Elected Officials Join VICA for Annual Local Officeholders Luncheon

"Measure M is going to be transformative for the San Fernando Valley. Each one of these projects gives us an opportunity to rethink what community means to the Valley."

- Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Krekorian at VICA’s 2018 Local Officeholders Luncheon

On Thursday, over 400 VICA members and their guests met with local elected officials at VICA’s 2018 Local Officeholders Luncheon at the Sheraton Universal Hotel. Leaders from Los Angeles County as well as from the Cities of Los Angeles, Burbank, Calabasas, Glendale, Pasadena, San Fernando and Simi Valley talked about substantive issues important to the San Fernando Valley business community.

Attendees enjoyed a Q&A session where each official was asked a question. The questions ranged from asking Los Angeles Unified School District Board Members and Los Angeles Community College District Trustees how to best support students who plan to transfer to four year schools to asking Los Angeles City Councilmembers questions regarding ways to best support business throughout the San Fernando Valley.

The 2018 Local Officeholders Luncheon was presented by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Southern California Gas Company and Wells Fargo and was co-sponsored by Airbnb, California Apartment Association of Los Angeles, Charter Communications, Comcast NBCUniversal, FilmL.A., Los Angeles Daily News, Microsoft, PricewaterhouseCoopers and US Bank. Thank you to our sponsors, members and all who attended this event.

Thank you to our elected officials and local leaders who attended this event:
- LA County Sheriff Jim McDonnell
- LA City Attorney Mike Feuer
- LA City Controller Ron Galperin
- LA City Council President Herb Wesson
- LA City Councilmember Paul Krekorian
- LA City Councilmember Monica Rodriguez
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LEGISLATIVE DEADLINE - THIS WEEK IN SACRAMENTO

This week was the deadline for bills in the Legislature fiscal committees to move forward onto the floor of each house. VICA successfully advocated on a number of bills, including defeating a bill that would have placed arbitrary warning labels on certain sugar-sweetened beverages (AB 1335). Legislators also rejected a bill that would have required employers to spend resources compiling and submitting salary data to a government agency (SB 1284). The Assembly moved forward with a bill, SB 905 by Senator Scott Weiner, that will give local control to cities who want to attract more tourism and nightlife by allowing certain bars to serve alcohol until 4 a.m.

VICA will continue to push the Legislature to pass more realistic independent contractor rules following the harmful Dynamex ruling, and continue to oppose bills such as SB 100 which requires overly ambitious clean energy rules which will drive up costs for ratepayers. VICA is opposing bills that drastically expand business’ liability by allowing employees to personally sue HR professionals and supervisors (SB 1038) and to sue employers even if they personally have not experienced sexual harassment (SB 1300). VICA is advocating against SB 822, which will set a precedent of state-specific internet regulations which will stifle innovation in California.

For more information, email elizabeth@vica.com.
Hot Issues

Amnesty on Longstanding Bench Warrants
The Los Angeles Police Department is considering a plan that would allow thousands of homeless people to eliminate old bench warrants as part of a larger effort to reform the system. LAPD Chief Michel Moore described the proposal as a "radical solution" to ease the pressure on the court system, jails and police stations, which are being overwhelmed daily with hundreds of people arrested on these warrants.

Bail System Overhaul
This week, a bill to overhaul California's bail system (Senate Bill 10 - Hertzberg) advanced out of a key fiscal committee with broad changes that would virtually eliminate the payment of money as a condition for release from jail.

Send VICA Your Nominations for the 2018 Harmon Ballin Community Service Award

VICA's Harmon Ballin Community Service Award annually honors an active VICA member who has made an outstanding contribution to our community through their long-term community service activities. A nominee is someone who:

1. Has been an active VICA member and is actively engaged in the organization currently
2. Has significant and long-term involvement in philanthropic and community/public serve organizations or a significant record in that area
3. Is a role model as a community leader
Education
As schools across the Los Angeles Unified School District opened their doors this week for the first day of school, recently hired Supt. Austin Beutner toured the nation's second-largest school system. Throughout the day, he sought to turn the focus to celebrating students, rather than fielding questions about the threat of a teacher's strike.

Marijuana Industry
State lawmakers shelved a proposal to allow the state to license private banks to handle the billions of dollars expected to be generated by the state's legal marijuana industry amid questions about the plan's feasibility.

Transit and Technology
Los Angeles County's rail system will be the first in the United States to deploy body scanners that can detect suicide vests and other improvised explosives. Later this year, Metro will deploy several portable scanners that can be moved to any of the system's 93 subway and light-rail stations. The devices will be used in response to terrorism threats, or to scan large crowds at a station near a protest or sporting event.

Join VICA's 2018 Board of Directors
VICA's 2019 Board of Directors nomination and selection process is underway, and we want your nominations! Board members must be able to attend regular board meetings and be prepared to vote on a wide variety of public policy issues. Board members must also attend regular committee meetings and VICA events. Additional responsibilities may include calling or writing lawmakers, attending press conferences, testifying, authoring editorials, interacting with top opinion leaders and more. For more information on the 2019 Board of Directors guidelines, click here.

If you or someone you know is interested in participating on the board in 2019, please click on the nomination form below and submit to Jessica@vica.com. If you don't want to serve on the board, but are interested in serving as a committee chair, please let us know that on the nomination form. Applications are due by Friday, August 31.

Committee Reports

Land Use Committee (08/14)
Hosted by The Garland
- Matt Glesne and Ashley Atkinson from the Los Angeles Department of City Planning presented to the committee on the Affordable Housing Linkage Fee Implementation and provided a progress report on Measure JJJ and Transit Oriented Communities.
- Jen Kim from the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office presented to the committee on the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative.
- The committee recommended to support the City of Los Angeles Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Ordinance if amended to allow ADU construction in hillside areas with standard streets or within a half-mile of transit.

Government Affairs Committee (08/15)
Sponsored by Dolphin Group
- Meredith Berkson, a consultant with Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office, updated the committee on programs, early results and spending from Measure H, the sales tax to provide supportive services for individuals experiencing homelessness.
- The committee recommended to oppose Charter Amendment B, which would open the door to a municipal bank in Los Angeles.
- The committee did not recommend a position for Proposition 2, which would allow mental health service revenue to fund a supportive housing bond, or Proposition 12, which would impact animal welfare standards for chickens, pigs and young cattle.
Member Messages:
Get Your Message in VICA Weekly!

VICA members can promote their business, events and news in VICA Weekly. Member messages are available for $50 per week or $175 for four weeks. Messages are text-based and may not contain more than 70 words. A logo may be added for an additional $5 per week. For more information or to schedule your member message, contact Helene@vica.com or call (818) 817-0545.

ABOUT VICA
Presenting the business perspective on behalf of employers in the San Fernando Valley cities of Los Angeles, Burbank, Glendale, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, San Fernando and Santa Clarita.

Read more about VICA at vica.com.

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