

TAXES



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

A cannabis industry supporter holds a sign during a May 10, 2022, Long Beach City Council meeting.

CITY COUNCIL

Yes We Cannabis!

Long Beach will lower cannabis tax rates in hopes of increasing revenue

City will slash taxes in half for equity cannabis businesses

The problem is there's only one in Long Beach

Samantha Diaz

Managing Editor



Taxes will be cut in half by next year for the lone equity cannabis business in Long Beach, as the city council took another step in trying to even the playing field for equity businesses at its April 18 meeting.

The city started its Cannabis Social Equity Program in 2018 to help communities that were disproportionately impacted by the War on Drugs benefit from the now-legal cannabis market. Since cannabis has become legal in Long Beach, 32 retail locations and 37 cultivators have been established—but only one of these is an equity business.

"This is something we've been working on for quite some time, for a little longer than I'd like to admit, but obviously social equity has been a priority of this council for many years," said Councilmember Al Austin. "We need to make sure that we're opening new doors for those who have been left out of the industry from the very beginning."

The City Council approved a different ordinance earlier in the night to lower taxes for all cannabis businesses across the city, but did not specify how much taxes would be lowered. There was more clarification for equity businesses, which will be lowered by half.

The current tax rates for cannabis sales in Long Beach are 8% for adult recreational use, 6% for medical use and \$13.70 per square foot of canopy space for cannabis cultivation. These rates will continue to be half of whatever price is set by the Consumer Price Index for Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County areas.

"The concept here is that we have tried to have equity businesses in cannabis for many years and we haven't been that successful so there's been a lot of discussion of trying to create opportunities to invite more equity cannabis operators in," said Mayor Rex Richardson. "What we're finding with existing businesses is ... the market is starting to settle and we're learning what the real market price is and the 8% [tax rate] is hurting [the businesses]."

see CANNABIS EQUITY page 6



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

People in favor of reducing the tax rate on cannabis hold up signs during the April 18, 2023, Long Beach City Council meeting.

Samantha Diaz

Managing Editor



Following unanimous approval from the Long Beach city council, the Office of Cannabis Oversight will begin to establish a plan to lower taxes for recreational and medical cannabis use. The lower tax rates will be established as part of the 2024 annual budget.

The city is hoping to increase tax revenue from cannabis use in Long Beach, as cannabis use contributed more taxes in 2022 than oil. Last year, Long Beach received more than \$13 million towards the general fund and the city is expecting at least \$12 million in 2023. That revenue money helps to fund city services such as homeless outreach, equity programs, park maintenance, language access, the health department and more.

"We should be aiming to create a positive feedback loop: reduce the tax burden on local operators, allow them to be competitive and expand their businesses, while rewarding those high road employers and operators who make investments back into our community, all while nurturing a new revenue source for the city," said Councilmember Joni Ricks-Oddie, who brought the item forward with Suely Saro and Cindy Allen.

Staff also hopes to even the playing field between legal and illegal cannabis sellers, as the illegal cannabis market is estimated to be three times larger than the legal market in California. In Long Beach there are 32 retail cannabis stores and 37 cultivators, or growers.

Since recreational and medical cannabis use became legal in California in 2016, the tax rate in Long Beach has been at 8% for recreational sales, 6% for medical-use sales, 1% for lab testing receipts and \$13.70 per square foot of canopy under cultivation. There is also a 10.25% general sales tax in California.

see CANNABIS TAX page 7

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STATE FUNDING



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia speaks during the 9/11 memorial event in Signal Hill on Sept. 11, 2021.

Congressman Robert Garcia requests \$18.5 million in funding for Long Beach projects

Staff Report

Signal Tribune

Congressman Robert Garcia has applied for federal funding from the House Appropriations Committee for 15 projects in the 42nd congressional district, six of which are in Long Beach.

If approved by the House and Senate and signed by President Joe Biden, the funds for the projects would be allocated for fiscal year 2024. Only local and state governments, as well as nonprofits, are eligible to receive project funding.

In accordance with the House Rules and Committee Requirements, Garcia has confirmed that neither he, his spouse, nor any of his family have any financial interest in any of the projects he requested funding for.

The Long Beach projects Garcia has requested funding for are as follows:

Martin Luther King Jr Park: \$3 million of funding was requested to improve Martin Luther King Park. Renovations would include updated lighting to increase public safety, renovation of the outdoor facilities and the installation of air conditioning so the park can be used as a cooling center during heatwaves.

Cal State Long Beach Child Development Center: \$3.5 million has been requested in funding for the Isabel Patterson Child Development Center, which provides affordable childcare on the campus

of Cal State Long Beach to students and faculty who have young children. The requested funds would be used to renovate the facility to make it safer for children and more energy efficient.

Space Beach Research and Innovation Equipment: \$2 million has been requested in funding for the purchase of manufacturing equipment that will be used to train new workers for the space industry in Long Beach. The federal funding for this project would come from NASA.

Studebaker Road Corridor: \$5 million has been requested for improvements along five miles of Studebaker Road including road repairs, resurfacing, protected bike lanes and pedestrian safety features.

Bixby Park Improvements: \$2 million has been requested to renovate the Community Center at Bixby Park in order to make it more accessible for people with disabilities and to improve park infrastructure.

Heartwell Park Improvements: \$3 million has been requested to make Heartwell Park more accessible to those with disabilities and upgrade park infrastructure. If funding is received, an artificial turf field will be installed, damaged facilities will be renovated and the park will be made more water-efficient.

ENVIRONMENT



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

An aerial view of Downtown Long Beach with the LONG BEACH sign near Shoreline Drive during a misty morning on Nov. 18, 2021.

Long Beach, LA rank as most ozone-polluted region in nation

City News Service

Southern California Local News

It's a title nobody wants, but the Los Angeles-Long Beach metropolitan area was again named the most ozone-polluted region in the nation in an annual air-quality report released Wednesday by the American Lung Association. Western states continued to outpace the East in terms of poor air.

The Los Angeles-Long Beach region has been ranked the nation's worst ozone-polluted area in 23 of the 24 years that the Lung Association has produced its State of the Air report, although the association noted that the area improved slightly from last year in terms of unhealthy ozone days and particle pollution days.

California areas also dominated the list of the worst regions in terms of unhealthy days of particle pollution, with Bakersfield topping the list. California regions claimed eight of the 10 worst particle pollution areas in the country, with Los Angeles-Long Beach placing 10th.

In terms of year-round particle pollution, Bakersfield again ranked worst in the nation, with Los Angeles-Long Beach placing fourth.

According to the report, more than 98% of California residents live in areas that earned failing grades for unhealthy ozone pollution days, unhealthy particle pollution days or annual particle pollution levels. More than 40% of residents are in areas with failing grades for each of those pollutants.

