

City of Garden Grove
WEEKLY CITY MANAGER'S MEMO
November 6, 2025, 2025

TO: Honorable Mayor and City
Council Members

FROM: Lisa Kim
City Manager

I. DEPARTMENT ITEMS

A. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

A memo to present the FY 2025-2026 1st Quarter Data Dashboard for the Central Cities Navigation Center is attached.

B. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

A memo about the launch of the Upwards Family Child Care Home Education Network (FCCHEN) Program, a subsidized child care initiative designed to support working families and those with specific care needs in Orange County is attached.

C. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

A memo to provide an update on the Business Retention and Expansion meetings conducted in September and October 2025 is attached.

• OTHER ITEMS

– **SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES**

Copies of the week's social media posts and local newspaper articles are attached for your information.

– **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

Items of interest are included.



Lisa Kim
City Manager

City of Garden Grove

INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

To:	Lisa L. Kim	From:	Ursula Luna-Reynosa
Dept:	City Manager	Dept:	Economic Development and Housing
Subject:	CCNC DATA DASHBOARD 1 ST QUARTER FY 2025-26	Date:	November 6, 2025

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this memorandum is to present the FY 2025–26 1st Quarter Data Dashboard for the Central Cities Navigation Center (CCNC).

DISCUSSION

The CCNC Data Dashboard was developed in partnership with the Tri-Cities partners and serves as a visual tool to track service outcomes, client demographics, and progress toward permanent housing. This initiative fulfills a major Action Item under Goal #1 (“Enhance Communication and Community Engagement”) of the City’s Homelessness Strategy Action Plan for FY 2025–26, which identifies the development of a public-facing data dashboard by March 31, 2026.

The dashboard represents the Tri-Cities’ continued commitment to transparency and data-driven decision-making in addressing homelessness. It consolidates operational data from June 2024 (program inception) through the end of the 1st quarter of FY 2025–26 (September 25, 2025). The dashboard includes resident demographics, income sources, housing search status, referrals to services, and housing outcomes. The dashboard will be updated quarterly and distributed to Tri-Cities stakeholders to support data-informed decisions regarding service delivery and resource allocation.

Since its inception in June 2024, the CCNC has served 349 individuals, including 4 veterans and 60 seniors aged 55 and older. During the 1st Quarter of FY 2025-26, 22 residents were successfully housed, representing 42% of all housing placements to date and a marked increase from previous quarters. A total of 52 residents have been successfully housed since June 2024, accounting for roughly 15% of all clients served, which aligns with industry benchmarks.

Family reunification exits decreased slightly, with 2 recorded during the quarter, suggesting a potential area for expanded coordination among case managers. Employment and income levels remain a challenge: 55 residents reported no income, while 22 residents reported some form of employment or benefits. Service referrals remain strong, with 28 referrals made this quarter, primarily for employment and housing navigation support.

Males continue to represent the majority (70%) of residents served, with consistent representation from older adults. The number of seniors accessing services remains steady, underscoring the continued need for supportive services for the aging population. Additionally, while service referrals remain robust, limited engagement with behavioral health and recovery programs suggests opportunities for deeper collaboration in those areas.

NEXT STEPS

- Collaborate with the Information Technology Department and Tri-Cities to prepare the dashboard for web publication by Q3 FY 2025–26.
- Continue collecting and analyzing quarterly data to identify emerging trends and performance gaps.
- Integrate dashboard highlights into Tri-Cities and City Council updates to support ongoing community engagement.

