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Public Affairs Highlights and Initiatives July 2017

Government Affairs:

1. Attended READY Long Beach planning meetings
2. Attended Citywide Communications Media Meet and Greet
3. New Public Affairs Assistant in June, Marlene Arrona
4. Fireworks Campaign and Collaboration with Long Beach Fire Department PIOs

Community Outreach:

1. Attended kickoff of St. Anthony High School Chopper Dropper, June 19
2. Participated in Uptown Jazz Festival, June 24
3. Hosted new food truck, SoCal Caribbean
4. Attended First Fridays, July 7
5. Displayed the CSULB Dirtbags banner throughout June
6. Historical Society Long Beach Remembers Pearl Harbor exhibit and Long Beach Airport's contribution continues
7. Volunteers led 10 group tours of the airport in June
8. Summer music in the concourse scheduled (LGB Live)
9. Participated in Plane Pull planning and logistics
10. Festival of Flight recruiting and planning

Media:

1. Catalina Flying Boats' DC-3 aircraft make an aerial farewell before final departure; *Press-Telegram* 6/15/17
2. Ailing baby airlifted from Catalina to Long Beach; *Press-Telegram* 6/19/17
3. Coast Guard flies injured man from Catalina Island to Long Beach; *Press-Telegram* 6/20/17
4. Rexford Industrial acquires Long Beach property from Sares-Regis for \$31M; *The Real Deal* 6/23/17
5. Best way to honor Long Beach's late mayor Kell? It's up in the air: Rich Archbold *Press-Telegram* 6/23/17
6. Long Beach Bids Adieu to DC-3s; *Flying Magazine* 6/27/17
7. Aircraft diverted to Long Beach, Ontario after crash near John Wayne Airport; *Press-Telegram* 6/30/2017
8. Father arrives in SoCal to face charge he murdered his missing 5-year-old son;

Fox 11 6/30/17

9. Long Beach mayor's office withdraws Airport Advisory Commission appointment;
Press-Telegram 7/11/17
10. Special Olympics Southern California Plane Pull Media Day with Gayle Anderson, *KTLA 5 7/11/17*
11. Three Years In, Mayor Highlights Accomplishments, Challenges Facing Long Beach; *Long Beach Post 7/12/17*
12. Social Media:
 - Promoted on social media the Conde Nast 2017 Readers' Choice Awards
 - Facebook is up to 15,728 likes
 - The best post in June was viewed 10,800 times with over 1,300 reactions, comments, and shares.
 - Notable events: Modern Family clip in LGB's concourse, Paradies Lagardere's Treat Our Troops program, St. Anthony High School Golf Classic & Chopper Dropper, Catalina Flying Boats DC-3 retirement flight, #FireworksFreeLB campaign for Independence Day, military mom and son reunion at LGB Live
 - Twitter is up to 10,725 followers
 - The best tweet in June generated 2,492 impressions, 4 retweets, and 7 likes
 - Tweets in June generated over 50,800 impressions
 - Instagram is up to 3,330 followers
 - In June, photo posts averaged 101 likes and video posts averaged 88 likes each.
 - The most popular post earned 162 likes and 170 engagements, and 1,261 impressions.

Advertising/Marketing:

1. *Long Beach Business Journal*; quarter page, full color ad June 20-July 3 issue
2. *Agewell Long Beach* magazine; quarter page, full color ad Summer 2017
3. LB Chamber 126th Annual Gala program; full page, full color ad June 22
4. Economic Impact Report brochure, continued updating design
5. Completed design and production of TNC pilot program and cell phone lot signage
6. St. Anthony Chopper Dropper; continued social media promotions for event



4100 E. Donald Douglas Drive, Second Floor, Long Beach, CA 90808
T 562.570.2600 F 562.570.2601 lgb.org

Long Beach Press Telegram (<http://www.presstelegram.com>)

Catalina Flying Boats' DC-3 aircraft make an aerial farewell before final departure

By Andrew Edwards, Press-Telegram

Thursday, June 15, 2017



One of Catalina Flying Boats' historic DC-3 aircraft flew over Long Beach Airport Wednesday afternoon for what amounted to an aerial farewell before its final departure.

