# Council Briefing

April 2007

## **Administrative Services**

#### Fiscal Services:

- ➤ Police alarm permits issued in March totaled 47, making the fiscal year-to-date total 397. Total number of active permits as of March 31 was 4,582.
- Invoices billed in March totaled 629, with a valuation of \$501,417. Invoices billed for fiscal 2006-07 to-date total 5,262, with a valuation of \$3,583,557.
- ➤ Delinquent notices in March totaled 119, with a valuation of \$302. Delinquent notices for fiscal 2006-07 to-date total 492, with a valuation of \$3,359.
- ➤ Total number of general checks and direct deposits issued in March was 1,064 and 255, respectively, with a valuation of \$8,724,768. The total number of general checks and direct deposits for fiscal year 2006-07 to-date total 7,530 and 1,711, respectively, with a valuation of \$51,521,141.

## Information Technology:

- Staff has completed final changes to two applications that are now in production: On-line Water Payments and Police Vacation Check (check on homes while citizens are on vacation).
- Staff upgraded the Surf Control internet software to further protect the City's network. Staff also upgraded the Barracuda software to further enhance our spam filtering.
- Purchasing: In March, the Division processed approximately 230 requisitions and saved \$4,970 through early payment discounts and \$860 through competitive quotes, cooperative purchases and state/government resources. Central Services made 139,775 copies during the month and processed 12,346 pieces of mail.

#### Revenue:

- ➤ In March, 178 business registration certificates were issued. Of that total, 116 were for businesses in Fullerton and 62 were located out of the city, but will be doing business here. Business tax collected for new registrants totaled \$11,921.
- In March, 196 businesses closed: 93 in Fullerton and 103 out of the city.
- Business certificates renewed in March numbered 827, which totaled \$141,477 in business tax collected.
- Utility Services: In March, the Division answered 2,335 calls from customers, and processed 4,144 cash register transactions that totaled \$11,911,119. Of the transactions, 1,192 were by credit cards, 1,327 by checks, 938 were paid in cash, and 134 were by direct deposits.

# Community Development

- Community Preservation:
  - ▶ In March, Division personnel filed 191 complaints (2,156 year-to-date); resolved 178 complaints (1,788); conducted 551 inspections (5,301); issued 156 first notices of violation (1,358) and 19 citations (215); received 93 Complaint Hotline calls (721); arranged for the pickup of 24 large items such as couches, appliances, etc. (322); submitted 34 requests for graffiti removal (196); and billed \$1,900 in revenue (\$19,750).
  - ➤ New inspections in the West Side Proactive Areas have been temporarily suspended. With a vacant position and an officer now out on medical leave for an indeterminate time, workload and assignments need to be reassessed. Spring weed abatement inspections will be starting April 9.

# Engineering

- Construction Management:
  - ➤ The contractor has excavated and compacted the slope on the Brea Boulevard Slope Repair Project south of Panorama Road, and is approximately 80 percent complete with terracing. The project is scheduled to be complete this month.
  - ➤ Los Angeles Engineering has finished the retaining walls on both east and west sides of Lemon, as well as the storm drains behind the west retaining wall in the Landscaping Improvement Project at the Lemon Underpass. The contractor has

- also begun to install the new irrigation system on the west slope of the underpass. The project is scheduled for completion this month.
- ➤ The contractor on the Lemon Street Reconstruction and Landscape Enhancement Project from Chapman Avenue to Berkeley Avenue has completed the four median islands, and is scheduled to finish paving early this month during Fullerton College's spring break. Final striping remains, as well as street light poles, which are on back order.
- ➤ To date, concrete structures such as curb and gutter, sidewalks, and median islands have been completed on the Richman Park Area Street Improvement Project, and the new street light system is operational. The final layer of asphalt and landscaping are in progress. The project is to be done early this month.
- Water Engineering: The MWD shut down the Robert B. Diemer Water Treatment Plant in Yorba Linda for major upgrades March 25-31. During this time, Fullerton lost the use of its F-8 connection at Euclid Street and Lambert Road. Although this connection is normally one of four primary MWD sources of water, reservoirs were filled before the shutdown, and well water was available to help meet anticipated demand. As a precaution, City park facilities were asked to reduce their water use by 50 percent during this time. Residents and businesses in other parts of Orange County were asked to aggressively reduce their water use while this major regional water treatment plant underwent upgrades. Most agencies in Orange County do not have Fullerton's storage and groundwater capabilities.

