



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 | FEBRUARY 2020 • VOL 48 • NO. 2

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It's a Great, State of the City!!

It was a wonderful afternoon when the long-awaited State of the City was delivered by former Mayor Rick Rodriguez. Our new Mayor, Blanca Pacheco gave Mr. Rodriguez permission to deliver his previously planned address, and what an address it was. Beginning with the formation of the Clergy Council, plans for Veteran's Housing, newly purchased Police and Fire Equipment, the Parks, the Library, the Downey Theater, and all the Fire Stations in the process of renovation which just shows how much is being done around the City. Your speech was certainly "action packed"! Thank-you, Mayor Rodriguez for a wonderful year of service, we are very proud of you!!



Front page photos by Claudia Gomez

Downey Business

-STAFF-

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DOWNEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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(562) 923-2191
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www.downeychamber.com

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

Events & Meetings

Tuesday, February 11

@ 6:30 pm

City Council Meeting

City Hall Council Chamber

Monday, February 17, 2020

Office Closed

Observance of President's Day

Wednesday, February 19

@ 12:00 pm

Ambassador Meeting

Location: TBD

Monday, February 24

@ 12:00 pm

Board of Directors Meeting

Downey Chamber of Commerce

11131 Brookshire Ave. Downey

Tuesday, February 25

@ 6:30 pm

City Council Meeting

City Hall Council Chamber

Wednesday, February 26

@ 12:00 pm

City Affairs

Downey Chamber of Commerce

11131 Brookshire Ave Downey

Speaker: TBD

Message from the President



3Greetings to all Downey Residents and Downey Business Owners, 2020....Wow..... a New Year and New Decade! Hope everyone has had a great beginning to the new year and that you took my advice last month and set goals, created a new business plan and are working on your new year's resolutions.

The Downey Chamber definitely started the year with a BANG! We had ___3___ new members join the Chamber in the month of January. We welcome new member Haus of Makeup located at 11126 Downey Ave. Owner Amerene Hernandez is a young Downey resident and super excited to fulfill her dream of opening her own business. I encourage you stop by and check out her shop... it's a woman's dream come true!

On January 22, the Chamber did a ribbon cutting for new member Tender Care

Community Clinic located at 7862 Firestone Blvd. Owner Tom Santos is a long time business owner in Downey and is looking forward to his new relationship with the Downey Chamber of Commerce. Tender Care clinic is a non-profit clinic that provides complete medical services to the community at reasonable costs for both adults and children.

On January 8th we had the long awaited State of the City. With over 180 people in attendance the event was a success. Councilman Rick Rodriguez provided a terrific presentation of both his and the City's accomplishments during his year as Mayor in 2019. Councilman Rodriguez was graciously given the title as "Mayor" for a few hours by current Mayor Blanca Pacheco so that he could do his presentation. His power point presentation was informative, uplifting and provided updates on such projects as Measure S construction progress of our Fire Stations, Parks, and Library, new developments in the city, and programs such as the Clergy Council, One Day of Service and Business watch.

As part of the State of the City address, Chief Police Dean Milligan and Fire Chief Mark Gillaspie gave presentations on their respective departments. Soon will have a Fireman's memorial in front of City Hall near the Police Officer memorial.

Those of us that work in Downey or live in Downey are very fortunate to have the very best.....starting with our council members, city staff, police department, fire department, school district, etc....who are all looking out for the best interests of each and every one of us. They are dedicated to the objectives of businesses and the overall safety and well being of everyone in this city.

The Downey Chamber of Commerce is so lucky to have such a great working relationship with City Council and City staff. Not many Chambers can say this, and we are truly thankful and appreciate all that you do for us!

I strongly encourage everyone to get involved in both city events, and chamber events.

Upcoming Events:

Feb 6--Downey Chamber Let's Do Lunch

Feb 19--Downey Chamber Ambassador Lunch

Feb 26--Downey Chamber City Affairs

Feb 15--Keep Downey Beautiful Clean Up 9 am

Feb 29--TLC 5 K

May 17--Downey Street Faire in conjunction with Ride & Stride

If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions or wish to reach out to me directly, please don't hesitate to either call me at 562-382-1252 or email me at cuva17@aol.com. I would love to hear from you!

-- Carrie Uva,
Downey Chamber President

Message from the Executive Director



February is always a fun month for the Chamber due to the upcoming Chamber's Anniversary Luncheon. Each year, our Board, Ambassadors, Members, and Staff get together to celebrate what the achievements of 2019. During lunch, we acknowledge our members who celebrate noteworthy anniversaries and we bring in a big cake for all our past presidents to enjoy. The Chamber has been working hard for Downey business since 1903! Helping farmer's with water preservation, encouraging the growth of the Aerospace Industry and always working hand and hand with our City Government. The Chamber has enjoyed being a great part of the growth of Downey. Please following our website for the date and location for the Anniversary Luncheon it is always a great time!

