



**Long Beach cat rescue foundations struggle with stray population: 'We're all drowning'**  
see page 3



**QUEEN MARY**

Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune  
The permanently-closed Russian Foxtrot-Class submarine known as the Scorpion sits next to the Queen Mary on June 7, 2021.

## Historic Queen Mary's longtime caretaker Evolution Hospitality will enter into agreement to manage ship

**Emma DiMaggio**  
Managing Editor

**E**volution Hospitality, the Queen Mary's caretaker for the past year, will enter into a five-year management agreement with the City to get the ship reopened to the public.

"I know many of the residents here are excited to see more activity and events come back to life in our Queen Mary," Councilmember Suely Saro said during a Tuesday council meeting. "I know that we went through a very hard time with the Queen Mary."

The ship has a long history of failed operators, one of which defaulted on their loan and two of which filed for bankruptcy—the most recent being Urban Commons via Eagle Hospitality in 2021.

"Before, in the past 40 years, we've really tried to manage this asset by shifting all the requirements, all the responsibilities, but also all the benefits to a private company," City Manager Tom Modica said, noting that operators were often saddled with debt to obtain the lease in the first place. "That proved really not to be a model that was successful."

Instead of continuing with the failed model, the City is sparking up a management agreement with Evolution Hospitality to manage

see QUEEN MARY page 3



**LGBTQ+**

## Broadway corridor could become Long Beach's first LGBTQ+ cultural district

Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Vehicles move through the rainbow-colored crosswalks at the intersection of Cherry Avenue and Broadway in Long Beach on March 24, 2022

**Emma DiMaggio**  
Managing Editor

**L**ong Beach's "gayborhood" could soon become a historic gayborhood as the City of Long Beach embarks on a visioning plan to create a cultural district on the Broadway corridor.

On Tuesday, June 21, the Long Beach City Council unanimously directed the city manager to study the feasibility of creating an LGBTQ+ cultural district. The district would encompass the Broadway corridor and potentially surrounding neighborhoods like Alamitos Beach, Bluff Park and Bluff Heights and the East Village.

The strip of Broadway from Alamitos to Junipero Avenues has long been a hub for the city's LGBTQ+ community. Adorned with four rainbow crosswalks, the street is home to some of the city's most prominent gay bars, such as Sweetwater Saloon, The Falcon and the Broadway Cocktail Lounge.

"When you think about Long Beach and the heart of the broader gay community, that really is the Broadway corridor," said Long Beach's first openly-gay mayor

Robert Garcia. "Our LGBTQ+ community has developed, has grown, has come out and has invested all along this corridor for many, many decades."

Both Councilmembers Mary Zendejas and Rex Richardson said they'd always assumed the area was already a historical district because it's so well-known.

"Landmarking is an important process that recognizes local culture, local diversity, local history, but it's also smart economic development policy," Richardson said, noting that designating cultural or historical districts can add value to businesses and attract new interest in the area.

Garcia directed city staff to work with historians, neighbors, LGBTQ+ business owners and nonprofit organizations to create a vision for the corridor—from economic development to infrastructure improvements to historical markers.

"The LGBTQ Center is here ready to support this item and work with the city to make sure that this cultural district becomes a reality," said John Newell, president of the Long Beach LGBTQ Center board of directors. "This is a perfect way for us to recognize pride."



Protesters march through the rainbow-colored crosswalk on Broadway in Long Beach during a march in celebration of the Stonewall Uprising on June 28, 2020.



**NONPROFIT**

Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Ceasar McDowell (right) speaks with staff at his non-profit organization Unite the People on July 6, 2021.

## Long Beach man facing 25-to-life resentenced after campaign by legal nonprofit

**Kristen Farrah Naeem**  
Staff Writer

After a two-year campaign by Long Beach-based nonprofit Unite The People, Allan McIntosh has been resentenced to time served after spending 24 years behind bars.

"It's definitely surreal right now," said McIntosh's wife, Daviena McIntosh. "But I'm so happy and I spoke to him right after court and he's just so excited and just can't wait to be home."

According to Cesar McDowell, founder of Unite The People and McIntosh's former cellmate, McIntosh attended the trial via Zoom and is currently being held at San Quentin State Prison. He will be released by Saturday, Daviena said.

Unite The People offers affordable legal help to incarcerated people as well as those going through criminal trials, with fees decided on a sliding scale based on a client's income.

Unite The People flew Daviena to Long Beach so she could attend her husband's resentencing hearing on Monday, June 20.

"We felt like the wife should be here," McDowell said. "[...] We did a lot of work to make sure this happened. But that's his wife. And don't nothing matter more to a guy in prison than his wife."

On Oct. 2, 1998, McIntosh was biking home from the store after buying food for his family, when

see UNITE THE PEOPLE page 7

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## NEWS



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

An overhead view of the Wibit floating playground while it is being assembled on Alamitos Beach in Long Beach on June 21, 2022.

## City issues rain advisory for swimming, water playground still scheduled for Saturday

**Samantha Diaz**

Online Editor

Long Beach residents were woken up to the sound of thundering storms early Wednesday morning as Los Angeles County was hit with thunderstorms through the night.

As a result of the light showers in some areas of the city, Long Beach Health Officer Dr. Anissa Davis issued a city-wide rain advisory for recreational swimming in beaches and bays on Wednesday.

The rainfall may be enough to cause “unhealthy conditions” from “increased runoff from storm drain outlets and rivers,” the advisory stated.

The notice also stated that recreational swimming should be avoided for at least three days following a thunderstorm, as it may “affect the health of swimmers.”

Residents are still welcome to a grand opening of Long Beach’s Wibit inflatable water playground, which will take place Saturday, June 25 at 1 p.m. at Alamitos Beach, south of Ocean Boulevard and east of Shoreline Drive between Fifth and Sixth Places.

According to nonprofit Heal the Bay’s 2021-2022 Beach Report Card, water quality at Alamitos Beach rates “A” during dry summer weather but deteriorates to an “F” rating in wet weather conditions.

