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- SEE PAGE 2

# Alive!

HARBOR

# In Gear

Photo for Alive! by Don Haynes, Harbor

Logistics Victory LA heads (from left) Avin Sharma, Port of Los Angeles Director of Workforce Development and Labor Relations; and Gene Seroka, Port of Los Angeles Executive Director and City of Los Angeles Chief Logistics Officer, in a logistics warehouse.

As it delivers its one millionth piece of medical gear, the Logistics Victory LA program continues supplying hospitals with the equipment they need during the pandemic.

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# A First for Us; a Last for Ed

## JOHN'S BLOG

by John Hawkins, President and CEO, The Club



In these strange times, I'm not surprised when unusual things happen. This month's issue is no exception – we have a first (producing a cover story without actually visiting) and a last (the retirement of the longtime servant of Retired City employees).

Club Director of Marketing Summy Lam photographs Ed Harding and John Hawkins – a longtime business friendship captured in *Alive!*



First, the first: This month's cover story on Harbor's important Logistics Victory LA project, which sources, collects, stores and distributes critically necessary medical gear to area hospitals, is the first one we've produced on a City department here in LA remotely. We worked with the Port's **Rachel Campbell, Phillip Sanfield, Gene Seroka** and **Avin Sharma** to gather everything we needed to put it together while staying safe at home and not actually on site. (Early

in *Alive!*'s existence, we did some stories on the City response to Hurricane Katrina where we couldn't be there, obviously, but that was different.) Producing this month's main story meant coordination and research over email and texting; interviews by phone; and data processing and transcription via Dropbox and the Web.

But how to get exclusive photos? We couldn't even know the location of the Logistics Victory LA warehouse, for security purposes. Harbor photographer **Don Haynes** volunteered to set up and photograph the project for us by himself, using art direction we sent and samples we transmitted from previous editions. Don did an awesome job in matching our style and quality.

That's not to say that working totally remotely is a perfect substitute for being there. It's not. For more than 17 years, *Alive!* has prided itself on standing elbow to elbow with City Employees, learning what you do and sometimes sweating right there with you. That's in the DNA of the Club. In fact, we have another interview (distanced but in person)

set up for a day after I write this. It's going to be amazing, trust me. We are all working under challenging conditions these days, but we are willing to do whatever it takes to tell your stories and celebrate your lives. It's what we do. You matter to us, no matter what.

And now from a first, to a last: Longtime RLACEI Director **Ed Harding** retires from that retirees association after decades of faithful service. I wrote a tribute to Ed in this month's RLACEI section, so I won't repeat myself. If you have a thought or two of congratulations about Ed's retirement and service, feel free to send it my way, and we'll share it. Send it to: [jhawkins@employeesclub.com](mailto:jhawkins@employeesclub.com)

As we head into the fall and recall how less busy we are this year than in normal falls, please take the time to enjoy the most important thing of all – family. And we'll back here again next month with another story captured as in person as the pandemic allows.

See you then!

**JOHN**

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**NEW THIS MONTH ONLINE!**

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## John's Picture Perfect

See the winners from this month's photo contest.



## Alive! Around the World

Follow Capt. Michael Barnes, Retired, Harbor, as he visits Albania (pre-COVID).



## Cooking With the Club

Chef Larios prepares a meal of spiced pork chops with braised apple, cabbage and cranberries. Prepare your own!



# Kid's Coloring Contest Winners

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Or online:

[aliveemployeesclub.com/kidscoloringwinners](http://aliveemployeesclub.com/kidscoloringwinners)



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### Email us at:

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if you have an event you want an event covered in *Alive!* or if you have questions about insurance.

Or call us at: (800) 464-0452

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At Club Headquarters



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Member Services Counselor  
Ext. 159



**Cheryl Martin**  
Member Services Counselor  
Ext. 136

At the Club Store



**Tiffany Sy**  
Member Services Counselor  
Ext. 202

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DWP *Photo by Chris Corsmeier, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power*

# Clarence Retires

**Clarence Martin, longtime Aqueduct Manager, has retired after 32 years of City service.**



Clarence Martin, Retiree, at the DWP regional office in Bishop.

“Throughout his tenure with the DWP, Clarence always strived to strike the balance at being a good ambassador for the Department and a friend to the Owens Valley,” said Anselmo Collins, Director of Water Operations for LADWP. (Anselmo was quoted in the LADWP Intake magazine.) “People tend to call him the honorary Mayor of Bishop. He is a man with a lot of pride and integrity, and it has been a pleasure having him head up the Aqueduct section. He is not just a great engineer, but a great person with a big heart.” ■

*Congratulations on your career, Clarence! The Club wishes you the best.*



**Club City-seal masks are a big Club Store hit!**

## THE CLUB

# Mask Mania!

Hand-made City seal masks are a Club Store hit.

Have you ordered your City seal masks from the Online Club Store yet?

If you have, you're part of why these awesome and very affordable facemasks are one of the biggest Club Store hits in years. The Club has already sold more than 1,000. We're constantly restocking, so there's no need to wait any longer.

These masks are soft, comfortable, breathable, durable, washable and adjustable. They're available in white or black, and the seal is heat-pressed onto the mask right at the Club Store. The completed masks are then shipped directly to customers. (The walk-in Club Store remains closed at press time, so be safe and order online!)

The price can't be beat for this Club-exclusive product: \$7 for Club Members; \$14 for non-members. ■

City seal masks are available in black or white. (State of California seal masks are also available.)



Club Store Administrative Assistant Isaiah Hawkins affixes a mailing label for the next shipment of Club Store City seal masks.



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– SEE THIS PAGE

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## Insurance Wise

BY DALILA VIELMA, MEMBER SERVICES COUNSELOR  
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**CLUB**

# Invite the Club to Your Online Meeting!

The Club is in full operation (except for the walk-in Club Store, for now) and working hard to bring exclusive Club benefits to City and DWP employees.

Over the last few months, we've been meeting with hundreds of you. How? Through City online presentations!

Bring great Club benefits to your next meeting! Invite us to your next Webex presentation. **To book: info@employeesclub.com**

Throughout the summer, Counselor Dalila Vielma participated in presentations about Club benefits by participating in departmental online meetings. She has an informative narrated slide presentation to show, and she can prepare Club materials and drop them off in advance.

The Club can join meetings in the following platforms: Webex, Zoom, GoToMeeting, Rooms, Teams, Spaces, Slack and others. You name the platform, and we'll meet you there! ■



Last month, Club Counselor Dalila Vielma (middle row left) presented the Club story and benefits to DWP new employees using the Webex teleconference app.

Club Counselor Dalila Vielma is ready with great Club information for your next online meeting. **Invite her to join!**

**LIBRARY**

# Get It to Go!

Public Library partially reopens with convenience, safe curbside service.

July 2, the Library and Mayor's Office inaugurated Library to Go – opening 18 Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) branches for curbside pickup and drop-off across the city.

With Library to Go, patrons will be able to pick up materials they requested but were unable to collect when Library closed in March due to COVID-19. They will also be able to place new holds using the online catalog and pick up books and other materials at one of 18 branches in neighborhoods across Los Angeles. The Libraries taking part in Library to Go are:

- Arroyo Seco Regional Branch
- Central Library
- Echo Park Branch
- Exposition Park Regional Branch
- Fairfax Branch
- Junipero Serra Branch
- Los Feliz Branch
- Mar Vista Branch
- Northridge Branch
- Panorama City Branch
- Pio Pico-Koreatown Branch
- San Pedro Regional Branch
- Sherman Oaks Branch
- Silver Lake Branch
- Studio City Branch
- Sylmar Branch
- Westwood Branch
- Woodland Hills Branch



A demonstration of the Library's new curbside pickup service.

"We are thrilled to be launching the Library to Go pickup service!" said City Librarian John F. Szabo, Club Member. "We know that Angelenos love their libraries and have missed them. And while we have remained very much connected online — through extensive virtual programming and our wonderfully diverse e-media collections — there is just something magical about being able to bring home new library books. We look forward to seeing our patrons again soon!"

Once materials have been reserved online, Angelenos will receive an email or telephone call with instructions on scheduling an appointment for pickup. When collecting library materials

from tables located outside the libraries, patrons will be required to wear masks and wait in a physically distanced holding area. All materials will be isolated for 72 hours before being returned to shelves or being reissued, as recommended by public health experts.

Materials checked out before the LAPL closed due to COVID-19 have been extended to Sept. 30. The due date on items checked out through Library to Go will follow the standard borrowing schedules of three weeks for books and audiobooks and one week for DVDs and CDs. ■

**For more information: [lapl.org/Library-To-Go](http://lapl.org/Library-To-Go).**

**LAPD**



Paulette Stanton, PSR III, LAPD, with the 32 years of City service, celebrates her final roll call July 31. (Photo courtesy LAPD)

# Paulette's Last Roll Call

**PSR III Paulette Stanton, Club Member, retires after 32 years.**

Police Service Representative III Paulette Stanton, Club Member, enjoyed her last roll call July 31 at Metro Communications Center. Paulette retires with 32 years of City service.

Paulette appeared in *Alive!* in September 2009 as part of our "Question of the Month" feature.

"Today we celebrated the last roll call of one of our most beloved PSR IIIs, Paulette

Stanton," LAPD Communications Tweeted. "She's touched many lives with her wisdom and kindness as an instructor, co-worker and friend.

"As she enters the exciting state of retirement, we wish her happiness and joy."

We mirror those sentiments, Paulette. Congratulations on a great City career, and for keeping us safe. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement. ■

*Congratulations!*

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# HAPPY Retirement!

Remembrance by daughters  
Kristen Sabad and Kerry Franco

## Red's daughters, Kristen Sabad and Kerry Franco, wrote this loving piece upon Red's retirement:

Red Medina is one amazing man with an unwavering work ethic. He started working as a very young boy and never let up. After graduating from Salesian High School in 1967, his dad encouraged him to sign up with the Carpenters Local 1976. He completed an apprenticeship, which included classes at Trade Tech, and was excited to learn a new trade. Red quickly became a carpenter in high demand, because of his many talents. Having such a skilled carpenter in the family to build, repair, and renovate many homes, including his own, has been a gift.

