

# **Costa Mesa residents can get free sandbags at City Hall parking lot**

As a big winter storm approaches Costa Mesa and the region, the city's maintenance service crews have made sandbags available at City Hall.

Sand bags are available for free to Costa Mesa residents in the southeast corner of the City Hall parking lot at 77 Fair Drive. The location is self-service and bringing your own shovel is suggested as supplies could be limited. The number of sandbags is limited to 15 sandbags per household.

No commercial use please.

[Click here for instructions on sandbags.](#)

Additionally, the city crews will patrol potential flooding spots to make sure catch basins are clear of debris and operational. Crews are also ready to respond to other weather-related incidents.

Please report flooding issues to 714-754-5250.

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## **Recruitment for city committees/commission**

# extended through noon Jan. 27

The Costa Mesa City Council has extended the recruitment for the Parks, Arts and Community Services Commission and all city committees and encourages members of the public to apply if interested.

For a list of applicants who have applied to date please click [here](#). Due to a technical error, a few applications may have not been received. Residents who don't see their name on the list need to apply again.

**Application Process** – Residents who are interested in getting involved in local government are encouraged to complete a Committee/Commission Application Form from the City Clerk's Office or from the City's website ([www.costamesaca.gov/apply](http://www.costamesaca.gov/apply)). The completed application may be submitted online; emailed to [cityclerk@costamesaca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@costamesaca.gov); or hand-delivered to the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa.

The deadline is now **noon January 27, 2021**. Appointments are tentatively scheduled for the Feb. 2, 2021 City Council meeting. The Costa Mesa City Council is currently seeking residents to serve on the following City Committees/Commissions:

**Parks, Arts and Community Services Commission:** This Commission meets monthly and assists the City Council and various City departments with issues relating to parks, parkways, recreation programs and community services. The Commission also actively encourages programs for the cultural enrichment of the community and solicits partnerships with senior organizations which share the common goal to serve Costa Mesa's senior population. Members must be residents of the district for which they seek to be appointed. The City is recruiting for a four-year term for three regular members for

Districts 1, 2 and 6, a two-year term for three regular members for Districts 3, 4, and 5, and a two-year Mayor's at-large appointment. For further information, contact Executive Secretary Sylvia Chalmers at (714) 754-5009.

**Animal Services Committee:** This committee meets every other month and assists with the planning of animal related events, explores and provides recommendations to improve animal services, and promotes pet licensing within the City. The City is recruiting for a one-year term for four regular members, a two-year term for three regular members, and a one-year term for two alternate members. For further information, contact Assistant Recreation Supervisor Tracy Habiger at (714) 754-5083.

**Bikeway & Walkability Committee:** This committee meets monthly and assists with the review, update and implementation of the city's Active Transportation Plan in order to make recommendations for bikeway and pedestrian improvements to the City Council. The City is recruiting for one-year term for six regular members, a two-year term for five regular members. For further information, contact Transportation Services Manager Jennifer Rosales at (714) 754-5180.

**Cultural Arts Committee:** This committee meets monthly and works to promote the City motto, "City of the Arts," and to establish programs, events and information that help residents access the arts in many different venues. The City is recruiting for a one-year term for four regular members, a two-year term for five regular members, and a two-year term for two alternate members. For further information, contact Recreation Supervisor Ashley Thomas at (714) 754-5052.

**Fairview Park Steering Committee:** This committee meets every other month and provides advice to the City Council regarding the implementation of the Fairview Park Master plan and impacts of Measure AA on Capital Improvement Program projects, maintenance and activities. The City is recruiting for a four-

year term for four regular members, a four-year term for one alternate member, and a two-year term for one alternate member. For further information, contact Fairview Park Administrator Cynthia D'Agosta at (714) 754-5135.

