

THE PAPER

FREE!

THE VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS

SUNDAY AUGUST 29, 2021

ALL TFP NEWSPAPER STAFF ARE VACCINATED!
A tribute to our local businesses that are re-opening.

VOLUME 14 • NUMBER 15

THANK YOU

COUNCILMEMBER MONICA RODRIGUEZ AND GOVERNOR NEWSOM

For having Sunland-Tujunga residents look at this toilet for over a year.



And so that you understand, these businesses shut down on Monica's watch. She did nothing to help our community, in fact, she went so far as to allow large semi-trucks to park in a residential zone. Our councilmember is the problem. It's time for us to get rid of her friend Governor Newsom and her next year!

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



COMMUNITY NEWS



People lined up to take the Covid test.



The CV unit goes where the need is.

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Dyan & McManus RIP

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that make
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As I was going to CVS, I couldn't help but notice something different with our LAFDs rescue ambulance parked on Foothill at Tujunga Canyon Rd. People were milling around, but there were no flashing lights or signs of something being amiss. What it was, was a new designation for the LAFD ambulances - they were now carrying a CV designation.

I stopped and asked the LA Homeless Services Agency

(LAHSA) representative there what was happening. She said that it was a new concept for getting people tested for the Covid virus. So while I was there, I took the 5 minute test (15 seconds per nostril), gave them my information and email address, and later I called the LAFD Public Information officer Erick Scott for an explanation. This is what he said.

"The original concept of the CV Rescues were for transporting Persons Experiencing

Homelessness (PEH) to specialized sites throughout the County and assisting the Department of Health Services with that effort as well. After the first month of testing PEH in the downtown Skidrow area of Los Angeles, we saw a demand for testing outlying encampments throughout the city.

The LAFD had the idea to convert Rescue Ambulances into a safe testing environment for our firefighters and CORE personnel. This gave

us the freedom to drive from tent to tent throughout the city and test PEH. We then assisted with vaccinations of PEH through these specialized units. The Mayor's Office makes our weekly schedule and thus, this unit is not "dispatched". They are staffed with Firefighters and Firefighter Paramedics working overtime, along with CORE personnel to augment our staffing."

Two days later I received my test results in my webmail - Negative. ■

Tujunga Tough!

I am David Bauer, the founder of a 501(c)3 non-profit organization called Lightforce One that works to uplift and empower the underprivileged and marginalized of the world. We currently focus our efforts in Uganda and are able to make pretty big impacts with surprisingly small sums of money. Most people have no idea how big of an impact they can make in the world with how little money.

Like everyone else, COVID had a significant impact on my activities. Donations slowed down Lightforce One, as did my business income. One of those businesses was performing sound baths with crystal bowls, a gong, and other instruments which came to a screeching halt.

I knew that to keep potential donors interested I would have to keep exciting things happening. My sound bath instruments had been in storage for months by now with no end in sight. So, I decided to sell them and I used half of the proceeds for me and the other half to kickstart a chicken farming project I had been wanting to start in Uganda. This move got the project off the



In late November of 2020, we started funding a chicken farming project at the orphanage in Uganda that we've been supporting. One of the goals of this project is to help them become self-sufficient. Once this project is at the target capacity of 2,000 chicks per year, it will provide roughly half of the needed funding for the primary school orphanages. Both chickens and eggs will be sold. The children are having a great experience seeing the whole process too.

ground and sparked excitement among my donors. Now, 6 months later, they are getting ready to sell their first crop of chickens and reinvest the profits.

I've also spent a great deal of time refining and improving Lightforce One's online presence and marketing. I improved my web design skills and redesigned the website just this month, and a few months ago I learned how to get

free Google advertising for non-profits, got listed on Charity Navigator, etc.

