

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
2018 MAYOR'S AUDIT REPORT

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

- Hosted the La Mesa Shimmer event including lighting ceremony and Dine.Shop.Explore La Mesa activities. The Shimmer event has become an annual celebratory tradition that marks the beginning of the holiday season.
- Expanded the City's social media presence by engaging residents on Instagram. Within months of using Instagram as a community engagement tool, the City reached 1,000 followers.
- Passed a resolution qualifying the City and care providers in the City for Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funding through Senate Bill 850.
- Conducted twenty (20) recruitments for full-time employees, and ten (10) recruitments for part-time employees.
- Hired twenty-two (22) full-time employees.
- Through the closed-promotional recruitment process, promoted twenty-one (21) full-time employees.
- Received \$110,183 general liability refund from insurance pool as a result of positive claims history.
- Closed/settled forty-eight (48) workers' compensation claims.
- Recovered \$24,586 from subrogation claims for damage to City property.
- Continued to enhance the City's wellness program for employee with new health and fitness challenges, educational lunch-and-learn sessions to motivate employees to eat healthier food and maintain a well-balanced lifestyle, and incorporated several fitness classes such as Zumba, boot camp and yoga classes to motivate employees to exercise and stay fit.
- Became a Vision Zero City and committed to the goal of reducing traffic deaths to zero by 2025.
- Enhanced transparency in the City by implementing live streaming of City Council meetings on the City's website and on Facebook Live.
- Partnered with SANDAG and consultant TRC to conduct phase II of the City's Energy Roadmap Program to complete energy efficiency audits of City facilities and infrastructure to help meet Climate Action Plan Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reduction goals.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Adopted the City's Draft Climate Action Plan (CAP) and certified the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) in March 2018.
- Continued to process applications for medical marijuana uses allowed under Measure U. The City has approved six dispensaries, one of which opened for business in July 2018, and one dispensary application has been withdrawn. Currently processing Conditional Use Permit applications for 15 dispensaries, six cultivation sites, and nine manufacturing sites for medical marijuana.
- An easy-to-use interactive zoning map was created and posted online for customer and resident use, providing much easier access to zoning and property information, available at any time, while reducing staff time spent on responding to simple zoning inquiries.
- Published an Active Development Projects list on the City's website to highlight major new projects currently planned or underway.
- Continued participation in six Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs: HERO, Figtree, CaliforniaFIRST, Ygrene, **California Statewide Communities Development Authority Open PACE**, and the California Municipal Finance Authority. PACE Programs provide property owners and businesses with financing options for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water conservation upgrades.
- Designated two residential sites as local historic landmarks and established Mills Act property preservation agreements for both.
- Maintained a "Satisfactory" rating with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- Upgraded existing Downtown Village coin-, credit-, and debit-capable smart parking meters to next-generation technology, including parking sensors. Expanded system into six new areas and added additional payment methods, including pay-by-mobile-device (Android Pay and Apple Pay) and pay-by-mobile-app options to supplement coin- and credit/debit options.
- Issued an RFP and selected a vendor for the permit software system upgrade project. Discussions to finalize an agreement with the vendor are underway.
- Substantial progress achieved on longstanding property maintenance issues at a private residence on Ohio Place.
- Implemented a self-compliance process for trash and recycling containers improperly stored, resulting in less staff time spent on this type of violation with little to no effect on achieving compliance.

Entitlements of Note

- A mixed-use project consisting of 29 apartments and 595 square feet of commercial space received approval at 7272-7274 El Cajon Boulevard.

