



QUARTERLY City Manager's Report

Summer 2023

City Manager's Message



We had a busy spring! To name just a few successful projects, Community Services events (Easter Egg Hunt, Crawfish Festival, Summerfest, Concerts in the Park, and more), the Universally Accessible Playground (UAP), budget process, procuring a parcel for our future Fire Station 1, the re-opening of the Warner & Brookhurst bridge, paving projects, eight (8) permissible left turn traffic signals, and the launch of a redesigned City website. We continue and strive to provide concierge service, as my Fire Chief, Bill McQuaid, would say. Our community is so unique and committed to helping each other wherever possible to continue to make Fountain Valley "A Nice Place to Live". City staff is eager to serve our residents, businesses, and visitors each day. Our Fire and Police Departments continue to appreciate the support they receive from the community. Transparency will continue to be a priority for me, thus, the City Manager's Quarterly Report will be prepared and available to the public on a quarterly basis. I hope you find this Quarterly Report educational and beneficial.

Sincerely,
Maggie Le

Maggie Le, Fountain Valley City Manager

Administration

New City Website is LIVE

After 3 months of collaborative teamwork, the website redesign is officially complete and will go LIVE to the public on Tuesday, July 25. We are so excited to launch a modernized, refreshed resource for the community to access at their fingertips, which is now ADA compliant and user-friendly. Check out our new website at fountainvalley.gov

Brookhurst & Warner Bridges are Now Open

Mayor Constantine, Council Members Bui and Harper, and City officials gathered at the Brookhurst Bridge on Thursday, July 20 ahead of the grand reopening of the bridge, which was on Saturday morning, July 22. Ward would be the last bridge to open in September 2023.

Central Cities Navigation Center

The City in partnership with the cities of Garden Grove and Westminster are working to develop a year-round Navigation Center. The Navigation Center will provide emergency housing and wrap-around services to individuals experiencing homelessness. The address of the future Navigation Center is 13871 West Street and it is expected to open by spring of 2024. Proposed Layout:

- Up to 100 beds
- Men's, women's and couple's dorms and lavatories
- Full kitchen
- Laundry room
- Dining and outdoor lounge areas
- Check-in and staging areas
- Lockers for personal items
- Staff and service areas [More...](#)



Follow us on Social Media!



Strategic Planning Retreat

City Council, executive management team and managers participated in the City's 6-month strategic planning session. Our team collaborated and agreed on a vision statement, mission statement, the City's three-year goals, and the next six-month strategic objectives. [More...](#)

Community Development

General Plan Update

The General Plan creates a long-term vision for the City's future and we encourage everyone to participate in the review process, including the many public meetings we will be hosting. The City has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the 2045 Fountain Valley General Plan to address the potential environmental effects associated with implementation of the proposed project. [More...](#)

Sober Living Ordinance for Consideration

Sober Living Homes, a type of group home, are a topic of interest and concern to many citizens of Fountain Valley as well as to the City Council and City Staff. Sober Living Homes are often located in single-family residences and are a cooperative living arrangement for people recovering from alcohol and/or drug addiction supporting one another in their sobriety.

The City is limited in its ability to regulate or restrict this type of use due to a complex set of State and Federal laws. City Council will consider a sober living homes ordinance similar to the City of Costa Mesa in August 2023 which is currently being tested in the Court system.

Short-Term Rental Update

Short-Term Rental enforcement is in full effect. Staff is engaged in discussions with Airbnb regarding the removal of listings. Based on discussions to date, the City expects that all listing will be removed within four to six weeks. Staff will also be working with other hosting platforms to remove their listings.

The TOT collection effort is also in full effect and being administered by the Finance Department. Finance department did receive a few back tax collections and will continue to work with former STR operators to comply with back TOT. Staff will be working with these STR operators to submit payment based on the TOT estimates that are obtained.

Former Boomers Property, 16800 Magnolia Avenue

The property owners have removed all of the nuisance issues, albeit without the required demolition permit and is working with City staff to get the proper permit to continue to lease the site for vehicle storage.

Building

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Permit and Inspection Activity | FY 22-23 | FY 21-22 |
| Permits Issued | 2354 | 1875 |
| Inspections | 7833 | 5674 |
| Plan Checks | 2176 | 1900 |
| Valuation Added | \$72,752,250 | \$145,259,827 |

Recently Approved Projects:

- Fountain Bowl Covered Patio, 17110 Brookhurst St.
- OC Salsa Dance & Event Center, 16131 Harbor Blvd.
- Jusu Center, 17025 Brookhurst St.
- Bonanni Residential Project, 8572 Talbert Ave.

Finance

FY 2023-24 Budget

City Council adopted the FY 2023-24 budget. Excluding transfers-out to other funds, the total citywide budget is \$144.7 million, a decrease of 1% compared to the adopted FY 2022-23 budget. These expenses are supported by \$130.7 million in revenue, an increase of 3.1% from the current fiscal year, and use of one-time Measure HH and capital improvement reserve funding. These total figures reflect revenues and expenses for all funds citywide including the General Fund, Internal Service Funds, Special Revenue Funds, Debt Service Funds, Capital Funds, and Enterprise Funds.

