

# THE BEST OF 2016

YEAR-END  
REVIEW

# Report to the PEOPLE

Volume 55 No.12 December 2016

CITY OF COMMERCE

# 2016

## PROJECTS

## PROGRAMS

## EVENTS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## ATHLETICS



# Commerce Projects

Commerce began and completed many projects in 2016, including the Eastern Avenue Resurfacing Project, Teen Center Upgrades, Metrolink Station Enhancements and Camp Commerce Improvements. Major progress has been made on the Washington Boulevard Widening Project and is expected to be completed in Spring of 2017. With the revenue from Measure AA, the City anticipates additional capital improvement project planning in 2017.



Construction began on Spring 2016 at the Commerce Metrolink Station, which included ADA accessibility improvements, upgrade of the existing lighting to LED, and pavement rehabilitation.

FROM THE DESK OF THE

## City Administrator JORGE RIFÁ



In this issue of the Report, we look back at highlights from programs and events like Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day and the Commerce to College Fair, which we hope you enjoyed throughout the year.

One fantastic event this year was the 2016 Miss Commerce Pageant. As with every year, it provided young ladies from Commerce with an opportunity to show their pride in their community, as well as their talent and willingness to serve. Thank you to all of the participants and to Miss Commerce Jazmin Diaz and her Royal Court doing an outstanding job representing the City throughout the year.

In addition, the Commerce Central Library hosted great events this year like the Summer Reading Program for kids, teens and adults, Star Wars Reads Day and the Comic Book Invasion. The Library also continued to support students with programs like Homework Help and the Commerce Scholarship Program, as well as the Commerce to College Fair. Programs like these provide Commerce youth with an opportunity to get the help they need to achieve a good education and a viable path to college.

We also provide our young residents with opportunities for social development and engagement through events like the Community Volunteer Day of Service and the City's partnership with the Citadel Outlets for the Commerce Clean Up.

Getting people where they want to be is also a priority to the City Council. The City has made great strides on this front by improving our surface streets and transportation infrastructure over the last twelve months. This includes the Washington Boulevard Widening Project, the Citywide Repavement program and the Slauson Avenue Sidewalk Improvement Project.

We have accomplished a great deal this year, we look forward to doing much more in 2017. However, I will not be able to continue in that endeavor. It is with a heavy heart that I announce my retirement as the City Administrator for the City of Commerce effective January 1, 2017. It has been a rewarding experience in a community that I have come to love and cherish for the last eight years. It is my privilege to have served as your City Administrator and I wish you nothing but the best in the future.

However, before I go, I hope to see you all at our Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Monday, December 7 at 6:00 pm sharp on the steps of City Hall. Don't forget to attend the many other holiday activities and events which make the Commerce holiday season so special.

As a reminder, all City facilities will be closed on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2 in observance of Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

*Please have a safe and happy holiday season.*



The Slauson Avenue Sidewalk Improvement and Tree Reforestation Project will provide improvements along Slauson Avenue from the I-710 Freeway to the west of the I-5 Freeway.



The City of Commerce revitalized the island at Stevens Place and Eastern Avenue with new landscaping. This is just one of many new projects designed to "Make Commerce Beautiful."



The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union Local 11 held a grand opening of their new Net Zero Plus retrofitted Electrical Training Institute facility, the largest commercial Net Zero Plus retrofit in the country.



The \$40 million Washington Boulevard Widening project is on schedule, on budget, and currently slated for completion this coming Spring. Once completed, Washington Boulevard will feature three lanes in each direction, ADA compliant sidewalks, energy efficient lighting, raised medians and water conserving landscaping.

# Commerce Athletics

The City offers youth sports including: baseball, basketball, boxing, flag football, soccer, softball, swimming, volleyball and water polo. The Sports Division also coordinates the adult sports program which includes: basketball, coed softball, coed volleyball, karate, men's baseball and men's softball. For more information about the City's sports programs, contact Sports Coordinator Frank Garcia at 323- 887-4432.