The city explained in the advisory that “any potential temporary decrease in water quality due to recent rains should be resolved by that time.”

The advisory will be extended if the rainfall continues. More information on the advisory and the city’s water health quality can be found at [www.longbeach.gov/beachwaterquality](http://www.longbeach.gov/beachwaterquality) or by contacting 562-570-4199.

## SCHOOLS

## Long Beach looks into ‘Safe Passage Plan’ for students traveling to and from school

**Kristen Farrah Naeem**

Staff Writer

The Long Beach City Council unanimously voted on Tuesday, June 21 to consider the feasibility of creating a Safe Passage Plan to increase the safety of students traveling to and from school.

“Safe passages for students like me are critical,” said Shemaiah Sims, a seventh grader at Stanford Middle School. “[...] My community is pretty safe. But not all students in Long Beach are that lucky. My hope is that the city manager will find solutions in the coming weeks for all kids to be more safe.”

Safe passages refers to monitoring students’ routes to school and back home to prevent issues such as harassment, crime and bullying.

A March 2019 study by the University of Illinois found that violent crime dropped by 14% on streets in Chicago where they posted adult civilians to watch over students as part of their Safe Passage Program.

Funds for a safe passage program for Jordan High School are being provided by the Recovery Act, according to Kelly Colopy, director of Health and Human Services.

The Long Beach was recently awarded a \$3.9 million California Violence Prevention and Intervention grant which will be used in 13 different communities, allowing the Safe Passage program to extend to Lindbergh Middle School and other schools in North and Central Long Beach.

Long Beach Police Department previously ran Operation Safe Passage, during which two patrol cars



Mark Savage | LBUSD

Students stand on the sidewalk and wait to enter Millikan High School on the first day of in-person classes on April 26, 2021.

were assigned to five highschools in Long Beach before and after the school day. The local nonprofit Centro CHA also launched a Safe Passages program in 2016 to serve schools in West Long Beach.

“Our hope is a Safe Passage Plan will focus on soliciting public participation to deter criminal activity and ensure that all children are able to walk to and from school safely,” said Carlos Valdez of the Coolidge Triangle Neighborhood Association.

Throughout discussion of the item, council members and public commenters brought up a May 12 incident during which a student walking home from Jordan High School was attacked by an adult man.

“I’m so sorry about this incident that happened to this young lady,” Councilmember Mary Zendejas said. “It was just heartbreaking. [...] We are able to come together as a community and try to prevent further things from happening like this.”

While there have previously been programs to help students get to and from school safely, such as the “mom’s brigade” at Edison Middle School, there is no city-wide program.

“I certainly encourage community organizations to be involved and engaged,” said Councilmember Al Austin, who authored the item. “And that doesn’t necessarily mean that everybody’s gonna get paid.”

The city manager will look at the feasibility of creating a Safe Passage Plan in collaboration with the Long Beach Police Department, Long Beach Unified School District and relevant City departments and local organizations. The city manager will report his findings to the city council within 60 days.

“It does take a village,” Austin said. “It’s going to take us all and everybody, every adult, should take on the responsibility to defend and protect our children.”

## LIBRARY

## Signal Hill Public Library launches summer reading program, releases June events

**Emma DiMaggio**

Managing Editor

The Signal Hill Public Library has launched its Summer Reading Program, which will run from June 18 to Aug. 20.

Similar to the Long Beach Public Library’s summer reading program, children and adults are encouraged to “read beyond the beaten path” this summer.

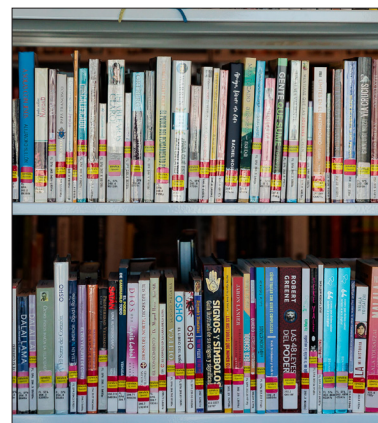
Residents are invited to keep track of the minutes they spend reading and log them on the Beanstalk app to rack up badges and rewards that can be picked up at the Signal Hill Public Library.

Prizes vary by age group and include things like free meals from Black Bear Diner or a free day of mini-golf at Golf N’ Stuff in Norwalk.

In addition to the ongoing summer reading program, the library will host a number of events in the coming months.

The events include:

- Saturday, June 25: L.A. County



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Fiction books sit on a shelf inside the Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library in North Long Beach on Jan. 4, 2022.

Smart Gardening at 11 a.m.

- Monday, June 27: Self Defense Class for Women at 6 p.m.

- Saturday, July 9: Science Teller’s Presents Pirates Ocean of Possibilities, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Library Community Room

- Tuesday, July 12: Senior Bingo at 10 a.m.

- Wednesday, July 13: Joseph Peck’s Caribbean Drum Circle from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Library Community Room

Ongoing events include:

- Wednesdays at 10 a.m.: Babies Story Time and Play Time

- Fridays at 10 a.m.: Pre-School Story and Play Time

- Second Monday of every month: Spanish Story Time

- Every Saturday: Theatre Workshop from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Library Learning Center

- First Monday of the month: Read to Dogs from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Children’s Area

Participants are invited to register for these events by calling the Signal Hill Public Library at 562-989-7323.

The Signal Hill Public Library is located at 1800 E. Hill St, Signal Hill. The library is open noon to 8 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.



## NEWS

## ‘WE’RE ALL DROWNING’

## Long Beach cat rescue foundations struggle with stray population

Samantha Diaz

Online Editor

Long Beach residents are likely to hear soft meows coming from under cars or homes and almost guaranteed to spot a couple of felines darting across streets searching for food—it’s kitten season.

On the surface, it may seem like an unwelcome nuisance for people from March through October, but it is proving to be an unprecedented problem for local cat rescues and organizations.