The *General Fund* is the primary operating fund of the City and supports fundamental services including Police, Fire, Community Development, Community Services, and general administration. Revenue for this fund comes from general taxes such as property tax, sales tax, Measure HH, and transient occupancy tax, as well as a variety of user and permit fees and other smaller sources. The adopted FY 2023-24 Operating Budget for the General Fund is \$72.5 million in expenditures and \$76.9 million in revenue, with an additional \$11.4 million for one-time capital projects.

Internal Service Funds, including information technology, government buildings, capital equipment, employee benefits, self-insurance, and fleet services account for activities provided to one City department by another City department. The adopted FY 2023-24 budget includes \$33.3 million in funding for these funds.

Special Revenue Funds are funds legally restricted to a specific purpose. Examples of Special Revenue Funds include the Gas Tax Fund and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). In total, the adopted expenditure budget for these funds is \$8.4 million for FY 2023-24, including capital improvement projects.

Debt Service Funds are used to account for debt service expenditures on general long-term debt. The City currently has four (4) outstanding debt obligations; the 2014 Revenue Bonds, 2016A Lease Revenue Bonds, 2015A Pension Obligation Bonds, and the 2017 Clean Energy Renewable Bonds (CREBS). Payments for citywide debt is \$3.5 million for FY 2023-24.

Capital Improvement Funds are used to account for the City's capital projects. These funds include the CIP and Drainage funds. In total, FY 2023-24 appropriations in the Capital Improvement Funds are budgeted at \$16.0 million.

Enterprise Funds are proprietary funds supported by user fees and charges. The rates charged to customers for these services cover the costs of operation, maintenance and capital, and infrastructure improvements. The City maintains three (3) Enterprise Funds including Water, Sewer, and Solid Waste. The expenditure budget for FY 2023-24 is \$30.5 million for both operating and capital.

You can find the adopted budget on the City website. [More...](#)

FY 2022-23 CALPERS Preliminary Return

CalPERS reported a preliminary net return of 5.8% on its investments for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2023. When factoring in CalPERS' discount rate of 6.8%, the City will experience an actuarial loss of 1% for the fiscal year. This return is preliminary and subject to adjustment. We expect to receive our annual actuarial valuation in late August and will present the updated valuation to City Council in the fall.

Recreation & Community Services

Department

Fountain Valley Sports Park Lease Update

City Staff continues negotiations with the County of Orange on the Mile Square lease terms for the next 50 years. Staff remains focused on maintaining the property rights provided to the City in the US Governments Quit Claim Deed for MISQ. The majority of lease and MOU terms have been agreed upon with only a few discussion points left, staff from both the County and City are expecting the proposed document to be presented to City Council in the 4th quarter of calendar year 2023.

Part-time Wage Increase - Now Hiring!

Have you ever wondered about all the amazing staff working at the great community events in Fountain Valley and thought...That looks like a fun and rewarding job? Well, there has never been a better time to apply for one of our open positions! On July 18, the Fountain Valley City Council approved a part-time wage increase effective immediately! The new pay scale for our part-time staff are listed below:

- Recreation Leaders: \$18.50-\$22.49
- Recreation Specialist: \$23.50-\$28.56

[More...](#)

Universally Accessible Playground (UAP) Project Update

UAP's create awareness, break down barriers and build friendships...We Play Together! The City of Fountain Valley and the Fountain Valley Community Foundation are collaborating on the first ever Universally Accessible Playground (UAP) and recreation area in Fountain Valley! Designed to bring people together, a UAP is a sensory-rich recreational environment that enables children and adults of all abilities to develop physically, socially, and emotionally. Centrally located at the Sports Park, this playground will provide accessible and inclusive recreational amenities and is sure to become a highlighting attraction in our community. The playground project is expected to break ground in November of this year with an anticipated completion date in March of 2024. Parke Make Life Better in FV!

Thank you to the State of California and Assemblyman Tri Ta from the 70th Assembly District for securing \$1,000,000 in support of Fountain Valley Universally Accessible Playground! These funds will make sure that children and families can play without barriers for generations to come in Fountain Valley. Parks make Life Better in Fountain Valley!

Hyundai Motor North America - \$100,000 Community Partnership Sponsorship

Thank you to Hyundai Motor America for the continued support of the City of Fountain Valley through their \$100,000 commitment as part of our annual Community Partnership Program.

As part of this program, the Fountain Valley Community Foundation will receive \$100,000 to be dispersed to the community in the following ways; \$10,000 to the FV Chamber of Commerce to support their annual programs and events (Platinum Sponsor), \$25,000 to the FV Community Foundation to be given out as community grants, \$25,000 to host the annual Hyundai Hope on Wheels 5K, and \$40,000 to be the Title Sponsor of the Community Services Department's annual special events (Summerfest, Tree Lighting, Egg Hunt, Concerts in the Park).

