

# City of Costa Mesa Prevails in Defending Sober Living Home Regulations

The City of Costa Mesa prevailed in its defense of laws preventing the concentration of group sober living homes within the City.

Today a jury, convened in the Federal District Court for the Central District of California, delivered a unanimous verdict in support of the City's laws and efforts.

The case was filed in 2019. The plaintiffs are the operators of five locations that are in violation of the City's municipal code. The suit challenged the City's legislation that was developed to address concerns throughout the community about the proliferation of the facilities, negative impacts on surrounding residential neighborhoods, and harm to those recovering from drug and alcohol dependence.

"We are grateful that the jury affirmed Costa Mesa's support of our neighborhoods and well-run, appropriately-sited group sober living homes," noted Costa Mesa Mayor John Stephens. "We've developed, enforced and defended our reasonable laws that prevent sober living home operators from preying upon and exploiting those suffering from addiction while restoring and maintaining the character of our neighborhoods. Our pioneering ordinances balance these important public safety interests. This verdict is yet another in a long string of victories in court that vindicate our approach."

For nearly a decade, the City has developed and refined a series of laws that have been widely successful in eliminating poorly-run homes and supporting the neighborhoods in which compliant facilities operate. Left unchecked, unregulated sober living homes often provided substandard or dangerous

care and disregarded regulations designed to help them be good neighbors.

The decision is expected to be appealed, and the City intends to continue its commitment to its residents and business operators, and most importantly, those seeking addiction treatment.

“We will likely face an appeal, however, the City will fight any attempts to weaken its ordinances related to group sober living homes,” added City Attorney Kimberly Hall Barlow.

The City has prevailed in numerous similar legal actions, reaffirming its right to enact ordinances in the best interests of the community. Other related cases are pending, and the City is confident it will continue to prevail.

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## **Costa Mesa City Clerk Brenda Green receives Clerk of Distinction award for Technology and Innovation**

The City Clerk Association of California has presented Costa Mesa City Clerk Brenda Green with the 2022 Municipal Clerk of Distinction Technology and Innovation award.

“Brenda Green is an unsung hero at City Hall,” Mayor John Stephens said. “Recently, she seamlessly executed our redistricting project. Her department handles all public records requests and thousands of filings and inquiries. She prepares our City Council agendas and minutes and provides

support to the city's commissions and committees. Brenda is a trusted teammate during our council meetings. I couldn't get through a meeting without her. Brenda is very deserving of this recognition. Congratulations!"

Green was nominated for the award by Council Member Arlis Reynolds and Assistant City Manager Susan Price. In letters to the City Clerk Association, they both cited her innovation, dedication to the City and community and her professionalism.

Green, who has been the Costa Mesa City Clerk since 2012, was surprised when she learned she received this honor.

"I would like to thank the City Clerk Association for honoring me with this award and also Susan Price, Dina Wild, Stacy Bennett and Council Member Reynolds for the nomination," she said. "I am so thankful and happy, but I did not achieve this award on my own. I share this with our entire City Clerk team, David Nguyen, Stacy Bennett, Gladys Gonzalez, Tammy Arrington, Sarah Bravo-Wetzel, Karen Walker, and Leslie Pacheco. Also, I would like to recognize Ron Dam and Jeff Trujillo, with CMTV for their collaboration."

She also noted the obstacles of her job the last two years.

"One morning we woke up during a world-wide pandemic and had to craft workable solutions to continue to hold public meetings," she said. "It definitely was an adventure in learning, but now we have hybrid meetings and have integrated Zoom, Granicus, Vote Lynx, and You Tube, so the public has access and can participate both remotely and in person with their government. I appreciate this honor for all of our hard work. Thank you."

Green was instrumental in the implementation of the virtual technology needed to host City Council, Committee and Commission meetings, ensuring public access to City government during a global pandemic where many other amenities had restrictive access.

Most recently, Green has managed the City's redistricting efforts that required public input and the City Council action to change the geographic boundaries of the City's six council district based off the most recent 2020 Census data.

She also oversees all City elections and manages the City's unique elections webpage that centralized election-related information in one place. The webpage is easy to navigate and includes key information such as candidate disclosure statements, ballot measures, a candidate resource guide, an election calendar, election-related notices and voter information, and an interactive district map.