"Local and state actions have driven real progress in California, but there is much work to be done to ensure every Californian has clean, healthy air to breathe," Mariela Ruacho, Clean Air Advocacy manager for the Lung Association, said in a statement. "Even one poor air quality day is one too many for children, older adults, people with chronic illness, lower-income residents and people of color. Policy-makers at the local, state and federal levels must act to ensure that everyone has clean air to breathe, and no community is left behind."

In terms of ozone pollution, six California areas ranked in the top 10 for worst conditions. Joining

Los Angeles-Long Beach on the list were Visalia, Bakersfield, Fresno-Madera-Hanford, Sacramento-Roseville and San Diego-Chula Vista-Carlsbad. The San Jose-San Francisco-Oakland region ranked 11th worst.

Of the 25 worst regions, virtually all were in Western states, with only the Chicago area and Hartford, Connecticut, making the list.

"Although cleanup of ozone precursor pollutants has been working to reduce ozone concentrations, the impact of climate change in the West has meant higher temperatures, dry, sunny skies and more frequent stagnation events that are contributing to the number of unhealthy ozone days being higher than it would otherwise be," according to the report. "Simply, climate change is undercutting the progress we would have made."

Nationally, the report found that nearly 120 million people live in areas with unhealthy air quality, and more than half of them are people

of color. The report's authors found that people of color were 64% more likely than white people to live in a county with a failing grade in at least one of the study's pollution categories, and 3.7 times more likely to live in a county with a failing grade in all three categories.

"The good news is that ozone pollution has generally improved across the nation, thanks in large part to the success of the Clean Air Act," Lung Association national President/CEO Harold Wimmer said in a statement. "In this year's 'State of the Air' report, we found that 19.3 million fewer people are living in areas with unhealthy levels of ozone pollution, also known as smog."

However, the fact is that 120 million people still live in places with unhealthy air pollution, and not all communities are seeing improvements. This is why it is crucial to continue our efforts to ensure that every person in the U.S. has clean air to breathe."

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LBUSD



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.

LBUSD counselors, parents and students seek more counselors across the district

Briana Mendez-Padilla
Education Reporter

Despite having spent over a decade in Long Beach Unified, it wasn't until Kayla Wilson's senior year at Woodrow Wilson High School that she developed a relationship with her counselor.

Wilson remembers feeling overwhelmed and experiencing a jarring culture shock her freshman year. Wilson said she wishes she had been better aware of how counselors could have helped her during the time. As she moves on to college, Wilson said she will make sure to prioritize her mental health.

LBUSD student board member Frania Lopez had a similar experience. Lopez said she didn't develop a close relationship with her counselor until her junior year.

"If it wasn't for my counselor I probably wouldn't have done a lot of things that I'm doing now," Lopez said, adding that her counselor helped her to be on top of her assignments and taught her about scholarships and activities.

The American School Counselor Association recommends a student-to-counselor ratio of 250-to-1.

While the student-to-counselor ratio in LBUSD varies among schools, it is typically around three to five times the 250-to-1 ratio, according to the 2022 Reimagining School Counseling report by the Teacher's Association of Long Beach School Counselors Organizing Committee.

Wilson, alongside counselors and parents, took to public comment at LBUSD's April 17 board meeting to advocate for a comprehensive school counseling program and for hiring more counselors.

"The research is clear, in schools where counselors have appropriate duties and responsibilities along with sufficient student-to-counselor ratios, students have higher academics, better attendance, lower suspension and expulsion rates and better overall mental health," said Abigail Kubert, a mother of two LBUSD students.

“ I find myself prioritizing which needs to meet all day. I’m constantly putting out fires instead of doing preventative work because I have no time and I’m only one person.”

-Rima Hosn,
counselor at Jackie Robinson Academy

Kubert emphasized that school counselors are often assigned responsibilities that don't align with their specialized training. These clerical and other duties are what kept Rima Hosn, a counselor at Jackie Robinson Academy, from completing a suicide assessment for a student for almost two hours.

"I find myself prioritizing which needs to meet all day," Hosn said. "I'm constantly putting out fires instead of doing preventative work because I have no time and I'm only one person."

Parents also highlighted the effect the COVID-19 pandemic has had on students' mental health and how counselor support is necessary now more than ever.

Jessie Colmer, a parent of three LBUSD students, said that the lack of counselor support has affected student behavior, which in turn impacts a teacher's ability to teach effectively.

"Increasing the amount of counselors to assist students within LBUSD campuses is the only viable solution I can think of to bet-

ter address the increasing need for mental health services in LBUSD," Colmer said.

While board members were unable to respond to public comment since it was on an item not on the agenda, the importance of school counselors came up during a presentation on student A-G academic achievement.

According to data presented by superintendent of research Chris Brown, students in the classes of 2023-26 consistently had a lower average of students on track than those in the classes of 2019-22.

"The key to a lot of these outcomes has to do with the lack of access many of our kids have to counselors," board member Maria Isabel Lopez said. "So I too think that this should be a priority for us, to ensure that kids have more counselors and access to them."

Board member Erik Miller reflected on his experience struggling academically when he was a student and how it was his counselor who helped him get back on track.

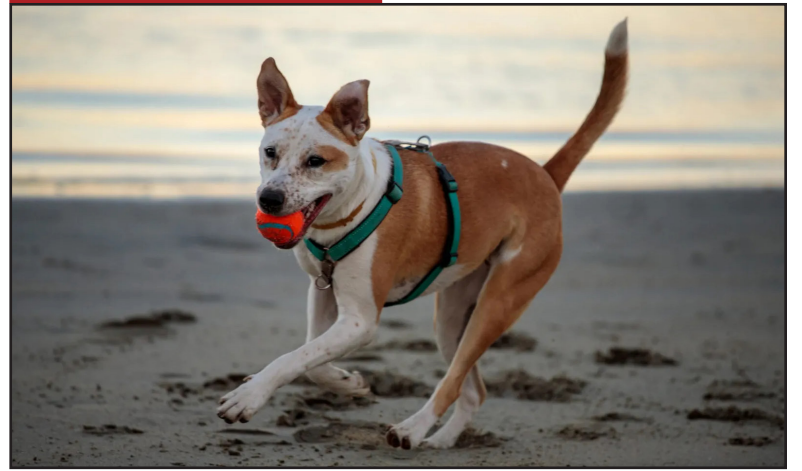
"If we are going to talk about how we change this narrative in regards to having our students focus on career development and academic achievement, [then] the [counselor] support system... is a necessity," Miller said.

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PETS



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Sam, a 3-year-old Pitbull mix, runs along the beach to return a ball to her caretaker on Feb. 23, 2021.

Big dogs still free to adopt from Long Beach Animal Care Services

Staff Report
Signal Tribune

Long Beach Animal Care Services said it will be able to avoid euthanizing dogs due to overcrowding in its shelter as long as people continue to adopt large dogs. In order to incentivize people to bring home a big dog as the newest member of their family, Animal Care Services has been waiving their adoption fees since March.

Animal Care Services will continue to euthanize dogs with serious medical conditions who are not responding to treatment and vicious dogs who pose a threat to the public due to their aggressiveness.

