

Jennifer Le named Director of Economic and Development Services

City Manager Lori Ann Farrell Harrison has appointed Jennifer Le, a key figure in assisting local businesses navigate the many challenges resulting from COVID-19, as the City's new Director of Economic and Development Services.

"Jennifer has played a critical role as our local businesses attempted to maneuver through the financial challenges related to the pandemic," Farrell Harrison said. "She has been a trusted member of our team and I am thrilled to know she will be leading the Economic and Development Services Department."

Le had been serving as the acting director following the retirement of Barry Curtis on July 31. Prior to that, she served for three years as the second in command of the Department and has worked in planning and local government for over 20 years.

She has demonstrated excellent leadership and expertise during her tenure with the City and has played a vital role in several high profile issues including short-term rentals, oversight of cannabis manufacturing businesses permitted under Measure X and an update to the Housing Element. Most recently, Le has been at the helm of navigating several economic development issues brought on by the pandemic, including assisting South Coast Plaza with the establishment of an outdoor shopping pavilion and outdoor dining for local restaurants.

"I am honored to continue to serve the Costa Mesa community in this new capacity. I appreciate the opportunity not only to continue my work with the City's leadership group, but also to lead a talented team in the Economic and Development Services

Department,” Le said. “We have a number of challenges ahead of us and I embrace the opportunity to help guide the City Council as they make important decisions regarding economic recovery, housing policy, and more.”

Before her arrival in Costa Mesa as the Assistant Director of Development Services in November 2017, she spent 16 years with the City of Orange. She also worked for the County of Ventura and in private consulting prior to that. Her focus on creative solutions and customer service have made her a very valued member of the Costa Mesa team.

Her expertise includes both development services and long-range planning, as well as historic preservation, subdivision, CEQA/NEPA compliance, community outreach, and GIS.

Le has a Bachelor’s degree in Geography/Environmental Studies from UCLA and a Master’s degree in Environmental Science and Management from UC Santa Barbara.

Cooling Center Open in Costa Mesa

With temperatures forecasted to be in the mid 90s this weekend in Costa Mesa, the City plans to open a cooling center from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Saturday Sept. 5 and Sunday Sept. 6 at the Costa Mesa Senior Center.

Temperature checks, masks, physical distancing and other procedures are in place to comply with local public health and safety orders. City staff and Costa Mesa CERT volunteers will be available as needed at the center.

For more information please contact the Senior Center at 714-327-7550

Carol Molina Named New Finance Director

Costa Mesa City Manager Lori Ann Farrell Harrison announces the appointment of Carol Molina, a 21-year veteran of municipal government, as the City's new Finance Director.

"I am excited to appoint Carol as the City's Finance Director. She has served as the Acting Finance Director since April and has successfully guided the Finance Department and the City's annual budget process during a very difficult time." Farrell Harrison said. "Her expertise in budgeting and financial management, labor negotiations, and best practices in financial management have proven to be great assets for Costa Mesa."

Mayor Katrina Foley is also enthusiastic about the news of Molina's appointment.

"Carol is an experienced and proven leader. I believe she is the right person to lead our Finance Department at this critical time. She has already confirmed her value to the organization with her recent efforts to guide us through the adoption of the 2020-21 budget in the middle of a pandemic," Mayor Katrina Foley said. "We welcome her as an official member of our executive leadership team."

Molina has been with the City of Costa Mesa since the beginning of 2020, when she joined the team as the City's Budget and Purchasing Manager prior to taking on the role of

Acting Finance Director in April.

Molina has a wealth of experience in budgeting and financial management with both full-service and general law cities including the cities of Santa Ana, Mission Viejo, and Huntington Beach. She has been the recipient of numerous awards for budget management and excellence. Her emphasis on long-term financial sustainability and success in managing complex budgets render her uniquely qualified to manage the City's finances in such a critical time.

Costa Mesa's Finance Director is responsible for all aspects of the City's financial management, including oversight of the \$160 million budget, payroll, purchasing, audits, financial reporting, and overall fiscal policy for the City.

