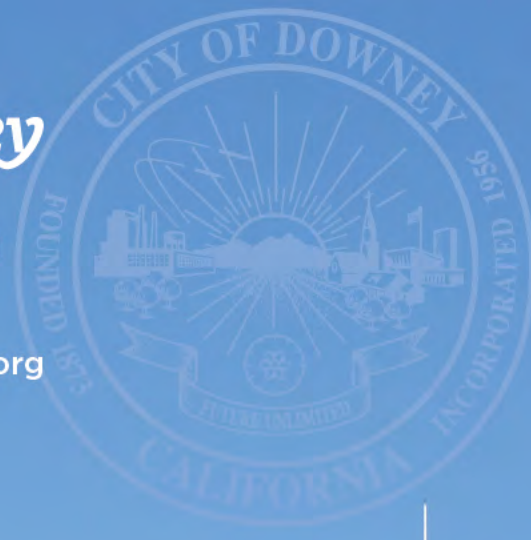




**City of Downey**

1111 Brookshire Avenue  
Downey, California 90241  
562.869.7331  
www.downeyca.org  
citymanager@downeyca.org



/cityofdowney



@cityofdowney



/cityofdowneyca



**City of Downey**

**2014-15 CITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**



**City of Downey**



**Luis H. Marquez**  
Mayor



**Alex Saab**  
Mayor Pro Tem



**Roger C. Brossmer**  
Council Member



**Fernando Vasquez**  
Council Member



**Sean Ashton**  
Council Member

Honorable Mayor, Members of the City Council, Downey Residents and Friends:

I am pleased to transmit to you the third annual report on the Council's Goals and Priorities. The Fiscal Year 2014-15 goals were established at a special workshop of the City Council in February 2014, and were adopted in June 2014 with the annual budget. These goals and more have been achieved throughout the fiscal year, and this report memorializes the hard work and accomplishments of the City Council, staff, volunteers, residents and businesses.

Following the establishment of the Council's five enduring policy guidelines in 2012, the City Council members have annually adopted goals and priorities which inform the annual budget process.

These five overarching policy goals are:

- Fiscal Responsibility
- Efficiency and Adaptability
- Economic Vibrancy
- Quality of Life, Neighborhoods & Infrastructure
- Public Information and Engagement

This past fiscal year we celebrated the swearing-in of a new Council Member, hiring of a new fire chief and bid fond farewells to numerous long-term staff. We focused on maintaining

and improving our street and park infrastructure, benefitting from grant programs and from the generosity of local groups such as Kiwanis of Downey and Kaiser Permanente.

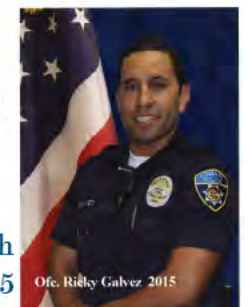
With the Council's support and guidance through this fiscal year, we have enjoyed many successes, as outlined in the following pages. We have also endured a tremendous loss. This annual report is several weeks delayed from the close-out of the Fiscal Year 2014-15 books, but the delay has afforded the opportunity to dedicate the report to a remarkable young man: Officer Ricardo Galvez. Officer Galvez was lost in the line of duty on November 18, 2015. May he rest in peace.

Respectfully submitted,

**Gilbert A. Livas**  
City Manager



**End of Watch**  
**11-18-2015**



Ofc. Ricky Galvez 2015

# Fiscal Responsibility

Downey continues to embody its motto "Future Unlimited" by turning its challenges into opportunities

## GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

For the first time in the City's history, Downey was awarded the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-15 Budget. The GFOA Award recognizes the City's efforts in producing a comprehensive budget document that excels in four major categories: as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communications device. Downey's FY 2014-15 Budget met the highest principles of governmental budgeting and is a reflection of the City's commitment to ensuring fiscal responsibility, one of the top five priorities set by the City Council.

## CSMFO Excellence in Budgeting Award

The California Society of Municipal Finance Officers (CSMFO) Budget Awards Program recognizes agencies whose Budget Documents are considered to be of the highest quality, according to statewide standards and requirements. The Excellence in Budgeting Award represents significant accomplishment by a government and its leadership in meeting high standards and setting an example by encouraging others in their efforts to achieve and maintain an appropriate standard of excellence. The award recognizes the achievement of Downey's goal of ensuring fiscal responsibility, showing that the Council takes every measure possible to make sure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely.