**Finance and Pension Advisory Committee:** This committee meets monthly and provides advice to the City Council regarding events and issues which may affect the financial status of the City. It also evaluates annual and long-term pension and financial impacts from changes in CalPERS contribution rates and/or actuarial schedule changes. The City is recruiting for a one-year term for four regular members and a two-year term for five regular members. Applicants shall have pension knowledge or shall be residents or individuals that conduct business within the City and have a background that includes experience in securities trading, financial planning, banking, auditing, accounting, or a closely related and relevant field. For further information, contact Executive Secretary Angela Madsen at (714) 754-5243.

**Historical Preservation Committee:** This committee meets monthly and serves to maintain, preserve, educate and promote the city's historical resources. The City is recruiting for a one-year term for four regular members, a two-year term for five regular members, and a one-year term for two alternate members. For further information, contact Recreation Supervisor Kevin Stoddart at (714) 327-7561.

**Housing & Public Service Grants Committee:** This committee meets twice a year with further meetings scheduled on an as-needed basis and helps to promote community understanding of the activities funded by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD), and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) with a focus on social service grants. The City is recruiting for a one-year term for four regular members, a two-year term for five regular members, and a one-year term for one alternate member. For further information, contact CDBG Consultant Mike Linares at (714) 754-5678.

**Mobile Home Park Advisory Committee:** This committee meets quarterly and addresses mobile home park issues and concerns in Costa Mesa. The City is recruiting for a two-year term for two Park Owner or his/her Representative, a two-year term for two Mobile Home Resident Owners, a two-year term for one Independent Citizen At-large, a one-year term for on Park Owner or his/her Representative, a on e-year term for two Mobile Home Resident Owners, and a one-year term for one Independent Citizen At-large. For further information, contact Zoning Administrator Willa Bouwens-Killeen at (714)754-5153.

**Traffic Impact Fee Ad Hoc Committee:** This committee meets on an as-needed basis to assist staff on all aspects related to the updating and revision of traffic impact fees. The City is recruiting for one Major Developers' Representative, one Small Developers' Representative, and two At-large Representatives. For further information, contact Transportation Services Manager Jennifer Rosales at (714) 754-5180.

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## **Costa Mesa wins prestigious LEED Gold certification from U.S. Green Business Council**

The City of Costa Mesa has been awarded LEED Gold certification, joining a growing group of more than 100 cities

and municipalities from around the world to be certified under the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED for Cities and Communities rating system.

LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, was created by USGBC and is the world's most widely used green building rating system. The certification recognizes the city's efforts to implement practical and measurable strategies aimed at improving sustainability and the living standard for residents.

Costa Mesa is one of only four cities in the United States to have received LEED Gold certification using the latest LEED standard, LEED version 4.1. The other three are Orlando, Santa Fe and Las Vegas.

In early 2020, Costa Mesa was named one of 20 local governments to receive additional educational resources and technical support as it pursued LEED for Cities certification. The support and resources throughout the certification process were made possible by Bank of America, which has provided \$1.25 million to USGBC's LEED for Cities and Communities program since 2018, supporting a total of 41 U.S. cities and communities to date as they pursue certification.

"I'm so proud of our staff for receiving this LEED certification," Mayor Katrina Foley said. "This achievement demonstrates Costa Mesa's commitment to sustainability, human health and economic prosperity, and that's why we remain a place where people want to live, work and play."

USGBC cited Costa Mesa for its integrative planning and leadership processes, green spaces, transportation performance and policies, water efficiency, energy and greenhouse gas emission management, quality of life and innovation. These practical and measurable strategies and solutions are aimed at improving human and environmental health.

"LEED has been a transformative tool for buildings, and we are

now seeing the impact it can have at the city and community level,” said Mahesh Ramanujam, president and CEO, USGBC. “By prioritizing issues such as sustainability, resilience, health, green infrastructure and more, Costa Mesa is leading the way to a better world and helping USGBC continue toward our vision of healthy people in healthy places.”

Indeed, Costa Mesa has received LEED Gold certification for Fire Station No. 1 and for the Donald Dungan Library.

