Meet our New City Manager

The City Council unanimously selected Joan Malloy as the City’s new City Manager in May and she started the job on July 1, 2019.

Ms. Malloy has been the City’s Economic and Community Development Director for the last ten years, and prior to that served as Planning Manager. As the City’s Economic and Community Development Director, Ms. Malloy managed five distinct divisions: Economic Development, Planning, Building, Housing, and Environmental Programs. Her accomplishments in Union City include overseeing the planning and development of the Station District and Union Landing, shaping the City’s long-range vision through the General Plan process, and most recently, updating plans for the Greater Station District area in order to facilitate more jobs and housing in the area.

Ms. Malloy is excited about her new job and looks forward to serving the residents of Union City in this capacity. Her top priorities will include executing the City Council’s priorities identified in the City’s five-year strategic plan, and plan for fiscal stability and realignment of city services so that the City can live within its means.
Living Within Our Means: Continued Cost Cutting Measures to Balance City Budget

Increases to contractual services, the rising cost of providing city services and employee pension obligations are all contributing to an ongoing budget deficit of $3.5 million per year. Over the last two years, the City has made more than $2 million in spending cuts so we can live more within our means. Here are several cuts already made;

- Minimal to no 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 and blight in neighborhoods
- Elimination of the School Safety Resource Program
- Reduction in community center & library hours
- Reduction in park maintenance, such as mowing the lawns, emptying park trash and maintaining play equipment

The adopted Fiscal Year 2019/2020 & 2020/2021 budget also relied on using $5.5 million from the City’s savings account in addition to the above identified cuts to help balance the budget for another two years.

Closure of Underused Fire Station 30

With other city services having faced significant cuts over the last two years, the City Council has also indicated through a recent strategic planning process that controlling the rising cost of fire services is also critical to ensure we live within our means. Fire services are provided to Union City residents through a contract with the Alameda County Fire Department. The cost of this contract service has been rising annually for ten years and Union City can no longer afford the high cost that the County expects us to pay.

So, we called on a team of nationally-renowned public safety experts to do an independent analysis of calls for service to identify areas of cost savings. The analysis found that Fire Station 30 is handling on average just over one call a day for fire and medical services to Union City residents at a cost of $3.2 million per year to taxpayers. Fire Station 30 is located on Eastin Court. When the information was presented to the City Council in July, they voted to close the underused fire station.

The City did not take this action lightly; however, the facts are clear that Fire Station 30 is simply not needed: there are three remaining fire stations that can, without question, provide the right level of service to the entire community. We encourage residents to go to unioncity.org/FireStation30 to learn more and ask us questions or share your thoughts.
City Council Establishes Five-Year Priorities

The City has been undergoing an important process over the last 7 months to establish five-year priorities. A focused set of priorities will help charter a path of fiscal responsibility and stability for the future. The biggest asset the City has to achieving these new goals are our employees -- many who have been loyal and steadfast in their service to this community for many years. The new city priorities are expected to be adopted by the City Council this Fall with the following goals identified:

- Foster fiscal health through disciplined long-term planning, cost control, heightened efficiency, increased revenue and cost recovery.
- Produce high-quality services to the community through a commitment to local government best practices and employee development, support and retention.
- Institute forward-thinking business, land use development, housing, social services, and public safety strategies that promote community growth and innovation.
- Create a healthy, sustainable community and maintain and improve the City’s infrastructure.
- Build strong connections with community partners, residents and employees.

To learn more, go to www.unioncity.org/UCstrategicplan.

City to Curb Plastic Litter through New Straw Regulations

In an effort to reduce the amount of littered plastics that is harming our environment and causing maintenance problem in Union City drains, the City will be crafting an ordinance regulating plastic straws and other single-use disposable food service ware.

The proposed ordinance will prohibit restaurants and food vendors from providing single-use plastic straws (compostable straws will be provided upon a request). In addition, the new ordinance will prohibit restaurants from providing disposable food ware accessories, such as napkins, condiment packages and single-use utensils, unless requested by the customer. Drive-in restaurants would be exempt from providing food-ware accessories upon request. The new ordinance will be brought in front of the City Council this Fall and will include a public hearing process.
Transition to By-District Elections

The City is transitioning from an at-large election system to a by-district election system. Establishing a by-district election system will change the method of voting by physically dividing the City into separate districts, with each district represented by one councilmember who resides in that district and that is selected only by voters of that district. The Mayor would still be an at-large seat.

New District maps are expected to be adopted this Fall after five public hearings and a community engagement process. The first by-district election will take place in November 2020. To learn more, go to www.unioncity.org/by-districtelections.

Rainbow Flag Lifted for Pride Month

Union City was proud to fly the Rainbow flag at City Hall in June to mark Pride Month. The City Council also held a proclamation ceremony to call attention to the history of Pride month and awareness around the current challenges still facing the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning, Intersex, Pansexual, 2-Spirit, and Asexual (“LGBTQIP2SA”) community in the Tri-City Area. The Human Relations Commission is currently studying other recognition initiatives to recommend to the City Council for next year’s Pride month. To share your ideas, contact the Human Relations Commission at hrc@unioncity.org.

City Meeting Schedule

City Council and Commissions conduct official city business in the City Council Chambers located at 34009 Alvarado-Niles Road. Always check the City calendar on our website first before attending a meeting.

- City Council: Held on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM
- Planning Commission: Held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM
- Human Relations Commission: Held on the 4th Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM
- Senior Commission: Held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 2:30 PM
- Parks & Recreation Commission: Held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM
- Youth Commission: Held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 4:00 PM held at the Kennedy Youth Center located at 1333 Decoto Road.

Stay Connected with Union City

- City Website - unioncity.org
- Find us on Social - unioncity.org/StayInTheKnow
- Text 94587 to 888777 for Police Updates
- Sign Up for our E-Newsletter at unioncity.org/e-newsletter