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64th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT CANDIDATES FORUM



64th Assembly District Candidates with moderator Scott Smith. Pictured here (I to r) Robert "Rob" Cancio, Rose Espinoza, Elizabeth Alcantar, moderator Scott Smith, Ana Valencia, Raul Ortiz Jr. and Blanca Pacheco.

With the recent redistricting changes that were made because of the 2020 Census, California has a new 64th Assembly District with no incumbent running for that position. With that in mind, there are six candidates running for this seat. The candidates are in alphabetical order: Elizabeth Alcantar (D), Robert "Rob" Cancio (D), Rose Espinoza (D), Raul Ortiz Jr. (R), Blanca Pacheco (D), and Ana Valencia (D).

The new District includes the cities of Bell, Bell Gardens, Cudahy, Downey, La Habra, La Mirada, Norwalk, Santa Fe Springs and portions of Whittier. With that in mind the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce with our partner Chambers of Bell, Bell Gardens, Downey, La Habra, Santa Fe Springs and Whittier held a candidate forum

on Wednesday, May 18th in the Norwalk City Council Chambers. All six candidates were in attendance at the forum where they were each given an opportunity to provide a two minute introduction, answer a series of questions and then provide a closing statement. The speaking order was chosen randomly with a draw of numbers. Candidates were also given tables to place their campaign literature on to share with those attending the event.



Scott Smith, ABCUSD Communications Officer getting prepared to moderate the 64th Assembly District Candidate Forum.

Scott Smith, Communications Officer for ABC Unified School District and former President/CEO of the Cerritos Chamber served as the moderator for the event. He kept the forum on time and was able to present the candidates with a series of questions ranging from their views on AB1001 to whether they would support a \$25.00 minimum wage. Other questions were asked about how each candidate would work to combat the current homeless crisis and what they believed should be done with the projected budget surplus of \$97.5 billion dollars. Interestingly enough the candidates were not all that different in a number of their answers, especially those that had to do with small businesses and the homeless crisis. We encourage you to view the forum which will be shown on the City of Norwalk TV – 3 on Friday, June 3rd at 7pm and on Sunday June 5th at 1pm so that you can determine who the best candidate is for the new 64th Assembly District.

COMMUNITY FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER HOSTS FIRST CHILDREN'S BENEFIT DINNER

The Inaugural Children's Benefit Dinner for Community Family Guidance Center (CFGC) was held on Thursday, May 19th at the Sheraton Hotel in Cerritos. The benefit dinner brought together over 200 guests to support the Mission of CFGC which is to help Southeast Los Angeles County's under-served children and their families heal from trauma, abuse, emotional, behavioral and mental health issues through proven interventions and compassionate guidance.

The evening started with a keynote address by Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn and additional remarks provided by State Senator Bob Archuleta and Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia. The festivities of the evening included a fun game of "heads and tails," a wine toss, opportunity drawing and a live auction. The Protector of Children Award was presented by CFGC Board Vice President Scott Smith to Dr. Valencia Mayfield, II, Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services for ABC Unified School District. Master of Ceremonies was Ariel Pe, Vice Mayor of Lakewood, while Honorary Committee Members included Blanca Pacheco, Mayor, City of Downey, and Jeff Wood, Mayor, City of Lakewood. Attending the event were Norwalk City Council Members Jennifer Perez and Margarita Rios, Norwalk Chamber Board President Jose Rios, Board Past President Amanda Blanton, Board Member Dora Sandoval and Norwalk City Manager Jesus Gomez and Deputy City Manager Richard Rojas.

Each year, Community Family Guidance Center (CFGC) provides high-quality counseling services to more than 1,400 children in need, plus contact with family members and teachers. They provide on average more than 33,000 therapy sessions each year. They are a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency serving the Southeast area of Los Angeles County which includes the communities of Artesia, Bell, Bellflower, Bell Gardens, Cerritos, City of Commerce, City Terrace, Cudahy, Downey, East Los Angeles, Hawaiian Gardens, Huntington Park, La Habra Heights, Lakewood, La Mirada, Los Nietos, Maywood, Montebello, Norwalk, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, Signal Hill, South Gate, Vernon, Walnut Park, Whittier, and others.