## City Receives \$425,000 Metro Grant for Rancho South Campus

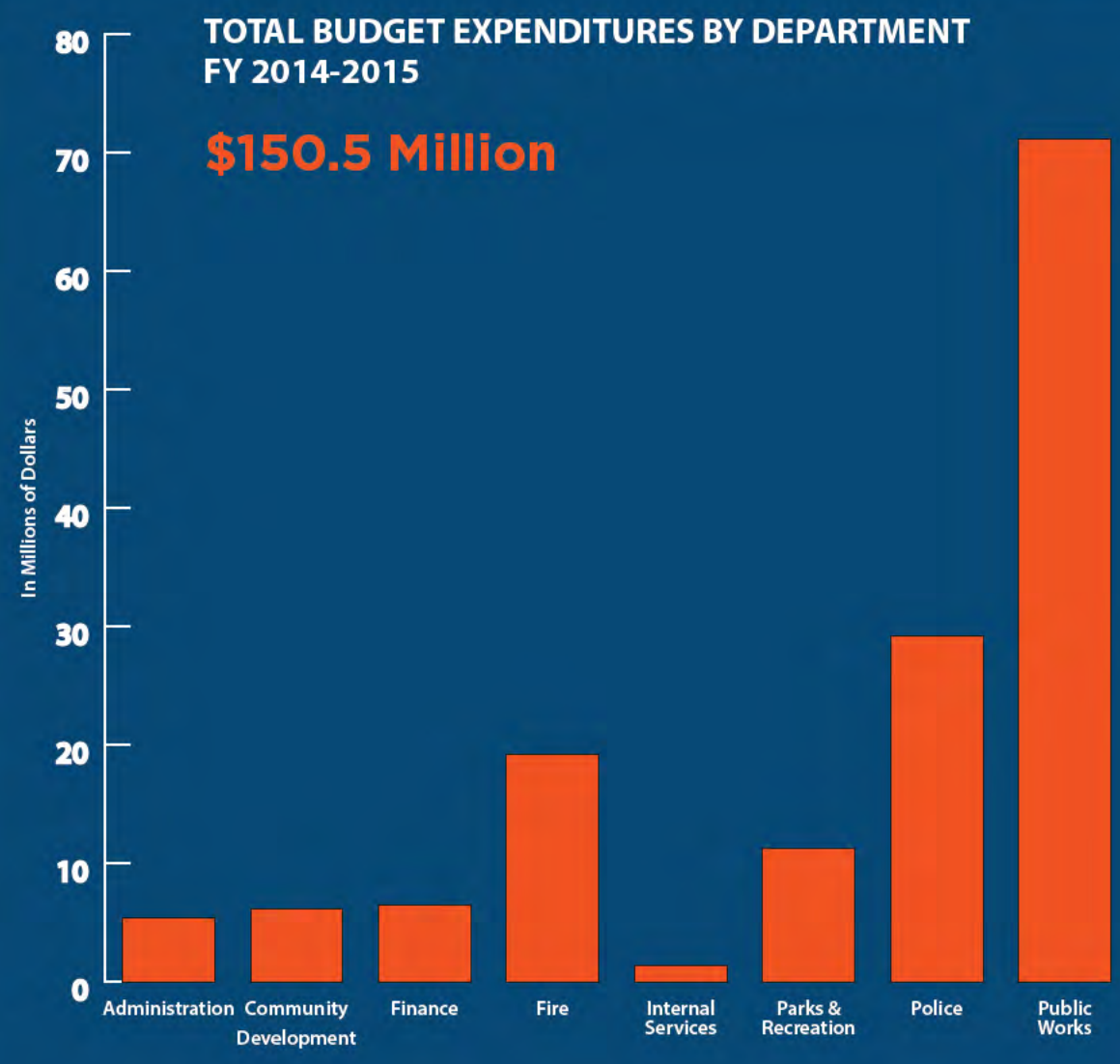
Metro's Transit Oriented Development Planning Grant Program Grant will help fund a new Rancho South Campus Specific Plan for the future transit station along the adjacent EcoRapid Transit Line/West Santa Ana Transit Corridor. The specific plan will help create transit-oriented development standards to allow for residential developments, as well as new commercial development around the future station, located at the southwest corner of the South Rancho Campus. The specific plan will help lay the foundation for a comprehensive document that will positively impact the neighborhood around the future transit station, currently consisting of mostly underutilized and vacant land. The City of Downey will work closely with the County of Los Angeles, who owns the site of the future station, to develop the Rancho South Campus specific plan. The County has several facilities on the land and intends to consolidate these facilities when the land is redeveloped for the future station. The County already has a plan for the site and facilities in their proposed County master site plan and the City has agreed to work with the County to make sure the proposed changes and consolidation of their facilities are consistent with the new Rancho South Campus specific plan.

## \$5,000 Keep America Beautiful/Lowe's Community Improvement Grant

The Public Works Department was awarded a \$5,000 grant through the Keep America Beautiful/Lowe's Community Improvement Grant in May 2015. The grant funds will be used towards transforming City Hall's front lawn into a drought tolerant demonstration garden. The funds will help offset the cost of converting the turf area into an educational garden that will provide opportunity for visitors to learn about various California native plants. This will not only contribute to the state-wide water conservation mandate but will also become a great resource and public awareness tool.



Distinguished Budget Presentation Award



### 4TH CONSECUTIVE BALANCED BUDGET

General Fund	\$71,449,933
Enterprise Fund	\$37,502,214
Special Fund	\$40,166,755
Grant Fund	\$2,846,003

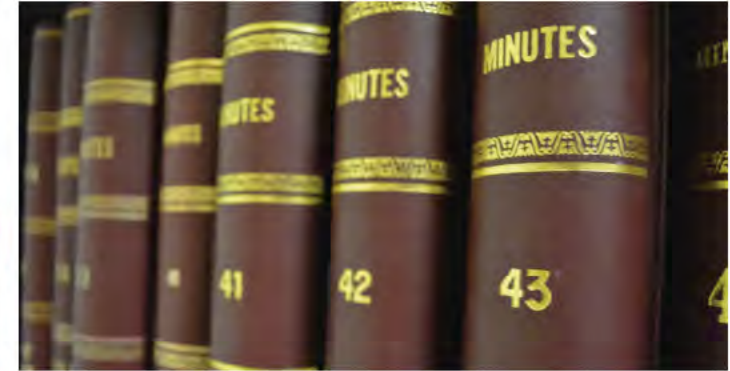
# Fiscal Responsibility

"...Downey is a prime example of what it means to be fiscally responsible and this GFOA award solidifies exactly that."

