

Costa Mesa needs public's help to draw the line on new City Council districts

The City of Costa Mesa held its first public hearing on Tuesday Oct. 19 to discuss the official 2020 Census data (State-Adjusted), the redistricting process and permissible criteria to be considered to evaluate district boundaries.

The Council heard from redistricting expert Dr. Justin Levitt, who presented the city's 2020 estimated total population. He noted that the redistricting goal is to have all districts the same (or as close to) a population of 18,690. Currently Costa Mesa has a deviation of 11.52%. The City needs to bring that down to under 10%.

[Click here to see the data.](#)

To accomplish that, the City is seeking the public's participation to redraw boundaries for City Council Districts 1 through 6.

The City of Costa Mesa will also hold its first public input workshop on Saturday Oct. 23 at 10 a.m. at the Norma Hertzog Community Center. Members of the public will have an opportunity to learn about the redistricting process, data and mapping tools.

Every 10 years, local governments use new data from the Census to redraw their district lines to reflect how populations have changed. State law requires cities to engage communities in the redistricting process by holding public hearings and doing public outreach, including to underrepresented and non-English-speaking communities.

Subsequent meetings will be scheduled in December of 2021 and

January of 2022.

For more information on redistricting or to draw a district map, please visit: <https://redistrictcostamesa.org/> In addition, the City has created a dedicated email address for the public to submit questions or comments regarding the City's redistricting process. The email address is redistricting@costamesaca.gov

City Council sets new Core Values, Goals and Objectives for next three years

The Costa Mesa City Council on Tuesday Oct. 19 approved the City's Core Values, and amended the Three Year Strategic Plan Goals and new Six Month Strategic Objectives for the next three years.

The Council developed the values, goals and objectives at its Strategic Planning Retreat on Monday Sept. 27 that was moderated by Marilyn Snider of Snider and Associates.

"During the strategic planning session, the City Council and City staff built consensus on our City's five specific goals over the next three years as well as the incremental steps over the next six months needed to achieve our goals," Mayor John Stephens said. "We also agreed on the City's Core Values of Integrity, Sustainability, Innovation, Inclusion, Collaboration and Compassion. These goals and core values will guide our decisions and prioritize our efforts going forward."

The retreat, held at the Costa Mesa Senior Center, was

attended by Mayor Stephens, Mayor Pro-tem and District 3 Council Member Andrea Marr, District 2 Council Member Loren Gameros, District 4 Council Member Manuel Chavez, District 5 Council Member Arlis Reynolds and District 6 Council Member Jeff Harlan.

Also joining the Mayor and Council were City Manager Lori Ann Farrell Harrison, Assistant City Manager Susan Price and all the City's Department Directors.

The council decided on the following five goals:

- Recruit and retain high quality staff
- Achieve long-term fiscal sustainability
- Strengthen the public's safety and improve the quality of life
- Diversify, stabilize and increase housing to reflect community needs
- Advance environmental sustainability and climate resiliency

[Click here to see the full document the City Council adopted.](#)

Costa Mesa Public Services team captures prestigious ENR award for Lions Park Project

The Engineering News-Record (ENR) California magazine last week presented the Costa Mesa City staff with the award for Best Cultural Project in Southern California for their work on the Donald Dungan Library and Norma Hertzog Center.

“The Donald Dungan Library and Norma Hertzog Community Center are the crown jewels of the City and the centerpiece of our Westside Restoration efforts,” Mayor John Stephens said. “Congrats to our Public Services team for shepherding these projects through and winning this prestigious award. I’m heartened to know they are being recognized by their engineering peers.”

Each year, ENR California assembles a group of judges, with varying specialties and expertise in the construction industry, to review, score and form a panel to determine Best Projects winners for the region.

“ENR is the construction industry’s premier publication providing news, analysis, data and opinion,” said Public Services Director Raja Sethuraman. “The City of Costa Mesa is a proud receipt of the Best Project Award from ENR for the Donald Dungan Library. The award recognized the City and the consultant team for the library’s aesthetic quality and design, LEED certification, as well as construction. This is one of several awards that the Donald Dungan Library project received over the past couple of years.”

The two-phase, \$36.5-million Lions Park Project was completed under budget. The first phase included the demolition of the longtime Downtown Community Center and the creation of a new 23,355-square-foot, two-story library in that space.

The second phase saw the transformation of the original Donald Dungan library into a 9,200-square-foot, 300-seat community center to accommodate a variety of events.

To come up with the award winners, judges independently review entries, score each on pre-specified criteria, and convene with fellow judges to vote. Together, the judges’ panels select honorees for Best Project and Merit awards.

According to the ENR magazine, “sustainability underscored every aspect of the project, leading to LEED Gold

certification. Efforts included repurposing demolished materials from the original community center site as recycled material base for the new library's foundation. Grinding waste material on site also significantly limited the project's waste volume and hauling."

Assistance still available for eligible Costa Mesa residents behind in rent payments

The eviction moratorium ended in California on Sept. 30, but Costa Mesa residents who are eligible may still get assistance to help pay their back rent if they were impacted by COVID-19 related economic setbacks.