The company, which hauls mail and other cargo from Long Beach to Catalina on a near-daily basis, has traded its DC-3s for a pair of single-engine turboprop Cessna Caravan planes that are more reliable and less expensive to maintain. Yet as much as [the switch makes sense](#) from a business perspective, the old DC-3s are going to be missed.

"That was brutal," Catalina Flying Boats pilot James "JAD" Davy said after piloting one of the company's DC-3s over Long Beach Airport, to the enjoyment of a small gathering of aviation enthusiasts who gathered in a nearby parking lot near the airport's edge to watch the flyby.

Davy has flown DC-3s for Catalina Flying Boats since 1992, and he said it has been an honor to have been behind the controls of a historic aircraft.

"Not too many people get to do it," he said.

An honorable history

The [National Air and Space Museum](#) calls the DC-3 "the most successful airliner in the formative years of air transportation." The aircraft's flying history dates back to 1935 and workers assembled more than 13,000 DC-3s over the course of its production runs.

• PHOTOS: [DC-3s Catalina Flying Boats](#)

Douglas Aircraft Co. workers assembled DC-3 aircraft at manufacturing plants in Long Beach and Santa Monica. Boeing Co., the corporate inheritor of Douglas Aircraft's legacy, credits the DC-3 with making commercial aviation a profitable enterprise. Its account of [the aircraft's history](#), however, shows the vast majority of DC-3s — nearly 10,200 planes — were built for military service. The U.S. Army Air Forces designated the aircraft as the C-47 Skytrain, although the [Air Mobility Command Museum](#) relates that some who served during World War II had their own nickname for the aircraft — the "Gooney Bird."

Whatever one calls the DC-3, the Allies employed the aircraft to bring cargo, paratroopers and glider-borne infantry to the front lines.

The backdrop of history perhaps explains why some pilots who watched Davy's short flight over Long Beach on Wednesday expressed sentimental feelings after watching the old plane in the air.

"It's nostalgic. Takes you back to an era that I wish I was in, but I was born 30 years too late," said Vasco Rodrigues, a 56-year-old United Airlines pilot living in Signal Hill.

Two other pilots standing nearby chimed in.

"When men were men," James Smet, 55, of Signal Hill said.

"When airplanes were made of paper," Tom Constable, 75, of Signal Hill quickly added.

Smet and Constable said they both had ever-so-brief opportunities to take the controls of a DC-3 during their lifetimes. Rodrigues had the opportunity to fly its predecessor, the DC-2.

And even if the DC-3 and other aircraft of its time were not literally made of paper, Smet attested to modern machines being substantially more advanced than their predecessors. Even so, there's something special about the vintage ones.

"It's a better world today because it's safer and more reliable, but there's a certain romanticism," he said.

Keep flying

Catalina Flying Boats traces the history of one of its DC-3s to 1944 and the other's to 1945. The military made use of both planes before their eventual arrival in Long Beach.

The freight company itself has been in existence since 1984, and started out with a Grumman Goose seaplane. Its fleet has also included a De Havilland Canada Otter and Beechcraft Model 18.

The DC-3s are headed to Ohio for a \$3 million overhaul, according to the company. They are scheduled to remain in service half a world away flying cargo to difficult-to-access places in Africa.

Editor's note: An earlier headline for this report incorrectly referred to DC-3 aircraft as "jets." The report has been updated.

URL: <http://www.presstelegram.com/business/20170615/catalina-flying-boats-dc-3-aircraft-make-an-aerial-farewell-before-final-departure>

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Ailing baby airlifted from Catalina to Long Beach

By City News Service

Monday, June 19, 2017



SAN PEDRO — A U.S. Coast Guard helicopter evacuated a 7-month-old baby with pneumonia from Catalina Airport to Long Beach today.

“Coast Guard Sector Los Angeles-Long Beach (was) notified by Baywatch Avalon at 4:28 a.m. that an infant was experiencing symptoms of pneumonia and had difficulty breathing,” according to a Coast Guard statement.

The baby, who was not identified, was hospitalized in good condition.

