

## State of the City

The State of the City Luncheon was held at the Rio Hondo Event Center on March 26th. Nearly 200 attendees were privileged to listen to the upbeat message detailing the forward-thinking activities planned for our City. Mayor Ashton outlined exciting improvements to city streets, parks, and previously blighted areas which will only enhance the way we live and do business in Downey. Thank you to the Special Events Staff at Rio Hondo who delivered a very tasty meal in an efficient manner. The Chamber would also like to thank our very special guest, County Supervisor for District Four, Janice Hahn who opened our event with stellar fashion.



Ladies who lunch!! Enjoying the State of the City Luncheon is Chamber Director Jeannie Woods of Albertson's Market, County Supervisor Janice Hahn, Chamber Vice President Carrie Uva of 24 Hour Real Estate, Board Member Cindy Kovach of US Bank, Chamber Ambassador Carmen Gonzalez of Kaiser Permanente, and Chamber President Joanna Peterson of Gallatin Dental.



Supporting our Mayor are friends from City Hall including Aldo Schindler Head of Community Development, Councilwoman Blanca Pacheco, and Mayor Pro Tem Rick Rodriguez.



Letting our Mayor know we approve of his fashion choices are Chamber President Elect John Casillas of Farmers and Merchants Bank, Mayor Sean Ashton, Chamber President Joanna Peterson, and Chamber Executive Director Michael Calvert



Hats Off to our Mayor on his State of the City message!! Showing their appreciation are John Casillas, Joanna Peterson, Councilwoman Blanca Pacheco, and Chamber Ambassador Rain Neg





Downey Business

--STAFF--

Michael Calvert, Executive Director  
Sarah Sellers, Administrative Assistant  
Leticia Arriaga, Events Coordinator

DOWNEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

Message from the President



I hope May has gotten off to a great start. As the weather gets warmer, I am beginning to reflect on my time as Chamber of Commerce President.

My tenure at the Chamber has been deeply fulfilling and rewarding. With its over 467 members, our group can be counted on to work together and to help one another succeed. It is an honor to be a part of an organization where the focus is rooted in making a positive community impact, and we are getting better every day.

The Chamber Board of 2017-2018 has been nothing but fantastic. Their willingness to step up and take action, their unyielding support and their sacrifices for the Chamber and the City as a whole did not go unnoticed.

I owe immense debt to Michael Calvert. His dedication and guidance – in addition to his great humor – has always made my job easier and more enjoyable. The Chamber and the City of Downey are extremely lucky to have him. I am so lucky to have served as President in a Chamber where Michael was the Executive Director.

The past year has been one of great progress. We completed the remodeling of the Chamber building, instituted a new phone system, raised funds, put together a better, more effective website and so much more. More of our members have become involved and dedicated! Our Chamber as a whole, truly lived up to our mission identity as “an action-oriented organization.” The Ambassadors have been such great representatives, welcoming new members, attending ribbon cuttings and supporting the chamber staff. I cannot thank them enough.

Though I am incredibly proud of the work we have done, I know this is just a start of the things to come. As we continue to celebrate 115 years of service, the Downey Chamber of Commerce is in good hands, and I trust the next President – and generations of Presidents that follow – will continue to work in our mission of promoting community and business, in that order.

-- Joanna Peterson, President  
Downey Chamber of Commerce

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, May 8 @ 6:30pm  
City Council Meeting  
City Hall Council Chamber

Wednesday, May 9 @  
11:30am - 1pm  
Women in Business  
Topic: “Emergency Preparedness”  
Location: Frantones Restaurant  
10808 Alondra Blvd., Cerritos

Tuesday, May 15 @ 3pm  
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony  
Downey Adult School - Career &  
Education Center  
12340 Woodruff Ave, Downey

Wednesday, May 16 @ Noon  
Ambassador Committee Meeting  
Location: TBD

Monday, May 21 @ Noon  
Board or Directors Meeting  
Chamber Board Room  
11131 Brookshire Avenue

