VICA Endorses Warner Center Shuttle, Says It Will Deliver on the Promises of Measure M

"Today we are here to celebrate this shuttle which is going to serve all of Warner Center and is going to be extremely valuable for so many people that live, work and play around here."

- VICA Immediate Past Chair Coby King

On Thursday, VICA President Stuart Waldman and VICA Immediate Past Chair Coby King (High Point Strategies, LLC) joined Councilmember Bob Blumenfield and Metro Senior Director of Services Scott Page at a press conference hosted by Metro in celebration of the new Warner Center shuttle.

VICA strongly endorses Metro's new Warner Center Shuttle. "For years, VICA has advocated for more resources for the Orange Line," Waldman said. "VICA made sure that dedicated funding for improvements to the Orange Line and its eventual conversion to light rail would be part of Metro's Measure M. Overall, these improvements will meet ridership demands and help the Valley stay on track as it builds a transit system fit for the twenty-first century."

The Warner Center Shuttle will begin operating on Sunday, June 24. It will increase the number of stops along Warner Center from one to 10 and will allow community members to connect to resources such as the Kaiser Permanente Woodland Hills Medical Center, Pierce College, Westfield Topanga and the Village, and the Warner Center Corporate Park.

Click here for more information on the Warner Center Shuttle.

Click here to read VICA's full statement on the Warner Center Shuttle.

Mayor Garcetti's Homeless Strategies Tsar
Christina Miller
Tuesday, July 17, 2018
3:00 - 4:30 p.m. at the VICA Office

Join VICA for a special Newsmaker Connection, as Senior Project Manager of Homeless Strategies Christina Miller talks about her work in alleviating the current homelessness crisis facing Los Angeles.

The event is free for VICA members. Non-members interested in attending, please contact Helene at the VICA office.
**Urging Senate Health to Oppose New Labeling Requirements and Lawsuits**

Next week, the Senate Health Committee will consider a bill that would mandate warning labels on many sugar-sweetened beverages sold in California. AB 1335 is arbitrary, as high-sugar beverages such as fruit juice and high-calorie milk-based products, such as flavored milks, lattes, milkshakes and mochas are exempt under the bill. This implies to consumers that the sugar in the specific beverages targeted by the bill is somehow more dangerous to consumers’ health than other sugary products. Singling out one group of products for warning labels misleads consumers and unfairly targets a specific industry, exposing them to lawsuits and fines.

**Send a letter by clicking here.**

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**Valley Rail Now!**

This Thursday, June 28, Metro staff will present its findings and recommendations to the Metro Board of Directors for the East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor Project. The Metro Planning and Programming Committee this week approved staff’s recommendation for light rail transit as the locally preferred alternative mode of transportation.

VICA and the Valley Coalition for Transit strongly support the staff recommendation to build this project as at-grade light rail transit with 14 stations.

Let Metro know that Light Rail Transit is the preferred option of Valley businesses and community members for the East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor.

**Click here to send a letter.**

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**Committee Reports**

**Government Affairs Committee (06/20)**

- The committee discussed four initiatives that have qualified for the November

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**Hot Issues**

**Education**

Lawmakers included $100 million in this year’s state budget to create an online community college that will offer certificate and credentialing programs. The plan was proposed by Gov. Brown and backed by California Community Colleges Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley.

**Housing**

The median price of a home in California hit a new milestone, surpassing $600,000 for the first time, nearly double the figure nationally. In the San Francisco Bay Area, the median price of a home is now over $1 million.

**OCTOBERT 26**

**Environment**

- The committee discussed new legislation to address climate change and the need for increased renewable energy production.

**Transportation**

The committee discussed upcoming transportation projects, including the expansion of light rail systems and the implementation of new ferry services.

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**Save the Date**

**Transportation Committee**

Tuesday, July 10
8 - 10 a.m.
The Garland
4222 Vineyard Ave., North Hollywood
Click here to RSVP

**New Member Breakfast**

Thursday, July 12
8:30 to 10 a.m.
VICA Office
16000 Sherman Way, Suite 170, Van Nuys
Click here to RSVP

**Newsmaker Connection with Christina Miller**

Tuesday, July 17
3 - 4:30 p.m.
VICA Office
16000 Sherman Way, Suite 170, Van Nuys
Click here to RSVP

**Government Affairs Committee**

Wednesday, July 18
Noon - 2 p.m.
VICA Office
16000 Sherman Way, Suite 170, Van Nuys
Click here to RSVP

**Leaders Forum with Austin Beutner**

Thursday, July 19
8:00 - 9:30 a.m.
Sportsmen’s Lodge, Starlight Room
12833 Ventura Blvd., Studio City
Click here to RSVP for VICA’s Leaders Forum!

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**VIEW FULL CALENDAR HERE**

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counties now have median home prices of more than a million dollars.

Labor & Employment
Airlines and railroads, claiming that the interstate nature of their business should make them exempt from state and local laws requiring private employers to offer paid sick days, have filed lawsuits in Washington and Massachusetts.

Press
The Los Angeles Times has a new owner, a new editor and, after years of upheaval, a new path forward. On the day that Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong completed his $500 million purchase of the 136-year-old newspaper, the L.A. biotech billionaire announced he was naming veteran journalist Norman Pearlstine as its executive editor.

Workforce Development
Although plenty of workers still move West each year for a new job in California, the state’s high cost of housing may be deterring many other job seekers from moving into the state. Business leaders say California’s expensive housing makes it challenging to recruit new workers - and to keep existing employees here.

2018 ballot, and recommended to support the Private-Sector Emergency Ambulance Labor Initiative.
- The committee recommended to oppose State Regulation of Kidney Dialysis Clinics, the Division of California into Three States proposal, and the Repeal of Costa-Hawkins (Rent Control).
- Terri Williams, Director of Environmental Health at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health joined the committee to discuss the department’s proposed fee increase.

Healthcare Committee
Hosted by Valley Presbyterian Hospital (06/21)
- The committee heard from Dr. Marc Eckstein, Medical Director for the Los Angeles Fire Department, on efforts by the department to improve paramedicine and patient care.
- In agreement with the Government Affairs committee, the Healthcare committee recommended to oppose the State Regulation of Kidney Dialysis Clinics ballot initiative.
- The committee recommended to support SB 1004 (Stern Wiener), which would help improve services for individuals experiencing mental illness.
- The committee recommended to support SB 1125 (Atkins), which would allow Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics to receive Medi-Cal reimbursement when they provide mental health services and medical services to a patient on the same day.

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.