"I am deeply honored and humbled to be selected for this position and thankful for the opportunity to work with the City's skilled and talented team. My experience in municipal finance, along with the knowledge I've gained working for the City of Costa Mesa, has prepared me to lead the Finance Department as we embrace the challenges and opportunities ahead." Molina said.

Molina holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations from the University of California, Davis.

Mayor Foley Selected for

Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative

Costa Mesa Mayor Katrina Foley has been selected as one of 40 mayors nationwide to participate in the prestigious Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative.

The mayors will attend immersive, online classes taught by faculty from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and the Harvard Business School, as well as other renowned management experts from across the Bloomberg Philanthropies network.

“We launched this program four years ago because mayors have the power to make the biggest changes in America – and with cities leading the way in confronting the COVID-19 pandemic, their jobs have never been more important,” Michael R. Bloomberg, founder of Bloomberg LP and Bloomberg Philanthropies, and former three-term mayor of New York City stated in a press release announcing the newly selected class.

“This year’s class was chosen because they all believe in finding creative solutions to improve people’s lives, and we’re looking forward to helping them and their teams respond to this crisis – and make their cities stronger, better, and more equitable for years to come.”

Virtual sessions will cover a range of topics on advancing recovery, from budget decision-making in a time of severe economic challenge and managing a remote workforce to advancing equity and leading civic and resident engagement.

Other California mayors chosen include Christopher Cabaldon, West Sacramento; Carol Dutra-Vernaci, Union City; Joe Goethals, San Mateo; Alejandra Sotelo-Solis, National City; Darrell Steinberg, Sacramento; and Lori Wilson, Suisun City Mayor.

Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue crews to conduct training exercises in Canyon park

Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue will conduct additional training exercises June 24 through June 26, 2020 in and around Canyon Park in preparation for the upcoming wildland fire season, as well as the July Fourth holiday. Exercises will occur daily between 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue wants to ensure the community is aware of the upcoming training and asks residents and park visitors to be mindful of fire department apparatus, equipment, and preparations conducted by fire personnel. These training exercises take place in Costa Mesa and countywide to help prepare the firefighters for vegetation fires within and outside city limits. The training is an extension of the recent training exercises that occurred in Fairview Park which improves area knowledge and the tactics taken to combat wild fires.

“California is coming off one of the most catastrophic wildfire years in history and with the Fourth of July holiday upon us, this training is an imperative piece in our overall preparations.” Costa Mesa Fire Chief Dan Stefano said. “We will continue to be unwavering in our efforts to be proactive, engaged with community, and well-prepared for any emergency, which is a testament to all of our professional men and women who serve with passion, professionalism and pride 24/7/365!”

There will be approximately 12 fire personnel present for the training and two to three pieces of fire apparatus daily.

Firefighters will train on a couple of trails in Canyon Park where there is dense vegetation and moderate terrain features. The training is conducted to promote safety, mitigation, terrain recognition, and area familiarization while focusing on the fundamentals of wildland firefighting. Moreover, the department is conducting the training with full awareness and sensitivity of all environmental impacts and ensures this training will exclude any live burn training modules. The training will also adhere to County and City requirements/recommendations in regards to COVID19 safety precautions. The training is facilitated with the assistance of the Costa Mesa Parks and Community Services Department.

For questions please contact Captain Joseph Noceti, Public Information Officer at (714) 754-5091.

Message from the City of Costa Mesa

The employees and leadership teams of the City of Costa Mesa extend a huge thank you to the members of the community who have been so vigilant in doing their part to stem the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Here are some tips going forward:

Our business community is being especially hard hit by this crisis. We encourage residents to support them by shopping local and ordering take-out food and delivery services from local restaurants.

As a reminder, the governor's and the county's orders call for all businesses where social distancing cannot be achieved, including places like massage parlors and salons, to be closed.

While City facilities are closed, we realize that business still needs to be conducted. City department webpages have been updated to provide residents with the ability to conduct business in an online environment. Click the following link to learn more.

<https://www.costamesaca.gov/city-hall/city-departments>

If you have questions about COVID-19 and what the city is doing, we have a hotline number where members of the community can leave us a message. Please call the hotline at 714-754-5156.