Tuesday, May 22 @ 6:30pm  
City Council Meeting  
City Hall Council Chamber

Wednesday, May 30 @ Noon  
City Affairs  
Speaker: TBD  
Downey Chamber of Commerce  
11131 Brookshire Avenue, Downey

Anniversary Luncheon Correction



Last month, in our Anniversary Luncheon coverage, we misspelled the names of the company and the owners of our Small Business of the Year!! With many apologies to Risher Mortuary and the owners Greg and Barbara Welsh, here is their picture with Chamber President Joanna Peterson, Council members Alex Saab and Blanca Pacheco along with Mayor Pro Tem Rick Rodriguez celebrating the moment!



# Executive Director’s Message



SPRING!! It’s such a great time of year in Downey. The City just looks so new and fresh and ready for some fun and excitement! Nothing says fun and excitement like the annual Chamber Sponsored Street Faire. For 25 years the Street Faire has allowed Downey Business and local craftsmen to share what’s new and fresh in the community. Tomorrow will be another example of an event that shows just how special Downey can be! We are back on Brookshire closing the street between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Making Brookshire a 5 block Cinco de Mayo Fiesta. Included in the line up are live entertainment, local dance troupes, food, food, and more food! This year, to add to the festivities, the wonderful Veteran’s Group, Courage Forward will be manning a Beer Garden! How fun is that?

The Street Faire has always been a tradition here. Families, young and old come together to enjoy the great Spring weather and all that the Faire has to offer. Parking at Downey High School is free and there will be a Kid’s Zone, a Petting Zoo, and family themed entertainment with pretty much something for everyone. I would like to thank all our sponsors and the Friends of the Faire that made this year’s event possible.

We go from one long standing Spring tradition to a brand-new Chamber Event. The annual Golf Tournament is being held this year at Rio Hondo Golf Course on June 20th. We are very excited to move our event from the dreary Fall and have it at the very end of Spring. Bring your clubs and tee up a shot! It will be lots of fun on the Fairways!!

-- Michael Calvert, Executive Director  
Downey Chamber of Commerce



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\* "Poor Nutrition Increases Sickness Absence 50%," Workplace Savings and Benefits, accessed October 22, 2012.



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# Ambassador Luncheon

Cocina Distrito, our new restaurant member, (located at 12056 Paramount Blvd.) welcomed our hard-working Ambassador Committee for a wonderful luncheon on April 18th. Sheila Tetangco-Bartolone and Monica Dien, Co-Chairs, and both of Financial Partners Credit Union, held a very effective and fun meeting to outline our many activities coming up in the month of May. On the calendar are many mixers and ribbon cuttings but the big event that has everyone’s attention is of course the Street Faire on May 5th!! Bring your sunscreen and comfortable shoes for that one ladies and gentlemen!!



Thank you Ronald Long of Sunrun Solar for the fashion forward eyewear! Enjoying being “too cool for their shades” are (back row) Alex Hanks of Ocean Breeze Spa, Rain Neg of Epros, Joanna Peterson of Gallatin Dental, (front row) Cindy Kovach of US Bank, Pam Powers of Pacific Western Bank, and Carmen Gonzalez of Kaiser Permanente.



Our entire Ambassador Group enjoyed the wonderful food and amazing service experienced at Cocina Distrito. The menu is very diverse and covers many areas in Mexico. Though this was a working lunch, our group plans on returning and enjoying the incredible tequila bar.

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## Congratulations and Thank You!

The following businesses have celebrated another year as members of the Downey Chamber of Commerce. Businesses listed are those that renewed last month and are marking another year with us. This is a monthly feature of *Downey Business*. All members will be recognized during the course of a year. The Downey Chamber thanks you for your support.

**62 Years**

Downey Association of Realtors, Inc.