He stayed with the Local Union for 17 years and in the late 1980s he went on to start as an exempt carpenter with General Services. After working as a civil service carpenter, he moved on to Public Works/Contract Administration as a Construction Inspector. And now after 34 years with the City, Red Medina is finally retiring.

For years he downplayed the mere thought of "retirement." He truly enjoyed his line of work and is proud of his contributions. He'd often say, "Why retire? I like my job, I meet up with friends and coworkers every day and over the years I have run into many of my long-lost relatives at different job sites."

He always pinched himself to think how lucky he was to be an inspector for the City of Los Angeles, often commenting on how easy the work was compared to the work of a union carpenter. Now I know this is going to be hard to believe but Red just loves working and he's still not sure he wants to retire. However, his wife has guaranteed us all that his last day on the job was March 27, 2020!

Congratulations Red! Now the real work begins. ■

## PUBLIC WORKS

# Red Medina Retires

### 'Red' Medina retires after 34 years of City service.

City legend Adolfo "Red" Medina, Construction Inspector, Public Works/Contract Administration, retired in March after 34 years of distinguished service. Red was a Club Member for 33 of his 34 years with the City. (His wife, Lupe Medina, was a longtime Club staffer and likely the first face you saw when you visited Club headquarters. She retired from the Club several years ago.)

The Club adds its heartfelt congratulations to Red for his many years of dedicated and excellent service to the City. Well done!

Red Medina receives his coveted Club retirement plaque. (See page 13.)



ALIVE! DEC. 2004

Above and right: Red (middle) at work.



ALIVE! FEB. 2005

Right and above right: Red and his wife, Retired Club staffer Lupe Medina, took their family to DC for the annual White House Easter egg hunt.



ALIVE! JUNE 2009



## HOUSING

# Ann Sewell Is New GM

Local housing expert hired in July, replacing City vet Rushmore Cervantes.



Ann Sewell, General Manager, Housing and Community Investment.

Ann Sewell is the new General Manager of Housing and Community Investment. She was hired in July; previous GM Rushmore Cervantes, Club Member, who had held several top jobs with the City over several decades, resigned the Housing position at the end of March.

As GM, Ann Sewell plans and directs all activities and operations that develop and preserve decent, safe and affordable housing, neighborhood investment and social services. She brings 30 years of experience in local housing and community development work to this role.

Immediately prior to joining the HCIDLA, she served as Vice President at the California Community Foundation for 14 years, overseeing the health and housing portfolio. Her work

included grant making, lending, public policy and advocacy portfolios, supporting the development of affordable housing to stabilize communities and end homelessness, and to address root causes affecting the health of Angelenos.

She serves on the boards of the California Community Reinvestment Corporation and of Mercy Housing California and chairs the Southern California Leadership Council of Enterprise Community Partners. She holds a Bachelor's degree from the UC Davis and a Master of arts degree in urban planning from UCLA.

Welcome to the City, Ann.

Rushmore Cervantes, who worked with Housing for more than 10 years, resigned in a statement in March. He called his time at Housing as "a privilege to work with a pool of talented public servants during challenging times."

He had held a number of important City positions, including the General Manager of El Pueblo Historical Monument (Olvera Street). *Alive!* interviewed him in that role in 2006.

Assistant City Administrative Officer Yolanda Chavez served as the Acting General Manager of the department while a national search was conducted. ■



Rushmore Cervantes (right), veteran City employee, was interviewed by Club CEO John Hawkins for *Alive!* in 2006.



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**Alive! Feature** Photos for Alive! by Don Haynes, Harbor



Port employees welcome donations through the Logistics Victory LA Website.



Logistics Victory LA is also managing both medical and non-medical-grade masks.



Logistics Victory LA manages donations of medical equipment to hospitals in the LA region.



Hand sanitizer is one of the products managed by Logistics Victory LA.



A shipment of face shields is ready to be distributed to LA-area hospitals and health centers.



Mayor Eric Garcetti (right) welcomes the first delivery of Honeywell N95 masks to the Logistics Victory LA warehouse May 28.



About the **Logistics Victory LA** Leaders

**Gene Seroka**

*Executive Director, Port of Los Angeles  
Chief Logistics Officer, City of Los Angeles*

Gene Seroka is the Executive Director of the Port of Los Angeles, the busiest container port in North America. Since he was nominated by Mayor Eric Garcetti on May 27, 2014 and confirmed by the City Council on June 11, 2014, the Port of Los Angeles has experienced historic, record-breaking performances.

At the outset of the COVID-19 global health crisis, Seroka led the Port of Los Angeles' response to the pandemic, keeping cargo flowing as an essential service to the nation. In March 2020, he was named by Mayor Garcetti as Chief Logistics Officer for the City of Los Angeles. While maintaining his duties as the Port's Executive Director, Seroka leads the Logistics Victory Los Angeles (LoVLA) effort and has assembled a 20-member team to assist in getting critical healthcare and emergency supplies into the hands of those who need them most.

Seroka brings more than 32 years of experience in shipping, global logistics and executive management. After several key overseas positions for American President Lines (APL) Limited, he returned to the United States in 2010 to become President – Americas for the shipping line in Phoenix where he managed APL's Liner Shipping business, including 1,000 employees, and was responsible for all commercial, port terminal, intermodal, land transportation and labor activities throughout the region.

Seroka earned an MBA and a Bachelor of science in marketing degree from the University of New Orleans.

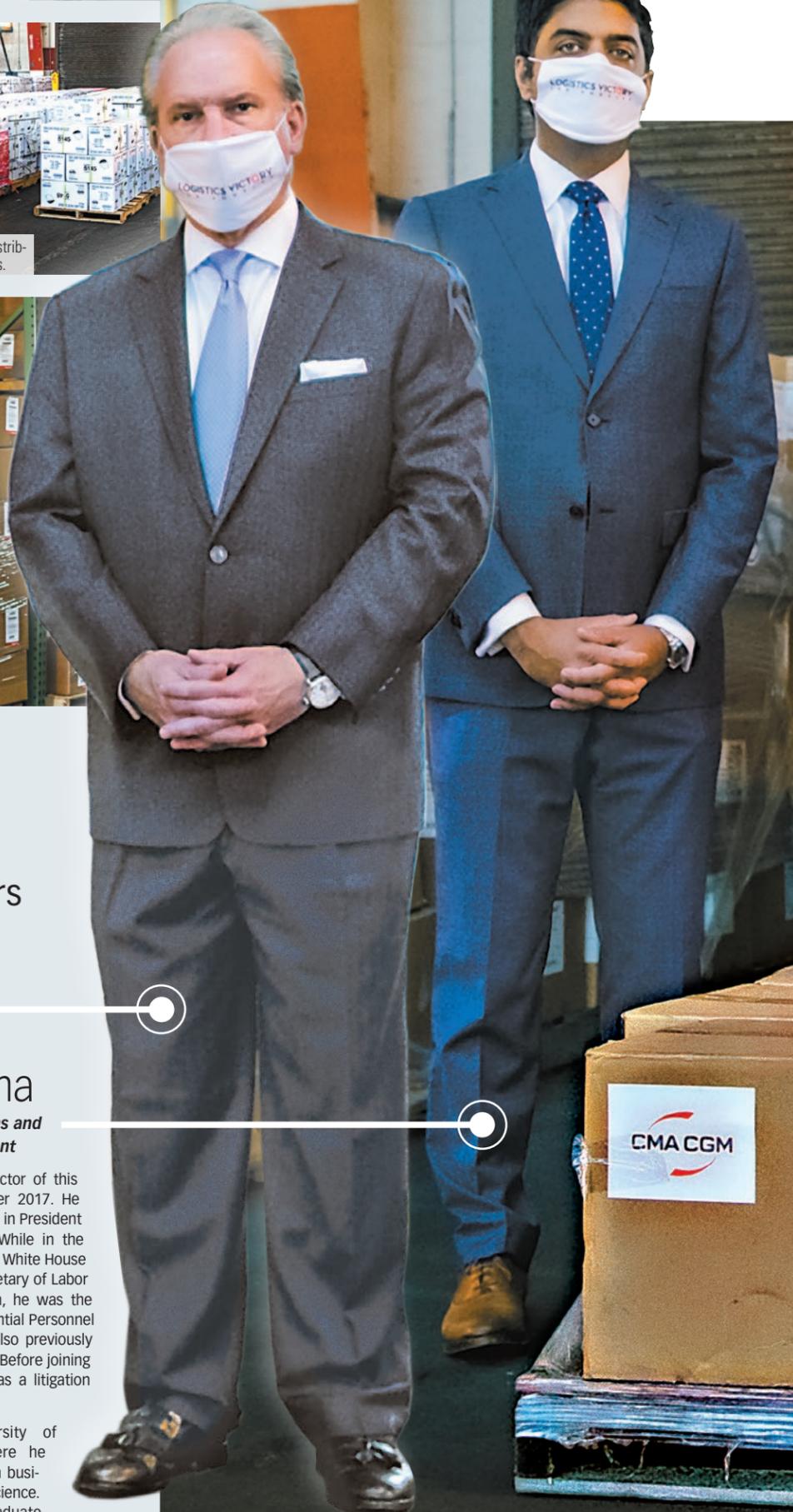
**Avin Sharma**

*Director of Labor Relations and  
Workforce Development*

Avin Sharma was appointed director of this newly created division in October 2017. He joined the Port after having served in President Barack Obama's administration. While in the Obama administration, he was the White House liaison and counselor to U.S. Secretary of Labor Tom Perez. Prior to that position, he was the economics director in the Presidential Personnel Office at the White House, and also previously served at the U.S. Dept. of Justice. Before joining the Obama administration, he was a litigation attorney in private practice.

Sharma attended the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he earned Bachelor of art degrees in business economics and political science. After completing his undergraduate studies, he attended the University of California's Hastings College of the Law, where he earned his law degree.

