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Photo by Christian Brown

## Rick Rodriguez garners local support in bid for Downey City Council

By Christian Brown  
 Editor

**DOWNEY** – Downey City Council hopeful Rick Rodriguez promised to bring both commitment and integrity back to city government during a speech at his official campaign kickoff fundraiser last week.

Surrounded by friends, family, and community leaders at the Rio Hondo Event Center, Rodriguez stressed the need for steady leadership and experience in a time of dramatic development and change for the city of Downey.

"I promised to work hard if elected," he said. "I'm not the most educated guy in the room, but I will be the most truthful guy in the room."

Rodriguez, 55, is founder of RMI International, an international security firm that operates in 18 states and three countries. The company is currently contracted to patrol Downtown Downey.

He is a past president of the

Downey Chamber of Commerce, immediate past president of Gangs Out of Downey, and founder of the Living Tree Foundation, which helps returning combat veterans and their families.

The son of migrant farm workers from Texas, Rodriguez grew up in El Monte.

Rodriguez, who is running to replace Councilman Roger Brossmer, is vying against Frine Medrano for the District 3 (northwest Downey) seat. Medrano, a staffer for state Senator Kevin De Leon, recently received the endorsement of both state senators Tony Mendoza (D-Artesia) and Ricardo Lara (D-Bell Gardens).

Nonetheless, Rodriguez said he's ready to show voters his record of achievement and local leadership.

"I'm not afraid of the big political machine I'm running against," he said. "We don't need state and federal people telling us how to run our business here."

Brossmer and Mayor Alex Saab echoed those sentiments as they threw their full-throated support behind Rodriguez at last Thursday's kickoff fundraiser.

"We've learned that doing this job means also finding a good person to come behind you," said Brossmer. "Integrity is doing what's right and doing what's best for the city, not one's own self interests."

"Rick has business smarts – he's a family man that's active in his church. He will keep the city's positive momentum going."

Saab also doubled down, ensuring Downey voters that Rodriguez is the "real deal."

"By supporting him, our city is in good hands," Saab said. "You can't just simply learn ethics; it's who you are and it's something you bring to the job and you learned from your parents while growing up."

"There are no skeletons in my closet," Rodriguez said. "My wife is here, my kids and grandkids – we're God-loving, God-fearing people."

City council candidates can officially submit nomination forms on July 18, just four months ahead of the general election on Nov. 8.

## Commentary: When saving yourself includes others too

By Raul Samaniego  
 Contributor

retrieve it.

**NORWALK** – Isn't it interesting how things just happen

I know I didn't make a big deal about that overdose of insulin on my recent bike/camp trip. It was a complete surprise for me.

Knowing now that most Hypoglycemia (low blood sugar levels) is usually produced by a reaction to medication, physical exertion and low-caloric (carbohydrate) intake, I am better for going through that drama.

I am not only "not a journalist," but definitely not an expert of my own condition either.

Perhaps hindsight is 20-20; I had the obvious injection of the insulin (Humalog, 40 units), physical exertion (was riding for two days), and a low-caloric dinner consisting of one large can of soup and a powered non-sugar drink.

That was a recipe for error, in my case, low blood sugar and severe cramping.

At midnight I awoke to cramps and the disorientation as I lied in my newish \$5 tent.

The fact that I was able to dial 911 and direct the voice on the other end to Doheney State Beach and campsite No. 9 is a memory stuck in my mind.

I had the pain, the disorientation, weakness and blurred vision. I was a mess.

While being baptized Catholic, I have studied other philosophies and one phrase that has stayed with me in my newly-acquired senior citizen status has been the words of the Buddha.

He simply stated, "Save yourself!"

Simply put, it could be a pretty close version of the Boy Scout Motto, "Be Prepared."

Does that mean that the Buddha was the first Boy Scout? Maybe. His words did save me though.

Isn't it interesting how things just happen. Two weeks ago I was calling 911 because I overdosed on my insulin.

The paramedics said that I was a few points from going into a coma and perhaps I didn't make a big deal about it then but it might have been training for earlier this week.

This was the rare Monday where I wasn't studying or preparing to cover a story or traveling somewhere about town.

Emptying my backpack of my usual gear, computer, and all things heavy, instead, I packed my beach towel, my swim trunks, and a book to read.

This was the closest thing to recreating the "Beach Bus" that I could muster.

I'd ride over to the Los Cerritos Center, catch a 12-minute ride on the Metro Express 577 to Cal State Long Beach (my alma mater), and make my way either by OCTA or ride the few miles along Pacific Coast Highway toward Seal Beach.

With backpack and hat on, I was literally out the door going towards my bike when I realized I left my cell phone charging and returned to

The message from my neighbor simply asked me to check on her mother who had recently returned from the hospital.

Dropping my pack to grab my house keys, I made for the corner house to do just that, check on my neighbor.

Arriving at the front door, I knocked pretty hard and had no response. I dialed my friend's daughter and heard a stirring from behind the door.

Monica (not her real name) opened the door and I could see that she was in distress.

Her daughter was on Monica's cell phone and I spoke for a few moments explaining the situation. Not wanting to alarm her, I knew in my mind that I was going to call 911 immediately.

Per Monica's daughter's instructions, I attached the oxygen machine tube to Monica's nostrils and gave her a tiny Nitro pill for angina.

While we paused, I dialed 911 and grabbed an envelope off her coffee table to get the address.

Friends, I do not make this stuff up.

While on the phone I calmly told the voice that a 64-year-old woman with a recent history of heart issues was having chest pains and that I had given her a nitro pill and there was no improvement.

The voice asked for the address, I read it to her from the envelope.

As we chatted, I pushed the coffee table as far as I could for I remember the story of a recent celebrity who was on a bed where CPR was not doable.

The patient must be on a hard surface, for chest compressions.

Holding Monica's hand for her comfort and assurance, I gave her another nitro pill as per the instructions on the bottle.

The paramedics arrived a short time later and I repeated my actions to them. The professionals took over and I stepped back and let them go to work.

Accompanying Monica in the ambulance to the hospital, I remember thinking, "Oh God, please help me."

What I really meant was to please help her.

I met her daughter about 20 minutes later in the emergency room at La Palma Intercommunity Hospital.

After a two-day stay, I'm happy to report Monica is resting comfortably and will be coming home Wednesday evening.

Of course I don't mind missing my return to the sand and my clam chowder that I had on my mind for several days in Seal Beach.

I wanted to do my piece on the famous "Beach Bus," but am happy knowing Monica is here to welcome me with her warm smile.

She and her daughter have been very good loyal friends to my family and me.

Again, isn't it interesting how things just happen?

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## LEGISLATIVE CORNER

### CalChamber Issues Statement on Brexit Vote

The California Chamber of Commerce issued the following statement following the Brexit vote.

"California has a lot at stake," said Allan Zaremberg, CalChamber President and CEO. "We are the sixth largest economy in the world and a major trading and investment state, and no one in California can be immune from dramatic changes in the international economic structure.

