

City Manager's Weekly Report No. 146

January 19, 2024

1. Historic Districts Pamphlet Released

Community Development Department recently released an informational pamphlet about Glendale's historic districts. "Living with History" offers guidance for people living in existing districts or considering new ones. Starting with general information about what districts are and why people want to establish them, it goes on to discuss how design review works and then looks at more specific topics, such as installing solar panels and developing accessory dwelling units (ADUs). A copy of the pamphlet was mailed to every property owner and resident in the city's nine designated historic districts. It will also be used for educational outreach as new districts are proposed, including the three that are currently under consideration. Copies will also be offered to local homeowner and historical groups interested in spreading the word about "living with history" in Glendale's beautiful historic districts.

2. "Brisket" Joins the Police Department

The Police Department has added a new member to its ranks, one whose job is to provide comfort and compassion for those experiencing the trauma and emotions that often come with police work. A Labrador retriever named "Brisket" has joined the GPD as a Facility Dog. Brisket is two years old and is described as goofy, smart, affectionate, and abundantly happy. He enjoys walks, playing tug-of-war, napping, and cuddling.



Facility dogs are specially trained to offer a unique service to members of the community, including providing comfort to victims and witnesses during interviews and court proceedings, helping victims process grief and loss and lowering tension and stress among the staff and community following traumatic events. They also engage with the community by building relationships with children, conducting senior citizen visits and welfare checks and participating in public events.

He'll be partnered with Glendale Police Services Officer Amy Tate. You can reach out to Office Tate at ATate@GlendaleCa.gov, if you would like to invite Brisket to your office or community event.

3. Gratitude for Agent Melik and Officer Onderdonk

Here's a heartwarming note from a family member of a person in need who appreciated the caring way two of our fine police officers handled a difficult situation that resulted in potentially saving someone's life:

I am reaching out to those in authority within the different constitutional in Glendale to express a debt of gratitude for two of your finest, Agent Melik and Officer Onderdonk.

If it weren't for their efforts and a good Samaritan on 9 January 2024, our family member, brother and friend would have more than likely passed away on a park bench, alone. That nameless Samaritan called when they saw a person in distress, in 45-degree weather who desperately needed help.

Anthony Davis the man they saved, could be your neighbor or closest friend. He grew up in a small town in Florida. Typical story, high school football, band then on to college at the University of Florida where he graduated with a degree in accounting. Anthony then went on get his graduate degree to become a CPA. A kind soul that is always willing to offer help and believes in manners and doing what is right by one another.

If this sounds like the beginning of a eulogy that is because if it weren't for those Officers, that is exactly what I would be writing now. Because these remarkable Officers saw my brother as a person and not a statistic, I am able to write to you today with a hopeful heart that my brother will thrive and not die on the streets a broken and hurting person.

There aren't enough words to thank these officers for their kindness.

Agent Melik for his compassion in seeing a person in distress and doing what he could to help by earnestly communicating with my brother and calling my sister. He made an effort to connect with a person suffering with the intent to help and he succeeded. That engagement was the beginning of care in a crisis situation that made a life changing difference for my brother.

Officer Onderdonk accepted the next steps in assisting with the crisis and did so with a caring heart. This fine officer brought my brother to a community center to remove him from the elements and stayed in contact with my sister throughout. Officer Onderdonk went above and beyond when he communicated with the staff at the hotel we were trying to check my brother into. It was because of that communication we were able to provide the food, clothing and shelter our brother needed to survive. Officer Onderdonk's accessibility in talking with my sister and following up with her was a tremendous blessing to us all. It's hard to truly put into words the level of pain and frustration a family experiences when looking for a lost loved one. Officer Onderdonk understood and empathized with our pain.

Working in Public Service is not easy and can be a thankless job at times. These officers did not act to gain anything. Helping a homeless person is not done for accolades or special recognition. It is an act of caring for another human being that transcends a job responsibility, it is a reflection of a person's moral compass.

Please honor these officers with the recognition they richly deserve. They acted out of compassion and humility, kindness and honor. These two officers are absolute angels and I hope they are commended for their actions. Our family will never forget their kindness.