URL: <http://www.presstelegram.com/health/20170619/ailing-baby-airlifted-from-catalina-to-long-beach>

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Coast Guard flies injured man from Catalina Island to Long Beach

By Andrew Edwards, Press-Telegram

Tuesday, June 20, 2017



The Coast Guard airlifted a 72-year-old man from Catalina Airport to Long Beach Airport early Tuesday morning after he sustained head and internal injuries resulting from a fall at his home, the agency reported.

Coast Guard officials dispatched an [MH-65 Dolphin helicopter](#) from Forward Operating Base Point Mugu to Catalina Island after learning of the man's medical needs from the Los Angeles County Medical Alert Center. The helicopter crew picked up the injured man on the island before delivering him at Long Beach Airport to emergency medical responders who then took the patient to Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center.

The patient was reported to be in good condition as of Tuesday morning, according to the Coast Guard.

On Monday, the Coast Guard [airlifted a seven-month infant](#) from Catalina Island to Long Beach Airport when the child needed emergency care as a result of breathing troubles stemming from a pneumonia infection.

City News Service contributed to this report.

URL: <http://www.presstelegram.com/government-and-politics/20170620/coast-guard-flies-injured-man-from-catalina-island-to-long-beach>

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Rexford Industrial acquires Long Beach property from Sares-Regis for \$31M

Building is part of master-planned Douglas Park

By [Subrina Hudson](#) | June 23, 2017 05:00PM



4175 E. Conant Street (Google Maps)

Rexford Industrial Realty bought a 141,332-square-foot building near the Long Beach Airport for \$30.6 million, the company announced this week.

The REIT paid the seller, Sares-Regis Group, \$215 a square foot for the Class A industrial property. The two-story building at 4175 E. Conant Street is home to Universal Technical Institute Inc. (UTI), one of the country's largest automotive trade schools. UTI has 13 years remaining on its lease.

Darla Longo, Barbara Emmons Perrier, Rebecca Perlmutter and Michael Kendall of CBRE brokered the deal.

Built in 2015, the property is just one piece of the larger 161-acre Douglas Park project that Sares-Regis master-planned, developing some parcels while selling others. It sits on the former Boeing Co. land in northeast Long Beach.

Sares-Regis, which is based in Irvine, acquired the massive property for \$73.5 million in October 2012, according to Real Capital Analytics.

One of the final projects underway at Douglas Park is a four-building office condominium complex being developed by Long Beach-based Urbana Development. The first phase will total more than 50,000 square feet on the corner of Conant Street and Bayer Avenue. Construction is expected to finish this fall, according to the Press-Telegram.

A five-story Hampton Inn/Homewood Suites hotel is also under construction immediately north of Urbana's development.

UTI's neighbors include Mercedes-Benz USA's West Coast headquarters, Shimadzu Precision Instruments and Virgin Galactic's assembly plant.

Tags: [Commercial Real Estate](#), [Long Beach](#), [Rexford Industrial Realty](#)

Long Beach Press Telegram (<http://www.presstelegram.com>)

Best way to honor Long Beach's late mayor Kell? It's up in the air: Rich Archbold

By Rich Archbold, Long Beach Press Telegram

Friday, June 23, 2017



When Ernie Kell, Long Beach's first elected mayor, died on April 29, there was immediate talk about naming something after him for his contributions to the city.

Some possibilities included a park, a library, the Long Beach Convention Center and the Long Beach Airport. There was even talk of the Long Beach Towne Center at 7575 Carson St.

To get the conversation started, Long Beach 5th District Councilwoman Stacy Mungo asked her colleagues on the council to begin the process of renaming the El Dorado Library after Ernie and his wife, former Councilwoman Jackie Kell. The library is in the 5th District, where the Kells have lived for years.

Kell, 88, died at his home in El Dorado Park Estates on Long Beach's Eastside after battling cancer for four months.

The council passed the Mungo proposal, which now goes to a series of community outreach meetings before winding up back with the council for final action.

The first meeting for public comment will be held by the city's Housing and Neighborhoods Committee on July 18.

What makes the most sense for Ernie Kell's legacy?

Personally, I like something at the Long Beach Airport named after the flying mayor.

Of all the mayors in Long Beach history, he was the only one connected closely to the airport with his personal aviator skills.

