



Locally Owned, Community Oriented

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## Council Votes 5-0 to Put Manager on Leave

Ekene Ikeme

Mayor Trish Spencer announced the City Council voted unanimously to place City Manager Jill Keimach on paid administrative leave at the conclusion of a lengthy Council closed session meeting Friday, March 9.

The decision came after Spencer said the Council reviewed the final investigative report involving the hiring process of current of the new Alameda Fire Department (AFD) Fire Chief Edmond Rodriguez last October.

"The City Council has received the final investigative report from its independent investigator Michael Jenkins from the California law firm Jenkins & Hogin," read Spencer from a prepared statement. "The report includes confidential advice regarding potential litigation given to the City Council, which the Council is currently assessing in conjunction with its attorneys. The city will release the factual findings of the investigative report as soon as possible after the requisite legal analysis has been completed and delivered to the City Council."

Spencer did not reveal what the City Manager did that led to the council's decision. However, on the council agenda, the meeting section is described as "Significant exposure to litigation" and mentions "City Exposure to Legal Action." Keimach was placed on leave with full salary and benefits while the assessment is to take place.

**"The report includes confidential advice regarding potential litigation given to the City Council."**

— Mayor Trish Spencer

The investigation stemmed from an Oct. 2 letter from Keimach to the City Council.

In the letter, Keimach said she felt "intense and unrelenting" political pressure from two Councilmembers during the AFD fire chief hiring process.

The alleged interference would be a violation of Alameda City Charter Section 7-3, which states "An attempt by a Councilmember to influence the City Manager in the making of any appointment... shall subject such Councilmember to removal from office for malfeasance." Keimach went on to hire Rodriguez from the Salinas Fire Department on Oct. 3, 2017.

After the letter was made public, it was revealed that the two Councilmembers referred to in the letter were Vice-Mayor Malia Vella and Councilmember Jim Oddie. The two have denied any wrongdoing.

The letter prompted Alameda City Attorney Janet Kern to hire Michael Jenkins of Jenkins & Hogin, LLP to run the independent investigation. The investigation began in October of last year.

## Students March

Sun Staff Reports

Students representing Alameda High School, Encinal Junior-Senior High School, Alameda Science and Technology Institute, Alameda Community Learning Center, Nea Community Learning Center, and Island High School have formed a coalition called Alameda Students for Gun Violence Prevention in response to the recent school shooting in Parkland, Fla.

The coalition planned an event for yesterday that included walk-outs and 17-minute memorials on each campus as part of a national movement calling for gun reform and improved safety measures in schools. The students then planned to march down Central Avenue to a rally at Lower Washington Park. For the next two and a half hours,

students at the rally heard from student speakers and a representative from Assm. Rob Bonta's office.

Tables for voter registration, letter-writing campaigns and education around gun laws were on hand. All of the rally's activities were coordinated by Alameda's youth.

"The students at these schools believe in the power of collective action and recognize that now is the time to change the horrific patterns of gun violence in our country," the coalition's mission statement reads. "We believe that enough is enough and we must come together in our diversity to affect real change in our nation."

To find out more about this effort, visit <https://sites.google.com/alameda.k12.ca.us/alameda-sfgvp/home>.

## Speller Earns Bid in State Bee

Sun Staff Reports

Lincoln Middle School student Hazel Purins qualified for the state championship by taking second place at the ninth annual Alameda County Junior High Spelling Bee held last Saturday at Canyon Middle School in Castro Valley. Just the top two contestants advance to the state competition. Purins and her "rival" Anisha Rao will represent Alameda County at the Junior High State Spelling Bee Championship set for Saturday, May 5, in San Rafael.

Adriana Argyriou, a fifth grader at Haight Elementary School finished fourth in the 10th annual Alameda County Elementary Spelling Bee and earned a trophy.

For Hazel, finishing second represented an undeniable case of art imitating life. She had just finished performing in a local stage production of the 12th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. Hazel played the part of Olive, the kid who comes in second place.

"We were surprised by the difficulty of many of the final words," said Purins' mom, Carrie. "For exam-

ple, the fifth-place speller was eliminated by misspelling 'dactylography' and the fourth by 'hyacinths.'"

When it was down to the final two, Hazel faced Rao, who won the county bee and earned first runner up honors previously. These two girls have competed against each other in the final rounds of the county bee before, both at the elementary and junior high level, since Hazel has competed in the bee the past four years.

"It was fun for me as a parent to see them now as young ladies, still fiercely competing," said Carrie. "Hazel gave her a run for her money, correctly spelling 'iridescent' and 'synchronicity' to Rao's 'larrikin' and 'incandescence.'"

The fatal misspelling came on "condescension." Rao was able to correctly spell condescension, and then was given the word "zibeline," which she spelled correctly to win.

After the bee, Hazel zoomed off to a figure skating competition in San Francisco, where she and her performance team also finished in second place. "Since there were only two entries in their category they weren't nearly as excited about that ranking as Hazel was in the spelling bee," Carrie said.

The Purins are a bit disappointed, however, that Lincoln Middle School is not enrolled in the Scripps program. As a result, Hazel is unable to compete in the local Scripps bee and has no chance of advancing to national-level competition. Eighth grade is the final year of eligibility for Scripps. She does, however, look forward to competing in the Alameda city and possibly county bees next year, since they allow ninth graders.

Erik Purins  
Lincoln Middle School student Hazel Purins will represent Alameda County in the State Spelling Bee.