Mayor Pro Tem Alex Saab

## COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- ✔ City Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
- ✔ Parks & Recreation Master Plan
- ✔ Request for Proposals for long-term contracts
- ✔ Implement 5-Year CIP
- ✔ Adopt legal billing guidelines
- ✔ Collaborative negotiations
- ✔ Formal new employee orientation program
- ✔ Employee retention program



## AWARDED GRANTS

**Metro Grant**  
\$425,000 for Rancho South Campus Station Plan

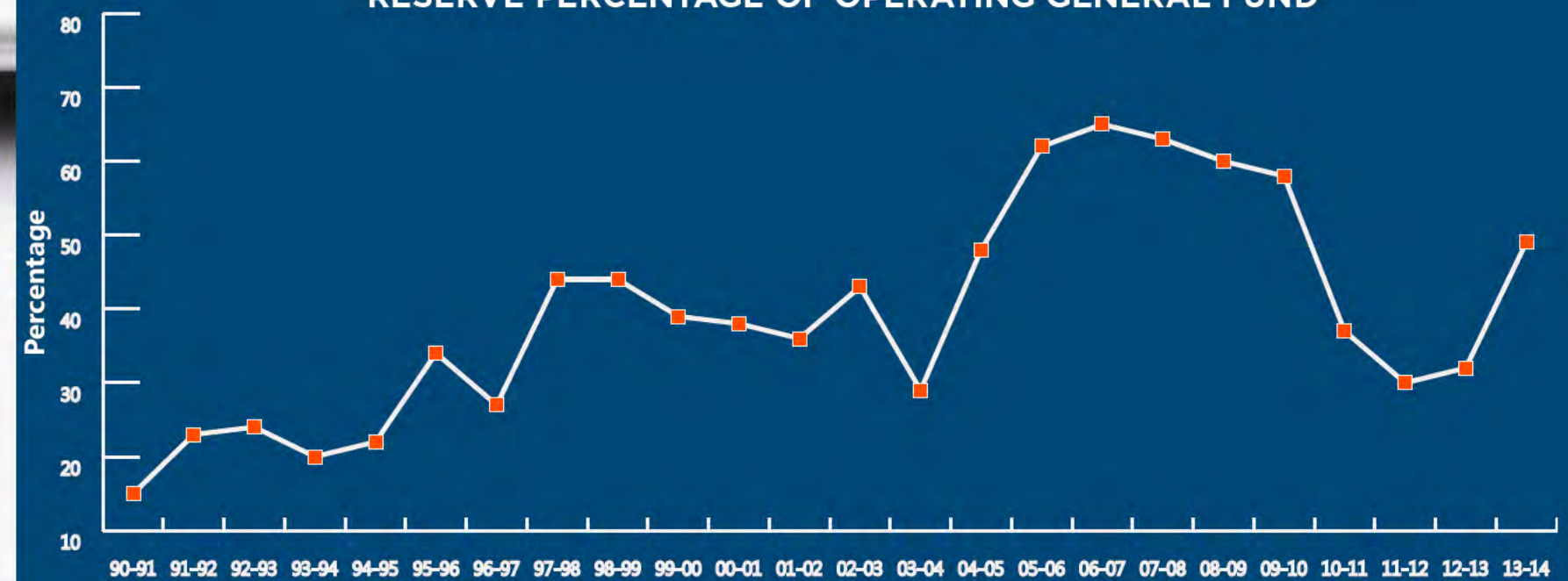
**Keep America Beautiful/  
Lowe's Community Improvement Grant**  
\$5,000 for Drought Tolerant Demonstration Garden at City Hall

**L.A. County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) 2015 Call for Projects**  
\$2,277,933 for Bicycle Master Plan Phase I

**I-710 Freeway Corridor Early Action Plan Measure R Grant**  
\$5,000,000 for Lakewood Blvd. Improvements - Phase 3C

**State Water Resources Control Board Prop 84 Storm Water Grant**  
\$307,348 to construct vegetated bioswale and four tree box filters

## RESERVE PERCENTAGE OF OPERATING GENERAL FUND



# Economic Vibrancy

*"Kevin Nguyen did a fantastic job at the counter assisting me. Should give him a big raise! Rik Hobbie, the building plan checker was courteous. Also very helpful."*  
Local Contractor

## The Promenade at Downey

The Promenade at Downey is a major lifestyle and retail center that brings the latest in brand names, dining and entertainment to Downey while paying homage to the location's storied history. The main road that traverses the center, Apollo Way, will be completed by the end of the fiscal year, while the exterior architectural treatments and colors for the first wave of businesses are already completed. Shortly after the close of the fiscal year, a brand new 24-Hour Fitness and a state-of-the-art, luxury 14 screen multiplex theater will open. The "entertainment plaza" immediately outside the theatre is also nearing completion of construction, while on the opposite side of the shopping center, the Floor & Décor building is nearly complete and work has commenced both Lazy Dog Café and Benihana restaurants. The tenant mix continues to grow and includes Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, Panera, MOD Pizza, Gaucho Grill, Jersey Mikes, Five Guys, Pick-Up Stix, Ruby's Dinner, What the Funnel, Dickey's BBQ and Jumping Crab Cajun.

