



Dirk Brazil Expected to Become Interim City Manager

Sun Staff Reports
The Alameda City Council will formally consider hiring Dirk Brazil as its new interim city manager at its May 17 council meeting. Brazil will oversee city operations while the City Council searches for a permanent city manager.

Brazil has over 35 years of experience working in state and local government. He most recently served as the city manager for the City of Davis and as assistant county administrator for Yolo County. Prior to holding these positions, he held positions in the State Legislature, the Office of Lieutenant Governor Gray Davis, and for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Since his retirement in 2017, he has acted as interim city manager for South Lake Tahoe and as interim executive director for the Yolo Habitat Conservancy.

If approved on May 17, Brazil will start on May 23. In accordance with CalPERS rules, he will be paid at the same salary as the last city manager, \$133.85 per hour. As a CalPERS retiree, he is not eligible for employment benefits.

The city hired Assistant City Manager Girard "Gerry" Beaudin as the interim city manager on April 19, but he was hired to be the city manager of Pleasanton on the same day ("Assistant City Manager Appointed to Two City Manager Positions," April 22). Beaudin is the current interim



Courtesy Photo

Dirk Brazil is expected to be named the new interim city manager for the City of Alameda.

City Manager until he starts his new job on May 23.

The city will also need to fill the role of assistant city manager.

City to Consider Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot Program at Meeting

Sun Staff Reports
The Alameda City Council will consider whether to implement a Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) pilot program, designed to help Alameda's most vulnerable residents who are disproportionately affected by a wide range of financial challenges.

Council will hear a presentation from city staff on the topic at its May 17 meeting. At a July 2021 meeting, council requested a report about the development of a GBI program.

GBI programs provide a flat monthly cash payment to a defined population of residents. These programs are distinct from other financial assistance programs in that they are unconditional, unrestricted, and include regular payments for a period of time, according to a City of Alameda press release. This flexibility allows recipients to make their own spending decisions that best

meet their basic needs.

Council will discuss whether to allocate \$4.6 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 Funds for the GBI pilot program at the meeting. The city has \$7,635,308 out of \$28,679,908 ARPA funds remaining to be allocated. So, if the plan is approved it would leave the city with just over \$3 million ARPA funds left.

There are nearly 100 GBI pilot programs in the United States, including in Oakland and San Francisco. The majority of GBI pilot programs in California and around the country provide payments of between \$500 to \$1,000 per month for about 12 to 24 months, according to the meeting memorandum. Most pilot programs target youth aging out of foster care benefits, low-income (30-50% AMI) individuals and/or families, artists, and pregnant and perinatal women.

The City of Stockton's pilot program, which launched in 2019, is one of the best-known examples in the country. The Stockton program demonstrated increased financial stability among recipients when compared to a control group.

"A guaranteed income program aligns with the city's multi-pronged approach to reducing poverty and inequity and would serve as a direct response to some of the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic," according to the meeting memorandum.

City staff will be present pilot program options at the meeting on May 17.

If the City Council gives direction to proceed with a GBI pilot program, staff will outline a series of tasks necessary to finalize the research and administrative structure, with a possible program launch in spring or summer 2023.

To view the May 17 City Council agenda, register to attend the meeting by Zoom, or read the staff report about the GBI pilot program, visit www.alameda.gov/agendas.

Independent Review of Gonzalez Death Exonerates Officers

Ekene Ikeme
An independent report released Wednesday, May 4, cleared the three Alameda Police Department (APD) officers of any wrongdoing in the in-custody death of Mario Gonzalez in April of last year.

The report was conducted by Louise Renne and her San Francisco law firm the Renne Public Law Group. The report addressed whether the officers violated any APD policies as they existed at the time of the incident.

The report ruled the three officers, Eric McKinley, James Fisher and Cameron Leahy, acted in conformity with department policy when they decided to conduct the field interview with Gonzalez, arrest Gonzalez and the use of force used against Gonzalez before he was taken to the ground. Renne's report said although there was evidence the officers acted in conformity with department policy when they pinned Gonzalez down, "due to the limits of the body camera footage certain information could not be completely confirmed."

The report also cleared City of Alameda parking technician Charles Clemmons of any wrongdoing. Clemmons assisted the officers with detaining Gonzalez, 26, by holding his legs at their request.