- Costco obtained approval for a new gas fueling facility and site improvements at 8165 Fletcher Parkway, the former site of Babies-R-Us. The project includes site improvements and a new ingress-only driveway on the existing Costco site at 8125 Fletcher Parkway.
- At 8234-8240 University Avenue, two single-family residences will be removed to accommodate a new 10-unit apartment building.
- The vacant site at 8135 El Paso Street received approval for a mixed-use project consisting of 20 apartments and 749 square feet of commercial space.
- The La Mesa Summit 30-unit, single-family, planned residential development received approval at the south end of Monte Drive in the Serramar neighborhood.
- A 40-unit apartment project approved at 7385 Colony Drive includes five (5) affordable units for very-low income households. 4209 Spring Street Starbucks
- A new Starbucks with a drive-through was approved at 5335 Jackson Drive.
- Six medical marijuana applications received conditional use permit approval:
 - 8155 Center Street
 - 7729 University Avenue
 - 8260 Parkway Drive
 - 5301 Lake Murray Boulevard
 - 8744 La Mesa Boulevard
 - 7180 University Avenue

Construction Activity of Note

- At 5550 Lake Murray Boulevard, two new commercial buildings of 3,400 square feet and 2,550 square feet are under construction.
- Construction continues on a mixed-use project with 27 residential condominiums and one 970-square-foot commercial condominium at 5565 Lake Murray Boulevard.
- At 8970 La Mesa Blvd, Penske Ford has completed a new sales office building and a new service center is under construction.
- Silvergate Development is under construction on three projects:
 - 7353 El Cajon Boulevard - 45 apartments and 500 square feet commercial space
 - 7561 El Cajon Boulevard - 19 apartments and 518 square feet commercial space
 - 7604 El Cajon Boulevard - 10 apartments and a 334 square foot live/work unit

- Construction continues for an 18-unit mixed use project located on the vacant parcel at the northwest corner of the intersection of Severin Drive and Amaya Drive at 5900 Severin Drive.
- An 18-unit condominium development is underway at 5502 Shasta Lane.
- A 28-unit condominium/mixed use development is under construction at 5565 Lake Murray Boulevard.
- Completed: Tenant Improvements for Curbside Eatery & Drinkery at 8353 La Mesa Boulevard in downtown La Mesa.
- Completed: The City's first medical marijuana dispensary at 8155 Center Street completed tenant improvements and opened for business in July.
- Completed: A three story self-storage facility, StorQuest, at 8265 Commercial Street.
- Completed: Surf Rider Pizza Café opened for business recently at 8381 La Mesa Boulevard in downtown La Mesa.
- Completed: Enterprise Rent-A-Car received at 8323 Hercules Street.
- Completed: A Starbucks coffee shop with drive through at 7350 University Avenue.

Building (January 1, 2018 through December 13, 2018)

- Building Permit activity has continued to stay at a high level of demand for inspections and plan checks which are consistent with last year's activity. The average number of inspections requested is over 20 per day. The building division has continued to meet the goal of next day inspections.
- The total number of building and fire permits issued was 1,646, an increase of 2% from 2017.
- The total construction valuation of permits issued is \$25,154,964, a decrease of 9% compared to 2017.
- The total permit fees collected was \$810,952, compared with \$820,755 in 2017, a decrease of 2%.
- Permits for photovoltaic systems continue to maintain a high level of activity. A total of 420 photovoltaic solar permits were issued compared with 351 in 2017, an increase of 19%, and adding 2.4 MW of electrical generation capacity within the City.
- With electrical vehicle ownership continuing to grow in popularity, electrical vehicle charging system permits issued increased from two in 2016 to eight in 2017, and an even greater increase to 27 in 2018.