## Fire

 Monthly Stats: The Department responded to 900 requests for service in March, a significant increase over the 791 requests recorded in March 2006. Of last month's requests, 51 were fires, 670 were medical aid calls, 10 were hazardous materials incidents, and 91 were service calls. In addition, the Department responded on 107 automatic aid calls and received 88.

## Suppression:

➤ Firefighters responded March 1 on a report of a natural gas leak in the 800 block of N. Harbor Boulevard. On arrival, Engine 1 found a backhoe had accidentally cut a large natural gas line, releasing a considerable amount of gas. The area was evacuated and hose lines were placed as a precaution (Engines 1 and 4) until the Gas Co. arrived. Truck 1 assisted with isolation/evacuation and air quality readings while Engine 2 secured the area. Battalion 1 directed the scene and coordinated safety concerns until the Gas Co. got the leak under control.

- ➤ In the early morning of March 6, fire crews from Fullerton and Anaheim responded to a residential structure/garage fire call in the 1500 block of W. Olive Avenue. The garage was fully involved in fire on arrival, but crews were able to save the home, with exception of smoke damage to the home's interior. Damage was estimated at approximately \$125,000 to a home valued at \$600,000.
- ➢ On March 8 the Department acted as the lead agency in a county-wide disaster preparedness EOC drill. The scenario was an explosion caused by a terrorist attack at a large propane supply company. Participating in the drill were Police, Community Development, MIS, Engineering, Administrative Services and the City's PIO. The drill was mandated by the Homeland Security Grant. A statewide disaster preparedness EOC drill is scheduled later in the year.
- ➤ Early the morning of March 11, Battalion Chief Duncan was dispatched to a wildland fire in Anaheim Hills. Shortly thereafter, the crews of Engines 3 and 6 were called out as part of an Orange County Fire Strike Team as gusty winds made fire suppression extremely dangerous and difficult. Overall, it took approximately 480 Firefighters from Orange, Riverside and Los Angeles counties, the California Department of Forestry, two water-dropping air tankers, two helicopters and various other equipment to bring the fire under control.
- ➤ On March 23, Truck 1, Engines 1, 3 and 5, and Battalion 1 were dispatched to a structure fire in the 2200 block of E. Chapman Avenue. On arrival, crews found a 42-year-old man with second- and third-degree burns on his left hand and both feet. The victim had been smoking on the upstairs balcony of the structure when nearby drapery materials caught on fire. He was burned while trying to extinguish the flames. The patient was transported to UCI Medical Center.
- ➤ On March 24, Truck 1, Engines 1 and 5, and Battalion 1 responded on a multiple-vehicle traffic accident in the 1100 block of E. Commonwealth Avenue. One victim had to be extricated from a car, given advanced life care and transported to UCI Medical Center. A victim from a second vehicle had already been pulled out by bystanders and was given care by Engine 1 Paramedics. Sadly, both victims died from their injuries.
- ➤ On March 27, during a short period of very strong winds, the Department responded to the following incidents:
  - In the 1900 block of W. Commonwealth Avenue, a high-power line struck an OCTA bus; no injuries were reported. (Engines 2 and 6, Truck 1)
  - In the 2100 block of Porter Avenue, a 37-year-old man was hit by a falling tree. He was treated by Engine 2 Paramedics and transported to Anaheim Memorial. (Engine 2, Truck 1 and Battalion 1)