"In order to mitigate the uncertainty and instability, the exit, which requires approval by Parliament and the EU, must be orderly and consider the global consequences. The Trans-Atlantic relationship is one of the most important in the world, and the United Kingdom is one of the most valued trade and investment partners for our country and state.

"This will probably make America and the dollar safe havens for international investments, which unfortunately could make California exports more expensive. Finally, because of California's reliance on the income tax, market volatility can put the government's revenues at risk, and that is one more reason to have an orderly transition."

#### UK Trade Stats

Two-way trade between the United States and the United Kingdom was \$ 114 billion in 2015, and the UK was the fifth largest importer of US goods with a total value of \$56.3 billion, according to the US Department of Commerce. The United Kingdom is California's 10th largest export destination, with over \$5 billion in exports in 2015. Computer and electronics products accounted for approximately 26.5% of exports – more than \$1.3 billion. Transportation equipment brought in \$667 million, or 13% while both chemicals and non-electrical machinery each accounted for approximately 8.5 % of the total, with over \$ 436 million in exports each.

In 2015, imports from the United Kingdom to California were approximately \$4.5 billion, with top categories being transportation and computers.

#### European Union Trade Stats

The UK is the entry market into the European market for over 41,000 US exporters.

Total bilateral trade between the European Union and the United States was \$698.7 billion in 2015, with the United States exporting to \$ 272 billion worth of goods to the 28 EU member nations.

California exports to the European Union totaled \$29.2 billion in 2015. California is the top exporting state to Europe. Computers, electronic products, chemicals, miscellaneous manufactured commodities, and transportation equipment are our leading export sectors to the region. European Union countries purchase 17.6% of all California exports.

#### Investment

Per the US Department of Commerce, the US-UK investment relationship is the largest in the world, valued at over \$1 trillion in 2014 and creating over two million jobs, about one million in each country. British investment is specifically vast in California where it supports approximately 90,000 jobs in our state according to the British Consulate General.

The California Chamber of Commerce supports expansion of international trade and investment, fair and equitable market access for California products abroad, and elimination of disincentives that impede the international competitiveness of California business.

*The California Chamber of Commerce (CalChamber) is the largest broad-based business advocate to government in California. Membership represents one-quarter of the private sector jobs in California and includes firms of all sizes and companies from every industry within the state. Leveraging our front-line knowledge of laws and regulations, we provide products and services to help businesses comply with both federal and state law. CalChamber, a not-for-profit organization with roots dating to 1890, promotes international trade and investment in order to stimulate California's economy and create jobs. Please visit our website at www.calchamber.com*

## LABOR LAW CORNER

### Request to 'Cash Out' Unused Sick Leave Raises Questions for Employer

David Leporiere

*Question: Last July 1, my company gave all of our employees 24 hours of sick leave in a lump sum in order to comply with the new sick leave law. I have had several employees approach me and ask if they can be cashed out of the sick leave hours they have not used this year. Can I cash out the remaining sick leave balances, or must the employees lose their unused sick leave hours?*

The Healthy Families, Healthy Workplaces Act (Act) does not require employers to cash out sick leave either during employment or at the time of separation from employment.

The Act does not directly address the situation in which an employer might wish to cash out employees for their unused sick leave. The Act, however, does state that sick leave which is accrued must be allowed to carry over to the following year (Labor Code Section 246(d)). The Act goes on to state that an employer may limit the total accrual of sick leave to 48 hours (Labor Code Section 246(i)).

In the situation where the employer has provided its employees with a lump sum of sick leave, there is nothing in the Act that would specifically preclude an employer from giving its employees the cash value of the year's unused sick leave once the employee has been provided with the next year's lump sum of sick leave benefits.

This can be done only once the year is over and the employee already has received his/her next year's benefit. It cannot be done before the completion of the year in which the employee is entitled to use the sick leave.

#### Accrual-Based Sick Leave

If you were an employer that utilized an accrual-based method for providing sick leave, and your policy limited accrual to 48 hours a year and use of sick leave to 24 hours a year, the issue would be more complicated. If you were to cash out an employee's accrued sick leave such that the employee had less than 48 hours of sick leave in his/her sick leave account, you may be in violation of the Act.

Labor Code Section 246.5(c) states that an employer shall not deny an employee the opportunity to use his/her accrued sick leave. In that the law requires employers to allow employees to accrue up to 48 hours of sick leave, if the employer provides cash in lieu of the sick leave time off that is allowed to accrue under the law, the employer may be considered to have denied the employee the opportunity to use the sick leave. As a result, before cashing out accrued sick leave, we strongly recommend consulting with legal counsel.

Due to the uncertainty in this area of the law at the current time, we suggest consulting with your company's attorney if you have a paid sick leave policy that allows employees to cash out those benefits during employment.

*The Labor Law Helpline is a service to California Chamber of Commerce preferred and executive members. For expert explanations of labor laws and Cal/OSHA regulations, not legal counsel for specific situations, call (800) 348-2262 or submit your question at www.hrcalifornia.com.*



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## THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS

Our Chamber would not be a success if it wasn't for the commitment of our members to support a prosperous business environment here in Norwalk. Each time you renew your membership you are supporting the programs that help create business success here in our community. Whether it is a workshop, networking opportunity or having a business resource center in Norwalk, you help provide needed tools for business growth for all of our members. As a member you are able to participate in events that can bring customers to your business. One of these is our Annual Business Expo which takes place on Thursday, July 28th from 4:30 to 7:30 at the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex. Contact our Chamber office for additional details about this year's Expo or to have flyers and tickets delivered to your business for this event. We can be reached at 562-864-7785 or by email to [info@norwalkchamber.com](mailto:info@norwalkchamber.com). Be sure and visit our website to find out more about upcoming events or how to utilize your Chamber membership! [www.norwalkchamber.com](http://www.norwalkchamber.com)



Norwalk Chamber President Francella Aguilar of Republic Services presents a 53 year member renewal plaque to Teri Bazen of Norwalk La Mirada Plumbing.



President Francella Aguilar presents the renewal plaque to Art Regis of Fit Nation Gym.



Celebrating 36 years as a Chamber Member is Bruce's Prime Rib Restaurant.



Presenting a 41 year renewal plaque to Luxury Inn is Chamber President Francella Aguilar of Republic Services.



Big Truck and Equipment Sales celebrates 12 years as a Norwalk Chamber Member!

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



"I Found It at the Chamber"

We hear that from business people searching for or explaining their reason for joining a chamber of commerce. Actively participating, volunteering and joining committees allow you to form valuable business relationships.

We do the behind-the-scenes work to pull together events and networking opportunities to make new face-to-face interactions easier. That leads to stronger relationships and is a powerful referral generator.

Chamber membership may also help boost your search engine presence by having a link from the Chamber's website (a reliable reference point). That link is very powerful and tells Google your site is important by association. The Norwalk Chamber offers discounts to members such as office supplies and you can get access to email lists, as well as first dibs on booths at expos and other events. Opportunities for growth both professionally and individually, access to other members or experts for advice and a place to troubleshoot and cheer each other on.