- The number of Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) permits issued continues to rise following adoption of new State laws regarding ADU development, which became effective in 2017 and 2018. Permit activity for ADUs increased from one in 2016 and 17 in 2017 to 27 in 2018.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- The Community Services Department oversaw programs that enriched the lives of youth and adults alike by offering 379 recreation classes last year and 85 camps during summer and winter breaks.
- The popular La Mesa Walks! Program provided 45 guided walks totaling 102 miles around the City while supporting local businesses and informing residents of City projects and facilities.
- The Rides4Neighbors program that offers rides for older adults, people with disabilities rides to doctor's appointments, and other critical appointments completed over 9,000 one-way trips and added 238 new members.
- An Opportunity and Constraints Study was completed to explore future use options at MacArthur Park with the next step being a master plan for the park.
- In partnership with the La Mesa Park and Recreation Foundation, Vista La Mesa Park was renovated and La Mesita Park received new playground equipment. In addition there were special events such as six "Sundays at Six" summer concerts at Harry Griffin Park and three summer movies in parks and at the pool. To help raise money for parks and programs, the La Mesa Park & Recreation Foundation held their annual La Mesa Rocks fundraiser in May.
- The department facilitated the Intergenerational Games, annual Flag Day Parade, Shimmer event, and the lighting of the downtown village for the holidays.
- In addition to the ongoing swim programs, the La Mesa Municipal pool hosted two water safety and drowning prevention awareness events – April Pools Day and the World's Largest Swim Lesson.
- In addition, the Safe Routes program educated students on bicycle handling and safety through two bicycle rodeos at local elementary schools. The annual Park Appreciation Day held in October brought out 140 volunteers who planted landscape material and trees, removed 13 yards of green waste and collected 54 bags of trash.
- The City of La Mesa was named an "Age Friendly Community" by the World Health Organization and has been provided resources through AARP and the San Diego Foundation to prepare a Livable Community Plan in 2019.

FINANCE

- Successful completion of the 2018 annual audit, issuance of Financial Statements for the City, and receiving a “clean” audit opinion.
- In conjunction with the City Manager’s office and with the assistance of the City departments, produced the 2017-2019 mid-biennium budget update that reflected improved revenues and increased retirement costs while maintaining essential City services at current levels.
- Assisted on the 2018-2019 fee schedule study production with the City Manager’s Office.
- A cannabis excise tax was passed by La Mesa voters following research and public meetings to secure support from the public and businesses.
- A mandatory CAL-Card refresher was held for all cardholders to provide policy and procedure updates.
- A citywide Amazon Business account was opened for all CAL-Card users to better facilitate Amazon orders and reduce payment mistakes.
- All budgeted and requested equipment replacement purchases were made on time and within budget including eight Police vehicles, four Public Works vehicles and four equipment pieces, public safety radios and emergency equipment, and four copiers.
- Two public competitive proposal processes were held for permitting software and implementation, and for the Rides4Neighbors shopping shuttle. Five citywide service contracts were also renewed.
- Began preparations for financial system upgrade.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Personnel

Promotions:

- Engineer Josh Mast promoted to Captain.
- Engineer Brandon Drips promoted to Captain.
- Firefighter/Paramedic Jason Runkle promoted to Engineer.
- Firefighter/Paramedic Ryan Lopez promoted to Engineer.
- Firefighter/Paramedic Curtis Dietz promoted to Engineer.
- Battalion Chief Brian Manns promoted to Division Chief.
- Administrative Analyst II Heather Sheppard promoted to Management Analyst.
- Administrative Office Assistant Angela Pele-Toalepai promoted to Administrative Coordinator.

Retirement:

- Captain Howard Gunter retired in November.

New Hires:

- Processed a new hire Firefighter/Paramedic for La Mesa: Bryan Klenk.

Administration and EMS

- In La Mesa, the Heartland Fire & Rescue analyst is currently managing multiple active grants for the three cities. The grant sources include State Homeland Security Grant Program, Urban Area Security Initiative, and Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The Assistance to Firefighters Grant is one of the largest awards we have received. La Mesa is managing and administering the grant on behalf of the three Heartland Fire & Rescue cities to create and enhance our firefighter wellness program. We research and seek grant funding on a continual basis.
- Actively working on an enhanced website for Heartland Fire & Rescue, with a projected implementation date in the first quarter of calendar 2019.
- Provided immunizations to Heartland Fire & Rescue (La Mesa) personnel in compliance with Cal OSHA airborne pathogen requirements.
- Maintained fiscal accountability for the EMS division which continued to operate the Advanced Life Support First Responder program with no impact to the City's General Fund.
- Successfully completed San Diego County EMS annual narcotics audit.
- Successfully managed 100% of all employee exposures to communicable/infectious diseases within industry standards.
- Provided required continuing Paramedic and Emergency Medical Technician education for all personnel to meet County standards.