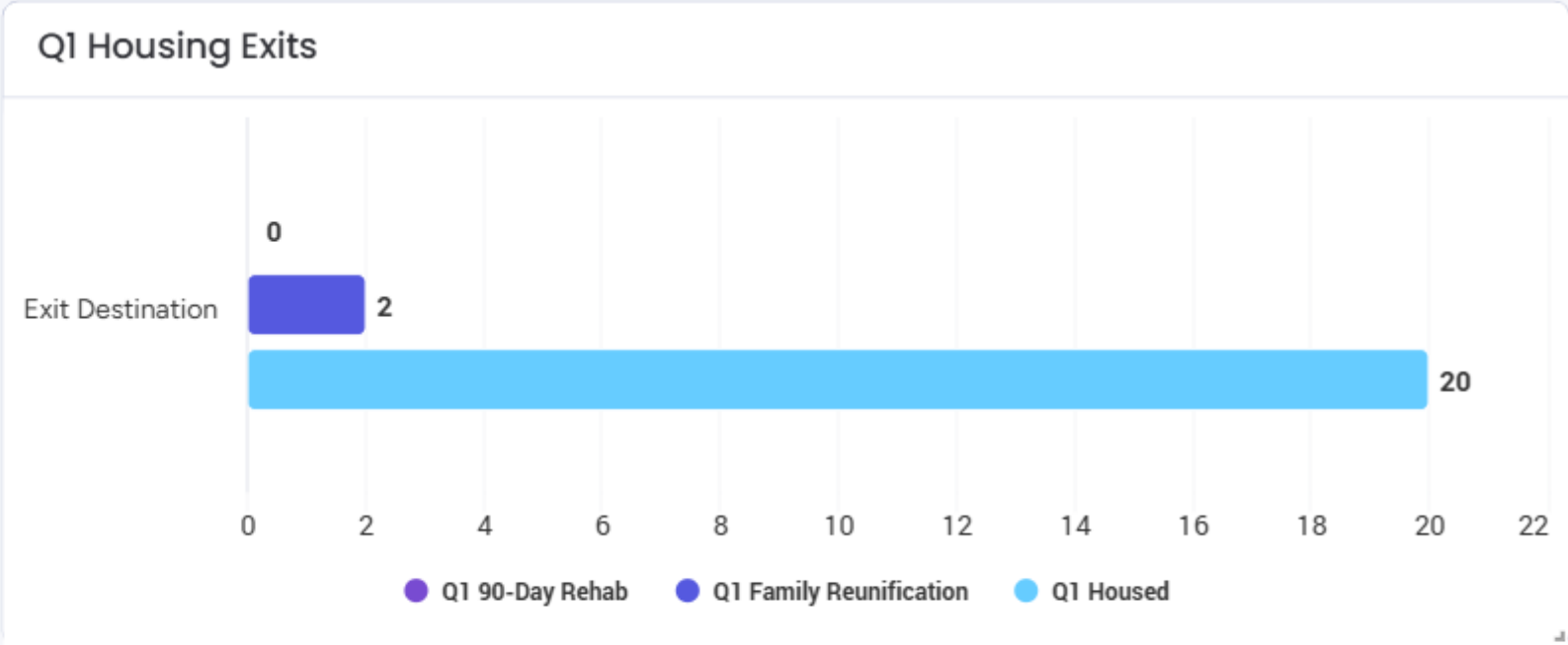
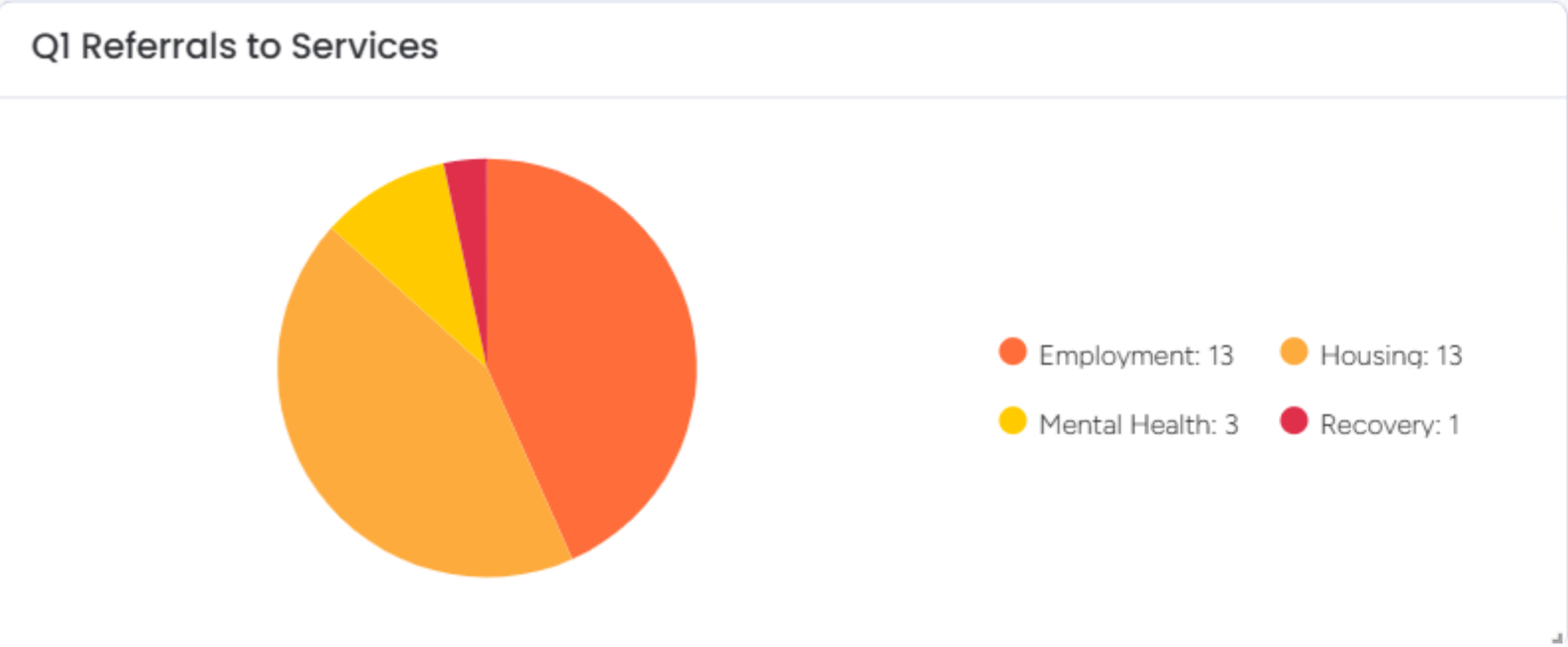
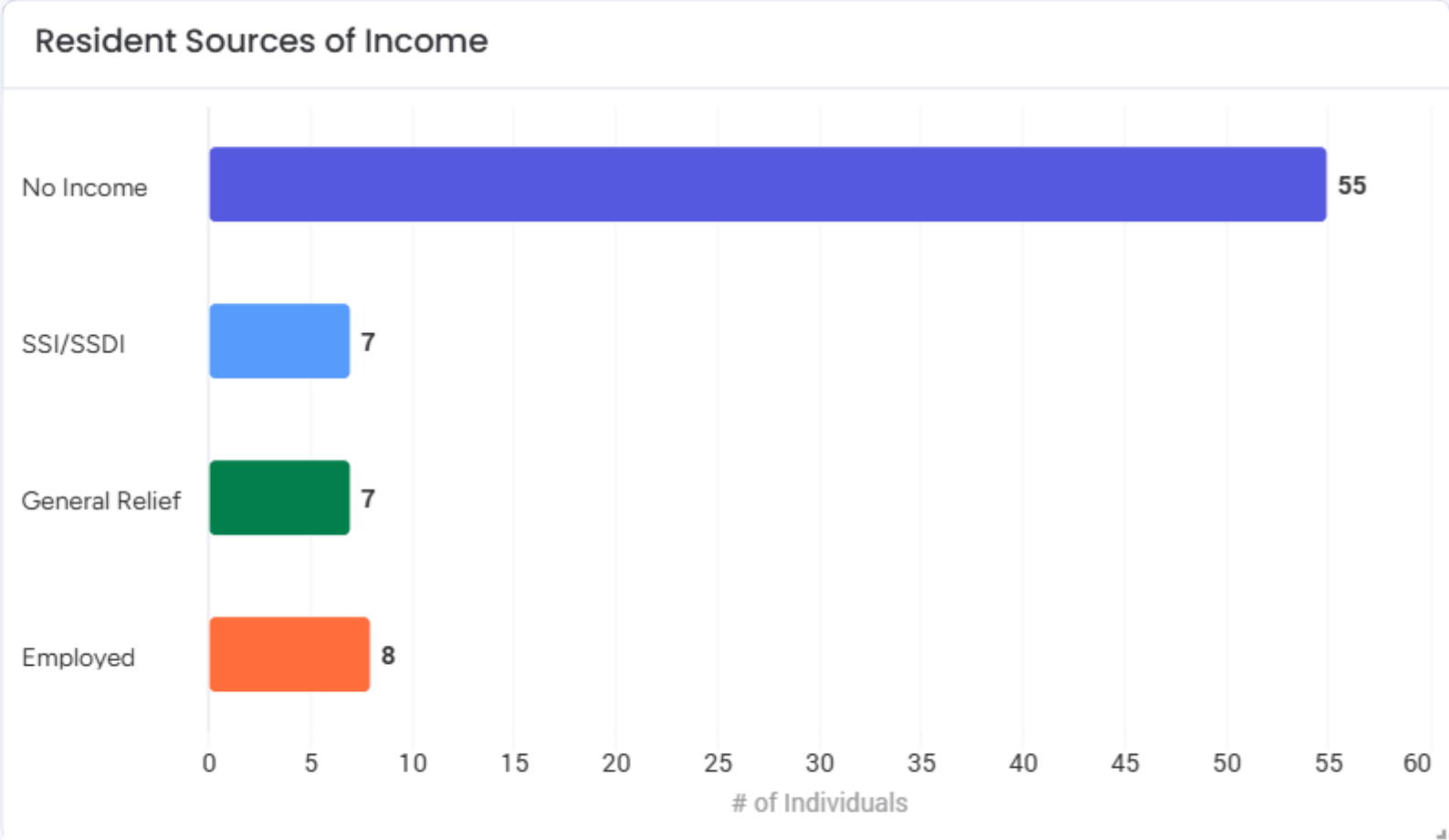
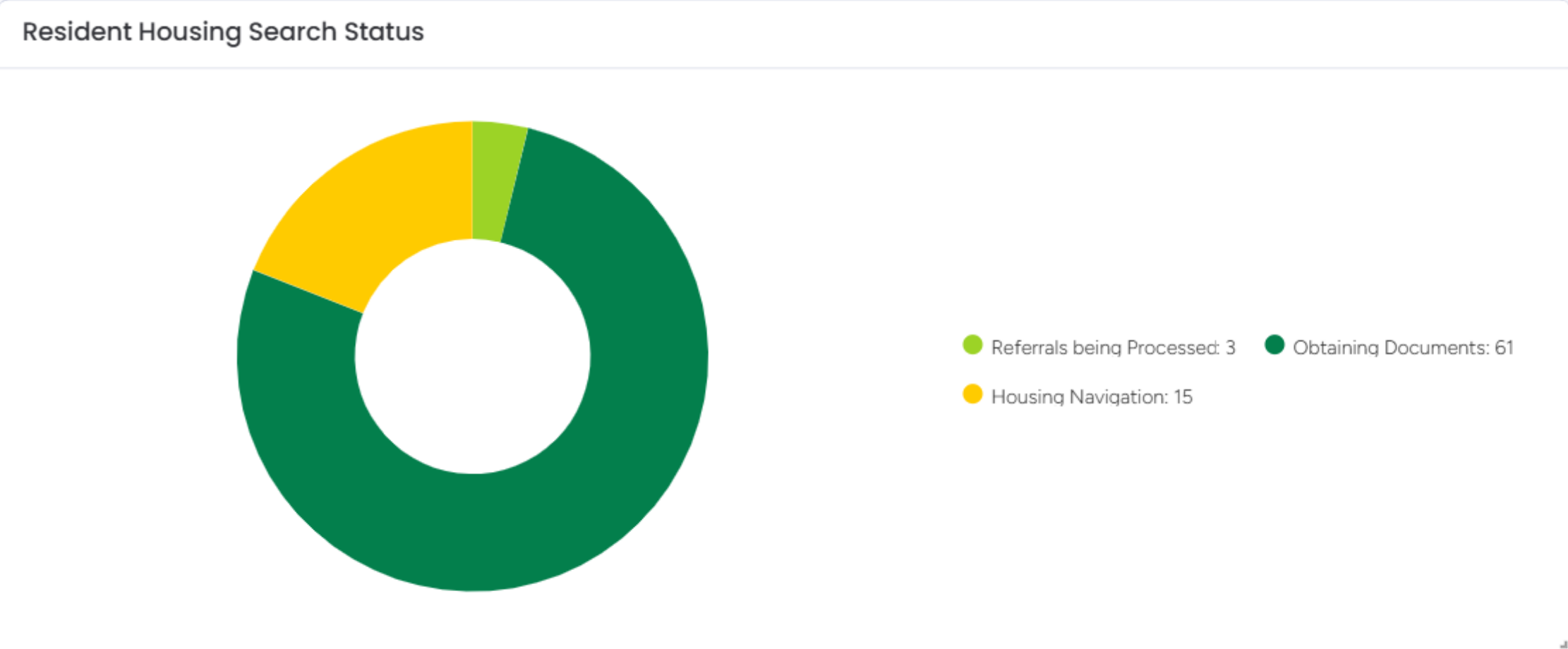
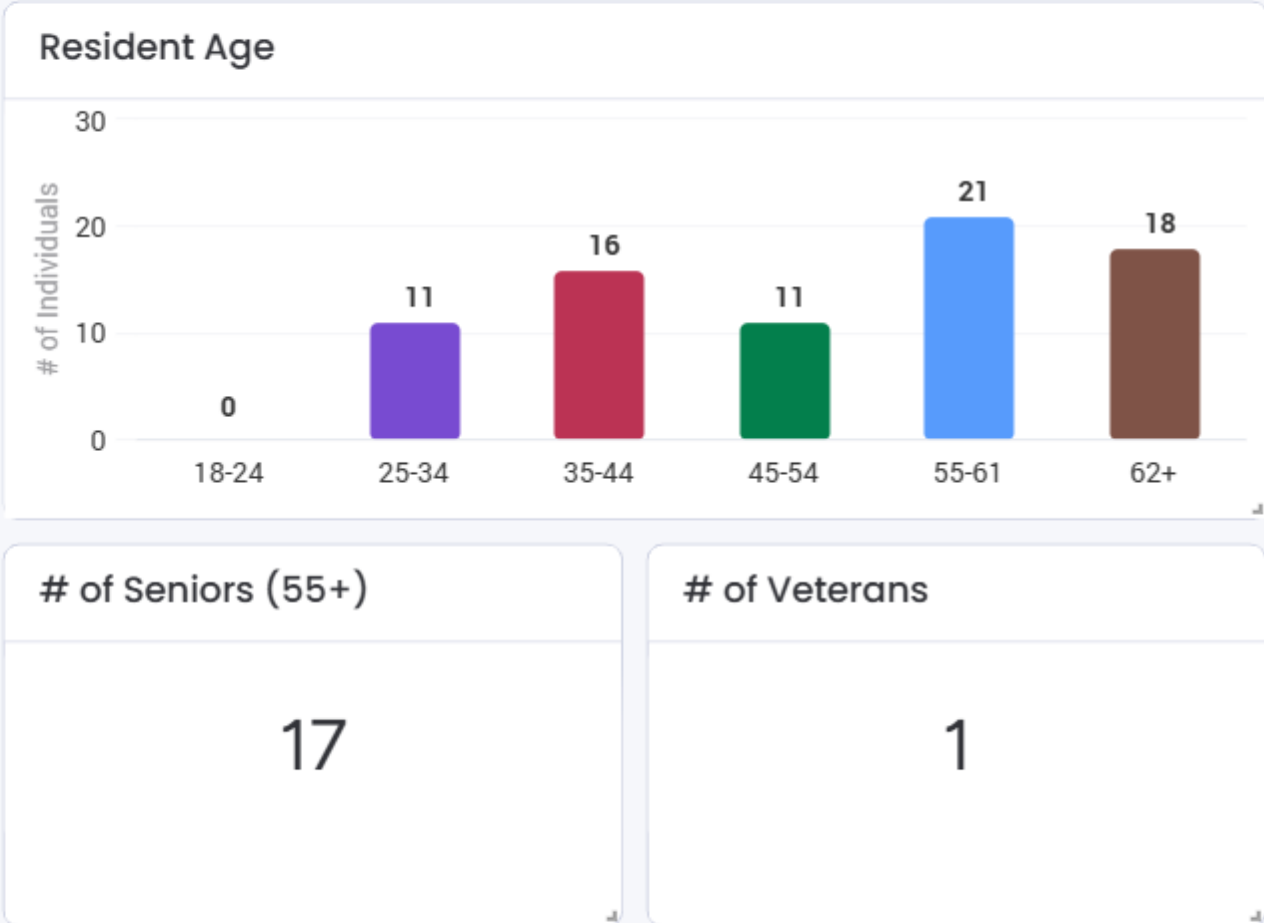
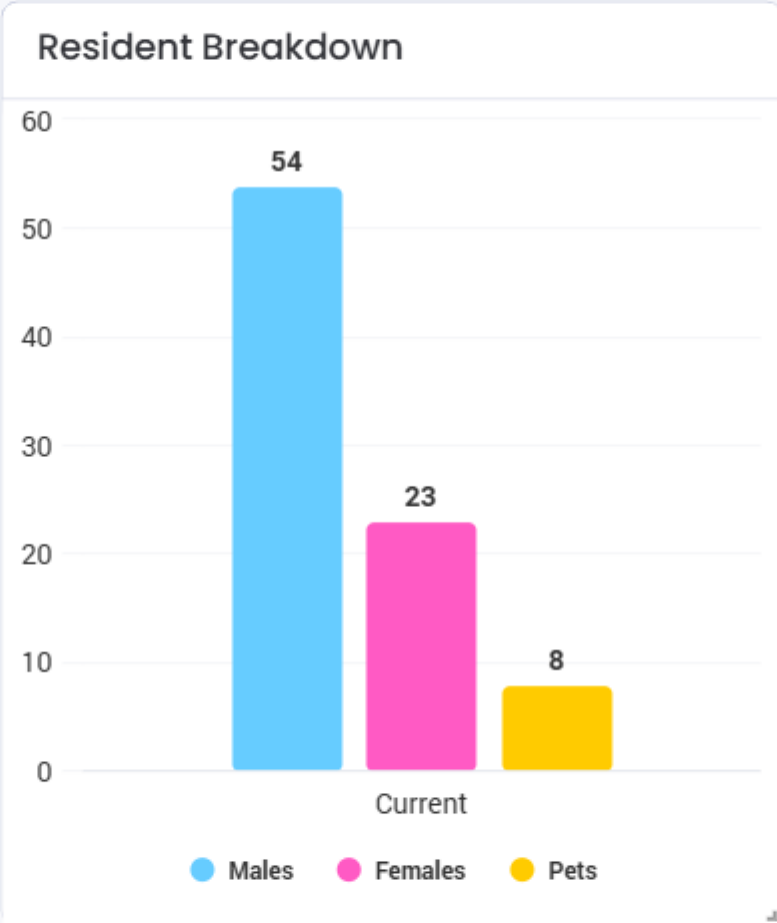
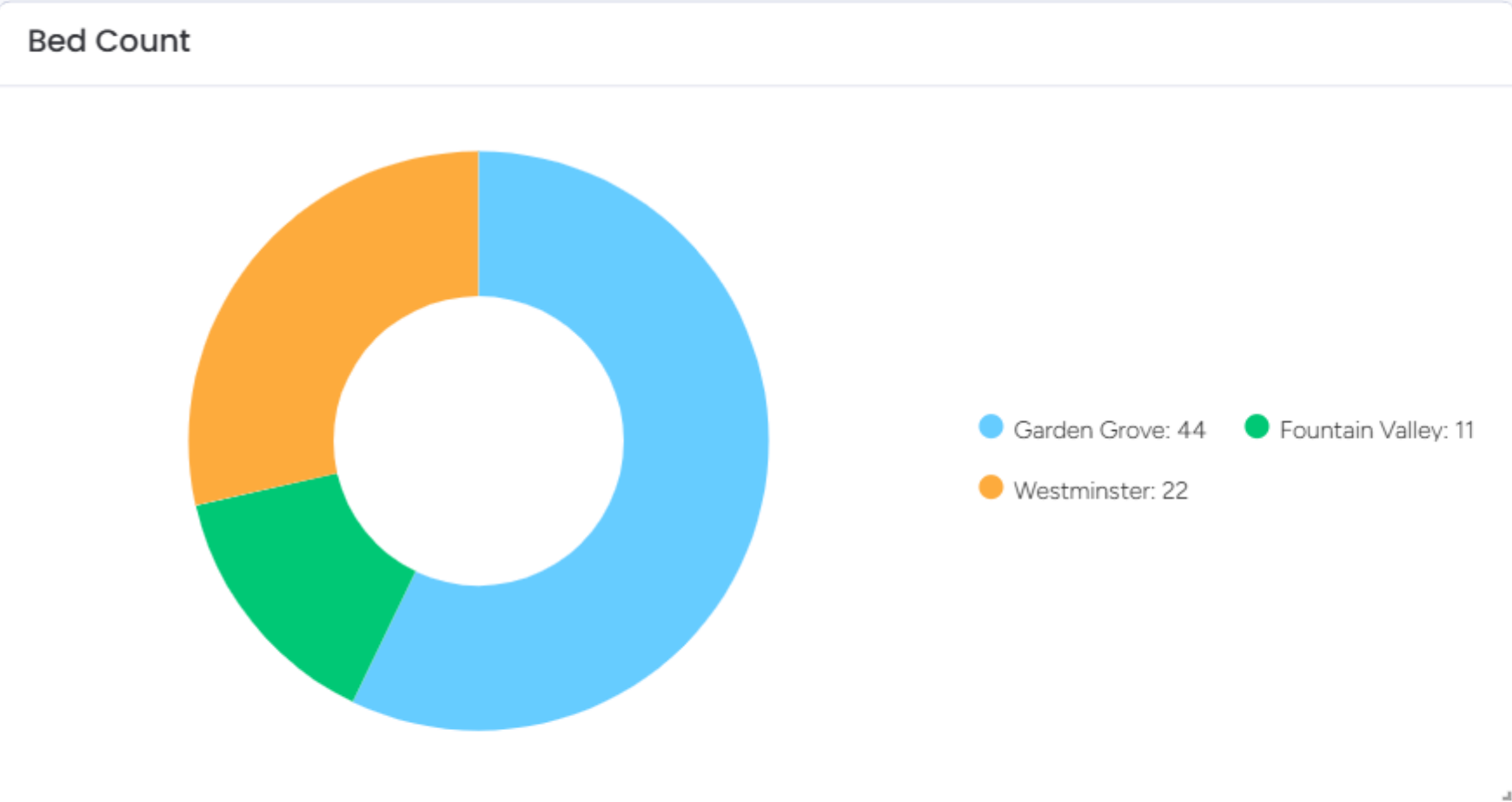