“As a community that deeply cares about the environment, it is exciting to have Costa Mesa recognized as one of the world’s first LEED Gold-certified cities,” said Allen Staff, Bank of America Orange County market president. “Bank of America’s support for USGBC’s LEED for Cities initiative is part of our larger capital deployment commitment to address climate change and build resilience in communities like Costa Mesa.”

The LEED Gold certification was pursued by Salem Afeworki, the city of Costa Mesa’s first Sustainability and Energy Service Manager and Mayor Pro-Tem Andrea Marr, who is a former Navy veteran and current engineer for an energy solutions firm.

“I would like to say thank you to Southern California Edison, Mesa Water District, Costa Mesa Sanitary District, various City Departments and consultants for the data and input they provided to help us achieve recognition as a LEED Gold City,” Afeworki said.

City leaders believe that LEED for Cities and Communities is a great guiding framework that can help staff identify top priorities and foster initiatives that enhance the quality of life. This grant allowed the city to pursue the following initiatives:

- Plan, build, operate and maintain projects that promote inclusive and responsible growth citywide;
- Identify gaps and opportunities in policy or budgetary needs;

- Develop realistic and achievable strategies, tactics and metrics that would allow City staff to compare Costa Mesa with other cities;
- Identity synergies, multi-benefitted projects and initiatives that are cost effective; and
- Create a better framework for collaboration that dismantles silos, increase transparency and cultivates new partnerships.

### **About the U.S. Green Building Council**

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. USGBC works toward its mission of market transformation through its LEED green building program, robust educational offerings, an international network of local community leaders, the annual Greenbuild International Conference & Expo, the Center for Green Schools and advocacy in support of public policy that encourages and enables green buildings and communities. For more information, visit [usgbc.org](http://usgbc.org) and connect on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

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## **New COVID-19 testing kiosk to be open Saturdays and Sundays at the Senior Center**

The City of Costa Mesa along with the Orange County Health Agency and 360 Clinic has entered into a partnership to offer free COVID-19 testing at the Costa Mesa Senior Center beginning this Saturday Jan. 9 through the end of March.

“This new testing and health kiosk at our Senior Center will allow those who live on the Westside better access to testing and healthcare resources closer to home,” Mayor Katrina Foley said. “Testing for COVID-19 is an important tool to help us get this virus under control, and we are grateful for our partnership with the County and 360 Clinic for helping us make this happen.”

Testing will be available by appointment only at a kiosk at the Senior Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The Costa Mesa Senior Center is at 695 W. 19th St.

The kiosk will provide up to 500 tests a day. Clinicians will be available to answer questions. Clinic staff will check-in patients that have pre-registered on the website and assign a test kit to swab. Results are received within 24-72 hours via text message or email.

Please register at [www.360clinic.md](http://www.360clinic.md) and bring a form of ID and insurance card, if available.

Frontline workers and senior citizens with credentials will have priority. Bilingual assistance will be available.

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## **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.

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**Planning Commission:** The Commission meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month and advises on planning, land use, and development matters. The Commission is the final decision-making body for certain discretionary land use approvals such as design review, conditional use permits, and land divisions. The Commission also functions as an advisory body to the City Council for Zoning and General Plan amendments. Members must be registered voters and residents of the district for which they seek to be appointed. The City is recruiting for a four-year term for three regular members for Districts 1, 2, and 6, and one two-year term At Large position (Mayors appointment). For further information, contact Administrative Secretary Julie Colgan at (714) 754-5612.

**Application Process** – Residents who are interested in getting involved in local government are encouraged to complete a Committee/Commission Application Form from the City Clerk's Office or from the City's website ([www.costamesaca.gov/apply](http://www.costamesaca.gov/apply)). The completed application may be submitted online; mailed to Costa Mesa City Clerk at Post Office Box 1200, Costa Mesa, California, 92628-1200; emailed to [cityclerk@costamesaca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@costamesaca.gov); or hand-delivered to the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa.