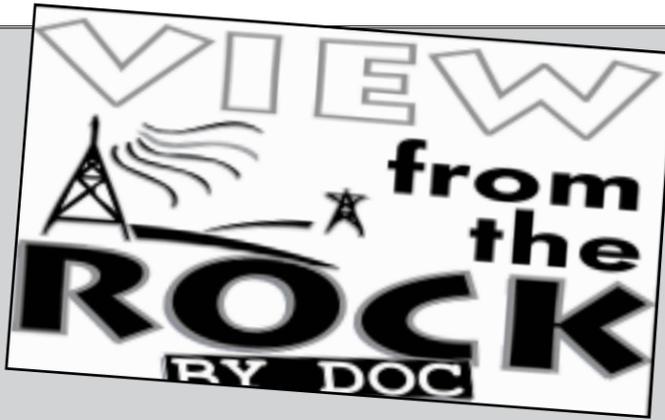
So, in short, I've been honing my marketing skills and I liquidated some personal assets to inject cash and excitement into Lightforce One. By the end of the year, we will have kicked off two major projects that have been on my list despite the difficult COVID economic landscape.

Sometimes I think that this newspaper doesn't need an editorial, and then I remember what it is all about. The editorial is supposed to tie all the events together in one column so that you the reader can decide if you missed something important.

What I try to do is provide the most cohesive amount of localized stories about what is happening here in "the hood." I wish I had the ability to crank out 12 pages like we used to do, but then again, we never had a pandemic to cope with. And the beginning of Wildfire Season, and the loss of our local businesses.

But I've noticed something interesting, we are getting more and more businesses moving into the empty buildings. Entrepreneurs are seeing something that I've missed. Opportunity. I was driving by the old Code Blue (not the one that was torched) and saw that it is now called the Diamond Café and from what I could see through the windows, it looks really good. I don't know what kind of food they will be offering, but if the quality is as good as their billboard, it should be pretty good.

Our councilperson Monica is still refusing to answer her phones (or maybe they know it's me) so there is no one that can talk about why she lets our houseless run



ram-pant here in S-T. But that also brings up a point. Have you noticed that the houseless have left every area that is patrolled by a private security service? Maybe if the houseless bothers people so much, that maybe they should all chip in for a security service? Just a thought.

As every day gets hotter, the risk of wildfires increase. If we get hit by a wind/firestorm south of Foothill Blvd., it's going to be every person for themselves. During the La Tuna Fire, I was out rescuing pets that their owners couldn't get back to rescue. The homes on Reverie were in the fires path and with all the fire equipment staged on Hillhaven, no one got in or out without a 4-wheel drive. All my neighbors turned a blind eye as I rolled across their grass to make it from Tranquil Pl. to Amoret. We did what we had to do. If this year lives up to what the fire department is saying, we're in deep do-do.

PLEASE, have your hoses ready and an evacuation plan for you and your pets. No one is going to be able to get to you if it hits south of Foothill. And yes, when it comes to fire planning, it's all about The Water! ■

Heart of the Valley

By Senator Bob Hertzberg



Among the many things I have missed during the pandemic is participating in community volunteer activities. My calendar is usually full of events that feature neighbors helping neighbors. That community and altruistic spirit is one of the things I love about our Valley.

I suspect one of the reasons the Valley embraces volunteerism is that so many who live here came from somewhere else - another city, state or country. Valley transplants often left families and community networks, in their place of origin, for jobs or opportunity here. Thus, to form support networks, make friends and belong to a new community, Valley transplants volunteer with local groups that serve their new neighbors.

Cautiously, with COVID safety protocols in place, some local volunteer activities have resumed.

We are so diverse and vibrant that there are volunteer opportunities to suit everyone. Some require minimal time commitments, such as donating blood. Different options can recur weekly or monthly, like assisting at a local school. While other volunteer activities may require a more significant time commitment leading up to a major annual event, like the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. You can even contribute to our region by voluntarily conserving water to combat drought conditions.

Last week, in the City of San Fernando, California Volunteers announced grants for expansion of volunteer infrastructure at San Fernando Recreation Park that will address key issues in our community.

If you are looking for a chance to participate, below, we highlight a few local volunteer activities. Let us know of other such opportunities that we can pass on to your community-minded neighbors. This past year and a half taught us about the need for strong networks and communities of support.

Scroll down for additional information on free pet adoptions, paid internships, afterschool activities, additional Valley funding and much more.

Tell me what is on your mind. Reach out on Facebook, Twitter, my email, or call my office at 818-901-5588.