As the Long Beach Animal Care Services continues to operate at full capacity—only taking in animals that are sick and injured—healthy kittens with no place to go are being funneled to nonprofit and volunteer organizations at an alarming rate.

“It’s made the numbers unprecedented this year,” said Brandy Gaunt, founder of Jellicle Cats, a nonprofit cat and kitten rescue in Long Beach. “I mean, every day on Facebook, I got 100 emails a day, 25 Facebook messages to my rescue page. And then there’s just hundreds of posts.”



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

A blue-eyed cat sits on top of a welcome mat looking into an apartment through a screen door in Long Beach on June 21, 2022.

Gaunt has been rescuing cats for 28 years through a process called trap and release, or TNR. After years of luring cats into cages and taking them to a shelter to get vaccinated, microchipped and spayed or neutered out of her own pocket,

Gaunt decided to create a nonprofit from her passion for felines.

She operates the foundation in addition to her day job as an aerospace engineer, and teaches people how to safely deal with stray cats or kittens they may find. The num-

bers of strays found as well as pet surrenders have increased since the pandemic, she said, a problem that she and her community of volunteers are struggling to keep up with—and she’s not the only one.

“I’m inundated by shelter emails,

from Long Beach and others of just kitten after kitten after kitten and especially some of the county shelters,” said Deborah Felin, a member with the Helen Sanders Cat Paw Foundation.

She said the problem began when shelters had to close their doors due to COVID, “turning cats away for months” and allowing them to breed with no interference over the winter.

“And what we’re facing now is the inevitable consequence of that,” Felin said.

Gaunt blames this year’s problems on a mixture of events, mostly uncontrollable, that have resulted in “this overwhelming tsunami” for the rescues in the city.

“There’s a lot of networking in the rescue community, you know, but right now networking isn’t really doing any of us much good right now, because we’re all drowning,” Gaunt said.

### City resources for stray cats strained during pandemic

The pandemic forced many animal clinics and rescues into either permanent closures or limited ca-

see STRAY CATS page 5

## QUEEN MARY

continued from page 1

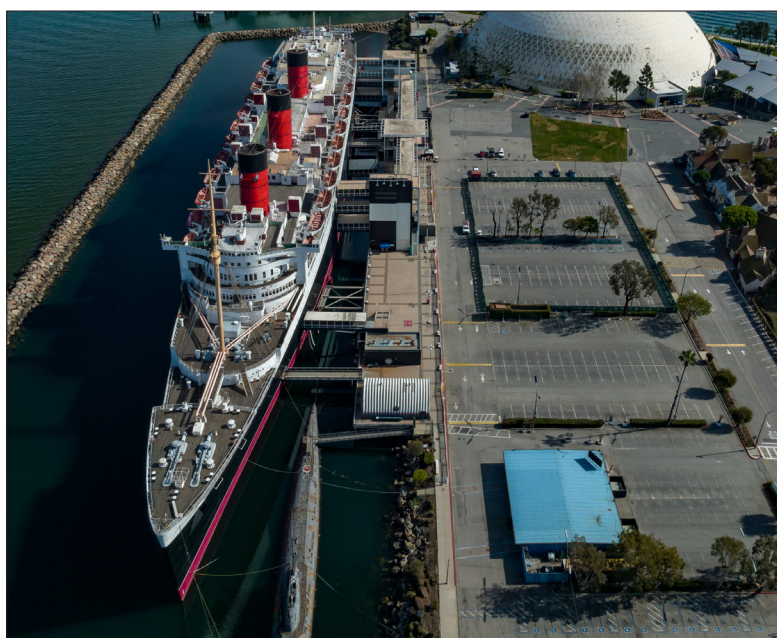
the ship in exchange for a portion of the area’s revenues.

“The City retains significantly more responsibility for this asset [the Queen Mary], such as major capital improvements. But the City also is entitled to a majority of net profits generated at the site,” said Johnny Vallejo, acting director of the Economic Development Department.

That means that the City is required to pay for larger capital improvements for restoration and preservation, of which there are plenty. A 2017 marine survey estimated a \$289 million price tag for long-term repairs and maintenance of the historic ship.

Evolution will be responsible for maintaining the ship and will retain a historic resource advisor to assist them.

For the past decade, Evolution Hospitality has been the caretaker



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Sections of a parking lot were fenced off at the Queen Mary Oceanliner to eventually stage construction equipment to restore the aging ship on Jan. 28, 2022.

of core maintenance and security of the ship and surrounding area. The company is a subsidiary of Aimbridge Hospitality, one of the world’s largest hotel operators.

“This is what almost anyone does who owns a hotel property. They then bring on someone who’s a hotel expert and these are one of the best experts in the nation,” Modica said. “So they do it for a percent of the gross revenue [...] If history is any indication, this property all made money for the hotel itself.”

Under the five-year agreement, Evolution Hospitality will be responsible for the Queen Mary leasehold area, including the ship and adjacent parking. The company will operate the Queen Mary Hotel, attractions, retail, food and beverage, parking and ship-based special events.

The management agreement includes buffers for past misfortunes:

additional auditing mechanisms, such as mandatory monthly financial reports, annual audited financial reports and proposed budgets for capital projects and expenditures.

During an investigation into the operation of the Queen Mary, former operator Urban Commons refused to hand over certain financial records, despite the City’s right to audit the financials of the company.

“It is incredibly important that we have access to the operation fund to help manage that operation fund, to audit, we have access to that,” Vice Mayor Rex Richardson said. “The performance standards, I think are good, there is an incentive to do well.”

The City will pay an estimated \$2.87 million for pre-opening and reopening costs for the ship, paid by the Tidelands Area Fund Group and year-end budget savings.

# Signal Tribune

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## EVENTS



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

The front entrance of Roxanne's Lounge in the California Heights neighborhood of Long Beach on June 21, 2022.

## Roxanne's will host AnimeFest this weekend, including sake sommelier, marketplace and 'Naruto' voice actor

Emma DiMaggio

Managing Editor

Roxanne's Lounge will be a scene of cosplay, anime and sake this Sunday as it gears up for a day of all-ages anime-themed merriment from noon to 6 p.m.