Also, the Orange County District Attorney's Office has issued a warning about price gouging and that business owners who unjustifiably raise prices during this crisis can face criminal charges.

Residents who suspect a business is price gouging as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic are encouraged to file a report to District Attorney's Consumer Protection Unit using this form: <http://orangecountyda.org/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?>

Finally, on Tuesday March 17, the City conducted the first City Council meeting under the temporarily relaxed Brown Act rules that do not require a majority of Council members to be in attendance. Four Council members and some staff participated in the meeting by telephone and members of the public were given opportunities to ask questions of the council, either in person or via email. Seating in the Council Chambers was also modified to allow for proper social distancing between those in attendance. The model will be a useful one for future meetings.

#BeAwareBePrepared #FlattenTheCurve

Street sweeping cancelled for Thanksgiving holiday

Due to the observation of the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no residential street sweeping Thursday, Nov. 28 and Friday Nov. 29.

The street sweeping hiatus coincides with residential trash collection being pushed back one day due to the Thanksgiving holiday. This results in residential gutter lines being cluttered with trash cans making it impossible for street sweeper operators to do an efficient job.

Street sweeping will resume back to normal schedule the week of Dec. 2.

For more information, residents can call the city's street sweeping hotline at (714) 327-7471, which has been updated with this information.

Early College High School Teacher honored by the LA Clippers

Early College High School (ECHS) teacher Mrs. Anne Lawrence was selected as the 2019 Outstanding Teacher as part of the LA Clippers Teacher Appreciation Program. Mrs. Lawrence was recognized for her hard work and dedication to students.

Mrs. Lawrence has greatly influenced students as the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) senior seminar

teacher, in addition to her regular role (math teacher or whatever regular teaching assignment she has at the school). She also serves as a California College Application Success Campaign committee member and developed the feature sophomore project, a project where 10th-grade students create a virtual nonprofit organization, to be a community-involved experience.

“Mrs. Lawrence is extremely committed to our students, always willing to do what it takes to ensure their success,” said ECHS Principal Dr. Dave Martinez. “She never ceases to amaze me and we are proud to have her on our team,” he said.

Mrs. Lawrence will be recognized at an on-court ceremony on November 7, 2019, at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

This is the third year in a row that an ECHS teacher has been recognized by the Los Angeles Clippers. Past recipients include Mrs. Treffner (2017) and Mrs. Wurn (2018).

Bridge Shelter Success: Shirley's story

Shirley is a Bridge Shelter senior client who previously wound up on the streets after a divorce where she found herself having to solve her medical problems and ward off criminals all on her own.

After years of living without a home, Shirley eventually entered the Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter.

It wasn't an easy entry at first. Shirley twice decided to leave the facility because she wasn't yet ready to move forward with her housing plan; but, the shelter's outreach and

in-reach workers had compassion for her and convinced her not to give up hope for a life inside.

Fortunately for Shirley, she was recommended for a voucher by the Orange County Housing Authority (OCHA) and her case manager was able to collect the rest of her documentation to turn into OCHA for her housing voucher.

She is now retrieving and completing the necessary paperwork to get her housing voucher and has sent the documents to OCHA.

Only by stabilizing this client through the availability of a shelter bed and a coordinated and compassionate approach to case management, will he/she be able to complete her housing plan.

Shirley's story is just one illustration of how the Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter staff team is going above and beyond to get clients onto a path of hope.

For more information about Costa Mesa's efforts to end homelessness, please visit our website at www.costamesaca.gov/homelessness.

Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter Partner Profile: Serve the People

Serve the People is a private non-profit organization located in Santa Ana that provides health care services to people who struggle to find a doctor, dentist, optometrist or a counselor for care. Their mission is to provide the physical, mental, emotional and mentoring needs of the poor, children, sick,

needy, uneducated, oppressed and lost people regardless of race, religion or gender.

Last week Serve the People coordinated the visit of a Mobile Vision Clinic at the Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter where shelter clients were provided free vision tests and glasses.



Partnerships with organizations like Serve the People allow the Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter team to better serve those experiencing homelessness in Costa Mesa.

Many volunteer opportunities are available at the Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter. These opportunities are an easy way for the public to take an active role and help create positive change in the community. For more information, please contact AlyssaS@mercyhouse.net.

