



**HARBOUR COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**Thursday, February 26, 2026  
Meeting Room B-8  
2000 Main Street  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648**

**CHRIS NIELSEN, Chair  
VAN VU, Vice Chair  
WILLIAM LARKIN, Board Member  
KIMBERLEY MILLIGAN, Board Member  
CRAIG SCHAUPPNER, Board Member  
MEL WILLIAMS, Board Member  
DIANE WOOD, Board Member**

**COUNCIL LIAISONS**

**PAT BURNS, Councilmember Liaison  
GRACEY VAN DER MARK, Councilwoman Liaison**

**STAFF**

**ERIC MCCOY, Fire Chief  
TREVOR MCDONALD, Marine Safety Division Chief  
KEVIN JUSTEN, Senior Management Analyst**

**CALLED TO ORDER**

Nielsen called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Nielsen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Larkin, Nielsen, Schauppner, Vu, Williams, Wood

Commissioner Absent: Milligan

Staff Present: Justen, McDonald, Villa

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was one public comment: Amory Hanson reiterated his support for the Harbour Commission's proposed revisions to *Municipal Code Chapters 13.32, 13.36, 13.40, 13.44* as currently written.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 22, 2026

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Vu, seconded by Larkin, to approve the January 22, 2026, meeting minutes.

The motion carried by the following vote, 6-0:

AYES: Larkin, Nielsen, Schauppner, Vu, Williams, Wood

NOES: None

## SPECIAL REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

Orange County Coastkeepers Projects and Activities, Kaysha Kenney, Marine Restoration Director

Kenney provided a presentation on shell strings and living shorelines: enhancing native oyster recruitment and shoreline stability.

## ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

### 1. *Code of Ethics Distribution and Acknowledgement*

Justen asked Harbour Commission Members to fill out and submit the Code of Ethics Acknowledgement, signifying that they have received the Code of Ethics. He explained that all public officials and employees are required to do this annually and referenced the handout of City Council Resolution 2016-17, which covers it.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 2. *Infrastructure Ad Hoc Committee*

Williams reported that he reviewed the permit presentation by Jacquelyn Chung and said that the Committee will continue to evaluate the issues associated with a general permit and report back on next steps in the future. They will be focusing on making the permit process as easy as possible for residents and reporting back on what such a permit would look like.

### 3. *Vessels and Watercraft Ad Hoc Committee*

Williams said that there was no report from the Vessels and Watercraft Ad Hoc Committee.

### 4. *Water Quality Ad Hoc Committee*

Schauppner said that efforts are being made to reconvene the coalition for clean water. He also announced the Earth day event on April 26<sup>th</sup> and said that it will be led by the Bolsa Chica Conservancy and Bolsa Chica State Beach. The Huntington Harbour Yacht Club will be sponsoring another *Earth Day Crawl*, as they did in 2025. He said that it would be good for these events to be announced at the City

Council meeting and suggested that a member of the Water Quality Ad Hoc Committee announce the oyster shell string program and the Earth Day events. Larkin asked if County Public Works Department cameras can be focused on Harbour booms prior to storms.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

McDonald said that the Marine Safety Division is very busy with recruitments, promotions and academies in preparation for a busy summer season. They have conducted two training academies for 45 new Lifeguards. Sergeant Villa announced that Captain Gary Lewellyn, who served as the Harbormaster for the Orange County Sheriff’s Department Harbor Patrol, retired in February after 29 years of service. Justen provided an update of the court case Murchison v. City of Newport Beach, including the timeframe for the trial. This is a federal civil rights lawsuit challenging the City of Newport Beach’s ban on private, paid surf lessons at public beaches. It is of interest to the City of Huntington Beach in that it could impact kayak and paddle board rentals on City beaches.

**MEMBER COMMENTS**

Nielsen reported that Captain Kyle Caldwell from Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach will be the guest speaker at the March 26, 2026 Harbour Commission meeting. Schauppner asked Justen to forward a question to Captain Caldwell regarding dredging of the new boat channel adjacent to the Weapons Station. Justen said that he would communicate this to Captain Caldwell through the USN Public Affairs Officer and asked Commissioners to provide him any other questions that they might have for Captain Caldwell.