 At Fullerton Airport, Orange County Fire Air OPS Station 41 lost part of its roof. Fortunately, there was little damage to the interior and no structural damage. Several passenger vehicles were damaged. (Truck 1)

#### • Non-Suppression:

- ➤ Fire Disaster Preparedness Specialist Villicana, along with Engine 6's crew of Capt. Brad Wilder, Engineer Jim Worthy and Firefighter Scott Verburg, gave a preparedness presentation to 320 students at Fisler Elementary School. The students received fire safety coloring books and handouts for the parents.
- ➤ Fire Prevention Specialist Dawn Revelle participated in the recent Alzheimer Association's "Thinking Ahead Lifelong Wellness Expo" at Cal State Fullerton, and handed out senior safety and preparedness information. There were approximately 700 visitors.
- ➤ Truck 1 crew Capt. Terry Schulz, Engineer Joe Frilot, and Firefighters Scott Vandelinder and Louie Arias II, participated in the "Kinder Caminata" at Fullerton College, attended by an estimated 1,000 youngsters and 200 visitors. The crew handed out sticker badges and fire safety coloring sheets.

## **Human Resources**

- Liability Program: Three new claims were opened in March, three claims were closed, and no lawsuits were served.
- Workers' Compensation Program: Five new claims were filed in February.
- Recruitments: Recruitments for Parks and Recreation Director and Community
  Development Director are under way. Filing deadline for the Parks and Recreation
  Director was March 30. Applications are being screened and the top candidates will
  be interviewed April 23. Bob Murray and Associates is conducting the recruitment
  for Community Development Director. Filing deadline is May 15.
- Employee Processing: In March, staff processed two regular and eight non-regular appointments; two regular and three non-regular promotions; and two regular and three non-regular separations.
- Blood Drive: A total of 63 City employees participated in the April 3 Red Cross Blood Drive at the City Yard. Red Cross officials praised the generosity of City of Fullerton employees, and noted the City consistently has the best turnout at its blood drives than any other Orange County city. In fact, Fullerton's drives are second only to the City of Los Angeles in terms of employee participation.

## Library

- Charity League Grant: The Children's Services Division received a \$3,000 grant from the National Charity League's Fullerton chapter. The funds were used to purchase Ellison die machines and various die cuts. Children's Services uses die cuts in various activities that result in enlightening, unique, motivating and fun projects for children, parents, teachers and volunteers. The check was presented to the Library March 22 at the National Charity League meeting.
- TumbleBooks: Parents can now encourage their young children to "tumble into reading" thanks to the addition of the popular series of electronic books called "TumbleBooks" to the Children's Library. The Fullerton Public Library now offers e-books for children and their parents. The e-books include more than 117 animated stories, 36 games, and 78 comprehension quizzes. Another fascinating feature about the series is the foreign-language collection which consists of stories in Spanish, French and Chinese. You can start tumbling by visiting www.fullertonlibrary.org/kids and clicking on the TumbleBooks icon! TumbleBooks are enjoyed from your pc or laptop and do not require downloading.
- Grant Sought: The Library is seeking a Hometown Helper Grant which will support a Kindergarten Welcome Package for underserved students by providing 1,172 kindergarten students with a backpack. The project promotes early literacy by giving each student his or her very own book, "Welcome to Kindergarten" by Anne Rockwell. The backpack also includes a pencil, sticker, pencil/crayon case, and an application inviting each student to obtain his or her own library card. To boost the Library's chances of receiving the award, the staff invites everyone to post a positive comment at <a href="http://www.myhometownhelper.com/ViewProject.aspx?id=15001">http://www.myhometownhelper.com/ViewProject.aspx?id=15001</a>.

## Maintenance Services

#### Administration:

- ➤ In March, the Department received 1,176 service requests, completing 804 (68 percent) in the month. Of the 76 emergency requests received, 18 (4 percent) were completed within one day. Of the 76 emergences, 61 were for trees blown down by the wind storm March 27. All the emergency calls were resolved within 48 hours, but we are still catching up on the documentation. The Building and Facilities Division received the most requests, 391, or 33 percent of the total.
- ➤ The analysis team is making progress on the Restaurant Overlay District audit. Most departments have reported their costs and revenues; the team is still waiting for data from one or two others.

