



# The Week in Review

City Manager Grace K. Leung

October 22, 2021

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## Upcoming Events

**Tuesday, October 26**

**City Council Study Session**

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

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

**Tuesday, October 26**

**City Council Regular Meeting**

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

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

**Thursday, October 28**

**Zoning Administrator Meeting**

City Hall via Zoom

[Click here to register.](#)

10 a.m.

## Community Members:

More than 400 workers are continuing to assess and clean tar balls from the October 2 oil spill in Orange and San Diego counties. There is no official timeline for the remaining cleanup. However, the tar washing up on beaches is steadily decreasing and the Unified Command response team, led by the U.S. Coast Guard, anticipates that some stretches of the shoreline may require no further cleanup.

For now, the Unified Command will continue to send crews to survey the beaches and will respond to emails of tar ball sightings at [tarballreports@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:tarballreports@wildlife.ca.gov).

All beaches and harbors are open. Fishing and the collecting of shellfish is still prohibited along the coast while testing is underway to determine the impacts of the spill on local marine life. [Click here](#) for updates on fishing from the state Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.

Residents and businesses impacted by the spill are encouraged to call a claims hotline at 866-985-8366. If your boat requires decontamination, please call 866-985-8366 to schedule a cleaning appointment at the Marina Park station.

For more information and updates, please visit Newport Beach's web site at [www.newportbeachca.gov/oilspill](http://www.newportbeachca.gov/oilspill) and the official incident response website at [www.socalspillresponse.com](http://www.socalspillresponse.com).

## **COVID-19 Cases in Newport Beach**

As of October 21, the total cumulative number of COVID-19 cases in Newport Beach was 5,037, an increase of 29 cases from October 14. The total number of cases in Orange County as of October 21 was 302,235, an increase of 1,291 cases from October 14. The number of recovered COVID-19 patients countywide as of October 21 was 290,795. These figures are provided to Orange County by the California

Visit the City's website for a complete listing of meetings and events at [newportbeachca.gov/events](http://newportbeachca.gov/events).

Department of Public Health. The County's daily, weekday update of COVID-19 case information is [available at this link](#). Those seeking vaccination options can visit the HCA page [at this link](#) by the California Department of Public Health.

### **Homelessness Update**

- 15 people who had been experiencing homelessness in Newport Beach are now sheltered in the Costa Mesa Bridge Shelter.
- One person from Newport Beach who was temporarily residing in the Bridge Shelter secured permanent housing through the Street2Home program with the Illumination Foundation.
- City Net, the City's contract homeless services agency, ordered Social Security award letters for several clients matched to Emergency Housing Vouchers. Emergency Housing Vouchers are funded by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and allow people to pay affordable rent based on their fixed incomes. Nine people experiencing homelessness in Newport Beach have been awarded vouchers so far and are working with a housing navigator to locate apartments. The voucher program is administered by the Orange County Housing Authority.
- City Net completed a housing assessment with a family that was matched to a housing voucher last week.
- City Net's licensed clinical social worker met with four clients to verify and sign disability forms for placement into supportive housing.
- City Net enrolled a couple into their services and completed a housing assessment.
- City Net ordered identifying documents (including a photo ID, birth certificate, and Social Security card) for several people enrolled in their services.
- City Net transported a person to the DMV to obtain a new photo ID.

To donate to those experiencing homelessness in Newport Beach, please visit our [Good Giving Program web page](#).

### **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Halloween Spooktacular - Saturday, October 30**

Please join us for the return of our annual Halloween Spooktacular event next Saturday, October 30 from 3-6pm at Mariners Park. The event will have activities for the whole family to enjoy, including a haunted maze, bounce houses, live music, costume contests, carnival games, trunk or treat, and food trucks. More information is [available at this link](#).

### **Insider's Guide for the Newport Beach City Council Meeting on October 26, 2021**

Our next City Council meeting is Tuesday, October 26. Items that may be of interest are highlighted below. The entire agenda, and all reports, can be viewed [here](#).

A study session will begin at 4 p.m. Agenda items include:

- A progress report on the draft Housing Element update to the City's General Plan, following comments received from the state Dept. of Housing and Community Development (HCD). Staff will discuss the HCD comments and efforts to revise the draft Housing Element based on that feedback. Staff will also provide an update on the environmental review and next steps. The City is updating the Housing Element in response to state mandates calling for Newport Beach to plan for the development of more than 4,800 housing units in the next eight years.

The regular session begins at 6 p.m., with the following items of note:

Current Business:

- A resolution to form an ad-hoc committee on residential care facilities. The resolution stems from an October 11 community meeting, hosted by the City, on sober living homes, group homes, and state-licensed residential care facilities, where residents expressed concerns about the number of facilities and the way in which certain facilities are being operated. The meeting brought together residents and elected officials from the City, County and State to discuss current laws and regulations pertaining to the different types of group residential facilities. The ad-hoc committee, comprised of Council members supported by City staff, will examine code enforcement, regulatory and legislative needs and other proposals designed to help address the community's concerns.

Public Hearings:

- Direct election of City mayor. The Council will consider a resolution calling for an election that would amend the City Charter to provide for the direct election of the mayor of the City of Newport Beach. If approved, the resolution would authorize a June 7, 2022 or November 8, 2022 special municipal election and order that a proposed amendment to the City Charter be submitted to voters. The proposal under consideration would authorize the direct, at-large election of a City mayor, who could serve up to two, four-year terms, and eliminate one council district. Under the current system, the mayor is elected annually for a one-year term, to serve as the presiding officer of the City Council, from among seven Council members by vote of the members.
- Fiscal Year 2020-21 year-end budget review. Council members will review the City's year-end budget report and consider staff recommendations for the use of surplus funds and federal relief funds. Revenues were higher than anticipated and expenditures were lower than expected during the 2020-21 fiscal year, thanks to the City's conservative budgeting approach and a more rapid improvement in the economy than anticipated. The City's General Fund now has a surplus of \$31 million, accumulated during the past three fiscal years. Council members will consider a staff recommendation to allocate \$5 million from the surplus toward the City's annual unfunded liability contribution to CalPERS, \$10.5 million to fund long-term infrastructure projects and \$15.5 million to the capital improvement program and neighborhood enhancement projects. Staff is also recommending that \$10.1 million of American Rescue Plan Act funds be allocated to the capital improvement program.
- Hoag Hospital development agreement extension. A 10-year extension is proposed to an agreement between the City and Hoag Hospital, which was first signed in 1994 to ensure the orderly development of the hospital over time. This would be the fifth amendment since 1994. Hoag has requested a 10-year extension to the current term of the agreement to provide greater flexibility in responding to the rapidly changing health care industry and needs of the community.

