



La Palma Mayor Shanahan Delivers 'State of City Address'

By Rico Dizon

La Palma Mayor Steve Shanahan delivered the communities annual "State of the City" address this past week by reminding residents, civic and business that "Building a Brighter Future for La Palma" takes effort and cooperation from everyone.

To make his point, Shanahan presented a mini flash light with a tag that read, "Here's to your bright future."

Shanahan began his comments by standing in front of an image of the "La Palma Eternal Flame" that sits in front of the civic center and told those in attendance that "the torch burns continuously since it was put there in 1972 and the past generations are those who sacrificed to keep La Palma the City of Vision."

Shanahan delivered praises to "the great partnerships" between the local government and private businesses that helped the City "stand on its feet even with the recession and loss of redevelopment dollars three years ago."

Among the partners he singled out was the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority, where the location of the address took place. The mayor stressed that the CJPIA is one of the biggest sub-district

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Gangs Out of Downey G.O.O.D. for the Community

By Tammye McDuff

Gangs Out of Downey [G.O.O.D.] was created with support from Downey Unified School District and the Downey Police Department to provide 'at risk' youth an environment of addressing the ramifications of good and bad decisions.

In the late 1980's, Downey began to see an increase in gang related activity. The surrounding cities were beginning to have a difficult time with gang affiliations. With the help of local businessman Phil

See **G.O.O.D.** page 7

Cerritos Art Commissioners Attend Lavish \$8,000 Miami 'Sculpture Symposium'



Cerritos Commissioners [l-r] Julietta Williams, Elaine Shiohama and Janet Beach attended the 'Art Symposium' in Miami, costing Cerritos taxpayers over \$8,000. Dolores Iglesias who also attended is not pictured. Graphic by HMG-CN.

By Brian Hews and Randy Economy

Hews Media Group-Community News has confirmed through a public records request that commissioners of the Cerritos Fine Arts and Historical Commission went on a lavish trip to Miami Florida, spending over \$8,000 to attend the 2013 International Sculpture Symposium that took place between November 30 and December 4.

The commissioners who attended were Janet Beach, Dolores Iglesias, Elaine Shiohama, and Julietta Williams.

One commissioner, Nora Benzon, who is an appointee of Mayor Mark Pulido, choose not to attend.

The show was touted as "bringing together artists, collectors, curators and art enthusiasts for panel discussions, keynote addresses, optional tours, a reception, and a multi-day iron pour by the Iron Maidens, an international sculpture group."

The four stayed at first-class accommodations paying an average of nearly \$200 a night, racking up \$3,200 in total accommodation fees.

One former commissioner who did not want to be identified commented, "the Cerritos City Council is constantly saying we have no money, we have no money, why are we sending commissioners, a group that meets every other month, on trips to Miami to look for artwork?"

A deeper review of the travel reports

submitted by the four commissioners show that two of them paid a lower air fare cost of \$382, while the other two commissioner's air fares were dramatically higher at \$651 and \$743.

Further examination showed that the spouses of Williams and Iglesias attended and participated in various activities but the spouses only had to pay back the City partial costs of the trip.

Williams stayed five nights for a total of \$900, but her spouse was only charged for one night at \$180.

Iglesias stayed for four nights for a total of \$720, but her spouse was not charged.

Beach, who represents City Councilman George Ray on the Commission, also had her \$413 registration fee paid for as well as hotel room at \$190.97 per night at the Hyatt Regency Miami. Beach also turned in receipts totaling \$109.39 for meals.

Shiohama, who represents Councilman Bruce Barrows on the Commission, also spent four nights at the Hyatt Regency Miami and had the same room rate as Beach, records show and also had taxi fares of \$66 and meal expenses totaling \$164.51.

According to the City of Cerritos official website, the Commission main purpose is to "assist the City Council in administering the Art in Public Places Program."

Also stated as their priority, according

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Hit and Run Pursuit in Cerritos Results in Arrest of Suspect

By Randy Economy

Cerritos Sheriff Deputies swung into action on Wednesday at around 12:38 p.m. after they received a call of a hit and run traffic collision that had just occurred at the intersection of 166th Street and Bloomfield Avenue.

As the deputies responded, additional information of the hit and run traffic collision indicated that a local citizen was chasing the fleeing suspect, who was running away from the scene.

Further information on the call revealed the fleeing suspect had carjacked a female adult while she sat inside her vehicle at a nearby parking lot.

Responding LASD deputies observed the vehicle traveling eastbound on Moore Street from Carmenita Road. As the sus-

See **HIT AND RUN** page 7

HMG-CN Exclusive:

Central Basin Water Candidate Stinnett Demoted From Commerce City Job

By Brian Hews and Randy Economy

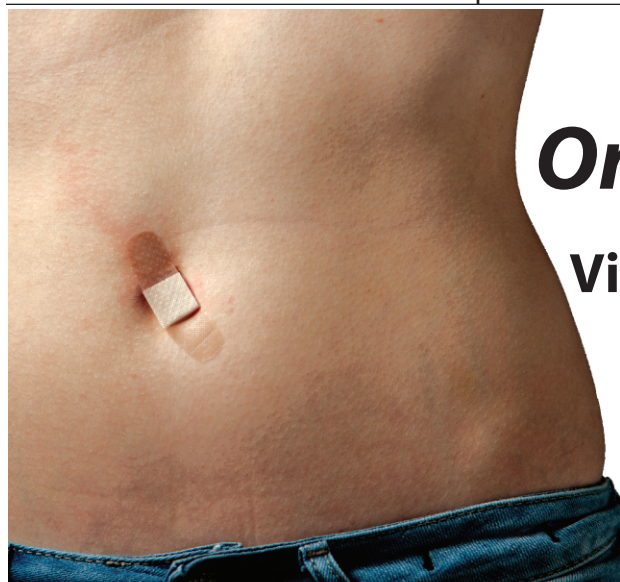
Hews Media Group-Community News has confirmed through a public records request that Jason Stinnette, who is running for election for the Division 3 Seat on the Central Basin Municipal Water District, was demoted from the position of Public Information Officer in the City of Commerce to a Media Specialist back in November 2013.

HMG-CN has reported in the past number of months that the controversial Stinnette has been attending Central Basin Board Meetings during regular working hours.

In light of that, HMG-CN requested the pay stubs for Stinnette from January 2013 to the present under the Freedom of Information Act.

The records confirm that Stinnette was paid \$41.82 per hour, earning over \$1,600 a week as the Public Information Officer

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