

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS 2011



State of the City 2011 Speech

Mayor Ken Blackwood – October 17, 2011

It has been my great honor to serve as your mayor for the past year and I am pleased to present the 2011 Annual State of the City report. This annual report is an opportunity to acknowledge the City's accomplishments over the past year and highlight some of the activities that make Lomita such a wonderful city to reside in.

I would also like to acknowledge the dedication of my fellow councilmembers, our volunteer citizen advisory committee members and our city staff whose tireless commitment is to provide you with the very best services possible. Additionally, I would also like to thank the Lomita Chamber of Commerce for their continued support of city businesses and all of our other service organizations including the South Bay Lion's Club, Lomita Sister City Association, Rotary Club, Kiwanis and VFW, to name a few, for all the great work they do.

A special thanks to the LA County Sheriff's Department for their efforts over the past year. Crime rates continue to be very low and John Despot, our Community Resource Deputy continues to do a fantastic job as a liaison to our residents and business owners.

Budget

As everyone knows, times continue to be challenging due to the state budget crisis and the overall state of the economy. Because of the fiscally conservative past practices by the City Council the City has been able to maintain a 50% general fund reserve level. The general fund reserve is currently \$3,812,982. Total departmental revenues across all funds are projected to be \$14,315,816 with departmental expenditures at \$14,339,783. City staffing continues to be very lean we are currently at 47 full-time budgeted positions down from 50 full-time budgeted positions in FY 2008-09.

Employee Negotiations

The City and the City's employees' association have successfully completed negotiations. In recognition of rising pension costs, the employees have agreed to contribute an increased percentage towards their pension cost.

Also, employees have agreed to a 2nd Tier pension formula for new hires (2% @60) with newly hired employees paying an even greater percentage towards their pension. This agreement will save the City significant dollars in both the short and long-term.

New and Upgraded Businesses

The City welcomed many new businesses, including two new restaurants, Rizzo's Pizza located across the street from the County Library at Narbonne and 242nd (they moved from their location in Torrance) and St. Moritz Restaurant (next to their bakery location on Narbonne Avenue and 256th Street).

Several existing business made significant investments in their current location. One is the Shell gasoline station @ Crenshaw Bl. and Lomita Bl. where the renovation included a new convenience store building and upgraded car wash.



Rizzo's Pizza (Narbonne/242nd Street)



St. Moritz Restaurant (Narbonne/256th Street)



Shell Station (Lomita Bl./Crenshaw Bl.)

Water Reservoir and Treatment Plant

After many years of planning, the City's new water reservoir and treatment plant was completed in August of 2010. We have definitely had some challenges with getting the reservoir, well and treatment plant fully operational. At this point in time the reservoir is filled with MWD water to about 70% capacity providing approximately 4 days of emergency water supply to our residents. The City has retained the services of Kennedy Jenks to provide an assessment of necessary

physical improvements to be able to utilize the well and treatment plant as well as blend well and MWD water. We are continuing to work towards achieving the ultimate goal of being able to pump enough water locally to meet approximately half of our annual needs instead of being solely reliant on imported water purchased from the Metropolitan Water District.

Street, Water Line and Sidewalk Improvement Projects

2011 was a very busy year for street, water line and sidewalk improvement projects within our City. The cost of these various Capital Improvement Projects total close to \$5,000,000. Some of the projects that were completed include:

- Phase 1A Street and Waterline Improvements
 - Various street segments throughout the City.
- Phase 1B Street and Waterline Improvements
 - Walnut Street (north of Lomita Bl.)
 - Avocado Street
- Citywide Slurry Seal Program
 - Various street segments throughout the City
- Pacific Coast Highway Waterline Improvement
 - Between the western border and Narbonne Avenue
- Citywide Sidewalk Improvement

The City also purchased a major piece of equipment, an asphalt zipper, roller and spreader which allows the Public Works staff to complete minor street repairs in a more cost effective timely manner.



Phase 1A – 255th Street



Citywide Slurry Seal Project – 242nd Street



Phase 1B – Walnut Street



Phase 1A – 253rd Place

Social Media

Not only do we continue to stream these proceedings live, the city has also launched a Facebook page and I encourage everyone interested in this form of social media to check it out.

Administrative Services Department

For the sixth straight year, the City has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association.

Lomita Golf Tournament

On July 29th, the City held its 5th Annual Golf Classic and Mayor's Cup at Lakewood Country Club. The event was a great success once again raising monies for Lomita recreation programs including the Junior Golf and Teen Program.

IT Upgrades

On June 20, 2011, the City Council approved an agreement with Acorn Technology to overhaul the City's IT infrastructure and provide on-going IT management services including off-site data storage. This will ensure that the City has the highest level of technological knowledge in managing and maintaining the City's IT infrastructure. The replacement of the City's aging servers has been completed and staff is in the process of assessing all of the individual PC work stations for possible upgrade/replacement.

Lomita Manor Management

Effective October 1, 2011, Lomita Manor, the City's 78-unit senior housing development will no longer be managed by the Housing Authority of LA County. The City has entered into a contract with American Baptist Homes of the West to take over the day-to-day management of Lomita Manor.

Project 214 – Lomita Park Improvements

If you have not been to Lomita Park lately you really should visit. The Park has undergone many improvements this past fiscal year. The improvements include relocation of the switchgear and upgrade; gym floor replacement, sidewalk removal and replacement, park fence replacement/repairs, addition of a picnic shelter and some very beautiful landscaping.



Lomita Park

Other City Events

The City continues to sponsor and host many special events throughout the year including the Holiday Tree Lighting, Easter Egg Hunt at Lomita Park, Drug/Gang Free Walk, Memorial Day Ceremony, Movies Under the Stars, 9/11 Ceremony, Halloween at the Park and many others.

Lomita Railroad Museum

Our wonderful railroad museum continues to welcome visitors and hosts a number of events throughout the year including a Chamber Mixer, the High Tea fundraiser and the museum speaker series.



Lomita Parks and Recreation Programs

Our fantastic recreation department conducts numerous classes and various competitive sports for both kids and adults throughout the year. In addition to these activities, the City is also home to dog obedience training, music and dance. The recreation department also organizes the Lomita Teen Program keeping teens busy with different activities and special field trips.



Teen Program - Orange County Fair



Teen Program – 30' Banana Split @ Lomita Park

In closing, I believe even during these difficult economic times, the City has been able to accomplish much and continues to offer so many things for its residents. I can tell you, that the City, through your City Council, your volunteer city committee members, your dedicated city staff and your efforts as residents and business, Lomita will continue to be the best city it can be.

Thank you.