



THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 21, 2024

DIGITALLY FREE
No print delivery.

Santenero

Thursday Leaflet

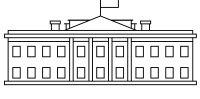
Vol. III, No. 19

©2024 Santenero Media Group, The Santenero.

SANTA ANA, CALIF.

santenero.org

Newsbrief



WASHINGTON D.C. — President-elect Donald Trump may struggle to get some members of his upcoming administration confirmed by the Senate. He has tapped celebrities and predator to federal clearance positions.



Santa Ana High School teacher was arrested last Friday after allegedly having sex with 17-year old senior for six months. SAPD says 37 year-old Yessenia Garcia was booked for several sexual assault charges.



The Orange County Board of Supervisors is planning to enforce stricter rules when it comes to money resulting from the fallout of Andrew Do's scandal.

Do pled guilty to intentionally stealing COVID-19 monies from the government for personal gain and has since resigned his position for area one.



Members of the City Council and Acting Police Chief David Rodriguez (middle-top) and City Manager Alvaro Nuñez (middle-bottom).

Council tables revising ordinances on homelessness

BY DANIEL DIAZ

CITY HALL — The Council voted 6-1 on Tuesday to table taking action on Item 32, a proposal that, if approved, would amend ordinances to update regulations concerning unhoused individuals on public property. Councilmember Benjamin Vazquez was the sole dissenting vote.

The one hour and 33 minute discussion strayed further away from compromise and into turbulent waters, leading to several members on the dais vehemently disagreeing on the issue. Mayor Valerie Amezcuca and Councilmembers Phil

Bacerra and David Penalzoza agreed amongst eachother than the item be passed as written, while Council members That Viet Phan, Vazquez, Jessie Lopez, and Johnathan Ryan Hernandez voiced opposition to language in the proposed revisions.

Hernandez pointed out that the City of Santa Ana maintains a the Navigation shelter with 200 beds and the City's point-in-time dashboard. During the meeting, he explained that five beds were left available and lead to him to ask one of the main questions not just on the City's plan to tackle homelessness, but on the minds of most residents:

Where will the unhoused go once all the beds are full?

According to City Manager Alvaro Nuñez, once that one becomes full, they're referred to the county's shelter—also located in Santa Ana—that beds 425, called the Yale Navigation Center, it is not a walk-up and the ways in or out are to be referred in and is 18+. The eight revisions to four City Charter chapters in-line with police enforcing the codes regarding homelessness would alter the way police interact with unhoused individuals, depending if the officer can decipher who's actually homeless or not and if the officer offers services and

resources to them.

The City and Olive Crest broke ground in September for the upcoming transitional-aged foster youth apartment complex, opening up in the coming months.

Of the many complexities with homelessness, another factor is the large amount of unhoused individuals rejected by shelters due to restrictions set by the entity or its organization running the shelter. Restrictions may involve pets, personal belongings, and drug-use.

Because Santa Ana is the county seat, the County of Orange likely selected Santa Ana to host its shelter. SEE A2

Calendar

21 Resumé Bldg. Wrkshp.
801 W. Civic Ctr. Ste 200
10-11 AM (RSVP)
W. Bussey St. Topper Cele.
Walnut/Pacific Ave.
11 AM-12 PM
Planning/Bldg. Closure
City Hall
12-3 PM
Zoning Cde. Bns. Update
Bowers Museum
5-6:30 PM

23 Auth: Donato Martinez
Newhope Library
8:30 AM-10 AM
Plaza Navideña
Plaza Calle Cuarto
5-8 PM

25 Planning Comm. Mtg.
Council Chambers
5:30-8 PM

3 City Council Meeting
Council Chambers
5:00-11 PM

Stay tuned to see how to add your event.

Council spars during proposed apology to Edgar Vargas' family

BY DANIEL DIAZ

CITY HALL — The Council threw jabs at eachother Tuesday while discussing to give direction to City staff to draft a resolution apologizing to the family of Edgar Vargas-Azarte. Olivia Azarte, mother of Vargas, became tearful and

choked up while speaking during public comments, pleading for the City to give the family closure.

"My name is Olivia Azarte. I am a resident of Santa Ana, ward three for more than 22 years. Tonight is a very important night for me and for my family. My

comment is about the point in Item 36 in memory of my son Edgar Vargas who passed away two years ago.

Sorry... In memory of his struggle with the mental health condition he was suffering from the age of the 14 when he was diagnosed with a mental ill-

-ness with which we had to learn to live with. This was not easy for him, let alone for his family. Because, I share with you that those with diagnosed mental conditions, all family members live through it.

Sorry... In the same way, I share to you that we SEE A2

Weather

Source: Nat'l Weather Service

FRI	SAT	SUN
70° F 44° F	63° F 49° F	67° F 54° F

Online & Coming Soon

* Council upholds CPU for Maharajah House; divided neighbors speak, some with racial undertones

* Two parks, two great futures: Artesia Pilar & Gerardo Mouet Park in Cobblestone embark new journeys

* The Amezcuca Report: Questions remains despite City releasing investigative report clearing Mayor

* City lights up, ready for the holidays; tree lighting and more events ahead this winter season



Support your community by buying local.



Council spars during proposed apology to Edgar Vargas' family



CONT'D FROM A1

are a working family, and responsible, that over the years, has contributed to the Santa Ana community. I have volunteered in different organizations, and I am always willing to extend my hand to those in need.

Edgar was not a troubled young man, he was a young man full of dreams and illusions, but the condition was progressing, and with it, his place in the community, in which the system which still does not know how to integrate a person with this type of diagnosis.