Ernie loved flying his plane in and out of Long Beach Airport. He flew out of the city airport thousands of times in a single-engine, four-seater Mooney aircraft.

He loved the city so much he had his plane painted with city colors: blue, gold and white. "Spirit of Long Beach" was written across the plane's fuselage.

As he took off, the control tower would say, "Have a nice day, Long Beach One." Ernie would smile when he heard that.

I'm not suggesting that the Long Beach Airport itself be named after Kell, but perhaps something else there, like the control tower or a terminal.

Something at the Convention Center could make sense, too. One of Ernie's proudest achievements as mayor was spearheading construction of the expansive Convention Center.

I asked Jackie what she would prefer.

Ever the diplomat, she said, "Anything named after Ernie would be a real honor."

However, she did say there were many candidates for the renaming of a library but only one person, her husband, should be the namesake of something at the airport.

"The airport was unique to Ernie," she said. "You can't find many mayors who fly their own plane in and out of an airport."

In recent years, Long Beach has seen the renaming of several buildings after illustrious public officials, including former Long Beach School Board member Bobbi Smith (Burnett Elementary); community leader Olivia Herrera (Robert E. Lee Elementary); former state senator Jenny Oropeza (International Elementary), and former Mayor Beverly O'Neill (International City Theater).

Of all of the 12 city libraries, only one, Bach Library which opened in 1958, is named after an elected public official. Ruth Bach was Long Beach's first councilwoman.

Renaming a building after someone should be carefully thought out. Councilwoman Mungo deserves credit for starting the discussion on what should get the Ernie Kell name.

Kell deserves recognition for all he did for the city. It's your turn now to let public officials know what you think would be most appropriate.

Rich Archbold is public editor of the Press-Telegram and a member of the Southern California News Group editorial board. rarchbold@scng.com

URL: <http://www.presstelegram.com/opinion/20170623/best-way-to-honor-long-beachs-late-mayor-kell-its-up-in-the-air-rich-archbold>

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Long Beach Bids Adieu to DC-3s

The historic air freighters are being replaced by Cessna Caravans.

By ROB MARK JUNE 27, 2017

5 Comments

A pair of Douglas DC-3s operated by Catalina Flying Boats Air Freight Service have been a part of the Long Beach Airport landscape for nearly 30 years. Recently, the rumble of the twin radial engines that powered the venerable World War II-era transports, lovingly known as Gooney Birds, took off from LGB for the last time as the Southern California freight company replaced them with a pair of single-engine Cessna Caravan turboprops.

After a stint in a rehab shop in Ohio to prepare the airplanes for the next stage of their lives, a humanitarian role in South Africa, the DC-3s will begin the ferry flight across the North Atlantic and south through Europe. Despite the reduced operating expenses of the new Caravans to haul the mail and cargo, the historic airplanes will be missed. One of Catalina's DC-3s could be tracked back to active service in 1944.

Catalina Flying Boats pilot James "JAD" Davy, said it has been an honor to have been behind the controls of a historic aircraft after piloting one of the company's DC-3s over Long Beach Airport for the last time, to the enjoyment of a gathering of aviation enthusiasts gathered near the airport's edge.

Davy flew DC-3s for Catalina Flying Boats since 1992. Douglas Aircraft produced more than 13,000 DC-3s, most of which were built for service during World War II.

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Aircraft diverted to Long Beach, Ontario after crash near John Wayne Airport

By staff and wire reports

Friday, June 30, 2017



A Southwest Airlines flight on a route from San Jose to Orange County was diverted to Long Beach Airport after the Friday morning [crash landing](#) of a small aircraft near John Wayne Airport.

LGB spokeswoman Stephanie Montuya-Morisky said it was not immediately known if any other flights would be redirected to Long Beach.

“We take them as needed,” she said.

Another two flights landed at Ontario International Airport after being prevented from landing at John Wayne Airport following the 9:35 a.m. crash.

The crash involved a Cessna 310 airplane that landed and burst into flames on the 405 Freeway in the Irvine area, authorities said.

The incident occurred north of MacArthur Boulevard, in an area near John Wayne Airport, authorities said.

The freeway was closed in both directions, creating a massive backup, but the northern lanes have been partially cleared, according to broadcast reports.