February is the month that we also celebrate the Oscars!! The attractive Mrs. Calvert and yours truly make it a crusade to see all the films nominated for best picture. It was easier when the academy only nominated 5 movies, but this year we are looking at a total of 9!! Fortunately, 7 of the movies are showing locally at the Cinemark and Studio Grill theaters. It is so wonderful that we don't even have to leave town to see the best in entertainment. I will let you know if our favorite movie wins.

The State of the City was held on January 8th at the Rio Hondo Event Center. I would like to thank our event sponsor Downey Federal Credit Union, Bob Ciatti of Efficient Lighting for the centerpieces and a big thank you to Wedgewood Wedding Staff for an incredible luncheon. Angelica Vergara, who is the new Task Force Leader at Rio Hondo, did an incredible job and truly earned all the accolades which were posted on Facebook and other social media by so many of the attendees. The Chamber is really looking forward in hosting many events at Rio Hondo.

Please "Save the Date" for the Chamber's annual Street Faire!! May 17th will be the day and Downey Ave. will be the location. Once again we will be a part of the City's Ride and Stride sponsored by LA Metro. Mark your calendar...it will be huge!!

-- Michael Calvert, Executive Director
Downey Chamber of Commerce

New Member

Haus of Makeup

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Tender Care

Balloons, tacos, along with an energetic DJ made it a great afternoon for a ribbon cutting as the Chamber welcomed a new member, Tender Care Community Clinic. After a tour of the facility, located at 7862 E. Firestone Blvd, by Mr. Tom Santos, the CEO explained that Tender Care specializes in affordable and comprehensive care for the under served and vulnerable community in the Downey area. The Clinic has been in operation for over 20 years and has a wonderful reputation for care and concern for all. Mr. T.R. Estrada, the Board President, was on hand to answer questions and to be a big part of the event. Thank you to the Tender Care Staff who was gracious and a wonderful help with the ribbon cutting.



“Let the ribbon fly!” Stand back everyone the ribbon has been cut and “it’s a go” to honor Tender Care Community Clinic as they become our newest member.



Tender Care Board President, T. R. Estrada (left) along with CEO of Tender Care Tom Santos (holding the big scissors) welcomed Chamber representatives Jeannie Wood of Albertson’s Market, Chamber President Carrie Uva of 24 Hour Real Estate, Paula Mejia of C&E Capital, Ron Long of Sunrun Energy, and Diane Padilla of Primerica

CARRIE UVA

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Gallatin Dental

It was a rare evening ribbon cutting for the Grand Re-Opening of Gallatin Dental. After many weeks of construction, the old offices, located at 10805 Paramount Blvd, are brand new and the entire facility looks awesome, bright, and ready for business. Gallatin Dental has been providing friendly and efficient dental care to Downey for many, many years. The dental group is very active in the community, supporting the Downey Chamber, Downey Lions, Kiwanis of Downey, TLC, Downey Unified School District and many more non-profits. So, it was no wonder that the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, City Councilman, Directors of the Chamber, Kiwanis Presidents, and members of G.O.O.D. were in attendance to give Dr. Steve and Staff and big “Thank You”! Plan to visit the new, updated facility and make an appointment, your teeth will thank you.

Flanking Dr. Steve and the Miss Downey, Miss Teen Downey, Junior Miss Downey, and their Courts are Councilman Alex Saab, Mayor Blanca Pacheco, Mayor Pro Tem Claudia Frometa and Councilman Rick Rodriguez.

It's official! Just moments after cutting the ribbon, everyone is enjoying the excitement including Chad Overly from Assembly Member Cristina Garcia's office, Councilman Alex Saab, Gallatin Office Manager Dr. Ibarra, Dr. Steve, Gallatin's Marketing Executive Joanna Peterson, Mayor Blanca Pacheco, Mayor Pro Tem Claudia Frometa, and Councilman Rick Rodriguez.

Chamber on the Town

The City Council of Downey recently honored the volunteers that were responsible for the recent 2019 Downey Christmas Parade. The planning by the Chamber starts as early as June just to ensure an event worthy of the citizens of Downey. Over 100 entries made up of commercial members, non-profit organizations, kids dancing and marching, equestrian units, bands, floats and of course Santa Claus...it's a lot of work!! Thank you, Mayor Pacheco, Mayor Pro Tem Frometa, Councilmen Rodriguez, Saab, and Ashton for making the Chamber feel very special!!



