



The Week in Review

City Manager Grace K. Leung

July 9, 2021

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, July 13

City Council Study Session

City Hall, City Council Chambers
100 Civic Center Drive
4 p.m.

[\(Insider's Guide\)](#)

Tuesday, July 13

City Council Regular Meeting

City Hall, City Council Chambers
100 Civic Center Drive
6:30 p.m.

[\(Insider's Guide\)](#)

Wednesday, July 14

Harbor Commission Meeting

City Hall, City Council Chambers
100 Civic Center Drive
5 p.m.

Thursday, July 15

Zoning Administrator Meeting

City Hall, City Council Chambers
100 Civic Center Drive

[\(See agenda for instructions on how to participate\)](#)

10 a.m.

Community members,

I hope you all had a wonderful July 4th weekend. It was great to see the resumption of our cherished Independence Day events and activities – from the bike parade to the Dunes fireworks – after such a challenging year. While no holiday weekend will be without incidents, the Newport Beach Police Department, with assistance from outside agencies, did an excellent job of managing crowds and responding quickly to calls for service. I'd also like to recognize our dedicated Recreation and Senior Services team, who coordinated many of the public events, and our Public Works Department for assisting with traffic management and efficient clean up throughout the weekend.

Harbor Invasive Plant Removal Underway

A coordinated effort to remove and eradicate an invasive algae species from Newport Harbor began on Wednesday, July 7. The invasive algae, scientifically known as *Caulerpa Prolifera*, was discovered in the China Cove beach area of Newport Harbor in March. Since then, the City has been working with multiple federal, state and local agencies to identify the extent of the algae growth and to develop a removal plan. The removal is expected to conclude on Saturday.

Using a careful and deliberate method, divers have been extracting the invasive plant from the seafloor using vacuum pumps. The material is then pumped onshore into containers where the algae and other solids are separated from the harbor water. The discharged water is handled with great caution to prevent reintroduction of the algae to the bay environment.

Caulerpa Prolifera is not dangerous to humans or wildlife, but is highly invasive and can spread easily, choking out native plants and critical marine habitats. If not eliminated, the algae could spread within Newport Harbor and to critical marine habitats outside the harbor. After the removal effort in Newport Harbor is complete, divers will conduct surveys to help ensure the species is completely eradicated and does not repopulate the area.

Visit the City's website for a complete listing of meetings and events at newportbeachca.gov/events.

COVID-19 Cases in Newport Beach

As of July 7, the total number of COVID-19 cases in Newport Beach was 3,981 and the total cases in Orange County was 256,775. The number of recovered COVID-19 patients countywide as of July 7 was 250,203. These figures are provided to Orange County by the California Department of Public Health.

Updated Draft General Plan Housing Element Now Available!

City staff and its consultant team have been working with the Housing Element Update Advisory Committee (HEUAC), Planning Commission, City Council, and the community over the past 18 months to prepare a draft of the updated General Plan Housing Element. As a reminder, this effort is required by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) in response to the 6th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocation of 4,845 new housing units for Newport Beach.

An updated draft of the Housing Element has been made available online. Please click [here](#) to download and view it!

The City Council will be discussing this draft at its July 13, 2021, study session. Afterward, the City intends to transmit a progress draft to HCD for a preliminary 60-day review.

This is an early draft of the document. There will be additional opportunities to help shape it before it is adopted. The entire community is encouraged to participate and review it.

If you have any questions or to submit comments, please reach out to City staff by emailing GPUUpdate@newportbeachca.gov.

The City greatly appreciates the community's continued participation and engagement in this challenging and unprecedented update process.

Homelessness Update

- A couple housed in November 2020 with City staff assistance now has full-time employment in Newport Beach. They both receive full employment benefits and consistent hours to maintain their housing.
- A person experiencing homelessness in Newport Beach was enrolled into services provided under contract by [City Net](#). He entered the Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter after receiving a negative COVID-19 test result.
- City Net transported a couple to Orange County's vital records department to complete housing voucher paperwork.
- Staff continues to provide food gift cards, support, and case management to several people sheltering in motels while they await placement into permanent, supportive housing.

For a comprehensive look at the City's ongoing efforts to address homelessness, please visit our web site [at this link](#). To donate, please visit our [Good Giving Program web page](#).

Insider's Guide for the Newport Beach City Council Meeting on July 13, 2021

Our next City Council meeting is Tuesday, July 13. Items that may be of interest are highlighted below. The entire agenda, and all reports, can be viewed [here](#).

There will be a Study Session Meeting of the City Council at 4 p.m.:

- The Council will hear a presentation from Be Well OC, which provides a mobile crisis intervention program to assist community members struggling with mental health issues. CEO Marshall Moncrief will provide an overview of the organization's programs and services.
- As noted earlier, council members will review and discuss changes to the draft update of the City's General Plan Housing Element, following recent Council and community input. Staff will incorporate

any additional feedback from the study session into the document before it is sent to the state Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for a preliminary review. The latest draft is available online [at this link](#).

The Regular Meeting of the City Council will begin at 6:30 p.m.:

- The Council will hold a public hearing on a plan to spend additional funding from the 2020 federal stimulus plan known as the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). Newport Beach will receive \$741,079 in additional CARES Act funds through its participation in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The resolution under consideration would update the City's CDBG annual plan to accommodate the additional grants. Under the program guidelines, the funding must be allocated to projects and services that prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19.