Green manages the City's Concierge Desk staff that handles residents calls and helps direct City Hall customer traffic to the right place.

Prior to her work in Costa Mesa, Green was the City Clerk in Stanton from 1999 to 2011. Before working for City government she worked as an executive assistant for two assembly members and one state senator in the California State Legislature from 1988 to 1998.

A Costa Mesa resident, Green has a bachelor's degree in business from Southern Columbia University in Orange Beach, Alabama.

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## **City Hall to host an Earth Day Festival on Friday April**

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The City of Costa Mesa will host an Earth Day Festival Friday April 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at City Hall.

We will celebrate sustainability and being green. We will have an electric bus and other City owned electric vehicles on display. We will do a tree planting and vendors will be there from OCC's Recycling Center and Recovery Kitchen, Tesla, IKEA and water and sanitary district leaders.

City staff will provide demonstrations of our Green Business Program, solar-powered generators and other equipment, Community Gardens, water quality initiatives, and active transportation projects.

There will be a picnic area with food trucks and tables, a yoga area, kids activities like games, gifts and a composting demo, art displays and documentaries and many more.

Please join us us that day!

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## **CMPD will be conducting a DUI and driver's license checkpoint**

The Costa Mesa Police Department will be conducting a driving under the influence (DUI) and driver's license checkpoint on the day after St. Patrick's Day, Friday, March 18, 2022, from 8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. within the city limits.

Checkpoint locations are determined based on data showing incidents of impaired driving-related crashes. The primary purpose of DUI checkpoints is not to make arrests, but to promote public safety by distributing educational information and by taking suspected impaired drivers off the road.

“If you plan to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day on Friday, have a game plan to get home safe and do not drink and drive,” Sgt. Dan Miles said. “These checkpoints, funded by the California Office of Traffic Safety, are essential to keeping the community safe. On Friday, we will be looking for impaired drivers because driving under the influence is dangerous and puts others on the road at risk.”

“Our preference is to have zero DUI drivers on our roadways and that those who decide to drink do so responsibly by always having a designated driver,” said Chief Ron Lawrence. “DUI checkpoints are a way to educate our community and our hope is people learn to plan ahead with alternative transportation when out drinking.”

CMPD reminds the public that impaired driving is not just from alcohol. Some prescription medications or over-the-counter drugs may interfere with driving. Always follow directions for use and read warning labels about driving or “operating heavy machinery,” which includes driving a car. While medicinal and recreational marijuana are legal, driving under the influence of marijuana is illegal. Drivers charged with a first-time DUI face an average of \$13,500 in fines and penalties, as well as a suspended license.

CMPD offers these reminders to ensure you have a safe night of fun that does not involve a DUI:

- Always use a designated sober driver to get home, which could be a friend who is not drinking, ride-share, a cab or public transportation.
- If you see someone who is impaired try to drive, take the keys and help them make other arrangements to find a sober way home.
- Call 911 to report drunk drivers.
- If you are hosting a party, offer nonalcoholic drinks. Monitor those who are drinking and how they are getting home.

- If you plan on drinking or taking medications that may impact your ability to drive safely, plan on staying at home.
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# **Accounting Specialist II Rosiles cashes in with City Manager Leadership Award**

City Manager Lori Ann Farrell Harrison has presented the City Manager Leadership Award for the month of February to Finance Accounting Specialist II Ricardo Rosiles.

“Ricardo plays a key role in the City of Costa Mesa as he works on a variety of revenue projects, collaborating with multiple City Departments and businesses to record monthly payments,” Farrell Harrison said. “I admire his positive, can-do attitude and am happy to present him with this leadership award.”

His projects include Measure Q taxing retail sales/deliveries of cannabis, Measure X cannabis manufacturing and distribution tax remittance, Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT/BIA), Property Taxes, Solid Waste Hauler Franchise Fees and Costa Mesa Country Club to name a few.

Every day, Rosiles goes above and beyond his job responsibilities to ensure the Treasury Division is well supported. He is detail-oriented, which is essential when examining financial documents for errors or discrepancies.

Rosiles is also an active listener and communicates effectively. He takes pride in providing exemplary customer

service to the public and his own co-workers. He is a pragmatic problem solver; he looks at problems as an opportunity to test and showcase his financial knowledge.