Established in 1976, they have been serving in the community for more than 40 years. As a result, they know the community well and have developed strong community partnerships with local schools and other local social service agencies. These partnerships allow them to deliver services that strengthen the clients and their families through a collaborative, integrated approach.

Their highly involved and dedicated Board of Directors includes a diverse group of prominent local businessmen and women, local educators, and long term residents of the communities they serve. Board Members are: Amanda Blanton, Board President, Scott Smith, Board Vice President, Maynard Law, Board Secretary, Steve Vicencia, Board Treasurer and Board of Directors Dr. Bob Hughlett, Jose Iglesias, Kathleen Lovell, Cynthia Palin, Jennifer Elliott, Ross Martinez and Ray Hamada. To learn more about CFGC and the services they provide visit their website at www.cfgcenter.com.

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce 14783 Carmenita Road, Norwalk, CA 90650

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Attending the Community Family Guidance Center Children's Benefit Dinner are (I to r) Norwalk La Mirada School Board Member Jose Rios, Norwalk Deputy City Manager Richard Rojas, Norwalk City Council Member Margarita Rios, Norwalk Chamber Board Member Dora Sandoval, **CFGC Board President Amanda Blanton and Norwalk City Council Member** Jennifer Perez.



The ABCUSD team celebrating the recognition of Dr. Valencia Mayfield, II who received the "Protector of Children" Award. Pictured here are (I to r) Scott Smith, Communications Officer, Melinda Ortiz, Director of School Services, Tina Porter, District Social Worker, Ernie Nishii, ABCUSD Board of Education, Dr. Crechena Wise, Director of Secondary Schools, Sophia Tse, ABCUSD Board of Education, Jazmine Mayfield, Art Mayfield, Dr. Valencia Mayfield II – honoree, Soo Yoo, ABCUSD Board President, Toan Nguyen, Deputy Superintendent/CFO, and Dr. Beth Bray, Supervisor of **Elementary Curriculum and Professional Development.**

NORWALK CHAMBER
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Norwalk Chamber of Commerce

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http://on.fb.me/oB5EUM

PRESIDENT JOSE RIOS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
EDITOR, NCBC
CAREN SPILSBURY

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, June 4th

Pray Norwalk

Norwalk City Hall

10am to 12:30pm

Thursday, June 9th

New Member Meet & Greet

Doubletree Hotel

3pm to 5pm

Thursday, June 23rd

99th Annual Installation &
Awards Luncheon
12noon @ NASC

Friday, June 24th

Front Street Fridays
5pm to 9pm

Thursday, June 30th

Coffee & Conversation
Chick-fil-A

9am

Wednesday, July 6th

After Hours Mixer
American Legion
5pm to 7pm

Wednesday, July 13th

City of Norwalk

Summer Concert Series

City Hall Lawn @ 7pm

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, August 17th

Annual Business Expo

Friday, August 19th

Annual State of the Nation Luncheon

SPONSORS

A Connected Community









RENEWING MEMBERS

The following companies and individuals renewed their membership with the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce and the services we provide are made possible by their support.

47 Years Chapel of Memories

Anthony Nunes
562-863-8731
https://www.chapelofmemoriesfuneralhome.com/

44 Years

Norwalk Elks Lodge #2142

562-868-6603 elks2142@verizon.net

36 Years Frantone's Spaghetti Villa

John Tesoriero 562-924-9494 www.frantones.com

33 Years Norwalk Florist

Gary Murphy 562-863-4478 www.floristnorwalk.com

30 Years

General Alarm Services

Bill E. McDonald 562-602-2000 http://www.generalalarmservices.

26 Years

com/

West Coast Arborists
Patrick Mahoney
714-991-1900
http://wcainc.com

23 Years

Goodwill SOLAC Kimberly Hall 562-435-3411 https://thinkgood.org/

17 Years El Clasificado

Martha De La Torre 323-378-5310 www.elclasificado.com

NEW MEMBERS

Pops Ups Razzi

Alysha Rodriguez 562-805-1125 popupsrazzi@gmail.com

Become a member today!