Community members are invited to cosplay their favorite characters, listen to music on three different stages, and enjoy a vendor marketplace selling anime, comic books and video game goods.

"Beyond places like BoxLunch, Hot Topic, there really aren't a lot of places you can go looking for apparel, for clothing, for accessories as far as anime stuff is concerned," said Jim Torres, a spokesperson for Roxanne's. "It's gonna be a huge marketplace."

The restaurant will also host guest of honor Steve Prince, a voice actor known for his roles such as Keitaro Urashima in "Love Hina"; DemiDevimon and Piedmon in "Digimon"; Uryu Ishida in "Bleach"; Iggy in "JoJo's Bizarre Adventure: Stardust Crusaders"; Vexen in the "Kingdom Hearts" series; and Shino Aburame in "Naruto." Prince will do meet-and-greets and signings during the event.

Long Beach-based youth arts program Creative Flow Arts will have arts and crafts projects for kids.

Local headlining band Japanese Lunchtime Rush will play hits from anime and video game scores from both past and present. They'll be joined by local jazz bands, Blow Brass and the Sam Ross Trio. Torres described them as "a bunch of anime geeks."

Japanese Lunchtime Rush bass player Greg Lariza said the band started playing scores from video games and anime such as "Final Fantasy," "Persona 5," "Cowboy Bebop," "Inuyasha" and "JoJo's Bizarre Adventure" because they're "all a bunch of nerds."

Lariza described the band's style as "fiery" and "high energy." Attendees should expect plenty of guitar solos and "conversations" between instruments as they jam. Lariza said he's not sure whether the band will dress up, but that their instruments might.

"If you've never cosplayed before, this is a fun and exciting time to just try it out for the first time," Torres said, adding that he bought a Pokemon Charizard onesie for the

occasion.

Roxanne's has held themed events in the past, but they're usually centered around spirits, such as their Rum-Tiki Social and Cumbia y Tequila-Fest. AnimeFest 2k22 will kick off Roxanne's Summer on the Patio series.

Attendees who purchase VIP tickets—half of which are already sold—are invited for all-you-can-drink sake and a chance to pose questions to a sake sommelier from Sake Secret, who will bring "his own very special inventory of sake," Torres said.

“

If you've never cosplayed before, this is a fun and exciting time to just try it out for the first time.

—Jim Torres, spokesperson for Roxanne's Lounge

Those who prefer mixed drinks can enjoy a variety of anime-themed cocktails.

VIP attendees can enjoy gin, whiskey and vodka tastings from Wille's Tin Shop, a secret bar and distillery located behind Roxanne's, which will host a house music silent disco.

"Come on by for good food, some great drinks, an awesome lineup of music, and vendors," Lariza said. "Whether or not you enjoy anime, this is more of an all-ages event, so if you have even the slightest interest, I think you should come on by."

Tickets for the Sunday event can be purchased on Eventbrite.

Presale general admission entry-only tickets cost \$10 and include access to the marketplace and stages. General admission tickets for those 21+ cost \$25 (\$30 at the door) and include a welcome cocktail, distillery tastings and access to the marketplace. VIP tickets cost \$50 and include general admission, access to the VIP lounge with all-you-can-drink sake with a sake sommelier, access to a silent rave inside the distillery and a food ticket.

Roxanne's is located at 1115 E Wardlow Rd.

## NONPROFIT



Image Courtesy Kate Weber | Quilters by the Sea

A member of Quilters by the Sea holds up a quilt he made. The group donates hundreds of quilts to nonprofits and community organizations each year. All quilts are washed and dried with scent free products and handled by gloved Community Relations Committee members.

## Quilters by the Sea donates 32 quilts to WomenShelter LB

Emma DiMaggio

Managing Editor

The Long Beach nonprofit Quilters by the Sea continued their long-standing tradition of donating to the WomenShelter of Long Beach Tuesday by dropping off 32 hand-stitched quilts.

"The fact that it's handmade, especially the little ones that they make for the kids, they absolutely love it. They put it in their playroom. They sleep on it and take naps," said Nina Taweepong, the WomenShelter executive assistant in charge of donations. "I can't express how grateful we are that they're doing this for us."

The quilts will become part of the care packages that women receive when they are admitted to the shelter. The packages also include everyday hygiene products, personal care products, a hairbrush, a toothbrush and other supplies.

The 32 donated quilts came in a variety of sizes and patterns—larger quilts for adults and smaller quilts for children who are admitted with their mothers. Children's blankets are adorned with animals or Disney characters, while others have spring gardens full of tulips or intricate patterns.



@womenshelterlb | Instagram

Members of Quilters by the Sea drop off hand-quilted blankets at the WomenShelter of Long Beach, an ongoing act of philanthropy from the group.

Quilters by the Sea has been donating quilts since its inception 29 years ago, according to quilting guild President Kate Weber.

The nearly 100-member guild has donated quilts to abuse prevention nonprofit For the Child; the Long Beach Veterans Affairs Hospital; New Life Beginnings, a nonprofit that helps pregnant women experiencing homelessness; and the Long Beach Police Department, who gives the quilts to victims.

They give out between 375 and 400 quilts a year, each valued at approximately \$125, according to

Weber.

"You sit there saying, 'But where do they all go?'" Weber said. "The family that gets on its feet this week is replaced by the family who's falling on hard times, so there's always a need. There's always a need. I don't know any of us that aren't happy to make quilts to give away."

Taweepong said she doesn't view the quilts by their monetary value, but rather the emotional support they give to victims of domestic violence, the fact that "somebody actually sat down and made these for them" and said her clients are "so appreciative of them."

The WomenShelter of Long Beach provides free support services for victims of domestic violence, including emergency supportive housing and legal, medical and mental advocacy for victims and their children.

"Most victims remain silent because of fear of not being believed," Taweepong said. "And that's the biggest hurdle we have to overcome."