Rosiles joined the City of Costa Mesa, Parks and Community Services Department in 2005 as Recreation Leader III, in 2009 he was promoted to Recreation Leader IV

In January 2013, he joined the Finance Department as Accounting Specialist I (cashier). In December 2021, Rosiles became Accounting Specialist II.

Originally, from Santa Ana, Rosiles is a graduate of Santa Ana High School.

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## **City Manager Leadership Award for January goes to Capt. Noceti**

City Manager Lori Ann Farrell Harrison presented Fire Capt. Joseph Noceti with the City Manager Leadership Award for the month of January.

“Capt. Noceti has been an instrumental part of the collective city team in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic and his guidance and leadership has been invaluable to me as we navigated through this difficult time,” Farrell Harrison said. “I’m delighted to be able to present him with this well-deserved award.”

Noceti began his career with CMFR on Aug. 3, 1997. During his tenure with the department, he has served in a variety of areas, including the Tool and Equipment Committee, the



Apparatus Committee, SOP Committee, Academy Cadre, Explorer Advisor and his current role as Training Officer.

Captain Noceti continues to do an outstanding job serving as the department's Training Captain, with a number of additional areas he contributes his strong talents to, including serving as the primary Fire & Rescue PIO and as the current President of the Orange County Fire Chiefs Training Officers Section

Captain Noceti is also highly regarded and respected as an exceptional teacher, coach and mentor to many, helping to prepare our next generation of firefighters and leaders."

Noceti was born in Torrance, CA. One of three children, Noceti has an older brother and a younger sister. His mother worked as a cafeteria clerk at the school he attended and his dad was a tug boat captain.

Noceti attended San Pedro High School and after graduation went on to attend Los Angeles Harbor College for his Associate of Science in Fire Technology. Noceti then continued his studies at Brandman University where he earned his Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership proceeded by a Masters in Management and Homeland Security from Arizona State University.

When asked if he always wanted to be a firefighter, Noceti said, "I wanted to do something different from the rest of my family, who all worked on the water front, that was the norm."

One day after work, Noceti knocked on the door of a fire station to ask some questions and shortly after that, became a fire explorer. Noceti attributes the fire explorer program with showing him how a career in helping people and making a difference could feel meaningful.

Proceeding the explorer program, Noceti did a ride along with the LA Fire Department at the age of 17 and he knew a career in the fire service was what he wanted.

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# **The City Is Requesting Applications For Community Development Block Grants For Fiscal Year 2022-23**

The City of Costa Mesa is accepting applications from existing tax-exempt California nonprofit corporations operating within its jurisdiction that provide public services and are eligible for grant funding under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

The primary objective of the CDBG Program is "the development of viable urban communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low- and moderate-income."

The scope of CDBG-eligible activities established by HUD ranges from public works improvements to housing rehabilitation and social service programs that primarily benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

Funding for social service programs is limited to 15% of the City's total allocation for a given year.

HUD has not notified the City of its actual 2022-2023 grant; however, for planning purposes, an estimated \$140,000 in CDBG

funds may be available on a competitive basis for public services for fiscal year 2022-2023.

At this time, the City is accepting applications from interested, tax-exempt nonprofit organizations that provide CDBG-eligible services that benefit low- and moderate-income Costa Mesa residents.

Organizations that want to apply for funding for a particular program may view the application and related instructions on the City's website here <https://www.costamesaca.gov/city-hall/city-departments/development-services/housing-and-community-development>.

The actual application can be obtained by contacting Mikelle Daily at [mikelle.daily@costamesaca.gov](mailto:mikelle.daily@costamesaca.gov) or (714) 754-5678 prior to the application deadline

Applications will be available beginning February 3, 2022. **Applications must be submitted to the City of Costa Mesa Housing and Community Development by 2 p.m., Friday, February 25, 2022. Late applications will not be accepted.**

Questions regarding this notice should be directed to Grant Administrator Mikelle Daily at [mikelle.daily@costamesaca.gov](mailto:mikelle.daily@costamesaca.gov).

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## **Costa Mesa residents sought to serve on city committees/commissions**

The Costa Mesa City Council is currently seeking residents to serve on the following City Committees/Commissions:

**Parks, Arts and Community Services Commission:** This Commission meets monthly, and serves as an advisory body to City Council, working closely with the Public Services and Parks & Community Service Departments. The Commission helps collect public input on issues that pertain to parks, parkways, recreation programs and community services. The City is recruiting for a 1-year term for one (1) member, from District 3 only. For further information, contact Executive Secretary Laura Fautua at (714) 754-5009.

