

Visitor Bureau rebrands itself as Travel Costa Mesa while also moving into new home

The Costa Mesa Conference and Visitor Bureau announced this week that it has officially changed its name to Travel Costa Mesa, and the organization relocated to a new and updated office across the street from South Coast Plaza.

“We felt it was time to make our name more impactful and recognizable,” said Paulette Lombardi-Fries, President of Travel Costa Mesa. “We wanted to ensure that website visitors and readers who saw our name knew exactly what our purpose was, to inform about and encourage travel to the city of Costa Mesa.”

The official name now matches the website address, www.travelcostamesa.com.

“We’ve also added ‘California’ to our updated logo, to let prospective visitors seeing our marketing programs know we are the official City of the Arts, in the amazing state of California,” said Lombardi-Fries.

Travel Costa Mesa’s new and updated address is 940 South Coast Drive, Suite #265, Costa Mesa, California, 92626. The phone number remains unchanged – 888.588.9417.

Visitors to the city are welcome to visit the new office for additional information about attractions and activities in the city of Costa Mesa.

Wanted: A few, good formal dresses for wives of city's adopted Marines

Once again, the City of Costa Mesa and the Costa Mesa Military Affairs team seek donations of "like new" prom dresses, ball gowns, cocktail dresses and accessories for the spouses of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (1/5), the Camp Pendelton-based infantry battalion that the city has adopted.

The dresses will be worn at the annual Marine Ball, which takes place in October and celebrates the anniversary of the Marines Corps' founding.

The collection point for the dresses will be the concierge desk in the lobby of City Hall at 77 Fair Drive. Donations will be accepted now through Sept. 10.

For further information, please contact Dan Baker at (714) 754-5156.

UPDATE: CMPD Has Located 11-Year-Old Missing Autistic Boy

UPDATE: Costa Mesa Police Department has found 11-year-old Diego Garcia.

The Costa Mesa Police Department is searching for an 11-year

old autistic boy.

Monday August 1, 2016, an 11-year old autistic boy named Diego Garcia was reported missing by his parents in Costa Mesa. Earlier this morning, Garcia's parents reported to police they noticed him missing from their apartment, located at 1250 Adams Avenue, shortly before 7 a.m.

Garcia is autistic, however, he has limited communication skills and answers by his first name "Diego." Garcia is not fearful of police or others.

Garcia has no known history of running away, and there is no indication of suspicious circumstances at this time. Orange County Sheriff's Department's helicopter crew, aboard "Duke", assisted with making public address announcements in the surrounding vicinity to attempt to locate the child.

OCSD's bloodhound search team also assisted officers on scene at the location.

Diego Garcia is 4 foot 11 inches tall, weighs about 110 pounds and has long brown hair. He was last seen wearing a green shirt, black shorts and red sandals.

He has no immediate means of accessing transportation. CMPD officers and detectives are actively seeking the public's assistance to help immediately locate Garcia.

Anyone with possible information should contact CMPD Dispatch at 714-754-5252.

Eastside Entryway Project Complete

The median improvement project at the intersection of Del Mar Avenue and Newport Boulevard is now complete and a new entry monument sign provides a welcoming entryway to Eastside Costa Mesa.

The project included repurposing the unusable paved area in the middle of Del Mar Avenue to a beautifully landscaped median and will provide secondary benefits of traffic calming as it provides for a narrower pavement section and identifies the entry into the residential community.

Drought tolerant shrubs and boulders, signature trees and landscape lighting were installed to complete the colorful landscape pallet. Additionally, a decorative crosswalk was constructed along the east leg of the intersection.



King crowned with CEO Leadership Award

Costa Mesa Revenue Supervisor Jennifer King was presented with the July 2016 CEO Leadership Award by CEO Tom Hatch at the monthly meet and greet on Thursday July 28.

Hatch noted that when he informed King of the award she was quick to point out that she is part of a larger team and that she wanted to be sure to acknowledge that the entire team was worthy of the award.

King serves as the Revenue Supervisor in the Finance Department's Treasury Division, where one of her primary roles is to ensure the City's revenue collections are accurate and in compliance with laws and regulations. King reviews all payments processed by the Treasury Division before they get recorded in the City's financial system and her involvement and focus on accuracy has reduced the numbers of revenue journal entries during the year end closing process.

King also oversees the City's business and animal licensing programs which to date, has approximately 12,000 business licenses and 5,000 animal licenses. She also coordinates the City's special events permit process and works closely with city departments and outside agencies to ensure compliance with the City's Special Events Permit Ordinance.