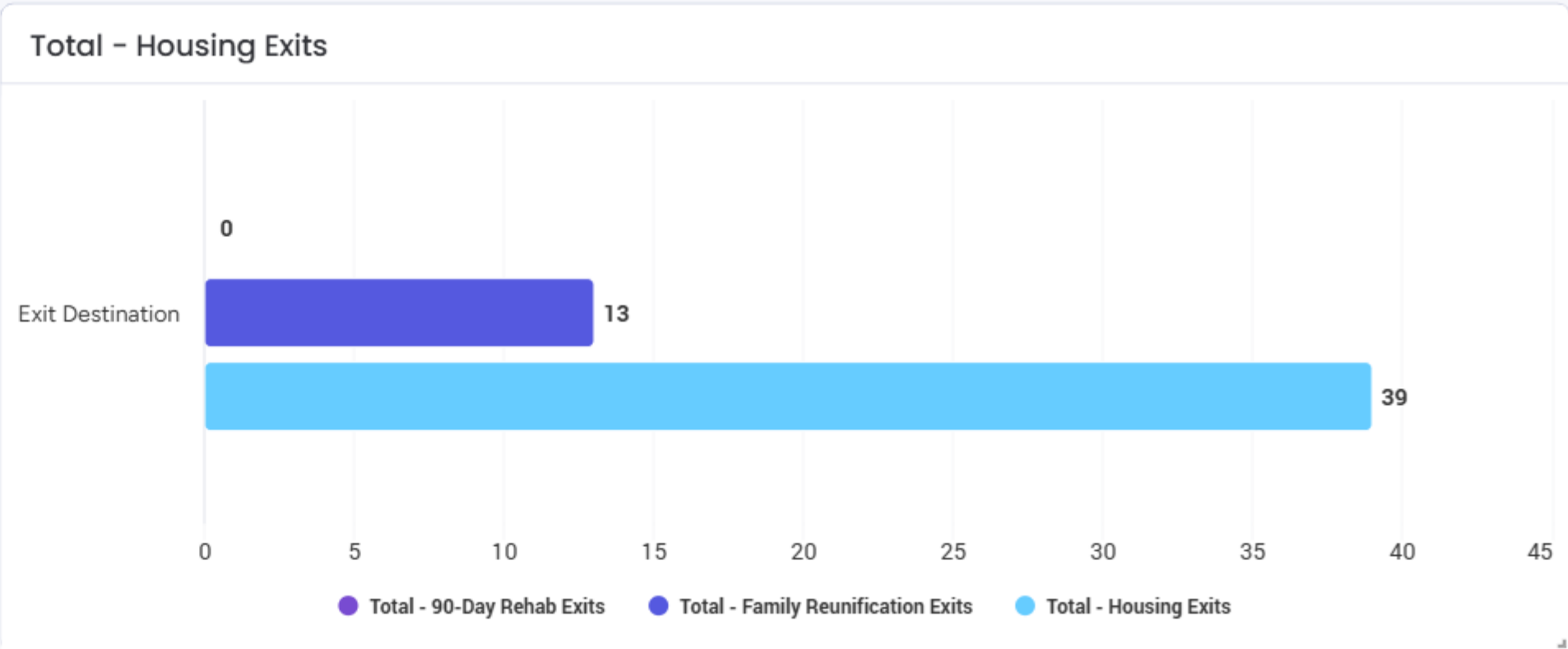
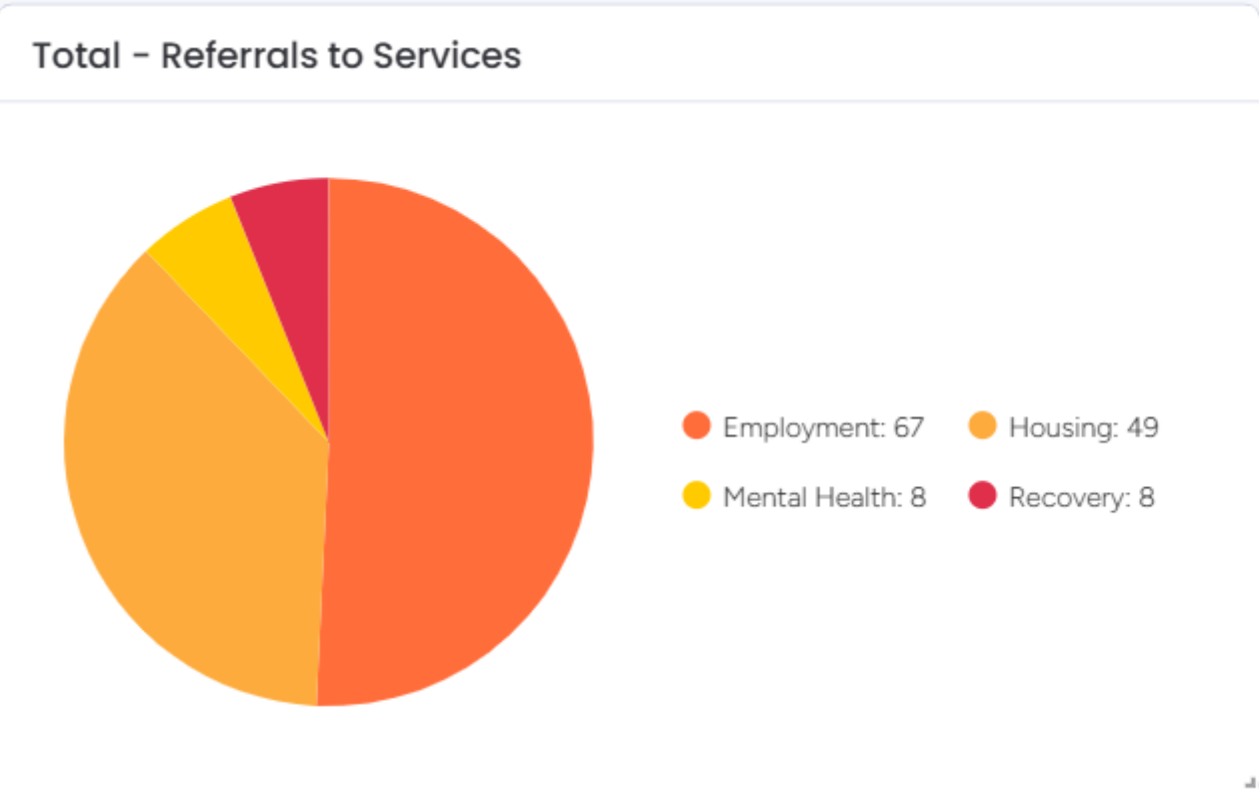
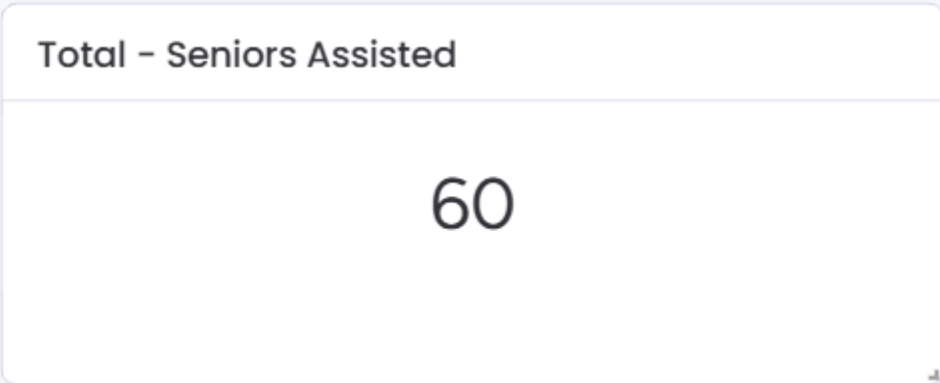
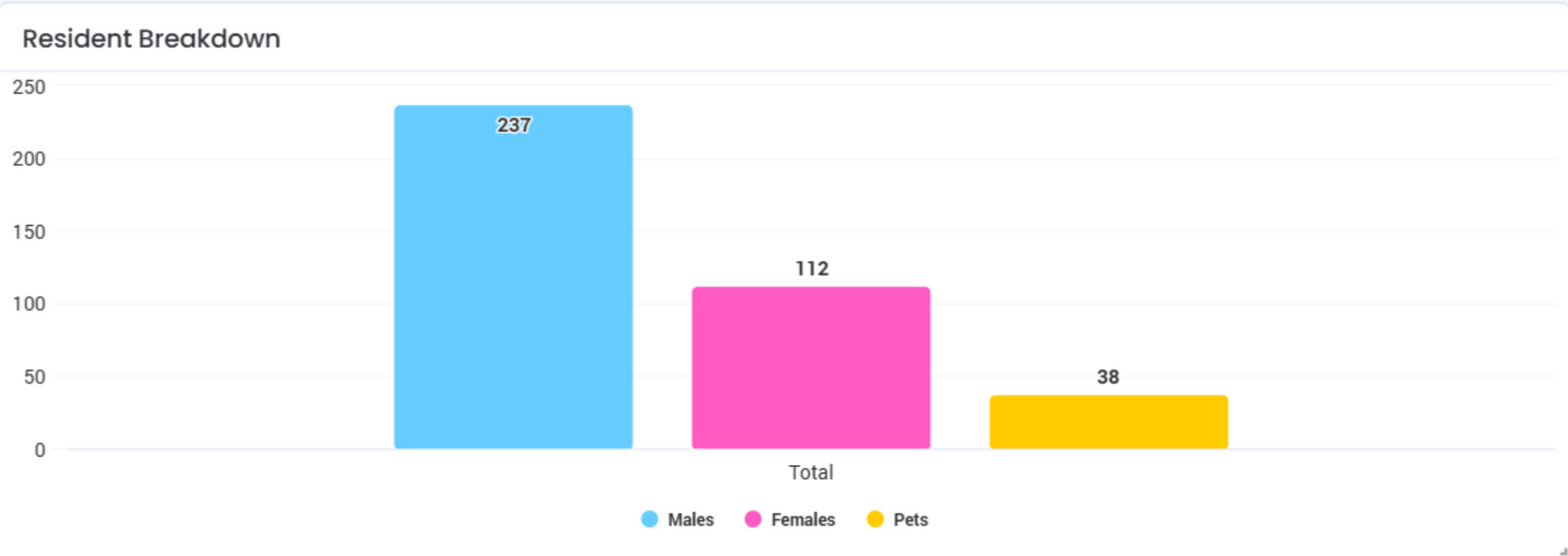
Ursula Luna-Reynosa
Economic Development and Housing Director



