

CITY MANAGER UPDATE

Horses, Parties and Social Media Misinformation

Greetings to all residents, businesses and visitors of the City of Jurupa Valley,

A few days prior to the April 28th Town Hall meeting, misinformation concerning horses and animal keeping in general was spread through anonymous flyers left door to door, and on social media. The misinformation spread stated that the City Council was going to eliminate horses and animal keeping from the City. This is patently false. The City Council has made it very clear that it is a priority of theirs' to maintain the equestrian and rural atmosphere that makes Jurupa Valley a great place to live and work. There are no plans whatsoever to eliminate horses and animal keeping in the currently authorized zones within the City, and City staff has not engaged in any activity to rezone any currently authorized zones where these animals are permitted and homes exist. Additionally, the City Council has never requested such actions be taken. The only zone changes that do occur are for property owners requesting zone changes on vacant land for development. And in every case, those development requests must go through environmental studies, and a public review and comment process at the Planning Commission and ultimately the City Council. But even those requests only affect the property owner's land and no one else's. As such, you can be rest assured that if someone tells you the City is doing away with horses or animal keeping, then they are giving you incorrect information.

With respect to parties being eliminated by the City, which was also a subject of the flyer, again false information being put forth with no basis of fact. The City has no desire to dissuade or disallow people to have parties to celebrate special occasions or enjoy good company with friends and relatives. And the City Council has certainly not even discussed, let alone passed an ordinance or given any direction to eliminate parties. However, there is a City Ordinance that was adopted from the original County Ordinance concerning regulations related to noise levels. Enforcement on noise does occur by the County Sheriff on a complaint driven basis. In other words, no one is driving the City looking for noise violations. The Sheriff only responds if it receives a complaint from a neighbor. Many of these complaints are for parties that greatly exceed the noise ordinance limits and also go late into the night. However, by complying with the noise ordinance limits, the parties are in no danger of even being visited by the Sheriff. In any event, don't be fooled by misinformation that the City is eliminating parties.

At the April 28th Town Hall meeting, your entire City Council made it very clear that these false rumors were completely untrue, and hopefully this issue has been put to rest.

Social media can be an effective tool in communicating activities and information in one's community. And most people use social media respectfully and appropriately, putting forth facts and not rumors. However, there are others that use social media to spread rumors and innuendos that have no basis in fact. Whether this is because they are misinformed, or have other ulterior motives to put out misinformation is unknown. Unfortunately, too often others read this and assume it is fact without actually checking or asking the questions directly. I strongly encourage everyone to always call or email

City Hall and get factual information whenever you hear or see of something on social media, through a door to door flyer, or any other source that has not been published by the City that concerns you.

Our annual budget process for the next fiscal year which starts July 1st is underway. A City Council Workshop to discuss the preliminary budget is scheduled for a Special Meeting on May 14th at City Hall. This Workshop is open to the public and we invite your attendance and comments on the preliminary budget. The formal adoption of next year's budget will be in June.

In conclusion, please be sure to contact City Hall for any questions you have concerning City functions, problems that need addressed, or assistance in activities you are engaged in requiring working with City Hall.

Sincerely,

Gary Thompson
City Manager