HARBOR



## As it delivers its one-millionth piece of medical equipment during the pandemic, the Port's Logistics Victory LA program reflects on supplying area healthcare centers with the gear they need.

Moving goods from one place to another is one of the abilities the Port of Los Angeles is really good at. In fact, the Harbor is the best in the world at doing that.

That ability has never been more important than during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Port's newest task force, Logistics Victory LA (LoVLA), was created by Mayor Eric Garcetti to do just that – source, collect, store and distribute the millions of pieces of medical equipment and gear desper-

ately needed by area medical centers to fight the virus and keep LA healthy.

Recently, LoVLA moved its millionth piece of gear. *Alive!* used the milestone to check in with the task force's director, Port Executive Director Gene Seroka and key leader Avin Sharma, Director of Labor Relations and Workforce Development, about the project's successes, what they learned, and the passionate crew working to keep the critically important supply chain going.

As social distancing is strictly enforced at the Port, *Alive!* produced this story remotely by phone, text and email.

### Origins

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mayor Eric Garcetti appointed Port Executive Director Gene Seroka March 31 to serve as the Chief Logistics Officer for the City while concurrently serving as chief of

America's busiest container port. With a team of 20 City employees, Seroka quickly assembled the Logistics Victory Los Angeles response effort April 7, which matches medical and non-medical suppliers of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) with L.A. area health care providers that need PPE and other supplies to treat COVID-19 patients. LoVLA helps hospital procurement teams track and expedite these supplies across the medical supply chain that flows from overseas through the L.A. port and airport. In addition, LoVLA connects hospitals directly to suppliers and procures essential medical supplies by leveraging the purchasing capability of the City of Los Angeles.

### Matching Donors With Suppliers

There remains a critical need for medical ventilators, isolation gowns, gloves, N95 masks, face shields, IV drip apparatus and other medical supplies essential for frontline healthcare workers treating those battling the coronavirus and employers with essential workers. LoVLA links providers, donors and qualified leads of these supplies with medical providers in need.

### Join the Chain

Medical service providers, companies with essential workers, as well as traditional and non-traditional suppliers of PPE, and those interested in making donations are encouraged to visit [LoVLA.org](http://LoVLA.org) to submit information forms and join the LoVLA effort. ■

# gear



## The *Alive!* Interview

# A Mission to Deliver

On Aug. 4, *Alive!* editor John Burnes interviewed Logistics Victory LA heads Gene Seroka, Port Executive Director and Chief Logistics Officer, 6 years of City service; and Avin Sharma, Director of Workforce Development and Labor Relations, 3 years. The interview took place by phone due to social distancing.

***Alive!*: Thank you both for talking to *Alive!* readers today. You both had full-time jobs with the Port before the virus pandemic hit. Is there a way to give a percentage of how much of your time you give to your regular responsibilities, and your added ones with Logistics Victory LA?**

**Gene Seroka:** They're two full-time jobs. Avin was one of the early folks who we put on this. We're running as hard as we can with our official Port jobs, and then giving the same energy with LoVLA (Logistics Victory LA).

**What does it mean to be the Chief Logistics Officer? What are the duties for that part of your title?**

**Gene Seroka:** Mayor Eric Garcetti had the idea to use the talent that we have and the great assets of this City to get personal protective equipment (PPE) to our frontline hospitals and medical workers to protect them as they attempt to treat COVID-19 patients here in the Los Angeles area.

**Does that involve distributing just to the City of LA, or more broadly in the area?**

**Gene Seroka:** The mayor has said that this virus knows no boundaries, and while this is a service of the City of Los Angeles, we quickly found that there was assistance needed in the county and in the region broadly, so we have tried to help as many people as we can.

**Tell me about Logistics Victory LA. What does it mean, and what does it do?**

**Gene Seroka:** From the early days of the pandemic, we wanted to use the great LAX Airport and our seaport here in Los Angeles to speed product to market, specifically

frontline hospitals and medical workers. Secondly, we wanted to leverage the long-time relationships we had with customers of the Port, those large manufacturing companies that could help us procure PPE and distribute to the hospitals. And then thirdly, we wanted to engage with manufacturers in and around Los Angeles and in the state of California who thought they could convert their facilities that were otherwise being underutilized during COVID-19 to get into PPE production. We've had some modest success in that area as well. With those three areas of focus, we set out to connect people who had the necessary supplies with those hospitals that were in need.

### Producing, Not Just Finding

**Where have the successes and the challenges been in the supply chain?**

**Gene Seroka:** The number one challenge has been finding the product. The need on behalf of the hospital workers has been much more than many could have imagined. We remember stories in the early days of companies exporting PPE [to other countries] when it was greatly needed here in the U.S. – factories could not keep up with orders, and order fulfillment was only a fraction of what was requested.

Like in the early days, we're still seeing the same shortages, and that's why we thought direct-to-manufacturer relationships were what we wanted to pursue.

**Avin Sharma:** To that end, we reached out to Honeywell back in early April. We were looking at how best to get PPE. In those early days it really was the Wild West. You had vendors, some of them with legitimate interests and others with less legitimate interests just trying to sell PPE. The article that that comes to mind is when the governor of Illinois had

some staff members take a check to a McDonald's parking lot in a frantic search to buy some PPE for the state of Illinois. There were challenges all over this country, so we talked to many of these vendors and decided, to Gene's earlier point, to go straight to the manufacturer.

I had a contact who worked at Honeywell over a decade ago. I reached out, and he was able to facilitate some introductions with the Honeywell Corp. We jumped on the phone with Honeywell and talked to them about what our needs were and the LoVLA initiative. We worked out an arrangement with them to receive 24 million N95 masks over a 24-month period at a cost of 79 cents a mask, which is just a great price



Gene Seroka, Executive Director, Port of LA, and Chief Logistics Officer for the City of LA.

Avin Sharma, Director of Workforce Development and Labor Relations, Port of LA.

**Has that changed as the program has continued? Has it evolved?**

**Gene Seroka:** The basic premise was very solid. We've put together a volunteer team of about two dozen Port employees who have been following up on sales leads to procurement and sourcing, distribution, communications, and working directly with our hospitals on the products that they need. Its core tenets have held strong, and it's all about the work now. Interestingly enough we just crossed the million-unit mark on PPE that has been distributed to more than 32 hospitals so far. It's just extraordinary work being done by our [emergency] volunteers. In the weeks and months ahead, there's much more to do.

— Continued on Web *Alive!*  
Go to: [alive.employeesclub.com](http://alive.employeesclub.com)



Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.

# RLACEI

For Retired Club Members

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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### 2020 Executive Board of Directors

Ruth B. Perry, President  
Beverly J. Clark, First Vice President  
Phil Orland, Second Vice President  
Harold Danowitz, Secretary/Treasurer

### RLACEI DIRECTORS

Dial (800) 678-4145 plus extension

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| Cliff Cannon, Audit Director           | Ext. 715 |
| Beverly J. Clark, Publicity Director   | Ext. 716 |
| Hal Danowitz, Secretary/Treasurer      | Ext. 707 |
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| Phil Orland, Golf Director             | Ext. 709 |
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| Neil Ricci, Director                   | Ext. 714 |
| Loucin (Lucy) Artinian, Director       | Ext. 718 |
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### RLACEI RETIREE HELPLINE:

(800) 678-4145, Ext. 0

For retirement assistance, call the Retiree Hotline and leave a message. A Director of RLACEI will return your call and assist you with your concerns.

### RLACEI WEBSITE

Visit the RLACEI website [www.RLACEI.org](http://www.RLACEI.org) to find the latest retirement news. Call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 0 to make suggestions.  
EMAIL: [Contact@RLACEI.org](mailto:Contact@RLACEI.org)

### MAILING ADDRESS:

Retired Los Angeles City Employees Inc.  
Terminal Annex  
P.O. Box 86264  
Los Angeles, CA 90086

### Change of Address?

Please notify Ruth B. Perry, Membership Chair, at (800) 678-4145 ext. 717 or [Ruth.Perry@RLACEI.org](mailto:Ruth.Perry@RLACEI.org) for a change of address or to add or change your email address. Also notify LACERS, ACEBSA, LAPCU, and LAFUCU as applicable.

## RETIREE UPDATE

### Cal. Supreme Court Issues Good, Cautious Pension News

by Tom Moutes, RLACEI Director



Tom Moutes

On July 30, the California Supreme Court rendered its much-anticipated decision regarding public pensions. Following are the background and overview of the Court's decision; and relevance for LACERS Members and Retirees.

### Background

- The California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA) was enacted by the State legislature.
- PEPRA amended the retirement provisions for new State employees and also amended the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937 (CERL) for county employees within California.
- Among other provisions, PEPRA limited the definition of the compensation that could be used to calculate retirement benefits.
- Following the enactment of PEPRA, the Alameda County Sheriff's Association; the Merced County Sheriff's Employees' Association; and the Contra Costa County Deputy Sheriffs Association (together "Plaintiffs") filed separate court actions against their respective county retirement boards.
- Among other assertions, the Plaintiffs contended that county employees who began their work prior to PEPRA's enactment have a constitutional right to receive pension benefits calculated according to the law as it existed prior to PEPRA.
- Among other claims, the Plaintiffs indicated the so-called "California Rule" would require comparable new advantages for any impairment of a vested pension right – in these cases, the exclusion of certain types of income from compensation earnable – that was taken into consideration to determine the retirement benefits of persons who were county employees at the time PEPRA became effective.
- The Plaintiffs' three cases eventually were consolidated in a single proceeding, which made its way to the California Supreme Court.

### Overview of the Court's Decision In part, the California Supreme Court indicated the following regarding this case:

- One issue raised here is whether the amendment impaired county employees' constitutionally protected implied contrac-

tual rights in the implementation of CERL as it existed prior to the PEPRA amendment.