A future Major Leaguer catches the first pitch before the T-ball Exhibition game during the Commerce Cinco de Mayo celebration.



Young runners stretch before the 350-yard Kids Fun Run held before the 5K Freedom Run.



The Commerce Crush 13-and-under team won first place at the Summer Soiree Volleyball Tournament in Anaheim back in July.



Former Commerce Water Polo player Alexandra Rodriguez and the late handball coach Tony Huante (Represented by his son Anthony Huante) were inducted into the Hall of Champions.



Hundreds of participants walked, jogged and ran through the Rosewood Park Neighborhood for the City's annual 5K Freedom Run.



Commerce Swimmers made quite a splash by taking home gold at the Southern California Swimming Junior Olympics. (L to R: Alexsa Gimenez, Delilah Moreno, Angelica Limon, Aleaha Gonzalez)



Water polo athlete, coach and journalist Kyle Utsumi joined hometown Water Polo hero Brenda Villa at the Rosewood Park Library to discuss his new book "Sydney's Silver Lining."

# Commerce Programs

When people come together as a community, they can make things happen. Commerce offers residents several opportunities to participate in outstanding events throughout the year. Emphasizing social interaction, tradition, enhanced quality of life and fun. In 2016 the City hosted and participated in many events including Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day, the Miss Commerce Pageant, Dia de los Muertos, the Commerce Citadel Job Fair and many others.



The City of Commerce 2016 Royal Court from l. to r. Miss Friendship Georgie Rosales, Miss Fourth of July Carina Rodarte, Miss Dodgers Kiana Hernandez, Miss Commerce Jazmin Diaz, Miss Clippers Melissa Avila-Briones and Miss Cinco de Mayo Cassandra Carvajal.



Miss Dodgers Kiana Hernandez, pictured with former NFL Defensive Tackle Esera Tuaolo, hosted the City's Community Dodger Night.



The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department brought along their furry friends to the Commerce Safety Fair.



Commerce honored veterans, fallen heroes and active duty members of the military at the Armed Forces Day Ceremony in May 17.



Local students at Rosewood School and Bandini Elementary learned about and celebrated the importance of trees at the Annual Arbor Day Celebration sponsored by the City of Commerce.



The Kids are Cute Baby Show was held on April 23 at the Rosewood Park Community Center. The Disney theme added a magical touch to the event.



Graduates of the Commerce Preschool Program say grace before the Preschool Graduation Ceremony at Veterans Park back in June.



Miss Commerce Jazmin Diaz and her Royal Court participated in the 3K Color Fun Run during the City's Summer Kick Off event at Veterans Park.



Beginning Tap and Ballet dancers show off their patriotic two step during the opening ceremonies for the Fourth of July Celebration.



Commerce residents spruced up the Veterans Park area during the Spring Clean Up event, planting flowers, removing bulky items and picking up litter.



Special Guest Santa Claus, along with the Girl Scout Troop #18591, attended the Community Tree Lighting Celebration last year.



The City of Commerce hosted another successful National Night Out with 12 block parties taking place throughout the City. The City provided hot dogs and giveaways and Target was a sponsor again this year.



The Commerce Public Library held its first ever Commerce Loves to Read Book Fair, with dozens of authors discussing their books with attendees. The Keynote address was made by Los Angeles Poet Laureate Luis J. Rodriguez.



Senior Center Supervisor Ann Berroteran was honored by Assemblymember Cristina Garcia as a "Woman of the Year" for the 58th Assembly District.

# Commerce Programs

Commerce is well known for the outstanding and low cost programs it offers residents. Whether it is educational, recreational or community improvement, the City offers something for everyone. Residents are also encouraged to join a civic or service club. Many of the clubs work with the City on programs and events. For more information, call the Parks and Recreation office at (323) 887-4434.



More than \$80,000 in scholarships were given to 78 students pursuing higher education at the annual City of Commerce Scholarship Program breakfast.



More than 1,000 students and over 40 schools and organizations attended the largest College Fair in the Southeast Los Angeles County area at Veterans Park.



