

From: [Sari Canales](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Monrovia Chamber report for 2/15/22 City Council Meeting
Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 1:10:47 PM

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Here is the 2/15/22 Monrovia Chamber report:

Ribbon Cutting Events: [Thank you to Mayor Tom Adams and Councilmember Larry Spicer](#) for attending the Ribbon cutting for the Re-Opening of the YMCA on Saturday, 2/12/22 and [Mayor Tom Adams for attending Ribbon Cutting](#) for Christina Marlene Design/Decorating Den Interiors on Monday 2/14/22.

Ribbon Cutting Event: [Join the Chamber as we Welcome The Pour House to Monrovia on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 4:30pm.](#)

Lunch & Learn Event: [Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 11:30am at the Monrovia Chamber office.](#) CalSavers vs 401K The CalSavers Plan deadline is coming up June 30th, 2022. Learn about the retirement plan options for your Company or Business and the new Chamber member benefit, the Monrovia Chamber Multi-Employer 401k Plan. Sponsored by: Julie E. Sagatelian, Financial Advisor (Waddell & Reed), Chris Castro (Transamerica), Tara Brown (Millennium Pension Services) and the Monrovia Chamber of Commerce. Presentation & discussion on the upcoming deadline for CalSavers plan for small business' vs. Monrovia Chamber's new Multi-Employer 401k Plan. If you currently have a 401k & you haven't recently reviewed your costs & fee's, you need to attend this informative lunch.

Board Meeting: February 23, 2022 at 12n via Zoom

Networking Breakfast Event: [Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 8am at Max's Mexican Cuisine](#)

Career Expo & Job Fair Event: [Thursday, March 10, 2022 from 2-7pm](#)

[at Sierra Auto Group](#)

Below are the links for the Job Seekers and Exhibitors.

[Click Here to Sign Up to Attend Career Expo & Job Fair](#)

[Click Here to Sign Up to be an Exhibitor](#)

Thank you for your time,

Sari Canales
Executive Director



MONROVIA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Monrovia, CA 91016

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sc@monroviacc.com

From: [rosemary.gavidia](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: public comment
Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 1:31:33 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening City Council & Staff,

I would like to thank the City Council, Mr. Feik & city staff for removing the City Tree Project from the last city council agenda .

I was informed by Mr. Feik that we will continue to use West Coast Arborist to consult on the city tree project. I'm concerned that we will continue to let West Coast Arborists make the decisions for our urban forest. WCA is our tree trimming company and letting them recommend what is planted is a conflict of interest based on our contract with them. They are more profitable when planting and trimming small trees and most of the trees they have recommended and planted throughout our city are small trees. We don't have city staff with tree knowledge and have let WCA recommend our city trees which has left us with crape myrtles being planted all over town. They currently make up over 25% of our total inventory. Even though they already make up 25% of our inventory, WCA still recommended them to be planted in 40% of the 455 proposed tree wells for our upcoming tree plan. This alone shows they do not have our best interest in mind. City council originally asked city staff to get bids with consulting arborists instead they asked our tree trimming company what they recommended. We have already spent time and money for staff to put the last report together using West Coast Arborist. The report had many issues and does not reflect the needs of Monrovia. Most city's pay for a consulting arborist who tailor plans for their specific city and then have the tree trimming company (WCA) install and irrigate the trees.

Trees are our city's most valuable resource, preservation of our community forest should be one of our highest priorities. I would like to see the city put together a tree committee of knowledgeable residents to come up with a Community Forest Plan or contract an experienced arborist and city planner or an arborist with city planning experience to oversee this project. I would also like to see our Tree City USA status reinstated as we have not done so since 2014.

I'm excited to see the upcoming changes to our tree plan and hope that they reflect the needs of our community.

Thank you,

Rosemary Gavidia

From: [Susan Brown](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Tree Committee
Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 2:01:10 PM

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Members of The Council

I'm [writing to](#) suggest the creation of a "Tree Committee" to move Monrovia forward with our Tree Plan. It's always a good idea to have stakeholder buy-in on matters that affect us all (and those who come after us)--I'm sure I don't need to tell all of you that! We have an opportunity not only to enhance the immediate quality of our city, but also to take a major leap into a different way of thinking about our relationship with the rest of the natural world. It's very important we not approach this as business as usual.

There are many people in this beautiful city who could and would serve in this way. Please give us this opportunity.

Thank you.

Susan Brown

, Monrovia, CA 91016

From: [Brian Yamaguchi](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Brian Yamaguchi](#)
Subject: Public Comment – 2/15/2022 Non-Agenda Item
Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 2:19:13 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmembers,

I'm very pleased that the Capital Improvement Plan includes \$75,000 annually for tree planting. This will greatly benefit all of Monrovia.

I was pleased that the proposed fiscal year 2021-2022 tree planting project scheduled to be presented to Council at the February 1, 2022 meeting was pulled from the agenda because I feel that plan described in the supporting documents needed some revision.

I've come to learn that the plan was primarily created by the City's tree trimming contractor, West Coast Arborists (WCA). The two main flaws I saw with the WCA plan are:

- 1) In section 12.44.010 of the Monrovia Municipal Code (MMC) subsection [C] the ordinance states: "... priority shall be given to planting native trees." However, in the proposed plan, 82.3% of the "recommended" trees are non-native trees. This doesn't feel like native trees are a priority in this plan. I would prefer to see the ratio flipped with 80% native trees and 20% non-native trees.
- 2) Another concern is that 34% of the "Recommendation #1" trees are non-native Crape Myrtle, *Lagerstroemia indica*, trees. The consensus in literature on urban forests says that any one species of tree should not be more than 10% of the inventory. Given that about 25% of Monrovia's street trees are already Crape Myrtle, adding more of these non-native trees would not be consistent with established best practices.

I understand that WCA is revising the plan. WCA has already demonstrated in their original plan that the team they assigned to this project lacks the

necessary expertise. Also, it feels like a conflict of interest for WCA to create a plan that they will end up implementing.

I would strongly recommend that an independent, consulting certified arborist with city planning experience be enlisted to create the plan. Subsequently, I would like the independent plan to be vetted with resources available from places like the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanical Gardens before a proposal is brought to Council again.

Trees done right will have a generational beneficial impact on Monrovia. Let's get the plan right before proceeding.

Sincerely,
Brian Yamaguchi