Chambers have a good reputation and many of your customers have a positive perception of chamber businesses. In fact, you may be interested to know that according to a 2012 study conducted by the Schapiro Group, 49% of consumers were more likely to think favorably of a local business if it was a member of the local Chamber—and 80% were more likely to purchase a product or service from a Chamber member.

We are not a magical solution, but if you want to invest in the local demographic, have access to resources offered by no others, such as networking events, fundraisers, workshops and other activities all with the aim of connecting with other business owners, **you can find it here.** We can get your name out there, create networking opportunities and business owners find we are an affordable group of like minded people that will foster immediate connections and promote your business.

-Vivian Hansen  
Executive Director

**INCREASE YOUR EXPOSURE!**  
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## BRANDYWINE HOMES RIBBON CUTTING

Brandywine Homes held their Ribbon Cutting event on Wednesday June 15th, with many Norwalk Chamber Members and representatives from our local elected officials in attendance. Brandywine Homebuilding Division President Alex Hernandez was on hand to receive the many thank you presentations for bringing new housing developments to the City of Norwalk. Norwalk Vice Mayor Cheri Kelley spoke on behalf of the City of Norwalk and presented a Business Spotlight Award from the City. Additionally representatives from Supervisor Don Knabe, State Senator Tony Mendoza, and Assembly Member Ian Calderon were on hand to congratulate Brandywine Homes. Once the official ribbon was cut, those in attendance were able to view the model homes. Located at 11009 Pioneer Blvd is the Sales Office for both the Sunstone and Citrine housing developments. If you are in the market for a new home, drop by and visit the model homes to find one just for you. Visit their website at [www.brandywine-homes.com](http://www.brandywine-homes.com) for additional details.



Norwalk Vice Mayor Cheri Kelley presents Brandywine Homebuilding Division President Alex Hernandez with a City Business Spotlight Plaque.



Presenting a certificate on behalf of LA County Supervisor Don Knabe is Deputy Director Andrea Avila.



Yahaira Ortiz presents a certificate from California State Senator Tony Mendoza.



Brandywine Homebuilding Division President Alex Hernandez receives congratulations from State Assembly Member Ian Calderon, presented by Field Representative Alberto Ruiz. Chamber Past President Julia Emerson is also pictured.



Norwalk Chamber Ambassadors, Board Members and Chamber Members help cut the Ribbon for Brandywine Homes.



Alex Hernandez receives a Ribbon Cutting plaque from Francella Aguilar, Republic Services and Julia Emerson, Southern California Gas Company.



Norwalk Chamber Board Member Gary Murphy of Norwalk Florist and Past President Julia Emerson present Brandywine Homebuilding Division President Alex Hernandez with their membership plaque.

**NORWALK CHAMBER  
BUSINESS CONNECTIONS (NCBC)**  
is the Official Publication of the  
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce.

**Norwalk  
Chamber of Commerce**

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**CALENDAR  
OF EVENTS**

**Tuesday, July 18th**

LA's Largest Mixer  
Pasadena Convention Center  
www.largestmixer.com  
5pm to 9pm

**Thursday, July 20th**

Creating Connections Luncheon  
American Legion Hall  
(buy your own lunch)  
11:45 am to 1pm

**Thursday, July 28th**

Business & Community Expo  
Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex  
13200 Clarkdale Ave.  
Norwalk CA  
Open and Free to the Public  
4:30-7:30 pm

**Thursday, August 11th**

"State of the Nation" Address  
Luncheon  
Featuring Congresswoman  
Linda Sanchez  
Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex  
12 to 1:30pm

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Thursday, August 18th**

Evening Mixer

**Thursday, October 6th**

2nd Annual Oktoberfest

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**Renewing Members**

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562-921-3722

**10 Years**

**HUB Internation Insurance Services, Inc.**  
Christina Jones  
714-739-3177

**8 Years**

**Water Replenishment District**  
Tracey Burke  
562-275-4233

**5 Years**

**Department of Rehabilitation**  
Patt Kadrluk  
www.rehab.cahwnet.gov

**4 Years**

**Pettit Insurance**  
Michael Pettit  
562-219-6266

**Advanced Performance Parts**

Yuri Marquez  
562-682-5273

**3 Years**

**Preservation Partnership  
Development III, LLC**  
William Szymczak  
310-802-6670

**2 Years**

**360 View - Business Efficiency  
Consulting**  
Doris Hernandez  
562-879-2881

**New Members**

**Cruise Planners**

Anise Jones  
Jeannine Jones  
562-650-8803  
Anise.jones@cruiseplanners.com  
Jeannine.jones@cruiseplanners.com  
www.artistyoftravel.com

**MEMBERSHIP  
ROUND UP**

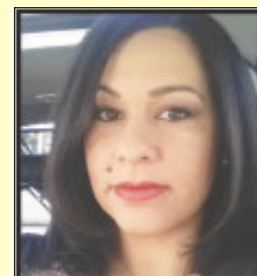
**Thank you Norwalk Chamber  
Ambassadors**



Norwalk Chamber Ambassadors receive a "Thanks a Latte" gift from outgoing President Julia Emerson. Pictured here are Ambassadors: Maria Lupe Hernandez, Susan Arthur, Joseph Derthick, President Julia, Chair Karla Butler and Richard Sneed.

Past President Julia Emerson of Southern California Gas Company thanked the Norwalk Chamber Ambassador Corp at the Annual Installation Luncheon. She recognized their many contributions to the Norwalk Chamber and to creating a welcoming environment at Chamber functions. Ambassadors are the "good will" arm of the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce. You will find them at Ribbon Cuttings, Luncheons, Mixers and other events. They help with presenting certificates, working the check in table and introducing guests to Chamber members. Over the last few months the Norwalk Chamber Ambassadors have also starting attending monthly business visits with Chamber staff. This has helped our Ambassadors get to know our members and create more networking opportunities for their businesses. The Chamber is always on the lookout for potential Ambassadors. If you are interested in finding out more about the Ambassador Corp and having opportunities to get more involved as a Chamber member, contact Ambassador Chair Karla Butler of Thompson Bookkeeping or reach out to the Chamber at info@norwalkchamber.com.

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**



I am truly honored by this appointment and would like to thank our Executive Board of Directors, especially our outgoing president Julia Emerson for allowing me to shadow her as she led our Chamber this past year. Julia worked very hard and we are all very proud of her.

Being part of Republic Services has taught me the importance of growing through differentiation. Now, what exactly does this mean? It means that we serve with devotion, we earn customer loyalty, we create superior products and services, and we deliver unmistakable and remarkable value. My goal for this upcoming year is to grow our chamber through differentiation. You can expect to see our executive team and board members lead this organization into a year of superior service to our chamber members by remaining focused on helping our members grow their business and we will promote collaboration. My vision is to have the Norwalk Chamber work on customer relations and outreach to the community as a whole. I am aware that Norwalk is a unique City, a community consisting of many small and home-based business owners. One of our main focuses will be on those who cannot attend the many events we hold. If the owners cannot attend, we will bring the events to their business. Social media will continue to be an important tool to network and promote our members.