In an effort to promote pet adoptions in the city, Long Beach City Council will be sharing information about an adoptable dog during every other council meeting. On Tuesday, April 18, Angel strutted happily around the council chambers with a heartwarming pitbull grin, interacting with Mayor Rex Richardson and licking the hand of *Signal Tribune* Photo Editor Richard H. Grant.

According to Animal Care Services, Angel was surrendered to the shelter because her family was going through tough circumstances. She was described as being loving and friendly with people and other



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Patty, a volunteer with Long Beach Animal Care Services, brings out roughly 6-year-old Angel, who is up for adoption, to the front of the council dais during a city council meeting on April 18, 2023.

dogs. She inquisitively and calmly looked around at the people gathered in the council chambers and happily accepted pets from Richardson and Grant.

According to Animal Care Services, the last adoptable dog that was promoted by city council during a meeting was quickly adopted, along with one of her offspring by a new family the same night.

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EYE ON CRIME

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Wednesday, April 12

7:46 a.m., Elder abuse, 900 block E. 25th St.
2:00 p.m., Possessing controlled substance, 2400 block Cherry Ave. (suspect arrested)
3:04 p.m., Grand theft, 900 block E. 33rd St.
5:46 p.m., Grand theft, 1600 block E. Willow St.

Thursday, April 13

8:48 p.m., Battery, 2600 block Myrtle Ave.

Friday, April 14

5:07 a.m., Indecent exposure, 1800 block E. Willow St.
2:27 p.m., Carrying concealed weapon, 2200 block Molino Ave.
2:29 p.m., Carrying concealed weapon, 2200 block Junipero Ave.
5:09 p.m., Identity theft, 3300 block Myrtle Ave.

Saturday, April 15

6:33 a.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, 2800 block Junipero Ave.
7:17 a.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, Junipero Ave./Combella Dr.
8:20 a.m., Indecent exposure, 2400 block Rose Ave.
2:12 p.m., Identity theft, 2500 block Eastwind Way
7:48 p.m., Criminal threats with intent to terrorize, 900 block E. 33rd St. (suspect arrested)
10:00 p.m., Indecent exposure, E. 27th St./California Ave.

Sunday, April 16

10:51 a.m., Auto burglary, 1400 block E. Willow St.
5:21 p.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, 900 block E. 33rd St.

Monday, April 17

7:10 a.m., Grand theft, 2400 block Cerritos Ave.
3:39 p.m., Grand theft, 2200 block E. 21st St.
6:09 p.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, 1400 block E. Willow St.

Tuesday, April 18

4:17 p.m., Injury traffic collision, Temple Ave./E. Hill St.
6:58 p.m., Grand theft, 2200 block E. 21st St.

LBPD reporting area is too extensive to report here, but you can go to their website: longbeach.gov/police. Once there, click on Crime Info, then Crime Incident Mapping Application. Click on Launch Crime Incident Mapping Application & type in an address.

You can use filters to select dates and types of crime.

HOUSING

Downtown Long Beach's mostly vacant CityPlace will become 900 units of housing

Samantha Diaz

Managing Editor

Two blocks in downtown Long Beach, mostly filled with vacant buildings, will be revitalized and transformed into apartments, parking, open space and various storefronts as city council unanimously approved the long-awaited development Tuesday night.

Creed LA, a Los Angeles-based organization that advocates for fair labor practices in development projects, appealed the project's approval. They argued that the city did not perform a complete Environmental Impact Report and urged the developers to hire locally.

Their appeal was unanimously denied by the city council.

The project has three areas of development: there will be two buildings with commercial or public art exhibits on the first floor and apartments on the seven floors above, and one building with storefronts on the bottom and a "pedestrian paseo" on the top floor as well as 1,383 parking stalls in garages. Six percent, or 54 of the 900 housing units will be intended for low-income residents.

"This location has been inactive for over five years and we really, as residents who live adjacent to that location, we've been desperate for something to come into that area to revive that part of downtown and from what I'm seeing, this project will do exactly that," said Councilmember Mary Zendejas, whose district the development will reside in.

The site is roughly 5.5 acres and has undergone many changes in the past few decades. The area started as The Long Beach Plaza Mall in 1982, but couldn't attract enough customers and closed in 1999. Developers revitalized the space in 2002 as part of a 14-acre project deemed CityPlace, which included commercial sites, open streets and parking structures.

The city identified this area of CityPlace as underutilized in its 2012 Downtown Plan. The developers chosen for the project, Mosaic, plan to tear down all of the existing buildings in the area and rebuild the parking garages, storefronts and apartments to be energy efficient.

Most residents who spoke during public comment were against the project, arguing that the city should push for more affordable units and require that the developers hire locally.

"How often does a significant

project come along like this, with 900 residential units spread out over three seven-story buildings and almost 40,000 square feet? Not very often," said Eric Farar with the Smart Local 105 Sheet Metal Workers trade union. "We were disappointed to see that something like this would not support the skill and trade local workforce best equipped to bring it into reality. Please deny this project until the property company agrees to include the men and women of this community."

Multiple trade and labor union workers from various groups showed up to echo Farar's comments. City documents claim that the Planning Commission received 18 letters of support from various business and neighborhood groups, but the only neighborhood group that showed up to the council meeting in support was the Downtown Long Beach Alliance.

It was not stated how many jobs would be provided or how long the project is expected to take, but it also includes improvements to the surrounding streets, the creation of a dog-walking area and other green spaces and indoor community spaces.

"We had hoped this developer would choose to hire responsible contractors who hire locally, provide living wages, ensure benefits for the workforce and provide the chance for apprentices to learn the trade on a real job site," said Long Beach resident Gus Torres. "Unfortunately, these hopes seem to not be coming into fruition and have led us to strongly not support this project."



Image Courtesy of the City of Long Beach
A rendering of the Downtown Long Beach 900-unit housing development approved by city council on April 18, 2023.

Residents also asked councilmembers to push for more than 5% of affordable units, such as the 11% that the city recently mandated for downtown housing developments.

"I ask you to not only look at the business aspects of this project, but all aspects," said Germaine Bradley. "It's not often we get the opportunity to be able to build enough affordable housing for people who are in need of it yet it's not being done. If we let this project and those who support it race through it without demanding the most from developers, what does that say about us?"

Director of Development Services Christopher Koontz said that since the city is not providing any funding for the project, "our role in the labor planning side is limited." He also explained that since the city and developers started planning the project before the 11% mandate, they only need to create 5% affordable units.

City council unanimously approved the Downtown Long Beach housing development at 450 The Promenade North/501-599 Long Beach Blvd.

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FLOWERS

Signal Tribune presents: Pictures from the People

Samantha Diaz
Managing Editor

We're inviting readers to send their photos in for a chance to be published

Every spring, residents in the Golden State are treated to a vibrant sight to behold—California poppies are in full bloom across the state. From flowing meadows and mountainsides to shrubs in yards and sprouting flowers through cracks in the sidewalk, it's hard to miss the bright orange blooms gracing the state.

