

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.

City Hall may be closed but City staff still performing essential services for public

NEW Modified Hours for City Services (Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.):

While City Hall remains closed to the public to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 until further notice, all City employees are still working and providing essential services

to the public.

Please be advised that effective July 1, all city departments, except for police and fire, will operate four days a week, Monday through Thursday, from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. only.

City Departments will not be operational on Fridays, except for police and fire services which will continue on a 24/7 basis. These actions are being taken to ease the budget deficit resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, and to allow for the continued deep cleaning and disinfecting of City facilities. This revised schedule will remain in place until further notice.

Police and Fire Departments (24 hours a day, seven days a week):

All police and fire services will continue to operate on a 24 hour, 7 days per week basis.

The following facilities will remain fully staffed on Fridays:

- **Costa Mesa Police Department** – The Police Station and all Police services will remain operational on Fridays.
- **Costa Mesa Fire Department** – All Fire Stations and Fire emergency services will remain operational on Fridays. Inspection services will only be available Monday – Thursday.

We appreciate your understanding during these difficult times. Please click on the following link for additional information regarding City services and how to contact us.

County of Orange announces it is ramping Up Testing Capacity With Private-Public Partnership

In a private-public partnership, the County of Orange announced this week that thanks to a collaboration with 360 Clinic and the City of Anaheim, the County will be able to significantly increase COVID-19 testing capacity with the opening of large scale drive-through testing at Anaheim Convention Center starting July 15.

[Click here for more information.](#)

360 Clinic will be conducting no-out-of-pocket cost testing leveraging personal insurance reimbursements and federal government assistance for the uninsured, with additional financial support from the County.

Tests will be available for individuals on prioritized for testing by the California Department of Public Health:

- People with symptoms
- Close contacts to people known to have COVID-19
- Healthcare workers and first responders
- Residents and employees of congregate living facilities
- Essential workers (grocery store, food supply, utility workers and public employees)

The initial target is to conduct 600 to 800 tests per day, five days per week with a goal of reaching 1,200 per day within two weeks. 360 Clinic and the convention center have the capacity to expand volume depending public health recommendations as well as lab and supply capacities.

Orange County residents who have insurance are requested to

contact their medical provider first about getting tested prior to registering for an appointment at the Anaheim Convention Center site; and most HMO's request that members obtain testing through their own provider.

Orange County residents who meet the aforementioned criteria may register online at <http://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/supersite>. Participants will be asked to provide their contact information along with their health insurance information (if they have it) while selecting their appointment date and time. Once an individual has successfully registered, they will receive a confirmation text or email. They will be required to show this confirmation on the date and time of their registration in order to be tested.

More information about the Anaheim Convention Center testing site process may be found at: <http://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/supersite>.

Starting on Wednesday, July 15, the Anaheim Convention Center site will operate Wednesdays – Sundays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Should Orange County residents have questions, they may contact a 360 Clinic representative at (800) 446-8888. More information about testing as well as other testing sites across Orange County may be found at: ochealthinfo.com/covidtest.

Orange County has conducted more than 307,400 PCR tests as of July 12 with 24,715 people testing positive. More than 420 people have died from the disease in Orange County – more than half of that number at skilled nursing facilities.

“This mirrors what the state sites have been able to do and adds major additional capacity for those not able to get tested because of the overwhelming demand,” said Orange County Agency Director and Acting County Health Officer Dr. Clayton Chau.

More Information:

OC Health Care Agency Network of Testing, visit ochealthinfo.com/covidtest

To find out what to do while waiting for test results or if a COVID-19 test is positive, go to ochealthinfo.com/slowthespread

Costa Mesa wins nuisance abatement action against group home operator Pacific Shores Recovery

In a ruling by the Orange County Superior Court, Costa Mesa has prevailed in a nuisance abatement action against group home operator Pacific Shores Recovery LLC, marking another victory in the ongoing legal enforcement of the City's sober living ordinances.

"We have been defending our ordinances for the past several years with a series of victories in Federal Court, including the Ninth Circuit," Mayor Katrina Foley said. "Now we have affirmatively enforced those ordinances in State court, obtaining a permanent injunction. This outcome fulfills the long-term strategic vision of mine and Mayor Pro-Tem John Stephens, and represents the highest quality of legal work by our outside counsel to protect our community and preserve the residential character of our neighborhoods."

The City filed an action for public nuisance and for abatement against Pacific Shores Recovery LLC in September 2019 to enjoin the operation of unlicensed and unpermitted group homes in two adjacent apartment buildings at 200, 202, 204 and 206

Cabrillo Street in violation of the City's Municipal Code.

At the time of filing, there were 44 individuals residing at these two locations. The properties have been the subject of significant calls for services for drug overdoses and assaults.

Pacific Shores Recovery LLC had previously filed suit in federal court against the City, claiming the City's municipal codes were discriminatory and unconstitutional. The City prevailed in the federal action in April 2020 and Pacific Shores has appealed that decision.