By: Timothy Throne, Project Manager

Attachment: CCNC Data Dashboard (Q1 FY 2025–26)





City of Garden Grove

INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

To:	Lisa L. Kim	From:	Ursula Luna-Reynosa
Dept:	City Manager	Dept:	Economic Development and Housing
Subject:	UPWARDS CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM	Date:	November 6, 2025

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the City Manager about the launch of the Upwards Family Child Care Home Education Network (FCCHEN) Program, a subsidized child care initiative designed to support working families and those with specific care needs in Orange County.

DISCUSSION

The City of Garden Grove has an existing partnership with Upwards through the Boost Program, which provides technical assistance and business support to local home-based child care providers. This program was recently featured in a GGTV3 video, highlighting the City's efforts to expand licensed family child care businesses and strengthen economic opportunities for local providers.

This new initiative represents a natural extension of our existing collaboration. While the Boost Program focuses on helping providers expand and improve their business operations, the FCCHEN program complements this by directing subsidized child care clients to these same providers. The program will not only benefit Garden Grove families by increasing access to affordable child care but will also bolster our local family child care businesses, generating community-wide economic and social benefits.

The Upwards FCCHEN Program, operated in partnership with the State of California, provides financial assistance for child care at low or no cost for eligible families residing in Orange County. The program serves children from birth through age 13, and up to age 21 for youth with exceptional needs.

Eligibility is based on both income and need for care:

- Families qualify if their gross monthly income is at or below 85% of the State Median Income (SMI).
- Qualifying "need for care" categories include:
 - Employment or seeking employment;
 - Enrollment in school or training;
 - Incapacity of a parent or guardian; and

- o Active participation in Child Protective Services (CPS) or At-Risk referrals.

Families experiencing homelessness or receiving protective services are automatically eligible, regardless of income or employment status. Child care is delivered through a network of licensed and vetted Family Child Care Home (FCCH) providers, ensuring a safe and nurturing environment that meets state regulatory standards. The Upwards Program facilitates both provider matching and enrollment, removing the burden of searching for care independently.

Participation in the program helps advance local workforce development by reducing barriers to employment and education for low-income and at-risk families. Staff is collaborating with Upwards to develop Spanish and Vietnamese versions of the program flyer, which will be posted alongside the English version on the City's Boost Program web-page at ggcity.org/boost.



Ursula Luna-Reynosa
Economic Development and Housing Director



By: Timothy Throne, Project Manager

Attachment: Upwards Program Flyer



Need financial assistance for childcare?

Upwards has partnered with the State of California to provide financial assistance to families in Orange County! Children ages 0-13 are eligible!



Apply today,
spots are
limited!

How to get started:

① Sign Up

Use the QR code or sign up at:
upwards.com/childcare-assistance/cdss

② Create Your Application

Answer a few short questions about your family.

③ Select Your Caregiver

Eligible families will be notified and matched with a caregiver that is part of our financial assistance program!

SIGN UP



Have questions?

Call us at (323) 410-5479 | upwards.com/childcare-assistance/cdss

City of Garden Grove

INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

To:	Lisa L. Kim	From:	Ursula Luna-Reynosa
Dept:	City Manager	Dept:	Economic Development and Housing
Subject:	Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) Engagements Summary	Date:	November 6, 2025

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on the Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) meetings conducted in September and October 2025, including a business visit where staff shared Placer.ai analytics, City resources and performance insights supporting business retention growth.

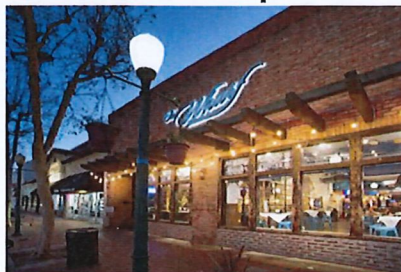
BACKGROUND

The BRE program aligns with the City's Economic Development Strategy and serves as a platform to strengthen relationships between the business community, Economic Development staff and City leadership. Through ongoing engagement, the program connects City resources to business needs and identifies opportunities for growth and retention.

DISCUSSION

Between September and October 2025, the Economic Development team conducted BRE visits with The Wharf, Azteca Restaurant and Lounge, American Metal Bearing Company, Code Ninjas, the property owner of 11757 Harbor Boulevard, and Jerusalem Roastery. These meetings were part of the City's ongoing BRE initiative aimed at strengthening relationships with local businesses, identifying challenges, and exploring opportunities for business prosperity. Discussions covered topics such as workforce development, business obstacles, financial resources, and potential expansion plans. Staff continues to follow up with participating businesses to provide targeted resources, data insights, and identify future partnership opportunities.

The Wharf – September 17, 2025



The Wharf remains a prominent dining and entertainment venue on Main Street. During the BRE visit, staff discussed operations, workforce training, and opportunities to attract additional patrons. Guidance was provided on available business loans, SBDC assistance, and promotional collaboration with other downtown businesses.

Azteca Restaurant and Lounge – September 19, 2025

Azteca Restaurant, a family-owned establishment with deep community roots, continues to play an important role in Garden Grove's cultural identity. Staff met with ownership to discuss operations and community engagement. The owner shared concerns about nearby homelessness, and staff provided information on local support resources as well as small business stabilization programs.



American Metal Bearing Company – September 22, 2025



American Metal Bearing Company (AMB), founded in 1921, continues to serve as a key manufacturer for the U.S. Navy and an anchor employer in Garden Grove's industrial sector. Staff met with owner, Mr. Perris Anawati to discuss ongoing workforce recruitment needs, modernization efforts, and available funding programs to support future expansion.

Code Ninjas – September 25, 2025

Code Ninjas Garden Grove, a veteran-owned business providing youth coding and robotics education, met with staff to discuss growth opportunities and community outreach. The owner expressed interest in workforce partnerships and future collaborative events with the City to expand visibility and engagement.



Property of 11757 Harbor Blvd – September 25, 2025

The property at 11757 Harbor Boulevard is a key site within the Grove District. Staff met with ownership to discuss investment opportunities, share the City's strategic vision for the corridor, and address area concerns. Information was provided on potential redevelopment options and ongoing City initiatives supporting business growth in the district.