## Car Dealership Construction Boom

Toyota, Champion Dodge and Downey Nissan are all undergoing major expansion projects this year. Toyota is constructing a 473-square foot addition to the main building, along with a 17,398 square foot interior remodel to the showroom and offices, and a complete façade renovation to complement the improvement of Firestone Boulevard. Construction should be complete with the close of the fiscal year. Champion Dodge intends to demolish its existing 5,000 square foot showroom and offices and build a new 16,000 square foot showroom and offices, expected to be completed by Summer of 2016. Finally, Downey Nissan plans to construct a new, 49,000 square foot dealership on the northwest corner of Firestone Boulevard and Old River School Road. This new location is larger than their existing facility and will include a showroom, office space, repair shop, and a vehicle display area. The proposed development will further the beautification of Firestone Boulevard.

## New Online Business Tool

The City of Downey launched a new online business tool to assist local businesses and entrepreneurs. Titled "Tools for Business," this new tool allows businesses to conveniently access local, state and federal resources, all under one location. Businesses can also access information regarding hiring, training, sustainability, financing, security, and government regulation issues. The Tools for Business site features a "Resource of the Week" along with industry-specific information, resources for disadvantaged, veterans, minority and women-owned businesses, and even environmental sustainability resources. It is just one more way Downey makes it easier, faster, and more profitable to open a business in town.




# Economic Vibrancy

*"Fifty eight years after incorporation, Downey remains a special place. It's indescribable essence of community is the reason why generations of residents remain in Downey and why the City continues to be a beacon to its surrounding cities."*


## COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- ✔ Organize Rancho Redevelopment Meetings with County
- ✔ Enact Policy regarding Downtown Community Benefit District
- ✔ Redevelop key developments: 9066 Firestone Blvd (Hotel), 3rd & La Reina (Housing) and Avenue Theater (RFP)
- ✔ Coordinate small business seminars with Downey Chamber of Commerce on Starting a New Business, Running Operations, Marketing, and Funding

 **2,082**  
Building Permits Issued

 **266**  
Planning Applications

 **19**  
Rehabilitation Grants Awarded

 **487**  
Business Applications  
in Downey



## Golden Nugget Award for Downey Collection Townhomes

The corner of Lakewood Blvd. & Gallatin Rd, a former motor vehicle sales, repair, and storage site which was vacated during the Great Recession, has undergone a complete transformation. Now, 46 Spanish Colonial Revival townhomes, ranging from 1,464 square feet to 2,173 square feet, stand in its place. The units have enclosed two car garages, an attached private patio or deck, and environmentally-conscious upgrades such as solar heating and efficient lighting. The layout of the site is enhanced by the community entry, pedestrian walkways and common recreation areas with a swimming pool, covered cabana, lounge area, barbeque, and restrooms. The development won the Pacific Coast Builders Conference "Golden Nugget" Grand Award for Multi-Family Housing Community. The award recognizes builders, architects, developers, and land planners for "excellence and innovation in addressing complex design/build issues."



## Stewart & Gray Townhomes

Nine new townhomes were constructed and opened at 7634 Stewart and Gray Road this year. The townhomes are three story, with four bedrooms and four bathrooms, and a 175 square foot private patio. Each unit has an attached two car garage in addition to ample shared and visitor parking. Finally, the new development boasts a 2,815 square foot common recreational area on the south (rear) side of the property.

## Florence Avenue Townhomes

The long under-utilized site on the eastern end of Florence Avenue now hosts a new 17 unit condominium project. Common open space is located in two areas on the site: the main common open space is 6,735 square feet and is located along the south portion of the site, adjacent to the rear property line. The second common open space area is located within the cluster of six units and is 520 square feet. Each unit also has its own 100-plus square feet of private open space. The unit mix includes 15 three-bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, and 2 four-bedroom, 3 bath units, ranging in size from 1,428 to 1,595 square feet.

# Efficiency & Adaptability

The Council Chambers Audio Visual Project features two large-panel screens for presentations, automated voting system, upgraded microphones, and a new sound system

## City-wide Telephone & Network Upgrades

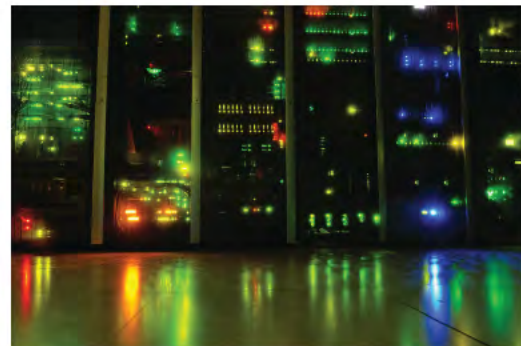
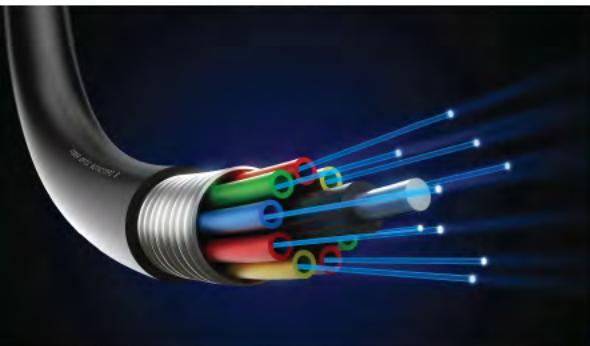
All city facilities received new state-of-the-art network and telephone communication system upgrades throughout the fiscal year. These upgrades included integrating voice and data services, allowing the management of telephone calls and messages from either the telephone handset or a computer, employ Unified Communications software, and include full integration with Microsoft Outlook for data/voice management and calendaring, voice mail and call forwarding. Prior to putting in a new network and telephone system, I.T. upgraded the internal cabling at City facilities, particularly within the Police and Fire departments. Public Works installed a City-wide Fiber Optic Communications Network to connect remote facilities, including the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center, McCaughan Gym, Police Department, all four Fire Stations, the Emergency Operations Center, Downey Civic Theatre, Columbia Memorial Space Center, and the Transit Depot. This network offers increased bandwidth and reliability, particularly with communication back to City Hall. I.T. began implementing new HP network devices will tie together the City's network infrastructure, and kicked off the Mitel Phone system installation with coordinated departmental meetings to address specific phone system needs, such as phone numbers to keep, call routing, types of handsets and more. The City will become its own telephone operator on the final "go live" date for the telecommunications system, which will be approximately November 2015.

