



Locally Owned, Community Oriented

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**Alameda Sun
Almanac**

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Today	05:51	20:22
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Council Approves Fire Station, EOC

Station No. 3 will be rebuilt at Grand, Buena Vista

Michele Ellison
The Alamedan

City Council members have signed off on an \$8 million contract to build a replacement for a new mid-Island fire station and a new emergency operations center.

The approval, on a 4-1 vote, followed a wide-ranging discussion about what the city should be doing to better prepare for a disaster. Vice Mayor Frank Matarrese cast the lone dissenting vote. Richmond-based Alten Construction was the winning bidder.

Once shovels hit dirt, construction of the two facilities, which will sit on a 0.57-acre site at the corner of Grand Street and Buena Vista Avenue, should be completed within 12 months.

"The emergency operations center we have now is inadequate," said Councilman Tony Daysog, who said he was swayed by city staff's argument that a new facility is needed. "It's not just for the police, it's not just for the fire department. It's for the residents of Alameda."

Councilwoman Marilyn Ezy Ashcraft questioned why city staff transitioned from proposing the single two-story for the operations center pictured above to a pair of single-story buildings to house the center and the fire station. She ultimately voted in favor of the construction contract.

"I think you've made a pretty convincing case," Councilwoman Marilyn Ezy Ashcraft said.

Matarrese said the thousands of new residents expected to live along the Island's Northern Waterfront in the coming years justify a replacement Fire Station 3. But he questioned whether the city could stand up an emergency operations center in existing space, saying he thought more analysis regarding an emergency operations center was needed.



City of Alameda

The city has been working with this 3D model of the proposed Emergency Operations Center on Buena Vista Avenue near Grand Street.

Councilman Jim Oddie said the city would ultimately need to build the facilities, whether they signed off on them Tuesday or not. He didn't want to lose the nearly \$500,000 the city has already spent on design.

"If we have an emergency, this is where the heart of our operations — this is where they're going to function," Oddie said. "Am I going to be the council that says, we're not going to prepare for this? We're not going to be ready for this?"

Firefighters occupied Fire Station No. 3 from the time it opened its doors in 1923 until 2000, after it was condemned as unsafe in an earthquake. They have been renting a home next door since then, at a cost of \$40,000 a year. They have said their bigger vehicles don't fit in the old fire station. When a fire call comes in, the department's female staffers have to dress on the front lawn of the rental home, city staffers said.

Public Works Director Bob Haun said the city's current emergency operations center, which is in the basement of Alameda's 37-year-old police headquarters, isn't big

"It's not just for the police, it's not just for the fire department. It's for the residents of Alameda."

— Councilman Tony Daysog

enough to accommodate the 30 to 35 people who will be coordinating responses there after a disaster hits. And he said there's no guarantee it would be usable after a major earthquake.

According to Haun, the new center will withstand a 7.0-magnitude tremor on the Hayward fault and will have redundant communications systems to better weather a disaster.

Former City Manager John Russo included the fire station and emergency operations center in 2012's Measure C sales tax ballot measure, but voters turned the measure down. Still, the city moved forward with a design and approval process, which has taken place

☛ **EOC:** Page 12



City of Alameda

Lucy Gigli of Bike Walk Alameda, left, joined Mayor Trish Herrera Spencer, center, and Mayor Morten Kabell of Copenhagen on Park Street on May 15. Kabell was in town to discuss his city's efforts to make Copenhagen's roads safe for all users.

Mayor Welcomes Scandanavian Counterpart to the Island City

Sun Staff Reports

On May 15, the day after Bike to Work Day, Mayor Trish Herrera Spencer met with Copenhagen's Environmental and Technical Affairs Mayor Morten Kabell to discuss his Danish city's efforts to create safe roads for all users. The event, organized by Bike Walk Alameda, gave Spencer, city staff and members of the community the opportunity to speak with Kabell about the successes and challenges of creating safer streets for all roadway users. Kabell said that 45 percent of all Copenhageners commute to work or school by bicycle.

"Alameda is committed to making a network of roads that are safe, convenient and accessible for all users including pedestrians, bicyclists and those using personal mobility devices," Spencer said.

The city adopted a Complete Streets policy two years ago. Last

February, it joined the national Mayors' Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets.

"It's wonderful to work closely with Copenhagen, a city that leads the way in being livable, bikeable and walkable. We hope to continue this relationship with Mayor Kabell," Spencer said.

For more information on the national Mayors' Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets, visit www.dot.gov/mayors-challenge. For a copy of the city's Complete Streets Policy, visit <http://alamedaca.gov/public-works/public-works-key-documents>.