Long Beach residents don't have to travel far to enjoy California's emblem. The *Signal Tribune's* Photo Editor Richard H. Grant took a short trip to Belmont Heights to catch some poppies in full bloom along the Red Car Greenbelt, and it gave us an idea.

Whether you're walking along the sidewalk or driving an hour out for more striking images, we want to see your best California poppies photos.

This is the first in our series of "Pictures from the People," where we'll be publishing photos in print, online and on our social media channels that are sent to us from our readers (with credit, of course). We'd like to do this weekly, but we need your help to get started.

We want to see the beauty in Long Beach and Signal Hill through the eyes of our readers. Some weeks we'll offer a theme to you: California poppies, wildlife in the city, or rare bits of hail or rain that hits SoCal. Mostly, we just want to see what *you* think best represents your city.

To enter a photo in our "Pictures from the People" series, send your submissions, preferably as JPEGs, to newspaper@signaltribune.com or to our Instagram account @SignalTribune. Please include your full name if you want to be credited. We also encourage captions giving context to your photo.



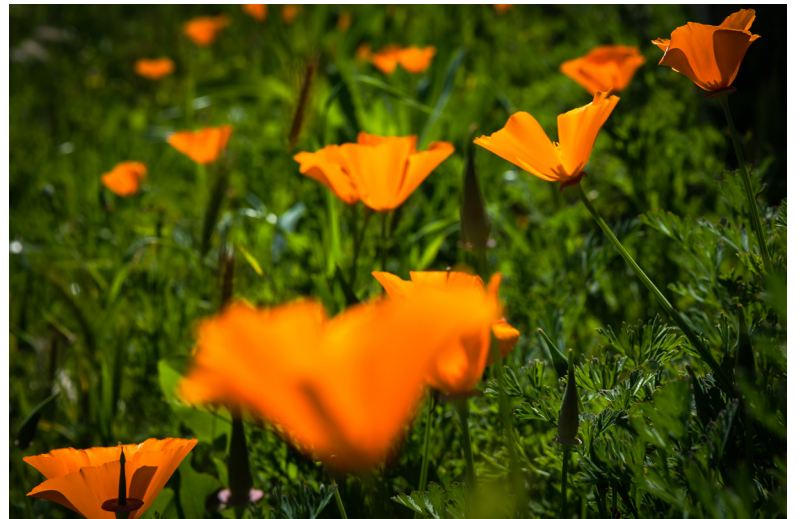
Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Wild California poppies in full bloom along the Red Car Greenbelt in the Belmont Heights neighborhood of Long Beach on April 20, 2023.



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CANNABIS EQUITY continued from page 1



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Ángel Rodríguez holds a sign as a group of protesters gather outside Long Beach City Hall to call for a reduction of taxes on cannabis on Feb. 9, 2022. The group, mostly clad in Catalyst Cannabis apparel, is one of many groups across California seeking reforms on the taxation of cannabis in the state.

According to city staff, Long Beach has seven cannabis equity clients who are in the process of getting their licenses approved. The city estimates that these businesses will be able to get started by mid-2024 or early-2025, but residents are saying that they've already waited long enough.

"Due to the country's economic situation and the volatile cannabis industry in California, it has been very difficult if not impossible for equity applicants to start a new cannabis business within any district in Long Beach," said a Long Beach resident who only identified himself as Edgar. "The city of Long Beach's Equity Program must pivot to assure that the goal of having successful equity businesses operational can happen within 2023. We've had this program for five years and we still have not seen any progressive movement yet."

Jillian Xavier said she's been trying to get her license approved as an equity business in Long Beach since 2019 and is the only prospective equity testing lab.

"We're still sitting here, we can't get our businesses off the ground,"

Xavier said. "We've been here since 2019 trying to get into the program, fighting to get real estate, sitting there giving free rent to the landlord for a year now."

Councilmember Kristina Duggan said she was concerned about lowering the tax rates by half and asked if there had been an Economic Impact Report conducted. City staff replied that although no report has been done, "usually lowering taxes helps businesses to grow."

Duggan suggested the city pass the ordinance, but sunset—or end it—after five years once Long Beach can analyze the economic impacts.

"I'd like to get eight licenses going and off the ground and then we can assess the economics then, but as of now this is hypothetical," Austin replied. "We don't have any information because we don't have any businesses operating right now. I think the goal of this is to get the rates established and allow us to establish some equity programs."

City Council passed the ordinance unanimously, and the new tax rates will be adopted as part of the 2024 budget.



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CANNABIS TAX
continued from page 1

“Our current cannabis tax structure makes it difficult for our legal operators to compete with the illicit operators that are able to dodge not only the cannabis tax, but also the local sales tax,” Ricks-Oddie said. “Nurturing a thriving cannabis industry is crucial to building out our local economy.”

Lowering the tax rates are expected to cause an increase in legal cannabis sales, which will increase the tax revenue overall.

The city is hoping to follow Santa Ana’s lead with tax relief by prioritizing businesses that are considered “high road,” meaning they contribute to the community, give their workers more than minimum wage or provide career opportunities. Other qualifications to receive a reduced tax rate include: offering the majority of workers full-time hours, assuring delivery drivers are reimbursed for using their vehicles and hiring at least 40% of their workers from low-income communities.

Santa Ana implemented a 1% tax reduction for most cannabis stores in the city and an additional 2% for “high road” employers.

“For decades, low-income communities have been directly impacted by the War on Drugs and many have been penalized,” said Sheyla Diaz. “Lower tax rates for the businesses that take care of their workers and the community will help to make sure that Long Beach workers thrive in this industry.”

While the crowd inside the council chambers clapped and cheered after each public comment, some residents expressed frustration with the city waiting until next year to implement the tax reduction, saying that they deserve more drastic reductions at a sooner time.



People in favor of reducing the cannabis tax rate hold up signs during the April 18, 2023, Long Beach City Council meeting.

Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

“The only way we’re going to compete with the black market is by beating the black market and we need to lower the tax,” said Change Im. “The culmination of the taxes is crushing us, we’re taxed at every level. It’s not ‘lower the tax so we can make more money’ it’s ‘lower the taxes so we can keep our businesses afloat and keep paying our

employees.’ Time is running out, we don’t need symbolism, we need policy. Let’s bring it down 4 or 5%.”

Many residents pointed out that the equity program to support cannabis stores from low-income, justice-impacted residents has only resulted in one successful equity applicant and asked the city to do more for those prospective busi-

nesses.

Adam Hijazi, owner of the Long Beach Green Room said that Long Beach can do more than reducing tax rates in order to support legal cannabis businesses and create a cannabis destination in the city.

“We have to be able to reimagine the industry and what it could be, what it could do,” Hijazi said.

“Part of that is taxes, but it’s not the whole thing. Liberalize some of these licenses, like for example events and consumption lounges and other ways to be able to make Long Beach a hub in a responsible manner for cannabis consumption.”