## Online Business Registration

The City launched a new online business registration program, which now allows business owners the option of applying for a business license online. By logging on to the City's website and clicking on the "Online Business Licenses" icon, businesses can choose to renew their licenses online from their own locations, learn more about license renewal process and pay outstanding balances. This new online feature will now allow prospective businesses the opportunity to apply and pay for a business license directly through the City's website rather than visiting City Hall in person.

## Los Angeles County Regional Mayor's Conference

The City's own Columbia Memorial Space Center was host to Downey Mayor Marquez, Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti and sixty other L.A. County Mayors for a special meeting. The meeting convened local Mayors to discuss pressing regional issues such as public safety, civic engagement, immigration, and housing. The goal of the Mayors' meetings is to work together with local leaders to tackle issues more effectively and provide the opportunity for Mayors to interact and build relationships between jurisdictions. The Downey meeting was a great opportunity to share a little bit about what makes Downey special, and included presentations from the City of Downey, the L.A. Mayor's Office of Public Safety, L.A. Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing (SCANPH), and City of El Segundo.



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EFFICIENCY & ADAPTABILITY

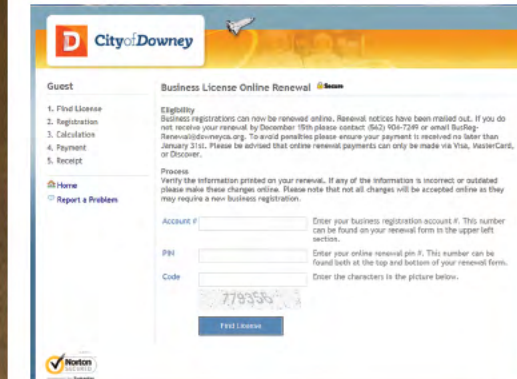
10  
11

2,248  
 IT Help Requests

10,550  
 Inspections Completed

17,653  
 Counter Visits

**27% of Water Customers now using online water billing since it's May kickoff**

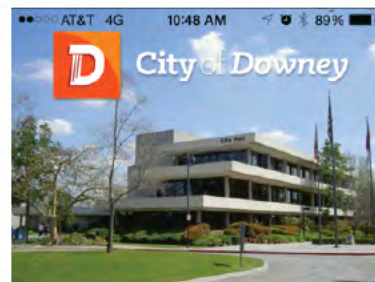


# Efficiency & Adaptability

"We are a City of Character, where Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship COUNT."

## COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- ✔ Implement 20-year emergency vehicle replacement schedule
- ✔ Council Chambers technology upgrades
- ✔ Retain part-time help for election assistance
- ✔ Implemented automated FPPC filing
- ✔ Implement new Library catalog software
- ✔ Modernize Utilities division
- ✔ Legal Clerk Intern Program
- ✔ Approved AB 1234 Program
- ✔ Upgrade HR Technology
- ✔ Upgrade Accela records access
- ✔ Implement Police patrol body-worn cameras



Submit Service Request

Submit

Submit Feedback

Submit

For life threatening emergencies and related matters call 911



## Energy Action Plan

In January 2015, the Downey City Council adopted the City of Downey Energy Action Plan, which is a roadmap for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by reducing energy usage at city facilities. The long-term vision for energy efficiency in the city is focused around:

- Reduction of the City's carbon footprint and adverse impacts on the environment
- Conservation of energy in local facilities
- Raising energy conservation awareness in the community, to improve the quality of life
- Achieve Platinum Status in the Local Government Agency Partnership program



The adopted plan will also help the City to meet or exceed the energy reduction requirements of Assembly Bill 32, will lower costs and increase operational efficiencies, and will explore new green technology to decrease future energy dependency.

## Virtual Libraries Increase Broadband Access in Underserved Neighborhoods

In Spring 2015, the City Council approved an agreement with Califa, a State Library Nonprofit, to enable the Downey City Library to join CENIC, the Corporation for Educational Network Initiatives in California. CENIC is an education and research based internet backbone that runs the length of the state and offers non-commercial access to the internet at 1 gigabyte speeds, at a fraction of the cost of the commercial internet providers. Through the Federal E-Rate Program, the CENIC project will give the Downey City Library an internet connection 20 times faster than its current connection, for \$3 less each month. Library users will be able to access this dramatically improved network from the 18-station computer lab at the main branch or through a new WiFi network that will no longer be limited to 2 hours per person per day. Even better, the installation of the City's new Fiber Optics Communication Network at various remote facilities will allow the Library to create Virtual Libraries at three City parks in underserved areas of Downey: Apollo Park, Discovery Park and Independence Park. Library patrons will be able to sign online with their library card, access e-books and databases, review their library accounts, check out books online, search the catalog, and best of all, access the internet – all for free as a service of the Downey City Library. The project is expected to go live in Spring 2016.