Management and Analysis of City Budget Pays off for Haston

City Manager Lori Ann Farrell Harrison presented Amber Haston

with the City Manager Leadership Award at the monthly Meet and Greet at City Hall on Thursday Aug. 22.

"Amber has proven to be a critical member of the Finance and greater City team," Farrell Harrison said. "I am very impressed with all she does and appreciate her hard work and dedication and I know her colleagues do as well. Congratulations to Amber for a job well done."

Haston joined the Costa Mesa team in May of 2017 as a Management Analyst in the Public Services Department. She transferred into the Finance Department in December of 2018.

Upon her arrival in Finance, she has reinvented the role of the Finance Department Management Analyst, focusing on key special projects and performing complex financial analysis and forecasting. Additionally, she continues to provide budget support to all budget liaisons, as well as assistance in forecasting as part of the surplus/deficit projections for FY 2018-19. She served as a critical lead budget team member, and worked with Public Services to develop the Capital Improvement Program budget.

Concurrently, due to her purchasing experience, she was also asked to step in, along with Purchasing staff, to serve as the Buyer and dedicated Management Analyst for procuring items for the temporary Bridge Shelter in order to meet the City Council goal of opening the shelter by April 2019. Her involvement was instrumental to the successful opening.

Some of her other key responsibilities include developing and managing the Finance Department's budget and procurements, reviewing all City staff reports for fiscal impacts on behalf of the Finance Department, and work on special projects. Some of these special projects include the Citywide Fee Study and Cost Allocation Plan, updating the Capital Asset Needs Ordinance, implementing vendor and bid management software, and preparation and implementation of an electronic signature

policy.

Haston attended Colorado State University and holds a bachelor's degree in business management with a specialization in Public and Non-Profit Management.

In addition, City Manager Farrell Harrison welcomed Jacqueline Nguyen as the new Buyer and Louis Li as the new Budget Specialist in the Finance Department.

In Parks & Community Services, Caitlin Huerta and Wendy Pacheco are new Community Services Leader III working at the Senior Center.

Also in Parks and Community Services, Emily Pulaski has been promoted to Recreation Specialist and Amir Ardalan has been promoted to Senior Lifeguard at our Downtown Recreation Center.

Bridge Shelter Success: Samuel's Story

When the Network for Homeless Solutions first contacted Samuel in 2014, it was learned that he suffered from a traumatic brain injury and depression exacerbated by chronic drug use. At one point, Samuel was able to maintain housing in the City and also participate in a variety of odd jobs and volunteer church activities.

But soon things took a turn for the worse. The cumulative effects of his chronic drug use caught up with him. His erratic behavior caused his roommates to evict him. He eventually lost his apartment and became estranged from his

family. He became violent and blacked out after excessive drinking and drug use, to the point where others could not be around him.

Fortunately for Samuel, his link to County Mental Health made him eligible to get a housing voucher. After he lost his apartment, he was able to enter the Bridge Shelter and begin working on stabilizing his behavior and getting treatment for his chronic drug use.

Additionally, while his case manager was working hard on behavioral interventions to try to reverse negative behaviors, Samuel also found an apartment unit where vouchers were accepted. Samuel was able to move into the apartment last week with the help of Bridge Shelter partners and NHS members Trellis and Fresh Beginnings Ministries, who emptied out his storage locker and helped to move his furniture.

As staff has found in the past, getting into housing is only the beginning from those facing both mental health and substance abuse challenges. A program offering wrap-around support by both Costa Mesa outreach workers and community partners is essential for ensuring future housing stability.

Costa Mesa's outreach team is hopeful that Samuel will have many happy years in his new apartment. NHS outreach staff and volunteers are dedicated to ensuring that his housing remains stable by offering weekly visits and assistance in managing treatment and other mental health programs.

Best of luck to Samuel as he continues on this road to recovery. He is just one of many successful clients who is benefitting from the Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter and Network For Homeless Solutions, which are changing lives for the better every day.

For more information on Costa Mesa's efforts to aide individuals experiencing homelessness, please visit our website [here](#).