Passed by the City Council last June, the CDBG-CV Rental Assistance Program assists low to moderate-income Costa Mesa residents who were impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

Assisting residents in need will go toward maintaining housing stability during these difficult times.

For individuals in need of assistance, please contact Mercy House at 714-836-7188 or at the website here <https://www.mercyhouse.net/>.

For families in need of rental assistance, please contact Serving People in Need (SPIN) at this number (714) 751-1101 or click this link for more information.

City Council to hold first public hearing to discuss district boundary changes

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In doing so, the City is seeking the public's participation to redraw boundaries for City Council Districts 1 through 6.

Click here for the agenda.

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City seeks public's help in redistricting efforts

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Human Resources Analyst Ruth Wang presented with the City Manager Leadership Award

City Manager Lori Ann Farrell Harrison presented Human Resources Analyst Ruth Wang with the City Manager Leadership Award Winner for the month of September.

Wang is a valued member of the Human Resources Division, and during the pandemic, Wang navigated the City's contact tracing program when employees tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. Wang accepted this additional responsibility without hesitation while continuing to manage her regular Human Resources duties.

"This past year has been especially hard for our human resources team as we dealt with an unprecedented pandemic while still needing to recruit for new employees and deal with a wave of retirements," Farrell Harrison said. "Through it all, Ruth has remained steady and professional and we are so lucky to have her on our team. Congrats to her on this well-deserved honor."

She successfully manages these stressful situations for the employee with care, sensitivity and professionalism. Wang along with the rest of the City's contact tracing team have made over 600 contacts.

In addition to this added work load, Wang is the primary recruiter for the Development Services and Fire Departments and has a great working relationship with both departments. She has processed over 150 candidates and conducted over 60 recruitments.

Wang is also responsible for claims administration and coordinating the City's monthly Meet and Greet events and the annual Employee Service Awards. Wang's creative ideas and themes for these events, and her attention to detail contribute to the success of these events.

Wang is recognized for her exceptional customer service, always cheery disposition and for being the ultimate team player. She never hesitates to offer her assistance to her fellow HR staff members and also to other Departments when needed.

She joined the City of Costa Mesa as a part-time Human Resources Technician in 2013, was promoted to Human Resources Analyst in 2014, and became a full-time staff member later the same year.

Prior to joining Costa Mesa, Wang worked in varying personnel positions at several local municipalities including the cities of Fullerton, Newport Beach, Mission Viejo and Tustin. Wang also previously worked as a wedding planner.

Wang received her bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of LaVerne.

**Longtime planner Scott
Drapkin named as new
Assistant Development**

Services Director

Jennifer Le, Costa Mesa's Director of Economic and Development Services, announced that she has appointed Scott Drapkin as the City's new Assistant Development Services Director.

Drapkin has nearly 25 years of experience in the planning and community development field and comes to Costa Mesa from the City of Laguna Beach, where he worked since 1997.

In 2016, he was appointed to be the City's Planning Manager, managing day-to-day operations and staff in the Planning Division as well as the activities of the Planning Commission.

A lifelong Orange County resident, Drapkin has been involved with GIS planning since the late 1990s and created and administered one of the first public-serving GIS City services in Orange County in early 2002.

Drapkin has his Bachelor's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Cal Poly Pomona and a Master's degree in public administration from Grand Canyon University.

Costa Mesa Television wins four more Government Programming Awards

Costa Mesa Television (CMTV) won two Awards of Excellence, one Award of Distinction and one Award of Honor at the 2021 NATOA (National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors) Government Programming Awards (GPAs) which were announced during the organization's national conference

Thursday.

The annual awards program honors excellence in broadcast, cable, multimedia and electronic programming produced by local government agencies.

This year's competition featured 750 entries from across the United States vying for the awards. NATOA has been in existence since 1980 and offers a wide range of advocacy services to individual and agency members representing cities, towns, counties and commissions across the country.

You can find the complete list of award winners and nominees here: <https://assets.noviams.com/novi-file-uploads/natoa/2021GPAWinners.pdf>

Special Audience

Award of Excellence: "Costa Mesa Mayor's Award – Power Of One Foundation" City of Costa Mesa, CA

Award of Distinction: "30 Years of ADA Impact" City and County of Denver, CO

Award of Distinction: "Celebrate 30 Years of the American with Disabilities ACT (ADA)" City of Seattle, WA

Award of Honor: "MoVal Rental Rescue" City of Moreno Valley, CA

Award of Honor: "Black Lives Matter + LA Pride" City of Los Angeles, CA

Profile of a Person, Business or Organization (Operating Budget Under \$400,000)

Award of Excellence: "The Goddards And The Costa Mesa Historical Society" City of Costa Mesa, CA

Award of Distinction: "Calabasas Profiles: Jeremy Reitman"
City of Calabasas, CA

Award of Distinction: "U.P. Historical Society" City of
University Place, WA

Award of Honor: "Golden Civic Foundation: For the Good of
Golden" City of Golden, CO

Award of Honor: "Arvada Business Loan Grant " City of Arvada-
KATV, CO

Children/Young Adults (Operating Budget Under \$400,000)