In her spare time, King loves to hike with her family and enjoys reading a good book.

In addition, Hatch welcomed ten newly hired employees, Huong Ly and Katie Angel from Development Services, Dustin Birn from

Finance, Kelly Dowell from Parks and Community Services, Denny Bak, Kristofer Moore, Jennifer Rosenberg, Sara Nguyen, and Sally Ortiz from the Police Department and Nicholas Deutsch from Public Services.

Orange County DA Rackauckus says state measures and laws are contributing to crime spike

Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckus told a Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce breakfast crowd that state laws that make it harder for law enforcement to put criminals in jail are bad news for communities where crime is now on the rise and he warned that similar laws could be passed in November.

Speaking to chamber members gathered at the Costa Mesa Country Club, Rackauckus decried the passage of AB 109, which allows early release of those convicted of so-called victimless crimes and Proposition 47, a statewide measure that reclassified a whole list of felonies to misdemeanors.

“It’s a big problem and it’s a growing problem,” Rackauckus said of the spike in the number of offenders who are either back on the street or getting slaps on the wrists for burglary and robbery. “Crime is on the increase.”

The district attorney said tougher laws passed in the 1990s, like the Three Strikes law that sent criminals to jail for life after three major offenses, had brought the crime rate down to historic lows. But he said the latest measures are

making it harder for law enforcement to do its job and reversing those years of progress.

“The Three Strikes law was great and put a lot of career criminals in prison,” he said. “It was part of a national wave to reduce crime.”

Rackauckus told the crowd that in 2015 his staff of 800 prosecutors and investigators reviewed 70,000 cases. Of those cases, 58,000 charges were filed with a 92% felony conviction rate.

He also said he has worked with other DAs to get a measure on the ballot, Proposition 66, that would make the death penalty more efficient.

But he warned of a competing measure, Proposition 62, that would eliminate the death penalty and Proposition 57, which if passed would make parole hearings easier to get for those behind bars.

That measure would potentially make 35,000 to 45,000 criminals eligible for parole.

Council meeting cancellation anticipated for Tuesday July 19

The city is making plans to cancel the regularly scheduled July 19 City Council meeting this Tuesday because it is anticipated that there will not be the mandated quorum of three council members in attendance.

As a courtesy to residents, the city is distributing a courtesy notice.

Alley and street repairs get underway

Alley reconstruction, street rehabilitation and slurry seal projects awarded by the City Council are currently under construction. Work has begun and this month is going to be a busy one for Public Services staff.

These projects will construct 800 cubic yards of concrete alleyway, repair 573,700 square feet of roadway utilizing 17,500 tons of new asphalt concrete and apply 1,200 extra-long tons of slurry seal. Work also involves adjustment of utility manholes and valves to new grade, replacement of traffic signal loop detectors, lane markings, striping and new pavement legends.

The following areas are scheduled for improvements:

- Flower Street Alley (Alley No. 81) located between Flower Street and Broadway, from Tustin Avenue to Irvine Avenue and 18th Street Alley (Alley No. 96) located between 18th Street and Abbie Way, from 18th Street to Irvine Avenue will be reconstructed.

In addition, 36 streets located within the following neighborhoods will be rehabilitated:

- Freedom Homes Neighborhood bounded by Victoria Street to the North, 19th Street to the South, Aviemore Terrace to the West, and Placentia Avenue to the East.
- Eastside Neighborhood bounded by Santa Isabel Avenue to

the North, 21st Street to the South, Newport Boulevard to the West, and Tustin Avenue to the East.

- Bristol East Neighborhood bounded by I-405 Freeway to the North, Baker Street to the South, Bristol Street to the West, and SR-55 Freeway to the East.
- Halecrest Neighborhood bounded by I-405 Freeway to the North, Adams Avenue to the South, Harbor Boulevard to the West, and Fairview Road to the East.

Work on these projects is expected to be completed over the next four to six weeks.

New 1/5 Marine Banners now adorn Fair Drive

The Costa Mesa Military Affairs team, in support of the Costa Mesa City Council, relaunched its Military Banner Program on Monday July 11 in front of Costa Mesa City Hall.

To kick off to the program, 12 banners were installed along Fair Drive with language that reads “Costa Mesa supports the 1/5 Marines.” The banners are in reference to the 1st Battalion 5th Marine Regiment unit that the City adopted in 2008 and currently supports.

The installation of the banners is designed to encourage support by the community and help to promote the City’s existing Military Banner program, which allows for Costa Mesa citizens to pay for and display a banner along Fair Drive that honors current family members who are active in the military.