Two people in the aircraft were being treated for major injuries, authorities said.

According to the airport, the airplane landed short of the runway, and the airfield was closed to arrivals. Travelers were urged to contact their airlines for flight information.

A preliminary report indicated that the plane crashed on the northbound side of the freeway and ended up on the southbound side, and that two people were removed from the wreckage.

URL: <http://www.presstelegram.com/general-news/20170630/aircraft-diverted-to-long-beach-ontario-after-crash-near-john-wayne-airport>



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Father arrives in SoCal to face charge he murdered his missing 5-year-old son

By: [Jeffrey Thomas DeSocio \(mailto:jeffrey.desocio@foxtv.com?\)](mailto:jeffrey.desocio@foxtv.com)



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LOS ANGELES, Calif. (FOX 11 / CNS) - A South Pasadena man who allegedly killed his 5-year-old son amid a bitter custody battle with the boy's mother was returned to the Southland Friday from Las Vegas, where he was arrested a week ago.

Aramazd Andressian Sr., 35, arrived at Long Beach Airport about 12:20 p.m. and was to be incarcerated in a Los Angeles County jail, according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. He has been in custody since his June 23 arrest on suspicion of killing his son , Aramazd Andressian Jr., whose body has not been found.

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Andressian -- who could face up to 25 years to life in state prison if convicted -- is set to be arraigned Monday at the Alhambra courthouse on a murder charge.

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7 PHOTOS

UP NEXT:



The youngster was last seen at 1 a.m. April 21 leaving Disneyland with his father, who was found unconscious at Arroyo Seco Park in South Pasadena the next day and was unable to account for his son's whereabouts.

Los Angeles County sheriff's homicide Lt. Joe Mendoza alleged the killing was "pre-planned" and took place between the time Andressian and his son left Disneyland and the father was discovered unconscious at the South Pasadena park.

Andressian told investigators he arrived at the park with his son and waited for the golf course to open, and admitted ingesting prescription medication that was not prescribed to him, Mendoza said. Andressian has been uncooperative and gave false information to investigators since he fell under suspicion, Mendoza said.

The father said he did not remember what happened to his child or any details that were useful in locating the boy, according to Mendoza, who said a prescription bottle was found inside Andressian's car, which was doused with gasoline inside and out.

Mendoza alleged that Andressian planned his son's murder to get back at his estranged wife during a "tumultuous" divorce and then tried to commit suicide -- before heading to Las Vegas to prepare to flee the country.

The investigation into the boy's disappearance included several weeks of surveillance, during which the suspect "significantly" changed his appearance, acted in a manner inconsistent with the behavior of a grieving parent and appeared to be planning to flee to a country from which he could not be extradited, Mendoza said.

Sheriff's officials have not provided specifics on any new evidence explaining the suspect's latest arrest. He was originally arrested in Los Angeles County shortly after his son went missing, but was later released for lack of evidence.

An extradition hearing Tuesday in Las Vegas cleared the way for Andressian's return to the Southland. At that hearing, Andressian, sporting dyed, light-colored hair, calmly told a judge that he would not resist being sent back to Los Angeles.

"If California wants me they can come get me ... ," he said.

Related Headlines



Mother of missing boy pleads for help
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Police search home of 5yr old missing boy's father
[\(/news/local-news/251365126-story\)](/news/local-news/251365126-story)

UP NEXT:

Officials to speak about arrest of fath...

Posted by **Fox 11 Los Angeles**

238,199 Views

The man's attorney , Daniel Nardoni, told FOX 11 Monday that he was "surprised to see that he was arrested on the charge of murder in particular since they haven't found a body and since he's been adamant from day one he hasn't done (anything) to harm his son or done anything to jeopardize his welfare ."

RELATED: 'I miss him more than words can describe': Mother of missing 5-year-old boy speaks to FOX 11
(<http://www.foxla.com/news/local-news/258925584-story>)

The search for the boy has spanned several Southern California counties, including in the Lake Cachuma Recreation Area near Santa Barbara, where Andressian told authorities he took the boy the day after the Disneyland trip.

Law enforcement officials intend to continue searching for the boy's body in Santa Barbara County, Mendoza said.