Commerce high school seniors participated in the Annual Student Government Day, where they received hands on training in public service. Each followed an employee of the City to get an understanding about the way city government works.



Young comic book fans dressed up as their favorite characters during the City's Second Annual Comic Book Invasion.



Cancer survivors kicked off the 24-hour Relay For Life event that raised money and awareness about all forms of cancer for the American Cancer Society.



City employee Tina Fierro was honored by the Commerce City Council for helping to rescue a man about to jump off the Golden Gate Bridge during the Adventure Club's trip to San Francisco.



To celebrate City Founder Val Bassett's 95th birthday in May, the Commerce City Council presented her with a Key to the City, the highest honor the City can give to an individual.



The Bristow Park Pre-Teen Club works closely with Penny Lane, a Commerce nonprofit that helps foster children find homes. The Club made Easter baskets that were distributed to foster children at the organization's Easter Luncheon.



The Adventure Club from the Commerce Teen Center visited San Francisco as part of their annual Summer Trip. Teens crossed the Golden Gate Bridge, visited Alcatraz and shopped in Chinatown.



# COMMERCE CALENDAR DECEMBER

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

**January 2017**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

City of Commerce Sister City Association  
Presents their 1st Annual

## Holiday Boutique and Swap Meet

**December 3, 2016**  
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Rosewood Park  
6600 Harbor St.  
Commerce, CA 90040

**Space Information**  
Bring your crafts & goodies to sell \$10 per space (Table/Shade not included) \$20 per Shelter with Tables

For more information, contact  
Laura Perez at (323) 646-6401 or Lily Hernandez at (323) 667-5332

**1**

Hecho a Mano  
Veterans Library 5:30 p.m.

Parks & Recreation  
Commission 6 p.m.

**2**

Teen Video Games  
Rosewood Library  
3:30 p.m.

**3**

Library Children's  
Holiday Program  
Council Chambers 10 a.m.

Sister City Association  
Holiday Boutique  
Swap Meet  
Rosewood Park  
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**4**

**5**

Tree Lighting Ceremony  
Front of City Hall 6 p.m.

English Book Club  
Bandini Library 6 p.m.

**6**

**City Council/Successor  
Agency 6:30 p.m.**



Youth Advisory  
Commission 7 p.m.

**7**

Senior Citizens  
Commission 12:30 p.m.

Video Games  
Bandini Library 3 p.m.

Hecho a Mano  
Rosewood Library 6 p.m.

**8**

Community Services  
Commission 6:30 p.m.

**9**

Teen Video Games  
Rosewood Library 3 p.m.

Rosewood Library  
Closes at 5 p.m.

**10**

Star Wars Reads Day  
Rosewood Library 11 a.m.

Holiday Faire Series  
Senior Center 9:30 a.m.

**11**

**12**

Education Commission  
6 p.m.

Loteria  
Community Services  
Conf. Room 6 p.m.

**13**

Coffee with our Veterans  
5 p.m.

Measure AA Committee  
6 p.m.

**14**

Video Games  
Veterans Library 4 p.m.

Hecho a Mano  
Bristow Library 6 p.m.

Traffic Commission  
6:30 p.m.

**15**

Hecho a Mano  
Bandini Library 5:30 p.m.

Spanish Reading Club  
El Cafetalito Restaurant  
6 p.m.

**16**

Stranger Things Program  
Rosewood Library 2 p.m.

Teen Video Games  
Rosewood Library  
3:30 p.m.

**17**

**Snow Day**  
Veterans Park  
Session 10 a.m.  
Session 2: 12:30 p.m.

**18**

**19**

Children's Holiday Faire  
Veterans Park 10 a.m.

**Christmas Decorations  
Contest  
Application Deadline**

**20**

Library Embajadoras  
READs Center 6 p.m.

**City Council/Successor  
Agency 6:30 p.m.**



**21**

Video Games  
Bandini Library 3 p.m.