- Continued to support Oktoberfest first responder Emergency Medical plan, via department bike medic program.
- Successfully trained all personnel on multi casualty incident management.
- Conducted promotional exams for the position of Captain.
- Conducted recruitment for Firefighter and Reserve Firefighter.
- Sponsored three reserve firefighters to the Heartland Fire Academy January 2018.

Operations, Training & Support Services

- Provided mutual aid (personnel and apparatus) in fire response to Central and Northern California, assisting in large incident wildland fire response.
- Continued participation in the operations and administration of the San Diego County Fire Chiefs, Training Officers and County Operations Group. Our staff serves as board members and in leadership positions within these organizations.
- Provided planning input and support to annual special events including Oktoberfest and Holidays in the Village.
- Continued to provide Heartland Fire Academy Support with engines and personnel including specialty instructors.
- The fire department has continued its participation in the development and delivery of the annual County Wildland Preparedness drill. This three day training exercise provides training for over 850 firefighters from throughout the San Diego County.
- Personnel participated in UASI funded specialized training to support operations. 2018 Training included:
 - Trench Rescue
 - Confined Space Operations
 - Rescue Systems 1 & 2
 - Safety Officer
- Planned, coordinated, and conducted multiple hands-on training exercises for the JPA agencies which included:
 - Technical Rescue
 - Auto Extrication
 - Forcible Entry
 - Fire Inspections
 - Ventilation
 - Firefighter Rescue
 - Aerial Apparatus Physics

- Continued to conduct succession and risk management training workshops for Captains and Chief Officers.
- Through our participation in the Heartland Training Facility, firefighters received the following specialized training in 2018:
 - Annual Wildland Firefighting Safety refresher
 - Annual Hazardous Materials refresher
 - Trolley Safety training with SDMTS

Community Risk Reduction Division - Emergency Preparedness

- Continued support of La Mesa residents with participation on these County Office of Emergency Services working groups:
 - Access and Functional Needs
 - Care and Shelter
 - Feeding Task Force
- Continued to expand and enhance the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteer program.
- Obtained final FEMA approval of the La Mesa Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Continued Emergency Operations Center refresher training and Table Top Exercise for City staff.
- Worked with LMPD on organizing the annual La Mesa Safety Fair.
- Participated in the La Mesa Town Hall meetings.

Community Risk Reduction Division - Fire Prevention

- Continued to meet State mandated inspection requirements.
- Continued to support the Community Development Department with New Construction Plan Reviews, and approval of projects with current Life Safety Standards.
- Worked with local business to mitigate code violations and create a safer community.
- Provided life and fire safety public education programs to community and business members through focused meetings and City sponsored functions such as the Fire Department Pancake Breakfast, Safety Fair and Open House.
- Continued to work with La Mesa homeowners to reduce fire risk from vegetation overgrowth and other fire hazards.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Abandoned Vehicle Abatement (AVA) Program

The Traffic Division continues to manage the highly successful Abandoned Vehicle Abatement (AVA) Program. The over \$400,000 in funds received from the State in 2015 has provided overtime for officers to proactively remove truly abandoned vehicles from the streets of the City. In 2018, the AVA Program had the following accomplishments:

- Total overtime hours funded: 468
- Total overtime dollars expended: \$26,883
- Total Department personnel trained to work AVA shifts: 35
- Total potential abandoned vehicles checked: 1,632
- Total vehicles cited: 150

California Office of Traffic Safety Selective Traffic Enforcement Program Grant

This year the La Mesa Police Department was awarded a \$125,000 grant through a competitive application process. The grant funded programs that focused on reducing traffic related injuries and deaths on the City's roads including:

In 2018, the Traffic Division conducted the following operations using these funds:

- 1 DUI Checkpoint
- 14 DUI Saturation Patrols
- 15 enforcement operations focusing on speed
- 5 enforcement operations focusing on bicycle and pedestrian violations
- 15 enforcement operations focusing on distracted driving violations
- 3 stakeout operations focusing on catching DUI probationers driving
- 4 warrant details focusing on arresting DUI offenders who failed to appear in court

Youth Development

The Peer Support Team coordinated the 7th annual Youth Leadership Camp in June 2018. The Department was able to host 17 local high school students for 4 days of leadership training, presentations, and activities. There were 15 students from Helix High School. By the end of the week, each future leader left with a better understanding of how to be an effective leader and how stewardship and "giving back" play a huge role in that endeavor.