# Quality of Life

*Downey is known for its small town friendliness and quality residential neighborhoods.*

## Author Jonathan Mooney

The Downey City Library adult literacy program hosted author and public speaker Jonathan Mooney for a discussion on his newest book, "Learning Outside the Lines." Mr. Mooney was labeled "severely learning disabled," yet graduated from Brown University with honors. His first book, "The Short Bus," is a spin on the derogatory term used for kids in special education. Starting from the position that his own learning disabilities did not go away, but rather he found tools which helped him to succeed as a student, Mr. Mooney profiles kids whose own magical, beautiful methods help them to overcome the obstacles that separate "short bus" kids from the so-called normal world. Jonathan Mooney wrote "Learning Outside the Lines" to help students of all ages learn how to study and learn, and worked with Downey Library attendees to understand strategies and techniques to help students learn in their own unique ways.

## Farewell to Duke

On January 19, 2015, Canine Duke was retired by the Downey Police Dept. Duke is a Labrador Retriever who came to the department in August of 2010, when the Canine Program was reestablished. Duke is specifically trained in narcotics detection and was assigned to the Detective Bureau with his Canine Handler, Corporal Chris Kurtz, working Narcotics. During their time together, Corporal Kurtz and Duke located more than 674 pounds of narcotics and nearly \$2,000,000 in currency. Corporal Kurtz will remain in Field Operations working Patrol and was recently selected to be a Field Training Officer. In retirement, Duke will remain under the care of Corporal Kurtz.



## STEAMWorks

The City-School District partnerships have historically conserved resources while building high-performing schools in a caring, fully-supportive community atmosphere. In Spring 2015, the Downey City Council approved another unique partnership with Downey Unified School District. The newest partnership, STEAMWorks, is provided to Downey students during the summer through the City's ASPIRE program. Funded by DUSD, the district provides staffing and activities in the morning and the City provides staff and activities from 11:40 am until 6:00 pm. Students have been invited by DUSD to participate based on criteria such as: English language learners, free lunch need, or foster youth. The goal is to prevent summer learning loss so these students can continue learning throughout the summer and are not starting the school year behind. Activities are tied to the common core and next generation science standards.



**52,828**  
Rounds of Golf



**17**  
Community Events



**267**  
Space Center Field Trips

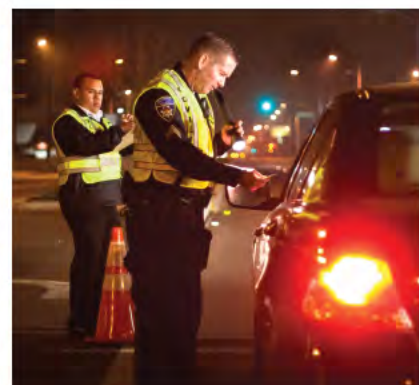


# Quality of Life

"We are proud to be one of 48 independent cities across Los Angeles County to have its own Police and Fire Departments."

## COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- ✔ Parking Enforcement in Downtown
- ✔ Hire new officers
- ✔ Add 3rd canine unit
- ✔ Continue bicycle education program
- ✔ Continue park safety initiative
- ✔ Grow Neighborhood Watch
- ✔ Grow CERT Program



 **1,339**  
Fire-related

 **8,372**  
Medical-related

 **410**  
Other

**Average Total Response time to  
Emergency Incidents 5:12  
Seconds**



### New Emergency Manager

In December 2014 Andrew Stevens was hired as the City of Downey's full time Emergency Preparedness Manager. The Emergency Manager ensures Downey is prepared to respond to a wide variety of natural, human-made and technological disasters, and that the community is resilient enough to recover quickly. Mr. Stevens is responsible for developing and coordinating the plans and operational readiness of the various components of the emergency management system in Downey, including the Emergency Operations Center, disaster response and recovery training, SEMS compliance, and coordinating the City's volunteer preparedness programs, EPC and CERT.

### AB 109

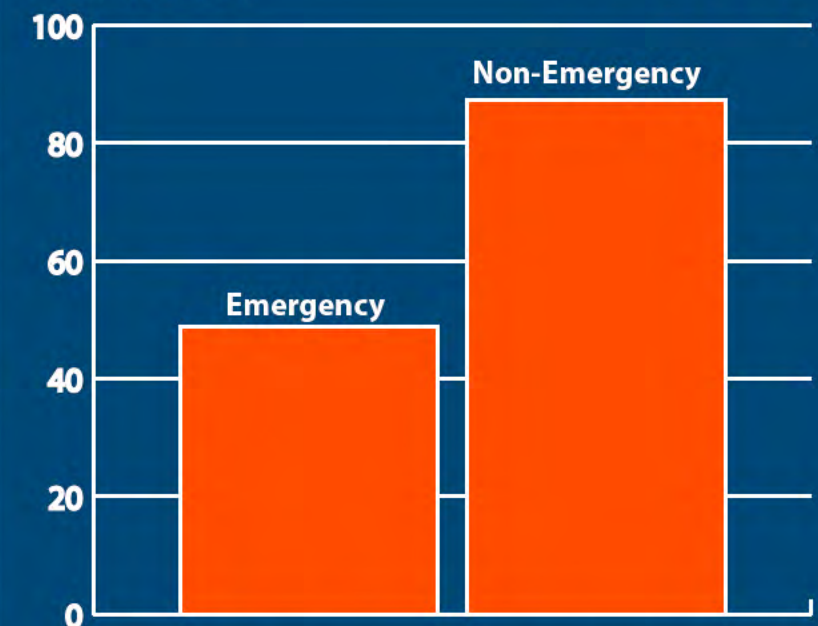
Assembly Bill 109 (AB 109) was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown in 2011. AB 109, also known as "prison realignment", shifts the responsibility for incarcerating low-risk inmates from state prisons to county jail facilities. In order to manage the influx of offenders being released from county jails back into our community, the Downey Police Department created an AB 109 task force to monitor these individuals. This task force is comprised of highly trained officers who conduct weekly random home checks to ensure compliance from the AB 109 population. In addition, officers work collaboratively with two assigned probation officers from the Los Angeles County Probation Department. State funding has allowed this task force to proactively enforce compliance while not taking away resources from our daily enforcement duties. Since its inception in early 2013, the department's AB 109 task force has made several hundred compliance checks, as well as arresting offenders for both new crimes and violating terms of their early release.