Renne's firm interviewed 13 people in their investigation including the three officers and former

APD Interim Chief Randy Fenn.

Gonzalez died on April 19, 2021, after the officers restrained him in the prone position. The officers were called to the 800 block of Oak Street after neighbors reported to the APD non-emergency line an intoxicated man, Gonzalez, was walking around a small parklet in front of their homes. Body-camera footage showed McKinley speaking with Gonzalez for nine minutes before he began to detain Gonzalez. The two other officers joined later and restrained Gonzalez face-down on the ground. The officers placed their body weight on Gonzalez for several minutes until he became unresponsive. He died later that day.

The City of Alameda hired Renne to conduct the independent review after Gonzalez's death ("Gonzalez Investigations," April 27, 2021). This is the second independent investigation into the actions of the three officers involved with Gonzalez's death. The Alameda County District Attorney's Office report ruled that "evidence does not support criminal charges being filed against any law enforcement official related to this incident," ("No Criminal Charges for Officers Involved in Mario Gonzalez Death," April 9).

A third investigation by the Alameda County Sheriff's Office is ongoing. Renne is a former San Francisco City Attorney.

Grandparents Succumb to Injuries After House Fire, Grandson to Burn Unit

Sun Staff Reports
An elderly couple has died from injuries sustained during a residential house fire on the 700 block of Buena Vista Avenue Monday, May 9.

Alameda Fire Department (AFD) personnel responded to calls of the residential fire at 3:21 a.m. Upon arrival, AFD personnel crews were met with a large body of fire at the home, which is surrounded by vegetation including cacti in the front yard.

Fire personnel entered the residence and pulled the couple outside through a side window. They were transported to a local hospital suffering from smoke inhalation. AFD reported on Tuesday, May 10 the couple died from their injuries.

A third victim, the couple's grandson, was able to escape the home on his own but suffered burn injuries, according to reports. The grandson was taken to a burn unit. It was not disclosed how significant the grandson's injuries are.

AFD immediately began fighting the blaze upon arrival. They



Ada Wiedlea



Arianna Zalder

Encinal High Students Hold Walkouts in Support of Women's Reproductive Rights

Sun Staff Reports

Students at Encinal High School took part in two walkouts Friday, May 6, in protest of the potential decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn the constitutional right to abortion, allowing individual states to more heavily regulate or even ban the procedure. The first walkout started at 10 a.m. and ended in San Francisco, while the second walkout started at noon and went to Alameda City Hall. Encinal students held signs with strong language disapproving of the potential decision. One sign read, "Abortion is a woman's right, not a legal debate."



Courtesy photo

Alameda Fire Department personnel fought a blaze that began early Monday, May 9 on the 700 block of Buena Vista Avenue.

were able to contain the fire around 3:45 a.m., according to reports.

A total of 28 AFD personnel contributed to combating the fire or assisting the victims. Four fire engines, two fire trucks, three medics, two chief officers and one AC unit responded to the incident. Personnel from the Alameda

Police Department, Alameda Municipal Power and PG&E also responded to the scene.

The cause of the fire is currently under investigation. No other structures were damaged. There was a temporary road closure on the 700 block of Buena Vista near Eighth Street, but the road has been reopened.

Mayor, Alamedans Stand for Women's Reproductive Rights



City of Alameda

Sun Staff Reports
Alamedans, including Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, Councilmembers John Knox White and Tony Daysog, and city staff stood united on the steps of City Hall Tuesday, May 3, in solidarity with people across the country in support of women's rights to essential health care and reproductive freedom, as well as voting rights, civil rights, and LGBTQ rights for all.

"The City of Alameda values dignity, inclusivity, and respect for all, regardless of ethnic or national origin, gender, race, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, or immigration status," wrote in a statement on the city's Instagram page.

On May 2, a leaked draft of a U.S. Supreme Court decision suggests the country's highest court is poised to overturn the constitutional right to abortion, allowing individual states to more heavily regulate or even ban the procedure.

It would signify a landmark decision that would overturn the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized abortion and the subsequent 1992 decision — Planned Parenthood v. Casey — that largely maintained the right. The leaked draft was published by online news publication Politico.com.

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Betty Young

Alameda Sun Almanac

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May 13	6:01	20:09
May 14	6:00	20:10
May 15	6:00	20:11
May 16	5:59	20:12
May 17	5:58	20:13
May 18	5:57	20:14

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