- The vested rights doctrine, the foundation of plaintiffs' contention that PEPRA's amendment of CERL is unconstitutional as applied to existing (emphasis added) county employees, is grounded in the contract clause.
- In general terms, a state's impairment of its own obligations (in this case, the factors used in calculating retirement benefits) "may be constitutional if it is reasonable and necessary to serve an important public purpose" ...
- ...When evaluating modifications to a public employee pension plan under the contract clause, a court must first determine whether the modifications impose an economic disadvantage on affected employees and, if so, whether those disadvantages are offset in some manner by comparable new advantages. The court must then determine whether the government's articulated purpose in making the changes was sufficient, for constitutional purposes, to justify any impairment of pension rights. Although changes may be enacted "for the purpose of keeping [the] pension system flexible to permit adjustments in accord with changing conditions and at the same time maintain the integrity of the system," such changes "must bear some material relation to the theory of a pension system and its successful operation."
- An employee's vested contractual pension rights may be modified prior to retirement for the purpose of keeping a pension system flexible to permit adjustments in accord with changing conditions and at the same time maintain the integrity of the system. Such modifications must be reasonable... To be sustained as reasonable, alterations of employees' pension rights must bear some material relation to the theory of a pension system and its successful operation, and changes in a pension plan which result in disadvantage to employees should (emphasis added and note it does not state

"must") be accompanied by comparable new advantages.

- ...We hold that the PEPRA amendment at issue here is constitutional under this analysis.
- PEPRA's amendments of CERL were enacted for the constitutionally permissible purpose of conforming pension benefits more closely to the theory underlying CERL (as amended by PEPRA) by closing loopholes and proscribing potentially abusive practices ("pension spiking").
- If a payment is made to an employee for the purpose of enhancing his or her pension benefit, it is not paid in return for the delivery of services but for another purpose entirely – to boost the employee's postemployment pension benefits. This is clear pension abuse, and the express exclusion of such payments from compensation earnable is fully consistent with the theory underlying CERL as amended by PEPRA.

### Relevance for LACERS Members and Retirees

- First, the specifics of this Court proceeding are not directly related to LACERS as LACERS was not included in PEPRA – the State pension legislation.
- Further, LACERS has a very specific definition of "compensation earnable" that would not have allowed any of the compensation elements in dispute in these cases.
- That said, these cases reminded me of the old adage: Bad facts make bad law. I thought the filing of the lawsuits consolidated into the Supreme Court case were high risk and low reward. While a decision in favor of the plaintiffs would have benefited a fraction of county employees, there was a small possibility the Court would take the opportunity to blow a big hole in the "California Rule" concept to the detriment of all California public employees – especially as pension funding ratios have decreased over the years.
- The good news is that the Court did not blow a big hole in the "California Rule" as it relates to the fact pattern in this case.
- However, the concerning news – especially in light of the pension system underfunding and the investment outlook with the pandemic – is that the Court indicated that pension changes "may be enacted for the purpose of keeping [the] pension system flexible to permit adjustments in accord with changing conditions and at the same time maintain the integrity of the system." This wording from the California Supreme Court is one reason why it is important to ensure that the LACERS Board and the City properly fund our pension system. With proper funding, the "integrity" of our system cannot be used as an excuse to reduce our promised benefits. ■

## LACERS BOARD UPDATE

### LACERS Improves Health Benefits As Retirees Focus on Fitness

by Michael R. Wilkinson



Michael R. Wilkinson

The LACERS Benefits Administration Committee, which I chair, has just approved improvements to our health plans as part of its renewal of the health, dental and vision benefits for our members.

In coordination with the LACERS health benefits staff, the Committee is always looking at opportunities to improve our plan to respond to needs including the special challenges that members have experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Committee approved a total 2021 premium rate increase for all the current health, dental and vision plans of only 0.67 percent,

even after including the increased benefits funding. In addition to the favorable rates for all the plans to fund these benefits, the recently added Internal Revenue Code Section 115 trust was used to fund the changes to the Kaiser HMO (under 65) plan.

Several improvements were approved to the plans. The Kaiser HMO (under 65) has added the free gym membership plan (Active and Fit) that has previously been offered as a free benefit to the other health plans. The transportation benefit, which will provide transportation to medical appointments and to get medication and groceries, has been added to the Kaiser Senior Advantage and the United Health Care plans.

Now is a time when I want to thank all my fellow Retirees for what you are doing to stay healthy, particularly in the stressful time of living in a COVID-19 world. The health plans we enjoy, and the increased benefits, are possible only with the cooperation of our members. We get lower rates for our insurance and can afford to add the benefits because you care about getting your exercise, visiting your doctors, taking your medications and eating right. Keep up the good work! ■

## Sign Up!



Connect to RLACEI on our Facebook page!

### TO ENTER

RLACEI Members: Follow us on Facebook

Other City Retirees:

Like us on Facebook and join RLACEI

### PRIZES TO FIRST 150!

FIRST 50 WIN  
Target \$25  
gift card

51-100 WIN  
\$5 gift card  
(See's or Starbucks)

101-150 WIN  
RLACEI  
reusable  
cloth bag



Find us: Log on to Facebook, then search for RLACEI

Join at: [RLACEI.org](http://RLACEI.org)  
(must be Retired City employee)

# Ed Harding Retires

**Longtime RLACEI President retires from board. Members pay tribute.**



Ed Harding

RLACEI President Emeritus Edward Harding is retiring from the RLACEI Board after serving as President for more than 24 years and as Board member for more than 30 years.

Ed was instrumental in making RLACEI an organization that City Retirees can be assured has their best interests in mind.

Board members, past and present, as well as friends and associates express their best wishes and fond memories. Submit your own: Readers are welcome to *submit their own* tributes to Ed by emailing them here: [info@employeesclub.com](mailto:info@employeesclub.com)

I worked with Ed for almost 17 years. The thing I remember most was his dedication to City Retirees. He was never too busy to answer a question or provide helpful advice. He was a favorite of all the Retirees, especially those of the opposite gender. RLACEI will miss his expertise and helpful nature.

– **Hal Danowitz,**  
RLACEI Secretary/Treasurer

Ed has been a tremendous asset to RLACEI for almost 30 years, 24 of those as President. He was one of the main reasons I was motivated to join this wonderful organization. His mentorship, kindness and knowledge will be sorely missed. I am saddened by his decision to finally pass the torch to a new generation of RLACEI Board members, but I hope that we will be as accomplished in serving our members as he has been through all these many years. Fair winds and following seas, my friend.

– **Ruth Perry, RLACEI President**

I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Ed for more than two years now. We formally met when I was interviewed for the position of RLACEI Board member. Although I had seen his picture many times in *Alive!*, to meet and work with him has been an absolute pleasure. Ed has demonstrated through his leadership and dedication why he was able to serve as Board President for so many years. Thank you, Mr. Ed, for your leadership, your knowledge and your kindness.

– **Beverly Clark,**  
RLACEI Vice President

Ed Harding devoted his life serving the residents and now the retirees of the City of Los Angeles. Ed told me that his father worked for the City, and both Ed and his son have followed that legacy.

Ed served on the RLACEI Board and as President for more than 30 years. In that time with the organization, he has interfaced with LACERS and the City Council to offer his leadership by providing benefits and programs that lead to a safe and secure retirement.

– **Phil Orland,**  
RLACEI Vice President

Above all, Ed Harding has always looked out for every RLACEI member. He cares about keeping the pension plan strong, and he has supported having a fierce advocate for Retirees on the LACERS Board, starting with Ken Spiker.

– **Michael Wilkinson,**  
LACERS Commissioner

I met Ed in 1995 and served with him on the RLACEI Board for the next 15 year. It was good to work with him for all that time. Thank you, Ed and Martha, for years of tireless commitment to our membership.

– **Jerry Bardwell,**  
Former RLACEI Board Member

Like Tongva Peak above the San Gabriel Valley and the waves at Zuma, Ed has always been like a force of nature

to me. He will be sorely missed in his role as President of RLACEI by all who know and have worked with him, but especially to those who know the kindness and generosity of this leader who has given so much of himself to his fellow City of Los Angeles Retirees and employees. Ed, Salud!

– **Mike Perez,**  
Former RLACEI Board Member

I had the pleasure of serving as RLACEI's legislative advocate during Ed Harding's tenure as President and as such I witnessed his steady leadership. Ed served the City of Los Angeles for many years and followed that by volunteering to serve RLACEI and Retired LA City employees' interests. I recall having numerous conversations with him about City Hall politics and the impacts on Retirees. Above all he never lost sight of RLACEI's mission to protect the benefits retirees had earned and enhance those benefits where possible.

Thanks for your service, Ed!  
– **Greg Spiker,**  
Ken Spiker and Associates

I met Ed when I joined the Board in 2007. He knew the City of LA very well, especially Public Works. And he knew the retirement system and what RLACEI had done to support the Retirees. I recall the struggle we went through several years ago concerning RLACEI, the Employees Club and ACEBSA, and where the RLACEI news would go – to *El Pueblo* or *Alive!* There were lots of meetings, looking at what benefited our organization the most.

– **Michael Karsch,**  
Former RLACEI Board Director

In 2014, I was finishing up my MBA program at the University of Michigan. It had been 21 months of hard work while still working full time at the Employees Club. As the program was winding down and graduation was nimbly approaching, the university published an ad in the *Wall Street Journal* with the names of my classmates and me, congratulating us on our educational journey. I said to myself, "Who reads the *Wall Street Journal*, much less sees my name printed in it?"

On a Monday morning, as I just returned from a four-day class and lecture session and was diving back to work at the office, I got a call on my cell phone from Ed letting me know that he saw my name in the *Wall Street Journal* and congratulated me on a my accomplishments at Michigan. I also had the opportunity to talk to his lovely wife, Martha. Aside from learning that Ed reads the *Wall Street Journal*, his call that morning tells you all that you need to know about him. He is thoughtful, kind, sincere, a legendary leader, and most of all a friend to me.

– **Robert Larios**  
Chief Operating Officer  
Employees Club of California

*Alive!* June 2012



From left: Ed Harding and John Hawkins

My friendship with Ed spans back to my earliest days at the Los Angeles City Employees Association as Club Counselor, marketing officer, Chief Operating Officer, and now CEO. That's at least 25 years. We worked together to provide Retirees with the products they needed for a safe, secure retirement. He was full of insights on how to serve people better, and he was right.

