



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 | JULY 2021 • VOL 49 • NO. 7

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The Thrill of a Lifetime

Well that's what we hope!! The Downey Chamber of Commerce recently honored Nader Moghaddam, President and CEO of Financial Partners Credit Union with it's Lifetime Membership Award at their recent Installation Gala held on June 30th at the Embassy Suites.

Mr. Moghaddam has been a long-time supporter of the Downey Chamber of Commerce and can always be counted on to support any of our functions including Street Faire, State of the City, and, for the last three years, FPCU has been the title sponsor of the Chamber's Downey Christmas Parade. But this award is not only for the generous donations that Nader has been a part of. It is truly about his commitment to the community, the way he is always looking to do more for Downey and his cooperation in helping us get things done. Thank you, Nader, the Downey Chamber is now committed to you for life!!

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- JEANNIE WOOD, Albertson's Market •

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

Welcome to our New Members!

Fehn Business Consulting
www.fehnbcc.com

Leticia Fehn, Founder/HR Business Consultant
Downey, CA 90241
(562)547-8740

Brick Los Angeles

Sebastian Valencia, Owner
8331 Firestone Blvd.
Downey, CA 90241
(562)754-2786

SoCalGas

Art Montoya, Energy Efficiency Policy Advisor
Email: art.montoya21@yahoo.com

The Social Smile

Sergio Salup, Owner
www.thesocialsmile.com
(323)717-4710

Email: ssalup@thesocialsmile.com

Congratulations and Thank You!

Southern California Gas Company, 75 years

Hoag Property Mgmt., Inc., 67 years

Chapel Store and Café, 35 years

Kaiser Permanente, 32 years

Laurie's Personal Pet Sitting, 31 years

Stater Bros Market, 22 years

The Downey Patriot, 20 years

Gloria's Cocina Mexicana, 16 years

Mikel's Insurance Services, 6 years

J.E. & Associates, An Accountancy

Corporation, 5 years

Southern California Resource Services for
Independent Living, 2 years

Lifetime Members

Steve Allen • Diane Boggs
Dominick DiMario • Maria Larkin
Nader Moghaddam • Susan Nordin
Jim Reynolds

Message from the President



Hello Downey! By the time you read this letter I would have been installed as your 118th Chamber President.

My family moved to Downey when I was in 4th grade, so I grew up in this great city! I am a graduate of Warren High School and was even married at St. Raymond's on Paramount Boulevard. You can say I owe a lot to the city that raised me and gave me such a great childhood. This is part of why I am volunteering my time and giving back to Downey via the Chamber Presidency, in addition to working my

dream job for the Downey Foundation for Educational Opportunities.

I want to give a big THANK YOU to our outgoing President, Maria Fernandez, for her creative leadership through a difficult pandemic year. Your Chamber stayed in the black via fundraisers and community events, and survived, despite all the quarantine limitations in 2020. I am lucky to have served with Maria and learned from her and am looking forward to still having her around as our Immediate Past President this year.

As we are nearing 15 months of an incredibly challenging and unprecedented time, your Chamber is cautiously looking forward to what the Summer brings – we are both hopeful and pragmatic for the rest of 2021. We know that getting back to “business as usual” may be slow, but we can do it together.

As 2021 unfolds, we continue to look for ways to improve our communication with members and the public because we know that communication is key to our success. We are proud to promote our businesses and community to our members, residents, and visitors to our area.

I am excited to see what the year will bring, as we plan to offer a host of various new networking opportunities. If you are a new member or have not been able to attend an event in some time, I encourage you to get out and get involved. Seek out a Board Member, one of our staff, or me, and introduce yourself. Take advantage of your Chamber of Commerce and all that we have to offer – advertising space on the chamber website and newspaper, digital ads on our social media, email distribution to all our business members, forthcoming networking opportunities, and more!

I want to thank you – both our new and longstanding members – for making the Downey Chamber of Commerce a continued success.

As we begin to see the light at the end of this pandemic tunnel, let's support the businesses in our great city and reinvest in our community. Let's think local and shop local by thinking Downey first!

Thank you for your support and I look forward to partnering together in 2021!

Best regards,

Sheila Tetangco-Bartolone, President, Downey Chamber of Commerce

Message from the Executive Director



We have all been waiting for this!! Wondering what life will be like when the pandemic restrictions start to wind down. I believe we are starting to see what this will look like. First off, do not put away your masks just yet. Also, if you have not received your vaccination, do not put it off any longer. The lines are smaller, and the benefits are tremendous.