## POLICE 911 CALLS

CALLS TO DISPATCH  
in Thousands

**136,095**



Downey Police Dispatch received 136,095 calls during the 2014-2015 fiscal year

# Neighborhood & Infrastructure

*Downey maintains and operates 20 water wells, 187 miles of sanitary sewer lines, and 33 miles of storm drains.*

## Apollo Park Walking Trail

The Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District funded a grant to install a walking trail at Apollo Park, the first phase of which was completed in fall 2014. The first phase consisted of the entire stretch along Imperial Hwy and Smallwood, while the second phase, completed in January 2015, connected the McCaughan Gymnasium and Rives parking lot to the rest of the park. In addition to the new, smooth, decomposed granite walking trail, drought-tolerant landscaping was also installed to beautify the area.

## Furman Park Walking Trail Dedication

On November 1, 2014, the Furman Park Walking Trail was dedicated. The walking trail was funded through a grant from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, Prop A, championed by Supervisor Don Knabe. Dedication day included arts & crafts, a dedication walk, community information booth and give-a-ways for all in attendance. Later in this fiscal year, a fitness area, donated by the Downey Kiwanis group, was opened. This community-funded fitness area is a natural compliment to the popular walking trail at Furman.



## Independence Park Tennis Courts Resurfacing

The eight popular tennis courts at Independence Park were resurfaced this year, affording smoother play and more reliable footing for local tennis enthusiasts. Enhancing the court amenities are new nets and replacement screens around all of the courts. The Downey Tennis Club and individual residents have thoroughly enjoyed the upgrades.



**\$20,000,000**  
Capital Improvement  
Projects Completed



**1,400**  
Potholes filled



**29,000 ft**  
Streets Striped



**1,400**  
City trees planted



**16,000**  
acre-feet Water delivered



**650,000 sq.ft.**  
Graffiti removed

# Neighborhood & Infrastructure

*"We preserve the City's investment in its roadway, water, sewer, drainage, and sidewalk infrastructure."*

## COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- ✔ Replace aging park amenities
- ✔ Implement stormwater projects
- ✔ Obtain funding for Firestone Phase 2
- ✔ Provide report on alternatives for street repair and Congestion Management
- ✔ Update Water Conservation Ordinance due to drought
- ✔ Fabricate & Install Downey Gateway lighted monuments
- ✔ Secure funding and begin construction on Lakewood Blvd



## Lakewood Boulevard Improvement Project from Florence Avenue to Gallatin Road

In May 2015 another phase of Lakewood Boulevard Improvement Project was completed. This phase involved the long-awaited street widening and paving improvements from Florence Avenue to Gallatin Road. In addition, new curbs, gutters, sidewalks and curb ramps were installed, along with environmentally-friendly storm drain modifications and water system improvements. New raised drought-tolerant landscaped median islands, ornamental street and pedestrian lighting and new parkway trees complete the aesthetic improvements. Wider turning radii and upgraded traffic signals have helped smooth the flow of traffic along the corridor as well. The project was funded by combination of grant and local funds. The final phase of Lakewood Boulevard Improvement Project from Gallatin Road to Telegraph Road is under design and is anticipated to be completed by June 2016.



## Civic Center "Cool Roofs" Project

In keeping with the City's move to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency, the City's public works department completed a three-facility Cool Roof construction project this fiscal year. The department capitalized on the need to replace aging infrastructure (including leaky roofs at City Hall, the Police Department and the City Library) by combining the repairs with the installation of energy-efficient "Cool Roofs." Cool roofs are specifically designed to reflect the sun's heat, rather than absorb it, in order to reduce the heat intake of buildings and thus reduce the need for energy-intensive cooling, particularly in the summer time.



# Public Engagement

*Downey is a place of pride, history, involvement and community. Come Discover Downey!*

## International Food Festival 2014

On Saturday, September 20th, the City of Downey Parks & Recreation Department hosted fifteen thousand patrons at the International Food Festival. The International Food Festival was the re-imagined Taste of Downey, with food vendors selling food directly to patrons, and a beer & wine garden, entertainment and more. The event featured two stages with music and dancing, a family fun zone which included crafts, photo booth, face painting, henna, balloon caricatures, dress-up area, hair coloring and even a Ferris wheel. The event was enjoyed by all and families stayed throughout the night to enjoy the varied, live entertainment options.