Our friendship grew in 2002 as the LACEA developed into the Club. I needed content for our revamped *Alive!* newsletter, which we wanted to expand greatly from a small quarterly to a meaty monthly. He wanted to be part of our new future, and he gave me what I needed. He supplied content immediately and started writing columns the next year.

And then in 2012, our friendship entered another new phase when, as Director of the Board of the RLACEI, he led his board to decide to partner with the Club, and make all RLACEI members Club members, too. That opened a whole world of benefits to his constituents. All along the way, we've caught up at ClubFests, golf tournaments, holiday parties, in the Club office, and really lots of just running into each other.

The friendship you see on the cover of the June 2012 issue is real, created over many years of respect and cooperation. But more than that, Ed's warmth sticks with me. He called me when I was promoted here at the Club; when my wife, Kelley, and I welcomed children into our family; and at various other times. That gesture meant, and means, a lot.

Congratulations on your awesome RLACEI career, Ed. Sail forth into a future of other possibilities. You've served the City, your Retired members, and the Club well. All the best.

– **John Hawkins**  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer  
Employees Club of California ■

## Ed's Career

Ed Harding spent his entire City career in Public Works/Street Services in the Street Maintenance Division.

He began his career with the City Jan. 1, 1947 as a Supplies Clerk in the old 12th Street Shop. His first promotion was to Mechanic's Helper, a trade he learned from his father and further developed while an employee for Chrysler Corp.

Ed was rewarded for his expert mechanical ability with an emergency appointment to Heavy Duty Mechanic. Other promotions followed, which included: Street Maintenance Foreman, Asphalt Construction Foreman, Assistant Superintendent of Street Cleaning, Superintendent of North Maintenance Area, Resurfacing Superintendent for the Interim Assistance Program, and Superintendent of the West Valley Maintenance Area. For three years he was Street Maintenance General Superintendent I in charge of Street Maintenance, Street Resurfacing and Street Cleaning for half of the City.

In 1981, with 34 years of City service, Ed retired as Street Maintenance General Superintendent II, the head of Street Maintenance Division, in charge of all street repairs, street resurfacing and street cleaning for the entire City of Los Angeles.

## Ed Harding, My Dad

By Dennis Harding,  
RLACEI Board Member

My dad, Ed Harding, and I have a number of things in common. We both had City of L.A. Street Maintenance careers, holding many of the same job titles (in different eras, of course) as we promoted up through the ranks, both of us retiring from the same Division Head position.

We also shared the love of the automobile, but, whereas I have owned only a few cars over the years, Dad has owned literally hundreds of cars from the 1930s to the 2000s. He fell in love with just about every car that was ever made; every year he would bring home a new and different model car, forsaking the previous one for a new love. He would also fall in love with old cars that would cross his path from time to time, bringing them home to savor them and to remember the good times from whence they came. But then, as he would find a different old car, he was apt to sell the former one for the "newer" one. This he did countless times.

The most remarkable thing about Dad was his complete knowledge of cars; he knows almost everything there is to know about each one of them. For example, he can tell you the year and model of every car ever made until the 1980s, when the style of every car looked a lot like all the others. For example, he can tell you the subtle differences between a 1942 Chevy Fleetmaster (pictured below) and a 1946 model, and the difference between a 1947 and a 1948 model. And he can do that with just about any older make and model car.

Dad's love for cars is a true and complete kind of love, and it continues though he no longer drives. But that doesn't matter, for he sees cars as we might see a beautiful sunset, something magnificent to behold.



1942 Chevy Fleetmaster



## Become an RLACEI Member

**Get FREE membership through the end of 2020 for those retiring Aug. 1 through Nov. 30, 2020**

**Call (800) 678-4145 x717, or visit our website at [RLACEI.ORG](http://RLACEI.ORG) and join today!**

Look for our next contest in October online at:  
[alive.employeesclub.com/kidscoloringcontest/](http://alive.employeesclub.com/kidscoloringcontest/)

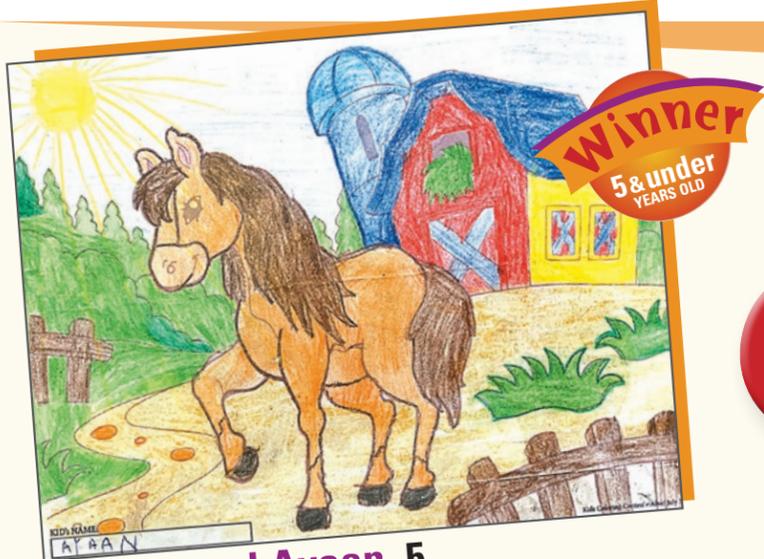
# Coloring with The Clubs

## Congratulations to the WINNERS! of our Club Coloring Contest!

Everyone who turned in a design is a winner in our opinion! But our top four participants win **4 Free Tickets to Knott's Berry Farm!**

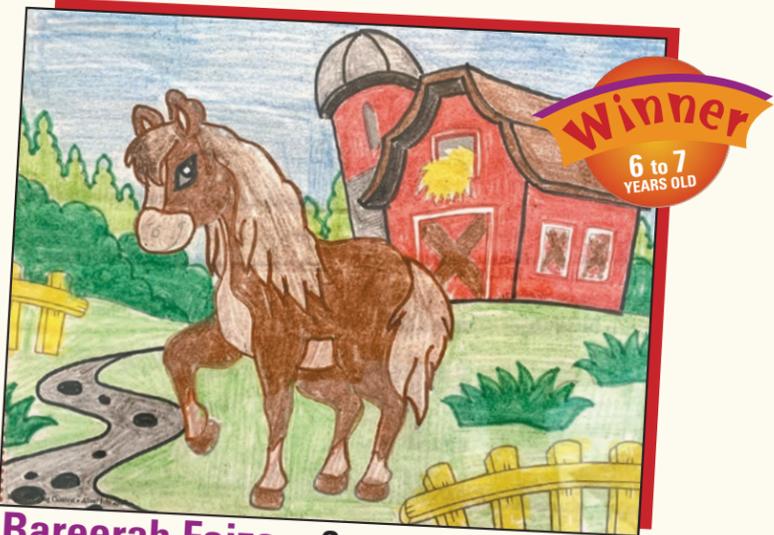
### Honorable Mention

| CHILD               | AGE | PARENT/GUARDIAN     | DEPT.          |
|---------------------|-----|---------------------|----------------|
| Muhammad Umar       | 2   | Muhammad Imran      | DWP            |
| Aisha Imran         | 3   | Muhammad Imran      | DWP            |
| Christopher Kanyama | 3   | Richard Kanyama     | DWP            |
| Ibrahim Faizan      | 3   | Muhammad Faizan     | DWP            |
| Sophia Wilson       | 3   | Brandon Wilson      | DOT            |
| Hannah Parker       | 4   | George Ortega       | Retiree        |
| Nathan Eghball      | 4   | Jasmine Dowlatshahi | Rec and Parks  |
| Allison Tiet        | 5   | Than Tiet           | DWP            |
| Audrey Zavela       | 5   | Charles Garcia      | Retiree        |
| Emma Cooper         | 5   | Jim Hicks           | Retiree        |
| Leah Reeb           | 5   | Janet Ervin         | Retiree        |
| Levi Cadby          | 5   | Melissa Cadby       | DWP            |
| Lia Maleryan        | 5   | Martun Maleryan     | Transportation |
| Mallory Mihalek     | 5   | Gary Kenton         | Retiree        |
| Bria Clearman       | 6   | Carmen Sumpter      | DWP            |
| Lucas Sims          | 6   | Jason Sims          | Public Works   |
| Lucille Ciminski    | 6   | Sonia Cominski      | Airports       |
| Marissa Jimenez     | 6   | Adrian Jimenez      | Rec and Parks  |
| Ori Ravid           | 6   | Gilberto Barrera    | Library        |
| Devyn Gibbons       | 7   | Warren Gibbons      | Airport Police |
| Dylan Soto          | 7   | Juan Soto Funes     | LAPD           |
| Isacc Granados      | 7   | Bryan Granados      | LAPD           |
| Jaslynn Fernandez   | 7   | Javier Montelongo   | Airport Police |
| Justin Eghbal       | 7   | Jasmine Dowlatshahi | Rec and Parks  |
| Liam Carpio         | 7   | Juan Carpio         | LAPD           |
| Link Nguyenta       | 7   | ViThu Ta            | Personnel      |
| Milana Mihalek      | 7   | Gary Kenton         | Retiree        |
| Paige Curtis        | 7   | David Hadley        | Retiree        |
| Rubee Rose Mares    | 7   | Rosie Mares         | Public Works   |
| Victoria Bartlett   | 7   | Chris Bartlett      | LAPD           |
| Emme Ninofranco     | 8   | Phyllis Ninofranco  | Harbor         |
| Jc'Ion Perkins      | 8   | Evelyn Fitzpatrick  | Retiree        |
| Lilyana Samarin     | 8   | Efrem Samarin       | LAPD           |
| Sarah Trance        | 8   | Peter Trance        | Airport Police |
| Valentina Jimenez   | 8   | Adrian Jimenez      | Rec and Parks  |
| Abigail Cadby       | 9   | Melissa Cadby       | DWP            |
| Franklin Balkacz    | 9   | Vanessa Bulkacz     | Public Works   |
| John Aldaco         | 9   | Javier Aldaco       | Public Works   |
| Ram Ravid           | 9   | Gilberto Barrera    | Library        |
| Solomon Carrol      | 9   | Brenda Stephens     | Retiree        |
| Angie Lindsey       | 10  | Rita Lindsey        | LACERS         |
| Aracely Mata        | 10  | Javier Mata         | DWP            |
| Audrey Ninofranco   | 10  | Phyllis Ninofranco  | Harbor         |
| Chase Gibbons       | 10  | Warren Gibbons      | Airport Police |
| Daven Scales        | 10  | Larry Scales        | DWP            |
| Emily Leng          | 10  | Ly Leng             | LAFD           |
| Elizabeth Bartlett  | 10  | Chris Bartlett      | LAPD           |
| Milo Parish         | 10  | Kendra Parish       | DWP            |
| Alyssa Estrada      | 11  | George Estrada      | DWP            |
| Blake Watrin        | 11  | Michael Watrin      | Public Works   |
| Collin Sousa        | 11  | John Sousa          | Airport Police |
| Emerson Parish      | 11  | Kendra Parish       | DWP            |
| Jackson Cadby       | 11  | Melissa Cadby       | DWP            |
| Jade Glenchor       | 11  | Mark Glenchor       | LAFD           |
| Kelsey Remolino     | 11  | Kyle Remolino       | LAPD           |
| Samara Carroll      | 12  | Brenda Stephens     | Retiree        |
| Erica Orozco        | 13  | Juan Orozco         | LAPD           |
| Javier Mata         | 13  | Javier Mata         | DWP            |
| Joel Duarte         | 13  | Mario Duarte        | Retired        |
| Liliana Corte       | 13  | Phillip Cortez      | Public Works   |
| Sydney Hernandez    | 13  | Eduardo Hernandez   | Rec and Parks  |