More information about the WomenShelter of Long Beach is available at [www.womenshelterlb.org](http://www.womenshelterlb.org). More information about the Quilters by the Sea nonprofit is available at [www.quiltersbythesea.com](http://www.quiltersbythesea.com).

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**STRAY CATS**  
continued from page 3

capacity—treating sick and injured animals, but offering no spay-neuter services for healthy cats. This was one of the main factors that are now causing the overwhelming stray population.

“During this time, you know, we’re not able to take in healthy stray cats,” said Staycee Dains, director of Long Beach Animal Care Services. “So we have to really reserve our handling resources to animals who need it the most, so animals that are sick or injured or in need of urgent medical attention.”

Due to staffing shortages, the shelter has been operating at full capacity for a couple of months now, according to Dains. As of June 16, she said the facility had “at least” 111 dogs in their care, with only 99 kennels.

“When we say at capacity, it’s not just about having an animal in every cage. It’s also about having enough people at the shelter to care for those animals,” Dains said. “So we do have a couple of empty cages here and there, but even if they did have animals in them, the staff levels that we would need to care for every animal in a cage is—we’re not there. We’re definitely not there.”

Neighboring cities in Orange County are experiencing similar space and resource issues, as *Spectrum News* reported that Orange County Animal Care Services was operating at full capacity earlier this month.

Dains said the community can help by not bringing animals into the shelter, but instead working to find the animal’s owner. She said the shelter does not “have the ability to care for” healthy stray animals people find.

“It is very common that people

sort of expect animal control to take in cats but there is no legal requirement in the state of California to do that,” Dains said.

The shelter currently has five full-time animal care attendants, two experts from independent organizations—one of which is leaving at the end of June—and a rotating group of volunteers who mainly

“  
There’s a confluence of factors really, [...] I think one of the biggest is the lack of accessible and affordable spay-neuter resources for people. I mean, that’s where it all starts. That’s the beginning and the end of it. We can’t adopt our way out of what we’re facing right now.”

—Deborah Felin member of the Helen Sanders Cat Paw Foundation

socialize the animals, clean out their kennels and feed them twice a day.

The shelter has closed down the volunteer program until they can hire a coordinator to train new peo-

ple, Dains said. They are currently reviewing applications for the job.

As people come across newborn kittens or helpless strays in their neighborhood, they often take to social media to offer the animals up for adoption. When that doesn’t yield results quick enough, many people go to Animal Care Services looking for help.

Dains says the shelter just hired a new Foster Coordinator at the beginning of March, which she hopes will help move animals out of the facility quicker “so that we can expand those other programs, but these things take time,” Dains said.

“There’s a confluence of factors really, [...] I think one of the biggest is the lack of accessible and affordable spay-neuter resources for people,” Felin said. “I mean, that’s where it all starts. That’s the beginning and the end of it. We can’t adopt our way out of what we’re facing right now.”

Last year, the city tried to remedy the problem by offering \$100 vouchers to residents hoping to spay or neuter animals they find. According to Dains, the program was able to issue vouchers successfully for three months before falling behind on applications. The program’s “lag time has increased exponentially,” taking months for a person applying to receive their voucher, she said.

“I wouldn’t call it a waitlist necessarily, but yes, there’s definitely a large gap of time between the requests that they make [and getting a voucher],” Dains said. “And again, that relates back to staffing at the shelter.”

She explained there is one person in charge of processing vouchers for the city, the same person

who is also answering all calls for the shelter.

**Foundations urge the city to step in with affordable resources**

According to Gaunt, there are currently about 40 mainly donation-funded foundations in the city that provide Long Beach residents with a variety of services from free spay-neuter, microchipping, adoption and fostering services, TNR, flea treatment and more. These services are either offered for free or paid for through donations.

Animal Care Services sometimes reserves surgery spaces for cats brought in from a handful of local groups they work with, “because they come in and they leave really quickly,” Dains explained. She said they are able to provide these services to “about six to 10 cats a week.” The rest are referred to local organizations, she said.

Some organizations, like the Little Lion Foundation in Long Beach, have begun focusing their services on other counties due to their “frustration” with the lack of city aid.

Claudia Otis, executive director of the foundation, said they began focusing their efforts on Orange County due to “the lack of partnership” from city-run Animal Care Services for the past three years.

The foundation began in 2019 and currently has 50-75 volunteers with 203 cats in rescue as of June 20, according to Otis.

“They’ve been saying for almost three years now that it’s because of a lack of staff and because of COVID and because of this and because of that, but you know, we’re still having to operate,” Otis said.

She said even if the voucher pro-

gram was successful, \$100 toward a \$300 to \$400 surgery for each animal “helps, yes, it helps but it doesn’t.” The lack of affordable spay-neuter, she said, is just one reason animals end up back on the street.

“That’s just one small part of it. I think the TNR is very important. Having a robust adoption and foster program at our shelter. So there’s a lot of components to this,” Otis said. “And we’re never going to fully fix the problem but with all of that you can drastically reduce it. We’re going backwards. I don’t know how we’re going to create the change other than to start going to city council.”

Animal Care Services is funded by the City of Long Beach.

A 2018 audit of Animal Care Services found that “a lack of resources, including limited staffing levels, has resulted in ACS operating beyond its capacity,” and stated that once a vision and strategy were implemented, “appropriate resources should be aligned with service goals and objectives.”

In 2018, the department had a budget of \$5 million. This fiscal year, the department has a budget of \$4.3 million—a 16.3% decrease.

“I know how hard our staff work. I know how hard our volunteers work. I know how hard all of us work and how much we sacrifice personally and professionally to do this work in an animal shelter,” Dains said. “If there’s a problem in society, we are absolutely on the solution side of the equation. We are not on the problem side of the equation, because all that does is serve to hurt these animals further.”