A \$20,000 reward was offered by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for information that helps authorities locate the child, who is white, 4 feet 1 and 55 pounds, with brown hair and brown eyes and a small mole on the bottom of his right shoulder.

Long Beach Press Telegram (<http://www.presstelegram.com>)

Long Beach mayor's office withdraws Airport Advisory Commission appointment

By Courtney Tompkins, Long Beach Press Telegram

Tuesday, July 11, 2017

The mayor's office withdrew a nomination for an open seat on the Airport Advisory Commission on Monday, one day before the nominee was expected to be confirmed by the City Council.

Mayor Robert Garcia had selected Evelyn Angeles, president of EMA Consultants, an aviation consulting firm, for the open seat, an appointment that came months after citizen complaints prompted a conflict of interest [investigation](#) into two of the commission's members.

In making the nomination, Garcia cited her "extensive experience consulting in the airport industry," and her experience serving on parks and planning commissions in other cities.

Mark Taylor, Garcia's chief of staff, said via email on Tuesday that the item was withdrawn from the council agenda at the nominee's request. He did not elaborate further.

The mayor could be not reached for comment.

The withdrawal came after residents — still concerned about [the terms](#) on which the last commissioner, Glenn Ray, [exited](#) — learned about the appointment on Monday when Garcia named her in council documents. Residents then began urging others on social media to protest the nomination. Some said they were worried that due to her limited time in Long Beach, and ties to the aviation industry, she would not have the residents' best interests in mind.

Records show Angeles and her husband, Eduardo, purchased a home in Long Beach in November.

"If you can take a few minutes to send an email to stop Mayor Garcia from appointing an industry insider and LB outsider from the Airport Commission as opposed to an informed long time resident please do so now," resident Glennis Dolce wrote Monday on her Facebook page.

In a series of posts about the topic, residents also questioned Angeles' husband's role in the aviation industry.

According to his [LinkedIn account](#), Eduardo Angeles is a past administrator for the Federal Aviation Administration, and currently works as an assistant city attorney for the city of Los Angeles, where he is the in-house senior council for Los Angeles World Airports, which oversees LAX, and Van Nuys Airport.

The former commissioner, Ray, resigned in March, about 18 months before his term was up. Weeks later, the council [approved a \\$900,000 contract](#) to rent office space from his company, Million Air North, at the Long Beach Airport. That agreement had been tabled for months.

Taylor did not say whether the appointment of Angeles was placed on hold or permanently withdrawn.

[LBReport](#) first reported the contention over the appointment.

Editor's note: This article has been updated to correct when the City Council item was pulled. It was pulled from the agenda on Monday afternoon, not Tuesday.

URL: <http://www.presstelegram.com/government-and-politics/20170711/long-beach-mayors-office-withdraws-airport-advisory-commission-appointment>

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MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA (/COMPONENT/TAGS/TAG/1357-MAYOR-ROBERT-GARCIA)