**37 Years**

So. CA Alcohol & Drug Programs, Inc.

**34 Years**

Embassy Suites

**23 Years**

Downey Seventh Day Adventist Church

**22 Years**

Days Inn  
Nova Storage

**18 Years**

EscrowNet

**16 Years**

Tax Solution Center

**12 Years**

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**7 Years**

The Point Insurance Services

**6 Years**

Shear Vanity Inc.

**4 Years**

Downey Youth Football  
Razorback

**3 Years**

Jimmy Johns  
California Fish Grill

## Welcome New Members!

You have just joined the most prestigious business organization in the Mid-Cities area. We are happy with your decision to do so and welcome you! There are many benefits to being a member of the Downey Chamber of Commerce, chief among them networking, advertising opportunities, seminars, legislative advocacy, and community recognition. Attention, established members! Send a note or stop by and say hello to these new members. You both will be glad you did.

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gladychinch@hotmail.com

## Lifetime Members

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Diane Boggs  
  
Dominick DiMario

Maria Larkin  
  
Susan Nordin

Meredith Perkins  
  
Jim Reynolds

Mary Stauffer  
  
David R. Gafin

## Ambassador Profile



This month's Ambassador Profile is Carmen Gonzalez. Carmen is the Public Affairs Representative, which means that she oversees all community and government relations, along with the medical center's volunteerism program and community sponsorship program. Carmen joined Kaiser Permanente in 2005.

Carmen has been an Ambassador since 2010. She is always a part of Street Faire and is responsible for the Chamber being able to hand out the very popular Kaiser bags! Going to the monthly Ambassador lunches along with her work on the Christmas Parade Committee are some of the highlights of her work as an Ambassador.

Carmen was raised in Paramount and has lived in Downey for the last 20 years. Not only does she love the short commute to her office, but now with the Promenade so close, she's able to enjoy a quick shopping trip or a handy lunch at her convenience.

Her many favorite things include her love of dance, the outdoors, and bike riding. Carmen can be seen at a Rams home game or at Shania Twain concerts, Shania being an all time favorite!! If you could describe Carmen, I believe her advice on having a great life is a great way to sum her up. "Smile and laugh more and remember that positive thinking is the key to a successful life."





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# 24 Hour Fitness Mixer

A very fun and energetic mixer was held on April 19th, at Downey's 24 Hour Fitness. Located at the Promenade, this full-service gym combines the latest in technology with the best of technique! Thank you to the Corporate Account Executive for LA County Drea Johnson and her staff who not only provide a great location, but also gave us a little cardio workout to make us rethink our fitness priorities!! Another big "shout out" to the newly renamed Events and Stuff (formally Café and Stuff) who provided a wonderful array of healthy snacks!! Also thank you to the 15-member companies that came out to set up booths and promote various programs. And you burned some calories too!



Should we work out or should we dive into those amazing healthy snacks provided by "Events and Stuff" catering? Making a big decision is Eric Kim of Courage Forward and Michael Calvert Executive Director of the Downey Chamber.



Putting us through our paces are Josh Craig and Trivon Andry of 24 Hour Fitness. They provided an exciting sample workshop and showed us the benefits of having a trainer.



Jimenez Financial Ribbon Cutting

Jimenez Financial opened their new location doors on April 11th. Their beautiful new offices are located at 9901 Paramount Blvd, Suite 115. The Principal, Frank Jimenez and his staff focus on the specific needs of their clients and creating a financial plan that is long term and can be adjusted as your life changes.



Wishing Frank Jimenez, the firm Principal (left) and Mayra Ramos, Office Manager (right) well, are Jeannie Woods of Albertson's Market and Rain Neg of Epros both members of the Chamber.



Presenting Frank Jimenez of Jimenez Financial (and wearing his Red Ribbon) his City Recognition Certificate and his Membership Plaque from the Chamber are City Councilwoman, Blanca Pacheco, and Chamber President Joanna Peterson, of Gallatin Dental.