The deadline has been extended to 5 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 7,

2021.

Appointments are tentatively scheduled for the Jan. 19, 2021 City Council meeting.

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## **Standard & Poor's Affirms City of Costa Mesa Outstanding Rating for Lions Park Bonds**

The City of Costa Mesa received outstanding financial news recently as Standard & Poor's (S&P) reaffirmed the City's AA+ credit rating for the 2017 Lease Revenue Bonds for the Lions Park Project.

As previously reported, the City's underlying credit rating of AAA remains unchanged and is the highest possible rating issued by a financial services company. The bond rating for the 2017 Lions Park Project bonds is one notch under the City's underlying rating consistent with best practices.

This news comes after Costa Mesa was able to overcome fiscal challenges brought on by the economic downturn related to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020.

"This is great news that despite the financial setbacks from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are able to maintain our strong AA+ rating for the 2017 Lease Revenue Bond," Mayor Katrina Foley said. "This is a testament to our talented Finance team and City staff. Congratulations to my fellow Council colleagues

and the Finance and Pension Advisory Committee (FiPAC) whose prudent fiscal policies and budget actions helped us achieve this accomplishment, especially former Mayor Pro Tem Stephens served as liaison to the FiPAC for the past four years.”

S&P is considered the largest of the country’s Big Three credit-rating agencies, which also include Moody’s Investors Service and Fitch Ratings. The rating is the direct result of significant research by S&P in discussions with Costa Mesa leadership and finance staff to analyze the City’s audited financial statements, procedures and practices.

The S&P report credited the City’s responsible management of both its reserves and its debt. Indeed, the report cited numerous reasons for this top rating.

According to the report, S&P “reviewed governance risks and consider them better than the sector standard because of the City’s very strong management profile with strong financial policies and practices, and successful economic development efforts.”

“I’m so proud of our City Council, the leadership team and staff, especially our Finance team for making the tough choices to balance our budget early on in this crisis,” City Manager Lori Ann Farrell Harrison said. “We were very proactive and this outstanding credit rating is a direct result of that. This is a great moment for our entire Costa Mesa team and Finance Director Carol Molina.”

Costa Mesa Finance Director Carol Molina was grateful to hear this news.

“This reaffirmation from Standard & Poor’s demonstrates the City’s strength and commitment to long-term fiscal health,” Molina said. “It’s an outstanding accomplishment that is achieved through strong leadership and dedicated staff.”

S&P stated that the ratings reflect its view of multiple

factors including, but not limited to, the following City attributes:

- Very strong economy, with access to a broad and diverse metropolitan statistical area;
- Very strong management, with strong financial policies and practices under our financial management assessment methodology;
- Very strong budgetary flexibility, with an available audited fund balance in fiscal 2018-2019 of 35% of adjusted operating expenditures;
- Very strong liquidity, with total government available cash at 60.9% of total governmental fund expenditures and 34.4x governmental debt service, and access to external liquidity we consider strong;
- Strong debt and contingent liability position, with debt service carrying charges at 1.8% of expenditures and net direct debt that is 16.3% of total governmental fund revenue, as well as low overall net debt at less than 3.0% of market value, but a large pension and other postemployment benefit (OPEB) obligation; and
- Strong institutional framework score, which in sum means that the City's federal single audit results are strong.

[Click here to read the full report.](#)

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## **State issues new stay-at-home orders in light of rising hospitalization rates**

Due to a rise in COVID-19 hospitalization, Governor Gavin Newsom and state public health officials have issued a new

regional state-at-home order that will go into effect within 48 hours in regions with less than 15% ICU availability.

Orange County is currently in the Southern California Region, which is anticipated to fall within that category in early December. Once enacted, the orders will last for a minimum of three weeks. The state is taking this action because at the current rate of spread, the statewide hospital system could be significantly overwhelmed by the end of December.

