

Downey Business

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DOWNEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

11131 BROOKSHIRE AVENUE • DOWNEY • CALIFORNIA • 90241 | PHONE (562) 923-2191

www.DOWNEYCHAMBER.org • info@downeychamber.com | SEPTEMBER 2020 • VOL 48 • NO. 7

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FORE!!!

The Chamber is very excited to announce that we will be having our 28th Annual Golf Tournament on October 12th. The location will be the beautiful Rio Hondo Golf Club and we are looking forward to a great turn out. This will be our first fund raiser since the Covid19 debacle, so we are really hoping to see many of our Chamber supporters there. We have really missed you guys!!! Please check our website, social media or the Chamber Office (562) 923-2191 for details. We look forward to seeing you there because it's always Fun on the Fairways!!!













Downey Business

--STΔ FF--

Michael Calvert, Executive Director Sarah Sellers, Administrative Assistant

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The board of directors meets at the chamber office on the third Monday of each month at 12:00 noon.

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Message from the President

LOOKING FORWARD!!



Hello everyone, where did the summer go? Can you believe the kids are back in school and we've been dealing with the pandemic for more than six months!

Reaching out and connecting is a generous and wonderful thing to do. We never know when we might need those connections, and when they might need us!! We have been connecting with each other in many ways, phone, email, text, and Zoom!

I am happy to announce that the Downey Chamber has planned a wonderful Golf Tournament to help you do just that. SAVE THE DATE, OCTOBER 12, 2020. It will be held at the beautiful Rio Hondo Golf Club on Old River School Road in Downey. Registration starts at 10 a.m. with assigned tee times. The lunch will be served on the course. We are, naturally, taking all precautions necessary to make this event safe for all who attend.

There are a variety of budget-friendly sponsor opportunities that we encourage you to support. Visit the Chamber Website for details and the registration link https://downeychamber.org/Please contact me (562)577-1104 or Ron Long (562) 417-1784 for more information.

The Golf Tournament is a fun way for all of us to reach out and connect with Downey Business Members, and who doesn't want a little fun in their life right now?

In closing, I want to remind you that we are here to help. Together we will get through the unique challenges posed this year and hopefully, come out stronger at the end of it.

Please stay in touch and see you at TEE-time!!

Sincerely, Maria Fernandez, Downey Chamber President

Message from the Executive Director



I remember as a small child and then when I had small

ARE WE THERE YET??

and then when I had small children that any car trip always included the phrase,

"Are we there yet?"

This is exactly the way I am feeling regarding the pandemic. In March, if anyone had said that we would still be dealing with this in August I would have thought of that as impossible. I miss eating "in" a restaurant, meeting family and friends for a drink, but most of all I miss the networking and in-person support that I always get from my Chamber "Peeps"! It has been an incredible struggle for so many of our members and I truly am thankful for how we have all supported each other. That has been a very nice "good to know"! Please pay attention over the next couple of weeks since it is rumored that "inside dining" will be making a come back and if that goes well, then the opening of bars will return. Then let us get out there and buy a dinner, tip your waiter/waitress and see how we can help our fellow members. But as things start to reopen, it is VERY important that we continue to wear our face masks and be aware of social distancing. Not playing by the rules will lead to an increase of cases, and then we go back to staying at home or eating in parking lots, which is a huge strain on our member restaurants.

The Chamber is also recovering from the shut down with a couple of fund-raising events in October. We are having our annual golf tournament on October 12th with all the pandemic mitigation necessary for a successful and healthy event. The Chamber is also having a 50/50 raffle with three generous cash prizes being given out to our drawing winners. It was a very tough end to our fiscal year, so it is important that we have two successful events. I appreciate all that the citizens of Downey do to maintain the work of the Chamber, so please, buy a ticket and you might win some money.

I would like to take a moment to thank Sarah, our Office Manager, for all her hard work over the last few months. She has really helped in keeping the office together and working with our members to promote their business. This has not been "Chamber as usual" and I refuse to accept that this is going to be the "new normal". We may not get back to 2019, but we will all come together to make our community better and stronger as we all move forward over the next few months.

Thank you for all for your support, it truly means a lot to us!!

-- Michael Calvert, Executive Director Downey Chamber of Commerce

Legal Corner

New California Legislation & Its' Possible Effects on the Workplace

The California Legislature The California legislature is responsible for drafting bills to be proposed to the Governor, with the ultimate goal of having those bills go into effect January 1, 2021. There are many legislative proposals now pending on Governor Newsom's desk. The California legislature only has until August 31, 2020 to propose bills for next year; and then Governor Newsom has until September 30, 2020 to either sign or veto the bills.