In the meantime, the Orange County Superior Court, where the nuisance abatement action was pending, considered the City's Motion for Summary Judgment on July 6, 2020 and granted judgment for the City.

As a result, Pacific Shores or anyone affiliated with them are prohibited from continuing to operate their illegal group homes at these locations. The City will be seeking its attorney's fees and immediate enforcement of the injunction.

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.

Basketball, volleyball courts

and other amenities reopen

City staff have reopened several amenities including most park restrooms and picnic tables and basketball and volleyball courts.

City parks staff are also now taking reservations for sports fields to be used for limited team activities.

Playgrounds will remain closed, and reservations for large and small events are not permitted.

As the parks open for additional use, city staff reminds the public to practice social distancing, wash hands frequently, wear face masks and recreate with members of the same household.

Jason Minter selected to lead Parks & Community Services Department

Costa Mesa City Manager Lori Ann Farrell Harrison announced that Jason Minter, a 24-year veteran of municipal government, would be the new Director of Parks & Community Services.

“We interviewed several competent and well-qualified applicants, and Jason rose to the top of this highly competitive field and proved to be a truly outstanding candidate to lead our Parks & Community Services Department,” Farrell Harrison said. “I look forward to working with him

during what has been a challenging time for Costa Mesa's parks and recreational activities."

Mayor Katrina Foley also cheered the news of Minter's hiring.

"Costa Mesans love our parks and programs," Mayor Foley said. "Gratefully, we found an experienced and proven leader at this critical time for our Parks and Community Services Department. I look forward to working with Mr. Minter on creative ways to offer programming to residents. We welcome him to our leadership team."

For the last 13 years, Minter has been the Administrative Services Manager for city of Torrance, where he managed approximately 28 employees in the Registration and Facility Booking

Offices, the Park Ranger and Home Improvement Programs, and Toyota Sports Complex

His responsibilities in this position include all aspects of management, including budgeting, capital projects, employee relations, personnel management, training, disaster preparedness, audits and policymaking.

"I feel that my intensity and persistence, along with a fresh perspective on the Department's programs and activities, will enable me to not only be an engaging, active leader, but also to provide innovative thinking and strategic planning necessary to keep the Department moving forward," Minter said. "I look forward to this new challenge and getting to know the people and places that are unique to Costa Mesa."

Costa Mesa's Parks & Community Services Director has direct oversight over the city's 30 parks, including Fairview, Bark Park and the Skate Park, recreation programs for youth and adults, sports field usage, Jack Hammett Sports Complex, the Costa Mesa Senior Center and the Downtown Recreation Center and Aquatics Center.

Prior to his career in Torrance, Minter worked for the cities of Long Beach, Hawthorne, Irvine and Los Alamitos in various Community Services roles.

He holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Cal State University Dominguez Hills and a Bachelor's Degree in Recreation and Leisure Studies from Cal State University Long Beach.

July 4 neighborhood parades and block parties not permitted this year

The City of Costa Mesa recognizes that the Fourth of July holiday comes with traditions of block parties and neighborhood parades that many hold dear.

Unfortunately, as we all deal with the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic and the rules regarding mass gatherings from state and federal public health officials, July 4 parades and block parties are prohibited this year in Costa Mesa.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, "A gathering refers to a planned or spontaneous event, indoors or outdoors, with a small number of people participating or a large number of people in attendance such as a community event or gathering, concert, festival, conference, parade, wedding, or sporting event. The *more people* an individual interacts with at a gathering and the longer that interaction lasts, the

higher the potential risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 and COVID-19 spreading.”

The City of Costa Mesa urges all residents to enjoy the July 4 holiday by practicing social distance measures, wearing a face covering, frequently washing hands, cleaning and disinfecting common areas and staying home if you are sick or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

Also, high risk members of the community, including senior citizens and people of any age that suffer from chronic diseases, need to be especially aware of their risks for COVID-19 and should avoid gatherings where they cannot appropriately social distance.

We wish you all a happy and safe Fourth of July.

Bark Park to reopen beginning this Saturday June 13

The City of Costa Mesa will reopen the Bark Park, with new rules and guidelines in place, this Saturday June 13.

“I know that many residents and their furry friends are anxious to return to the Bark Park,” Mayor Katrina Foley said.

“As we reopen it’s critical that our guests follow the social

and physical distancing guidelines as well as clean up after pets playing in the park so that we can stay open. I'm looking forward to seeing many dogs running free during my daily walk past the park."

Amenities will not be open at the park to limit touch points, including seating areas and dog water bowls. The public is encouraged to bring their own chairs, water, and dog water bowls to hydrate pets.

Additionally, as part of practicing responsible pet ownership, the public is encouraged to bring their own dog waste bags to pick up after their pets.

New signs are posted with the following guidance:

- Use facility at your own risk.
- Practice physical distancing of six feet or more.
- No gathering.
- Benches within Bark Park will remain closed at this time.
- Facial coverings are required while visiting the Bark Park.
- Practice good hygiene and stay home if you are sick.
- Wash your hands after visiting the park.
- Avoid petting or touching dogs that are not yours.

