

MAYOR OLMOS 2019 STATE OF THE CITY SPEECH

Thank you, Moises, for your warm introduction. And thank you for your friendship and support of South El Monte.

Good afternoon and welcome to our State of the City 2019.

It is my honor to serve you as Mayor.

First, I would like to acknowledge my colleagues -- Please stand and be recognized, Mayor Pro Tem Manuel Acosta, Councilmember Richard Angel, Councilmember Hector Delgado, and Councilwoman Gracie Retamoza, due to work commitments is unable to be here.

I'd also like to recognize our City staff who are here -- City Manager, Jennifer Vasquez and Department Directors: Deputy City Manager Rachel Barbosa, City Clerk Rose Juarez, Public Works Director Rene Salas, Community Development Director Jose Jimenez, Finance Director Carlos Carrasco as well as other city employees who are present today.

Last year, the City of South El Monte celebrated its 60th Anniversary, we were incorporated in 1958.

In honor of our ALL-AMERICAN, CITY OF ACHIEVEMENT, we hosted several events throughout the year to commemorate our special anniversary and provide community engagement and celebration opportunities for our residents, friends and businesses.

We hosted a Car Show, Health & Resource Fair at our Senior Center, a Community Picnic & City Hall Open House, as well as a special Anniversary celebration with a Community Birthday Bash & Concerts.

South El Monte has grown into a vibrant City with new developments including housing, economic development, recreation facilities, and infrastructure improvements.

South El Monte continues to thrive and grow with an exciting and promising future.

We remain committed to providing the highest level of service to our residents and businesses by focusing on Fiscal Prudency, Continued Enhancement of our City Infrastructure and Improving the Quality of Life, as a whole. Public Safety, Emergency

Preparedness, Recreational Programs and Special Events for our Community have helped rebuild our community to serve with professionalism and dignity to all.

We have also made building better relationships with our regional partners a priority to continue to make South El Monte better today and for future generations.

We are responsible to be good stewards of the City's funds.

We are implementing best management practices to maintain the budget. We will with fiscal accountability to continue to develop policies that will help guide our organization into the future.

We plan to utilize our special revenues and State funding to support capital improvement projects such as street lights and road repairs.

In addition, we are listening to the economy. We understand that an economic challenge may be approaching on the horizon, and we plan on budgeting accordingly for the anticipated economic challenge that I know many of us are facing.

Fiscal prudence lies at the core of our commitment to our community, and we will remain committed and diligent, to uphold accountability.

Economic development, such as investment in infrastructure, property, and both our commercial and residential tenants continue to top the list of priorities for our city.

Over the last year we saw interest from the business community, resulting in 258 new businesses coming into the City.

We also saw investment in property, such as \$1.7 million into an existing shopping center at Rush and Durfee.

To meet this demand, we had to reimagine the way we do business and streamline the business license process. And it won't stop there! We plan to work with our existing commercial tenants to find ways of improving property Façade, improvement programs will be forthcoming; a necessity to a commitment in keeping our city beautiful. Recently we just awarded some of our homes in the South El Monte for beautification, landscaping and lighting, etc, Hopefully we can achieve this city wide.

With our new Community Director of Development, we have a renewed interest to re-envision ways of making our City stand out from communities in the San Gabriel Valley.

We want to look closely at the potential benefits for the City if we are to redevelop Rosemead Blvd., and study land uses next to the 60 Freeway.

We have housing coming on both sides of Santa Anita Avenue, so we will look for ways to connect City Hall with these new developments.

Housing and the need for it is very important.

There is a delicate balance between meeting the needs and wants from our State leaders while preserving the quality of life for our existing residents.

Make no mistake, the City understands these two delicate matters, and will ensure we are complying with State law, while being mindful of the needs of our existing residential and business members.

Our new Governor is asking for Cities to provide their fair-share of housing over multiple income levels.

The City is committed to this vision, which is evident with the recent ground breaking of our newest housing development along Santa Anita Avenue.

A total of 77 high-quality townhomes will be built, and of those, 12 will be designated as affordable.

Also 30 new single family residential houses on Santa Anita and Merced Avenue with 6 being designated as affordable.

We want our residents and their families to have an opportunity to continue to grow within our community, while still striving to meet their needs.

This year, we have completed and continue to work on community improvement projects such as new traffic signals at Thienes Avenue & Tyler Avenue as well as street repaving on Lerma Road & Alesia Street.