The Long Beach city council approved the measure unanimously.



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AROUND TOWN

A WEEKLY LIST OF THINGS TO DO IN LONG BEACH AND SIGNAL HILL



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Horticulture student Jason Steinhauser adjust the soil around one of his *Asclepias Fascicularis* (narrowleaf milkweed) plants that he grows in his home nursery on June 15, 2021.

The next week presents a multitude of ways for residents from all walks of life to enjoy themselves and connect with their community.

To celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, there will be a plant swap in Bixby Knolls in the afternoon and a celebration on Retro Row from morning to evening. For free environment-centric demonstrations for the entire family, residents can head to Sowing Seeds of Change Urban Farm to participate in a wide range of activities. The eco-friendly efforts will continue on Sunday for a student-led beach clean-up.

Music lovers can enjoy drinks and funk music at Alex's Bar on Friday night, or take their kids to listen to classical songs played on the harp at the Signal Hill Library. Animal lovers can take home a new family member at a pet adoption on Saturday morning at Pet Supplies Plus.

For the civic-minded, there will be a virtual opportunity to learn about housing laws in Long Beach Tuesday afternoon and an in-person food truck community meeting at Martin Luther King Jr. Park Thursday night.

Teens will be able to learn new skills such as sewing and making bookmarks throughout the week.

21 FRIDAY

MONKEYPOX VACCINE CLINIC

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The LGBTQ Center (2017 E 4th St.) of Long Beach will be offering monkeypox vaccines to those who are eligible. Free.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Noon to 2 p.m. The nonprofit Adventures to Dreams (903 Fairbanks Ave.) will be distributing free groceries to individuals and families in need. Free.

GOOD FOOT!

8 p.m. DJs Dennis Owens and Lili Bird will be playing selections

of funk music at Alex's Bar (2913 E Anaheim St.). No cover charge.

22 SATURDAY

YOUTH FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOP

10 a.m. to noon. Kids from the third to eighth grades are invited to learn about personal finances and prepare for their future during this workshop organized by Long Beach City College (1305 E Pacific Coast Hwy) and the African American Cultural Center of Long Beach. To register for this event, visit Eventbrite. Free.

LOVE MOTHER ECO EARTH FAIR

10 a.m. Sowing Seeds of Change Urban Farm (620 San Francisco Ave.) will be hosting an Earth Day celebration and celebrating its two-year anniversary with plenty of activities. There will be flower crown-making, succulent planting, a beekeeping introduction, leaf art, a photo booth, kid's yoga, fresh orange juice making and many more demonstrations. The event is free.

PET ADOPTION

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Local animal rescue Sparky and the Gang will be showing off some of their adoptable pets at Pet Supplies Plus (2086 N Bellflower Blvd.). Free to attend.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The public is invited to listen to music and shop from local vendors in commemoration of Earth Day at local business Earthing (2022 E 4th St.). Free to attend.

LBX EARTH DAY MARKET

Noon to 6 p.m. Thirty local vendors will be selling eco-friendly products at the Hangar (4150 McGowen St.). The event will have live music and activities for children. Friendly dogs are welcome. Free admission.

PLANT SWAP

2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Plant lovers are invited to swap extra plants, seeds and plant cuttings at Kubo LB (3976 Atlantic Ave.). Plants should be free of pests and disease, and inside clean containers. Admission is free.

WORLD CINEMA SERIES

2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The public is invited to the Billie Jean King Main Library (200 W. Broadway) for a screening of two different foreign nature documentaries. From 2 p.m. to 3:45 p.m., the French documentary "Les Saisons," will play, followed by the Australian documentary "Cane Toads: An Unnatural History." Free.

23 SUNDAY

ALAMITOS BEACH CLEAN UP

10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The CSULB chapter of Rotaract is asking volunteers to help clean litter off of Alamitos Beach (380 E Shoreline Dr.). The parking code is ABC0423. Free.

POP SWAP MEET

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Over 40 vendors will be selling their merchandise, including pins, patches, apparel, food, art and more at 5456 Atlantic Ave. Free to enter.

24 MONDAY

RESEARCH FOR STARTING, MANAGING AND GROWING YOUR BUSINESS

11 a.m. to noon. Entrepreneurs and business owners are invited to learn how to use Reference Solutions, a free program available at the library, to help them start, manage and grow a business. Registration is required for this event. To register,

visit <https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/7538683153703267600>. Free.

SPRING MUSIC CONCERT SERIES

6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Harpist Phoebe Schrafft will be performing classical and Celtic music at the Signal Hill Library's Zinnia Courtyard (1800 E. Hill St.). This event is family-friendly. Free.

25 TUESDAY

VIRTUAL FAIR HOUSING WORKSHOP

1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Fair Housing Foundation and the City of Long Beach will be hosting an online workshop to teach landlords, managers, property owners, attorneys, realtors, management companies and tenants about property laws, as well as their rights and responsibilities. To register, call 1-800-446-3247 or text 800-855-7100.

AFTERSCHOOL STORYTIME

4 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Children between the ages of 3 and 5 years old will be able to enjoy stories and crafts at Mark Twain Neighborhood Library (1401 E. Anaheim St.). Free.

26 WEDNESDAY

TEEN D&D

3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Teens are invited to play the role-playing game Dungeons & Dragons together at the Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library (5870 Atlantic Ave.) All experience levels are welcome. Free.

WE DON'T TALK ABOUT CROCHET CLUB

5 p.m. to 5:50 p.m. Teens between the ages of 13 to 17 are invited to this weekly crochet club at

Billie Jean King Main Library (200 W. Broadway). Participants will learn crocheting basics and how to make granny squares. Free.

27 THURSDAY

SPRING BOOK SALE

1 p.m. to 6 p.m. The Signal Hill Library (1800 E Hill St.) is celebrating National Library Week by inviting residents to fill a bag with gently used books, audio book CDs, music CDs and DVDs. Cash only.

CRAFT IT OUT

4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Teens are invited to the Billie Jean King Main Library (200 W. Broadway) to learn how to create bookmarks with pressed flowers. Materials and snacks will be provided. Free.

FOOD TRUCKS COMMUNITY MEETING

6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The first of two community meetings held by the City of Long Beach will gather feedback from the community on the regulations surrounding food trucks. The feedback from attendees will be used to help shape public policy on food trucks. The community meeting will be held at Martin Luther King Jr. Park (1950 Lemon Ave.). The next meeting will be in May. Free to attend.

IS THAT IT? NOPE!

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FASHION

Sustainability grabs the spotlight in Goodwill's Eco Couture Fashion Show

Samantha Diaz
Managing Editor

Clothing from Goodwill is about to go somewhere it's never gone before: up and down the runway at an "Eco Couture" Fashion Show Gala this June.

