

Weekly Management Report May 13, 2016

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CITY OF BURBANK
Public Information Office
MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 15, 2016
TO: Ron Davis, Interim City Manager
FROM: Drew Sugars, Public Information Officer
SUBJECT: Future of The Burbank Channel on AT&T U-verse

INTRODUCTION

During the Council meeting on Tuesday, February 23, 2016, Council Member Dr. David Gordon inquired about the future of AT&T U-verse following the merger of AT&T and DirecTV. Dr. Gordon requested that City staff provide more information on the potential impact the merger might have on the City's ability to broadcast on U-verse Channel 99 and the possible impact on any AT&T utility boxes already in place within the City of Burbank.

BACKGROUND

On July 24, 2015, the Federal Communications Commission approved AT&T's \$48.5 billion acquisition of subscription satellite TV provider DirecTV. Combined, the two companies account for 26 million subscribers nationwide. In Burbank, there are an estimated 10,000 - 12,000 AT&T U-verse subscribers who, as part of their TV package, receive The Burbank Channel, the City's government television channel.

The Burbank Channel's primary programming is government meetings which are televised live and via rebroadcast on U-verse's Channel-99. The Burbank Channel is also carried on Charter Cable Channel 6 for subscribers of Charter Spectrum.

DISCUSSION

On February 16, 2016, Bloomberg News published a news article in which a financial analyst surmised that AT&T was beginning to phase out its U-verse product as it committed more resources to the future development of DirecTV. The article pointed to U-verse's loss of 240,000 subscribers in the last quarter of 2015, and DirecTV's addition of 214,000 subscribers, as evidence of shifting customer preference. In addition, the article claimed that AT&T had stopped building U-verse set-top

boxes as an example of AT&T's changing priorities. The article was picked up by multiple news organizations and redistributed throughout the nation.

Donovan Green serves as AT&T's Director of External Affairs for the Greater Los Angeles Area. According to Mr. Green, AT&T has no intention of eliminating its U-verse product, which is run via telephone line. He said that AT&T is fully committed to U-verse subscribers and will continue to invest in the upkeep and maintenance of U-verse equipment. However, he did acknowledge that the company would not be investing in any new technology for the telephone line TV service. Mr. Green said that U-verse and DirecTV offer different options for customers, which serve to compliment each other rather than create redundancy.

It should be noted that Mr. Green said that AT&T's commitment to DirecTV does not require any changes to AT&T's utility boxes currently in Burbank. In addition, he confirmed that DirecTV doesn't carry The Burbank Channel and has no plans to do so in the future.

CONCLUSION

In summation, it does not appear that AT&T will be eliminating its U-verse product in the next 1-5 years. However, it is possible that the number of U-verse subscribers will continue to drop, eventually challenging the service's financial viability. The Public Information Office will continue to monitor the situation and report to the City Manager any significant events or trends that may affect the future of U-verse in the Burbank community.

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memorandum

DATE: May 5, 2016

TO: Ron Davis, Interim City Manager

FROM: Patrick Prescott, Community Development Director 

SUBJECT: **Landlord-Tenant Commission Meeting – May 2, 2016**

- Commissioner Suzy Jacobs asked for an item to be placed on next month's agenda – "Additional Education and Resource Information" specifically geared toward tenants and rent increases. Staff will add this item to next month's agenda for discussion by the Commission, and possible action on additional public outreach efforts.
- A member of the public attended and submitted a Tenant Questionnaire for the Commission's review. The tenant received an unusual rent increase (close to a 40 percent rent increase), and requested the Commission's help in negotiating the rent increase with the Landlord. The Subcommittee will follow-up with the Landlord as requested and report back to the full Commission next month.
- A second member of the public stated she serves on the Senior Board, and attended the meeting for education and information purposes. This person also asked Landlord Tenant Commission members to submit a letter to the Senior Board (as members of the public, not the Commission), in support of the Senior Board's advocacy efforts for affordable housing for seniors. Staff reiterated that any advocacy efforts/letters the Landlord Tenant Commission members choose to do on their own time must be as members of the general public, not as a Landlord Tenant Commission member. The Landlord Tenant Commission should only provide input, suggestions and recommendations directly to the City Council.
- Staff mentioned that the City Attorney's Office and City Clerk's Office will be providing training to all Board and Commission members related to the Brown Act, and the duties and responsibilities of each Board and Commission. Staff handed out a copy of the latest Brown Act handbook to be discussed in greater detail during the upcoming training.

