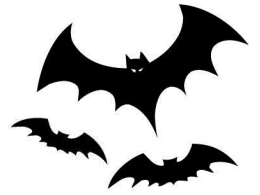




Ewa Monthly Report for October 2015 CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 9

Ewa, Ewa Beach, Mililani, Waikale, Waipahu, Village Park and Royal Kunia



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Message from Councilmember Ron Menor

Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

The Honolulu City Council held its full Council Meeting at Kapolei Hale this month. It was at this meeting that I had the privilege of presenting the City and County of Honolulu Department of Emergency Management with an Honorary Certificate recognizing the important work that they have been doing. The Department of Emergency Management and its director, Melvin Kaku, not only prepare emergency plans and procedures, but also dedicate a great deal of time to educating the community on how to better prepare for an impending disaster through events like the Get Ready Ewa Beach Emergency Preparedness Fair. They have been a major force in the organization of the extremely well-attended emergency preparedness fairs that have been happening around the island.

And speaking of safety, I have been asked periodically by constituents about the level of responsibility that residents have when it concerns the maintenance of City-owned trees. According to Department of Parks and Recreation Director Michele



Councilmember Menor and the City Council presented the Department of Emergency Management an Honorary Certificate at the October 7 Council Meeting at Kapolei Hale. Director Melvin N. Kaku (center) was on hand to accept the certificate.

Nekota, homeowners have a general responsibility to clean up any debris that has fallen from the trees but should not be doing any sort of pruning or cutting of trees. The pruning of City trees will be done by the City and is usually done as a safety precaution. Residents may call 971-7151 to report trees in need of pruning.

The American Red Cross (ARC), Honolulu Fire Department, and area partners are currently sponsoring a program that would provide free smoke alarms for seniors. The Red Cross Home Fire Preparedness Cam-

paign's goal is to reduce home fire fatalities by installing smoke alarms and teaching residents how to test their alarms monthly. They will also help you to create and practice a fire escape plan. If you would like to be a part of this free program, please call the ARC at 739-8111 and leave a message. They will call you back to schedule an appointment.

In other news, I had the privilege to attend the September 12th Walk Like MADD fundraising event which was held at Ala Moana Shopping Center.

The event was highly successful as MADD surpassed their fundraising goal of \$50,000. Congratulations to all of the organizers as well as the participants!

In closing, thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your councilmember. If you need assistance, please contact me at 768-5009 or via email at rmenor@honolulu.gov. Also, log on to: www.facebook.com/RonMenorHawaii for more details about my activities as your councilmember.

Tax Relief for Businesses

The City Council has been examining ways to assist businesses negatively impacted by the rail construction. At the October 7th meeting of the City Council, Bill 67 (2015) CD1 passed its second reading. The legislation would give a tax exemption on real property taxes if the owner can prove that their annual gross income has been significantly affected by the rail construction.

The Council also approved Resolution 15-245 CD1 urging the State to provide tax relief to businesses negatively impacted by the rail construction. The resolution advocates temporary relief from the State's general excise tax.

Happenings at the Council



Councilmember Menor and Mayor Caldwell at the bill signing press conference for the accessory dwelling unit (ADU) legislation allowing homeowners to build an additional housing unit on their property.

Affordable Rental Housing Leases

Councilmember Menor introduced Bill 55 (2015) to facilitate the rehabilitation and preservation of existing affordable housing projects by allowing the extension of ground leases on property of the City and County of Honolulu for up to 75 years.

The current ordinance does not allow a lease extension for affordable housing, thereby discouraging new investment in the property and more importantly the ability to preserve existing affordable rental inventory. At the October 7th Council Meeting at Kapolei Hale, Bill 55 (2015) CD2 was approved by the City Council and goes to the Mayor for his signature.

Update on Community Concerns

West Loch Golf Course Flooding

Councilmember Menor sent a Request for Investigation & Service Report (RISR) on behalf of a constituent who complained about rain runoff coming from the West Loch Golf Course that was causing flooding on Laulaunui Lane. The RISR was assigned to the Department of Design and Construction and the Department of Enterprise Services. Councilmember Menor will continue to monitor this situation and will provide any further updates.

Feral Chicken Eradication

A constituent has voiced concerns about feral chickens near West Loch Golf Course. The City has been working with Sandwich Isles Pest Solutions to eradicate the chickens and their habitats. This is an ongoing issue that will not be remedied right away but progress is being made. Councilmember Menor will continue to monitor this situation and will provide the necessary updates.