Jerusalem Roastery– October 21, 2025

Staff conducted a business visit with a local roastery to share Placer.ai analytics illustrating customer visitation trends, dwell time, and regional draw. The data revealed increased foot traffic and engagement following the Foods of Garden Grove Live 2025 event, highlighting peak operating hours and the geographic range of visiting customers. Upon reviewing the findings, the business owner expressed appreciation for the insights and noted that the positive performance outcomes encouraged the family-owned establishment to move forward with expansion plans sooner than anticipated. The analytics demonstrated how measurable visitation data can strengthen business confidence, inform operational decisions, and



reinforce the City's ongoing efforts to support business growth through data-driven engagement.

CONCLUSION

The BRE program continues to reinforce the City's partnership with local business community through tailored support, proactive engagement, and applied data analytics. By leveraging insights from Placer.ai and direct outreach, the City remains committed to fostering a business-friendly environment that promotes sustained investment and economic vitality throughout Garden Grove.



Ursula Luna-Reynosa
Assistant City Manager
Economic Development and Housing Director

By: Sara Areguini, Administrative Analyst

WEEKLY MEMO 11-06-2025

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Post Performance

October 30, 2025 – November 6, 2025

Review the lifetime performance of the posts you published during the publishing period.

Included in this Report

X @CityGardenGrove

f Garden Grove City Hall

ig gardengrovecityhall




gardengrovecityhall

Thu 10/30/2025 4:01 pm PDT

#TBT to the celebration of the 50 Years of Little Saigon's Resilience event, a community gathering that honored the history, contributions, and lega...



Reach

2,264

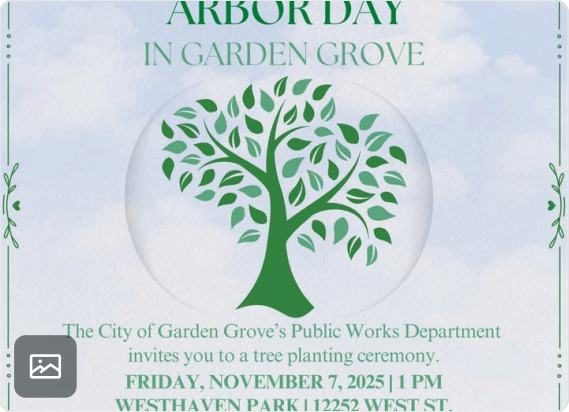



Garden Grove City Hall

Tue 11/4/2025 4:38 pm PST

🌳 Celebrate Arbor Day in #GardenGrove! 🌳

Join the City's Public Works Department for a...



Reach

1,464




gardengrovecityhall

Mon 11/3/2025 12:30 pm PST

Junbi + @thecottageindustries = A made in heaven 🥤

...



Reach

1,358





gardengrovecityhall
Wed 11/5/2025 12:50 pm PST

 There's still time to apply! Submit your application by 5:00 p.m. TODAY !!



Reach

1,185





Garden Grove City Hall
Fri 10/31/2025 12:10 pm PDT

 Who's ready for an extra hour of sleep, #GardenGrove? 🌞

...



Reach

1,169





Garden Grove City Hall
Mon 11/3/2025 12:31 pm PST

Junbi + Cottage Industries = A made in heaven 🌿

...



Reach

704



gardengrovecityhall

Wed 11/5/2025 4:08 pm PST

🎃 This year's Jack O' Lantern Jamboree was all treats and no tricks! The community enjoyed carnival games, decorating pumpkins, train ride...



Reach

683



gardengrovecityhall

Fri 10/31/2025 12:10 pm PDT

🕒 Who's ready for an extra hour of sleep, **#GardenGrove?** 🧛



Reach

515



gardengrovecityhall

Fri 10/31/2025 2:15 pm PDT

👻 Happy Halloween, **#GardenGrove!** 🎃
Before you head out for a night full of frights and delights, make sure safety isn't the scariest part...



Reach

497




Garden Grove City Hall



Fri 10/31/2025 2:15 pm PDT

 Happy Halloween, **#GardenGrove!** 🎃

Before you head out for a night full of frights and delights, make sure safety isn't the scariest part...



Reach

441




Garden Grove City Hall



Thu 10/30/2025 4:01 pm PDT

#TBT to the celebration of the 50 Years of Little Saigon's Resilience event, a community gathering that honored the history, contributions, and lega...



Reach

415



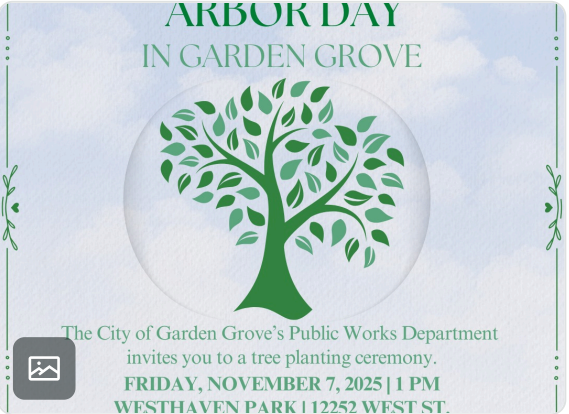

gardengrovecityhall



Tue 11/4/2025 4:39 pm PST

 Celebrate Arbor Day in **#GardenGrove!** 🌳

Join the City's Public Works Department for a...



Reach

407





Garden Grove City Hall

Wed 11/5/2025 4:08 pm PST

🎃 This year's Jack O' Lantern Jamboree was all treats and no tricks! The community enjoyed carnival games, decorating pumpkins, train ride...



Reach

367





gardengrovecityhall

Thu 10/30/2025 3:08 pm PDT

🔫 Turn in unwanted firearms for gift cards this Saturday, November 8!



Reach

35



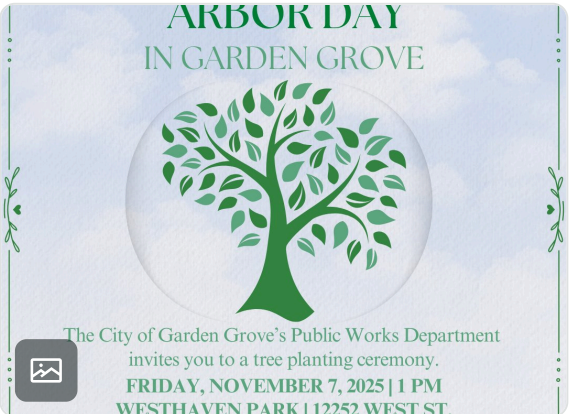


@CityGardenGrove

Tue 11/4/2025 4:40 pm PST

🌳 Celebrate Arbor Day in #GardenGrove! 🌳

Join the City's Public Works Department for a...



Reach

N/A



X @CityGardenGrove

Fri 10/31/2025 2:13 pm PDT



Daylight saving time ends this Sun., Nov. 2!

Don't forget to...



Reach

N/A



Post Performance

October 30, 2025 – November 5, 2025

Review the lifetime performance of the posts you published during the publishing period.

Included in this Report

 Garden Grove Police Department





Garden Grove Police Depart...

Wed 11/5/2025 9:14 am PST

☐

It's that time again! **#GardenGrovePD** is teaming up with **redrobinburgers** for our annual **#TipACop** event to support the incredible athlet...



Impressions	1,261
Reach	1,258
Engagements	98
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	7.8%





Garden Grove Police Depart...

Tue 11/4/2025 11:41 am PST

☐

The Caterina's Club Foundation, founded by **#ChefBrunoSerato**, serves 30,000 hot meals every week to underprivileged kids in Orange...



Impressions	1,729
Reach	1,702
Engagements	66
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	3.8%





Garden Grove Police Depart...

Sat 11/1/2025 7:19 pm PDT

☐

As we wrap up Red Ribbon Week, we want to extend a huge thank you to all the schools, students, teachers, and parents who participate...



Impressions	3,473
Reach	3,466
Engagements	474
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	13.6%



 **Garden Grove Police Depart...**

Fri 10/31/2025 7:05 am PDT

 **BREAKING HALLOWEEN NEWS!** 

Due to a statewide officer shortage, all kids...



Video Views	20,700
Impressions	20,700
Reach	14,053
Engagements	371
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	1.8%



 **Garden Grove Police Depart...**

Thu 10/30/2025 10:39 am PDT

Has this individual stolen your package? The good news is, our detectives arrested him yesterday in connection with multiple package thefts...



Video Views	37,430
Impressions	37,430
Reach	23,968
Engagements	621
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	1.7%

WEEKLY MEMO 11-06-2025

NEWS ARTICLES

The Tribune

November 5, 2025

Pro-GGPD resolution approved

BY OC TRIBUNE STAFF ON NOVEMBER 5, 2025 • ([LEAVE A COMMENT](#))



By Jim Tortolano
Orange County Tribune

A surprise special meeting of the Garden Grove City Council on Wednesday evening featured unsurprising backing for a resolution in support of the city's police department and chief, and a surprising refusal to vote on it from one member of the council.

Five members of the council, led by Mayor Stephanie Klopfenstein and echoed by Councilmembers Philip Nguyen, Cindy Tran and Yesenia Muneton and Ariana Arestegui, voted in favor of a resolution reading – in its conclusion: “the city council does hereby affirm its support for the Garden Grove Police Department, its officers and the chief of police [Amir El-Farra] in their daily duties and activities providing for the public safety of the city's residents, businesses and visitors, and encourages the public to report any crime that may be committed and approach the city's police officers without hesitation or fear.”

Councilman George Brietigam was absent.

Mayor Pro Tem Joe DoVinh recused himself from voting. A recusal usually refers to removing oneself from a case or issue based on potential conflict of interest or the appearance of bias.

Klopfenstein praised the chief for his “professionalism and outstanding leadership.”

Other council members cited El-Farra's availability and connection to the community, and the GGPD's status as a leader in the law enforcement community.

But DoVinh didn't want to support the resolution.

"I guess I'm on the hot seat," he said. DoVinh, in comments allegedly made in a Vietnamese language news outlet has been accused of criticizing El-Farra and threatening to fire him.

"I have not called for the firing of our chief, or any one on [city] staff," he said. "I am just calling for accountability." He added that he has been criticized for "expressing a healthy skepticism" and providing a "check and balance."

On the issue of who had the power to hire or fire city leadership, he said that authority rested with the city council, of which he was a member.

He also suggested that the recent city council resolutions without specifics may be a waste of time. "Resolutions are not solutions," he said.

Neither El-Farra nor any other top police department staff were present in the council chamber during the discussion, but the chief spoke to those outside the chamber after adjournment.



CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

Contact: Lizabeth Vasquez
City Clerk
(714) 741-5040 / lizv@ggcity.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media

Thursday, November 6, 2025



END-OF-YEAR GARDEN GROVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

In observance of the Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day holidays, the regular Garden Grove City Council meetings scheduled for Tuesday, November 11, Tuesday, November 25, and Tuesday, December 23 are cancelled.