**Animal Services Committee:** This committee meets monthly and assists with the planning of animal related events, explores and provides recommendations to improve animal services, and promotes pet licensing within the City. The City is recruiting for a 2-year term for four (4) regular members and two (2) alternate members. For further information, please contact Recreation Coordinator Jessica Torrejon at (714) 754-5128.

**Bikeway and Walkability Committee:** This committee meets monthly and assists with the review, update and implementation of the city's Active Transportation Plan in order to make recommendations for their improvement to the City Council. The City is recruiting for a 2-year term for six (6) regular members and two (2) alternate members. For further information, please contact Transportation Services Manager Jennifer Rosales at (714) 754-5180.

**Cultural Arts Committee:** This committee meets monthly and works to promote the City motto, "City of the Arts." The committee works to establish programs, events and information that help residents access the arts in many different venues. The City is recruiting for a 2-year term for four (4) regular members. For further information, please contact Recreation Manager Monique Villasenor at (714) 754-5679.

**Fairview Park Steering Committee:** This committee meets every other month and provides advice to the City Council regarding the implementation of the Fairview Park Master plan and

impacts of Measure AA on Capital Improvement Program projects, maintenance and activities. The City is recruiting for a 1-year term for one (1) alternate member and a 3-year term for one (1) alternate. For further information, please contact Fairview Park Administrator Kelly Dalton at (714) 754-5135.

**Finance and Pension Advisory Committee:** This committee meets monthly and provides advice to the City Council regarding events and issues which may affect the financial status of the City. It also evaluates annual and long-term pension and financial impacts from changes in CalPERS contribution rates and/or actuarial schedule changes. The City is recruiting for a 2-year term for four (4) members. Applicants shall have pension knowledge or shall be residents or individuals that conduct business within the City and have a background that includes experience in securities trading, financial planning, banking, auditing, accounting, or a closely related and relevant field. For further information, contact Executive Secretary Stella Giragossian at (714) 754-5243.

**Historical Preservation Committee:** This committee meets monthly and serves to maintain, preserve, educate and promote the city's historical resources. The City is recruiting for a 2-year term for four (4) regular members and 2-year term for two (2) alternate members. For further information, contact Recreation Supervisor Kevin Stoddart at (714) 327-7561.

**Housing and Public Service Grants Committee:** This committee meets twice a year with further meetings scheduled on an as-needed basis and helps to promote community understanding of the activities funded by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) with a focus on social service grants. The City is recruiting for a 2-year term for four (4) regular members and one (1) alternate member. For further information, contact Grant Administrator Mikelle Daily at (714) 754-5678.

**Mobile Home Park Advisory Committee:** This committee meets

quarterly and addresses mobile home park issues and concerns in Costa Mesa. The City is recruiting for a 2-year term for one (1) park owner or his/her representative, two (2) mobile home resident owners, and one (1) independent citizen at-large. For further information, please contact, Dan Inloes at (714) 754-5088.

**Application Process** – Residents who are interested in getting involved in local government are encouraged to complete a Committee/Commission Application Form from the City Clerk’s Office or from the City’s website ([www.costamesaca.gov/apply](http://www.costamesaca.gov/apply)). The completed application may be submitted online; mailed to Costa Mesa City Clerk at Post Office Box 1200, Costa Mesa, California, 92628-1200; emailed to [cityclerk@costamesaca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@costamesaca.gov); or hand-delivered to the City Clerk’s Office at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa.

The deadline is **5 p.m., Thursday, March 3, 2022**. Appointments are tentatively scheduled for the March 15, 2022 City Council meeting.

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## **The public is invited to review the currently proposed Costa Mesa district maps**

The most recent draft maps for redrawing Costa Mesa City Council Districts are available for public review [here](#) or [click here](#) to view this slideshow.

The last day to submit a map for review is Thursday Jan. 27.

The new City district maps will define the six district

borders for electing Council Members for the next 10 years.

The next public hearing for City Council to review and consider the draft maps is Feb. 15.

For more information about the process, how you can be involved, and the schedule of events, check out at [www.redistrictcostamesa.org](http://www.redistrictcostamesa.org).