They didn't save one life that day, they saved a family. A family that would have experienced the pain of loss all too familiar that would have affected the lifetimes of all who loved my brother.

Thank you for these fine Officers, please take good care of them.

Sincerely and with a grateful heart.

John Davis

Cape Coral, FL

4. California Energy Commissioners Visit Grayson Site

On January 10th, Southern California Public Power Authority (SCPPA) hosted a day-long event with California Energy Commissioner (CEC) Vice Chair Gunda, SB 100 lead Dr. Liz Gill, and representatives from nine SCPPA members. The trip included roundtable discussions and tours of Magnolia power Plant in Burbank and the Grayson site in Glendale. Vice Chair Gunda actively participated in conversations focused on topics related to reaching 100% clean energy, including: transmission constraints, community engagement, and planning issues.

Vice Chair Gunda is the lead CEC commissioner on grid reliability and the SB 100 report. He emphasized the critical importance of ensuring our clean energy transition does not risk grid reliability (i.e., blackouts). California's 2020 rolling blackouts, while relatively short, created significant political and public backlash. Based on this experience, future blackouts could create major setbacks to our clean energy efforts. This is why the state has made aggressive investments recently (in the \$billions) to extend Diablo Canyon, extend natural gas once through cooling units, and purchase other fossil generating resources to provide backup as we bring on more renewable resources. (The state is also taking aggressive action to expand demand response and provide incentives for core clean energy resources that have reliability benefits.) There is general acknowledgment that as we move to the state's 100% clean energy goal by 2045, we will need fossil backup until we can demonstrate that they're no longer needed to avoid blackouts – the state's [SB 100 report](#) specifically explains that in its core scenario, "much of the existing natural gas capacity [in the state] is retained through 2024."

Vice Chair Gunda expressed interest in working with Publicly Owned Utilities (POU) to identify ways to provide planning support, explore policy solutions, and incorporate POU input in state actions (such as the SB 100 report). As next steps, Vice Chair Gunda asked SCPPA to organize joint-POU monthly meetings (with quarterly in-person meetings) to continue these discussions.

5. Us vs. The Climate Change Opens at Adams Square Mini Park Gas Station

Us vs. The Climate Change by [The Campbell Center](#) is on display at the Adams Square Mini Park Gas Station through Friday, March 22, 2024. The Campbell Center associates' installation reflects their challenges with global warming. The associates have decorated umbrellas that reflect the stress & anxiety that climate discourse causes them. The umbrellas are turned upside to symbolize shelter & protection, and recycled cactus pillows at the base of the installation reflect the environments unknown. Since 2018 The Campbell Center has held open-house events and galleries that contain the art of various artists with disabilities. Their associates have showcased their work through watercolors, acrylic paint, and community murals during these events.

This temporary art installation is sponsored by the Glendale Arts and Culture Commission through funding from the Urban Art Fund, and support from Glendale Library, Arts & Culture, Glendale Community Services and Parks, and the Adams Hill Neighborhood Association. <https://www.glendaleartsandculture.org/adamssquareexhibits>

6. Future City Council and Housing Authority Agendas (subject to change)

January 23:

- GPD Real Time Intelligence Center (RTIC) Construction
- City-wide furniture Procurement Agreement Extension
- GWP Public Financial Management Agreement

January 30:

- Loan Commitment & Lease Option for 426 Piedmont Ave (afternoon)
- Land Use & Circulation Element Project Update (afternoon)
- Public and Private Tree Protection Ordinance - Introduction
- Appeal of Proposed Development at 1900 Riverside Drive
- Proposed Amendments to Rental Rights Program
- Pasadena Humane Society's Presentation on Coyote Management Plan
- Selection of Delegates for SCAG's General Assembly

February 6:

- Proposed Shared Mobility Pilot Program (afternoon)
- DGA Annual Workplan and Budget (afternoon)
- Entitlement Process Review Improvement Check-in (afternoon)
- La Crescenta Ave Rehabilitation Project Award of Contract
- Public and Private Tree Protection Ordinance – Adoption
- Adoption of the MOU with GFFA