Alameda Police Department

Police officers recently collected a weapon cache including these assault rifles and the magazines below at a residence on the 700 block of Central Avenue.

## Police Seize Cache of Guns on Central

Dennis Evanosky

The Alameda Police Department (APD) reported that its officers seized weapons, magazines and ammunition from a resident following a disturbance on Monday, March 5, on the 700 block of Central Avenue. Officers responded to a call about an individual suffering an "episode." They were already familiar with the individual.

Officers deescalated the situation with their Crisis Intervention Team training. All APD officers who interact with the public have received this training. According to APD, the officers involved determined that they were dealing with a mental-health issue and were successful in getting the resident the required help.

The officers then did a safety sweep and discovered the weapons cache. APD obtained a search warrant from a judge. When it was served, the officers served the warrant and "collected (the cache) for safe keeping."

The California Department of Justice reviews cases involving firearms that law enforcement agencies collect for safe keeping. If the department decides that the law enforcement agencies should return the weapons, it issues gun-release letters.

These letters instruct the agencies to return the weapons to their owners. If APD receives such a letter in this case, it will release the items seized back to

the registered owner, APD stated in its release.



## Alameda Loses its Elder Statesman

'Lil caught the Westbound' as Arnerich wanted it said

Anthony "Lil" Arnerich  
1929 – 2018

Former Vice Mayor

Eric J. Kos

The Island City's elder statesman, an East Bay civic leader for decades, Anthony "Lil" Arnerich passed last Friday morning. Arnerich's achievements in the service of this city go well beyond his eight years as Vice Mayor and Councilmember.

An Oakland native, Arnerich attended McClymonds High School. Casey Stengel, who later went on to coach the New York Yankees to greatness, signed young Lil to the Oakland Oaks in 1948. Two years later Lil began working for the Park and Recreation Department in Alameda. He stayed on the job for 36 years, "retiring" in 1986.

In 1988 Lil was appointed to the City Council. The following year he won a seat in his own right, as well as the title of vice-mayor. He served the city as its vice-mayor until 1991 and remained on the City Council until 1996.

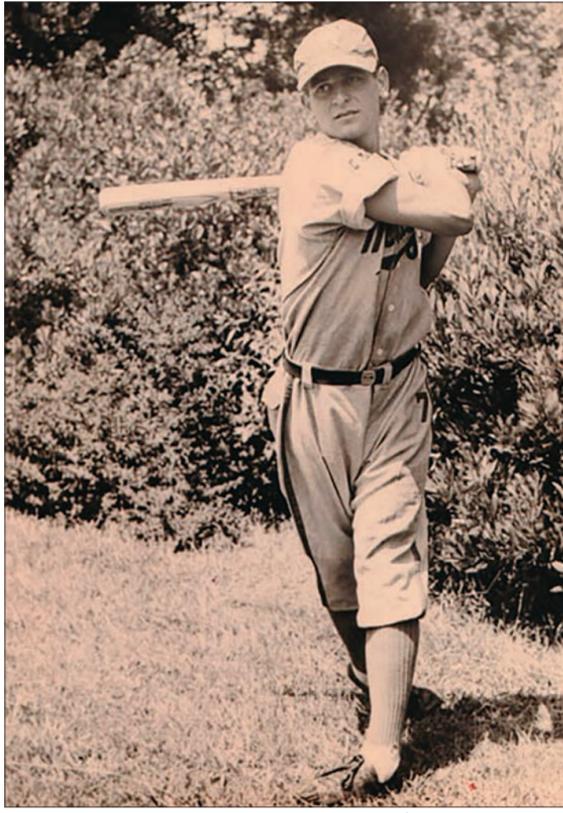
In 2014, Mayor Marie Gilmore chose to honor him with a formal proclamation. His children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren turned out to witness Gilmore declare the week of June 29 to July 5, 2014, "Lil Arnerich Week." ("All Things Arnerich," July 10, 2014).

"Lil Arnerich spearheaded a number of initiatives including an ordinance to limit public comment at City Council meetings to a reasonable time of three minutes or less," Gilmore read.

Lil also backed an amendment to the City Charter that forbids the city from selling recreational lands, which include parks, golf courses and other open spaces without a vote of the people.

The city will best remember Lil, however, for his contributions to Alameda's youth. To thank him for this and his other accomplishments the city renamed the Upper Washington Park Baseball Field to Arnerich Field.

In his remarks following Gilmore's reading of the proclama-



Courtesy playball94501.com

Lil Arnerich takes a cut back in 1947 when he played baseball for minor league teams alongside his brothers. The Arneriches commonly shared the field with the Dimaggio brothers.

### Local Deaths

tant topics. He'd then take his newfound knowledge to a local coffee shop, or the Elks Lodge, where he was a member for many years, to discuss the topics and take action. In his later years, Lil still supported efforts at the Alameda Recreation and Parks Department, especially the Elks-sponsored Hoop Shoots.

The nickname "Lil" was bestowed on him based on the fact that he was the youngest of six brothers.

Lil's handwriting and calligraphy was impeccable. As a former professional sign painter, he would occasionally create original signs

tion, Lil reminded the audience that he vetoed naming the field "Lil Arnerich Field," insisting that it be named "Arnerich Field" for his family.

Lil and his wife, Norma were together for more than 70 years, and Lil reminded everyone that he took issue with the saying "Behind every great man stands a woman."

"Norma has never been behind me, but always at my side," he said. Lil truly loved this city. He was known to read several local newspapers daily to keep abreast of impor-