The Chamber always says that “it takes a village,” and it’s never been truer than during the planning and organizing the 2019 Downey Christmas Parade. Happy to show off their Certificates of Recognition are Chamber Office Manager, Sarah Sellers, Chamber Media and Event Coordinator Blake Calvert, presenting the certificates, Chamber Director Michael Calvert, Joanna Peterson of Gallatin Dental, Councilman Sean Ashton, Mayor Blanca Pacheco, Rain Neg of Eipros, Paula Mejia of C & N Capital, Jeannie Woods of Albertson’s Market, Marianna Pacheco of Downey Adult School, Mayor Pro Tem Claudia Frometa, and Councilman Alex Saab and Rick Rodriguez

Ambassador Lunch

Wednesday, January 22nd was the date for our Ambassador Luncheon. It was fun to talk about last month's Christmas Parade and Elf Run along with the State of the City held earlier in January. Co-Chairs Rain Neg and Paula Mejia laid out an aggressive plan for the end of winter and early spring by asking for volunteers for the up coming Street Faire and Golf Tournament. Everyone was eager to volunteer and are looking forward to planning these important events. A big “thank you” to the new La Barca for their excellent food and service and the Chamber is looking forward to their upcoming ribbon cutting.



Enjoying the friendship and networking opportunities are the Chamber's Ambassadors for January! Finding a corner for this month's group photo are Daniel Andrade of Beautiful Home Real Estate, Miriam Villanueva of Century 21 Peak Real Estate, Allie Hanks of Ocean Breeze Spa, Chairman Rain Neg of Eipros, Chamber President Carrie Uva of 24 Hour Real Estate, Sheila Tetangco-Bartolone of Financial Partners Credit Union, Linda Joco of Home Instead Senior Care, Chairman Paula Mejia of C&E Capital, Ron Long of Sunrun Energy, Diane Padilla or Primerica, Monica Dien of Financial Partners Credit Union, Pam Powers of Pacific Western Bank, and Rene Ramirez of Financial Partners Credit Union.

Member Spotlight

With February being named as National Healthy Heart Month, the Chamber thought it would be fun to focus on a member providing heart healthy activity. LA Pilates, located at 10411 Lakewood Blvd. (next to the Post Office on Lakewood Blvd), is an excellent way to start and improve your exercise program. The classes offered are designed to stretch and elongate muscles while increasing your range of motion. Class exercises improves flexibility, strengthens your abdomind muscles, lower back, hips and glutes while keeps them engaged throughout the course work. There is a careful attention to breathing patterns which improves lung capacity and blood circulation. Pilates will improve your posture, keeping your abdominal muscles engaged, and your shoulders squared. But if the classes are not fun or not taught well you will not be inclined to continue.

LA Pilates has a great staff of Pilates professionals. They make sure you are comfortable on the apparatus and that the exercises are done correctly which ensure the most effective workout. They have a wide range of classes from Intro, Reformer Flow, LA Stretch, LA Yoga, and LA Cardio Sculpt. All these classes promote strong mobile joints, improves muscle elasticity which helps ward off arthritis and weak stiff joints.

The facility opened in August of 2019. The location is new with great equipment and the convenience of doing your schedule on-line is wonderful. Pictured below is one of the amazing instructors, Veronica Perez and her Tuesday afternoon LA Cardio Class. Even though the pictures make it look easy, and Veronica keeps you at ease at all time, you finish the class totally worked out and feeling renewed!



We Want YOU!!

The Downey Chamber is looking for new members! To show the Chamber’s enthusiasm, a small group of Chamber Directors went door to door talking about the advantages of Chamber Membership. The businesses we visited were excited to hear about the chances to network and improve their visibility in the community. Our potential members were excited to hear about the upcoming Street Faire as well. So don’t be surprised when you hear a knock on the door and you’re being visited by the Downey Chamber of Commerce!!



Enjoying a quick visit to Pizza Hut on the corner of Florence and Paramount Blvds. Are Chamber Director Michael Chirco, Chamber President Carrie Uva of 24 Hour Real Estate, Chamber Director Rain Neg of Eipros, and Chamber Executive Director Michael Calvert.

Thank you...



The Chamber is very fortunate to have 15 amazing Board Members. Many of them work very tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that important events like the annual Street Faire, Christmas Parade, and Golf Tournament all go off without a hitch. With that in mind, I would like the opportunity to shine a small spotlight on one of our hardest workers, Board President Carrie Uva.

Carrie is one of those people who will always just pitch in and make sure a project is successful. A recent example of this happen during the planning of 2019’s Christmas Parade. Being a non-profit, the Chamber is always concern about our bottom line and as our President, Carrie shares that concern as well. During the Parade planning it was becoming apparent that we were running behind on our fund raising. Carrie took it upon herself to develop a flyer requesting donations. She designed the flyer, obtained the addresses, paid for the postage, and did some very effective follow up. The results of her efforts brought in almost 30% of the funds raised. Not only does Carrie make sure that the Chamber is successful, but she is a very in demand real estate agent working out of 24-Hour Real Estate, but she is an Estate Attorney as well. I appreciate Carrie’s dedication and work ethic. She is a great example and a fine mentor as well.