Lobster Festival from September 8-10, 2023

Come out to the Fountain Valley Sports Park for live music, karaoke lounge, critter show, lobsters and more on Friday, September 8 from 5-11 p.m., Saturday, September 9 from 12-11 p.m. and Sunday, September 10 from 12-8 p.m. FREE parking available. The Original Lobster Festival returns for its 27th year of providing Fresh Live Maine Lobster, prepared to mouth-watering perfection in the World's Largest Cooker.

Hyundai 5K at the FV Sports Park on September 30

The Annual Hyundai Hope On Wheels 5K is back again this year (as well as virtually)! We are excited to celebrate this annual community event to raise money for pediatric cancer research and bring money to the local community. [More...](#)

Human Resources

Active Recruitments

- Director of Public Works
- Dispatcher – Lateral
- Engineering Technician III
- Fire Prevention Volunteer
- Firefighter/Paramedic
- Maintenance Worker II – Facilities
- Mechanic
- Police Cadet
- Police Officer – Lateral/Academy Graduate
- Police Recruit
- Police Services Officer
- Recreation Leader
- Recreation Specialist

[More...](#)

Police Department

- City Council extended a contract with City Net through June 30, 2024. City Net has effectively assisted 45 street exits from April 21, 2023. Hundreds of other homeless individuals have accepted some sort of outreach services including, but not limited to, temporary shelter, medical services, mental health services, financial services and employment services. City Net recently assisted six (6) homeless people get off the streets through various shelters and rehabilitation facilities.
- Officers and RSVPs participated in the Kids' Police Academy hosted by the Recreation Department. This is the first year our Police Department participated and offered this fun learning opportunity about the department's operations.
- Police Chief Sheppard honored resident Less Hurvath with a Crime Biter Award for helping an elderly man with dementia find his way home.
- Become an RSVP volunteer...the Fountain Valley Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) was established in June 1990, starting with nine RSVP volunteers. The program currently has approximately 45 members. RSVPs work in a variety of capacities and under the guidance of a Police Sergeant. [More...](#)
- National Night out will be on Tuesday, August 1 at Fountain Valley Sports Park. Come out for fun activities including movie in the park featuring Light Year and meet our officers as we continue to enhance the relationships between the community and law enforcement. [More...](#)

Public Works

Weather Emergency – Newland south of Ellis

On March 14 during the rain, pavement settlement/subsidence over a storm drain pipe was observed on Newland Street south of Ellis Avenue. Engineering plans are anticipated to be complete by end of August with plans to award a construction contract in September where construction may start as soon as October 2023. City Council continued to declare a local of emergency due to the rainstorm events.

CIP Projects

- PD Locker Room had its official construction kick off meeting July 12, 2023. The project began the first phase of construction the week of July 31, 2023.
- Warner TSSP
Construction started in July with new traffic signal controllers along the corridor. Future work includes traffic signal switches, a new traffic signal cabinet, fiber optic lines, CCTV cameras, and pedestrian push buttons and Vehicle Video detection.
- Talbert TSSP
Construction started in June with new traffic signal controllers along the corridor. Future work includes traffic signal switches, fiber optic lines, CCTV cameras and Vehicle Video detection.
- Residential GT229 (D1) Paving
 - o Awarded July 18, 2023
 - o Start Construction: August 2023
 - o End Construction: October 2023
- I-405
 - o Ward bridge re-opening – September 2023
- Universal Accessible Playground
 - o Groundbreaking December 2023

Fire Department

Strike Team Training

The Fire department have both of our OES engines out on strike team with a BC out as strike team leader trainee.

Jr. Firefighters Summer Camp

In conjunction with the Recreation Center, the Fire Department held its 2nd annual Jr. Firefighter Academy from July 10-14. This academy is a great opportunity to have fun, learn about the department and the skills the firefighter have while enjoying fun activities. They toured our Station #1, had Wet Wednesday with our water hose and ended with a graduation ceremony and pizza party where they received certificates and “badges”. This event is sponsored by our Fire’s P.R.E.P program, which allows the costs of this academy to stay at a fantastic low price for the week.

New FVY-E31 Engine

The Fire Department coordinated a ribbon cutting for the new FVY-E31 engine with City Council now that the engine is in service.

Pool Safety / Act of Heroism Recognition

During the June 20 City Council meeting, City Council recognized a brave 7 year-old-girl, Olivia Clay, for saving the life of an infant in a near-drowning incident. Olivia was recognized for her heroics and bravery as her quick actions saved the life of her younger cousin from nearly drowning in their backyard pool.

Fire Chief, Bill McQuaid, also presented on pool safety during that same meeting, sharing that drowning is the leading cause of death for children between the ages of 5 and 14. He noted drowning is preventable and there are simple measures that can be taken to prevent such a tragedy from happening. [More...](#)