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# EYE ON CRIME

## CRIMES REPORTED BY THE SIGNAL HILL POLICE

### Wednesday, June 15

1:32 p.m., Grand theft, 2200 block Obispo Ave.  
5:06 p.m., Burglary, 3200 block Industry Dr.  
5:19 p.m., Assault with a deadly weapon; carrying loaded firearm in public; received stolen property, 1900 block Stanley Ave. (suspect arrested)  
9:14 p.m., Grand theft, 3300 block Lemon Ave.  
11:39 p.m., DUI, 1400 block E. PCH, (suspect arrested)  
11:59 p.m., Felony spousal abuse, 3200 block E. PCH (2 suspects arrested)

### Thursday, June 16

2:44 a.m., Auto burglary, 1400 block E. Willow St.  
6:33 a.m., Auto burglary, 3300 block Falcon Ave.  
8:29 a.m., Burglary, 3200 block Industry Dr.  
4:48 p.m., Grand theft, 1800 block Dawson Ave.  
11:40 p.m., Assault with a deadly weapon, 700 block Patterson St.

### Friday, June 17

5:32 p.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, 2300 block E. Spring St.  
7:14 p.m., Possessing paraphernalia, 2800 block Sunset View, (suspect arrested)

### Saturday, June 18

1:24 a.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, 2600 block Lime Ave.  
9:53 a.m., Burglary, 2600 block Panorama Dr.  
3:24 p.m., Auto burglary, 1400 block E. Willow St.  
7:12 p.m., Auto burglary, 2500 block E. Willow St.

### Sunday, June 19

10:40 a.m., Critical missing, 2100 block Kelly Dr.  
11:09 a.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, 2500 block California Ave.

### Monday, June 20

7:35 a.m., Auto burglary, 2600 block Cherry Ave.  
7:56 a.m., Grand theft, 2200 block Stanley Ave.  
11:14 a.m., Grand theft, 2600 block Signal Parkway  
11:20 a.m., Burglary, 1800 block E. Willow St.  
11:33 a.m., Auto burglary, 2100 block E. Hill St.  
2:41 p.m., Fire, 2000 block Walnut Ave.  
8:01 p.m., Intoxicated person on drugs, Skyline Dr./E. Hill St. (citation issued)  
11:08 p.m., Fire, Walnut Ave./Alamitos Ave.

### Tuesday, June 21

10:25 a.m., Grand theft, 2200 block E. 21st St.  
12:17 p.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, Creston Ave./Walnut Ave.  
3:47 p.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, E. Spring St./Olive Ave.  
11:02 p.m., Intoxicated person on drugs, 2200 block Stanley Ave. (citation issued)

*LSPD reporting area is too extensive to report here.*

### TST6731 Case No. 22NWCP00161 ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, 12720 NOWALK BLVD., NORWALK, CA. 90650 PETITION OF: Failautusi Michael Dorsey Jr., for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioners: Failautusi Michael Dorsey Jr., has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing his name as follows: Present Name: FAILAUTUSI MICHAEL DORSEY JR Proposed Name: FAILAUTUSI MICHAEL DORSEY 2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall 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. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: July 25, 2022; Time: 10:30a.m., Dept. C, Room 312. The address of the court is the same as above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county, THE SIGNAL TRIBUNE, 1860 Obispo Ave., Ste. F, Signal Hill, CA 90755, June 17, 24 & July 1, 8, 2022 \_\_\_/ss/\_\_\_ Margaret M. Bernel, Judge of the Superior Court Dated: June 13, 2022

### TST6719 / 2022 106550 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as: LUCKY SHANE ON 4TH, 3303 East 4th St, Long Beach, CA 90814. Los Angeles County. Registrant: 1. RENEE CARMONA, 1903 Temple Ave. Unit 109, Signal Hill, CA 90755. 2. NICOLE BROWNING, 3646 Palo Verde Ave., Long Beach, CA 90808. This business is conducted by: Copartners. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: Renee Carmona, General Partner. The registrant has begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in March, 2022. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on May 16, 2022. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: June 3, 10, 17, 24, 2022

### TST6718 Case No. 22LBCP00192 ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, GOVERNOR GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN COURTHOUSE, 275 MAGNOLIA, LONG BEACH, CA 90802 PETITION OF: Candie Marie Mendez on behalf of Isabella Julie Leon, a minor, for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioners: Candie Marie Mendez on behalf of Isabella Julie Leon, a minor, has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing her name as follows: Present Name: ISABELLA JULIE LEON Proposed Name: ISABELLA JULIE MENDEZ 2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall 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. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: July 08, 2022; Time: 8:30a.m., Dept. 27. The address of the court is the same as above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county, THE SIGNAL TRIBUNE, 1860 Obispo Ave., Ste. F, Signal Hill, CA 90755, June 3, 10, 17, 24, 2022 \_\_\_/ss/\_\_\_ Mark C. Kim, Judge of the Superior Court Dated: May 23, 2022

### TST6720 Case No. 22TRCP00172 ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, 825 MAPLE AVE., TORRANCE, CA 90503 PETITION OF: Victor Ralph Ramirez, for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioners: Victor Ralph Ramirez has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing his name as follows: Present Name: VICTOR RALPH RAMIREZ Proposed Name: VICTOR RALPH CHAJIL 2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall 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. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: July 15, 2022; Time: 8:30a.m., Dept. B. The address of the court is the same as above.