It is important to keep in mind that the language and provisions of the below-discussed bills can still be amended or changed before a final version is sent to Governor Newsom's desk for signature.

The Legislature's COVID-19 Response
Of course, many of the bills proposed by the legislature pertain to the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Unsurprisingly, many of these bills will

have a significant effect on employers.

Assembly Bill 685 – Notification to Employees of COVID-19 Exposure AB 658 would require all public and private employers to specifically notify all their employees of possible COVID-19 exposure. The bill requires that once an employer is notified that an employee(s) was potentially exposed at the workplace to any person who has COVID-19, that employer must take the following, among other, actions within 24 hours:

1. Provide written notice to all employees at the worksite where the exposure occurred;

2. Notify employees who may have been exposed instructions on home quarantine and or isolation and symptom monitoring, instructions to contact their medical provider or local health department about testing, referral to their local health department, and information regarding rights of the employee under applicable federal, state, or local laws, including sick leave and workers' compensation, company leave policies, or negotiated leave provisions; and

3. Notify all employees of the cleaning, disinfecting, and safety plan that the employer plans to implement prior to returning to work.

Assembly Bill 3216 – Rehire Requirements AB 3216 has seen many revisions since originally proposed. Now, what remains is a "right of recall" or rehiring requirement. This requirement will apply to hotels, event centers, airport hospitality operations, and building services (including janitorial and security services). Employers in these industries would be required to offer employees who were laid off due to a public health emergency any position which the employee previously held or may have become qualified for before the declaration of the state of emergency. Employers would be required to re-hire laid-off employees by seniority of their previous positions.

<u>Assembly Bills 664 & 196 – Workers' Compensation</u> In addition to the above, the COVID-19 pandemic is also expected to alter workers' compensation laws.

AB 664 creates a presumption that diagnosis of COVID-19 constitutes a workers' compensation injury for police employees, fire employees, and health care employees who provide direct patient care. While this presumption is disputable and may be controverted by other evidence, unless so controverted, the presumption will stand. AB 196 expands this presumption to apply to all "essential workers" other than those covered by AB 664. These two bills could greatly impact the workers' compensation field; and thus, all California employers.

<u>Additional Non-COVID Legislation</u> In addition to legislation surrounding COVID-19 other legislation, if signed by the Governor, will also have an effect on the workplace.

Assembly Bill 2999 – Bereavement Leave AB 2999 would require an employer with 25 or more employees to provide up to ten days of unpaid bereavement leave upon the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, or domestic partner; and would require a small employer with less than 25 employees to provide up to three days of unpaid bereavement leave to their employees. There is no tenure of employment requirement, nor hours worked requirement for an employee to be entitled to this leave.

Notably, this bill would authorize an employee who has been discharged, disciplined, or discriminated against for exercising their right to bereavement leave to file a complaint with the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement or bring a civil action against their employer for reinstatement, specified damages, and attorney's fees.

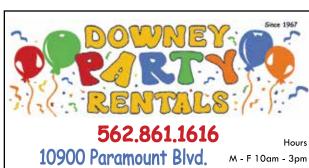
<u>Senate Bill 973 – Pay Data Reporting</u> SB 973 would require California employers with 100 or more employees to report to the state their pay data by race, ethnicity, and sex. This bill is intended to help create more transparency regarding equal pay. With this in mind, if signed SB 973 would also authorize the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing to enforce the California Equal Pay Act alongside the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement's current authority to do so.

Assembly Bill 2992 – Crime Victim Leave Expansion Currently, California law provides protected time off for employees who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. AB 2992 would extend current protections to cover victims of crime that caused any physical injury or that caused any mental injury and a threat of physical injury. Further, AB 2992 would also expand existing law to include job-protected time off not only for employees who are the direct victims of crimes themselves, but also for employees who are the immediate family members of a person who is deceased as a direct result of a crime.

<u>Conclusion</u> As we near the August 31, 2020 deadline, the legislature will scramble to finalize these bills in order to get them on the Governor's desk. It is important for employers to remain informed, particularly after a bill receives the Governor's signature.

Colin P. Calvert is a partner in the Irvine, California office of the labor and employment law firm Fisher & Phillips LLP. Please do not hesitate to contact him if you have any questions or seek additional information. Mr. Calvert may be reached at (949) 798-2160.





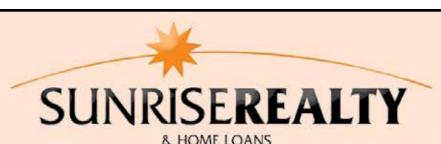
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M - F 10am - 3pm
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