The Bark Park will be open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 8:45 p.m., except Wednesdays when it is closed for regular maintenance.

In another victory, Ninth Circuit affirms Costa Mesa's

sober living home ordinances

The City of Costa Mesa won another victory for its group home ordinances as the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed the federal court decision in SoCal Recovery, LLC v. City of Costa Mesa.

“It is a good day for Costa Mesa when one of the highest courts in the land agrees that our efforts to create reasonable public safety rules to maintain quality of life for our neighborhoods is lawful and correct,” Mayor Katrina Foley said. “Another victory for all Costa Mesa residents, including those exploited by unscrupulous sober living home operators.”

In the trial court, an unlicensed sober living home operator and one of its residents asked the court to stop the City from enforcing its ordinances against unlicensed sober living homes in single- and multi- family residential zones within the City, claiming that the City’s actions violated the Fair Housing Act. The trial court denied the injunction request.

Plaintiffs appealed to the Ninth Circuit. On appeal, plaintiffs argued that one of their unlicensed sober living homes should have been excused from the separation requirement in City Ordinance 14-13, which requires sober living homes to be located 650 feet away from other sober living homes and licensed drug or alcohol abuse treatment facilities.

A unanimous panel of judges rejected that argument and concluded that the trial court appropriately denied the plaintiffs’ request for an injunction. The panel agreed with the district court that the plaintiffs had not shown two of the four required factors for obtaining an injunction.

First, they had not established that the balance of public interest factors weighed in their favor; that is, the plaintiffs’ interests did not outweigh “the interests of the City in enforcing its ordinances and of the residents of sober

living homes and the public at large in preserving the benefits the City ordinances conferred.”

The Ninth Circuit also concluded that the plaintiffs had failed to show a likelihood of success on the merits in their reasonable accommodation claim because they failed to follow the City’s established procedures for requesting a reasonable accommodation.

Since the City obtained the jury verdict in the Yellowstone matter in December of 2018, the City prevailed against sober living home operators by obtaining summary judgment in four of seven additional cases.

In addition, the Court has tentatively granted summary judgment to the City and is preparing its final order in a fifth case. The City is attempting to recover fees and expenses in these actions through motions currently pending with the Court.

Plaintiffs have appealed the jury verdict, two of the summary judgments, and one denial of Plaintiffs’ motion for preliminary injunction.

The other three appeals are still pending before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Costa Mesa Fire and Rescue crews to conduct training in Fairview Park to prep for

wildland fire season

Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue will conduct training exercises in and around Fairview Park June 9,10, and 11 in preparation for the upcoming wildland fire season. Exercises will occur between 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. near Canyon Drive and Pacific Avenue.

Costa Mesa Fire and Rescue wants to ensure that the community is aware of the upcoming training and asks residents/park visitors to be mindful of equipment and apparatus being utilized by fire personnel. These annual mandatory training exercises take place in Costa Mesa and countywide to help prepare the firefighters for vegetation fires within and outside of city limits.

Fire Chief Dan Stefano reminds residents of the dangers of wildfire season.

“While wildfires are a natural part of California’s landscape, the fire season in California and across the west is now year-round, which is why our firefighters must remain vigilant with wildland firefighting training,” Chief Stefano said.

There will be approximately 10 to 12 fire personnel present for the training and multiple pieces of fire department apparatus daily. Firefighters will train on a couple of trails in Fairview 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.

The department is conducting training with full awareness and sensitivity of all environmental impacts and ensures this training will exclude any live burn training modules. The training is facilitated with the assistance of the Costa Mesa Parks and Community Services Department and Fairview Park Administrator Cynthia D’Agosta. Moreover, the training will

also adhere to County and City requirements and recommendations in regards to COVID19 safety precautions.

California experienced the deadliest and most destructive wildfires in its history in 2017 and 2018. Fueled by drought, an unprecedented buildup of dry vegetation and extreme winds, the size and intensity of these wildfires caused the loss of more than 100 lives, destroyed thousands of homes, and exposed millions of people to unhealthy air.

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

City gives approval for expanded park activities

On Friday, June 5, the City of Costa Mesa approved greater use of some City parks to allow for expanded passive activities in addition to the current approved uses of walking, jogging and biking.

Individuals and members of the same household may relax, read, engage in other passive recreation, and picnic, subject to maintaining at least six feet of distance from others who are not members of the same household.

Areas that will remain closed to the public include playgrounds, restrooms, picnic shelter areas, sports courts, and all amenities that have touch points. There can be no gathering, including team sports at this time.

Park visitors still need to adhere to the physical distancing of six feet or more from those not a member of their

households, wear face coverings, and limit contact to people in the same household only.

Pet owners are encouraged to continue to be responsible and maintain dogs on a leash at all times, and waste bags should be carried to ensure that pet owners pick up after their pets.