Once in effect, the new orders will require the following to close or remain closed:

- Indoor and outdoor playgrounds
- Indoor recreational facilities
- Hair salons and barbershops
- Personal care services
- Museums, zoos, and aquariums
- Movie theaters
- Wineries
- Bars, breweries, and distilleries
- Family entertainment centers
- Cardrooms and satellite wagering
- Limited services
- Live audience sports
- Amusement parks

The following sectors will have additional modifications in addition to 100% masking and physical distancing:

- Outdoor recreational facilities: Allow outdoor operation only without any food, drink or alcohol sales. Additionally, overnight stays at campgrounds will not be permitted.
- Retail: Allow indoor operation at 20% capacity with entrance metering and no eating or drinking in the stores. Additionally, special hours should be instituted for seniors and others with chronic conditions or compromised immune systems.
- Shopping centers: Allow indoor operation at 20% capacity with entrance metering and no eating or drinking in the

stores. Additionally, special hours should be instituted for seniors and others with chronic conditions or compromised immune systems.

- Hotels and lodging: Allow to open for critical infrastructure support only.
- Restaurants: Allow only for take-out, pick-up, or delivery.
- Offices: Allow remote only except for critical infrastructure sectors where remote working is not possible.
- Places of worship and political expression: Allow outdoor services only.
- Entertainment production including professional sports: Allow operation without live audiences. Additionally, testing protocol and “bubbles” are highly encouraged.

The following sectors are allowed to remain open when a remote option is not possible with appropriate infectious disease preventative measures including 100% masking and physical distancing:

- Critical infrastructure
- Schools that are already open for in-person learning
- Non-urgent medical and dental care
- Child care and pre-K

The governor also announced the state may soon have 327,000 vaccines coming to California in mid December for distribution by priority tier status including health care workers. Other phases to follow shortly thereafter.

For more information on the new orders, please visit <https://covid19.ca.gov/>

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# **New City Council is seated after another historic Costa Mesa election**

On Tuesday Dec. 1, the City Council ratified the results of the Nov. 3 election that reflected a historic citywide turnout.

Katrina Foley was sworn in as Costa Mesa's directly elected Mayor for the second time, and residents now have representation in District 1 with Don Harper, District 2 with Loren Gameros and District 6 with Jeff Harlan, a Costa Mesa first.

The Mayor and new Council Members were officially seated at the Dec. 1 City Council Meeting.

"The new Council Members bring experience critical to help to restore our economy, support struggling small businesses, protect jobs, and protect the public health and safety of our community all impacted by COVID-19," Mayor Foley said. "Our top priority now requires sharp focus on managing the impacts of COVID19 by supporting residents and small businesses, as we await therapeutics and a vaccine."

Mayor Foley, who was elected for a second two-year term, said she looks forward to the Council's strategic planning session in January when they can also discuss future plans related to housing, an environmentally sustainable future, and quality of life improvements.

"I'm confident our new team will work well together to navigate through these challenging times to ensure a brighter 2021 and beyond," she said.

Foley became the city's first directly elected Mayor in 2018.

Prior to that she served as Mayor in 2016-2017, and has been on the City Council for 12 years. Foley is an employment law attorney and business owner. She graduated from Seattle University School of Law and UCLA as an English major with Women's Studies emphasis.

For more information click Mayor Foley's webpage [here](#).

The new City Council also unanimously chose District 3 Council Member Andrea Marr as the Mayor Pro-Tem. The mayor and new council members join Marr, District 4 Council Member Manuel Chavez and District 5 Council Member Arlis Reynolds on the dais.

Longtime Costa Mesa resident Don Harper will represent District 1.

Since 1998, Council Member Harper has lived in Costa Mesa where he and his wife raised their two daughters. He coached youth sports and served as a member of the Costa Mesa Parks and Recreation Commission. He brings executive-level experience as a business owner and as Chief Financial Officer and Director of Strategic Planning. His experience also includes senior management positions and as a Certified Public Accountant.