- ➤ In March, the analysis team began working on a performance audit of the Sewer Division's operations. The audit will serve two purposes: first, to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the sewer maintenance programs; and second, to comply with a state requirement for an internal audit of sewer programs.
- ➤ The Department's support staff received 2,300 calls in March, an average of 115 per workday, or 58 for each of our two primary customer service personnel.

#### Facilities:

- ➤ Graffiti Crews removed 41,076 square feet of graffiti from 323 sites in March. Year-to-date totals are 372,089 square feet of graffiti removed from 2,692 sites.
- Staff completed 15 custodial inspections of City facilities.
- ➤ The capital project to replace the Museum air conditioning system is near completion. The roofing project is awaiting bids. The Division is working with the Engineering Department to insure all required work is properly completed.
- ➤ The capital project to replace Fire Station 1's air conditioning system is in the design stages and is being handled by the Engineering Department.
- Sewer: In March, the Division: had no City or private sewer overflows; hydrojetted 18.59 miles of sewer mains; root cut or mechanically treated 8,437 linear feet of main; mechanically treated 162 sewer laterals; did CCTV inspections of 25,772 linear feet of sewer main; approved 38 Lifeline fee applications and two large lot applications; and received 20 sewer fee calls and 56 sewer service requests.
- Equipment: In March, the Division performed 93 PM inspections, two BIT inspections, 12 smog certifications, five smoke tests, and two aerial certifications.
- Landscape: West Coast Arborists, the City's contract tree-trimming company, has performed the following services from July 1, 2006, through March 15, 2007: trimmed 7,392 trees; removed 423 trees and stumps; planted 338 trees; and responded to 320 service requests.
- Street: In March, the Division: cleaned eight roadway spills, 252,928 linear feet of sidewalk, 276 drains and 2,673 miles of street; used 20 tons of asphalt for digouts, 22 tons for Water Division digouts and 62 tons for patching; milled 303 linear feet of gutter; made 87 asphalt sidewalk repairs; ground 655 sidewalks; planed 785 square feet of asphalt; installed, fabricated and cleaned 383 signs; and applied 225 gallons of paint.

## Parks and Recreation

#### • Capital Improvements:

- Final plans for Laguna Lake are being reviewed to confirm all corrections have been made. A set of plans has been forwarded to the Rivers and Mountain Conservancy for its review and approval.
- Work on the Richman Park improvements is to be completed in June.
- ➤ A revised master plan for the Lemon Park restroom has been reviewed and the architect has been requested to make minor corrections.
- ➤ The spring session of the Adopt-A-Park Program is under way, with 25 local nonprofit groups participating in the maintenance of parks and recreational trails.
- > Two filler panels that connect the two new tot lot shade structures at the Fullerton Sports Complex will be installed April 5.

#### Senior Multi-Service Center:

- > Eighteen persons attended the Center's skin cancer screening clinic March 6.
- ➤ "Writing Your Life History," a five-week class to help seniors write their life stories, began March 7, with an average attendance of 15 students.
- ➤ The YWCA of North Orange County provided breast cancer screening services to 19 low-income and uninsured women at the Center on March 15.
- Approximately 130 seniors attended a St. Patrick's Day party hosted by the TLC lunch program March 16.
- ➤ The volunteer income tax preparation assistance program served 171 seniors in March. The program ends April 12.

## Richman Community Center:

- ➤ The following services were offered to domestic violence victims in March: 20 referrals for legal services such as child custody and support, and 20 referrals for community resources such as food and counseling services.
- Fifteen persons are enrolled in the new diabetes education classes sponsored by Latino Health Access.
- ➤ The Discovery Science Center gave a presentation to 30 children in the afterschool program.