Visit our website at norwalkchamber.com

RIBBON CUTTING AT ALTAMED PACE

AltaMed Pace has officially opened their doors here in Norwalk. PACE is an acronym for Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly and is a health program exclusively for seniors with medical conditions who wish to enjoy the independence of living at home and the peace of mind of receiving personalized medical care. If you have MediCal the PACE services are FREE for you. If you are 55 or older and need assistance with your medical appointments or help with daily activities then PACE would be a great option for you. The services that this center will offer include onsite physical therapy, Occupation therapy, Pharmacy, Social Activities and more.



Getting ready to officially cut the ribbon at the new AltaMed Pace facilities.



AltaMed Board Members, Norwalk Mayor Rick Ramirez and AltaMed CEO Cástulo de la Rocha at the new AltaMed Pace facility in Norwalk.



Welcoming the community to the new AltaMed Pace center are AltaMed CEO Cástulo de la Rocha and staff.



Presenting certificates at the AltaMed Ribbon Cutting. Included in this photo are (I to r) Albert Ruiz, Communications Director for Assembly Member Lisa Calderon, Jacob Wolak, Field Deputy Congresswoman Linda Sánchez, Norwalk Mayor Rick Ramirez, Little Lake City School Board Clerk Gina Ramirez, Downy Mayor Pro Tem Catherine Alvarez, Downey Mayor Blanca Pacheco, CEO AltaMed Cástulo de la Rocha, Downey City Council Member Mario Trujillo and Vincent Morales, Assistant Field Deputy, Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn.

• Creating a Strong Local Economy • Promoting the Community

The Norwalk Chamber of Commerce urges you to spend your money locally to support the business community and protect jobs. Local sales tax dollars support basic city services.

When you shop in Norwalk, you are paying for:
• Public Safety Services • Street Repairs • Recreation Programs
And Much More

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Norwalk Chamber members



It has been an honor and pleasure to have served as your President for the 2021 – 2022 year. As I reflect on my last month as Chamber President, I think back on all that we have accomplished during this time. While working within the guidelines of the CDC and Los Angeles County Health Department we were not able to do as much in person as we would have liked to do, but the Chamber was still able to support our business community in a number of different ways. Our partnership with the California Office of Emergency Services allowed our Chamber to provide over 100 local businesses with KN95 masks and hand sanitizer. The economic impact of this partnership was a cost savings to businesses of over \$391,000.00. As part of the Gateway Chambers Alliance we took action to support and oppose legislative issues that would affect our business community, and we continued to promote our members through the use of the Chamber Social Media platforms.

During this last year we were able to hold a number of in person events again, while maintaining safety for all who attended. These successful events could not have happened without the hard work of our Event Committee, chaired by Amanda Blanton. I want to thank Amanda and her team for everything they worked on this last year. Our Ambassadors were able to continue in person business visits when protocols allowed for them. Thank you to the Ambassador Team led by Karla Butler and Irma Macias, and all who participated. This last year we began a monthly Coffee & Conversation event hosted by Chick-fil-A. Thank you to Farid Khansarinia for providing the Coffee so that we could all have the Conversation.

I want to welcome all of our new members who took the opportunity to join the Norwalk Chamber this last year and take advantage of working with like minded individuals who support the community and want to see businesses grow and thrive here in Norwalk. We look forward to your participation and involvement with the Norwalk Chamber for many years to come.

Special thanks to our Board of Directors and Ambassadors. Your time and energy to support the Chamber is much appreciated. I also want to congratulate the 2022 – 2023 Executive Board and Chamber Board Members for stepping up to work together to grow the Norwalk Chamber.

Lastly, thank you to the City of Norwalk for their support during this last year. I appreciated our partnership and working together to create a positive economic environment for our business community.

