

Prepared by:
OLEGARIO "OLLIE" D. CANTOS VII, ESQ.
Councilman-Elect, District 4
City of West Covina, California

INTRODUCTION

This is the first of a series of updates that I will be issuing from time to time in order to keep the public informed of my ongoing efforts in support of our community throughout West Covina. My ultimate purpose is to optimize community engagement by continually working to bring individuals, non-profit organizations, intergovernmental partners, and businesses together as we strive collectively to draw closer to one another as emerging possibilities for collaboration present themselves.

I am honored soon to succeed Mayor Dario Castellanos, who has served from District 4 over the past four years. I also wish to extend my deepest appreciation to him as well as to Mayor Pro Tem Rosario Diaz (District 3), Councilman Brian Tabatabai (District 1), Councilwoman Letty Lopez Viado (District 2), and Councilman Tony Wu (District 5) for all of the kindness, warmth, and support that they have all extended to me during this period of transition. In addition, my congratulations to Councilwoman Lopez Viado and Councilman Wu for their re-election. Congratulations also to City Clerk Nick Lewis and City Treasurer Coleen Rozatti for their successful re-election as well.

During this time of transition, which began moving forward in earnest during the week of November 14, I have wasted no time in getting right to work as I prepare formally to be sworn into office during the City Council Reorganization Meeting on Tuesday, December 20, at City Hall in Council Chambers.

NEW OUTREACH AND/OR COMMUNICATIONS WITH NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND FAITH COMMUNITIES

I am grateful for having had the opportunity to begin new outreach and/or communications efforts with a number of non-profit organizations. These actions will keep deepening over time even as I continue to expand the following list while proactively identifying enhanced partnership initiatives as we strive collectively to make a positive difference here in our community.

- 5 Acres
- American Cancer Society
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- Delhaven Community Center (La Puente)
- East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center
- Elks Lodge
- FAITH Church
- Friendly Village, West Covina
- Friends of the Los Angeles County Library (West Covina)
- Friends of the Taylor House
- Foothill Family
- Foreign Legion, Post 790
- Future America
- Greater San Gabriel Valley Rotary Club

- Greater West Covina Business Association
- Hurst Ranch Foundation
- Kiwanis Club of West Covina
- Knights of Columbus
- Lions Club of West Covina
- Livable West Covina
- Masonic Lodge
- Miracle Messages (Los Angeles)
- ONE & ALL Church
- San Gabriel Valley Senior Softball Association
- Valley Light Industries (Baldwin Park)
- West Covina Beautiful
- West Covina Dukes (youth baseball)
- West Covina Improvement Association
- West Covina Police Officers Association
- West Covina Firefighters Association
- West Covina Senior Citizens Association.

NEW OUTREACH AND/OR COMMUNICATION WITH BUSINESSES

- Allied Restoration
- Fairplex
- Plaza West Covina
- Royal Coaches
- Southern California Edison

NEW OUTREACH AND/OR COMMUNICATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

- California Highway Patrol
- Covina Valley Unified School District.
- Los Angeles County Public Library
- West Covina Unified School District

MEETINGS WITH LOCAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

- Monday, November 14: Kiwanis Club of West Covina
- Thursday, November 17: Delhaven Community Center in La Puente.
- Wednesday, December 14: West Covina Beautiful.

EVENT ATTENDANCE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

With special thanks to members and leaders of the City Council as well as the Office of City Manager David Carmany, I was afforded the privilege of participating in a number of activities, events, and individual endeavors as they each proactively sought to include me even within my capacity as Councilman-Elect. City elected leaders and staff did whatever they could to welcome me with open arms and to help ensure my full inclusion. As a direct result, I was best positioned to begin my work in

earnest to pave the way for significant momentum in proverbially hitting the ground running as quickly as possible. I am truly grateful to each and every one of them and to City staff at all levels who have been so wonderful and welcoming. In addition, organizational leaders from the community also were kind enough to extend invitations of their own. Staff from within the City Manager's Office include Assistant City Manager Paulina Morales, Assistant City Manager Roxanne Lerma, Assistant City Clerk Lisa Sherrick, Deputy City Clerk Mark Pérez, and Diana Campos and Eric Vargas who have served as awesome support as well. On the public safety front, my thanks to Police Chief Richard Bell and to Captain Tony Cortina and Captain Ken Plunkett in addition to Fire Chief Vince Capelle and West Covina Firefighters Association President Terry Pérez and Board Member Carlos Galvez for talking with me extensively to help "show me the ropes."