Affordable Housing Update

As Chair of the Council Committee on Public Health, Safety & Welfare, Councilmember Menor placed two items on the committee's agenda: (1) Section 8 housing vouchers and (2) Partners in Care addressing homelessness.

The Housing Choice Voucher Program, commonly known as Section 8, is a federally-funded rental subsidy program and is one of the most effective ways of providing affordable housing to people in need. The committee looked at the effectiveness of the City's program and possible ways to make improvements.

Partners in Care is a coalition of representatives from organizations including nonprofit homeless providers, government stakeholders, private businesses, community advocates, public housing agencies, hospitals, universities, affordable housing developers, law enforce-

ment, and homeless and formerly homeless persons.

Partners in Care is a planning, coordinating, and advocacy alliance that develops recommendations for programs and services to fill needs with Oahu's continuum of care for homeless persons. The committee's discussion focused on better coordinating government's response to the growing homeless population on Oahu.

Scott Morishige, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness, appeared at a special meeting of the City Council. He indicated that the overall strategy to address homeless encampments is for social service providers to assess needs, encourage relocation to appropriate shelters and provide services. Over the short and long-term, there is a need to develop more shelters and permanent supportive housing.

Upcoming Meetings

Committee Meetings

Council committee meetings will be held at Honolulu Hale, Room 205, as follows:

Tuesday, October 20, 2015

- Public Health, Safety & Welfare: 9 am
- Parks, Cmty & Customer Svcs: 10:30 am
- Executive Matters & Legal Affairs: 1 pm

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

- Budget: 9 am
- Pub Works, Infra, & Sustainability: 1 pm

Thursday, October 22, 2015

- Zoning & Planning: 9 am
- Transportation: 1 pm
- Business, Econ Dev & Tourism: 2:30 pm

Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Honolulu Hale, 530 South King Street
Third Floor Council Chambers

- Meeting begins at 10 am

Useful City Contact Information

- For concerns regarding refuse collection and bulky items:
 - ⇒ Pearl City baseyard (Waipahu, Ewa, Waipio Gentry, Royal Kunia, Halawa to Makakilo, Kapolei): 455-9644
- To dispose of household trash and residential waste material: 226-2996 (Ewa Convenience Center)
- To report an abandoned vehicle: 733-2530
- To report a pothole: 768-7777 (City street) or 536-7852 (State road) or email: www1.honolulu.gov/dfm/road/pothole.htm
- To file a complaint with the City's complaint office: 768-4381 or email: complaints@honolulu.gov
- To report sidewalks that are cracked or uplifted: 768-8159
- For concerns regarding park maintenance: 675-6030
- For concerns regarding bus and handivan operations: 768-8300
- For concerns regarding motor vehicle registration and drivers' licensing: 532-4324 or 532-4325
- Barking dogs: HPD (911) or the Hawaiian Humane Society (946-2187)
- Crowing roosters: 799-7791
- For complaints regarding public trees: 971-7151
- For complaints regarding satellite city halls: 532-7747
- For permits at City campgrounds: 768-3440
- For updates/ traffic advisories on Honolulu's rail transit project: 566-2299

OUT 'N ABOUT IN THE COMMUNITY



(A) (L-R) Larry Price, Department of Emergency Management Director Melvin N. Kaku, American Red Cross Hawaii State Chapter CEO Coralie Chun Matayoshi, Councilmember Menor, and Michael W. Perry at the KSSK Perry and Price Morning Show to promote the Millilani Emergency Preparedness Fair. **(B)** Councilmember Menor, Councilmember Pine, Department of Parks and Recreation Director Michele Nekota, and Lions Club member Kurt Fevella at the One'ula Beach Park Community Care Project on September 26th. **(C)** (L-R) Senator Clarence Nishihara, Councilmember Menor, Jasmine Tanioka, Wendy Golz, and Councilmember Carol Fukunaga at the October 7th City Council Meeting where Tanioka's Seafoods and Catering was honored. **(D)** (L-R) Members from the Honolulu Community Action Program, which provides important services to Ewa and other communities, were recognized in honor of the program's 50th anniversary at the October 7th Council Meeting. Pictured from left are Lynn Cabato, Councilmember Menor, Robert Piper, and Robert Naniole. **(E)** Councilmember Menor with MADD Founder Carol McNamee at the September 12th Walk Like MADD fundraising event.