Goodwill of Southern Los Angeles County is asking 12 local clothing designers to create art from attire in order to compete for a \$2,000 grand prize. The materials: donated clothing from Goodwill stores. The budget: \$100 per designer. The goal: highlight the longstanding sustainability and community efforts from Goodwill while encouraging people to repurpose their clothing.

"For us, it's really important to share with our neighbors and our community that when you donate to Goodwill, good things happen," said Donna Snell, senior vice president of Sales, Operations and Marketing. "We're focused on recycling, repurposing and reusing. When you donate or you shop, good things happen every time and this is our opportunity to share that."

Through the nature of Goodwill's operations, the store has been focused on sustainability for over 90 years, Snell said. By accepting and reselling people's used clothing, furniture, toys, electronics and more, their stores kept 5 million pounds of material out of the landfill in 2022.

Not only do the stores help aid



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

An exterior photo of a Goodwill store location on Pacific Coast Highway in Long Beach on April 5, 2023.

the environment, but they also contribute to the communities in which they reside. Every purchase at Goodwill sends 87 cents back into the community in order to hire more local residents.

"It's a win-win because you're creating jobs when you donate and you shop and you're saving our planet," Snell said.

For the past six years, Goodwill has been planning a way to highlight its sustainability efforts in a fun, creative way. The Eco Couture Fashion Show Gala is the result of that.

Twelve designers will spend the next few months digging for trea-

sures at Goodwill locations, with a \$100 budget in order to create two distinct looks. One outfit must be "ready to wear," as in something casual someone would wear to school or work, while the other outfit will be couture, or something that's runway ready and "extraordinarily creative."

"It speaks to what you can do from a designer standpoint with \$100 to create two looks, so we wanted to set that limit so that they can be creative, but stay within a budget," Snell said.

Over 36 designers sent applications and ideas to Goodwill, then a committee narrowed down the

twelve that will be competing. There will be three judges at the fashion show who will choose a winner in real time to receive the \$2,000 grand prize.

Judges include the founder of Sovereignty Company Dr. Corneil Neil Montgomery, Long Beach-based costume designer Hilde Byrne and dancer/influencer Blair Kim. Designs are going to be judged on a number of criteria, including how much the designer has changed the original look of the clothing used and how creative the new designs are.

Residents are invited to Goodwill's Eco Couture Fashion Show this June to see the creative, recycled designs sashay down the runway. There will also be an after-party following the show that will be open to all those who attend.

Mix and Mingle tickets cost \$50 and include general seating and access to a cash bar. VIP tickets cost \$150 and include premium seating, a private bar, a drink ticket and a buffet dinner. There will be exclusive seating, marketing during the show and more drink tickets for those who wish to sponsor the event.

Goodwill's Eco Couture Fashion Show Gala will be at Ovation Square at 350 Pine Ave. on June 24 from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online.



Pet of the week:
Luca

Luca, a year old, loves his "baby," but as you can see by the expectant look in the corner of his eye, he's hoping for a kind human who wants to take him home forever. He doesn't love being confined to a kennel, but when he goes for a walk, he curls up on a bench with the volunteer and happily chomps on his toy. Can you make the "happily" part of this story an "ever after" one? Our 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 PetAdopt@longbeach.gov to speed the process for adopting or fostering Luca. Ask for ID #A677511. Our shelter is overflowing with dogs, and they all need to go home. (This rescue encouraged by the usual suspects.)

LBUSD

LBUSD graduates can apply for a state seal on their diploma fostering civic engagement

Briana Mendez-Padilla
Education Reporter

The Long Beach Unified School District unanimously approved a resolution to offer a state seal of civic engagement to high school graduates.

The seal will recognize students who are knowledgeable and actively participating in democratic and civic opportunities such as voting and speaking at board meetings. Upon completing the award, students can add the seal sticker to their diploma.

"This award is really a component of a student showcasing what they know about civics, [in] state as well as federal democracy and election systems, but it's also more importantly about engagement," History, Social Science, Ethnic Studies Curriculum Leader, Alan Sheppard said.

Qualification for the award is broken down into five criteria:

1. Making academic progress toward graduation.
2. Completing grade-level history and social science curriculum
3. Participating in a "civic-engagement project" that deals with and provides solution actions to real-world problems.
4. Demonstrating civic knowl-



Mark Savage | Courtesy of 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.

edge and skills through self-reflection

5. Showcasing character traits that reflect civic-mindedness and a commitment to positively impact the classroom, school, community or society.

In September 2020, the State Board of Education adopted criteria to award a state seal of Civic Engagement to California students. Upon approving the resolution at their April 17 board meeting, LBUSD district staff will be working towards implementing and cre-

ating awareness of the award.

Sheppard said that by offering the seal, the district hopes to encourage students across all schools to become civically engaged.

"Students beginning in ninth grade can really start to plan for the achievement of earning this award. They can think about what type of projects that they're interested in and also what projects align with their pathway of choice," Sheppard said.

Applications for the state seal are currently open to the class of 2023

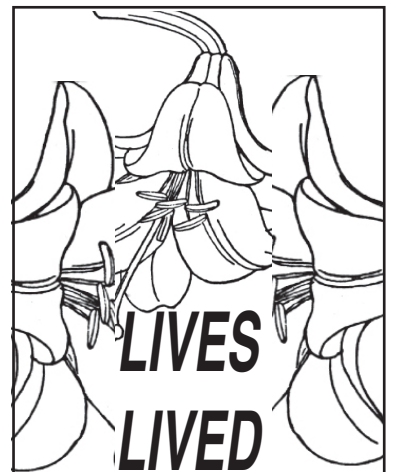
seniors and will be open to all students in the 2023-24 school year.

"I am very excited about this opportunity for our students. I think that planting the seed of democracy and engagement in our democracy at a young age for our students is going to be a good opportunity, especially [for] our communities of color that are often overlooked and devalued," board member Erik Miller said. "To make this a part of our district and what we represent I think is going to be just really cool."

Miller also said he is a proponent of showcasing "democratic passions" responsibly with care and empathy. He referenced the different ways in which people protested during the movement around George Floyd and said that it is important for the district and board to support responsible behavior.

"I think that it is very easy to misconstrue civic engagement to just behavior that isn't incumbent upon the true cause that you want to represent, so that's just something that I wanted to make sure was stated," Miller said.

Students can apply for the state seal of civic engagement through the LBUSD website.