Three Years In, Mayor Highlights Accomplishments, Challenges Facing Long Beach

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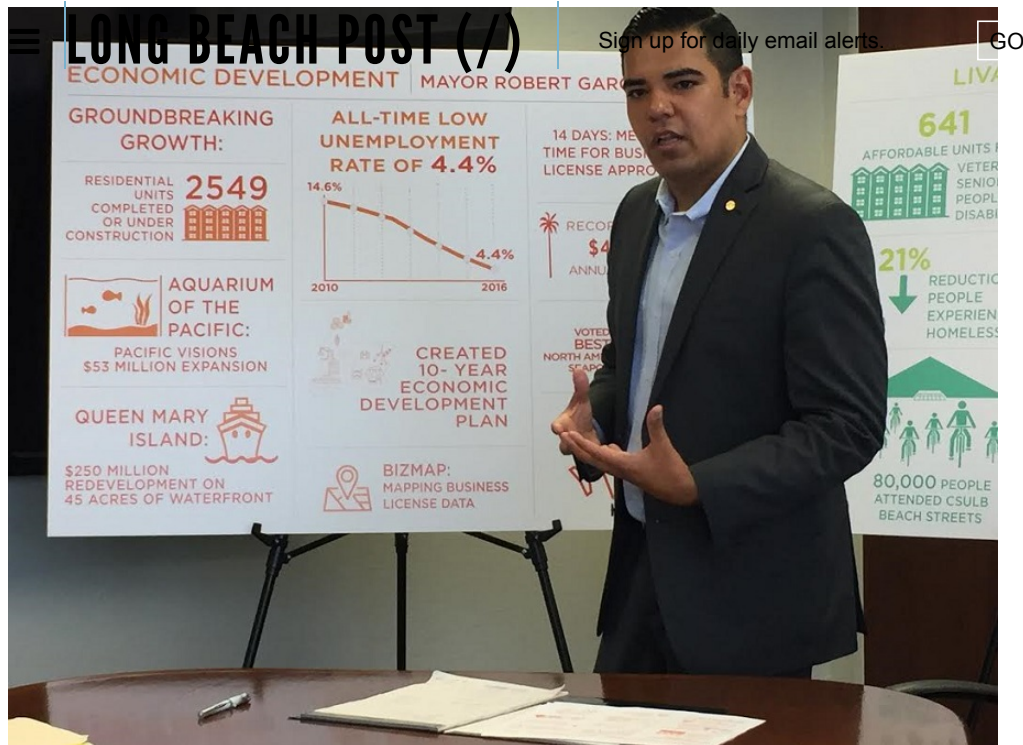
by STEPHANIE RIVERA (/STEPHANIE) [TWITTER.COM/STEPH_LBPOST](https://twitter.com/STEPH_LBPOST) on JULY 12 2017 18:15 in CITY (/NEWS/CITY)

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Mayor Robert Garcia talks about economic development during a press briefing Wednesday morning. Photo by Stephanie Rivera.

Officially marking his third year in office Saturday, Mayor Robert Garcia took time this morning to meet with members of the media where he highlighted achievements made in the city, focusing on education, civic innovation, economic development and livability.

Story continued below.

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“I’m proud of the progress we’ve made in the last three years to make Long Beach a leading city for innovation and growth,” Garcia said in a statement. “We will continue to lay the groundwork to build a city with an economy that is resilient and inclusive.”

EDUCATION MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA - YEAR 3	
 2600 MORE PAID INTERNSHIPS TO DATE	 ANNOUNCED NEW DOWNTOWN CSULB STUDENT VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP
 CITYWIDE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PLAN LAUNCHED	 1100 STUDENT UNITS, UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM, INNOVATION CENTER, CLASSROOMS AND LABS
 VISION TO LEARN 8000 PAIRS OF GLASSES FOR LBUSD STUDENTS IN NEED	 950 NEW PRESCHOOL SEATS
 LONG BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY RECIPIENT of 2017 NATIONAL MEDAL	

The mayor said that over the last three years, the city has more than doubled the amount of paid internships offered to students. Through partnerships with the Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach City College and Cal State Long Beach, the amount of internships soared from 1,500 to 4,100 internships today.

The additional 2,600 internships surpasses Garcia’s goal set for the first four years in office (</news/2000006309-garcia-and-community-partners-to-announce-internship-challenge-at-aquarium>), he said.

He detailed other achievements in education including an early childhood education plan (/news/education/2000010223-mayor-s-fund-for-education-to-focus-on-early-childhood-education-from-outset) launched by the city; the distribution of 8,000 pairs of glasses for LBUSD students (/news/education/2000005572-vision-to-learn-launches-long-beach-program-to-give-free-glasses-to-students) in need; 950 new preschool seats; and the recent announcement of a new downtown CSULB Student Village (/business/development/2000011020-conceptual-plans-for-a-csulb-village-in-downtown-long-beach-revealed) which will provide student housing, an art museum, classrooms and labs.