[Click here](#) for more information on Council Member Harper.

Joining the Council representing District 2 is Loren Gameros.

A 40-year resident of Costa Mesa, Gameros currently lives in the city with his wife Heather, son Kyle and daughter Presley. Council Member Gameros brings his two-decade career and experience with the Operating Engineers Training Trust Local 12 to the Costa Mesa City Council. The OETT is a nonprofit labor organization where he serves as an instructor of building inspectors.

[Click here](#) for more information on Council Member Gameros.

Council Member Jeff Harlan has been sworn to represent District 6.

Harlan is a land-use attorney and urban planner. In February 2017, Harlan was appointed unanimously by the City Council to the Costa Mesa Planning Commission, where he has served as the Vice Chair for the past two years.

During his 25-year law career, he has worked with and within government to improve communities through smart planning, design, and public policy. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, and earned his law degree, focusing on environmental law, from Vermont Law School. He and his wife have two daughters.

[Click here](#) for more information on Council Member Harlan.

Departing the City Council are Mayor Pro Tem John Stephens, two-term Council Member Sandy Genis and Council Member Allan Mansoor.

"I'd like to give a welcome to our three new council members and a congratulations to Mayor Foley for winning her second term," City Manager Lori Ann Farrell Harrison said. "We have lots of work to do and lots to accomplish and I look forward to collaborating with you all in the years to come. Additionally, I want to thank our outgoing Council Members. Their experience and dedication to the City of Costa Mesa is very much appreciated."

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# Spark of Love toy drive begins its 28th year

Local firefighters are getting fired up about taking part in the 2020 Spark of Love Toy Drive campaign to help provide toys for kids in need.

The Spark of Love Toy Drive originally began in 1993 as a partnership between KABC-7 and firefighters from the Counties of Orange, Riverside, Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Ventura.

There are many other worthwhile toy drives, however, The Spark of Love is the only one created and operated by local firefighters. The Spark of Love 2020 marks the 28th anniversary and runs from Nov. 20 through Dec. 24, 2020.

Please help us stay safe by following safety recommendations, including remembering to wear your mask when dropping a donation. We ask that donations are placed inside a plastic bag before placed in the box.

Any new unwrapped toy must be in their original packaging or box. Sports equipment such as balls and tennis rackets are not required to have a box or package. We cannot distribute stuffed animals, clothing, personal care items or blankets, etc.

Toys to consider include board and card games, craft activities, art kits, building blocks, dolls, infant toys and youth sports equipment of all kinds. Toys should be in their original packaging or box.

For questions about toy drop-off requirements, toy collection sites and events, please reference the list of local fire

agency representatives below, and visit your City's website for additional information.

For additional information, please contact your fire department's primary representative:

- Anaheim Fire & Rescue: 714-765-5092
- Brea Fire Dept: 714-738-6500
- Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue: 714-327-7400
- Fountain Valley Fire Dept: 714-593-4436
- Fullerton Fire Department: 714-738-6511
- Huntington Beach Fire Dept: 714-536- 5411
- Laguna Beach Fire Dept: 949-497-0700
- Newport Beach Fire Dept: 949-644-3110
- Orange City Fire Dept: 714-288-2500
- Orange County Fire Authority: 949-239-5987

Please note the Orange County Fire Authority serves the Cities of Aliso Viejo, Buena Park, Cypress, Dana Point, Garden Grove, Irvine, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Laguna Woods, Lake Forest, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Mission Viejo, Placentia, Rancho Santa Margarita, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, Santa Ana, Seal Beach, Stanton, Tustin, Villa Park, Westminster, Yorba Linda, and the unincorporated areas of Orange County.

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## **Costa Mesa receives Golden Hub of Innovation Award for**

# business recovery efforts

The Association of California Cities – Orange County awarded the City of Costa Mesa's reStore Costa Mesa Recovery Team and the Costa Mesa Business Assistance Collaborative (Costa Mesa's BAC) with a Golden Hub of Innovation Award for Excellence in Public Private Partnerships at its annual awards ceremony on Oct. 15.

