

Taxi Driver Regulation

There has been a great deal of attention from the media about the City's regulation of taxicab drivers on Oahu. Recent articles in the Star-Advertiser about taxicab driver Enio Tablas, who has been charged with sexually assaulting two female passengers, underscore the need for greater oversight.

In this regard, as Chair of the City Council committee that has jurisdiction over public safety issues, Councilmember Menor is in the process of drafting legislation that would tighten regulations on Oahu taxicab drivers. These measures could include:

- Strengthening background checks of applicants for taxicab driver certificates. The current regulations require only a two year background check limited to offenses in Hawaii. This is why Tablas was able to pass the City's taxi driver criminal background screening in spite of the fact that since 2006, he had been convicted of several crimes in California and Hawaii. Councilmember Menor will be proposing that criminal background checks be extended to a 10-year nationwide database search;

Homeless Issues Update

As the Chair of the City Council's Public Health, Safety and Welfare Committee, Councilmember Menor, as well as members of the committee, continue to work to address the issue of homelessness on Oahu. The committee passed the following resolutions at their October committee meeting which were subsequently approved by the full Council at its regular Council Meeting.

Resolution 15-283 urges the City Administration to move forward expediently with Honolulu's Housing First Program by investing in more housing inventory options, enlarging program contracts to target greater numbers of chronically homeless people, and making the placement of families a priority.

Resolution 15-281 CD1 requests the City Auditor to conduct a performance audit of the City's Section 8 tenant-based assistance Program.

Update on Community Concerns

West Loch Bike Path

The City has agreed to assume ownership of a portion of the West Loch bike path that has long been under the ownership of the West Loch Fairways Association. The Association had previously attempted to turn over ownership to the City due to liability concerns. The City is currently finalizing a Memorandum of Agreement for the parties to sign to effectuate the transfer.

- Clarifying the authority of the Director of the Department of Customer Services, which oversees regulation of taxicabs, to be able to suspend the certificate of a cab driver who has been charged with a serious offense. Under present law, the Director can suspend or revoke a certificate only if a taxicab driver has been convicted of an offense. This is a loophole in the law that allows Tablas to continue operating a taxicab while awaiting trial on the sexual assault charges;

- Computerizing all taxi driver records; and
- Implementing mandatory random drug screening of taxi drivers.

These changes in regulations would be a significant overhaul of the process that taxicab drivers must follow to obtain their certificates and would help to increase public safety. Councilmember Menor will continue to work on this issue and will provide updates on any legislative changes.

Resolution 15-268 CD1, FD1 requests that the City administration, after consultation with the Urban Rest Stop Program, or programs in other municipalities, and local hygiene service providers, report to the Council on the feasibility of establishing hygiene centers in the Mapunapuna area for homeless persons. The resolution also requests that a pilot program be undertaken to operate such a center.

Resolution 15-282 requests that the administration consider the use of ambuluses to provide mobile health services to the homeless.

Resolution 15-284 urges the Hawaii State Legislature to appropriate sufficient funds to ensure that the public housing rental units currently offline are renovated to meet the shortage of affordable housing in Honolulu.

Ewa Villages Manager's Mansion

The City Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) responded to concerns regarding trees at the Manager's Mansion. They stated that the trees are in good condition and due to recent rains will remain that way for an extended time. DFM is considering several irrigation options for the Ewa Villages area including the Manager's Mansion which does not currently have water service. Councilmember Menor will provide any needed updates.

Upcoming Meetings

Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 9
Honolulu Hale, Third Floor Council Chambers

- Morning Session: 9 am
- Afternoon Session: 1:30 pm

Committee Meetings

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

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

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

- Budget: 9 am
- Public Works, Infra & Sustainability: **Rescheduled for Thursday**

Thursday, November 19, 2015

- Zoning & Planning: 9 am
- **Public Works, Infra, & Sustainability: 1 pm**
- Business, Econ Dev & Tourism: 2:30 pm

Useful Contact Info

- For concerns regarding refuse collection and bulky items:
 - ⇒ Wahiawa baseyard (Kunia Camp, Mililani, Waipio Acres): 768-3200
- Where 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, uplifted or obstructed: 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)
- 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



Ewa Monthly Report for November 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,

Yesterday, our nation celebrated Veterans Day. I would like to thank all of our veterans for the many sacrifices they have made in serving our country. Yesterday morning, I marched in the 69th annual Veterans Day Parade that was hosted by the Wahiawa Lions Club. This is an event that I make a point of attending every year to honor the commitment and service of our veterans.