memorandum

DATE: May 9, 2016

TO: Ron Davis, Interim City Manager

FROM: Patrick Prescott, Community Development Director 

SUBJECT: **Downtown Burbank Partnership (P-BID) Meeting – May 5, 2016**

- Staff announced that as a part of the P-BID's goal to enhance capital improvements and maintenance in Downtown Burbank, new drought tolerant foliage was planted in the yellow pots along San Fernando. It was also announced that the P-BID's non-operational GEM Vehicle that was gifted to the organization through the Burbank Transportation Management Organization back in 2012 was sold for \$1,100. Finally, staff noted that the outstanding assessment fees from the Judicial Council for years 2011-2015 in the amount of \$25,423 was received.
- Representatives from Del Rey Properties presented the First Street Village Project to the Board. The proposed mixed-use development in Downtown Burbank will feature 261 units and approximately 18,000 square feet of retail space.
- Staff presented a proposal for a new event called "The Winter Wine Walk" produced by the California Beer Festival (the same company that produces the Burbank Beer Festival). The event would take place on November 19, 2016 in Downtown Burbank. The P-BID would not bear the cost of producing the event, but would support it through marketing and social media efforts. The Board approved The Winter Wine Walk event proposal.
- The Board discussed sending a letter of support for the renewal of the Burbank Hospitality Association to City Council in advance of the May 24th Resolution of Formation Meeting. The Board approved the letter of support, with two abstentions from the two Board members that are City staff.

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CITY OF BURBANK
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Important Updates for the Burbank City Council

May 13, 2016

Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget

The City of Burbank is getting ready to adopt its Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-17 Budget. Proposed budgets and budget study session materials were distributed on Wednesday, May 4. Budget materials are now available for review at the City Clerk's office, Financial Services Department, Burbank Library Branches and on the City of Burbank website, burbankca.gov. A dedicated City Council Budget Study Session to review the Proposed Budget was scheduled on Tuesday, May 10. The public hearing on utility rates will take place on Tuesday, May 24. The public hearing and adoption of the FY 2016-17 Citywide Annual Budget will take place on Tuesday, June 7.

RISE Burbank Graduation



Nearly 70 people attended the Residents Inspiring Service and Empowerment (RISE) Burbank graduation in the City Hall Council Chambers on Saturday, May 7. The RISE Class of 2016 included 18 diverse Burbank residents who participated in the 9-week program. The graduation featured two presentations regarding the class' community service project, which was assisting at the Spring Egg-stravaganza, and a class reflection from a fellow class member. A graduation video yearbook was presented, as well as an inspirational speech

from the ceremony's keynote speaker, Vice-Mayor Will Rogers. A small reception was held in the City Hall Rotunda immediately following the ceremony.

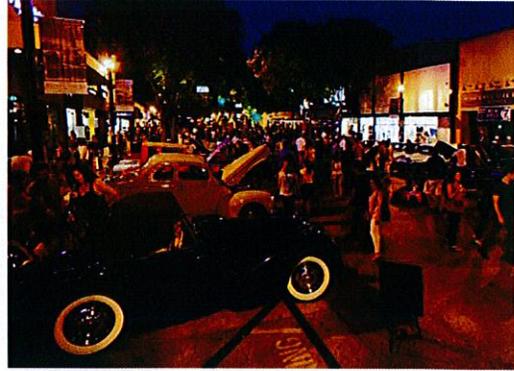
Service Ready for Summer Rush

With Summer break just around the corner, the City Clerk's fast and convenient service is helping travelers get one step closer to planning the perfect vacation. Routine processing times for passports are six weeks; expedited service for passports take three weeks, at an additional cost. Travelers are reminded that all original birth certificates, marriage certificates, and naturalization certificates must be submitted with the application. Originals are returned by mail from the U.S. Department of State upon the processing of the application.



Downtown Burbank Car Classic

The Fifth Annual Downtown Burbank Car Classic will be rolling into Downtown Burbank on Saturday, July 30, from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Presented by the Downtown Burbank Partnership, a non-profit organization, this event is an exciting showcase for custom, celebrity, exotics, classic cars, and motorcycles. There will be approximately 200 vehicles spanning four blocks, along with over 12,000 event attendees. In tune with Downtown Burbank's location in the heart of the entertainment industry, vehicles with a "Hollywood" twist are especially welcome - such as those appearing in film or television, or having a distinguished history of celebrity ownership. The show will stretch along San Fernando Boulevard and adjacent streets in Downtown Burbank's outdoor shopping-dining and entertainment district. Included will be family entertainment, music, vendor-booths and prizes. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit dtnbur.com.



Read with a Teen



This semester, members of Burbank High School Key Club have been volunteering at the Central Library twice each week, reading with elementary students in Grades 1 through 3. In Read with a Teen program, children get a chance to practice their reading skills with a patient, helpful teenager. Reading aloud helps improve confidence and pronunciation, and gives the young students a chance to spend time with some good role models.

Expression Swing

The Parks and Recreation Department recently installed The Expression Swing™ at Mountain View Park. Mountain View Park will serve as a test site to determine whether the Department will install additional swings at other locations. The Expression Swing™ promotes intergenerational play as adults and children, ages two to five, swing together. The face-to-face design features a bucket seat for children under five and a comfortable adult swing seat that allows a parent and child (or grandparent and grandchild) to interact with each other and experience one another's facial expressions while at play. Residents are currently being encouraged to try the new swing and offer their feedback on a survey posted on the City website.