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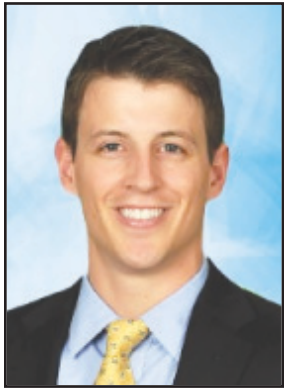
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## Violence in the Workplace: What You Can Do About It



In recent weeks, we have been inundated with one news story after the next about gun violence and active shooter scenarios. There is much that can be said about the social crisis hitting all corners of our nation. However, this article will focus on the role of the employer in protecting its workforce and taking steps to ensure its workplace is as safe as possible.

Most recently, a lone gunman entered a widely known tech and entertainment company's headquarters in San Bruno, California and opened fire on employees sitting outside at the café on the company's campus. In the wake of gunfire, three of the company's employees were left wounded and the gunman dead. This event was and remains horrific and tragic. However, the event does highlight the problem and presents an invaluable opportunity for employers to dust off their workplace violence prevention policies and update

security measures. Doing so may prevent future loss of life.

### Is an Employer Obligated to Protect its Employees from Criminal Violence?

Yes and no. The answer depends on the facts of the situation. Generally, an employer does not have a duty to protect its employees from being criminally assaulted by others. For example, an employer would not face civil liability if a gunman entered its premises and shot employees, wounding and/or killing them.

However, the employer can assume such a duty where it has knowledge of danger or a credible threat of danger in the workplace and knows the intended victim of that danger or threat of danger.

### Temporary Restraining Orders

The Workplace Violence Safety Act, enacted in 1994, authorizes employers to obtain a temporary restraining order to protect an employee who has suffered from "unlawful violence or a credible threat of violence" if it can "reasonably be construed to be carried out or to have been carried out at the workplace." Employers can even go so far as to obtain temporary restraining orders on behalf of other employees and employees at other worksites of the employer, where appropriate. A person subject to a temporary restraining order under the Act is prohibited from going to the place of work of the victim or intended victim. The subject is also prohibited from owning, possessing, receiving, or attempting to purchase a firearm while the protective order is in effect.

A "credible threat of violence" is defined by the Act as a "knowing and willful statement or course of conduct that would place a reasonable person in fear for his or her safety, or the safety of his or her immediate family, and that serves no legitimate purpose." California courts have even granted temporary restraining orders for generalized threats leveled against an employer's workforce rather than a single, specified employee. Note that the term "employee" is defined by the Act broadly to include *volunteers* and *independent contractors* performing services for the employer at the employer's worksite.

The Act expressly states that it does not, in and of itself, expand, diminish, alter, or modify any duty of an employer, if any, to provide a safe workplace for employees. However, pursuing a temporary restraining order can serve the purpose of not only protecting the lives and safety of employees and others, but can also help shield the employer from civil liability.

California's state courts have varying requirements for applications for temporary restraining orders based on the county in which the order is sought. If you think that a temporary restraining order may be appropriate for your situation, it is recommended that you speak with employment counsel.

### Zero-Tolerance Policy

Having a strong zero-tolerance policy for acts or threats of violence in the workplace is an excellent first step. Some tips for a comprehensive workplace violence policy include:

- Extending the prohibition against threats or acts of violence to applicants, customers, and other third parties doing business with the employer;
- Prohibiting weapons on the employer's premises;
- Prohibiting discussions of weapons, even if in a joking manner. Making light of weapons and violence may lead to decreased sensitivity to the issue and even lead to threats of violence not being taken seriously;
- Remind employees that all threats of violence should be taken seriously; and
- Provide an effective chain of command for the reporting of violent acts or threats of violent acts.