As we begin this new chamber year, I am confident we will continue to have the City's support to achieve these goals; we all have the responsibility to help this great City of Norwalk and by working together, we can make Norwalk an even better place to live and work. In fact, if you are not a Chamber member, I invite you to sign up today, and if you are a chamber member, please invite someone else to become a member.

Thank you again for this tremendous honor! I want to thank Matt Niklas, my General Manager and Republic Services for all their support and for believing that giving back to our communities is part of growing through differentiation.

Have a great day!!

Sincerely,

Francella Aguilar  
Republic Services  
2016-17 President  
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce

**NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

**New Norwalk Chamber Member Cruise Planners**

**CRUISE PLANNERS**  
  
**Your Land and Cruise Specialist**

Cruise Planners franchise owners travel agent franchise company Anise and Jeannine Jones are based in the industry. Cruise Planners' travel professionals independently book amazing vacation and travel experiences for their clients around the world. For more information, please visit www.artistyoftravel.com

### 93rd Annual Installation of Officers and Awards Luncheon

The Norwalk Chamber of Commerce celebrated 93 years of service to the business community at our Annual Awards and Installation Luncheon on June 22nd at the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex. This event highlights the Chamber's successes over the last year and recognizes outstanding local businesses and individuals. This year the Norwalk Chamber recognized the:

- Business of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year
- Ambassador of the Year
- Presidents Award

Each year one local business is honored as the "Business of the Year." This year that award was given to Ric Ochoa of So Cal Pizza (Southern California Pizza) for his outstanding contributions to the Chamber and the community. This award is chosen by vote of the Board of Directors and is based on a number of key elements. Included in the criteria is the businesses commitment to furthering the Norwalk Chamber's vision and the company's commitment to supporting a positive business growth environment in Norwalk. So Cal Pizza not only is a thriving business member of the community but they also provide support to many local organizations through fund raising opportunities and sponsorships. Congratulations to Ric Ochoa and So Cal Pizza on being named the Business of the Year!

Our Volunteer of the Year was given to Vickie Yahn of ServiceMASTER Professional Home & Disaster Cleaning Services for her continued support as a Board Member and Committee Chair for the Women in Business Council. Trisha Gutierrez of QM Fundraising/Tupperware was recognized as the Ambassador of the Year. Trisha can be seen at almost every Chamber event from Ribbon Cuttings to Luncheons. She embodies the key role of the Ambassador for the Norwalk Chamber. This year outgoing President, Julia Emerson of Southern California Gas Company recognized Past President Toni Grijalva of Cerritos College with the President's Award. She thanked Toni for her year of service and support to the President and the entire Board of Directors.

Attending this event were many local business and community leaders. Norwalk Mayor Mike Mendez was on hand to provide the opening inspirational message for the luncheon. Following him was Sean Finn of Republic Services with MRFy, (Material Recovery Facility) who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Also attending were City Council Members Luigi Vernola and Marcel Rodarte. Norwalk City Manager Mike Egan served as the installing officer for the newly elected and returning Board Members. Presenting certificates to our award recipients were representatives from our many elected officials. Representing Supervisor Don Knabe were Senior Deputy Director Steve Napolitano and Deputy Director Andrea Avila. Representing California Senator Tony Mendoza was Senior District Representative Yahaira Ortiz. Representing California Assembly Member Ian Calderon was Field Representative Alberto Ruiz. And representing Congresswoman Linda Sanchez was Field Representative Michael Vuong.

Francella Aguilar of Republic Services was installed as the President for the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce for the 2016-2017 year. After being formally installed Francella shared her vision and goals with the audience. Highlights of her vision include growing the Chamber through differentiation, increasing membership while retaining current members, providing superior service and promoting collaboration. You can expect to see Francella leading her Board of Directors with new and innovative ideas this year. Her Executive Board members are: President Elect Yovani Flores, US Bank, Vice President/Secretary Rob Cazares, Outback Restaurant, Vice President Finance Karla Butler, Thompson Bookkeeping and Immediate Past President Julia Emerson, Southern California Gas Company. Our Board of Directors for 2016-2017 are Patty Contreras, The Sterling Insurance & Financial Group, Joseph Derthick, AFLAC, Lynda Fisher, Walmart, Toni Grijalva, Cerritos College, Trisha Gutierrez, QM Fundraising, Richard Legaspi, TNT Fireworks, Gary Murphy, Norwalk Florist, Tracy Polley, Kelco Sales and Gordon Stefenhagen, Norwalk Realty.

The Norwalk Chamber would like to thank our sponsors for supporting this event: Award Sponsor: US Bank, Yovani Flores, Centerpiece Sponsor, Southern California Gas Company, Julia Emerson, Luncheon Sponsor Norwalk Auto Auction, Louis Rudich, and Table Sponsors: City of Norwalk, Republic Services, and Gordon Stefenhagen. Thank you to Teri Bazen of Norwalk La Mirada Plumbing for providing raffle gifts and to Gary Murphy of Norwalk Florist for the beautiful centerpieces. Lunch was provided by Bruce's Prime Ribs and awards by All American Trophies & Engraving Company. For information on upcoming events for the Norwalk Chamber, visit our website at www.norwalkchamber.com.



Norwalk City Council Member Luigi Vernola and Norwalk Mayor Mike Mendez present a plaque to Ric Ochoa of So Cal Pizza as the "Business of the Year."



Business of the Year is awarded to So Cal Pizza owner, Ric Ochoa. Here he is presented with Certificates from elected officials.



Republic Services attendees with newly installed Chamber President Francella Aguilar are: (left to right) Kimberly Malagon, General Manager Matt Niklas, and Elizabeth Martinez.



Newly installed President Francella Aguilar, Republic Services is pictured with Past Presidents Toni Grijalva, Cerritos College and Julia Emerson, Southern California Gas Company.



Newly installed Norwalk Chamber Board of Directors and Ambassadors.



Attending the Norwalk Chamber Installation Luncheon are: (back row) Louis Rudich of Norwalk Auto Auction, Patty Contreras, the Sterling Insurance & Financial Group, Dana Reed, Mayor of Indian Wells, (front row) Steve Napolitano, Senior Deputy Director Supervisor Don Knabe, Ruben Espejel, PIH Health, and Andrea Avila, Deputy Director, Supervisor Don Knabe.



Norwalk Mayor Mike Mendez presents outgoing President Julia Emerson with a plaque of congratulations.



Pictured with MRFy, who led the Pledge of Allegiance, are Chamber members Susan Arthur and new President Francella Aguilar.



Julia Emerson, Southern California Gas Company is presented with many certificates of achievement. Pictured here (left to right) Steve Napolitano, Senior Deputy Director, Julia Emerson, Past President Toni Grijalva, Yahaira Ortiz, Senior District Representative, Deputy Director Andrea Avila, Norwalk Mayor Mike Mendez, Norwalk Chamber Board member Gordon Stefenhagen, Field Director for Assembly Member Ian Calderon, Alberto Ruiz and Field Director for Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, Michael Vuong.