DONATE BLOOD IN NORTH HOLLYWOOD

The Red Cross will hold two upcoming blood drives in North Hollywood. There is a blood shortage of all blood types, although the demand for type O is the highest. As an incentive to donate, those who give blood in August will receive an e-gift card. You can donate blood on Aug. 22 from 8:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m. at St Patrick Catholic Church, located at 10625 Erwin St., or on Aug. 26 from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, located at 6020 Radford Ave. For additional information, along with other upcoming blood donation opportunities, please visit the Red Cross Blood website.

FIGHT CANCER

The local chapter of the American Cancer Society (ACS West Region) needs volunteers to help plan and host their annual "Communities Against Cancer" Relay For Life. The event will be held at L.A. Valley College on Sept. 25 from noon to 10:00 p.m. If you would like to get involved in the fight against cancer in your community, the ACS West Region organizers need volunteers to help with the following tasks:

- Planning the event
- Night before set up
- Day of the event registration table staffing and team support
- Graphic design
- Day of event talent point-person
- Planning and activating the "survivor tent" and "caregiver garden"
- Outreach to spread awareness of the event

Unfortunately, cancer touches most families. To defeat the scourge, we must work together. For more information or to volunteer, email Julie.Clark@cancer.org.

VOLUNTEER AT A LOCAL SCHOOL

The LAUSD volunteer program, which was in place prior to the start of the pandemic, will resume in the new school year and will follow the District's COVID safety protocols. Approved volunteers will return to campus fulfilling tasks such as supporting the classroom, playground, and dining areas, in addition to mentoring, providing student services, and supporting campus beautification. LAUSD will also continue to offer virtual volunteer opportunities. ■

WILDFIRE EVACUATION CHECKLIST

LEAVE QUICKLY	IF YOU HAVE TIME	FIND/SHARE INFO
<p>GO BAG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flashlight/headlamp • Local map • Water and snacks • Important documents • Emergency blanket • Emergency cash • Portable radio and batteries • Sturdy shoes and socks • Whistle • Change of clothing • Wallet and cell phone (add at the last minute) <p>CHECK ON OTHERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell neighbors to evacuate and which way to go • Ask if they have a plan to get out safely • Offer help for those who need it • Take your pets with you <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px;">MEETING SPOT</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px;">EMERGENCY CONTACT</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px;">EMERGENCY CONTACT #</p>	<p>PREPARE YOUR HOME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shut all inside doors • Raise shades and remove curtains • Turn on inside lights • Shut off air conditioning • Close/seal ground and attic vents • Move furniture away from walls • Move outdoor items away from home • Put a ladder at the corner of your house for firefighters <p>GRAB EXTRA ITEMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear heavy shoes and cotton clothing • Computers, electronics, and chargers • Medications, prescriptions, and medical devices • Family treasures and photo albums • Pet carriers/leashes, vaccination records, and pet food 	<p>RECEIVE ALERTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign up for Humboldt Alert at www.humboldt.gov/alerts • Tune into your local radio station for updates • Check www.humboldtsheriff.org for updates • Change your outgoing voicemail so callers know you are ok • Update your status on social media • Register with Red Cross Safe & Well <p>6 Ps OF EVACUATION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People 2. Pets 3. Prescriptions 4. Papers 5. Personal Needs 6. Priceless Items
<p>IF SOMEONE IS TRAPPED AND CAN'T ESCAPE CALL 9-1-1</p>		
<p>HUMBOLDT COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES 707-268-2500 HumboldtSheriff.org</p> <p style="text-align: right;">@HumboldtSheriff on Instagram @HumCoOES on Facebook and Twitter</p>		

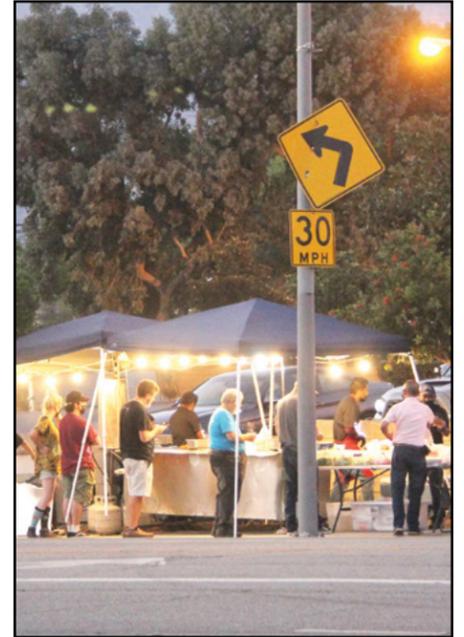


ANOTHER DAY IN THE HOOD

Local thief bungles burglary!