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# **Costa Mesa hires Brett Atencio Thomas to be first Active Transportation Coordinator**

Costa Mesa Public Services Director Raja Sethuraman announced that on Monday Jan. 10, Brett Atencio Thomas became the City's first Active Transportation Coordinator, where he will oversee projects and initiatives to improve biking and walkability.

"This new position fulfills several of our council goals and helps us serve a growing need in the community to make Costa Mesa more biking and walking friendly," Mayor John Stephens said. "We are fortunate that Director Sethuraman found someone with Brett Atencio's background and experience to lead these efforts."

Fifth District Council Member Arlis Reynolds and an advocate for Active Transportation is also happy to welcome Thomas to the team.

"Adding Brett Atencio to our team elevates Active Transportation from a council goal to a reality," said

Reynolds, who is also a board member with America Walks, a national organization focused on improving walkability in communities. "I'm thrilled that we have added someone with his expertise and education and I look forward to working with him to make Costa Mesa a safer place for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists alike."

Sethuraman agreed he will be a valuable member of the Public Services team.

"Brett Atencio brings unique capabilities and ideas to the Public Services Department to provide further focus to and promote Active Transportation for the City," Sethuraman said.

Thomas previously worked at the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority where he managed the \$13 million Open Streets Grant Program, which funds CicLAvia and other similar programs.

He oversaw the implementation of over 200 Metro Bike Share stations, and developed the Metro Adopt-a-Bike Program. Thomas is also experienced in Federal, State, and Regional competitive grant application and management processes, and he has successfully applied and secured grant funding for active transportation projects and programs.

In addition to working for the MTA, Thomas' experience includes working in public service for the Pasadena Department of Transportation, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, and the City of Alameda.

Thomas has a Bachelor's Degree from San Francisco State University and a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of California Los Angeles.



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# Join the City's Ad Hoc Committee on Housing at virtual Community Forum on Jan. 11

The City of Costa Mesa's Housing Ad Hoc Committee will be hosting a Community Forum virtually via Zoom on Tuesday Jan. 11 at 6 p.m. to discuss the Housing Element and Measure Y. The Ad Hoc Committee will take public input, understand the purpose and challenges of Measure Y, and discuss a viable path forward for the city's Housing Element and housing goals.

Click this link to Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85499111325?pwd=d1ExYkVZVURDTGhkSGR2ZFdUMXJ6dz09>

Or, go to [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com) and type in the Meeting ID: 854 9911 1325. The Passcode is 259267. Or join the meeting by phone by dialing 1 669 900 6833 and use the same Meeting ID and Passcode.

In October, the City Council created an Housing Ad Hoc Committee, whose members are Mayor Pro Tem Andrea Marr, Council Members Arlis Reynolds and Jeff Harlan, to participate and advise on City activities and actions pertaining to the Housing Element implementation and ongoing compliance with State housing element law.

Since then, the State Department of Housing and Community

Development (HCD) determined that Costa Mesa's Measure Y is a constraint to the development of housing and conflicts with State law.

Measure Y requires a vote of the people for certain types of development in the City, including housing projects.

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## **Last redistricting workshop scheduled as virtual meeting on Jan. 8 at 10 a.m.**

The City of Costa Mesa will hold its final redistricting community workshop on Saturday Jan. 8 at 10 a.m. virtually via Zoom to seek the public's help to review and revise the City districts as required by state law and discuss the currently proposed draft maps.

Click this link to Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81538927650?pwd=Z1dVNnljYzBUcHk5UFkzRW4vWG9LQT09>

Or, go to [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) and type in the Meeting ID: 815 3892 7650. The Passcode is 612756. Or join the meeting by phone by dialing 1 669 900 6833 and use the same Meeting ID and Passcode.

The primary goal when developing election districts is to draw lines that respect neighborhoods, history and geographical elements. The City of Costa Mesa is seeking the public's help to plan and draw new City district maps that will define the six City of Costa Mesa district borders.

The city's demographer will review all submissions and make

revisions as necessary, based on Council direction and community input.

Every 10 years, local governments use new data from the Census to redraw their district lines to reflect how local populations have changed. State law requires cities to engage communities in the redistricting process by holding public hearings and doing public outreach.

More information about the process, how you can be involved, and the schedule of events is available at [www.redistrictcostamesa.org](http://www.redistrictcostamesa.org).