Award of Excellence: "A Shining Gift" Town Square Television,
Inver Grove Heights, MN

Award of Distinction: "Costa Mesa Virtual Recreation Series –
DIY Hojalata" City of Costa Mesa, CA

Award of Distinction: "Day in the Life: 6th-12th Grade "
Seattle Public Schools, Seattle, WA

Award of Honor: "Seattle Super Reader Book of the Month with
SUPERintendent Denise Juneau – Jabari Jumps " Seattle Public
Schools, Seattle, WA

Award of Honor: "Take 20" City of Murfreesboro, TN

Animal Services

Award of Excellence: "Pet of the Week – Josie" County of San
Diego, CA

Award of Distinction: "Spaying and Neutering Your Pets is
Pawsible!" Hidalgo County, TX

Award of Distinction: "CityStream – Advanced Treatment for
Aging Zoo Animals" City of Seattle, WA

Award of Honor: "PAWS 101: Walking Your Dog" City of Costa

Mesa, CA

Award of Honor: "Backyard Safari" City of Murfreesboro, TN

Cal Chiefs honor Chief Stefano for his steady leadership as association president

Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue Chief Dan Stefano was recognized at the annual conference of the California Fire Chiefs Association for his outstanding leadership during his tenure as the association's president.

Fire department leaders from across the state of California converged in San Diego for the conference, held during the week of Sept. 13, to train, engage and recognize leadership in the state's fire service. Chief Stefano was credited by his peers for bringing dynamic collaborative leadership and organizational oversight to the organization as the President since 2019.



“It has been an absolute honor and privilege to serve as a part of our extremely talented and engaged full Board of Directors and Section Leadership of CalChiefs, particularly at this snapshot in time, as the California fire service continues to navigate back-to-back years of historic wildfires, an unprecedented pandemic, civil unrest, natural disasters, terrorism threats, behavioral and mental health challenges, and so much more,” Chief Stefano said. “The California Fire Service is stronger and more unified as ever, holding an unwavering priority of focus on our incredible women and men who serve, and most certainly to the communities and people who we all serve, 24/7/365!”

During Chief Stefano’s closing comments, he highlighted the incredible support he received from the City Council, City Manager Lori Ann Farrell-Harrison and the City Leadership Team, as well as the entire CMFR team and his family. He emphasized that only through this incredible support that he was afforded this opportunity to actively engage at both the state and national levels, with the best interests of the California Fire Service and the City of Costa Mesa in mind.



Chief Stefano passed the presidential baton to Ontario Fire Chief Ray Gayk, who was installed as the new Cal Chiefs President. CMFR Chief Stefano will remain an active member of the Cal Chiefs Executive Board and will serve as the Past President for the next term.

Stefano also thanked the Orange County's Fire Service and the outstanding leadership team that was strongly represented through the attendance by Fountain Valley Fire Chief Ron Cookston, Newport Beach Fire Chief Jeff Boyles, Orange City Fire Chief Sean deMetroplis, Costa Mesa Fire Chief Dan Stefano, Orange Country Fire Authority Fire Chief Brian Fennessy, and Brea/Fullerton Fire Chief Adam Loeser.



Also a strong representation of the CMFR team was present including Division Chief Jason Pyle, Battalion Chief Chris Coates, Fire Marshal Jon Neal, Community Risk Reduction Specialist Brenda Emrick, Executive Assistant Lora Ross and Management Analyst Kristin Stevens.



Rob Ryan is City's new Maintenance Services Manager

Director of Public Services Raja Sethuraman has appointed Rob Ryan as the City's new Maintenance Services Manager.

In his new position, Ryan will oversee Facilities, Fleet, Parks, Streets and Warehousing sections of the Maintenance Services Division.

Ryan has been serving as Acting Superintendent of Parks and Streets sections of the Maintenance Division over the past year.

He has been with the City for over seven years and has over 17 years of experience in maintenance. a State licensed pesticide applicator and an ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) Certified Arborist.

Prior to joining the City of Costa Mesa, Ryan spent 11 years as a general manager of a landscape pest control company that specialized in tree, sports turf and landscape pest and disease management and control.

The company focused on serving universities, school districts, cities and other municipalities. The company also specialized in invasive weed removal and wetlands habitat restoration.

Ryan is currently working towards a degree in Business Administration with a special focus on Leadership.

Street sweeping enforcement to resume Wednesday Sept. 15 with two-week grace period

At the regular Costa Mesa City Council meeting of Sept. 7, the City Council agreed to resume street sweeping enforcement that had been suspended in January of 2021 due to the ongoing pandemic.

While enforcement by the Costa Mesa Police Department can begin on Wednesday Sept. 15, 2021, residents will be allotted a two-week grace period that will end on **Wednesday Sept. 29, 2021**.

Residents should be aware that after the grace period the Police Department will be issuing citations for any vehicle parked on the street during the restricted "No Parking" times when a street sweeper is present.

Residents may park their vehicle(s) on the street after the sweeper cleans the street if it is within that restricted time frame.

This does not affect residential permit parking enforcement, which is still suspended until the City completes the City-wide Parking Study and obtain direction from the City Council.