Respectfully,

Jose Rios 2021-2022 President, Norwalk Chamber of Commerce TNG Realty, Rios & Garcia Team

MULTI CHAMBER MIXER HOSTED BY WHITTIER REGIONAL SYMPHONY

Whittier Regional Symphony (WRS) celebrated the return of the Symphony live performances with a Multi Chamber Mixer on Thursday, May 26th at the DoubleTree Hotel in Whittier. In attendance were members from the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce, along with Whittier, Pico Rivera, Montebello, La Habra and Santa Fe Springs Chambers. Norwalk Vice Mayor Ana Valencia was on hand to present a plaque of recognition to the Symphony, while Whittier Mayor Joe Vinatieri also presented a certificate. Live music was provided by members of the Whittier Regional Symphony orchestra and attendees were treated with appetizers provided by the DoubleTree Hotel. Whittier Regional Symphony Executive Director Fred Zermeno welcomed attendees and provided a history of the organization. The Whittier Regional Symphony is celebrating 89 years in the City of Whittier, providing free concerts for children. Musicians travel throughout the year to local schools to perform. The Conductor, Kimo Furumoto, plans the programming for these concerts for young audiences using music that children are familiar with. If you are interested in learning more about the Whittier Regional Symphony, visit www.whittierregionalsymphony.org. It is only \$75.00 to become a yearly member supporting the Symphony, or become a sponsor for special events.



Norwalk Vice Mayor Ana Valencia pictured with Fred Zermeno. Theresa Yates and Norwalk Chamber Ambassador Joe Derthick.

Pictured with WRS President Fred Zermeno are

Chamber CEO's. In this photo (I to r) Kathie Fink,

Santa Fe Springs Chamber, Carol Crosby, Whittier

Regional Chamber, Adrianna Dugan, Montebello

Chamber and Caren Spilsbury, Norwalk Chamber.



WRS Board President Fred Zermeno with Whittier with certificates of thanks. Regional Symphony Conductor Kimo Furumoto and Aldo Arellano, Field Deputy for Los Angeles County Assessor Jeffrey Prang.



Members of the Whittier Regional Symphony provided musical entertainment at the event.



Volunteers for the Whittier Regional Symphony were recognized by State Senator Bob Archuleta



Whittier Mayor Joe Vinatieri, WRS Conductor Kimo Furumoto, Norwalk Vice Mayor Ana Valencia and WRS President Fred Zermeno at the Multi Chamber Mixer.

LABOR LAW CORNER

What can an employer do when an employee leaves a company but has an outstanding an outstanding loan or any other debt, an employee can file a wage claim with the DLSE loan owed to the company? Can the amount of the outstanding loan be taken out of or in court and the employer may face stiff penalties and potential attorney fees. the employee's final pay?

The short answer is no. An employer cannot deduct from an employee's final paycheck any amount representing the unpaid balance of a debt owed by the employee.

In California, wage deductions from final pay are highly regulated. An employer can lawfully make certain deductions from wages, including health insurance premiums and garnishments, but there are strict limitations on other deductions.

Labor Code

California Labor Code Section 221 states it is "unlawful for any employer to collect or receive from an employee any part of wage theretofore paid by said employer to said employee." This means an employer cannot take back wages already paid to an employee.

In addition, California Labor Code Section 300 states that no assignment of future wages can be made, unless they are assigned for necessities of life and then only to the person furnishing the necessities.

The courts also have held that employers are prohibited from makingdeductions from wages that are a "selfhelp" remedy for the employer. (Sniadach v. Family Finance, 395 US 337 (1969)).

The California Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE) wrote in an opinion letter that "case law makes clear that deductions from an employee's final paycheck for Online Tool debts owed to the employer are prohibited, even with prior written authorization."

The bottom line is that an employer is prohibited from deducting an outstanding loan from an employee's final paycheck.

If an employer makes an unlawful deduction from an employee's final pay to recover CalChamber Store.

Written Agreement Is there anything an employer can do to recover an outstanding loan from an employee upon termination? Although an employer cannot deduct the amount of an outstanding loan from an employee's final paycheck, an employer can enter into a written agreement or promissory note with an employee specifying that the employee will be required to repay the loan.