Upcoming Projects include:

- \$5.7 Million for a revitalization project on Santa Anita Avenue that will include Edison undergrounding powerlines and a light pole installation project.
- \$601,000 (HSIP) Highway Safety Improvement Program funds for Traffic Safety Measures.
- Traffic signal upgrades on various major thoroughfares in the City.
- 2 New Bus Shelters
- A Greenway Design project along Merced Avenue; and
- The demolition and revamp of the vacant Kruse Building next to City Hall.

Another priority of the City of South El Monte is keeping our community safe.

We continue to increase and allocate the highest percentage of our budget to fund law enforcement services provided by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Each day, our brave men and women of the Sheriff's Temple Station family protect us and our families.

Please stand to be recognized our guest Assistant Sheriff Maria Gutierrez and our, Sheriff Captain David Flores and his South El Monte team – Sgt. Lewis, Deputy Catano, Deputy Comparan, Deputy Tario, Deputy Ruiz, and School Resource Deputy Silva --.

Although crime is down compared to last year, it still remains a concern, which include crimes of opportunity.

We continue to educate the public about locking their vehicles and not leaving items in plain view, "If you see something, say something."

Our Deputies have also been actively patrolling our business corridors and recently held a neighborhood watch meeting to remind residents about these trends and safety tips.

In addition to Neighborhood Watch Meetings, our Sheriff team attends community events and hosts public safety events like Deputy Day, Coffee with a Cop, and National Night Out in August.

We encourage you to attend these events and meet with them to discuss how you can make your business and our community safer for all.

We also work with our local Fire Station 90 and would like to recognize Assistant Fire Chief Tony Ramirez and Public Information Officer, Maggie Valdivia – please stand and be recognized.

We are also actively working on emergency preparedness. We want our City to be prepared in the event of a natural disaster, knowing that our first responders may not be able to be here right away.

For that reason, City staff have taken a more active role in preparing for an emergency by participating in the American Red Cross El Monte/South El Monte Preparedness Coalition which meets monthly to discuss emergency preparedness and training opportunities. We also participate in exercises like the Great Shake Out and provide Emergency Preparedness exhibits and demonstrations at City events such as Concerts in the Park, Fire Station 90 Appreciation Day, and National Night Out.

Last year, we hosted a Community Emergency Response Team referred to as a “CERT” Training course for residents and businesses that educated them about disaster preparedness, fire safety, emergency medical operations and light search & rescue.

And, we plan to host more in the future. Where many of our staff members attended as well as Mayor Pro Tem Manny Acosta, myself, Dianna, Joey Figueroa, Eddie and his family, Joe Martinez, Angie and her husband as graduates.

In addition to providing infrastructure and emergency services for our residents, our Community Services division enhances the quality of lives for our beloved residents and friends through a variety of events, programs and services.

We offer high-quality and enriching youth programs that include after school care, spring and summer day camps and competitive sports.

Our City also likes to host fun and meaningful social and informative events throughout the year for the families who live in our community with many occurring during the upcoming summer months, such as concerts under the stars, movie nights, 4th of July, Cinco de Mayo. etc.

Our Easter Breakfast is next Saturday, April 20th, and in May we will host our annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration on Friday, May 3rd.

We host Community Bike Ride events every first Saturday of the month, we raffle bikes have snacks and sandwiches when we are done. Summer Concert and Movies in the Park Series will kick-off on Thursday, June 20th and continue every Thursday until Labor Day. One week we host a concert and the next week movies in the park.

Two other exciting events are our annual Independence Day Celebration on July 4th.

So, this year, we are adding a joint Open Street Event with the City of El Monte, and sponsored by the San Gabriel Valley Cog and Southern California on Saturday, October 26th, 2019.

Your Council Members and I continue to represent our City on a regional level by supporting events and efforts of neighboring cities and serving as delegates for joint authority agencies that influence policy and prioritize funding for efforts such as expansion along the 60 freeway corridor, connecting the Metro Gold Line to South El Monte, creating and sustaining green space and funding for homeless prevention and services.

As we look to the future and continue to plan for growth and sustainability opportunities, we remain optimistic in our ongoing relationship with our County, State and Federal representatives and LA Mayor Eric Garcetti with exciting opportunities that are on the horizon with the Summer Olympics coming to Los Angeles in 2028.

On behalf of the City of South El Monte, I would like to thank you for attending this afternoon.

I would also like to give a very special thank you to the El Monte/South El Monte Chamber of Commerce for coordinating this event and to our sponsors for making this special gathering possible.

Your commitment to South El Monte is noticed and deeply appreciated.