- Michael McDaniel 63
- Aurea Lalap 94
- Christopher Kavalaris 61
- Charlotte Miller 101
- Donald Rogers 80
- Charetha Johnson 53
- Lisa LaFrance-Poirier
- Paul Hammond 52
- Christefer Walker 72
- Jose Sosa 31
- Lynn Weber 66
- Norris Howard 72
- Alejandro Serna Flores 88
- Felipe Pantoja 60
- Christa McManaman 79
- Patricia Lansford 83
- Jolett Muse 75

The families were assisted by McKenzie Mortuary. For more details on service dates and times, contact (562) 961-9301

**TST6935 / 2023 048604
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: A&C SUPPLIES AND PAINT, 1201 E ROSECRANS AVE, COMPTON, CA 90221. LA COUNTY. Mailing Address: 7731 JACKSON WAY APT A, BUENA PARK, CA 90221. Registrant: ALBERTO CONTRERAS, 7731 JACKSON WAY APT A, BUENA PARK, CA 90620. State of Incorporation/Organization: N/A. This business is conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: ALBERTO CONTRERAS, OWNER. The registrant has not begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in: N/A. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on March 6, 2023. 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: March 31 & April 7, 14, 21, 2023

**TST6936 / 2023 048602
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: HERMI'S CATERING, 474 W 50TH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90037. LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registrant: HERMILO BRAVO VALERA, 474 W 50TH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90037. State of Incorporation/Organization: N/A. This business is conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: HERMILO BRAVO VALERA, OWNER. The registrant has begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in January, 2021. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on March 6, 2023. 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: March 31 & April 7, 14, 21, 2023

**TST6937 / 2023 048598
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: AFTER DEATH PRODUCTIONS, 8531 HASTY AVE, PICO RIVERA, CA 90660. LOS ANGELES COUNTY. Registrant: CHRISTOPHER AARON HERNANDEZ, 8531 HASTY AVE, PICO RIVERA, CA 90660. State of Incorporation/Organization: N/A. This business is conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: CHRISTOPHER AARON HERNANDEZ, OWNER. The registrant has begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in January, 2023. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on March 6, 2023. 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: March 31 & April 7, 14, 21, 2023

**TST6938 / 2023 048596
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: LRODRIGUEZ MAINTENANCE, 3480 CUDAHY ST APT V, HUNTINGTON PARK, CA 90255. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: LUIS FERNANDO VERA RODRIGUEZ, 3840 CUDAHY ST APT V, HUNTINGTON PARK, CA 90255. State of Incorporation/Organization: N/A. This business is conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: LUIS FERNANDO VERA RODRIGUEZ, OWNER. The registrant has not begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in N/A. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on March 6, 2023. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fic-

titious 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: March 31 & April 7, 14, 21, 2023

**TST6939 / 2023 048600
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: MR. CONSTRUCTION, 15338 GUNDRY AVE 210, PARAMOUNT, CA 90723. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: MILTON O RAMOS CRUZ, 15338 GUNDRY AVE 210, PARAMOUNT, CA 90723. State of Incorporation/Organization: N/A. This business is conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: MILTON O RAMOS CRUZ, OWNER. The registrant has begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in May, 2018. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on March 6, 2023. 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: March 31 & April 7, 14, 21, 2023

**TST6943 / 2023 067898
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: OVAL LEATHERS, 2601 E VICTORIA ST SPC 483, RANCHO DOMINGUEZ, CA 90220. County: Los Angeles. Registrant: OVAL LLC, 2601 E VICTORIA ST SPC 483, RANCHO DOMINGUEZ, CA 90220. State of Incorporation/Organization: CALIFORNIA. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: ALEXIS LOPEZ CANTOR, PRESIDENT. The registrant has begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in March, 2023. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on March 28, 2023. 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: April 7, 14, 21, 28, 2023

**TST6944 / 2023 067901
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: ARCHILA CARS RESTORATION & PARTS, 3096 SPRINGDALE DR 320, LONG BEACH, CA 90810. Mailing Address: PO BOX 6013, LONG BEACH, CA 90806. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: WILLIAM ALEXA ARCHILA SOLARES, 3096 N SPRINGDALE DR APT 320, LONG BEACH, CA 90810. State of Incorporation/Organization: N/A. This business is conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: WILLIAM ALEXA ARCHILA SOLARES, OWNER. The registrant has not begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in N/A. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on March 28, 2023. 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: April 7, 14, 21, 28, 2023

**TST6945 / 2023 067903
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: 1. HECHOS GIFTS, FLOWERS & EVENTS, 2. HECHOS, 7965 CLETA ST, DOWNEY, CA 90241. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: KATHERYNE MICHELLE BENAVIDES, 7965 CLETA ST, DOWNEY, CA 90241. State of Incorporation/Organization: N/A. This business is conducted by: (Get from form). I declare that all information in this statement is

true and correct. Signed: KATHERYNE MICHELLE BENAVIDES, OWNER. The registrant has begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in January, 2020. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on March 28, 2023. 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: April 7, 14, 21, 28, 2023

**TST6946 / 2023 069531
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: FAMU CLEANING SERVICES, 13867 MCCLURE AVE, PARAMOUNT, CA 90723. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: FAMU CLEANING SERVICES LLC, 13867 MCCLURE AVE, PARAMOUNT, CA 90723. State of Incorporation/Organization: CALIFORNIA. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: MARIA D MUNOZ GARCIA, PRESIDENT. The registrant has not begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in N/A. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on March 29, 2023. 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: April 7, 14, 21, 28, 2023

**TST6947 Case No. 23CMCP00057
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR
CHANGE OF NAME**

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, COMPTON COURTHOUSE, 200 W. Compton Blvd, Compton, CA 90220 PETITION OF: Ramon Antonio Olazaba for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioners: RAMON ANTONIO OLAZABA has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing his name as follows: Present Name: RAMON ANTONIO OLAZABA Proposed Name: RAMON ANTONIO OLAZAVA 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: June 20, 2023; Time: 8:30a.m., Dept. A, Room 904. 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, April 7, 14, 21, 28, 2023 ___/ss//___ Michael Shultz, Judge of the Superior Court Dated: April 5, 2023

**TST6953
Case No. 23STPB03379
NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER
ESTATE OF: DENNIS M. OKUJI**

1. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of DENNIS M. OKUJI 2. A Petition for Probate has been filed by MICHAEL M. OKUJI in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. 3. The Petition for Probate requests that MICHAEL M. OKUJI be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. 4. 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. 5. 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 and 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. 6. A

hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: a. May 9, 2023 @ 8:30am, Dept: 2D b. Stanley Most Court-house 111 North Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90802. 7. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objection or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. 8. If you are a creditor or 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 with the later of either (1) four months from the date of 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. 9. 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: AMY R. HENDERSON 225642 LAW OFFICES OF EMILY J. BUCHBINDER 525 CAPITOLA AVENUE CAPITOLA, CA 95010 Phone: 831-462-1313 Fax: 831-562-1045 Pub. Signal Tribune, April 14, 21, 28, 2023

TST6948

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER
ESTATE OF: ARTHUR K. MITCHELL
AKA ARTHUR JAMES MITCHELL
CASE NO. 23STPB03538**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of ARTHUR K. MITCHELL AKA ARTHUR JAMES MITCHELL. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by SILVIA P. GALAVIZ in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that SILVIA P. GALAVIZ 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 in this court as follows: 05/09/23 at 8:30AM in Dept. 44 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 ALEX R. BORDEN - SBN 180301 STEPHANIE CHAO - SBN 294712 BORDEN LAW OFFICE 1518 CRENSHAW BLVD TORRANCE CA 90501 4/14, 4/21, 4/28/23 CNS-3688335# THE SIGNAL TRIBUNE