## Aerojet Rocketdyne Sponsored Columbia Memorial Space Center City of STEM

The Aerojet Rocketdyne Company sponsored the inaugural City of STEM Science Festival hosted by the Columbia Memorial Space Center. The festival took place during DUSD's spring break, and involved organizations, community members and facilities throughout the City. The six-day STEM festival, which is the first of its kind in the Los Angeles region, presented STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programming to the community, engaging diverse audiences at various locations throughout the city. As a reintroduction of the Space Center to the community, the festival helped to build a relationship with its audience, and begin to establish the Center as the hub of science learning experiences throughout the Southern California region.



## Parks & Open Space Master Plan

The Parks and Recreation department spent much of the year gathering critical community input for the Parks and Open Space Master Plan. A series of questionnaires, forums and community workshops were held, with thousands participating in the process in person and online. Extensive community's input is crucial to the successful adoption of a Plan that suits the needs of the Downey community now and in the future.

## Library Pays Tribute to Local Veterans

Through a grant from California Center for the Book, the Downey City Library launched a year-long focus on Veterans and the needs of returning veterans here in our own community. Based upon the book *What It Is Like to Go to War* by Karl Marlantes, the Library's theme was "War Comes Home."

Veteran-focused Activities include:

- Book discussions for children and adults to letter writing, care packages, and a service academy workshop,
- First-time ever presentation from the UCLA Nathanson Family Resilience Center "Understanding the Needs of Young Children in Military and Veteran Families," the Library galvanized community groups to engage with our returning veterans.
- Veteran Read-A-Thon brought children together with local veterans, and together they created "Thank You" posters to send with our Books for Soldiers boxes.
- The Books for Soldiers activity enjoyed substantial financial support from the Rotary Club of Downey and Friends of the Downey City Library, wherein service members stationed abroad were sent books of their choice, along with care packages of treats, toiletries and handwritten letters of support.
- Finally, the culminating event was a veteran panel discussion with Robert Cormack, former mayor of Downey and World War II veteran; Ernie Delgado, a Vietnam War veteran; Captain Olivia Chavez, Afghanistan War veteran; and Zach Shores, an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran.



**1,500**  
ASPIRE Students



**5,500**  
Class Participants



**1,280**  
Swim Program Students



**46,210**  
Library Reference  
Questions Answered



**47,000**  
Theatre Patrons

# Public Engagement

"Our goal is to create a healthier Downey."

## COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- ✔ Seek community sponsorship and partnership where feasible
- ✔ Continue marquee community events:
  - Downtown Downey Rooftop Concerts
  - Rio Hondo Music on the Greens
  - Rock and Ride
  - Veteran's Commemoration events
  - Columbia Memorial Space Center Rocket Fever
  - Library Comic Con
  - International Food Festival
  - National Night Out
  - Dia de los Muertos
  - Holiday Tree Lighting and Home Decoration
- ✔ Implement City Branding throughout the city
- ✔ Increase social media presence



### Keep Downey Beautiful Monthly Clean Ups

The Keep Downey Beautiful (KDB) monthly cleanups continue to experience over-whelming volunteer participation. Up from a monthly average of 50 to 70 participants, the fall 2014 clean-ups hosted between 150 and 200 volunteers, another example of the dedication and support of the Downey community. All KDB cleanups are sponsored by STONEWOOD CENTER, which provides six - \$25 gift cards that are raffled at the end of each cleanup.



### Water Conservation Workshops

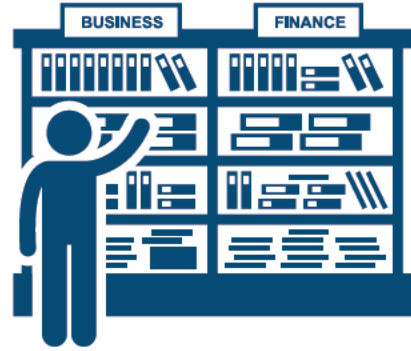
Recent drought conditions and new State Water Waste Regulations have resulted in significant changes to the time and method the Downey community can water outdoor landscaping. To help everyone achieve the state's 20% water reduction mandate, the Public Works Department has hosted rain barrel giveaways and a Water Conservation Symposium and updated the City website for tips and advice. Individualized assistance is also available for residents by contacting the Public Works department. The Downey City Library has also hosted periodic drought-friendly landscaping workshops for residents, thanks to experts on loan from the Metropolitan Water District and Central Basin Municipal Water District. Potable water irrigation at City parks to 2-3 days per week, City Hall to 2 days per week, other City facilities to 1-2 days per week, and completely turning off potable water to medians that contain grass. Additionally, the City continues to expand recycled water use to other sites, replace old water service lines and mains prone to leaking.



# greatService



# greatDedication



**360,211**

LIBRARY PATRON VISITS



**37,000**

COLUMBIA MEMORIAL SPACE CENTER VISITS



**720**

PUBLIC WORKS SERVICE REQUESTS



**18**

HEALTHY DOWNEY EVENTS



**33,700**

DIAL-A-RIDE TRIPS



**1,644,449**

PARK VISITS



**171,529**

BARBARA J. RILEY COMMUNITY & SENIOR CENTER ATTENDANCE



**\$79,866,774**

BUILDING PERMIT VALUE



**\$44,777,550**

APPROPRIATED IN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FUNDS

**97**

RIDERS IN DOWNEY'S INAUGURAL TOUR DE DOWNEY



**600**

TLC 5K PARTICIPANTS



**15,773**

DOGS & HUMANS PLAYED AT RSG DOG PARK



**10,121**

EMERGENCY RESPONSES



**9,166**

REPORTED CRIMES & INCIDENTS



**37,033**

TRAFFIC CITATIONS



**3,466**

ARRESTS