The agreement should include the amount of the loan and clearly state the terms of the loan repayment. Repayment of a loan by an employee must be made by check or other means to the company, not by a payroll deduction.

If the employee refuses to pay back the loan, the employer can choose to go to small claims or superior court (depending on the amount of the loan) to enforce the written agreement. Employers should review their handbooks and other written policies on employee loans to ensure compliance with the law. Employers also should consider having written agreements with employees outlining the employee's obligation to pay back a loan.

As stated above, if an employee has an outstanding loan at time of termination, an employer is prohibited from deducting that outstanding loan amount from the employee's final paycheck.

The CalChamber California Employee Handbook Creator Online Tool offers sample policies for subscribers. Each sample policy allows the user to choose from options to create the subscriber's custom employee handbook. More information is available at the

BEST BUY TIRE PROS SUPPORTS THE LT. DAN VAN AND THE GARY SINISE FOUNDATION



The newly wrapped Lt. Dan Van with the newly installed wheels from Best **Buy Tire Pros.**

On April 22nd of this year, the Gary Sinise Foundation and American Tire Depot (ATD) spent the morning at Best Buy Tire Pro here in Norwalk to install new wheels on the Lt. Dan Van for the Gary Sinise Foundation. Andy and Marty Kasbarian of Best Buy Tire Pros welcomed Gib Bosworth, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives & Outreach for the Gary Sinise Foundation, along with senior staff of ATD and Best Buy Tire Pros for the installation of the new wheels on the Lt. Dan Van. This ADA accessible van will transport our nation's wounded heroes to GSF events, as well as catered meals to Veterans and First Responders through our Serving Heroes program.

The Gary Sinise Foundation was established under the philanthropic direction of a forty-year advocate for our nation's defenders, actor Gary Sinise. Each of the Foundation's programs originated from Gary's personal relationships with our nation's service community and a wide range of nonprofits he had

supported for decades. Ever aware of the gaps of care these deserving heroes often encounter, he was inspired to serve them – always giving a little more. With the creation of the Gary Sinise Foundation, his crusade now supports all those who sacrifice on our behalf: active duty, veterans, first responders, and their loved ones. Each program shows appreciation for America's heroes through entertainment, family support, and acts of gratitude.

The Lt. Dan Band has performed over 530 concerts to boost morale on military bases at home and abroad and to raise awareness at benefit concerts across the country. The band uplifts and celebrates our defenders and their families. The new van will also help the band as it tours in different cities. If you would like to know more about the Gary Sinise Foundation and how you can help our Military and First Responders through the Foundation visit https://www.garysinisefoundation.org.



Pictured with the Lt. Dan Van with the new wheels are (I to r) Best Buy Representatives from American Tire Depot and Tire Pros Marty Kasbarian, Norwalk Chamber Board President Jose Rios, TNG Realty and Andy Kasbarian of Best Buy Tire Pros.



Best Buy Tire Pros with business owner Andy Kasbarian.



Chamber **President** Jose Rios picture with Bosworth, **President of Strategic Initiatives & Outreach** of the Gary Sinise Foundation at the tire installation event.

CalChamber Releases 2022 Job Killer List

bills to be included on its 2022 job killer list. The preliminary list includes nine housing unaffordability and constrain the already limited housing supply. new bills and two carry-over proposals from 2021. The CalChamber expects • SB 1301 (Becker; D-Menlo Park) Fossil Fuel Investment Surcharge. several additions to the list in the coming weeks. "California companies are Arbitrarily raises taxes on companies that invest in fossil fuel businesses year's job killer list reflect a lack of appreciation of the economic realities and in California. regulatory challenges employers — and especially small business employers — face as they continue to emerge from the impacts of this pandemic. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) "A shrinking workforce coupled with California's oppressive legal climate, • AB 1001 (Cristina Garcia; D-Los Angeles) Expands CEQA and Hurts penchant for overregulation, and continued push for even higher taxes, will Housing. hamper the ability of California companies to remain competitive in the future. Creates new highly subjective, non-quantifiable and litigation-bait standards shut down or reduce investment in our economy."