Outgoing President Julia Emerson presents the President's Award to Immediate Past President Toni Grijalva.

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce  
12040 Foster Road, Norwalk, CA 90650

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# LEGALIS

## CIVIL

### PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING

Hon. Kathleen M. McCarthy  
16-106684-NC  
JIS CODE:PNH  
Approved SCAQ  
STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF

In the matter of the change of name of Nathan An TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including: Junshik An whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: **TAKE NOTICE:** A hearing will be held on 8-8-2016 at 8:30 a.m. 1813 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, Detroit, MI before Judge Kathleen M. McCarthy for the following purpose: To change the name of Nathan An to Nathan Seoon Park Date: 08/17/2016 Jihyun Park, 42799 Lilley Pointe Dr., Canton, MI 48187, (607) 205-0177 7/1/16  
**CNS-2896546#**  
**THE NORWALK PATRIOT**

The Norwalk Patriot  
7/1/16

## NOTICES

### NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF AN INITIAL STUDY AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

DATE: June 28, 2016

TO: Responsible Agencies, Interested Parties, and Organizations

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF AN INITIAL STUDY AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE HOSPITALS**

The State of California Department of State Hospitals (DSH) is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency for the proposed Metropolitan State Hospital (MSH) partial modernization project. The Department of General Services (DGS) has directed the preparation of an Initial Study (IS) in compliance with CEQA on behalf of DSH. The purpose of the IS is to provide decision makers, public agencies, and the general public with an objective and informative document that facilitates a basic understanding of the proposed project and fully discloses the potential environmental effects associated with the proposed project, including direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects. Based on the studies performed and information contained in the IS, DSH is proposing to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). DSH will use the IS/MND to obtain permits, agreements, and approvals from necessary agencies to implement the project.

**Project Location:** The MSH campus is State of California property located on approximately 155 acres, in the City of Norwalk, Los Angeles County. The site is north of Imperial Highway, west of Bloomfield Avenue, east of Norwalk Boulevard and south of Lakeland Boulevard. The project site is on a 23-acre portion of the overall MSH 155-acre campus, located south of 6th Street, north of 9th Street, west of Bloomfield Avenue, and east of Balsam Street. street address is 11401 Bloomfield Avenue, Norwalk, California 90650.

**Project Description:** The proposed project is for the partial modernization of MSH, which includes upgraded security features and improvements to accommodate additional patients. The project includes the demolition and construction of roads and parking areas, demolition and relocation of utilities, replacement of an existing 1,500 square-foot visitor center with a new 3,500 square-foot visitor center and the construction of a new Sallyport. The project would install 4,500 linear feet of 16-foot high security cameras around two buildings and the existing park both internal to the site and not visible from the adjacent public roadways. In addition to the new fencing, other security features include anti-climb mesh and anti-tamper sensor cable/internal alarms for the security fences, pole-mounted security cameras with a closed circuit TV on the new light poles, six security/guard stations, a new restroom building, and other associated utility work. The proposed security and facility upgrades would allow the hospital to increase its patient capacity by approximately 250 patients. However, because MSH's license is for up to 1,106 patients, the analysis in the Draft IS conservatively assumes the project would result in 361 more patients compared to existing conditions.

**Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts:** Potentially significant impacts to biological resources, cultural resources, geotechnical, and traffic resources were identified in the Draft IS. All impacts would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with the incorporation of mitigation measures.

**Public Review Period June 28, 2016 through July 28, 2016:** In compliance with CEQA, DSH has established a 30-day public review period beginning June 28, 2016 to solicit comments and input on the Draft IS/MND. To ensure that all environmental issues are fully identified and adequately addressed, written comments are invited from all interested parties. Written comments regarding the scope and content of information in the Draft IS/MND may be submitted electronically to Stephanie.coleman@dgs.ca.gov or to:

California Department of General Services  
Stephanie Coleman, Senior Environmental Planner, Energy & Environmental Section  
707 Third Street, MS-509  
West Sacramento, CA 95605

Comments should be submitted no later than Thursday, July 28, 2016.

Copies of the Draft IS/MND are available for public review at the following locations:

Norwalk Library  
12350 Imperial Hwy.  
Norwalk, CA 90650

The Draft IS/MND is available for public review at the following web address:  
<http://epdsolutionsinc.com/ceqa-documents/>

The Norwalk Patriot  
7/1/16

### SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: VS028884

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Tirsia E. Contreras for Andres Castaneda filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present name (1) Andres Castaneda to Proposed name (1) Andres Alexander Castaneda  
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Date: August 3, 2016, Time: 1:30 pm, Department C  
The address of the court is 12720 Norwalk Blvd. #109, Norwalk, CA 90650  
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall

be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, **NORWALK PATRIOT** June 06, 2016  
Margaret M. Bernal  
Judge Of The Superior Court  
Petitioner or Attorney, In Pro Per  
**Tirsia E. Contreras**  
12143 162nd St  
Norwalk, CA 90650  
(323) 747-0008  
Telyssa29@gmail.com

The Norwalk Patriot  
6/10/16, 6/17/16, 6/24/16, 7/1/16

### SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER: VS028864

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Janice Amezcuita filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
Proposed name (1) Janice Amezcuita to Proposed name (1) Janisse Amezcuita  
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Date: July 27, 2016, Time: 1:30 pm, Department C, Room 312  
The address of the court is 12720 Norwalk Blvd. #109, Norwalk, CA 90650  
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in the county, **THE NORWALK PATRIOT** June 02, 2016  
Lori Ann Fournier  
Judge Of The Superior Court  
Petitioner or Attorney, In Pro Per  
**Janice Amezcuita**  
12303 Spigglass Rd  
Whittier, CA 90601  
(562) 277-8672

The Norwalk Patriot  
6/17/16, 6/24/16, 7/1/16, 7/8/16

## PROBATE

### NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF HENRY M. RODRIGUEZ Case No. BP172504

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of HENRY M. RODRIGUEZ  
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Robert L. Cohen in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles.  
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Robert L. Cohen be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
A HEARING on the petition will be held on July 5, 2016 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. A79 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.  
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.  
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

**Attorney for petitioner:**  
**ROBERT L. COHEN ESCO**  
SBN 150913  
**LAW OFFICES OF ROBERT L. COHEN INC**  
8081 ORANGETHORPE AVE  
BUENA PARK CA 90621  
CN925309 BSC13711 Jun 17, 24, Jul 1, 2016

The Norwalk Patriot  
6/17/16, 6/24/16, 7/1/16

### NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF FRANK M. ULLOA Case No. 16STPB01273

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of FRANK M. ULLOA  
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Richard Ulloa in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.  
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Richard Ulloa be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
A HEARING on the petition will be held on July 14, 2016 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 79 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.  
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.  
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