A regular Garden Grove City Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Garden Grove Community Meeting Center, located at 11300 Stanford Avenue.

The final Garden Grove City Council meeting of the year will take place on Tuesday, December 9.

For more information, call the City Clerk's Office at (714) 741-5040.

###

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS
November 6, 2025

1. Calendar of Events
2. Notice of Cancellation of the November 6, 2025 Garden Grove Planning Commission Meeting.
3. Notice of Cancellation of the November 13, 2025 Garden Grove Zoning Administrator Meeting.
4. League of California Cities articles from October 31, 2025 to November 6, 2025.
5. OCFA Monthly Bulletin, October 2025



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 6, 2025 – November 28, 2025

Thursday	November 6		\$2 Holiday Drive Casual Dress Day
Thursday	November 6	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC CANCELLED
Saturday	November 8	9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Community Cleanup Day Garden Grove Municipal Service Center 13802 Newhope St.
Tuesday	November 11		City Hall Closed – Veteran’s Day
Tuesday	November 11	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CMC CANCELLED
Wednesday	November 12	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	<i>*Special Meeting</i> Closed Session, CMC Housing Authority Meeting, CMC Sanitary District Board Meeting, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CMC
Thursday	November 13	9:00 a.m.	Downtown Commission Meeting, CMC
Thursday	November 13	9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting, CMC
Thursday	November 13		\$2 Coaches Casual Dress Day
Friday	November 14		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Thursday	November 20	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC
Tuesday	November 25	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC Housing Authority Meeting, CMC Sanitary District Board Meeting, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CMC CANCELLED
Thursday	November 27		City Hall Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday
Friday	November 28		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure



NOTICE OF CANCELLATION
OF THE
GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 6, 2025
REGULAR MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Meeting of the Garden Grove Planning Commission scheduled for Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, is hereby cancelled.

DATED: October 30, 2025

JOHN RAMIREZ
CHAIR



NOTICE OF CANCELLATION
OF THE
GARDEN GROVE
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Meeting of the Garden Grove Zoning Administrator scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the Garden Grove Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, is hereby cancelled.

DATED: November 6, 2025

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'David Dent', with a large, looping initial 'D'.

DAVID DENT
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR



Register today for the 2026 Public Works

Officers Institute

Nov 5, 2025

The deadline to register online is Feb. 18

By Cal Cities Education Staff

Join Cal Cities and the County Engineers Association in Monterey, Feb. 25-27, for the [Public Works Officers Institute](#). Designed for public works professionals of all career levels, the conference provides the essential information and updates needed to effectively run city public works departments. This year's sessions will cover data management, fiber deployment, emergency planning, women in public works, and more!

Registration and hotel information

Registration for the full seminar starts at \$675 for city officials from any [Cal Cities member city](#). Registration includes admission to all educational sessions, institute meals, and admission to the evening networking reception. The deadline to register online is Wednesday, Feb. 18. After that, officials may register on-site if space is available.

The 2026 Public Works Officers Institute will be at the Hyatt Regency Monterey. A limited number of hotel rooms are available at a reduced rate for conference attendees who register before Tuesday, Jan. 27. Discounted hotel rooms often sell out early, so advance registration is encouraged.

[Sponsorship](#) opportunities are available. For questions, please contact [Exposition Sales and Event Sponsorship Manager Amy Wade](#). For registration questions, please contact [Event Registration Specialist Megan Dunn](#). For program questions, please contact [Event Program Manager Erin Wylder](#).

In advance of the seminar, [please review](#) Cal Cities' event and meeting policies.



From the Fire Chief

Dear OCFA Family:

In October, the OCFA experienced yet another year-over-year increase, with our dispatchers receiving 19,890 calls and our firefighters responding to over 15,100 all-hazard emergencies.

My pride in our operational excellence amid this ongoing uptick is tempered by the fact that it does not always come without a cost to our firefighters.

Yes, we are a national model when it comes to the largest effort ever undertaken to understand and reduce the risk of cancer among U.S. firefighters, as evidenced by the recent designation as the first agency in California and the first large metro in the nation to achieve [Gold Helmet Department](#) status from the National Firefighter Registry (NFR).

Yes, on work-related cancer alone, the OCFA continues to implement best practices — from new station designs that prioritize reductions in carcinogen exposure to our progress in securing what will likely be the state's first department-issued enhanced liquid CO2 dry cleaning machines.

And yes, with Local 3631, we've made real progress in destigmatizing mental and behavioral health awareness and encouraging members to seek support.

All that success notwithstanding, the dangers of this work cannot be completely mitigated. And while all OCFA firefighters willingly take those risks, the reality of the job's dangers was all the more poignant the past two months as the OCFA and Local 3631 participated in several annual events honoring our fallen, including the IAFF Fallen Firefighter Memorial, the California Firefighters Memorial Ceremony, and the Orange County Fire Services Memorial.

These events, coupled with the first anniversary of the Handcrew buggy rollover on the Airport Fire and the fifth anniversary of the burnover on the Silverado Fire, are stark reminders of the dangers of our work and the courage with which our OCFA firefighters answer the call. It also underscores the importance of the entire OCFA family who ensure our frontline first responders have the equipment, training, and support they need not only to protect life and property, but also to return safely home to their other family — spouses, children, and loved ones.

With that in mind, before you scroll through this Bulletin, I ask that you watch the short video below, which captures just a few of the touching moments from each of our recent memorial ceremonies. In doing so, you join all of us who had the privilege of attending these events in honor of the OCFA firefighters who passed away in recent years, including the heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice in Service of Others.

And just as their impact will forever endure — in the careers of those they mentored, in the lives of the patients they saved, in the homes of the communities they protected, and in the family legacies of the children they raised — so too must our efforts to continuously honor them.

That is the gift our fallen heroes leave us with, and I'm honored to join all of you in further sharing it through the kind of OCFA excellence highlighted throughout this Bulletin.

Sincerely,

Brian Fennessey
Fire Chief



MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT - EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

Orange County Fire Service Memorial

Firefighters from across Orange County gathered on Tuesday, October 14th, with family, friends, and community members to honor the lives and service of fallen firefighters at the annual Orange County Fire Service Memorial in Irvine Regional Park. It serves as a solemn reminder of the courage, sacrifice, and dedication of those who gave everything in Service of Others. OCFA honored a total of 10 members, including two from the Santa Ana Fire Department. Click to watch full ceremony.



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW PHOTOS FROM THE CEREMONY](#)

Reserve Firefighter Academy 28 Graduation

On Saturday, October 26th, a graduation ceremony was held for the 27 members of Reserve Firefighter Academy 28. After a 15-week academy that consisted of coming in on nights and weekends to learn the roles and responsibilities of a reserve firefighter, we can finally say: congratulations to all our new reserve firefighters and welcome to the family!



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW PHOTOS FROM THE GRADUATION CEREMONY](#)

Command & Tactical Frequency Round Table

Chiefs Perkins and Hunter held a round table earlier this month with a number of operations personnel to discuss the rollout of the new Command and Tactical frequencies on the fire ground. Click below to watch.



Dana Point Hit-and-Run Victim Reunites with Firefighters

Dan Luong's doctors say his incredible recovery from being hit by a car in June is thanks in part to the quick and effective response by the OCFA firefighters who treated him. Dan got to reunite with those firefighters recently to thank them for saving his life.



OCFA Wildland Preparedness

Over the past few months, the OCFA's evolution in wildland firefighting has taken center stage on fires and in various media reports. Click below to watch some of the highlights.



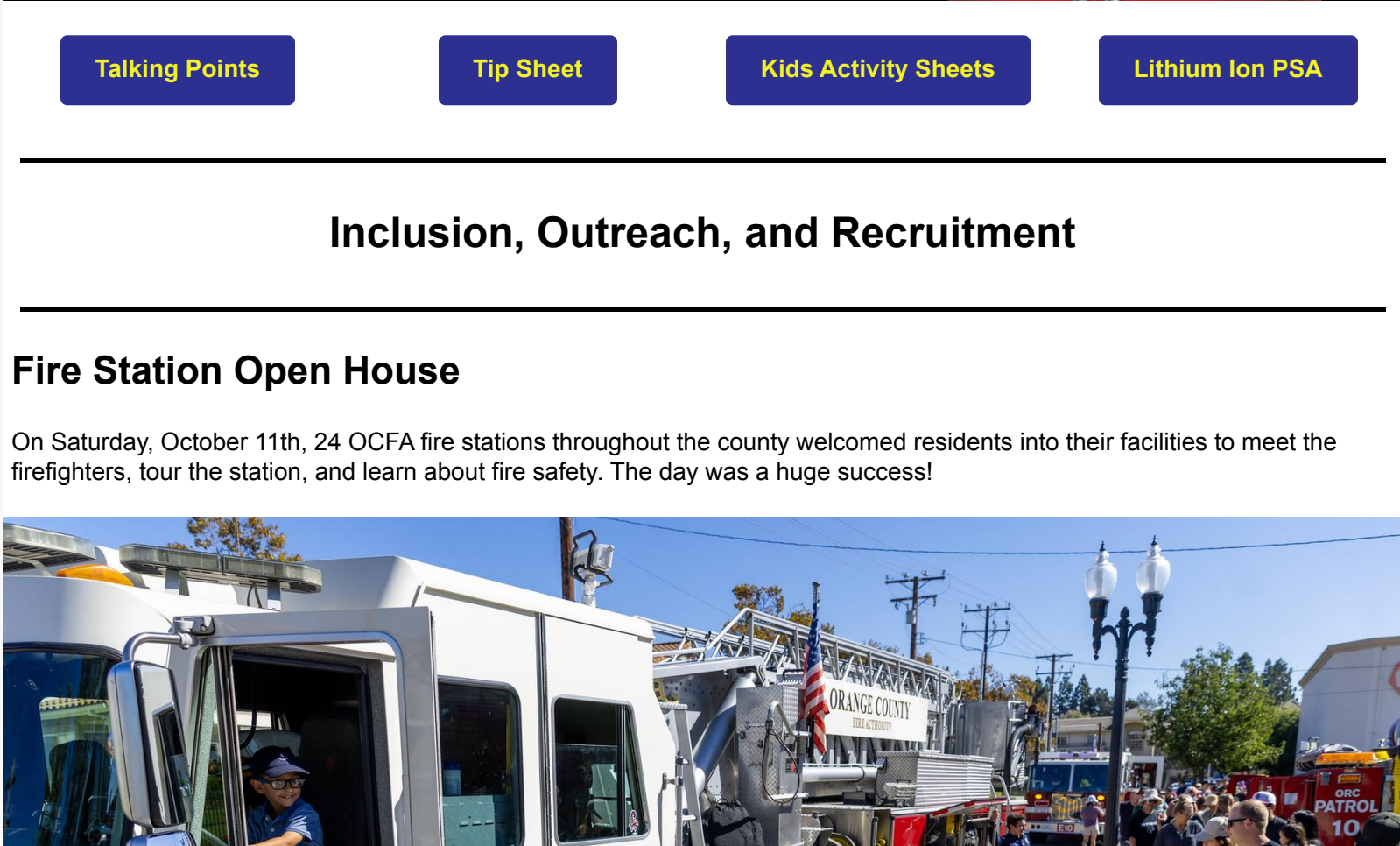
October Recognition Ceremony

On October 2, we recognized our recently promoted firefighters at our monthly Recognition Ceremony: Jeremy Alvarez - FAE; Douglas Robarge - FAE; Colin Ingraham - FAE; Andrew Matsumoto - FAE; Sean Bell - Paramedic Student. In addition, Fire Captain Rich Ventura received his 40 Year Badge. Congratulations to everyone!