**Muhammad Ayaan, 5**

BIRTHDAY: Feb. 26 • FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Master Panda" • FAVORITE SNACKS: Strawberries • BEST FRIEND: Ibraheem • WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO KNOTT'S BERRY FARM: I love this park. • PARENT: Muhammad Imran, DWP



**Bareerah Faizan, 6**

BIRTHDAY: Nov. 4 • FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Noddy" • FAVORITE SNACKS: Banana • BEST FRIEND: Ali • WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO KNOTT'S BERRY FARM: I want to enjoy with my family after Corona virus. • PARENT: Muhammad Faizan, DWP



**Micah Hargrove, 10**

BIRTHDAY: April 2 • FAVORITE TV SHOW: "That's So Raven" • FAVORITE SNACK: Watermelon • BEST FRIEND: Trevor • WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO KNOTT'S BERRY FARM: To have fun with my family. • PARENT: Ean Hargrove, Instrument Mechanic



**Rebecca Wamsley, 12**

BIRTHDAY: March 8 • FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Fuller House" • FAVORITE SNACK: Carrots • BEST FRIEND: Ashley • WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO KNOTT'S BERRY FARM: I have never been, and really want to. • PARENT: Steve Wamsley, Rec and Parks

**AIRPORTS**

# Congrats, New Leaders

**Airport Police promotes four to leadership positions.**

A ceremony was held Aug. 12 to swear-in four new Officers at Airport Police who were promoted into leadership positions.

Sworn in were Assistant Chiefs Latasha Wells Amerson and Tyrone Stallings; Commander Imer Chavez; and Capt. Masis Sossikian.

The new leaders bring “a wealth of management experience, knowledge and aviation law enforcement expertise” to Airport Police, the division said in a statement.

The ceremony was held at Airport Police HQ instead of the LA Police Academy due to the pandemic.

Congratulations to the new leaders, and thanks for keeping the City safe. ■



From left: Commander Imer Chavez; Assistant Chief Tyrone Stallings; Chief of Airport Police Cecil Rhambo; Assistant Chief Latasha Wells Amerson; and Capt. Masis Sossikian.



The four new Airport Police leaders are sworn in at Airport Police HQ near LAX.

**CITYWIDE**

# Ron Deaton Passes Away at 77

**Influential City leader was GM at DWP, CLA.**

Ron Deaton, longtime General Manager and adviser to mayors and the City Council, passed away Aug. 4 at his home in Ensenada, Mexico, after a long illness, according to his son, David. LAPD’s Civic Auditorium, part of the department’s new headquarters, was named for him.

Ron served the City for more than 40 years, starting and ending at the DWP, and a long stint as the City’s Chief Legislative Analyst, when he advised and influenced mayors and members of the City Council. He played a major role in issues including the LAPD, Staples Center, the possible San Fernando Valley secession, the seismic retrofit of LA’s iconic City Hall, and many ballot measures involving Library, Rec and Parks, Animal Services, the Zoo, and others.

Ron was born and raised in Long Beach. He began his City career with the DWP in 1965 and retired as DWP General Manager in 2007.

“Ron Deaton began and ended his storied career in public service right here at #LADWP,” the DWP wrote in a Tweet. “We are proud and honored to have been able to call him our leader, mentor and our friend. Our gratitude and condolences go out to Ellery and his entire family.”

He is survived by his wife, Ellery; his brother, Gary Deaton, and his wife Joy; his children David Deaton, Daniel Deaton, Deidre Davis and Dara Loftis, as well as their spouses, and 12 grandchildren. ■



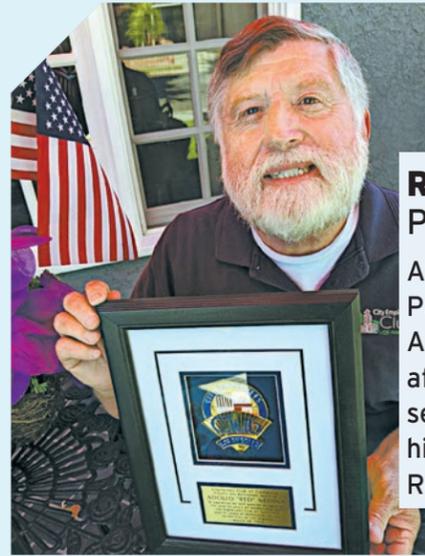
Ron Deaton, as pictured in the December 2004 issue of *Alive!*

Ron Deaton speaks at a dedication for a new park at the LA Zoo, from the April 2005 issue of *Alive!*

# Larios in the *Digital City*

BY ROBERT LARIOS, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Club COO Robert Larios continues honoring retiring Club Members by presenting the Club’s coveted retiree plaque digitally, because of the coronavirus pandemic.



**Red Medina, Public Works**

Adolfo “Red” Medina, Public Works/Contract Administration, Retired after 34 years of City service. Red was awarded his plaque by phone by Robert Larios.

**Joan Brown, DWP**

Joan M. Brown, DWP, Retired after 42 years of City service. Joan was presented her plaque via video conference on the Web by Robert Larios.



Larios in the City is also available on the *Alive!* website for viewing and sharing: [alive.employeesclub.com/lariosinthecity](http://alive.employeesclub.com/lariosinthecity)

**Read *Alive!* on the Web!**



[alive.employeesclub.com](http://alive.employeesclub.com)



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**PANDEMIC 2019-2020**

# Scenes PART 6 From a Pandemic

Alive! continues its documentation of City employees as they take a multitude of measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and keep LA safe. (The first part was in our April 2020 issue.) Here are entries from the Club and the City Twitter feeds about City Employees and Club Members at work during this trying time.

The phrases indicated by a # or an @ are Internet search locators that work as shortcuts to help find desired locations online. We included that text here for completeness; if you want to see those locations, simply retype those phrases into your online browser.

**LAPD Mission Station**

@LAPMission



"Sr. Lead Officer Crawford helped our friends Aaron and Leilani celebrate their birthdays! @CaptainCortez! @LAPDHQ @lapdovb @LAPD\_ARCOS"

Aug. 14

**LAPD South Bureau**



"We caught our very own Commander @LabradaAl with the @LAPD77thST dream doing what they do best, #communitypollicing! Taco Tuesday at a #6feetaway distance with @StrongShoulder2 and giving people masks. #Stayhealthy @StayHomeStaySafe #InThisTogether"

Aug. 5

**Library/Christina Rice**



"Went into @laplcentral today for the first time in over 4 months. I miss it so much it hurts and hope we can have a giant dance party with the public when it reopens. #feelslikehome"

Aug. 5

**LAPD 77th**



"@LAPD77thSt had an eventful time at Harvard Park, partnering with 77th CSP and @GRYD\_Foundation for Summer Night Lights Grab and Go food giveaway. We continue to provide support and resources during these hard times. Our community is never forgotten, & their safety comes first!"

Aug. 1

**DWP**



#LADWP crews worked in 100+ degree weather to restore power to those affected by the extreme heat storm hitting CA. We encourage you to conserve energy to help out the state grid and reduce stress on our own neighborhood power distribution equipment. Thank you!"

Aug. 15

**LAPD Transit**



"Footbeat Friday....okay we Footbeat every day but something about Fridays! #LAPGoMetro #TSD #FootbeatFriday #Footbeat #NameThatStation #GoMetro #LAPD #LA"

July 31

**LAPD Mental Evaluation Unit**

@LAPDMEU



"Smart and Triage Desk, PMs is ready to respond to community needs. Ready to save a life. Deployed 24/7, clinicians and officers, partners in mental health. @LAPDHQ @LACDMH @NAMIGLAC @directorLACDMH @LAPDChiefMoore"

July 31

**Transportation**



"While you were asleep, our crews were up installing new striping on roads to improve safety and visibility. This year alone, LADOT crews have installed more than 650 miles of new road striping across Los Angeles."

Aug. 11



Thanks to your donations, these groceries were delivered by Club Angels to a City Employee in need.

## Help Your Fellow City Employees in Need

During this virus pandemic, some City Employees and their families are facing hardships. Club Angels, the charity started by staff members of the Employees Club, invites you to join our efforts to help.

Since the Club Angels appeal began, the charity has provided more than \$13,380 in grocery assistance to fellow City Employees through your gifts and matching funds from the Club.

