

Spring 2019

City Newsletter

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In this issue:

Learn about significant cuts to city services that are being considered by the City Council. Please take our survey and attend the City Council Study Session on April 23.

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City Seeks Community Input on Considering Significant Budget Cuts and Future Solutions to Maintain City Services

The City is facing an ongoing budget deficit of \$3.5 million per year. This problem began back in June 2017 when the City Council passed a two-year budget with a significant deficit to the General Fund. Increases to contractual services, the rising cost of providing city services and employee pension obligations have all contributed to the budget deficit. Since that time, the City has made significant budget cuts, which include:

- \$1.2 million in spending cuts in Fiscal Year 2017/2018
- \$600,000 in spending cuts in Fiscal Year 2018/2019
- Hiring freezes of some positions
- No employee Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) were given in past labor negotiation

These budget cuts have placed a serious strain on the City's ability to maintain city services, including:

- Significant cuts to enforcement of city code violations that cause neighborhood blight, such as abandoned vehicles, graffiti and illegal garbage
- Elimination of community policing services that help address systemic crime, such as neighborhood outreach, community-oriented problem solving, homeless encampments abatement
- Elimination of the School Safety Resource Program in June 2019

Residents were given an option to prevent more cuts and help maintain city services through support for Measures DD and EE in November 2018. Measure DD, a Cannabis Business Tax, was passed by voters and is expected to bring in \$1.4 million in revenue to help maintain city services. The voters did not pass Measure EE, which was a Charter City Measure with an enhanced Real Property Transfer Tax that would have raised an additional \$5 million annually in revenue to help maintain city services.

As a result, the City Council is in the process of considering cuts of \$3.5 million a year to city services in order to balance the budget.

Share your Feedback: Which City Services Should We Cut Back On to Help Balance the Budget?



Take our survey at
www.surveymonkey.com/r/unioncitybudget

Attend a City Council Study Session on April
23 at 5:00PM in the City Council Chambers

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New City Manager Search Launched in March

The City Council launched its search for a new City Manager in early March. The City's current City Manager, Antonio "Tony" Acosta, has been with the City since 2001, when he was hired as a Deputy City Manager after serving for 23 years with the City of Oakland, culminating in his appointment as Parks and Recreation Director. By his June 30 retirement date, Mr. Acosta will have dedicated 40 years of public service to the communities of Oakland and Union City. Please join us in wishing Mr. Acosta the best in his retirement!

The City Council is interested in hiring a candidate for the City Manager position with a strong experience in fiscal and organizational management and a background in economic development. The recruitment process is expected to take up to 90 days with the goal of appointing a new City Manager by mid-Summer. Mayor Dutra-Vernaci is planning to set a date for "Coffee with the City Manager" after the appointment is made, so that residents can meet and greet the new City Manager.

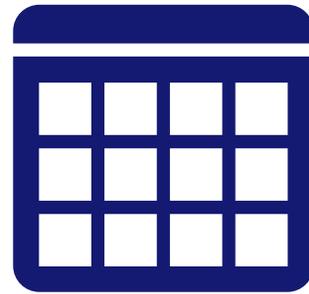
Save the Date: State of the City Address

Date: Thursday, July 25, 2019

Time: 6:00PM - 7:30PM

Location: Ruggieri Senior Center

There is limited capacity. Register at:
<https://2019ucstateofthecity.eventbrite.com>



Public Works Wins Award for Environmental Project

The City of Union City's H Street Green Street Improvement Project was recognized as Project of the Year in the Environmental Projects less than \$5 million category by the Northern Chapter of the American Public Works Association's (APWA). It will be nominated by the Chapter for consideration at the National level of the APWA. The H Street Green Street Improvement Project is a Green Infrastructure (GI) project that provides storm water drainage from the streets while removing pollution before it flows to our creeks and the Bay. Some other features of the project include:



- Permeable pavement parking
- Bio-treatment curb extensions or bulb outs
- Reduced crosswalk distances
- Reduces water and air pollution
- Reduces the heat-island effect
- A traffic-calming design intended to slow traffic
- Helps restore ground water (which is important after a drought!)

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Swearing-In Ceremony for Police Chief

On March 13, the City held a formal swearing-in ceremony for Police Chief Jared Rinetti. Chief Rinetti was unanimously appointed by the City Council in December 2018. Chief Rinetti is a 20-year veteran of the Union City Police Department with experience in patrol, investigations, community policing, school resources, records and communications, and special weapons and tactics (SWAT). As Police Chief, providing policing services that reduce crime, the fear of crime, and improve the overall quality of life for those who live, work, and visit Union City is his priority. Learn more about Chief Rinetti's message to the community at <https://www.unioncity.org/265/Chiefs-Message>.



Coffee with the Human Relations Commission



The Union City Human Relations Commission (HRC) invites you for coffee and conversation at the Union City Farmer's Market on Saturday, May 4 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. The HRC serves as the liaison between the City Council and the community on matters of diversity and inclusion, community access and anti-discrimination. The HRC will have their own table at the market. Stop by, grab some coffee and learn more about what the what the HRC does to represent the community.

The Human Relations Commission meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00PM in the City Council Chambers located at 34009 Alvarado Niles Road.

New Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and Community Advisory Committee Formed; City Council Seeks Resident Participation on Committees

Are you interested in becoming more engaged in City government? Joining a commission or committee is a great way to get involved! The City is accepting applications for its Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) and the newly formed Community Advisory Committee (CAC) among others. Applications for the BPAC and CAC are due Tuesday, April 30 at 5:00 pm. For more information on how to apply, visit the City's Commissions page at <https://www.unioncity.org/201/Commissions> or contact the City Clerk's office at (510) 675-5448.