The Police Department also had 1 Kidz Watch Academy, which focuses on empowering children to be more observant of their surroundings, enabling them to become safer.

Christmas Families Charity Event

For over ten years, the Peer Support Team has coordinated the adoption of local families in need in order to help them provide presents and food for the holidays. This year, with the

support of the La Mesa Police Officers' Association, the Department was able to adopt 3 families and help a total of 8 children.

Part I Crimes

As of the end of November, crime in La Mesa in 2018 is down 11% compared to the same period in 2017. Between January and November of 2018 there were 141 violent crimes reported compared to 150 during the same period 2017, a 6% decrease. There were also 971 property crimes reported January through November 2018, compared to 1099 in 2017, an 11.6% decrease. Of note, auto theft decreased 31.3%, burglary decreased 11.4% and aggravated assault decreased 25.3%.

Information Lead Policing (ILP)

Information Led Policing utilizes current crime trend data to optimize officer proactivity with the goal of reducing and preventing crime. ILP continues to be integrated into Patrol with details targeting specific criminal behavior including vehicle, residential, and commercial burglary. The ILP philosophy has streamlined enforcement operations, directing officers to be in the right place at the right time.

Solved County Wide Series Related Burglaries

July, 2018, SIU Detectives arrived at the Hitching Post in La Mesa in an attempt to contact a subject who had an active felony warrant. Additional information was obtained and a stolen U-Haul associated with the wanted subject was recovered.

After processing the U-Haul, 34 victims from throughout the county were identified as victims of vehicle burglaries, residential burglaries, auto theft, and identity thefts. While the detectives continued to work on the case, the wanted subject with original warrant was seen driving away from the Hitching Post in a second U-Haul. A traffic stop of the wanted female was conducted and she was arrested. During a search of the U-Haul, additional stolen property was located for twelve (12) additional victims. In total, 46 victims from throughout San Diego County were located and over \$10,000 in stolen property was recovered.

Late September and into early October of 2018, there were multiple burglaries and thefts from vehicles at the Best Western Motel in La Mesa. Detectives reviewed surveillance video and determined the cases appeared to be related and were able to identify the suspect's vehicle. After a great deal of investigation, La Mesa Detectives were able to identify the suspect and arrest him for multiple vehicle burglaries and grand theft. A search of the suspect's vehicle revealed evidence from 4 additional burglary and theft cases. In total, the suspect was eventually charged with 17 counts of theft.

Neighborhood Watch Captain's Meeting

The Police Department hosted 2 Neighborhood Watch Captain's Meeting during 2018. This meeting serves as a way to keep the neighborhoods engaged and updated with crime trends, case highlights and crime prevention tips. They were held on March 21, 2018 and November 28, 2018. Both meetings had over 30 people attend.

Coffee with a Cop

The Police Department had three Coffee with a Cop events during 2018. They were held on March 1, 2018, June 25, 2018 and October 3, 2018.

Citizen's Academy

The Police Department held their annual "Citizen's Academy." This 6 day event was an introduction into how the Police Department operates, included 29 participants, which included City of La Mesa residents, business partners, and community leaders.

New Program: Life on the Beat

The Police Department hosted its first "Life on the Beat" event. This 4-hour event served as an introduction to use-of-force laws and policies. The participants were able to observe a police canine demonstration, less-than-lethal options, de-escalation tactics, and the Department's Force Option Simulator. The program was a success and 38 residents, business partners, and community leaders were able to attend. The Department plans to host Life on the Beat twice a year.