A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county, THE SIGNAL TRIBUNE, 1860 Obispo Ave., Ste. F, Signal Hill, CA 90755, June 3, 10, 17, 24, 2022 \_\_\_/ss/\_\_\_ Gary Y. Tanaka, Judge of the Superior Court Dated: May 26, 2022

### TST6732 / 2022 131265 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as: 1. COUSIN VINNY'S DOG, 2. COUSIN VINNY'S DOG WALKING LLC WALKING, 1920 DAWSON AVE SIGNAL HILL CA 90755. Registrant: COUSIN VINNY'S DOG WALKING LLC, 1920 DAWSON AVE, SIGNAL HILL CA 90755. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: CONTESSA RICHARDSON, CEO. The registrant has begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in April, 2022. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on June 16, 2022. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: June 24 & July 1, 8, 15, 2022

### TST6733 Case No. 22CHCP00218 ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME,

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, 9425 PENFIELD AVENUE, CHATSWORTH 91311 PETITION OF: Avanindra Chaturvedi, for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioners: Avanindra Chaturvedi, has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing his name as follows: Present Name: AVANINDRA CHATURVEDI Proposed Name: AVANINDRA NATH CHATURVEDI 2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall 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. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: August 23, 2022; Time: 8:30a.m., Dept. 49. The address of the court is the same as above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county, THE SIGNAL TRIBUNE, 1860 Obispo Ave., Ste. F, Signal Hill, CA 90755, June 24, & July 1, 8, 15, 2022 \_\_\_/ss/\_\_\_ David B. Gelfound, Judge of the Superior Court Dated: June 21, 2022

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## American University of Health Sciences hosts Summer School on Stress

### Sponsored Post

*This story was paid for by AUHS.*

On June 13, 2022, the American University of Health Sciences (AUHS) welcomed a distinguished guest from the Russian Academy of Sciences, Prof. Ludmila Filaretova. Scientists who pray together, work together—to create, in the words of Prof. Filaretova, director of the Pavlov Institute of Physiology of the Russian Academy of Sciences: “science without borders.” Prof. Filaretova is a long-time scientific collaborator of Prof. Sandor Szabo, dean of the AUHS School of Medicine, and she has visited AUHS in the past. After a time of devotions with Co-Founders of AUHS Pastor Gregory Johnson and Ms. Kim Dang, President Ryan of the university and Prof. Filaretova signed a memorandum of understanding to cooperate on research, particularly in the area of stress. Dr. Szabo was a student of the famous Hans Selye who first described the physiological effects of stress. In attendance at the ceremony were Dr. Bruno Bonaz from France and Dr. Oksana Zayachkivska from the Ukraine and representatives of the faculty of our university. These all

later made presentations at the

Summer School on Stress: From the Basics to COVID-19 which was held the following day at the university. In light of current events, the warmth of tender feelings between Dr. Zayachkivska from the Ukraine and Dr. Filaretova from Russia made an impression on all.

AUHS is a Christian university focusing on the health sciences and noteworthy for its inclusion of underrepresented groups in health care. The top five groups enrolled at AUHS are (in order) Filipino, Hispanic, White, African American and Vietnamese.

The founder of AUHS, Ms. Kim Dang was a refugee from Vietnam and her husband, and Co-Founder, Pastor Gregory Johnson, is an African American from Baltimore, MD. As a Christian university, AUHS and its associated foundation have several outreach programs to serve underserved residents of Long Beach and Signal Hill as well as other parts of Southern California.

AUHS is pleased to cooperate with scientists around the world, including those from conflict zones, to promote the health of the community for the glory of God.

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## EDUCATION

## LBUSD Board approves \$1.2 billion budget for upcoming school year

Board reserves \$92 million to maintain staffing, cushion future finances and avoid potential layoffs amid declining enrollment

Briana Mendez-Padilla

Staff Writer

The Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) Board unanimously approved a \$1.2 billion budget for the 2022-2023 school year at their Wednesday meeting.

Funding for the district comes from local, federal and state grants and entitlements, as well as the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), which is state funding of K-12 education. LCFF funds are provided to the district through base grants—provided for every enrolled student—and supplemental and concentration grants—provided for the district's low income, English learner and foster youth.

This year, the district received \$680.8 million in base grant funds—a \$49.4 million increase from last year—and \$126.1 million in supplemental and concentration grants—a \$1.5 million increase from the previous year.

However, since LCFF base grants are dependent on enrollment and attendance, the number of funds for the upcoming years is estimated to decrease.

According to Yumi Takahashi, LBUSD chief business and financial officer, enrollment uncertainty “continues to be a risk area for the budget.”

Over the past decade, LBUSD enrollment has consistently decreased. In 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, enrollment declined by 3%.

Attendance is also tied to the LCFF funding, which has been negatively affected by the pandemic at LBUSD schools.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune  
Members of the Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education listen to Dr. Juan Benitez during a meeting on Nov. 17, 2021.

The attendance rate pre-pandemic was 95-96%, but that fell to 89% this year as students returned to in-person learning. Takahashi said that there is a projected slow but steady recovery for the upcoming years of about 1% annually.

As for the LCFF supplemental and concentration grants, these funds are allocated for the district's unduplicated pupil percentage, which represents specific student populations such as emerging bilingual, economically disadvantaged, foster and homeless students.

In 2019 the percentage of unduplicated pupils was around 70%, but has since decreased to 63%, meaning that these funds are also at risk of decreasing in upcoming years.

“We are experiencing a demographic shift in terms of our students,” Takahashi said.

Given these projections, the district also passed a resolution to commit \$92 million of this year's ending balances to maintain staff continuity. According to Takahashi, this money would serve as a cushion to address the fiscal adversity of years to come and prevent potential layoffs.

Board President Juan Benitez said that despite the perception that “on paper, [the district] has more money,” that money is being committed to “protecting jobs and

employees.”

The district's goals, plans and actions on how to spend LCFF funds are found in the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), which was also adopted at Wednesday's meeting. A draft of the LCAP was first presented to the board at their May 4 meeting and has been continuously revised to incorporate community feedback.

### LBUSD's enrollment and attendance numbers, which determine a portion of the district's state funding, are declining.

Some of the main goals of the LCAP include academic progress, college and career readiness and creating supportive schools. Actions to achieve these goals range from parent outreach and engagement through programs such as Parent University and additional counseling services to literacy support and restorative justice.

However, per public comment, some parents believe the LCAP does not reflect enough of an in-

vestment in mental health resources, enrichment activities and support for English learners.

Carolina Aguilar, a mother and member of Latinos in Action California, said that wellness centers are not enough to support mental health.