[CLICK TO SEE ALL OCTOBER RECOGNITION PHOTOS](#)

The OCFA Foundation is Here to Support



[CLICK TO VISIT THE FOUNDATION'S WEBSITE](#)

Fire Prevention Week 2025

OCFA teamed up with NFPA to promote this year's Fire Prevention Week, October 5-11. Charge Into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries In Your Home. Be sure to make smart choices when it comes to buying, charging, and recycling lithium-ion batteries — because the wrong move can lead to a fire.



Inclusion, Outreach, and Recruitment

Fire Station Open House

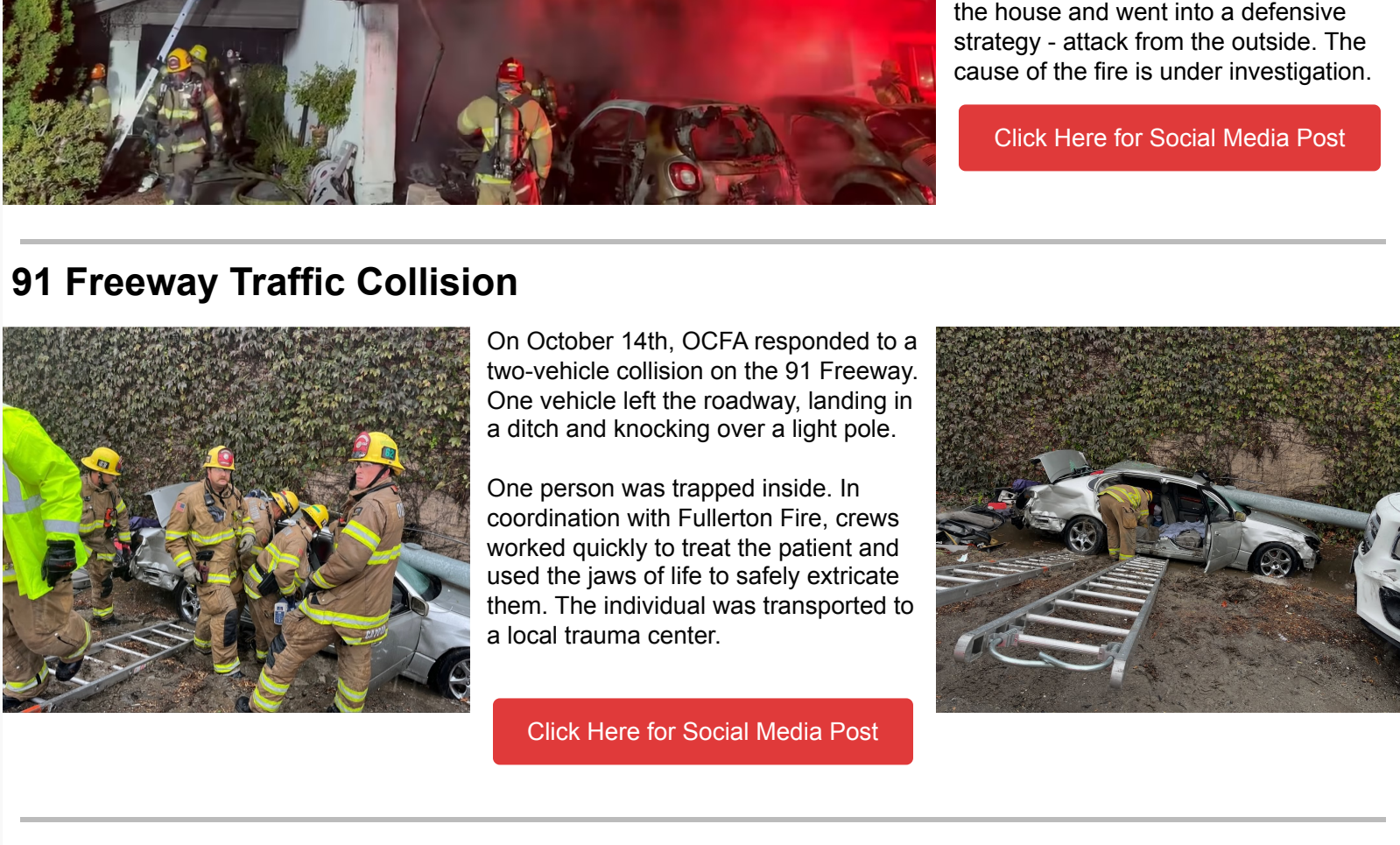
On Saturday, October 11th, 24 OCFA fire stations throughout the county welcomed residents into their facilities to meet the firefighters, tour the station, and learn about fire safety. The day was a huge success!



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW PHOTOS FROM STATION OPEN HOUSES](#)

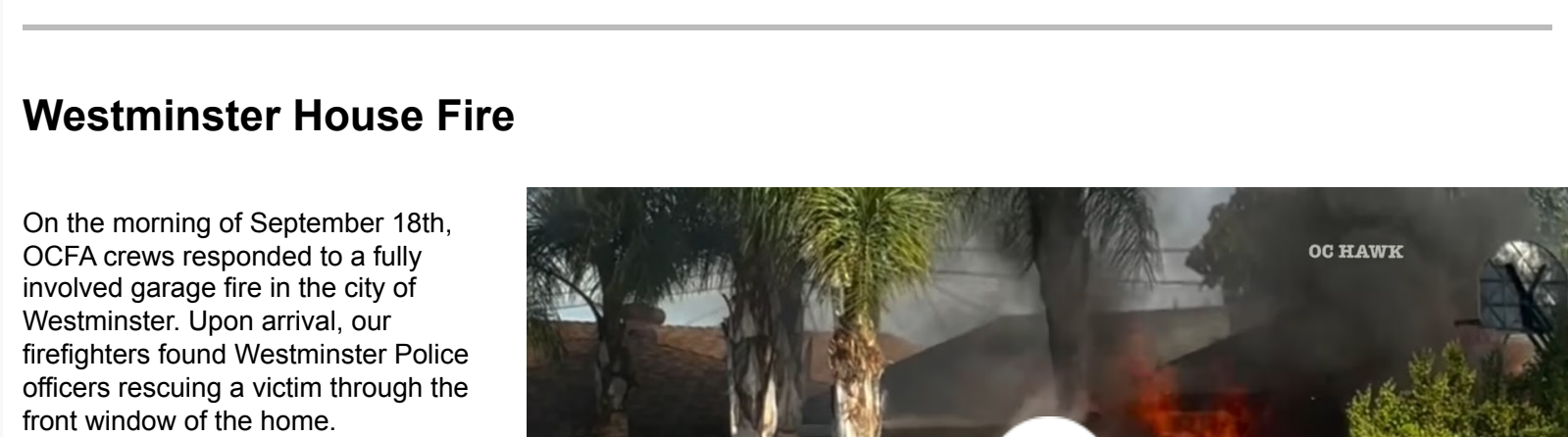
OCFA Website Update "Our People" Makes Headlines

One new feature on our new website that we're especially proud of is the "Our People" section, which highlights our greatest asset—all of you. This section showcases the wide range of jobs that make up the OCFA team and the incredible people who serve in those roles. We're constantly adding more profiles to this page, so if you'd like to be featured, please reach out to Captain/DPO Greg Barre, who designed and manages the section. Click below to see what it's all about!



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW "OUR PEOPLE" ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