"As the COVID pandemic continues, Club Angels thanks all Club Members who continue to contribute and help your fellow City employees," says Arlene Herrero, Club Angels President. "City Employees in need rely on your donations."

"If you are facing hardship, please reach out to us. Club Angels is here to help."

The Club encourages City Employees and everyone to contribute to the Club Angels fund, accessed on its GoFundMe page. Donations go to City Employees in need; Club Angels and the Employees Club earn nothing from the transaction. Donations might be tax deductible; consult your tax professional.

Please be generous.

**To donate, go to:  
ClubAngels.org  
Please be generous.**

Club Angels is a separate charity begun by Club staff.



Club Angels charity has helped nearly **63 Club Members in need.**

# 46,000 and Counting

The Club "Care Calls" project continues its efforts to call all 50,000 active Members to say hello and check on how you're doing during the current coronavirus pandemic.

To date, the Club's callers have reached out to 46,000 Club Members. (That's pretty incredible.) If you've already heard from your Club rep on the phone, great! We trust you enjoyed the call. If you haven't been contacted, we'll be calling everyone!

We're also fulfilling requests from Club Members to help them obtain necessary materials. So far we've shipped some 21,000 items. Here's a partial list of products we've shipped to Club Members, and how many:

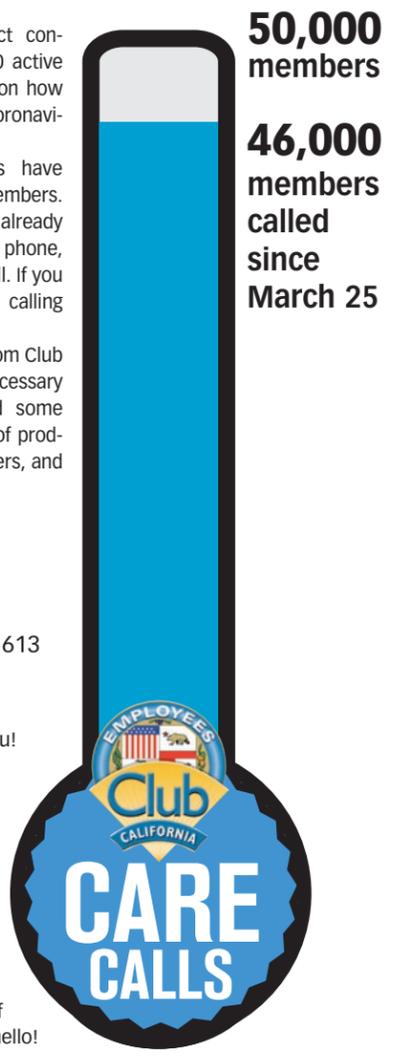
- Masks:** 6,574
- Gloves:** 10,620
- Toilet paper rolls:** 632
- Paper towels:** 224
- Hand sanitizer bottles:** 613
- Boxes of wipes:** 100
- Tissue boxes:** 19

Let us know how we can help you!

**CLUB CALLERS**

Some 30 Club staff members are calling all 50,000 active Club Members as part of the Club "Care Calls" project. Pictured here are some of those staffers. Tell them we said hello!

Tiffany Sy





# Life's Important Moments

**Share Your Life's Moments**  
 Submit digital photos and text online:  
[alive.employeesclub.com/lifemoments](http://alive.employeesclub.com/lifemoments)

## Retirements

Here's a listing of all those who retired from the City this month. To all we say, welcome to the Best Years!

| NAME                     | TITLE                    | DEPT.          | YEARS | NAME                   | TITLE                   | DEPT.               | YEARS |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------|
| Adajar, Gilbert          | Power Supply Op.         | DWP            | N/D   | Lopez, Salvador        | Gardener Caretaker      | Public Works        | 15    |
| Allen, Othello           | Custodian                | Gen. Services  | 35    | Luna, Carlos C.        | Gardener Caretaker      | Rec and Parks       | 14    |
| Anderson, Anthony        | Build. Mech. Insp.       | Bldg. & Safety | 11    | Martinez, Xavier       | Power Planning          | DWP                 | N/D   |
| Aquayo, Nathan           | Water Quality            | DWP            | N/D   | Martinez, Robert E.    | Air Cond. Mechanic      | Public Works        | 25    |
| Baldizon, Jose L.        | Equipment Mech.          | LAPD           | 26    | Matchniff, Leonard J.  | Sr. Bldg. Insp.         | Bldg. & Safety      | 6     |
| Bernal, Natalia Vilches  | Asst. Park Svcs. Att.    | Rec and Parks  | 7     | Merideth, Gregory C.   | Facilities Mgmt.        | DWP                 | N/D   |
| Bryan, Dwayne A.         | Storekeeper              | Gen. Services  | 30    | McDaniel, James Brett  | Port Pilot              | Harbor              | 33    |
| Burnaugh, Vernetta R.    | Sr. Admin.Clerk          | Public Works   | 39    | Melara, Edward A.      | Dir. of Maintenance     | Airports            | 34    |
| Campbell, Brian E.       | Wastewater Treat. Mech.  | Public Works   | 14    | Moore, Paula Ruth      | Police Service Rep      | LAPD                | 25    |
| Cartwright Adams, Vickie | Sr. Personnel Anyst.     | Airports       | 34    | Morgan, William        | Traffic Paint Sign Post | Transportation      | 9     |
| Castro, Karen O.         | Admin.Clerk              | Council        | 34    | Ocampo, Benjamin S.    | Procurement Super.      | Gen. Services       | 12    |
| Chan, Wayne              | Info Systems Mgr.        | ITA            | 32    | O'Malley, John A.      | Power Constr./Maint.    | DWP                 | N/D   |
| Childress, David Dion    | Garage Attendant         | Airports       | 32    | Orellana, Luis A.      | Gardener Caretaker      | Rec and Parks       | 20    |
| Chou, Yeuanhong          | Accountant               | Housing        | 13    | Ortiz Silva, Jose A.   | Parking Attendant       | Gen. Services       | 12    |
| Chrakyan, Arutyun        | Equipment Mechanic       | LAPD           | 25    | Peramo, Alvaro B.      | Fleet Services          | DWP                 | N/D   |
| Chu, Alex Zin Hon        | Material Testing Eng.    | Gen. Services  | 30    | Phillips Jr., Paul P.  | Power Supply            | DWP                 | N/D   |
| Cordova, Robert          | Motor Sweeper Op.        | Public Works   | 31    | Quintal, Douglas K.    | Power Transmission      | DWP                 | N/D   |
| Cruz, Hilda              | Special Prog. Asst.      | Rec and Parks  | 6     | Rajapakse, Chris R.    | Program Dir.            | EWDD                | 32    |
| Cutidioc, Delma P.       | Accounting Clerk         | LACERS         | 17    | Ramirez, Julia         | Pr. Clerk               | LAPD                | 38    |
| Dasgupta, Sharmila       | Mgmt. Anyst.             | Airports       | 31    | Ramirez, Nick E.       | Water Distribution      | DWP                 | N/D   |
| Delgado, Jesse J.        | Polygraph Examiner       | LAPD           | 25    | Riter, Olivia G.       | Personnel Dir.          | Airports            | 33    |
| Dinh, Haminh T.          | Laboratory Tech          | Public Works   | 13    | Sanchez, Benito M.     | Power Transmission      | DWP                 | N/D   |
| Dobson, Kelly M.         | ITS                      | DWP            | N/D   | Saunders, Dane C.      | Water Distribution      | DWP                 | N/D   |
| Estrada, Antoinette M.   | Secretary                | Library        | 33    | Sirody, Robert         | Power Transmission      | DWP                 | N/D   |
| Eyerly, James F.         | Build. Repairer Super.   | LAPD           | 33    | Skehan, Sean F.        | Pr. Transportation Eng. | Transportation      | 33    |
| Fitzpatrick, Timothy J.  | Deputy City Attorney     | City Attorney  | 15    | Stephens, James G.     | Sr. Bldg. Insp.         | Bldg. & Safety      | 33    |
| Goosby, Kris E.          | Equip. Superintendent    | Gen. Services  | 35    | Stutsman, Bill J.      | Sr. Structural Eng.     | Bldg. & Safety      | 34    |
| Gomez, Arturo            | Power Transmission       | DWP            | N/D   | Thornton, Kevin E.     | Procurement Anyst.      | Gen. Services       | 25    |
| Gonzalez, Daniel F.      | Water Distribution       | DWP            | N/D   | Thum, Kurt W.          | Librarian               | Library             | 6     |
| Green, Rita F.           | Custodian                | Airports       | 20    | Tong, Alfred W.        | Environmental Spec.     | Airports            | 28    |
| Hatchett, Jeffrey Lynn   | Pr. Storekeeper          | Gen. Services  | 34    | Torres, Elisa          | Sr. Admin.Clerk         | LAPD                | 40    |
| Hayter, Sue              | Pr. Public Relations Rep | Harbor         | 16    | Tran, Anthony Q.       | Fiscal Systems Spec.    | Controller's Office | 18    |
| Henry, William           | Metering Services        | DWP            | N/D   | Tripp, Albert L.       | Special Program. Asst.  | Rec and Parks       | 1     |
| Houston, Zna P.          | Sr. Asst. City Attorney  | City Attorney  | 25    | Valencia, Victoria Lee | Sr. Comm. Op.           | Airports            | 17    |
| Howard, Charles          | Water Distribution       | DWP            | N/D   | Warren, Timothy H.     | Refuse Coll. Truck Op.  | Public Works        | 18    |
| Huang, Ruey S.           | Sr. Chemist              | Public Works   | 32    | Webb, Amy L.           | Water Eng.ing           | DWP                 | N/D   |
| Iniguez, Maria A.        | Crossing Guard           | Transportation | 7     | Westgate, Wendy J.     | Librarian               | Library             | 15    |
| Jackson, Sharon L.       | Mgmt. Anyst.             | Airports       | 31    | Williams, James T.     | Wastewater Treat. Op.   | Public Works        | 35    |
| Jones, Victor L.         | Refuse Coll. Truck Op.   | Public Works   | 37    | Wilson, Leonard L.     | Energy Support          | DWP                 | N/D   |
| Kauppi, Barbara          | Instrmt. Mech. Supv.     | Public Works   | 11    | Wong, Stephani         | Sr. Admin.Clerk         | Airports            | 10    |
| Kong, Chang C.           | Power New Business       | DWP            | N/D   | Worgan, Paula N.       | Customer Service        | DWP                 | N/D   |
| Krick, Janet L.          | Power Planning           | DWP            | N/D   | Yamio, Monina D.       | Accounting Clerk        | Rec and Parks       | 39    |
| Krishna, Michael J.      | Police Officer           | Airports       | 17    | Zanotti, Toni D.       | Accounting Clerk        | Bldg. & Safety      | 20    |
| Lee, Raymond J.          | Accounting               | DWP            | N/D   | Zavala, Edward J.      | Sr. Electrical Insp.    | Bldg. & Safety      | 31    |
| Lockett, Jacildaflo Iris | Police Service Rep       | LAPD           | 32    | Zazueta, Cathy S.      | Librarian               | Library             | 2     |
| Lopez, David             | Water Distribution       | DWP            | N/D   |                        |                         |                     |       |

N/D = not disclosed



## Share Your Life's Moments

Share your news... and send in a photo! Have you gotten married? Had a baby? Graduated? Is a family member in the military? Send in a photo and a paragraph, telling us the details. We love to share your good news.