➤ The Valencia Health Committee heard an update on St. Jude Neighborhood Health Center operations. Efforts are under way to make the clinic more user-friendly.

#### Garnet Community Center

- A Family Fun Day was held in March in collaboration with the Police Department, Parks and Recreation Department and volunteers. More than 150 kids played soccer and carnival games, did arts and crafts, and decorated cupcakes. Kids and adults also learned about drugs and alcohol.
- More than 15 teens participated in a four-week class on the concepts of urban art, exploring their art abilities, tools needed, and the history of urban art.
- Staff participated in a workshop on the dangers of inhalants and its negative impact on youth, families and the community.

#### Tiny Tots

- ➤ 51 tots hunted for leprechauns at the annual Leprechaun Hunt at Independence Park. None were found, but there were art surprises for each child.
- > Spring was welcomed with class portraits and individual photo-backpacks supplied by Teddy Bear Portraits.
- ➤ The 33 children in the 4-5-year-old class are having fun learning about the new spring season, while the 18 children in the 3-4-year-old class are exploring art.
- Youth Programs: Students in both the Orangethorpe and Maple After-school programs enjoyed the "Mad Science" interactive workshop March 23.

## • Independence Park/Teen Programs:

- The Youth and Family Services Division hosted the "School Ready Child" Health & Safety Fair at Independence Park March 24. The event, a collaboration with the Fullerton School District School Readiness Center, was a huge success, with more than 250 people attending.
- The Youth and Family Services Division also hosted an extremely successful "National & Global Youth Services Day" event at Independence Park March 31, with 500 participants. The fair was a collaboration of community partners, including the North Orange County YMCA, Fullerton School District After-School Programs, and the Fullerton Boys and Girls Club.

#### Tennis Center:

- The first weekend of April will mark the end of the USTA adult league season for Orange County. Three weeks later, the mixed adult leagues begin, using five courts instead of their usual three!
- ➤ The Center will host its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Junior Satellite Tournament April 14-15 and 21-22, with 100 juniors expected to participate.
- Servite's boys' tennis is also in mid-season and will finish the first week of May.

#### Youth Sports:

- Opening ceremonies for Little League and Softball got off to a great start the last weekend in February and the first two weekends in March. Fullerton Rangers spring soccer is also well under way, with approximately 750 children enrolled.
- Fullerton Youth Rugby hosted more than 22 teams in a highly successful international rugby tournament March 17-18. Players traveled from as far as Canada, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Arizona and Northern and Southern California. The tournament took place at Ladera Vista Jr. High and Commonwealth Elementary schools. Mckenzie Lane of Fullerton will be presented with the first "Mayor's Cup" MVP trophy at a coming Council meeting.

#### Outdoor Recreation:

- ➤ More people have begun to inquire about outdoor classes provided by the City with the onset of warmer weather. Fullerton's "Get Outdoors!" classes are also being promoted through the City of Brea.
- Family trail hikes started last month, providing a great opportunity to "stop and smell the pine trees" while enjoying the Juanita Cooke Trail. A class drop-in fee of \$3 has been implemented to allow citizens to try the different hiking classes.
- Kayaking classes are generating interest as the water warms in Newport Bay.
- Preparation for the Kid's Fishing Derby continues with a t-shirt design contest. Fifth- and sixth-grade students from Hermosa and Laguna schools were invited to participate and a winner will be announced this month.
- Classes: Spring registration continues strong, with more than 1,900 residents participating in classes, many of whom used the on-line ClassEConnect to sign up.