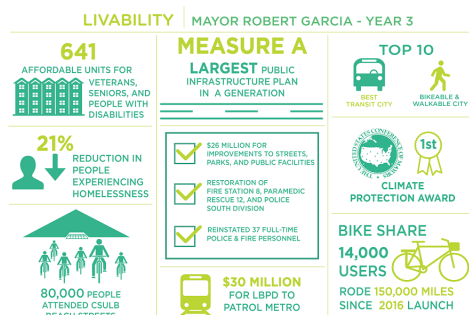
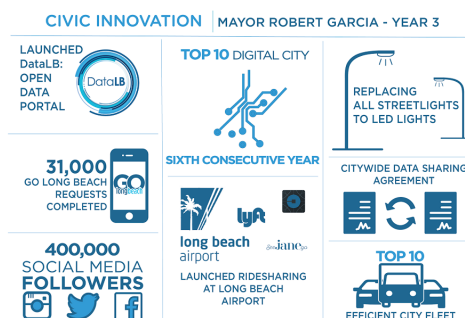
On civic innovation, Garcia highlighted the launch of the city's open data portal, DataLB (/news/2000010241-city-launches-interactive-data-portal-improving-efficiency-and-transparency) and the launch of a ridesharing partnership (/news/2000010538-long-beach-airport-to-allow-rideshare-companies-to-pick-up-during-upcoming-pilot-program) between the Long Beach Airport and companies like Uber and Lyft. Created in 2010 with Garcia's help as a councilman, the Go Long Beach app (/news/10598-update-go-long-beach-smartphone-app-now-available-for-android)p this year received 31,000 requests that were completed by city staff for issues like broken sidewalks, weeds or trash pickup, according to Garcia.

The mayor also pointed to an all-time low unemployment (/news/2000011083-unemployment-rate-in-long-beach-declines-to-4-4-percent-in-may-an-all-time-low) figure in the city which sits at 4.4 percent. He credited developers and new businesses for choosing to invest in the city.

In June, Garcia revealed about 60 housing and business projects, at various stages of completion, taking place in the city, including housing developments completed or under construction that will result in 2,549 more residential units. The projects total about \$3 billion in investment.

A record high rate of tourism has also contributed to the city's economic development, according to Garcia, with the city seeing a record number of tourism dollars (\$460 million) last year.

Adding to the city's economic development are efforts by the city's staff and i-team to streamline business applications (/business/2000010351-innovation-technological-streamlining-cutting-through-red-tape-for-long-beach-businesses). The result, Garcia said, is a decrease by a full week in the time necessary to acquire a business license.



While Long Beach has seen a decrease in homelessness, construction downtown has forced the homeless population out into other parts of the city, according to the most recent homeless count (/news/2000010810-homelessness-still-declining-but-new-development-maintenance-efforts-pushing-homeless-elsewhere). However, Garcia noted that the recent passage of Measure H and the city's efforts to add more affordable housing will help address these issues. But they won't solve the issues completely.

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Garcia noted the challenges facing the city, including the dual challenges of housing and homelessness—an issue most cities in the state are also facing.

“There isn’t a city in California where these two issues aren’t challenges,” Garcia told the press. “This is a California challenge of the decade [...]. It’s a simple math problem: we’re growing at a rate where we don’t have enough housing, so we’re not building enough housing at the rate that we’re growing and folks aren’t leaving California.”

That’s a recipe for a statewide crisis, Garcia added.

While Long Beach is building affordable housing, Garcia admitted that the city must do a better job of building more still.

“The issue is funding,” said Garcia. “The state has limited our main source of affordable housing funding which was redevelopment and now the state is back on track, talking about resources and funding.”

The city has also begun to address other livability concerns through Measure A, a sales tax measure passed last year to address infrastructure needs throughout the city that went into effect this January.

Garcia said Measure A has provided \$26 million this year to begin the investment into infrastructure to rebuild streets, sidewalks, alleys and critical facilities.

“I think that the proudest thing we’re going to leave behind is the largest public works project, like in basically the last generation of time,” Garcia told the press. “We’re spending more on public infrastructure today than we have in the last 50 years for streets and sidewalks and all these repairs.”

Measure A funds have allowed for the restoration of Fire Station 8, Paramedic Rescue 12 and the Long Beach Police Department’s South Division. It has also helped reinstate 37 full-time police and fire personnel.

Garcia also noted the city’s efforts to continue to stay fiscally responsible and not overspend in light of the state projecting a deficit over the next couple of years.

“The economy is always uncertain and so today we are celebrating an economic boom and tomorrow the national economy can be in a bad shape,” Garcia said. “I think it’s something we have to keep an eye on and it’s something we’re preparing for in the city.”

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