Thank you to Carrie, and to the other Board Members who are dedicated to the Chamber and what we try to accomplish.

Prohibition on Mandatory Arbitration Provisions: Where Are We Now?



Introduction

Late last year, Governor Newsom signed into law Assembly Bill 51, which prevents employers from mandating employees sign an arbitration agreement as a condition of employment or continued employment. This law was enacted amongst a string of legislation in California sparked by the “me too” movement. Specifically, AB 51 was originally intended to help ensure employees who fall victim to workplace sexual harassment or misconduct aren’t then forced into arbitration without having fully consented to arbitration at the outset of their employment. However, AB 51 was drafted with much broader language and applies to all arbitration agreements entered into within the employment relationship.

AB 51 has sparked significant discussion over the last few months with one resounding question: is AB 51 preempted by Federal law?

What Does AB 51 Do?

This law prohibits employers from requiring their applicants & employees from signing arbitration agreements. The law’s stated purpose is to ensure that contracts such as mandatory arbitration agreements within the context of employment, are entered into voluntarily and without coercion.

Practically, this means that employers are now required to give employees a choice when entering into arbitration contracts and cannot discriminate (fail to hire/terminate employment) against an employee or applicant who exercises their right to not sign. Thus, this law does not prohibit these agreements, rather it places a limit on an employer’s ability to require these agreements.

Is AB 51 Preempted by the FAA?

The Federal Arbitration Act (the “FAA”) was enacted by Congress to ensure enforcement of arbitration agreements similar to all other valid contracts. In general, provided an arbitration agreement meets certain fairness requirements, the FAA prohibits states from treating these contracts differently than any other. Over the years since, some states have enacted laws in an attempt to restrict or limit arbitration agreements. When a state law attempts to interfere with, or stands

as an obstacle to, the FAA, the courts have regularly and consistently struck down those attempts.

Proponents of AB 51 believe this law should not be preempted because the law explicitly states that it is not “intended to invalidate a written arbitration agreement that is otherwise enforceable under the FAA.” However, opponents of AB 51 believe that this law is similar to numerous other state attempts to restrict arbitration, and that merely including the above language does not safeguard AB 51 from federal preemption.

What Is The Current Status On Preemption of AB 51?

AB 51 went into effect on January 1, 2020, however starting in December of 2019, certain parties began working to get a California court to declare the law preempted by the FAA and/or to receive an injunction to prevent its implementation. Both the California Chamber of Commerce, and the U.S. Chamber of commerce, have brought suits against Xavier Becerra, California’s Attorney General.

These lawsuits indicate that opponents of AB 51 do not intend to let the law stand. However, the specific language of AB 51, at least how it is viewed by its proponents, has never been tested before by another state court. Whether the courts end up determining that AB 51 is preempted or not, legal battles such as these may take some time. With that in mind, employers must consider AB 51 as it stands in order to best comply with the law.

Conclusion

Arbitration agreements are an important and longstanding practice between employers and employees in California. Not only do arbitration agreements allow for resolution by an arbitrator, rather than a judge or jury, but often allow for a more informal resolution of disputes, beneficial to both employers and employees. In light of AB 51, current and previously utilized arbitration agreements may need to be updated.

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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2020 BUSINESSES OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Downey Chamber of Commerce will recognize outstanding businesses in the 1-10 employee category and in the 11+ employee category, for their consistent leadership in civic and business issues, and for their contributions to the community and to a variety of civic organizations. Two businesses who best follow this criteria will be honored:

- ✓ Must be a Downey business or have a branch office in Downey
- ✓ Member of the Chamber.
- ✓ Demonstrated continual contributions to the community.
- ✓ Shows leadership and gives input on civic issues, affecting their own business, and the entire business community.

The nomination for each category should be submitted on the form below. From your perspective, we also need to know why the individual is deserving of recognition as Business of the Year. Nominations are reviewed, and the winner selected by the Chamber Board of Directors.

The businesses selected will be honored at an upcoming luncheon. The nomination deadline is no later than 5:00 p.m., Saturday, February 29th, and are to be submitted to: Downey Chamber of Commerce, 11131 Brookshire Ave., Downey, CA 90241. Email to michael@downeychamber.com.

| Category 1-10 Employees Nominee | Category 11+ Employees Nominee |
|--|--|
| Nominee's Name _____ | Nominee's Name _____ |
| Business Name _____ | Business Name _____ |
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