**Attorney for petitioner:**  
**KEVIN SNYDER**  
SBN 240385  
1 PARK PLZ  
STE 370  
IRVINE CA 92614

CN925908

The Norwalk Patriot  
6/24/16, 7/1/16, 7/8/16

### NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF NIEVES BLANCO VELOZ AKA NIEVES

**CASE NO. 16STPB01168**  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of NIEVES BLANCO VELOZ AKA NIEVES B. VELOZ.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by EILEEN A. ROSALES in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.  
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that EILEEN A. ROSALES be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. THE WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 08/10/16 at 8:30AM in Dept. 29 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.  
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.  
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

**Attorney for Petitioner**  
**PAUL JAY FUKUSHIMA - SBN 065868**  
LAW OFFICE OF PAUL JAY FUKUSHIMA  
12749 NORWALK BL #111  
NORWALK CA 90650-8376  
6/17, 6/24, 7/1/16  
**CNS-2893544#**  
**THE NORWALK PATRIOT**

The Norwalk Patriot  
6/17/16, 6/24/16, 7/1/16

## TRUSTEE SALES

T.S. No.: 2015-01595-CA A.P.N.: 8052-001-015  
Property Address: 10802 Van Ruiten Street, Norwalk, CA 90650

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE**  
PURSUANT TO CIVIL CODE § 2923.3(a), THE SUMMARY OF INFORMATION REFERRED TO BELOW IS NOT ATTACHED TO THE RECORDED COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT BUT ONLY TO THE COPIES PROVIDED TO THE TRUSTOR.

NOTE: THERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT ATTACHED

注: 本文件包含一个信息摘要  
참고사항: 본 첨부 문서에 정보 요약서가 있습니다.  
NOTA: SE ADJUNTA UN RESUMEN DE LA INFORMACION DE ESTE DOCUMENTO  
TALA: MAYROONG BUOD NG IMPORMASYON SA DOKUMENTONG ITO NA NAKALAKIP  
LƯU Ý: KÈM THỜ ĐẦY LÀ BẢN TRÌNH BÀY TÓM LƯỢC VỀ THÔNG TIN TRONG TÀI LIỆU NÀY

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:**  
YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 01/08/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR INTEREST IN THIS PROPERTY AT A PUBLIC SALE, IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.

Trustor: **ROBERTA J. RUPPRECHT, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN**  
Authorized Trustee: **Western Progressive, LLC**  
Recorded 01/16/2007 as Instrument No. 20070079965 in book ---, page--- and of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, Date of Sale: 07/21/2016 at 11:00 AM  
Place of Sale: **BEHIND THE FOUNTAIN LOCATED IN CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, 400 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, POMONA, CA 91766**

Estimated amount of unpaid balance and other charges: **\$ 567,701.72**

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE**  
WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, DRAWN ON A STATE OR NATIONAL BANK, A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, OR A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, A SAVINGS ASSOCIATION OR SAVINGS BANK SPECIFIED IN SECTION 5102 OF THE FINANCIAL CODE AND AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN THIS STATE:

All right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described as:

More fully described in said Deed of Trust.  
Street Address or other common designation of real property: **10802 Van Ruiten Street, Norwalk, CA 90650**  
A.P.N.: **8052-001-015**

The undersigned Trustee disclaims any

liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above.

The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: **\$ 567,701.72.**

If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse.

The beneficiary of the Deed of Trust has executed and delivered to the undersigned a written request to commence foreclosure, and the undersigned caused a Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located.

**NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS:** If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on this property.

### NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

**Note:** Because the Beneficiary reserves the right to bid less than the total debt owed, it is possible that at the time of the sale the opening bid may be less than the total debt

**NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:** The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that the trustee about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (866) 960-8299 or visit this Internet Web site <http://www.altisource.com/MortgageServices/DefaultManagement/TrusteeServices.aspx> using the file number assigned to this case **2015-01595-CA**. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale.

**Western Progressive, LLC, as Trustee for beneficiary C/o 30 Corporate Park, Suite 450 Irvine, CA 92606**  
**Automated Sale Information Line: (866) 960-8299** <http://www.altisource.com/MortgageServices/DefaultManagement/TrusteeServices.aspx>  
**For Non-Automated Sale Information, call: (866) 240-3530**

Trustee Sale Assistant  
Date: June 14, 2016

**WESTERN PROGRESSIVE, LLC MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.**

The Norwalk Patriot  
6/24/16, 7/1/16, 7/8/16

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The **Norwalk Patriot**





Christian Brown

# Christian Brown named editor of Norwalk Patriot

**DOWNEY** - Downey Patriot staff writer Christian Brown has been promoted to editor of the Norwalk Patriot, effective July 1.

"Christian Brown is a terrific reporter and dynamic journalist, and I'm excited to see him put his multimedia skills to work in Norwalk," said Jennifer DeKay, publisher of the Norwalk Patriot and Downey Patriot newspapers.

"Christian is already working on ideas and partnerships that will strengthen our presence in Norwalk and give residents a community newspaper they can truly be proud of."

Brown is an award-winning multimedia journalist, specializing in print and radio reporting on topics of politics and public affairs.

Brown first joined the Patriot in 2009 as an intern and was hired as a staff writer the following year. Since then, he's worked at KPCC (Southern California Public Radio) as a fill-in reporter and traveled to Indonesia as a foreign correspondent for GlobalPost.

Since 2014, Brown has won three L.A. Press Club awards: one 2nd place prize for a lifestyle feature on L.A.'s mass grave in Boyle Heights and a pair of 3rd place awards for a news feature on regional homelessness and an investigative report on the quid pro quo acquisition of a bankrupt community hospital.

Brown graduated cum laude from Cal State Fullerton in 2010, earning his B.A. in Communications. In 2015, he graduated from the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism with an M.S. in Journalism.

Eric Pierce, the previous editor of the Norwalk Patriot, will remain as editor of the Downey Patriot.

"Eric is so ingrained in the Downey community, and by having him focus exclusively on Downey, I think it will improve the Downey Patriot that much more," said DeKay.

Pierce has been with the Downey Patriot since 2002.

He won the award for Best Writing from the California Newspaper Publishers Association in 2014, and first place in the Photo Essay category in 2015.

He is past president of Gangs Out of Downey, current president of Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis, and is a board member with the Downey YMCA.

He is also a licensed Realtor working out of the office of Century 21 My Real Estate.



## Two townhome communities open in underserved portion of Norwalk

**NORWALK** - Brandywine Homes recently held grand opening celebrations for two new Norwalk neighborhoods: Sunstone, a two-acre, transit-friendly community with 31 townhomes located at 11009 Pioneer Boulevard, and Citrine, a 16-unit townhome community on one acre located at 11433 Excelsior Drive.

"Citrine and Sunstone are extremely popular because they offer the only new home ownership opportunities in the Norwalk area," said Dave Barisic, vice president of sales and marketing at Brandywine Homes, a pioneer of infill development in Southern California. "These communities are filling a deep need. We don't expect these homes to be on the market for long."

Citrine and Sunstone are offering townhomes ranging from approximately 1,110 to 1,475 square feet with hand-selected designer finishes as well as versatile, expansive floor plans. Sunstone, a gated community built on the site of a former school building, offers a location adjacent to Little Lake Park and close to Heritage Park and Wilderness Park. Citrine is located to the south of Sunstone and is close to Vista Verde Park, the Norwalk Aquatics Pavilion, and Norwalk High School.