Christmas Decorations  
Contest Judging

**22**

**23**

Teen Video Games  
Rosewood Library  
3:30 p.m.

**24**

**Hanukkah**

**25**

**Christmas Day**



**26**

**City Hall & Libraries  
Closed**

**27**

Video Games  
Bristow Library 4 p.m.

Library Commission  
6 p.m.

I-710 Advisory Committee  
6 p.m.

**28**

Planning Commission  
6:30 p.m.

**29**

**30**

Teen Video Games  
Rosewood Library  
3:30 p.m.

**31**

Report to the  
**People**

City of Commerce 2535 Commerce Way Commerce, CA 90040 • (323) 722-4805 Fax (323) 888-6841

•www.ci.commerce.ca.us •Facebook:ci.commerce.ca.us •Flickr:commerceca

•Twitter:@CityofCommerce •Instagram:cityofcommerce

SEASON'S GREETINGS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

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# CITY OF COMMERCE

2535 Commerce Way  
Commerce, CA 90040

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Mayor Ivan Altamirano  
Mayor Pro Tem Tina Baca Del Rio  
Councilmember Hugo A. Argumedo  
Councilmember Lilia R. Leon  
Councilmember Oralia Y. Rebollo

### Important Phone Numbers

Aquarium (323) 887-4404  
Code Enforcement Ext. 2293  
Animal Control (323) 887-4460  
-Weekends/Evenings (562) 940-6898  
SCE St. Lights Out\* (800) 611-1911  
\*Provide Light Pole # for Report  
E.L.A. Sheriff's Office (323) 264-4151  
Graffiti Hotline (323) 887-4444  
Vector Control (562) 944-9656  
**Report Train Idling/Noise call**  
BNSF (800) 832-5452  
UPRR (888) 877-7267

**EMERGENCY 911**



**FREE BULKY ITEM PICK-UP  
FOR COMMERCE RESIDENTS**

Call to schedule your  
pick-up at least 1 day  
before your regular  
trash day.

**CalMet Services  
(562) 259-1239**

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## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS HOME DECORATIONS CONTEST 2016