The outpouring of support provided by our community through various events and activities brings funds for the troops and their families, evokes good will, inspires civic pride and patriotism, and is encouraging to the men and women of the battalion.

To make a donation or to enquire about supporting one or both programs, please send a check or contribution to the City of Costa Mesa. P.O. Box 1200, Costa Mesa, CA 92628-1200 and designate the gift for either the "1/5 Marine banner fund," or the "Military Banner Fund." To discuss contributions or take the steps to apply to have a banner installed to honor an active Military Family member please contact Dan Baker at (714) 754-5156 .

Operation Clean Slate founder

given Mayor's Award

On Tuesday July 5, Mayor Steve Mensinger presented Michael Howard, the founder and executive director of Operation Clean Slate, with the Mayor's Award to recognize the work his nonprofit has done to deter youths from vandalizing property with graffiti by having them paint murals instead.

"For your years of service to this community, your extraordinary leadership, and your passion for working with youth and providing them with a positive outlet for their creativity, it is my honor and privilege to present you with the Mayor's Award," Mensinger said.

Based in Costa Mesa, Operation Clean Slate has partnered with over 25,000 volunteers and produced over 1,000 murals at more than 800 schools throughout Southern California and in six other countries.

Howard started the nonprofit back in 1993 as a solution to graffiti and vandalism while teaching at juvenile hall.

In Costa Mesa, Operation Clean Slate has painted more than 45 murals on 16 different school campuses, including Rea Elementary which now has five, They have also painted murals around town at Bark Park, Mesa Water District, Doria's Haus of Pizza and New Directions for Women.


"It's an honor and I'm really excited that the arts are being acknowledged," Howard said upon receiving the award. "It's great to have the community recognize what we are doing and we are going to keep doing it."

Final public hearing on voting districts scheduled to take place on Tuesday July 12

The City Council will conduct the final public hearing on the formation of council districts during a special meeting on Tuesday July 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa.

More information on the voting district proposal can be seen by clicking [here](#) to view the city's official web page.

For questions concerning this public hearing, please contact Brenda Green, City Clerk, City of Costa Mesa, at (714) 754-5225.



Voting District Formation

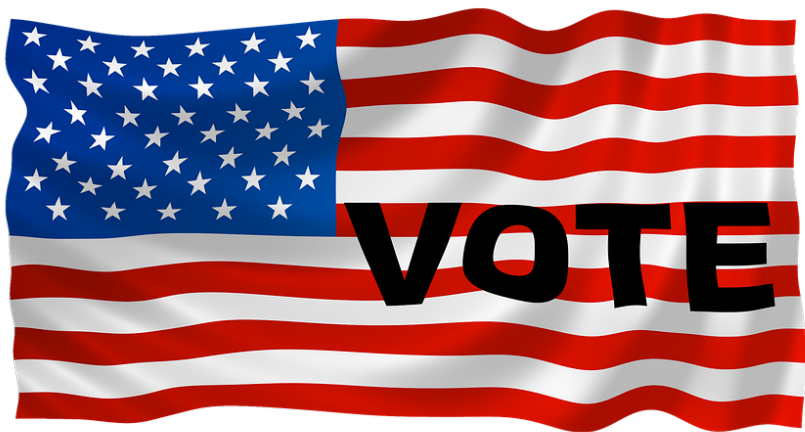
The third and final public hearing has been scheduled for the Special City Council meeting on July 12, 2016. City Council will select a map to include on the November 8, 2016 ballot, asking voters to decide whether to approve voting district elections as defined by the selected map.

Public Hearing
Tuesday, July 12, 2016
7:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers
Costa Mesa City Hall, 77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

WELCOME TO COSTA MESA

City Clerk announces open house and public hearing on voting district formations

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Costa Mesa will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, July 5, 2016, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the City Council Chamber, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California, to consider the formation of council districts and to consider establishing the exact boundaries of the council districts to be reflected in a district map or maps.



If any part of the proposed project is challenged in court, participants may be limited to raising only those issues that were raised during the public hearing, or in written communication delivered to the council at or prior to the public hearing.

Any person with an interest in this matter is invited to attend said hearing and testify.

An informational Open House will be held prior to the public hearing on the same day, Tuesday, July 5, 2016, from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall 1st Floor Conference Room, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California, for review of proposed

district maps.

For questions concerning this open house or public hearing, please contact Brenda Green, City Clerk, City of Costa Mesa, at (714) 754-5225.