

**Upland City Council**  
League of Women Voters of the Claremont Area  
By Observer Cynthia Reul  
April 21, 2018

Council Members: Debbie Stone, Mayor: Carol Timm, Mayor Pro Tem:  
Gino Fillippi, Janice Elliott and Sid Robinson

City Manager: Bill R. Manis  
City Attorney: James L. Markman

This is my 7<sup>th</sup> year of observing the Upland City Council. I attended 15 meetings. The council is attentive and respectful to the citizens at the meetings. No Brown Act violations have been observed in open session.

Measure E passed overwhelmingly in a special election held June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017. It prohibits marijuana activities within the city limits. It includes cultivating, dispensing, transporting, distributing, manufacturing, processing, labeling and testing of marijuana and its products within the City limits. It does not apply to medical marijuana patients.

On July 22<sup>nd</sup> our city completed the annexation of our local fire department into San Bernardino County Fire. This will result in a \$150 parcel tax for the residents of Upland and the unincorporated area of San Antonio Heights. The transition has been smooth. Estimated savings to the city are 3.2 million dollars this fiscal year.

In January 2018, Council member Janice Elliott contacted the San Bernardino County District Attorney's office with a possible Brown Act violation that she believed occurred during a closed session meeting. After a five-month investigation and consultation with the city, the District Attorney's office decided not to pursue the matter further.

As a result of SB1-Transportation Funding (12cent gas tax), the city expects to receive 1.2 million dollars in the next 2 years for much needed road repairs. Streets to be repaired are listed on the city website for citizens to review.

The city has seen improvements to historic Euclid Avenue this past year. The trees have been trimmed and the road resurfaced. 16<sup>th</sup> Street (Baseline Rd.) has also been improved. Economic development in the area is progressing with a new shopping center and housing development to open this year. Our new Children's Reading Room has opened in the library this year funded by donations from the community. Plans are underway to also build a new "Friends of the Upland Library" bookstore at the library as well. We have replanted our rose garden at the Memorial Park, again with donations, and have begun rehabilitation and restoration of the park. The Council agreed that the management of our skate park will be handled internally by city staff on an interim six months basis. Our homeless count was 127. That is a reduction of 27% from previous years. The Homeless Restoration Team settled 50 people in 2017. Our Homeless Court allows people of limited means to pay fees/fines with community service hours.

We approved a water rate increase to handle overdue well repair and improvements to our aging water infrastructure.

In April, our city council decided to file an amicus brief in support of the City of Huntington Beach lawsuit against the California sanctuary state law (SB54).

Finally, in August 2017, our city council instituted and began enforcing Penal Code 403 (a misdemeanor). It prohibits individuals from demonstrating disruptive conduct during City council meetings that prevents the City Council from conducting its meeting in an orderly manner. The Council also restricted the oral communications that occur at the beginning of the meetings to cover only items on the agenda. Other issues from the public can be expressed in the oral communications that occur after the business of the meeting has been concluded. These two changes to the method of business conducted at the Upland City Council meetings have resulted in a meeting that efficiently conducts the business of the city, while still giving the citizens the opportunity to voice their concerns. Council meetings that routinely lasted until 11pm now generally conclude by 9:30 pm. I applaud the Council members for making these simple changes to the agenda.