Here are some major highlights:

- Friday, November 11: Veterans Day Commemoration, City Hall, City of West Covina.
- Friday, November 18: Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, Plaza West Covina.
- Thursday, November 25: Thanksgiving Day Luncheon, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).
- Thursday, December 1: Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for Restrooms at Cameron Park, City of West Covina.
- Friday, December 2:
 - "Let It Snow" Tree Lighting and Holiday Fair, City Hall, City of West Covina.
 - December Meet-and-Greet Event Featuring the Candlelight Carolers, History Hall, West Covina Historical Society.
- Saturday, December 3: "Paskong Filipino" Christmas Event at the Sports Plex, U.S. Philippine Chamber of Commerce.
- Sunday, December 4: Holiday Luncheon (paid out-of-pocket), West Covina Senior Citizens Association.
- Monday, December 5: Classroom presentation in support of a student with a disability at Mount San Antonio College ("Mount SAC").
- Wednesday, December 7: Neighborhood visits with residents to address overgrown vegetation, graffiti, and other concerns.
- Friday, December 9:
 - 10am: Dave's Hot Chicken Grand Opening, McIntyre Square.
 - 6pm: Toy Store, ONE & ALL Church, West Covina.
- Saturday, December 10: Christmas Parade, Kiwanis Club.

- Sunday, December 11: Driving around with Mayor Pro Tem Rosario Diaz to follow up on progress in addressing safety issues on Santous Street, checking on the conditions of roads, and checking on businesses off of Amar and Azusa.
- Monday, December 12: School Board Meeting, Covina Valley Unified School District (having been invited to support the swearing in of new Board members).
- Thursday, December 15:
 - “Shop with a Cop” Event at Target, West Covina Police Officers’ Association.
 - Annual Holiday Party (paid out-of-pocket), Eye Diseases Are Serious (Eye-DAS).
- Friday, December 16:
 - Friendly Village West Covina Holiday Party.
 - 52nd Anniversary Dinner, Valley Light Industries.
- Saturday, December 17: All-day float-decorating support as part of the Kiwanis Club and to help prepare for the 133rd Annual Tournament of Roses in Pasadena.
- UPCOMING COMMITMENTS:
- Saturday, January 14, 2023:
 - Neighborhood Watch Meeting (Tentative), Service Area 2, West Covina Police Department.
 - Explorer Banquet, West Covina Fire Department, 12pm to 4pm, Cortez Park.
- Saturday, January 21, 2023:
 - District 4 Town Hall Meeting and Special Announcement, 1pm, Location TBD.
 - Annual Dinner (paid for out-of-pocket), East San Gabriel Valley Japanese American Cultural Center, 6pm, Gymnasium.
- Saturday, February 25: Birthday Bash and City Beautification Awards, West Covina Beautiful.
- Saturday, March 18, 2023: Annual Banquet, U.S. Philippine Chamber of Commerce.
- Saturday, March 25: Board Luncheon, Future America, 12pm to 1:30pm, El Torito.

MILESTONES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Successfully secured \$5,650 in support for 5 Acres, which serves 106 foster and adoptive families in West Covina, resulting in each child receiving a \$50 gift card for the Holidays with an additional \$350 being made available for additional support as needed. This was thanks to generous funding by the Castucci Foundation, Allied Restoration, and individual contributions from Mike and Lisa Ferante and Jerri Potras.

- Under the leadership and initiative of Councilwoman Letty Lopez Viado, helped support Daniel Fonseca, a local resident who has journeyed out of homelessness, to assist him in attaining the goal of serving as a Security Officer. Councilwoman Lopez Viado continues to play a supportive and consistent role in his life over the past four years.
- Facilitated improvement in public rights of way in 3 locations plus a business cleaning up graffiti on its own property.
- Supported the City addressing significant traffic issues at Jennifer Place and Eclipse Way between Valinda Avenue and Pass and Covina Road.
- Facilitated City staff beginning to re-examine traffic issues at Citrus and Cameron.
- Assisted the daughter of a resident by providing detailed advice on securing employment within the Federal Government.

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Respectfully Submitted at 4:03pm on this 20th day of December 2022,

Olegario D. Cantos VII, Esq.
Councilman-Elect
District 4
City of West Covina