Providing such a policy up front to employees upon hire, can help set the tone for expectations. Consistent enforcement of a policy is an integral component of a policy's effectiveness. If employees perceive a policy to lack practical application, it will lose its force and value to the employer. Employers may also want to add security measures such as a security guard, gates, and restricting access to access points to those with authorized key fobs or cardkeys.

In the event an act of violence is carried out, it is a good rule of thumb that if you see something, say something. Even providing a warning just a few second or minutes in advance may make all the difference.

This article provides an overview of the law and is not intended to be, nor should it be construed as legal advice for any particular fact situation. Colin P. Calvert is a partner in the Irvine, California office of the labor and employment law firm Fisher Phillips. 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.



# Let's Do Lunch

On April 5th about 45 Chamber members came together for our April "Let's Do Lunch", at Joseph's located on Downey Ave. They were kind enough to open the restaurant for our event which we were very grateful, as they are usually open for lunch only on the weekends. The food was very good and our choices from the menu were very well planned. We will not be having a Let's Do Lunch event in May, due to the Street Faire, but please plan on joining us June 7th.



Pastor Alex of Desert Reign Church, located on Lakewood Blvd. talks about an up-coming program promoting Children's safety.



Brandon, who is a physical therapist at Reform Chiropractic, explains the many healing services performed at his office.



Agreeing that Joseph's was a great venue for this event are Joanna from Jimmie John's Sandwiches, Joanna from Gallatin Dental, along with Sergio and Mayra from Jimenez Financial.

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## Chamber on the Town



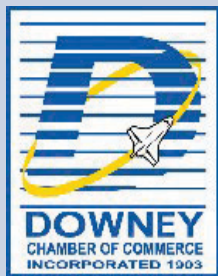
Getting healthy and enjoying the networking at the 24 Hour Fitness Mixer are Leti Arriaga, Event Coordinator for the Chamber, MaryAnn Sourial, Rain Neg of Epros and Sonia Delgado of MR and Associates.



Enjoying the “realistic” western motif are Chamber member Efferem Sanchez and his wife. They were attending the Kiwanis Casino Night recently held at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

## Women in Business

Our Women in Business group met on April 11th at Frantone’s Pizza on Alondra in Norwalk. We had a large group of women and men representing Downey, Norwalk and Cerritos. This month Holly Noble of “4 the Love of Horses,” was the guest speaker with the topic being time management. Holly not only runs two successful businesses but has a very active multi-generational family. She gave us many tips regarding prioritizing tasks and making sure you focus on what’s important. Thank you Frantone’s for the wonderful luncheon and pastries we always appreciate the amazing service! Next month we will be discussing emergency preparedness in the workplace on May 9th. Please check our website for further details.



*The Mission of The Downey Chamber of Commerce is to advocate and support a healthy and profitable business environment which improves the quality of life!*



Elemental Staffing Ribbon Cutting

April 12th was the official opening for Elemental Staffing located on the corner of Florence and Western Avenues. This job placement company focuses on niches positions and matches candidates, based experience, education and spiritual elements for a more satisfactory work experience. Harold Zapata Founder and CEO is an enthusiastic leader who brings a very positive energy that is represented in his team of Staffing Professionals. The Ribbon Cutting was attended by Mayor Sean Ashton, Mayor Pro Tem Rick Rodriguez and Councilwoman Blanca Pacheco along with the Chamber Board and Chamber Ambassadors. We look forward in seeing Elemental Staffing improve the employment scene here in Downey.



The team from Elementa Staffing headed by Harold Zapata, Founder and CEO, along with Mayor Pro Tem Rick Rodriguez, Councilwoman Blanca Pacheco, Chamber Director Jeannie Woods and Mayor Sean Ashton get ready to cut the red ribbon.



Accepting their Chamber of Commerce membership plaque from Board Member Jeannie Woods of Albertson's Market are Harold Zapata and Marcus Asay, Board Chairman.

# Jazz Nights @ VAZZA CAFE

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