Both communities offer two- and three-bedroom stucco townhomes with granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, tankless water heaters, two-car garages and concrete tile roofs. The homes are priced from the low \$400,000s.

With easy access to the 5 and 605 freeways, residents will be able to commute to both Los Angeles and Orange County. The communities are within walking distance of elementary and middle schools, and the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, Cerritos Mall and Knott's Berry Farm are a short drive away.

# The Norwalk Patriot

Friday, July 1, 2016

Vol. 10 No. 22

12040 Foster Road, Norwalk, CA 90650

## Independence Day fireworks show this Sunday

**NORWALK** -- An audience in the thousands is expected at the Civic Center Lawn for the city of Norwalk's annual festivities this Sunday, July 3.

Live musical performances by award-winning band Liquid Blue, games and activities, and a spectacular professional fireworks show mark this yearly evening of free fun and entertainment for all ages. A variety of food will be available for purchase.

The community is also invited to participate in the city's Locks of Love Hair Drive.

Stylists will be onsite to provide free blunt haircuts to patrons wishing to donate hair, which will be used to make hairpieces for children and individuals suffering from hair loss due to medical treatment or diagnosis. Guidelines, including minimum length (10 inches), apply.

For more information on hair donation, call (562) 929-5566. Hair drive takes place from 1-8p.m. Independence Day Pageant runs from 6-9 p.m.

Civic Center Lawn is located at 12700 Norwalk Boulevard. For information on the pageant, call (562) 929-5702.

## Foothill Transit and Norwalk Transit take over Metro's Line 270

**NORWALK** -- Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) transferred control of Line 270 -- a key bus route connecting students to Rio Hondo College -- to Norwalk Transit and Foothill Transit on Monday.

Norwalk Transit will operate the southern section of the line, running from Norwalk to the El Monte Station and called Norwalk 7. Foothill Transit will operate the line from the El Monte Station north to Arcadia, called Foothill 270.

Metro proposed the change due to low ridership in December 2015. A report released then said the 17-plus mile route carried an average of 29 passengers an hour, far less than Metro's desired minimum of 50 passengers an hour.

Rio Hondo College students, faculty, staff, administrators and Board of Trustees members lobbied for retention of the line.

## Man charged with attempted murder of 10 sheriff's deputies

**BELFLOWER** -- A Burbank man was charged Tuesday with the attempted murder of 10 Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies followed by an eight-hour standoff in Bellflower late Thursday night.

Juan Manuel Martinez, 40, was scheduled to be arraigned Tuesday at Bellflower Superior Court. Prosecutors asked that his bail be set at \$11 million.

Martinez is suspected of shooting and wounding a motorcycle deputy who pulled him over during a DUI checkpoint on Lakewood Boulevard. After abandoning his vehicle, Martinez allegedly fired on four other deputies who arrived to assist the downed deputy.

Martinez then allegedly wounded a second deputy as he fled the scene, firing at a second set of deputies before hiding in a small structure for nearly eight hours. He was arrested after a SWAT team fired tear gas into the structure.

Martinez is charged with a total of 13 felony counts, including 10 counts of attempted murder of a peace officer, and one felony count each of false imprisonment of a hostage, dissuading a witness by threat of force and possession of a firearm by a felon. The complaint alleges he discharged a firearm causing great bodily injury to two deputies.

If convicted, Martinez faces up to life in state prison.

## Norwalk teacher named 'Educator of the Year'



Edmondson Elementary School dual-language teacher Mayra Salguero (second from right) is awarded Read Conmingo's Bilingual Educator of the Year Award, receiving a \$200 prize to use toward school supplies and a free book for each student.

**NORWALK** -- Edmondson Elementary School dual-language teacher Mayra Salguero has been awarded the Read Conmingo Bilingual Educator of the Year award for her dedication to helping students speak and read in English and Spanish and learn Latin culture through art, music and dance.

The award came with a \$200 prize to use toward school supplies and a free book for each student.

"I was surprised and happy to share this with my students, parents and the whole community," Salguero said.

"It makes me proud to be a Hispanic woman earning this award and that I am able to make a difference in the community. It shows my students that they can be successful too."

Her passion for helping students learn Spanish and English

comes from her own challenge in overcoming language barriers. Salguero was born in the United States and moved to Mexico when she was in kindergarten. When she returned to the U.S. in the sixth grade, she didn't understand any English.

"I felt like I was starting from zero -- I couldn't communicate, I felt lost and it was such a hard time for me that I was discouraged," Salguero said. "But I had a dream to become someone to make a difference in my community."

Salguero started taking Spanish classes in high school and aspired to work with kids to give them the educational opportunities that she didn't have.

She continued her education at Cal State Long Beach, earning a Bachelors in liberal studies with a Spanish minor, and obtained her bilingual, cross-cultural, language and academic development credential in Spanish.

Her teaching career began at Norwalk-La Mirada Unified in 2004 at Edmondson, where she continues to be a dual-language teacher.

She sees students having the same experience as her -- newcomers from Mexico and El Salvador who cannot speak English and are trying

to adjust to American culture. Except this time, she is able to provide them a way to enjoy English, Spanish and school.

"They can enjoy learning because I give them a way to communicate with me and ask me questions in Spanish and English, something that I wasn't able to do in school," Salguera said.

"Hopefully, I can be a model for my students to look up to and I can help my students feel that they can be successful here."

Salguero integrates visual and performing arts into her curriculum, with students learning Latin culture through art, music and dance.

Parents are able to stay involved in their children's education by participating as volunteers in yearly events, such as helping with costumes for plays and performances and sharing their culture.

"Mrs. Salguero is a wonderful inspiration to our students. She gives them the confidence to enjoy learning and see that being bilingual is a strength," Superintendent Dr. Hasmik Danielian said.

"We are so proud to have her as a teacher in our District. She serves as a leader in her community inside and outside of the classroom."

## Paul Tanaka, former LASD undersheriff, gets 5 years in prison for jail beatings



**GARDENA** -- Paul Tanaka, who was the second in command of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, was sentenced Monday to 60 months in the federal prison for his conviction on obstruction of justice charges stemming from him leading the LASD's efforts to derail a federal investigation into corruption and civil rights violations by sheriff's deputies at two downtown jail complexes.

Tanaka, 57, a resident of Gardena who left the LASD in 2013 when he was the undersheriff, was sentenced by United States District Judge Percy Anderson.

In addition to the five-year prison term, which Tanaka was ordered to begin serving on August 1, Judge Anderson ordered him to pay a \$7,500 fine.

In sentencing Tanaka, Judge Anderson recounted Tanaka's career at the LASD, his role in the scheme to obstruct justice, and "the incalculable harm you have caused this community."

While he was the assistant sheriff in charge of the jails, Tanaka "perpetrated an environment of excessive deputy conduct," according to Judge Anderson, who said Tanaka's actions led directly to an increased number of use-of-force incidents against inmates at the jails. The obstruction of justice scheme was designed "to derail the federal grand jury investigation" and constituted "a gross abuse of the public trust."

