual transfer from the power fund to the City's General Fund. On Feb. 24, a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge granted Pasadena's motion to have the case dismissed.

If the City were unsuccessful in the lawsuit, it faced the loss of approximately \$18 million annually in General Fund monies. The General Fund is the City's primary operating fund, and provides a number of essential services to Pasadena residents and businesses.

The lawsuit was originally filed in 2017, alleging the use of electric rates to fund the transfer to the General Fund violates the California Constitution. Pasadena voters had established and confirmed City Charter provisions allowing the General Fund transfer a total of seven times, dating back to 1934.

In March 2020, the City was unsuccessful in obtaining a dismissal of the lawsuit, where the City had argued that Pasadena voters had approved the Charter-authorized transfer a total of seven times. Therefore, in July 2020, the City Council placed the Charter provisions for the transfer on the ballot for the eighth time. In November 2020, nearly 84% of Pasadena voters resoundingly approved Measure P, confirming that voters clearly approve of having a portion of their electric rates fund the \$18 million annual transfer to the General Fund.

With Pasadena voter approval of Measure P, and a Jan. 29 published (precedential) appellate decision approving of Sacramento's utility fund transfer, Pasadena sought reconsideration in its case. The court's decision reverses its March 2020 decision against Pasadena. The decision recognizes that Measure P and the court decision on Sacramento's transfer both require "new and different orders granting [Pasadena's] motion for summary judgment."

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at www.cityofpasadena.net; follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#);

or call the Citizen Service Center, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at (626) 744-7311.