#### Cultural and Events:

- ➤ "Hatching the Past: Dinosaur Eggs, Nests, and Young," the Main Gallery exhibit, offers a rare look at the life of dinosaurs. The exhibit is proving very popular, with school tours fully booked until the exhibit closes April 29.
- ➤ The Wednesday "Stroller Brigade" program continues to appeal to families and younger children (preschool age and younger). The galleries are open before regularly scheduled hours for families to bring their young children to see the exhibit and also enjoy storytelling, coloring, and arts and crafts.
- ➤ The four-week Wednesday Art Studio program is an outlet for young artists to explore their creativity through various art media. Twenty-one students are enrolled in the current session.
- ➤ Staff has facilitated the installation of a new mural at Olive Park under the direction of Katherine England. Education staff and the artist visited neighbors, attended a community meeting, and met with landscape personnel to assure the success of the piece. This new piece of the City's Public Art Collection will be completed in June. A second public art piece is in the planning stages at the site of Leo Fender's original radio repair shop on Harbor Boulevard.
- ➤ In March, the Museum's education staff began a five-week class at La Vista High School in conjunction with the Fullerton Joint Union High School District's Tobacco Education and Prevention Program. Students identified propaganda techniques used by tobacco and alcohol advertisers, then created their own "bad-vertisement" to satirize the industry, especially in its targeting of young consumers. Staff is looking forward to displaying the pieces in the school library.
- For the fifth year, the Museum Center hosted Fullerton School District's GATE Family Night, with dinosaur-themed presentations and activities. More than 150 people attended the three-hour event, staffed by FMC staff and volunteers as well as representatives from the GATE Parents Organization.

## **Police**

#### Patrol Division:

➤ A woman having lunch in her car in the Fullerton College parking structure observed a man attempt to enter a pickup truck using a slide hammer. The suspect entered the vehicle and was working on the truck's ignition, but stopped and fled. The woman thought he had seen security personnel. The woman called the Police Department with the suspect's vehicle description. Officer Mike Hines located and stopped the vehicle on E. Chapman Avenue. Three suspects were arrested and burglary tools were seized.

- Officer Hugo Garcia made a vehicle stop on W. Orangethorpe Avenue which resulted in the arrest of a man and a woman for possession of stolen property. The man was a parolee. The team was in possession of property reported stolen in a residential burglary in Buena Park. Buena Park Police think the suspects are responsible for several burglaries in their city.
- ➤ Officer Matthew Martinez, on his first day of day shift, located an unreported stolen vehicle from Oklahoma. The man found with the car had punched the ignition and used the screwdriver as a key. The suspect gave a false name in an apparent attempt to hide the fact he had four warrants out for his arrest. The suspect was arrested.
- ➤ The P.M. Watch took a proactive stance on the Tuesday night bar crowd on a recent Tuesday when motorcycle street racers mixed in with the usual bar foot traffic. Last year the motorcycle racers created havoc when they left the bars at closing time and sped off on Harbor Boulevard. This year, P.M. Watch cited and stored three of the motorcycles for registration violations early in the evening. This had a calming effect on the motorcyclists and they left in an orderly fashion.
- Corporal Scott Marple coordinated a county-wide railroad crossing enforcement detail. The Railroad cooperated by providing an engine on which a Traffic Officer rode and watched for crossing violations, radioing the locations to waiting motorcycle officers from various cities. A total of 231 citations were issued, five arrests made, two stolen vehicles recovered, and 17 vehicles stored. Corporal Marple did an outstanding job coordinating 22 separate agencies.

# Redevelopment & Economic Development

- Civic Center Conceptual Study Update: LPA completed its needs assessment for the Main Library, Senior Center, Amerige Park and the Boys and Girls Club in February. The study has been approved by both the Library Board of Trustees and the Parks and Recreation Commission. Staff intends to take the study to Council in May.
- Fullerton Transportation Center Master Plan: The third and final community workshop was held March 8, and was attended by approximately 75 persons. A framework with alternative land uses was presented and comments were received. The next steps consist of revising the master plan framework based on input and preparing a specific plan and related environmental documents. A scoping meeting for the environmental impact report will be scheduled as part of the report's preparation process. Other public meetings are also anticipated later this year to review the specific plan.

•	McDonald's Restaurant Relocation: Conceptual plans for the new McDonald's restaurant were to be scheduled by the RDRC March 22. Staff plans to take this item to the Planning Commission this month for consideration.