Last week was just one of those weeks where nothing was happening in the hood. And then I got a call from my friends at *.* that they just had their cellphone ripped off. When I got there, I found that the incident had been captured on their surveillance system. Now that was a stroke of good luck, but even better was when one of his employees brought in the automobile registration that the thief left on the counter.

NOW, we have to give him the benefit of the doubt, maybe it was his fathers registration, maybe not. When we arrived at the address and knocked on the door, the guy in the video answered it. After a few moments of conversation, he gave it back. ■



Now that our infamous Patrick has been moved up to the driveway, it's business as usual for the Taqueria and it's followers. After our calling out Councilmember Rodriquez for allowing this to continue, she had the bus benches removed causing grief for those with handicaps or just trying to catch the bus, the city came out and cleaned up the mess. Patrick moved up across from Tommy's for 2 days and only recently moved back to the Vons sidewalk with ONLY ONE grocery cart. Now that's progress. Let's keep up the good work and stop enabling him with food and money donations. ■



You can tell it's fire season by what happens at La Tuna Canyon. In last Sunday's event, smoke was seen in an almost impassable area below the power lines north of the 210 Freeway. They rolled everyone on a 1 acre fire. LAFD, LACo, ANF, US Forestry and an LACo helicopter along with 4 LAFD water dropping helicopters. It was extremely dangerous as twilight was breaking and the helicopter had to navigate around the power poles. Although the original fire call was at 4:45 PM, it re-ignited about 7:30 PM and everybody came back. This time though, they apprehended a woman hiding in the brush. It was probably a case of being in the wrong place at the wrong time, but she was detained. It could have been a real problem if the wind shifted the fire towards her. ■

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Neighbor's Offer Help to Repair Veteran's Memorial!

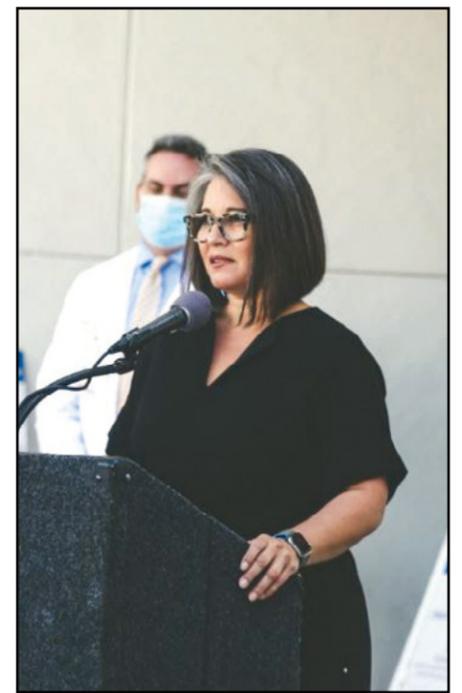


It's been three weeks now since this drunken (or stoned) woman hit a car in the parking lot, careened across the park and smashed her car into the Sunland Park Veteran's Memorial, and then took off running.

A GoFundMe donation site that had been set up to get enough money to repair the fence around the memorial met its goal and has been ended. Calls to Councilperson Monica Rodriguez have not been returned. Post Commander

Vincent Valdivia called us and said that the local post 377 had enough volunteers to rebuild the fence enclosure to keep the homeless from camping there.

Thank you for all the calls and offers to help. ■



From the early days of the pandemic, my team and I have been diligently working to make sure our community has the resources needed.

Let's Beat the Pandemic

This week, I joined Providence Holy Cross Medical Center to share the importance of getting vaccinated. According to Los Angeles County Public Health, in the last two weeks, Los Angeles County has seen a near-doubling in the number of people hospitalized each day for COVID-19 illness - 99% of hospitalizations are of unvaccinated. Prevention is our greatest weapon against this pandemic and sadly our community will continue to be among those hardest hit, which is why we must all be vigilant in getting the vaccine and wearing a mask.