"We are thrilled to receive this award from ACC-OC," Mayor Katrina Foley said. "After the COVID-19 pandemic hit, our local businesses were forced to shut down. We immediately formed the reStore Costa Mesa Recovery Team that met for 13 meetings virtually to keep businesses informed, cut through red tape, and assist in reopening. This was a coordinated effort with my Council colleagues Mayor Pro-Tem John Stephens and Andrea Marr, City staff, Travel Costa Mesa, South Coast Metro Alliance, and the Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce. A big thanks to everyone involved."

City Manager Lori Ann Farrell Harrison credited the City's Economic Development staff, especially Economic Development Administrator Dan Inloes and Chief of Staff Connor Lock, for identifying ways to help local businesses most affected when the economy shut down.

"I'm extremely proud of our staff and their commitment to help local businesses by providing timely information regarding funding opportunities and reopening guidelines to get the economy reopened," Farrell Harrison said. "Costa Mesa has a reputation of being business friendly and we proved it by engaging with industry leaders and exploring creative ways to assist them with keeping the doors open during this challenging time."

Costa Mesa's BAC deployed a call center to reach out to over 2,000 businesses to find out how they have been impacted by

COVID, launched a new mass email campaign to keep thousands of businesses up to date on actions and guidelines issued by federal, state and county governments and the resources available to them.

City staff also launched a Shop Costa Mesa Campaign, which included a social media push and with graphics and branding. Staff managed the administration of the Small Business Relief Grant Program and provided universal signage designs for businesses to use while Orange County COVID Safety Guidelines are in affect. It assisted businesses with modifying hours of operation and service restrictions and helped create outdoor seating, outdoor retail, and curbside or drive-through pickup opportunities.

Finally, the staff developed a new Website [www.costamesabac.com](http://www.costamesabac.com) to mobilize businesses and patrons by directing residents to local businesses in a safe manner and providing resources to local businesses through a comprehensive resource guide.

ACC-OC hosted its 9th Annual and first ever virtual Golden Hubs of Innovation Awards ceremony to acknowledge public agencies and public servants that are improving the community around them with innovative programs and service excellence.

Due to the ongoing state-mandated restrictions, this year's ACC-OC awards event was streamed live over Zoom. The award presentation included short videos of each Golden Hub recipient.

[Click here](#) to watch a video of Mayor Foley's award acceptance message.

For more about ACC-OC [click here](#).

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# SOS to provide mobile medical unit to Bridge Shelter clients

Individuals who seek out shelter services arrive at the Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter needing much more than housing. Primary among their concerns is healthcare.

In response to that need, Share Our Selves (SOS), a Federally Qualified Healthcare Center that provides high quality, comprehensive medical and safety net services to the Orange County community, has agreed to bring their fully functional mobile medical unit on site two times a month beginning in October.

For many of the Bridge Shelter clients, their survival is a daily task, prioritization of health can slip away. As clients settle in and begin to plan the next step for housing stability, the need to get a physical checkup becomes apparent.

Once again, the amazing collaboration of community resources and partners has come together to develop an opportunity for shelter guests to receive medical attention that may have been needed and missing for long periods of time.

The SOS services will provide a critical opportunity for

shelter guests to receive convenient access to health care. Along with comprehensive examinations and medical history, clients will have the opportunity to be properly enrolled in a health care provider network that fits the need for the client and provides the best linkage to individualized care.

Housing an individual requires a whole person approach. Having SOS on site fulfills a key role of the client housing plan and overall health, which is a factor that contributes greatly to long term and permanent housing.

The City is grateful and values this new partnership with SOS and look forward to continuing this partnership at the permanent shelter location.

This partnership will provide an overall improvement of healthcare outcomes for Bridge Shelter clients.

For more information please visit our webpage [here](#).