

Lawndale Tribune

AND LAWDALE NEWS

The Weekly Newspaper of Lawndale

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Environmental Charter High Sends First Senior to Harvard



"Low ego. High impact." Patrisse Cullors, co-founder of #BlackLivesMatter and Dignity and Power Now, left the graduating seniors of Environmental Charter High School with these stirring words as she wrapped up her keynote speech during their June 15 ceremonies, held at El Camino College. Of the 109 graduates, 96% of them were accepted to four-year colleges or universities all across the US. Valedictorian Vinh Tran (right), of Lawndale, is the first ECHS grad heading to Harvard College. Salutatorian Miranda Hurtado, also of Lawndale, is one of two ECHS grads going to UC Berkeley in the fall. Other students will be attending the other UCs, Middlebury, University of Wisconsin, and Bryn Mawr. Photo by Fotorama Studios.

City Council Decides Important Issues, Hears Fireworks Complaints

By Nancy Peters

Lawndale City Council met Monday, July 6 with a full agenda for the first meeting in the new fiscal year, which began on July 1. Issues before the Council, meeting minus Mayor Pro-Tem Larry Rudolph, included approval supporting opposition to State Assembly Bill AB 718, sleeping in parked vehicles; extension of the current term and members of the Youth Advisory Committee until September 1, 2016; and appointment of Charmaine Doty to the Beautification Committee, as well as reducing the number of members to seven from the current 10 members.

Discussion ensued concerning a new vendor contractor for the management of the Storm Water Management for Protection of Water Quality. The approval was postponed until a future meeting when a full Council would be in attendance. However, Council member James Osborne stated he was not in favor of changing the contract vendor from the current one, TECS Environmental, because TECS and their representative is familiar with Lawndale's stand on the Clean Water Act and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. The staff recommendation is for CASC Engineering & Consulting to be awarded the contract. The proposed vendor representative in attendance stated that their approach is more conservative. The city, having only one effected storm drain system, does not require a more proactive approach. The current vendor deemed by some to be radical in their approach could result in fines for the city and thus the recommendation for a new vendor. CASC's representative stated the city is required to meet minimum standards and it is the job of the vendor manager to protect the city from fines, without being part of enforcement actions of larger cities with more storm drains to manage. The approval of any vendor is deferred. A request was made for a compare and contrast between the current and proposed

vendor and each one's handling of issues to be presented to the City Council.

The disposal of surplus property, the 2010 Watco Speed Trailer, was approved for auction.

The Draft Local Hazard Mitigation Plan or the Reduction/Elimination of Risk to Life, Property, and the Environment from Natural and Man-made Hazards, presented by staff, required consideration by the City Council and input prior to submission to the State for approval. The City Council voted unanimously to approve the plan and presentation to the State for approval.

A planned Ordinance Amendment to the Municipal Code regarding Recovery of Costs for Law Enforcement and Removal of Graffiti was introduced. The City Council suggested a change to the wording in Section 6 - 9.14.150. The words "is the same as the property owner" will be added to the first, introductory paragraph of this section and wording will read "...the property of the graffiti perpetrator, or if the perpetrator is the same as the property owner...". Staff will make the revision prior to the final approval of the ordinance amendment at the next Council meeting.

Staff noted the original grant from AQMD for the purchase of a new backhoe and the dismantling of the old backhoe was jeopardized and not granted due to fine print that stated the equipment must be dismantled and not sent to auction. The auction resulted in the backhoe by a third party and could not be retrieved or dismantled. The full cost of the new backhoe (\$45,000) was re-appropriated for the capital outlay from savings in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, since the grant would not pay for the new equipment. The Council unanimously approved the request for the re-appropriation of funds, with reluctance.

The Public Safety report summarized the July 4th Fireworks Enforcement Issues. The issues included uncooperative residents and visitors; resident complaints about illegal use of illegal

fireworks; use of backyards for igniting of illegal fireworks, preventing Sheriff's Deputies entry to inspect the contraband; illegal fireworks being mixed in with the Safe and Sane fireworks, and igniting the illegal fireworks one at a time in the mixing in, thus preventing detection by the deputies. It was explained the city funded two additional Sheriff's Department cars for each of the four city zones, from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. (July 4 / July 5) for a total of 13 Sheriff's Deputies on duty on the streets of the city. More than 20 citations were issued to residents who violated city code for use of illegal fireworks. All confiscated fireworks were handed over to the Los Angeles County Fire Department for disposal. Additional personnel needs were partially paid by a grant from JAG funds, which must be designated to public safety matters.

Residents voiced their concerns over the belief that fireworks should be banned in totality from the city and that monies expended for the extra public safety protection were insufficient and more protection is needed. The fireworks safety program of the city of Hermosa Beach was cited as an example. Mayor Robert Pullen-Miles requested that a copy of that city's program be obtained for perusal and to see if further measures can be adopted for future July 4th protection of the residents from illegal fireworks and the residents who insist on bringing these into the city. One resident voiced her support for the program instituted by the city of Lawndale and the Sheriff's Department, thanking all for their action and protection on the July 4th weekend, telling those who do not like living in the city or what the city does to just move somewhere else.

The City Council instructed staff to prepare an ordinance amendment to change the allowable time of Safe and Sane fireworks to be from 12 Noon to 12 Midnight on July 4th beginning in 2016.

The next meeting of the Lawndale City Council will be held on Monday, July 20 at 6:30 p.m. •

Weekend Forecast

Friday

Partly Cloudy
70°/63°



Saturday

Partly Cloudy
72°/63°



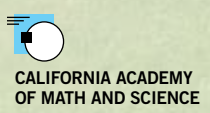
Sunday

Partly Cloudy
75°/64°





Manhattan Beach Unified School District



OCEANOGRAPHIC TEACHING STATION



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