From the early days of the pandemic, my team and I have been diligently working to make sure our community has the resources needed. We took a hyper-local approach to get those in our communities vaccinated. Suppressing the spread of the COVID-19 virus starts with us. It is our time to do our part - get vaccinated! For those who are eligible but have not yet received a vaccination FREE vaccines and testing are available in the district at our Sylmar Recreation Center vaccine site located at 13109 Borden Ave, Sylmar, CA 91342 from Tuesday through Saturday from 9 AM to 3 PM.

It's our shared responsibility to stop the spread of the coronavirus and help to save lives. By getting vaccinated you are doing your part to collaboratively work toward ending this pandemic and moving toward recovery. To find a vaccine site near you, please visit <https://bit.ly/3jWCeWa>. ■

Footsteps of Tradition in the Foothills

By J. JASON AMODEO

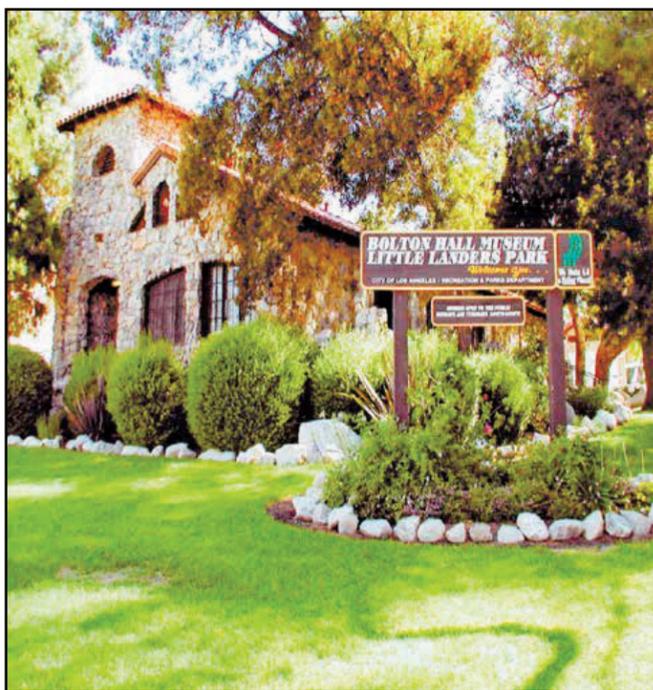
Several prolific writers and artists have come from the Sunland-Tujunga area over the decades.

In the 1930s, the notable poet John Steven McGroarty was a resident of Tujunga.

He wrote a poem titled "Just California" which had a positive effect on the community and educators alike. That poem soon became mandatory reading in the California school system back in the day.

Many events that have been held in this quaint little town have been hosted by Laureates of Village Poets. In keeping with tradition, Village Poets — a group that meets once every month at the Bolton museum located

in Tujunga — is composed of accomplished as well as aspiring poets who gather together to share their passion for writing by orally reading what they created to a group of active listeners. Visitors are also welcomed into this cerebral atmosphere; even



Bolton Hall in all its glory!

if you're not a writer, the warmth and love of those who are there can make you almost feel like you want to start writing.

If you just go as a spectator, you will find it soothing and intellectually stimulating by the beauty and wonder of poetic words.

This group illustrates what the Romantics believed: that the relationships we build with nature and others defines our lives. History has shown us that personal connections are made

through the reading and listening of poetic works simply because you can readily identify with what you're hearing — which at times can be provocative if not ultimately engaging.

The ancient Greeks were the first to put poetry into writing, and they did so during the 4th century BC. Prior to that, poetry had always been communicated orally. Poetic works contributed to the cultural and intellectual needs of the community.

The same holds true today as you sit inside of the Bolton Hall museum among the Village Poets gazing at the 100-year-old fireplace crafted of stone; the ambiance is perfect and sets the mood for what you're about to hear.

So how does all this affect the community?