Editor's note: The City of Copenhagen is ruled by a group of mayors, headed by Lord Mayor Frank Jensen. Kabell is one of the city's six other mayors who also include Carl Christian Ebbesen, Pia Allersley, Nanna Thomsen, Jesper Christensen and Anna Mee Allersley.

Cutting School Resource Officers Unnecessary

John Grimaldi

On Tuesday, June 2, the City Council will vote to approve the Alameda Police Department's (APD) budget. Approval would include cutting funding for high school resource officers. Mayor Trish Spencer has said at previous city council meetings regarding the city's budget that there is a projected 1.4 percent deficit for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

For APD Chief Paul Roller, this 1.4 percent cut from his department proposed by Spencer would have to come from his officers stationed at Alameda and Encinal high schools.

On the surface, this seems like a bad decision. Campus resource officers are often charged with the duty of de-escalating situations at the schools, dealing with cases of sexual harassment and assault, making drug related arrests and other duties that benefit the school.

But, as Chief Roller says, "the financial reality is that the school district isn't contributing any funding to that program."

APD has a sister program at the housing at Alameda Point. The Alameda Housing Authority pays \$210,000 of the \$360,000 it costs to have two officers stationed there. The Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) is paying nothing toward the \$360,000 it costs to have two officers at its high schools.

AUSD has had on-campus resource officers for more than 20 years, and has contributed toward their salaries in the past. It is understandable that the

News Analysis

"The financial reality is that the school district isn't contributing any funding to that program."

— Police Chief Paul Roller

school district does not have as much money as it wants to have, and is doing its best to cut costs.

APD has already been making financial cuts in its numbers of sworn officers, whittling down the 111 officers the department had during the 1997-1998 fiscal year to 88 sworn officers during the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

The interesting thing about these budget cuts is that they do not seem necessary. Interim City Manager Elizabeth Warmerdam has said that "our last couple of years, the city has done a lot better than expected." Revenue for the city is much higher than it was expected to be, and the expenditures for the city have been much lower.

This has led the city to have a \$30 million dollar surplus, or a reserve of about 37 percent. This is a "reserve" rather than a "surplus." The city is required to have a surplus of about 16 percent over its annual operating budget, and anything over that is considered in the reserve, a surplus over the surplus.

☛ **SCHOOL:** Page 12



Raiders Honor Military

Courtesy Tony Gonzales/Raiders.com

On Friday, May 22, members of the Oakland Raiders, including the two most tenured players on the squad — place kicker Sebastian Janikowski and long snapper Jon Condo — took part in activities honoring the military in commemoration of Memorial Day. They were joined by teammates Tony Bergstrom, Gabe Jackson, Dan Kistler and J'Marcus Webb. The group, including a contingent from Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, members of the U. S. Marine Corps' 4th Force Reconnaissance Company stationed in Alameda and families from the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (T.A.P.S.), gathered on the deck of the USS Hornet during the tour of the ship. "I have a lot of respect for the troops and all that they go through so it's very important for me to be here," said Janikowski.

Former AUSD President Tam Dies

Sun Staff Reports

On Tuesday, Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) Superintendent Sean McPhetridge announced the passing of Board of Education member Niel Tam.

Tam, who would have turned 70 in August, died on Sunday. He was diagnosed with leukemia last October. He held master's degrees in both special education and school administration. He spent his entire 30-year career with AUSD, including a two-year term as principal of Washington Elementary School. He was the district's first Asian principal.

In 2002, he received the San Francisco Foundation's Koshland Civic Unity Award for community leadership. Over the years, he worked with the Alameda Food Bank, Girls Inc., the Alameda Multicultural Community Center, Alameda Point Collaborative, Alameda Soccer Club, Alameda Family Services, the city of Alameda Traffic Commission, the Alameda Boys and Girls Club and the Alameda Library

Local Deaths

Strategic Planning Committee.

Tam won a seat on AUSD's Board of Education in 2008. That same year he received the American Red Cross Award for Community Service. He was re-elected to the school board in 2012 and served as its president in 2013.

Tam was devoted to children with special needs, especially socio-economically disadvantaged English language learners.

"Niel was dedicated to protecting and upholding the rights of all people, and he was a champion in the Alameda community," said McPhetridge. "We will miss Niel. He embodied the loving-kindness and mindfulness to which we all should aspire. I remember him fondly today, and I know the world is a better place because of him."

Tam is survived by his wife, Judy, two children and four grandchildren.

AUSD spokesperson Susan Da-



File photo

Niel Tam served on the Alameda Unified School District Board Since 2008.

vis said that the district is reviewing how to best fill Tam's seat on the school board, which expires next year.

Details about a funeral service were not available at press time.

Additional local death announcements appear beginning on page 7.