Communications Division

The Communications Division continues to perform at the highest levels. During 2018, the division answered 100% of the incoming emergency calls under the 15-second State of California standard. As of December 10, 2018, they generated 69,783 calls for service from citizen contacts and incoming telephone calls. To date, the Communications Staff has answered 80,512 incoming telephone calls, with 25,129 of those being calls received on the dedicated 911 and Emergency lines.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Engineering

Transportation & Parks

- Successful completion of the Junior High Drive Extension, which will serve the new Boys and Girls Club Facility and provide vital connectivity for vehicles, pedestrian and cyclists in the West La Mesa Neighborhood.
- Award of a construction contract for the North Spring Street Pedestrian Improvements, with more than 80% of the improvements installed to date. The project will provide critical pedestrian and cyclist connections to the industrial and commercial areas directly north of Interstate 8. Included with the project are two new portions of safety fencing at the two existing freeway overcrossings.
- Development and adoption of several traffic engineering policies for permit parking, vision safety zones, and a signage & curb markings.

Development & Engineering Permits

- Completed 3 new Starbucks Coffee shops w/ 1 new one pending.
- 3 new residential projects under construction revitalizing El Cajon Blvd. corridor. (Silvergate Developments)
- Application for 30 New SFR development (La Mesa Summit).
- Application for 230 unit Commercial /Residential development (Jefferson – old Park Station).
- Preliminary discussions for 900 new apartments (Alvarado Creek Development).

Sewer & Stormwater

- Completion of the RWQCB Trash Prevention Study and implementation Plan, without requiring new structural improvements.
- University Avenue Water Quality Improvement Project.
- Lake Helix Sewer Improvement Project.
- Corrugated Metal Pipe Replacement/Rehabilitation Projects for Various Locations.
- Release of an expanded GIS database for public use.

Environmental Services

- Hosted 8 household hazardous waste events and worked in partnership with EDCO to continue implementation of organics and recycling programs. Residents diverted more than 40% of their waste from the landfill through recycling efforts in 2017.

Operations

Sewer System Maintenance

- Through enhanced maintenance efforts and coordination, Public Works was able to further reduce sewer spills even further to only 4 in 2018. (Down from 7 in 2017).

Building Maintenance

- Building Maintenance and a contractor retrofitted LMPD with LED lighting (over 200 T8 bulbs) and other facilities to help reduce energy consumption.
- By hiring a Building Maintenance Worker II with HVAC experience, we have cut down the response time for HVAC calls and the need for vendor help.
- Building Maintenance retrofitted the decorative street lighting in the Village from metal halide to LED to help reduce energy consumption.
- Building Maintenance retrofitted Fleet Maintenance shop metal halide lighting to LED to save energy consumption and reduce heat in the shop space due to a large amount of wattage needed for the old lighting. This was an action item on the SANDAG roadmap for La Mesa.
- Rebuilt the MacArthur Park grounds maintenance garage.
- Community Center caretaker apartment was rehabilitated.

Street Maintenance

- Completed 1,460,000 square feet of slurry resurfacing.
- Completed over 13,000 square feet of concrete sidewalk, cross-gutter, and ADA ramps.

Fleet Maintenance

- With the addition of new key personnel, Fleet Maintenance has been able to accomplish 99% of repairs and maintenance in-house.
- Integrated the City's fire apparatus into the Fleet preventative maintenance (PM) program resulting in a savings of over \$70,000.00 for the City of La Mesa.
- Reduced costs of maintenance for LMPD vehicles by \$30,000.
- Provided assistance to regulatory agencies during inspections on our fueling system which resulted in zero infractions.
- All members of the Fleet Maintenance section passed the first test of the level I Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT) certification, which is a nationally recognized certification.

Administration

Awards – The City received several important awards for capital projects including:

- American Public Works Association (APWA) – 2018 Honor Award – University Avenue Median Project.
- American Public Works Association (APWA) – 2018 Honor Award – Alvarado Channel Restoration Project.
- American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) – California Engineering Excellence Award for the University Avenue Median and Drainage Improvements project.
- La Mesa Beautiful – 2018 Spirit Award – Porter Hall Landscape – Robert Alequin.