The Ewa Beach community recently came together to celebrate the life of Uncle Henry Chang Wo Jr. Uncle Henry was a fixture in the Ewa Beach community and this loss will be felt by many. During the October 29th memorial service, his family, many friends, and residents of Ewa Beach remembered Uncle Henry and the important work he did to revitalize the limu of the Ewa Beach shoreline. I was honored to present his family with an honorary certificate from the City Council noting Uncle Henry's many contributions to Ewa Beach and its limu.

Also deserving of mention is Ewa Makai Middle School. On Friday, I will be presenting honorary certificates at an awards assembly to honor the school and a few outstanding individuals. The Strive HI Awards Program recognized the Ewa Makai Middle School P.E. Department for their work to utilize technology in their coursework. Teachers Gregg Agena, Scott Yorimoto, and Jan Combs received the Team Excellence Award of Merit for their work. Custodian Carlos Dias was also honored by receiving the Sustained Superior Performance Award. Ewa Makai Middle School's faculty and staff do a phenomenal job in preparing our children for success. Their exemplary work was recently recognized by Noodle, an educational website that recognized Ewa Makai as being among the most innovative schools in the nation. Congratulations to Principal Ed Oshiro and all of his faculty and staff for this accomplishment!

This past Saturday, I also made a point to



Councilmember Menor marched in the 69th Annual Wahiawa Lions Club Veterans Day Parade. Councilmember Menor joined members of the Lions Club, First Circuit Court Judge Ed Kubo (far right), and many others at the parade.

attend the Mililani High School Trojan Bandfest. Our very own James Campbell High School marching band performed very well and I was extremely proud to watch them. I would also like to extend my congratulations and best wishes to the Campbell marching band as they prepare for a trip to Japan where they will be performing next year. At the City Council's November 4th Council Meeting, the Council presented an honorary certificate to the Hawaiian Railway Society for their work in preserving the rail lines of the Leeward Coast. The Society has restored approximately 6.5 miles of track and also refurbished a number of locomotives and rail cars. A warm mahalo to them for their work in preserving a rich part of Hawaii's history.

Also honored at the November 4th Council Meeting was the Oahu Filipino Catholic Club. The Council presented the club with an honorary certificate recognizing the club's initiatives in providing children with the opportunities to receive an education

through the club's scholarship efforts. Several members of the Our Lady of Perpetual Help congregation, who belong to the Catholic Club, were in attendance.

Finally, the City Council's Committee on Zoning and Planning has scheduled a special meeting for this Monday, November 16, at 6 p.m. at Kapolei Hale to consider issues relating to the Hoakalei Master Plan Update.

In closing, I would like to wish you and your family a very Happy Thanksgiving. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your councilmember. If you have any concerns to share or if you need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me at 768-5009 or via email at rmenor@honolulu.gov. To learn more about my latest activities as your City Councilmember, please log on to: www.facebook.com/RonMenorHawaii. Mahalo.

OUT 'N ABOUT IN THE COMMUNITY



Councilmember Menor with Honolulu Police Department officers at the November 7th Leeward Discovery Fair at Leeward Community College. Councilmember Menor handed out lunches to volunteers at the event.



(L to R) Councilmember Menor, Frances Rivero of the Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii, and Debbie Luning, a Weed and Seed supporter.



Councilmember Menor with HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union President and CEO Karl Yoneshige at the grand opening of their new Ewa branch on October 17th.



Councilmember Menor addressing the crowd at HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union's grand opening event at their new Ewa location. Councilmember Menor presented the branch with an honorary certificate on behalf of the City Council.



Councilmember Menor and Councilmember Pine presented Hawaiian Railway Society member Steven Wendt with an honorary certificate at the City Council's November 4th meeting.



The Honolulu City Council honored the Oahu Filipino Catholic Club, which includes Ewa Beach church members, for their work to provide students with scholarship funds.

OUT 'N ABOUT IN THE COMMUNITY



Councilmember Menor (far right), along with Councilmember Elefante and Senator Nishihara (2nd and 3rd from right, Council Chair Ernie Martin (far left), and Lieutenant Governor Shan Tsutsui (2nd from left) participated in the October 8th Men's March Against Violence.



Councilmember Menor and students from the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps gathered additional signatures on a petition for the City to install traffic calming measures on Hanakahi Street.



The James Campbell High School (JCHS) marching band performing at the November 7th Mililani High School Trojan Bandfest which Councilmember Menor attended.



The JCHS marching band shines, rendering an impressive performance. Great job, Sabers!



JCHS Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) members at the 69th Annual Wahiawa Lions Club Veterans Day Parade. The unit was recognized as the best JROTC marching unit in the parade.



Councilmember Menor with Campbell NJROTC members. The students are seen here accepting an award for being the best JROTC marching unit in the Wahiawa Veterans Day Parade.