

City Manager's Update

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

Hello everyone!

I hope that this email finds you all doing well and enjoying a terrific week!

First of all, I apologize for not sending out an update last week – we had some technical issues that prevented us from distributing the report. We have corrected the issue, and if you would like to see the update from a week ago, please feel free to click here to view that report!

<http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/citymanagersoffice/page/administration>

Moving on to this week, in an effort to provide an update of important news and notes from this past week, the following report has been prepared. As always, please feel free to let me know if you have a question about any of the items contained in this report – I can be reached via email at ochi@ci.monrovia.ca.us!

Please have a wonderful rest of the week!

Best,
Oliver

JOINT MEETING WITH THE MONROVIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 17, 2015

Just a quick note to let everyone know that we have tentatively scheduled a joint meeting between the Monrovia City Council – Monrovia Unified School District for **August 17, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.** Additional details related to the meeting are currently being coordinated, and meeting specifics will be distributed as we get closer to the actual event.

MEETINGS BEING SCHEDULED WITH THE MONROVIA LIBRARY FOUNDATION, LIBRARY BOARD, AND THE FRIENDS OF THE MONROVIA PUBLIC LIBRARY TO DISCUSS LIBRARY REORGANIZATION PLAN

Leading up to the approval of the reorganization plan this past week, staff was informed that there were some concerns and questions regarding how the reorganization would impact our Library. To help alleviate those concerns and to better articulate to key stakeholders our plans moving forward, over the course of the next month, staff will be presenting our Library reorganization plans in greater detail to the Monrovia Library Foundation, the Library Board, and the Friends of the Monrovia Public Library.

UPDATE REGARDING LABLAUNCH MONROVIA

Last week, LabLaunch Monrovia welcomed their first two tenants to Monrovia. Korva Labs (www.korvalabs.com) and Drywired, LLC (www.drywired.com) both moved into the science / technology incubator facility located at 605 East Huntington Drive, Suite 103, and there are several additional companies that are scheduled to move in during the coming months.

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LabLaunch Monrovia is a 501c3 non-profit corporation dedicated to providing affordable, accessible lab space for the life science entrepreneurs of the Los Angeles area, and they have articulated how excited they are to be able to work in a location as outstanding as Monrovia. Once fully operational, their facility will offer a number of specialized workspaces for startup biotech / science based businesses, including:

- Chemical biology
- Biosafety-level 2+ cell culture
- Microbiology
- The only clinical Good Manufacturing Process (cGMP) suite in an incubator facility anywhere in the world

These unique capabilities will serve as a major draw for life science startups from across the Southern California area and beyond, and could serve as a game-changing development in our efforts to bring to Monrovia high-growth / high-tech businesses that are set to thrive in the 21st Century.

The establishment of the incubator facility has involved coordination and support from a number of entities, including the team at LabLaunch Monrovia, Samuelson Fetter, and the City. As part of our discussions during the past several months, and in accordance with one of our key strategic goals, staff has had multiple discussions with LabLaunch Monrovia regarding the establishment of closer ties between the City and their operation. To that end, we have discussed the possibility of the City being provided with a seat on the LabLaunch Monrovia Board of Directors to ensure that the City's interests are well represented as the overall biotech / science / technology platform continues to we grow.

Based on those discussions, LabLaunch Monrovia has expressed an interest in serving as a resource for professional development and career advancement for the Monrovia community. They have been working with staff on developing an overall dedicated Open Lab that could allow groups from local schools and youth organizations to learn skills in biological sciences far beyond what is generally available in formal secondary education. In addition, beginning in the Fall 2015, we have also discussed the possibility of establishing an overall internship program whereby a small number of exceptional year students could apply for internships at the facility to learn industry-relevant biology lab skills.

Additional information about LabLaunch Monrovia can be viewed on their website (<http://lablaunch.org/>) that is now up and running as well. Based on the development of the working relationship between the City and LabLaunch Monrovia, we plan on bringing forward an overall partnership proposal for City Council consideration at our next meeting on July 21, 2015. At that time, Dr. Llewellyn Cox, CEO of LabLaunch Monrovia, will also be giving a presentation about their overall plans at their incubator facility moving forward.

FRIDAY NIGHT FAMILY STREET FAIR IMPROVEMENTS SET TO CONTINUE

During the past two weeks, LA Partyworks, Inc. has been able to successfully coordinate the mechanics of hosting the Friday Night Family Street Fair, and there have been some exciting new features that have been added to the overall event. Moving forward, based on observations from staff and issues that have been raised by Old Town Merchants and the Friday Night Family Street Fair Oversight Committee, we have had continued discussions with LA Partyworks, Inc., in an effort to resolve several ongoing issues that have been identified, including overall event coordination, traffic control, vender selection, and other related matters.

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To date, staff has reached out to businesses that may be impacted by the rules, along with neighboring cities, including Arcadia, Duarte, Irwindale, and El Monte, to discuss the potential of amending Monrovia's truck routes through town. All parties that we have spoken to have been receptive to the proposed change. Based on the work that has been done to date, we plan on bringing this item forward for formal City Council review at one of our upcoming meetings.

IMPROVEMENT TO PARKS

The Public Works operation within our Public Services Department continues to work on improving our neighborhoods, parks and facilities. Highlights from this past week include the following:

- A new picnic table was installed at Rotary Park. This beautiful new table was sponsored by the Rotary Club and is made out of a recycled plastic. This is the first round table in our park system and park patrons are enjoying it!



FREE SUMMER MOVIE SERIES SET TO WRAP-UP ON AUGUST 8, 2015

The City of Monrovia and Monrovia Area Partnership (MAP) is hosting a free Summer Movie Series for the community. Our final movie night event is scheduled to take place on August 8, 2015, starting at 8 p.m. at Grand Avenue Park! For more information regarding the Summer Movie Series, please contact the Monrovia Community Center at (626) 256-8246. The schedule for the remainder of the summer is as follows:

- **Big Hero 6** – Saturday, August 8 at Grand Avenue Park (movie begins at approximately 8 p.m.)
Don't forget to bring your chair, and we're looking forward to seeing everyone in the park on August 8, 2015!

LIBRARY UPGRADES

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This past year the Monrovia Library Foundation pledged funding to upgrade all public computers in all three of our Hoffman Technology Centers, including the Youth, Teen, and Adult computer sections. The existing computers have been in use since the new library opened May 2009, and the plan moving forward is to replace the public workstations, software, and servers at the Library over the course of the next two years. It is important to also point out that the Monrovia Library Foundation donated \$32,000 for the Phase I replacement project, which includes the installation of 23 new computers in the Adult section of the Hoffman Technology Center.

METRO DELIVERS FIRST LIGHT RAIL VEHICLE TO THE GOLD LINE M&O CAMPUS WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2015

Last week, Metro took delivery of their first new light rail vehicle (LRV) at the Foothill Gold Line Operations Campus. The vehicle was very large and was delivered using an oversized-load trucking service. This is the first of many similar deliveries that will be taking place over the next year and a half, and we will be certain to pass along additional information as we get a better sense of the delivery schedule from Metro and the Gold Line moving forward.

POLICE DEPARTMENT SEMI-WEEKLY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT

<http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/police/page/semi-weekly-report>

That's it for this update, hope you have a fantastic rest of the week!

Best,
Oliver

OLIVER CHI
City Manager

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