The 2022 CalChamber Job Killer List includes the following bills:

Labor and Employment

AB 2095 (Kalra; D-San Jose) Unfair Denial of State Opportunities.

Places new onerous administrative burdens on employers by requiring annual **Privacy and Cybersecurity** reporting of wage and hour data and employee benefits on an employer's entire United States workforce that will unfairly criticize employers for lawful **Biometric Information**. conduct by publishing that data on the Labor and Workforce Development. Creates legal liability for businesses large and small, potentially in the millions Agency's website and using such data to rank employers and deny them to tens of millions of dollars, while not providing any exceptions, such as for state opportunities, and will subject employers to frivolous litigation and settlement demands.

• AB 2182 (Wicks; D-Oakland) Expansion of Duty to Accommodate biometric information in a thinly veiled attempt to undermine the California **Employees and Litigation Under FEHA.**

Imposes new burdens on employers to accommodate any employee with family responsibilities, which will essentially include a new, uncapped Workers' Compensation protected leave for employees to request time off and exposes employers to costly litigation under the Fair Employment and Housing Act by asserting that any adverse employment action was in relation to the employee's family responsibilities, rather than a violation of employment policies.

• SB 1044 (Durazo; D-Los Angeles) State of Emergency.

Allows employees to leave work or refuse to show up to work if employee subjectively feels unsafe regardless of existing health and safety standards or whether employer has provided health and safety protections and subjects Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources employers to costly Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) lawsuits if they • AB 2764 (Nazarian; D-Van Nuys) Livestock Ban. dispute the employee's decision or need to have another employee take over any job duties.

SB 1162 (Limón; D-Goleta) Publication of Pay Data.

Encourages litigation against employers based on the publication of broad, unreliable data collected by the state. Undermines employers' ability to hire, imposes administrative and record keeping requirements that are impossible to implement, and subjects employers to a private right of action and penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA).

Taxation

AB 2289/ ACA 8 (Lee; D-San Jose) Wealth Tax.

Seeks to impose a massive tax increase upon all forms of personal property or wealth despite California already having the highest income tax in the country. This tax increase will drive high-income earners and job creators out of the State as well as the revenue they contribute to the General Fund.

• AB 1771 (Ward; D-San Diego) Targeted Tax on Certain Home Sellers. Seeks to impose a tax—in addition to the capital gains tax—of 25% on the profits from a home resold within three years after it is purchased. The tax

The California Chamber of Commerce this week released the first wave of rate is reduced on a sliding scale for seven years thereafter. This will worsen

the economic engine that drives innovation and job creation in our state and based upon the financing amount. This adds another layer of expenses are responsible for the record revenues the state is currently experiencing," onto the fossil fuel industry that will significantly increase the costs of doing said CalChamber President and CEO Jennifer Barrera. "Yet, the bills on this business, thereby increasing prices paid by consumers for goods and services

This year's job killer list highlights policies that will hurt job creation and will in CEQA that will threaten California's economic recovery and ability to construct much-needed housing. It also removes local government discretion regarding how to analyze and mitigate proposed project impacts, thereby making projects more expensive, harder to build and more likely to be thrown into courts by NIMBY opposition. 2021 carry-over bill.

• SB 1189 (Wieckowski; D-Fremont) New Private Right of Action for

the use of biometric data for safety, security, or other reasonable purposes. Also imposes new, untenable restrictions on the use and disclosure of Privacy Rights Act (CPRA) limited private right of action for data breaches.

• SB 213 (Cortese; D-San Jose) Workers' Compensation Presumption: Hospital Employees. Expands Costly Presumption of Injury.

Significantly increases workers' compensation costs for public and private hospitals by presuming certain diseases and injuries are caused by the workplace and establishes an extremely concerning precedent for expanding presumptions into the private sector. 2021 carry-over bill.

Bans new or expanded commercial animal feeding and processing operations for meat, poultry, eggs, and dairy. Will increase food prices for Californians and force food to be imported from out of state to meet consumer demand.