Poetry brings benefits to the community at large, and all forms of writing benefit from poetry. It raises the level of literacy and education. Part of Tujunga's character is one that traditionally emphasizes the arts as well as cultural projects and programs that foster relationships. This kind of community-building improves the quality of life, and the Village Poets allows a forum for self-expression for the benefit of others as well as cultural development. So find those poems that communicate with the deepest part of you and invite them in. Bolton Museum at 10110 Commerce Avenue in Tujunga. Come by and be with us! ■

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ASK RUSTY

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS



By AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor, Association of Mature American Citizens.

Ask Rusty – If I Apply Now, When Will I Get My First Social Security Payment?

Dear Rusty: If I were to apply for my Social Security retirement (I'm 68 on August 1, 2021), when could I realistically expect to receive my first check? Signed: Ready to Claim

Dear Ready: Social Security suggests applying for benefits 2 - 3 months before you wish them to begin, to allow time for processing your application. When you apply, you will specify the month you wish your benefits to start, and that is when your benefits will officially begin. But Social Security pays benefits in the month following the month they are earned. So, if, for example, you applied and specified September as your benefit start month, your benefit for that month wouldn't be received until October. The payment date for you will be on the 2nd Wednesday (because you were born between the 1st and 10th of the month), and your payment won't be by check but rather by direct deposit into your bank account. Here are a few other things you should be aware of:

- Since you were born on the 1st of the month, your benefit is com-

puted using the previous month as your eligibility date. If your year of birth was 1953, your full retirement age (FRA) was 66, which means that you actually reached your FRA in July 2019.

- Since you reached your FRA of 66, you have been earning Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) at the rate of .67% per month (8% additional benefit per year). You can earn DRCs up to age 70, at which point your SS benefit would be 32% more than it would have been at your FRA.

- If you will be 68 on August 1st, you have already earned 16% additional benefit through DRCs. That means your benefit, if claimed to start in July will be 16% more than it would have been at age 66. You will specify the month you wish your benefit to start when you apply.

- Social Security applies DRCs in January of each year, so if you apply mid-year 2021, your DRCs earned in 2021 won't be applied to your benefit payment until January of 2022.

- You can claim up to 6 months retroactive benefits, which would be paid in a lump sum. If you choose to take retroactive benefits your "benefit-start-month" will be backdated by 6 months, your benefit amount will be reduced accordingly (by 4%), and you'll get that reduced benefit for the rest of your life (except for Cost of Living Adjustments annually awarded).

So, this may be more detail than you expected for your simple question, but claiming SS is a serious decision and it's important you have complete information before you apply.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not

represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are

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Consul General Armen Baibourtian Presented Armenia's Medal of Gratitude to Paul Krekorian

On August 19, Consul General of Armenia in Los Angeles Ambassador Armen Baibourtian presented Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Krekorian with the Medal of Gratitude, one of the highest official awards of Armenia. It was awarded by the President of Armenia upon the recommendation of the Prime Minister. The awarding ceremony took place in the Council Chambers of the Los Angeles City Hall. "For his years-long Armenian-focused activities and significant contribution towards strengthening and enhancing the Armenian-American friendly relations, the Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Krekorian is hereby awarded with the Medal of Gratitude of the Republic of Armenia", is noted in the presidential decree.

During the award presentation ceremony, Ambassador Baibourtian underlined in his speech that Councilmember Paul Krekorian is awarded with this prestigious



medal for his boundless and unwavering devotion towards the welfare of the Homeland and highly appreciated his work in both ca-

pacities of an Assemblymember of the California State Assembly and a Councilmember of the Los Angeles City Council. He remind-

ed that Los Angeles is the second largest city of the United States. The Consul General emphasized the valuable contribution of Paul Krekorian to the strengthening of Armenia-California bonds and his input in addressing issues facing the Armenian community, as well as his efforts in supporting Armenia and Artsakh.

Due to Councilmember Krekorian's efforts, the Los Angeles City Council adopted the Los Angeles-Shushi Friendship City agreement back in 2012. The Los Angeles City Council recognized the independence of the Republic of Artsakh as a sovereign state in 2013 by adoption of a special resolution. Consul General Baibourtian stressed the importance of the Los Angeles City Council's condemnation of the war unleashed by Azerbaijan with the assistance of Turkey in 2020 and the City's demand to stop the aggression against the Armenian people through several resolutions. ■

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