Edgar was never aggressive with anyone, and those who knew him know that he was respectful and grateful. Mental illness was consuming and complicated with the lack of resources for being undocumented. Also, the excuse was that he was already an adult... Thank you."

Benjamin Vazquez brought the item forward and ask his counterparts to join him in issuing a formal apology to the family. Some mem-

-bers on the dais took it as a threat to the image of the police department.

"Edgar Vargas deserves to be alive, to be with his family. I want to send my condolences to his mother and to his loved ones and their demands for justice. Justice for the Vargas family. May this decision we're making today move our city closer to our residents and move us in the direction of preserving human live," said Councilmember Johnathan Ryan Hernandez.

Amezcuca asked City Attorney to confirm if the matter was closed by saying if litigation had obviously concluded. She also mentioned a recent sexual assault matter that occurred at Santa Ana High School involving a teacher and a student to dilute the police beating.

"I can't support this, I think this should go to the Police Oversight Commission, that's, you know, what they're for. I also don't want to come back and every single meeting because

certain Councilmembers want to attack our police department every single meeting and have- we're gonna start with one apology and we're gonna work our way through however many they want to bring up... My concludes to the family, there are bad officers, there's bad doctors, bad lawyers, bad teachers... I would just say that I don't want to open us up to more. And if we do this, that's exactly—in my humble opinion—what will happen," said Mayor Valerie Amezcua.

Mayor Pro Tem Thai Viet Phan explained that apologizing this time around isn't "opening up a can of worms" as suggested by Amezcua.

"What this is to me is holding ourselves accountable for the wrongdoing that took place, whether or not we as individuals are responsible. The City Council, the City of Santa Ana issued an apology for the burning of Chinatown, a crime in my opinion that took place over

100 years ago," said Phan. "I don't think that holding ourselves accountable for something that this City that someone did, under color of law, that someone did while in uniform, wearing our seal, our patch, is attacking any person. Because what we're saying is that the City of Santa Ana is willing to uplift and honor anyone who is willing to serve the public but also willing to hold eachother accountable when we do something wrong."

Councilmember Penalzoza, also POA-backed and funded campaign-wise, said he is supportive of the item as long as the final resolution blames the officials from that time.

"I don't know what the language in the resolution will be so I won't say right now if I support the resolution, but I am comfortable with having something come back and give the mother... some peace of mind and comforting. My condolences to her for the loss of her son."

Councilmember Phil Bacerra pivoted to the number of vacant police department positions and that Vargas could've asked for an apology when settling in 2016. He was the only Councilmember that did not publicly offer condolences to the family and rather reminded them by saying the apology wouldn't bring him back.

Vazquez replied to members defending the police department saying his intent was not to paint the department as disparaging, but to move forward positively.

Councilmember Jessie Lopez addressed the divisiveness between members on the dais then Mayor Amezcua vehemently defended her position, adding the apology would not bring back Vargas.

In a 5-2 vote, the Council is expected to present a resolution that formally apologizes to the Vargas family at a later meeting. Amezcua and Bacerra voted in opposition.

Council tables revising ordinances on homelessness

CONT'D FROM A1

Another possibility for the quick and visual surge in homeless population in Santa Ana is surrounding cities 'bussing' detained unhoused individuals to Santa Ana jail, releasing

them in the early morning hours. Other cities have also jumped on the issue early on, banning encampments months to weeks ago.

The city shelter, county shelter, and jail system being all in Santa Ana leads to a trifecta of visibly

rampant and active homelessness, meaning the demand for beds may increase with time and be higher than what is available.

The Council is expected to touch back on this item on Dec. 17th.

When your friend hasn't subscribed to newsletter, but you inform anyway.

santanero.org/subscribe

Our Staff

Daniel Diaz Co-Founder & Publisher
Editor-in-Chief (2022-)
Community Reporter
Advertising Director
A1-Op-Ed Designer
Website Editor
Photographer

Lucia Yletzara González Co-Founder

Newspaper Notice

The Santanero newspaper is independently created and is not endorsed, sponsored or affiliated with the City of Santa Ana, Santa Ana Unified School District and other ranking officials or departments.

Print Notices

The Santanero was produced digitally via Canva.

Articles were written in English and translated to Spanish and Vietnamese by Google Translate language models whenever possible. In this edition, the language is English.

All stories herein were published/written/edited before or on Thursday morning 5:00 AM, November 21, 2024 by upload time and information may be different or outdated when published online Thursday morning, November 21, 2024 at 6:00 AM local time.

E-editions can be located on our website for free without a subscription, login, or paywall. Due to increasing costs of paper distribution, The Santanero no longer will print issues for the foreseeable future. The newspaper thanks all of our subscribers and welcomes all to subscribe to The Morning Digest newsletter on our website for free.

Advertisements do not mean endorsement or sponsorship of any product and any questions regarding an advertisement product that is printed on one of The Santanero's editions should be directed to the company or advertisement holder.

Getting in Touch

If you spot an error on this newspaper and you would like to send in a correction report, please email Corrections at news@santanero.org and on the subject line write: "ATTN: Corrections" and we'll respond within 48 hours.

Daniel Diaz is the primary person to get in contact with regarding pretty much anything on this newspaper. His email is ddiaz@santanero.org.

There is no circulation department as The Santanero is not available for delivery. If you have issues with our newsletter delivery or continue to receive emails you have opted out of, please contact Daniel Diaz.

For advertising: santanero.org/ads
News-stories/Opinion submissions: santanero.org/submit

Copyright

All content produced in this newspaper is protected by copyright, except for images and logos as they have their respective copyright owners and only appears for use of news-reporting. The Santanero, El Santanero (Spanish presence), its logos are property of Santanero Media Group.

©2024 The Santanero/El Santanero. All rights reserved.