TST6949

**T.S. No. 17-48690 APN: 7211-004-033
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE**
YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 3/16/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PRO-

CEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of 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 below. 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, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: KIMBERLY BLUE, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN Duly Appointed Trustee: ZBS Law, LLP fka Zieve, Brodnax & Steele, LLP Deed of Trust recorded 3/21/2007, as Instrument No. 20070636444, of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, Date of Sale: 5/18/2023 at 9:00 AM Place of Sale: Vineyard Ballroom, 131111 Sycamore Drive, Norwalk, CA 90650 Estimated amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$554,572.21 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 owed. Street Address or other common designation of real property: 2535 CALIFORNIA AVE, 1 SIGNAL HILL, California 90755-3306 Described as follows: As more fully described on said Deed of Trust A.P.N #: 7211-004-033 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. 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 the property. 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 information 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 (855) 976-3916 or visit this Internet Web site www.auction.com, using the file number assigned to this case 17-48690. Information about postponements 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. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (855) 976-3916, or visit this internet website tracker.auction.com/sb1079, using

ART

African American Cultural Center hosts its first-ever Local Artist Showcase

Samantha Diaz
Managing Editor

The African American Cultural Center of Long Beach is giving the community the spotlight in its first-ever local artist showcase, where residents can purchase original work from a collection of artists where “no two are alike.”

Walls and tables at the cultural center are filled with paintings, prints, digital paintings, graphic designs, collages and mixed media art from six local Black artists. On Friday, April 21, the community is invited to hear from the artists about their journey, history and vision as well as purchase one-of-a-kind art that speaks to them.

“They’re very hungry to get [their work] out there and meet people and share their work,” said Jhaki Quarles, program coordinator at the Cultural Center. “And that was important to me, if I came across an artist that really believed in what they’re doing and really wanted to make sure that they share it with the community and it wasn’t all a monetary expectation from them.”

The African American Cultural Center hosts a different exhibit each month centered around a theme. Past exhibits have been focused on “The Roots of Slavery” and “The Black Power Movement,” but Quarles had the vision to showcase artists in a way that “totally represents them.”

The result is an exhibit that is eye-catching and completely unique, with each artist presenting the best of their respective medium. Each painting, collage and design helps to uplift African American culture.

A series of paintings by Orange County artist Tyra Rattler Jr. depict iconic athletes in an almost looming fashion, with bright contrasting colors and obvious digital brush strokes. Michael Jordan is painted in his lonesome, reaching up to dunk a basketball as he hovers with a bright blue sky in the background. Kevin Durant is



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

A painting by local artist Shelton Gillis titled “No More” is currently on display at the African American Cultural Center in Bixby Knolls during the month of April 2023 for the local artist showcase.

mean-mugging straight ahead in a Phoenix Suns uniform with a glowing orange backdrop behind him.

“What was really important this time, and I think what was really striking to all of us is the art forms were all different, but all powerful,” Quarles said.

A committee at the Cultural Center looked through local artists’ work for about six months, learning about their journey, motivations and visions. Some of the artists have a history with the Cultural Center and have featured their work in Long Beach in the past, but for others, this is the first time having their work featured in such a setting.

Long Beach native Shelton Gillis has featured a slew of show-stopping paintings that highlight the beauty of Black culture. His prints titled “Knowledge is Game” feature athletes balancing a basketball or football on one hand and a stack of

books on the other. Another painting which has been sold already shows a Black woman dressed in traditional Old Western clothing holding a long pistol with her finger hovering over the trigger titled “No More.”

The Local Artist Showcase premiered to the Long Beach Community during Bixby Knolls First Friday celebration on April 7, which brought in more than 400 people who talked to the artists and purchased multiple pieces of work from them.

“These are up-and-coming young people just trying to share

their work and their information out there amongst the community,” Quarles said. “Our community knows what we have, they see these young people putting their talent to work so it’s a lot to be proud of.”

The African American’s Local Artist Showcase will be open Tuesdays through Fridays from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Residents can meet the artists at the showcase on Friday, April 21 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The community is asked to RSVP to the free showcase event through Eventbrite.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

A series of paintings by local artist Shelton Gillis is currently on display at the African American Cultural Center in Bixby Knolls during the month of April 2023 for the local artist showcase.

the file number assigned to this case 17-48690 to find the date on which the trustee’s sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee’s sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee’s sale. If you think you may qualify as an “eligible tenant buyer” or “eligible bidder,” you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Dated: 4/5/2023 ZBS Law, LLP fka Zieve, Brodnax & Steele, LLP, as Trustee 30 Corporate Park, Suite 450 Irvine, CA 92606 For Non-Automated Sale Information, call: (714) 848-7920 For Sale Information: (855) 976-3916 www.auction.com Michael Busby, Trustee Sale Officer This office is enforcing a security interest of your creditor. To the extent that your obligation has been discharged by a bankruptcy court or is subject to an automatic stay of bankruptcy, this notice is for informational purposes only and does not constitute a demand for payment or any attempt to collect such obligation. EPP 36945 Pub Dates 04/14, 04/21, 04/28/2023

TST6954 Case No. 23LBCP00121 ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN COURTHOUSE, 275 MAGNOLIA, LONG BEACH, CA 90802 PETITION OF: Aeden Keffelew for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioners: AEDEN KEFFELEW has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing his name as follows: Present Name: AEDEN KEFFELEW Proposed Name: AEDEN ANBESSAW KEFFELEW 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: May 23, 2023; Time: 8:30a.m., Dept. 26. 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, April 14, 21, 28, & May 5, 2023 ___/ss/___ Michael R. Vicenciaz, Judge of the Superior Court Dated: April 10, 2023

TST6925 / 2023 050347 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as: AP MEDLINE, 3269 SAN ANSELINA AVE. AMBER VILLE, LONG BEACH, CA 90808. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: BROOK & MANN, INC., 3269 SAN ANSELINA AVE., LONG BEACH, CA 90808. State of Incorporation/Organization: CA. This business is conducted by: A Corporation. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: MUQUEET DADAVHOY, CEO. The registrant has not begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in N/A. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on March 7, 2023. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in 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: March 17, 24, 31 & April 7, 2023

TST6956/Order No: 14837
Auto Lien Sale
On 05/03/2023 at 649 SOUTH MAPLE AVE MONTEBELLO, CA a Lien Sale will be held on a 2017 DODGE VIN: 2C3CDZAGXHH550769 STATE: CA LIC: 7XZD564 at 10 AM

TST6955/Order No: 13851
Auto Lien Sale
On 05/03/2023 at 219 E FLORENCE AVE LOS ANGELES, CA a Lien Sale will be held on a 2017 NISSAN VIN: JN1BJ1CP1HW035307 STATE: CA LIC: 8CAT809 at 10 AM

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