INDEPENDENT CITIZENS’ OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE HOLDS FIRST MEETING

The two local revenue measures approved by Union City voters require the city to maintain an oversight committee comprised of local residents to ensure funds are spent as promised. These measures also require annual independent financial audits of all funds generated by the measures.

In July, the Independent Citizens’ Oversight Committee held its first meeting and will be releasing a public report on their findings later this year. The oversight committee is comprised of one representative from each of the city’s Human Relations Commission, Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Senior Commission and one citizen member at-large. Oversight committee members serve two-year terms and meet every six months to ensure funds are being spent to maintain service levels in accordance with the City Council’s adopted budget.

The members appointed to serve the current two-year term are:

- Ray Gonzalez, Jr. from the Planning Commission
- Estrelita Munsayac from the Senior Commission
- Daniel Rivera from the Parks and Recreation Commission
- Kashmir Singh Shahi from the Human Relations Commission
- Robert Singer, Citizen Member At-large

To learn more about the Independent Citizens’ Oversight Committee and follow their work, visit https://www.unioncity.org/574/Voter-Approved-Funding.

UNION CITY’S DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

This past year has been challenging both economically and socially. Union City remains committed to diversity, equity and inclusion throughout our community and we are interested to hear from YOU — the community — about how to make Union City a more equitable place for everyone who lives here. That is why we have established a committee to study disparities and opportunities in diversity, equity and inclusion and your feedback is important to us.

Do you have concerns about how the City is currently addressing racial disparities and the mistreatment of marginalized groups? Do you have ideas about how we can improve our sense of belonging for all within the community? Visit the website: www.unioncity.org/dei to share your thoughts with the committee.

EXEMPTIONS AVAILABLE

Purchases of essential items like groceries and prescription medicine are exempt from the voter approved sales tax to ensure it is not a burden to seniors, people with disabilities or others on fixed incomes. This exemption for essential purchases is automatically applied at the point of sale to qualifying items. No application is needed to qualify for this exemption.

The voter approved utility users tax provides a full exemption from the cost for seniors and low-income residents. This exemption requires an application to qualify. To learn more about the exemption or apply for the exemption email uutexemption@unioncity.org or call (510) 675-5417.

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CITY NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2021 EDITION

- Update on City Projects & Initiatives
- Snapshot of the City’s Balanced Budget
UNION CITY’S COMMITMENT TO NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

As the result of a thorough process to listen, hear and understand the community, the Union City Police Department is nearing completion of a new five-year Strategic Plan. In an effort to develop contemporary policing practices and reimagine approaches to maintaining public safety, UCPD has actively solicited a wide range of ideas and concerns. The Policing Community Engagement (PCE) Committee listening sessions, PCE Work Teams, community surveys and meetings with faith-based groups are just some examples of recent outreach. Based on feedback from residents, UCPD developed new strategies and programs to better serve our community. The new Strategic Plan will be presented to the City Council in October and is ready to be implemented starting in January of 2022. UCPD is very grateful for the commitment, hard work and partnership of so many community members who made this possible.

ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

Union City is committed to fighting to end chronic homelessness in the community. The City is currently hiring a full-time Homelessness Services Coordinator and part-time Homelessness Street Outreach workers to help better address the challenges of homelessness. This allows for a dedicated unit of city workers to develop and implement approaches that steer homeless living in Union City towards housing, job placement and mental health services.