**Submit digital photos and text online:**  
 (as high a resolution as you can send)  
[alive.employeesclub.com/lifemoments/](http://alive.employeesclub.com/lifemoments/)

**Graduations**

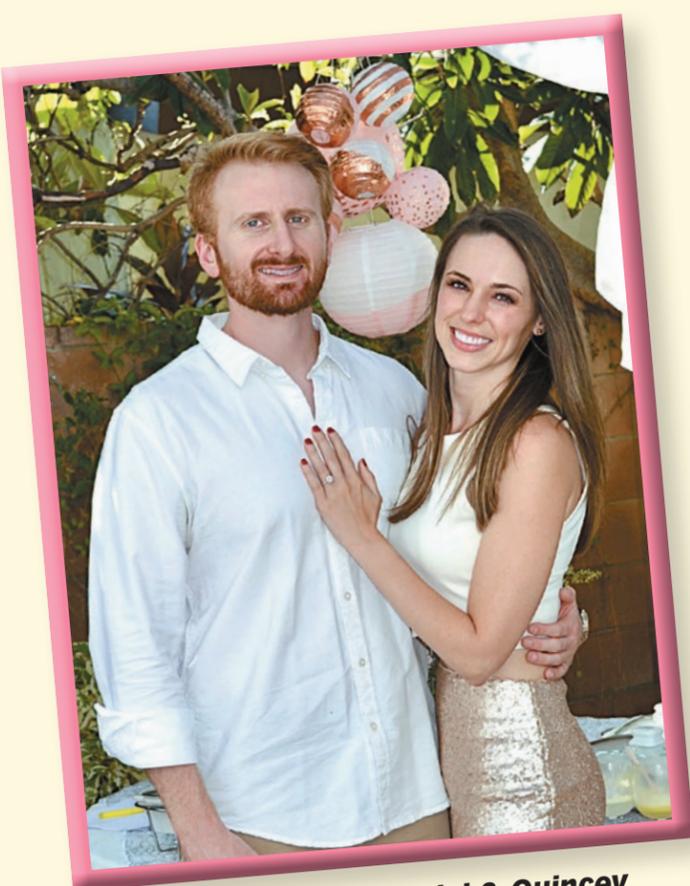
**Births**

**Weddings**

**Military Service**

**Special Achievements**

## Engagement



**Congratulations Daniel & Quincey**

Daniel Jamgotchian, son of Alive! designers David and Marie Jamgotchian, got engaged to his girlfriend Quincey Kuiuava on July 25, 2020.

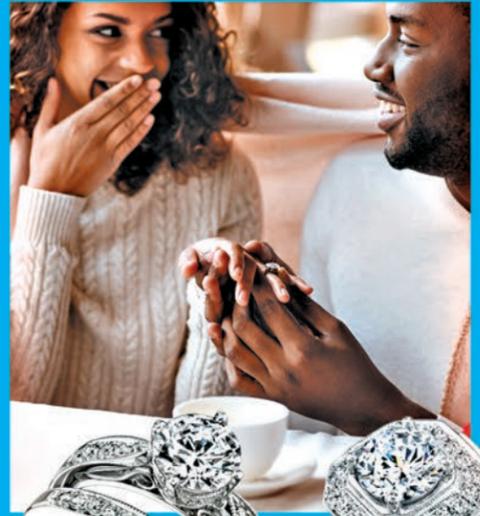
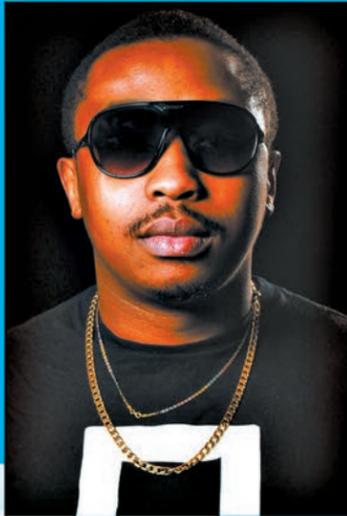
## In Memoriam

Our thoughts and condolences are with the family and friends of the following current and retired City employees who have passed away.

| DEPARTMENT         | YEARS OF SERVICE | DEPARTMENT | YEARS OF SERVICE    |                  |     |
|--------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------|------------------|-----|
| <b>Active</b>      |                  |            |                     |                  |     |
| Barahona, Santos   | Airports         | 16         | Landis, Robert      | DWP              | 34  |
| Barrera, Ranferi   | Rec and Parks    | 12         | Laros, James        | DWP              | 30  |
| Carpenter, Kevin   | DWP              | 1          | Long, Sandra        | Transportation   | 17  |
| Carter, Aldridge   | General Services | 19         | Lopez, George       | Public Works     | 21  |
| Cuevas, Lourdes    | Transportation   | 20         | Lubag, Reynaldo     | N/D              | N/D |
| Fawehinmi, Charles | LAPD             | 11         | Luistro, Leonisa    | EWDD             | 21  |
| McAdoo, Erica      | LAPD             | 11         | Madrid, John        | Public Works     | 20  |
| Nash, William      | Rec and Parks    | 3          | Manson, Donald      | Transportation   | 34  |
| Pinon, Jaime       | General Services | 18         | McRavy, Nancy       | N/D              | N/D |
| Powell, Larry      | Airports         | 20         | Mooney, Frances     | LACERS           | 26  |
| Takizawa, Thomas   | Rec and Parks    | 2          | Morales, Manuel     | N/D              | N/D |
| <b>Retired</b>     |                  |            |                     |                  |     |
| Alvarado, Joseph   | LAPD             | 23         | Napolitana, Sylvia  | DWP              | 31  |
| Aoki, Henry        | DWP              | 30         | Noguera, Frank      | N/D              | N/D |
| Atkinson, James    | N/D              | N/D        | O'Brien, Michael    | Planning         | 30  |
| Barta, James       | N/D              | N/D        | Overton, Bernell    | N/D              | N/D |
| Bernson, Harold    | Council          | 25         | Pilkington, Alice   | N/D              | N/D |
| Bourne, Ronald     | DWP              | 27         | Piper, Barbara      | DWP              | 31  |
| Caprio, Nita       | Airports         | 28         | Pires, Peter        | Rec and Parks    | 29  |
| Chavez, Refugio    | Rec and Parks    | 28         | Potts, Viola        | Airports         | 17  |
| Childers, Jeffrey  | DWP              | 36         | Quevado, Irene      | DWP              | 31  |
| Conerly, Michael   | Airports         | 30         | Reynolds, Neal      | DWP              | 32  |
| Connolly, Daniel   | DWP              | 33         | Rivas, Joseph       | LAFD             | 34  |
| Croudy, Ronald     | N/D              | N/D        | Sanquist, Elizabeth | LAPD             | 24  |
| Cruz, Jess         | Harbor           | 31         | Sato, Ichiro        | DWP              | 16  |
| Darensbourg, Simon | DWP              | 30         | Schnaar, Betty      | Library          | 13  |
| Gallegos, Ernest   | General Services | 35         | Scott, Kathleen     | Library          | 25  |
| Garcia, Raymond    | N/D              | N/D        | Smith, Arthur       | General Services | 30  |
| Garcia, William    | N/D              | N/D        | Stone, Willard      | N/D              | N/D |
| Gonzales, Gilbert  | N/D              | N/D        | Teter, Melvin       | DWP              | 28  |
| Green, Betty       | N/D              | N/D        | Tobin, John         | N/D              | N/D |
| Hoffman, Jonni     | City Attorney    | 33         | Thornberry, Donna   | DWP              | 27  |
| Hooker, Levertis   | ITA              | 26         | Tucker, Grady       | N/D              | N/D |
| Jaskowiak, Peter   | DWP              | 29         | Umekubo, Tsutomu    | DWP              | 30  |
| Kittner, Robert    | DWP              | 9          | Vignes, Doris       | N/D              | N/D |
| Kleindienst, David | DWP              | 32         | Weaver, JW          | Public Works     | 15  |
| Kobayashi, Natsuko | ITA              | 36         | Wellnitz, Thomas    | General Services | 23  |
| Kopernik, John     | DWP              | 25         | White, Arthur       | Public Works     | 36  |
| Kozai, Toshiaki    | N/D              | N/D        | Williams, Coretta   | Finance          | 30  |
| Kroll, Robert      | N/D              | N/D        | Wong, Gary          | DWP              | 30  |
|                    |                  |            | Wullner, Edwin      | N/D              | N/D |
|                    |                  |            | Zuniga, Eric        | DWP              | 19  |

N/D = not disclosed

# A LITTLE **BLING** CAN BRING MUCH NEEDED **HAPPINESS**



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