“I am asking you all to invest in [qualified] staff for mental health, especially in schools that have high needs and high rates of disciplinary action,” Aguilar said.

“Students need more learning opportunities that are attractive, enriching and relevant during the school day,” said mother and member of Latinos in Action California Guillermina Cruz.

Cruz told the board she had to take it upon herself to look for enrichment activities and opportunities for her children outside of the school and that these represent a financial burden on low-income communities.

Superintendent Jill Baker later referenced the Expanded Learning Opportunities Plan (ELO-P), a part of the set of plans approved Wednesday, as a resource for enrichment opportunities. The plan will offer extended after-school programs at all elementary, K-8 and middle schools in the district.

Baker also said that the LCAP is not the only document representing where funds are being spent and encourages parents to also take a look at the Learning Acceleration, Support and Enrichment Plan (LASEP)—LBUSD's own plan to meet social-emotional and academic needs—as well as individual school sites to see what types of resources are being offered and invested in.

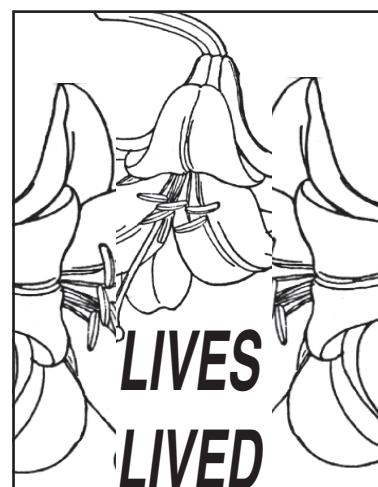
“The data that is coming from multiple surveys and all kinds of engagement is used to inform multiple plans,” Baker said.

LBUSD's 2022-2023 budget is still susceptible to change, as revisions are still being made to the State budget. Once the state budget is finalized, the district will have 45 days to make any changes. The revised budget will then be submitted to the school board for approval.



### Pet of the week: Niko

Niko is a little bit of this, a little bit of that—a touch of Rottweiler maybe, a scoop of shepherd, a couple of pinches of Australian kelpie—and a whole lot of personality! His name means “victory of the people,” but Niko needs and deserves some canine victory. He's a longtime resident of our shelter, and the shelter is way over capacity. Volunteers and staff are actively seeking foster, adoption or rescue placement, and it shouldn't be difficult if you can provide structure and exercise and can patiently wait for that bond to develop. Niko's only 4 years old, has medium energy, is very smart, and is treat motivated. He's easy to walk on leash and knows several commands—he has the greatest high-five ever! Come meet Niko—shelter hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 7700 E. Spring St. at the entrance to El Dorado Park (no parking fee for shelter visitors). You can email Pet-Adopt@longbeach.gov to speed the process for adopting Niko. Ask for ID#A605387.  
(This rescue encouraged by the usual suspects.)



Constance Hamilton 89  
Donald Barteld 95  
Annie McCool 96  
Phillip Borisov 95  
Jeffrey Lyon 80  
Roland Vandeventer 82  
Eileen McCafferty 79  
Ly Ung 63  
Dorothy Stone 94  
Patricia Payne 83  
Flyod Allen 77  
Lillian Connolly 102  
Barbara Ann Tesoriero 79  
Mary Lavigne 67  
Victoria Ighodheme 64  
Andrew Tustison 64

The families were assisted by McKenzie Mortuary.  
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## UNITE THE PEOPLE

continued from page 1

he was stopped by two Long Beach police officers for not using the crosswalk and not having a light on his bicycle, according to Unite The People.

The officers decided to search McIntosh, and found a gun on him—his third offense after previously being convicted of robbery and attempted robbery. McIntosh has said that the gun was only for self defense.

McIntosh was arrested on the charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm, an offense that normally carries a prison sentence of up to three years.

McIntosh was instead sentenced to 25 years to life in prison due to California's three-strikes law, which requires a minimum 25-year sentence for anyone convicted of a “serious or violent” felony three different times. Courts can escalate the punishment to a life sentence.

The Three Strikes Law was passed in California in 1994 after Assembly Bill 971 was signed into law by former Gov. Pete Wilson

“  
They will not give up on their clients. They will push and push and push until there's no more pushing.”

—Daviana McIntosh, wife of Allan McIntosh

and Proposition 184 was passed by voters.

The two laws were virtually identical, and were passed after the murders of Kimber Reynolds and Polly Klaas, both committed by repeat offenders who had been in and out of prison. The law was meant to lower the number of recidivist criminals out on the street.

According to a 2019 report by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR),

the rate of recidivism (returning to prison) for incarcerated people in the state has averaged 50% in the past two decades.

According to the 2019 CDCR report, evidence-based rehabilitation programs can lower the rate of recidivism by providing inmates with work skills, education and counseling for drug addiction.

McDowell said he thought it would be McIntosh who got out first because of his dedication to reforming himself. McIntosh is a well-known member of San Quentin's basketball team and is involved in mentoring others.

“I never imagined that I would beat him out because he did so many programs,” McDowell said. “He did so many positive things.”

During his resentencing hearing, Judge James D. Otto referred to McIntosh as a “model prisoner,” as reported by *Spectrum News*.

McIntosh's resentencing was made possible largely due to reforms put in place when District Attorney George Gascon came into

office.

“If Gascon's re-sentencing structure was not in place, yes, we can file the petition, but it would be damn near impossible,” McDowell said. “It'd be a really hard fight.”

Daviana has started a GoFundMe campaign to raise funds for her husband for when he comes home.

“He's been in prison for 24 years. He has no retirement fund. He has no 401k,” McDowell said. “[...] This man has to start with nothing, literally zero. He gets \$200 when he's paroled.”

Daviana and McDowell said that if Unite The People hadn't gotten involved, McIntosh could have spent his entire life in prison.

McDowell encouraged others who may have incarcerated family members to reach out to Unite The People for assistance.

“They will not give up on their clients,” Daviana said of Unite The People. “They will push and push and push until there's no more pushing.”



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