A federal jury on April 6 found Tanaka guilty of two felony offenses -- conspiring to obstruct justice and a substantive count of obstructing justice. After a 10-day trial, a federal jury deliberated for only a few hours before convicting Tanaka of being the head of a broad conspiracy to obstruct the federal investigation, a scheme that started when the LASD learned that an inmate at the Men's Central Jail (MCJ) was an FBI informant.

Tanaka directed a conspiracy that has resulted in the conviction of other former LASD officials who received sentences of up to 41 months in prison.

"Paul Tanaka supervised a scheme to obstruct the FBI's investigation into corruption and civil rights violations at the jails," said United States Attorney Eileen M. Decker. "Mr. Tanaka was the ringleader and the driving force behind a plot that concealed an FBI informant, tampered with witnesses and led to the threatened arrest of an FBI agent for doing nothing more than her job. In addition to being a top law enforcement officer who was personally involved in the obstruction of justice, Mr. Tanaka was responsible for a culture that unfortunately led to the widespread abuse of inmates at the jails that he personally oversaw."

Tanaka was the undersheriff -- the number 2 in the LASD -- until 2013, and he ran an unsuccessful campaign for sheriff in 2014. As he rose through ranks during a 31-year career with the LASD, Tanaka became well aware of problems with deputies at the jails, allegations of rampant abuse of inmates and insufficient internal investigations into deputy misconduct.

"During his time as an executive, defendant threatened to discipline supervisors who frequently referred deputies to Internal Affairs, transferred captains who tried to reduce deputy abuse and break up cliques, instructed deputies to work in the 'gray area' of law enforcement, and expressed his desire to gut Internal Affairs," prosecutors wrote in a sentencing memorandum filed with the court. Tanaka's "actions caused deputies to believe that they could act with impunity, which, unfortunately, they did much too frequently."

"Mr. Tanaka swore to serve the county of Los Angeles, but disappointed the people through his corrupt actions, as well as many in the department under his command and influence," said Deirdre Fike, Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's Los Angeles Field Office. "As this investigation comes to a close, the department's law-abiding deputies who serve honorably can put this behind them under new leadership at the L.A. Sheriff's Department."

The scheme to disrupt the federal investigation started in August 2011 when deputies recovered a mobile

phone from an inmate in MCJ, linked the phone to the FBI, and determined that the inmate was an informant in the FBI's corruption and civil rights investigation. The phone was given to the inmate as part of an undercover investigation by a corrupt deputy, who subsequently pleaded guilty to a federal bribery charge and was recently sentenced to federal prison.

In response to the federal investigation, members of the Tanaka-led conspiracy took steps to hide the cooperator from the FBI and the United States Marshals Service, which was attempting to bring the inmate to testify before a federal grand jury. The evidence presented during Tanaka's trial showed that the deputies altered records to make it appear that the cooperator had been released from jail, when in fact he had been re-booked into custody under a fake name and moved to an LASD patrol station. Members of the conspiracy prohibited FBI access to the informant, and then told the cooperator that he had been abandoned by the FBI.

Over the course of several weeks, members of the conspiracy sought an order from a Los Angeles Superior Court judge to compel the FBI to turn over information about its investigation to the LASD. After the judge refused to issue the order because he had no jurisdiction over the federal law enforcement agency -- and even though it was clear that the FBI was acting legally -- two LASD sergeants confronted the lead FBI agent at her residence in an attempt to intimidate her. The sergeants threatened the agent with arrest and later reiterated this threat to her supervisor, stating that the agent's arrest was imminent.

Tanaka oversaw co-conspirators who told fellow deputies not to cooperate in the federal investigation. Members of the conspiracy engaged in witness tampering by ordering fellow deputies not to speak to the federal government and telling them that the FBI would lie, threaten, manipulate and blackmail them to obtain information about the Sheriff's Department.

Tanaka was indicted last year along with William Thomas Carey, a former LASD Captain who headed the Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau. Carey pleaded guilty last year and is pending sentencing. A total of 10 members of the department -- including former Sheriff Leroy Baca -- have been convicted in relation to

the scheme to obstruct justice. Baca, who pleaded guilty in February pursuant to a plea agreement, is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge Anderson on July 11.

As a result of the FBI investigation into the LASD, 21 current or former members of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department have been convicted of federal charges. These include the following former members of the LASD:

Former Sergeant Eric Gonzalez, who was sentenced to 8 years in prison for his conviction on civil rights charges related to the beating of a visitor to the Men's Central Jail;

Fernando Luviano, who was sentenced to 7 years in prison for beating a jail visitor;

Sussie Ayala, who was sentenced to 6 years in prison for the beating of a jail visitor;

Former Lieutenant Gregory Thompson, who was ordered to serve 37 months in prison for obstructing justice;

Former Lieutenant Stephen Leavins, who received a 41-month prison sentence for obstructing justice;

Gerard Smith, who was ordered to serve 21 months in prison for obstructing justice;

Mickey Manzo, who received a two-year prison sentence for obstructing justice;

Former Sergeant Scott Craig, who was sentenced to 33 months for obstructing justice;

Former Sergeant Maricela Long, who was sentenced to two years in federal prison for obstructing justice;

James Sexton, who was sentenced to 18 months in prison for obstructing justice;

Joey Aguiar, who was sentenced to 18 months in prison for falsifying reports related to a use-of-force incident;

Mariano Ramirez, who was sentenced to 13 months in prison, who was convicted with Aguiar;

Gilbert Michel who was sentenced to six months in prison in the bribery case; and

Richard Piquette, who was sentenced on a firearms charge.

Six other defendants, including former Sheriff Leroy Baca, are scheduled for sentencing later this year.

## Weekend at a Glance

Friday 78° ☁

Saturday 76° ☀

Sunday 79° ☀



## THINGS TO DO



### 626 Night Market

July 1-3 - Santa Anita Park

The original Asian-themed festival with hundreds of food and entertainment attractions.



### Anime Expo

July 1-4, L.A. Convention Center

The largest anime and manga convention in North America. Tickets start at \$55



### Art Walk

Saturday - Downtown Santa Ana, 6 pm

Live bands, festival areas, art villages, handmade goods, clothing vendors, and more.



### Independence Day Pageant

Sunday - Norwalk Civic Center, 6 pm

Norwalk celebrates Independence Day with live music, food, arts and crafts, and fireworks.



### Locks of Love Hair Drive

Sunday - Norwalk Civic Center, 1 pm

Donate your hair to benefit kids suffering from medical hair loss. 10 inches minimum



### Cuban Heritage Day

Sunday - Dodger Stadium, 1 pm

Cuban Dodgers past and present will be honored as the Dodgers host the Rockies.

## TWEETS OF THE WEEK

@DavidZahniser: Metro board puts transportation tax on the ballot, with two south L.A. County reps - including @DonKnabe - voting no

@CERLASD: Our condolences to @LongBeachPD\_CA on the loss of your K9 Credo. #CERLASD

Follow us! @DowneyPatriot