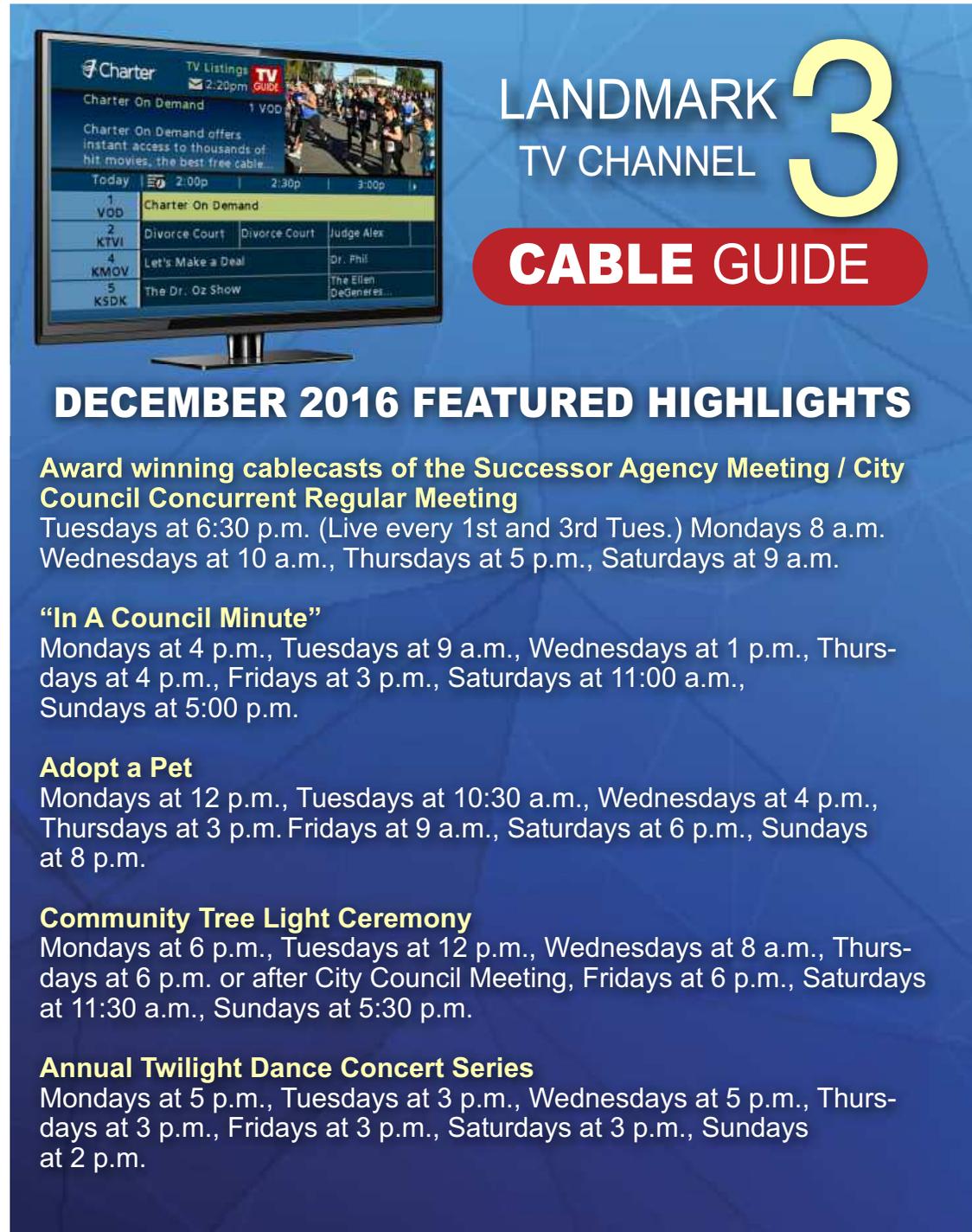
**EVENT JUDGING:**  
Wednesday, December 21 beginning at 6:00 p.m.

The City of Commerce Public Safety and Community Services Commission will search the city looking for the winning home with the most holiday spirit in each of the four neighborhoods. Judging will begin at 6:00pm with no particular order so be ready to show off your home's holiday spirit. Your home will only be judged if you registered and will only be judged on the outside. Live performances will not count towards your overall score.

**One \$100 Gift card winner per four neighborhoods.**

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER:**  
Monday, December 19, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

For more information contact:  
Code Enforcement (323) 887-4460



## LANDMARK 3 TV CHANNEL

### CABLE GUIDE

#### DECEMBER 2016 FEATURED HIGHLIGHTS

**Award winning cablecasts of the Successor Agency Meeting / City Council Concurrent Regular Meeting**  
Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. (Live every 1st and 3rd Tues.) Mondays 8 a.m.  
Wednesdays at 10 a.m., Thursdays at 5 p.m., Saturdays at 9 a.m.

**"In A Council Minute"**  
Mondays at 4 p.m., Tuesdays at 9 a.m., Wednesdays at 1 p.m., Thursdays at 4 p.m., Fridays at 3 p.m., Saturdays at 11:00 a.m., Sundays at 5:00 p.m.

**Adopt a Pet**  
Mondays at 12 p.m., Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., Wednesdays at 4 p.m., Thursdays at 3 p.m. Fridays at 9 a.m., Saturdays at 6 p.m., Sundays at 8 p.m.

**Community Tree Light Ceremony**  
Mondays at 6 p.m., Tuesdays at 12 p.m., Wednesdays at 8 a.m., Thursdays at 6 p.m. or after City Council Meeting, Fridays at 6 p.m., Saturdays at 11:30 a.m., Sundays at 5:30 p.m.

**Annual Twilight Dance Concert Series**  
Mondays at 5 p.m., Tuesdays at 3 p.m., Wednesdays at 5 p.m., Thursdays at 3 p.m., Fridays at 3 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m.