It is wonderful to see Downey business coming back. What seems to be a challenge for most companies is staffing. “Help Wanted” signs are everywhere and yet the number of applicants seem to be nowhere near what is needed. In talking to business owners, they are finding that many potential employees have become comfortable with being at home and are looking for ways to modify their schedules for any “in office” work. Those people who were displaced during the pandemic found in many cases that they could now be involved in the children's school, care for an aging parent, volunteer in a food banks for an example. Maybe not employed but being useful and effective just the same. These new duties are hard to give up and I think employers are going to have to rethink, going forward, what the “job description” will look like. I know that even when I applied to be the Executive Director of the Chamber, it was my responsibility to show how I could meet the needs of the organization. Proof my availability to meet obligations and

be on board at functions that go well beyond the 9 to 5!! It is a different time now. Employers are going to show how they can meet the need of their applicant as well. I know this concept may seem a little backwards for some, but, I feel, the employer that works to meet some of their applicant's needs, along with their own, will find that your new hire will have a greater commitment to the company and will make a bigger contribution to your bottom line.

Now as a consumer, we need to adjust somewhat to this new environment after pandemic. There will be, as we move forward, more and more new hires almost everywhere we go. These new people will be learning menus, computer programs, sales data, and just about everything that you, as a long-time client of this business, may already know. This may make you a little crazy, BUT, try be helpful (in a respectful and caring way). But most importantly, be patient! Remember what it was like 12 months ago!?!? Remember, Downey really knows how to take care of each other which makes this the amazing City that it is.

Here's looking forward to a great summer!!

--Michael Calvert, Executive Director
Downey Chamber of Commerce





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Legal Corner



Cal/OSHA Evolving Standards for Mask Wearing and/or How They Relate to CDC Guidelines and Employer Programs

As California passed its June 15th reopening date, Cal/OSHA released updated mask-wearing standards for employers and their vaccinated employees (in the workplace) that align closely with the CDC's most recent guidance for vaccinated individuals (outside of the workplace). As a result, employers will, for the most part, be able to relax mandated masking and social distancing policies for fully vaccinated employees, while taking certain steps to protect those employees that have yet to or are unable to be vaccinated.

In mid-May, the CDC announced fully vaccinated individuals are free to resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing (except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance). The reasons being COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing COVID-19 disease and reduce the risk of individuals spreading COVID-19.

On June 3, Cal/OSHA released an update to the Emergency Temporary Standard directing employers that employees could only remove masks when all persons present were fully vaccinated and asymptomatic. This was met with a great deal of resistance, since it meant the only way for employers to fully eliminate mask requirements would be to have proof that every single employee had been fully vaccinated. This new standard was set to be in place until July 31, 2021. However, the board

chose to reconvene, reconsider, and revise on June 17, where they approved and released the most recent update. Following their June 17 meeting, Governor Gavin Newsom signed an executive order allowing the revisions to take immediate effect.

What Exactly Does the Cal/OSHA Update Mean for Employers and Mask Requirements?

For starters, fully vaccinated employees no longer need to wear face coverings in the workplace. Employers must continue to provide face coverings to employees upon request, regardless of their vaccination status. Employees who are not fully vaccinated must wear face coverings while indoors, in vehicles, and/or when required by the CDPH or local health department. Where an employee is required to wear a face covering, exceptions are: (1) when an employee is alone in a room or vehicle, (2) when employees are eating and drinking on site while maintaining social distancing, (3) when employees are wearing respirators required by the employer, (4) when an employee cannot wear a mask due to medical or mental health conditions or disabilities, and (5) when specific tasks cannot feasibly be performed with a face covering.

An employee is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose of a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Under the new update, employers also must provide employees who are not fully vaccinated with respirators for voluntary use if requested. "Respirator" means a respiratory protection device such as an N95 filtering facepiece respirator, approved by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health designed

to protect the wearer from particulate matter.


How the Cal/OSHA Update Relates to CDC Guidelines

The CDC recommendations state fully vaccinated individuals can resume daily activities they stopped doing because of the pandemic, without wearing a mask or social distancing. The new Cal/OSHA updates align with these recommendations, allowing fully vaccinated employees to return to work without masking.

Final Thoughts

As California continues its return to "normal", employers can start to ease up on their COVID-19 workplace masking requirements. Notwithstanding, employers must remain diligent in ensuring that employees who choose to remain masked or request a respirator can do so without fear of retaliation.

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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- Must be able to submit proper documentation and show a loss of income due to coronavirus
• *Debe ser capaz de presentar la documentacion apropiada y demostrar una perdida de ingresos debido al coronavirus*
- Business is located within Downey city boundaries
• *La empresa debe estar ubicada dentro de los limites de la ciudad de Downey*
- Must be in good standing with the City.
• *Debe estar al dia con la ciudad*

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Para conocer las normas completas del programa y saber si su empresa reúne los requisitos, visite:

 <https://www.downeyca.org/covid-19-business-assistance>

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