

"I heard the news today, oh boy..." (Lennon/McCartney)

Letter from the City Manager

Now that the excitement from the Holidays has settled, I wanted to wish the entire City of San Clemente a Happy New Year and extend words of encouragement to those of you who have not yet given up on your New Years' Resolutions – keep it going, you can do this!

2018 was a year of celebrations (San Clemente celebrated its 90th Birthday) and community, and what better way to begin 2019 than with that same positivity. As I look toward the next year, I am hopeful that 2019 will be our best yet. I am continually blown away and inspired by our staff. They make unbelievable contributions every day, and always persevere even when the challenges we face seem unending. This unwavering commitment to the residents and to each other is the hallmark of a great city.

With that said, the coming year is likely to be one of our most eventful to date. One notable project that is coming to the City in 2019 is the Ralphs Skate Court Lighting Project. On January 15th, City Council accepted a combined donation of \$50,000 from the San Clemente Skatepark Coalition and the Friends of San Clemente Beaches, Parks and Recreation Foundation for the installation of court lights at Ralphs Skate Court. The Ralphs Skate Court, originally approved by City Council in 2000 and built in 2001 with the help of a generous donation from Ralphs Grocery Stores, has been a staple in the community for the last 18 years. Recalling the Council meeting, it was great seeing a few of the youth from the community come forward and voice their support for this new project. Awesome youth like Happy Sager and Soren Cappadocia, who without this skate park would not have a formalized and safe space to practice the sport they so dearly love. Years ago, the City provided this skate park as an alternative amenity for youth who were not active in traditional organized sports. If not for the civic engagement and advocacy of our youth at the time, this segment of Richard Steed Park may have been just another soccer field. Sitting here today, I'm glad the City Council made a different choice for future generations. And now, with the implementation of the lighting project, Happy, Soren and other kids and families in the community will be able to enjoy the space well into the evening hours.

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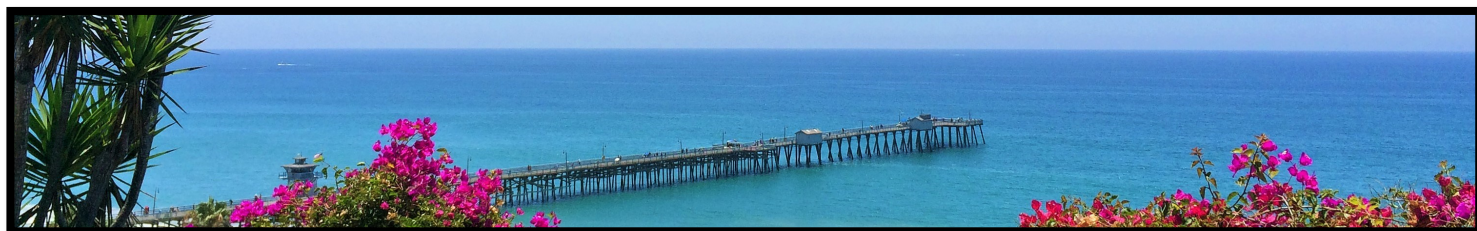
City Manager Message continued

I know that improvements, expansions and the building of new skate parks often stir up statements, pro and con, by members of the community. Some voices might say, “A *new* skate park?” “Don’t we already have one of those?” “Improvements? Aren’t the current conditions good enough?” And, of course, various comments that the skate park would attract “loitering, drug use and more noise.” My point is that building and sustaining a better community requires some give and take. New voices bring new opportunities for changing the status quo. More diversity of people and ideas are a good thing; without them, San Clemente wouldn’t be what it is today.

Looking forward, I am proud to work in the City of San Clemente because of parks like the Ralphs Skate Court and because of projects like the addition of lighting to the court. It’s because of projects and spaces like these, where the community, both young and old, can come together and engage in making their City and the spaces they love a better place, that make San Clemente the best possible place to live, work and play. In 2019, I hope you’ll join me as we take on the endless challenges and opportunities that await us. I am confident that through listening to opposing viewpoints, active communication, and respectful collaboration, anything is possible.

All the best,

James



City Council Meeting for February 5, 2019

The next City Council meeting will be held on February 5th at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers located at 100 Avenida Presidio

Here are a few items on the agenda that may be of interest.

Special Presentations

PierPride will be providing their accomplishments during 2018. This is the third year of partnership between PierPride and the City of San Clemente

Update on Homeless Issues in San Clemente

Lt. Peters and Stephanie Ogas of Mercy House will provide an update to city council on homeless issues in San Clemente.

Items 6 D&E– Proposed Parking Restrictions –City Owned Parking Lot at 221 Avenida Fabricante, City Owned Parking Lot at 100 and 118 Avenida Rosa

There will be two Resolutions brought before council for consideration. The restriction of overnight parking at the Senior Center and Animal Shelter.

Item 6-O—Hours of Operation of Public Restrooms West of I-5.

After a one year pilot program of locking all public restrooms west of I-5 from 10:00p.m. to 6:30 a.m. a report is being brought back to council to allow the continued locking of all public restrooms at night as a method to deter interior vandalism and illegal activity and vagrancy.

To view the agenda in its entirety please visit our city website at san-clemente.org

Free Sandbags for Residents

With the rain expected to continue this week-end and you are in need of sandbags, we have them available at the Maintenance & Corporate yard located at 390 Avenida Pico and will be available from 7:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Sandbags are also available for pick up on the week-end at 100 Avenida Presidio, San Clemente CA, 92672. (Old Fire Station located just below City Hall, 2nd Driveway)

Lifeguard Tryouts

Our Marine Safety Division will be holding Lifeguard Tryouts on Saturday, February 23, 2019 at 7:00 a.m.

Marine Safety Headquarters is located at 620 Avenida Del Mar.

This is an exiting opportunity for individuals to work as an Ocean Lifeguard. Ocean Lifeguards perform beach and ocean rescues, provide emergency medial treatment, and enforce laws. For more information and how to apply go to our city website at www.san-clemente.org.