Upcoming Events

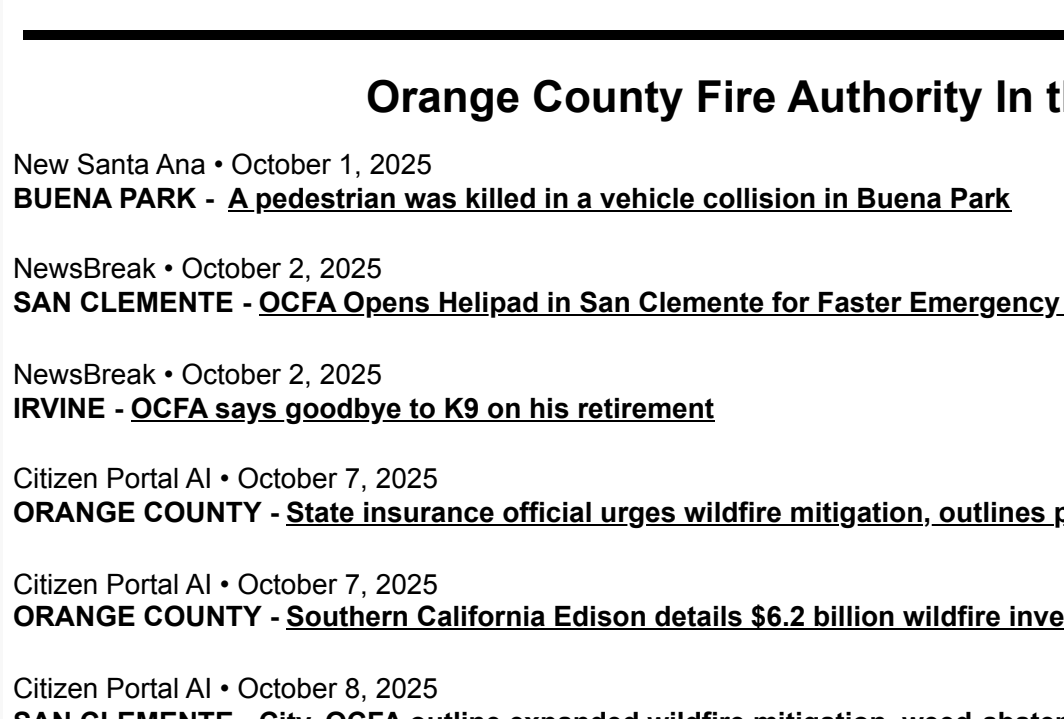


SOCIAL MEDIA

TOP POSTS OF THE MONTH



Mission Viejo House Fire

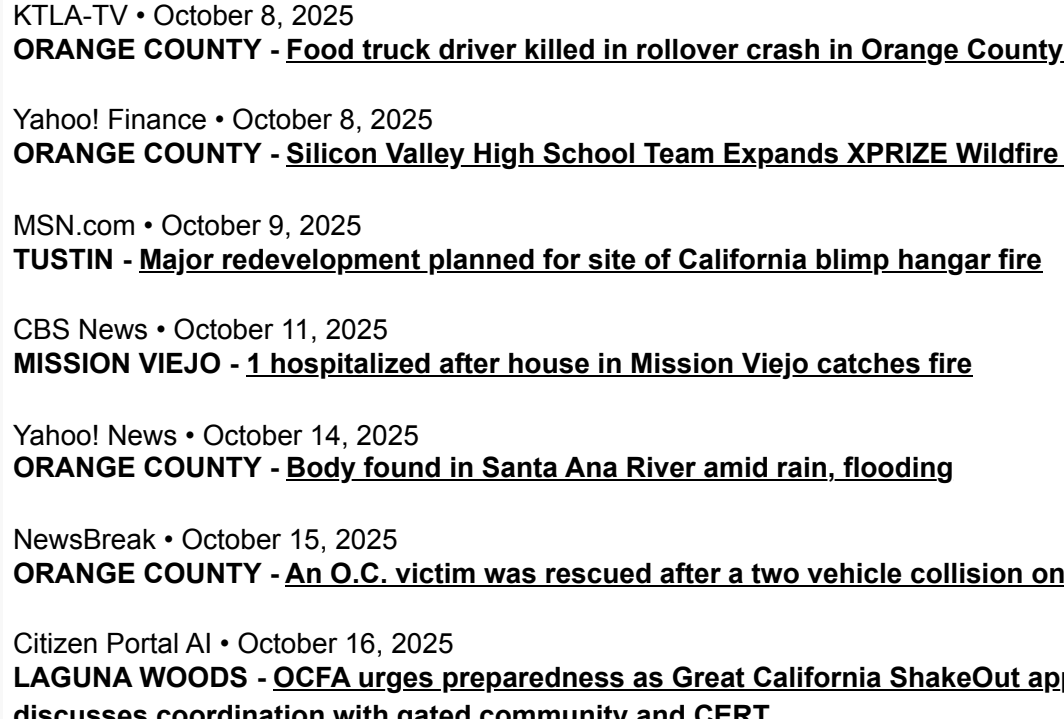


On September 28th at 2:32 AM, firefighters were dispatched to a house fire on Athena in the City of Mission Viejo. Initial crews found a well-involved fire that spread from the first floor to the second and had rapidly deteriorated. Family members made it out without injuries, but tragically one did not.

Because of the extreme conditions inside, firefighters were pulled out of the house and went into a defensive strategy — attack from the outside. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

[Click Here for Social Media Post](#)

91 Freeway Traffic Collision



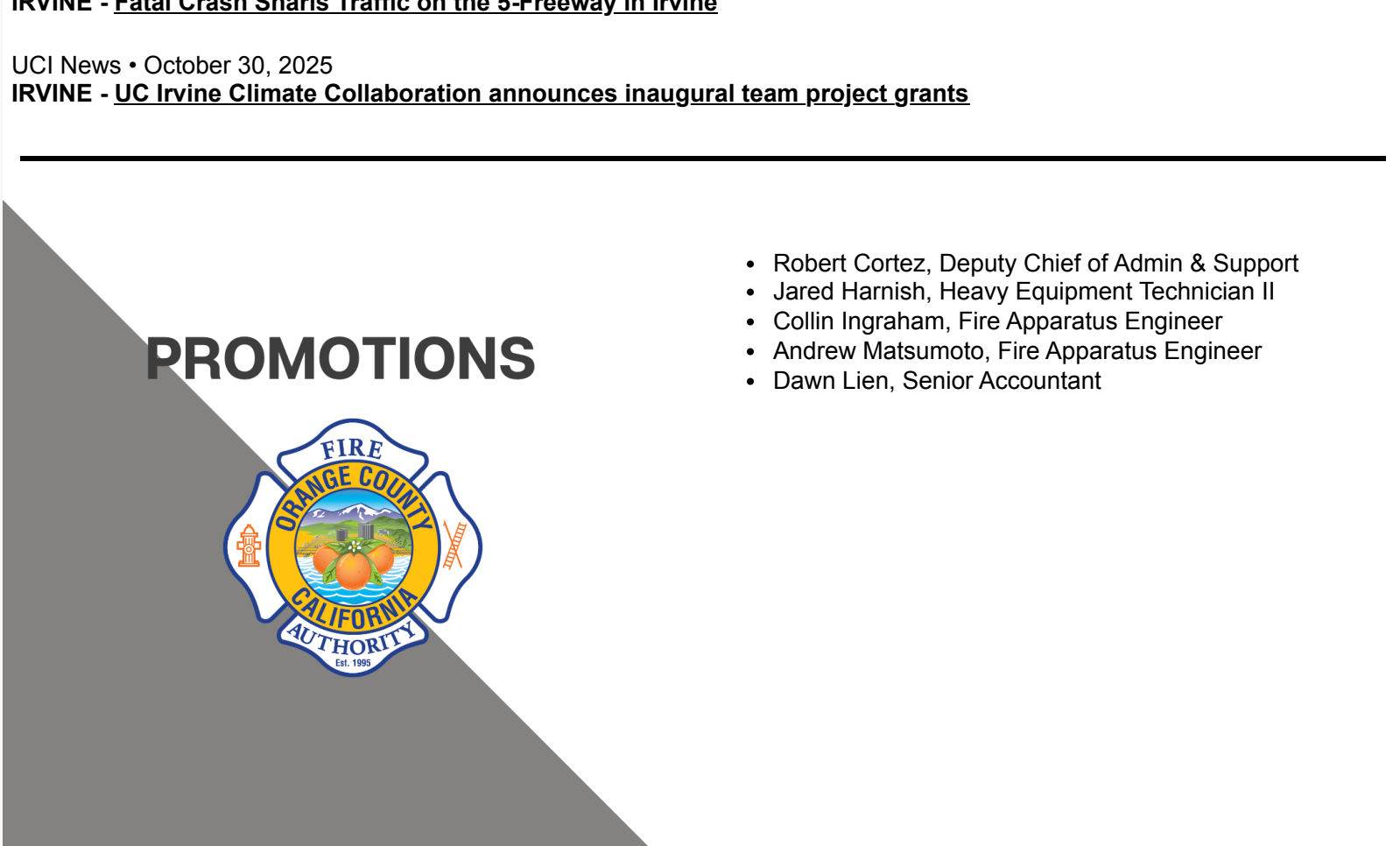
On October 14th, OCFA responded to a two-vehicle collision on the 91 Freeway. One vehicle left the roadway, landing in a ditch and knocking over a light pole.

One person was trapped inside. In coordination with Fullerton Fire, crews worked quickly to treat the patient and used the jaws of life to safely extricate them. The individual was transported to a local trauma center.

[Click Here for Social Media Post](#)

Ammonia Leak in Buena Park Commercial Building

When an ammonia leak alarm at a commercial building on Caballero Boulevard in the City of Buena Park activated on the morning of September 28th, our Hazardous Materials Response Team firefighters entered the facility, safely mitigated the leak, and searched the building. Nobody was injured.

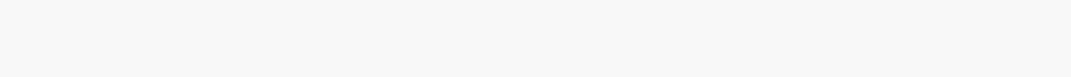


[Click Here for Full Social Media Post](#)

Westminster House Fire

On the morning of September 18th, OCFA crews responded to a fully involved garage fire in the city of Westminster. Upon arrival, our firefighters found Westminster Police officers rescuing a victim through the front window of the home.

While crews attacked the fire, they simultaneously conducted a search and located a second adult inside. That individual was also successfully rescued by firefighters, as was a cat found inside the home.



[Click Here for Social Media Post](#)

Orange County Fire Authority In the News

New Santa Ana • October 1, 2025
BUENA PARK - A pedestrian was killed in a vehicle collision in Buena Park

NewsBreak • October 2, 2025
SAN CLEMENTE - OCFA Opens Helipad in San Clemente for Faster Emergency Response

NewsBreak • October 2, 2025
IRVINE - OCFA says goodbye to K2 on his retirement

Citizen Portal AI • October 7, 2025
ORANGE COUNTY - State Insurance official urges wildfire mitigation, outlines programs to help homeowners

Citizen Portal AI • October 7, 2025
IRVINE - Total Crash Shuts Traffic on the 5-Freeway in Irvine

Citizen Portal AI • October 8, 2025
SAN CLEMENTE - City, OCFA outline expanded wildfire mitigation, weed-abatement and grant effort

Citizen Portal AI • October 8, 2025
SAN CLEMENTE - San Clemente honors two employees credited with lifesaving CPR at high school

NewsBreak • October 8, 2025
BUENA PARK - Female Skateboarder Fatally Hit by Car in Buena Park

KTLA-TV • October 9, 2025
ORANGE COUNTY - Food truck driver killed in rollover crash in Orange County

Yahoo! Finance • October 8, 2025
ORANGE COUNTY - Silicon Valley High School Team Expands XPRIZE Wildfire Bid with Industry Partners

MSN.com • October 9, 2025
TUSTIN - Major redevelopment planned for site of California blimp hangar fire

CBS News • October 11, 2025
MISSION VIEJO - 1 hospitalized after house in Mission Viejo catches fire

Yahoo! News • October 14, 2025
ORANGE COUNTY - Body found in Santa Ana River amid rain, flooding

NewsBreak • October 15, 2025
ORANGE COUNTY - An O.C. victim was rescued after a two vehicle collision on the 91 Freeway this morning

Citizen Portal AI • October 16, 2025
LAGUNA WOODS - OCFA urges preparedness as Great California ShakeOut approaches, Laguna Woods council discusses community and CERT

MyNewsLA.com • October 18, 2025
BUENA PARK - Firefighters Knock Down Fire in Buena Park

Yahoo! News • October 20, 2025
BUENA PARK - Shooting Leaves 3 minors hospitalized in Orange County

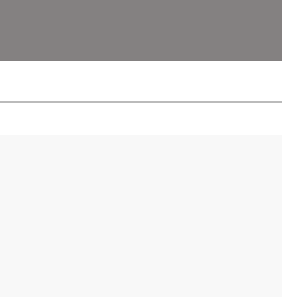
MSN.com • October 21, 2025
DANA POINT - Crews respond to house fire threatening homes along Pacific Coast Highway

The Robot Report • October 24, 2025
ORANGE COUNTY - Senate bills in \$60B to develop fire suppression drones

MyNewsLA.com • October 27, 2025
IRVINE - Total Crash Shuts Traffic on the 5-Freeway in Irvine

UCI News • October 30, 2025
IRVINE - UCI Irvine Climate Collaboration announces inaugural team project grants

PROMOTIONS



- Robert Cortez, Deputy Chief of Admin & Support
- Jared Hamish, Heavy Equipment Technician II
- Colin Ingraham, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Andrew Matsumoto, Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Dawn Lien, Senior Accountant