**ADJOURNMENT**

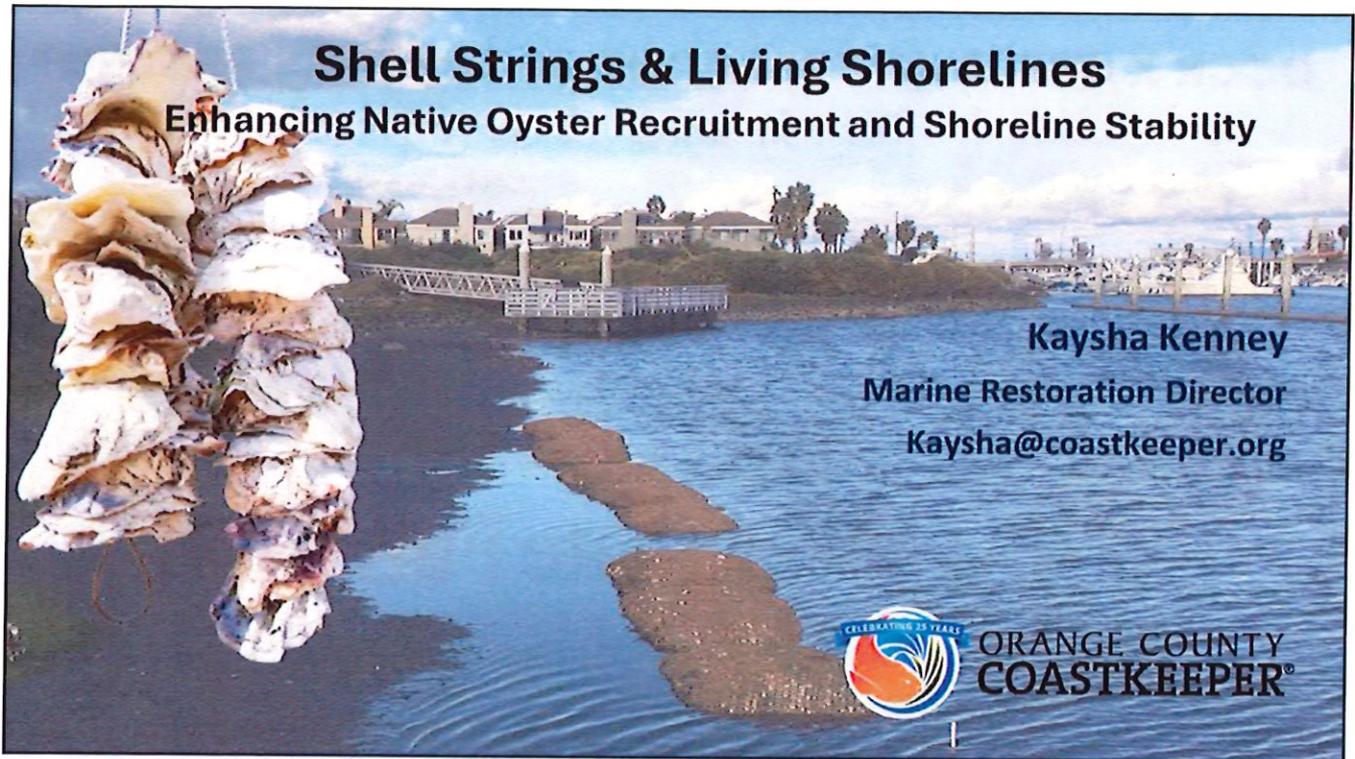
**MOTION:** A motion was made by Vu, seconded by Williams, at 5:52 p.m. to adjourn to the regular meeting on March 26, 2026.

The motion carried by the following vote, 6-0:

AYES: Larkin, Nielsen, Schauppner, Vu, Williams, Wood

NOES: None

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Harbour Commission will be on March 26, 2026, at a time and location to be announced.



## Shell Strings & Living Shorelines

Enhancing Native Oyster Recruitment and Shoreline Stability

**Kaysha Kenney**  
Marine Restoration Director  
[Kaysha@coastkeeper.org](mailto:Kaysha@coastkeeper.org)



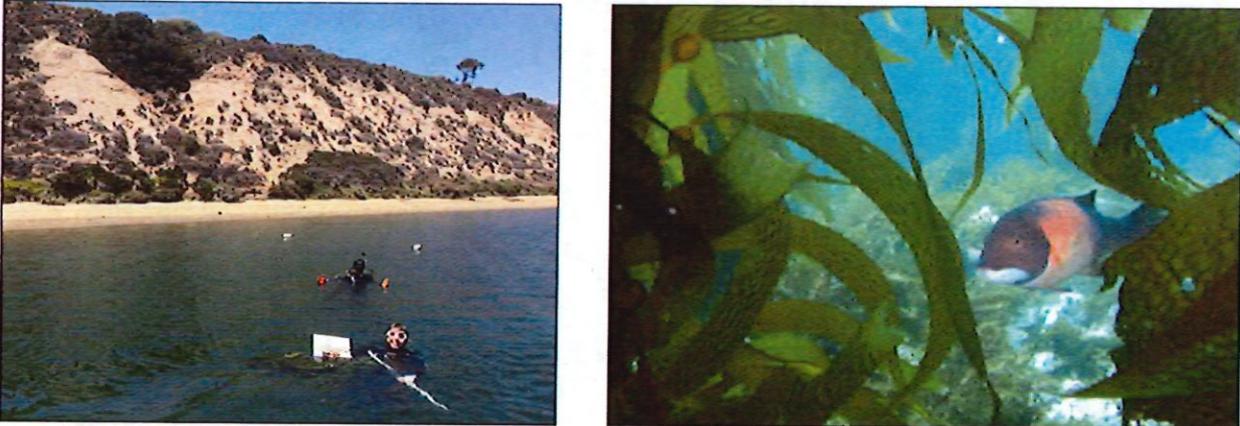
ORANGE COUNTY  
COASTKEEPER®

1



ORANGE COUNTY  
COASTKEEPER.

**Our mission is to protect the region's water resources so they are swimmable, drinkable and fishable for present and future generations.**



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## OCCK X CSULB X CSUF LIVING SHORELINES PROJECT



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**LONG BEACH**

**Cal State Fullerton.**

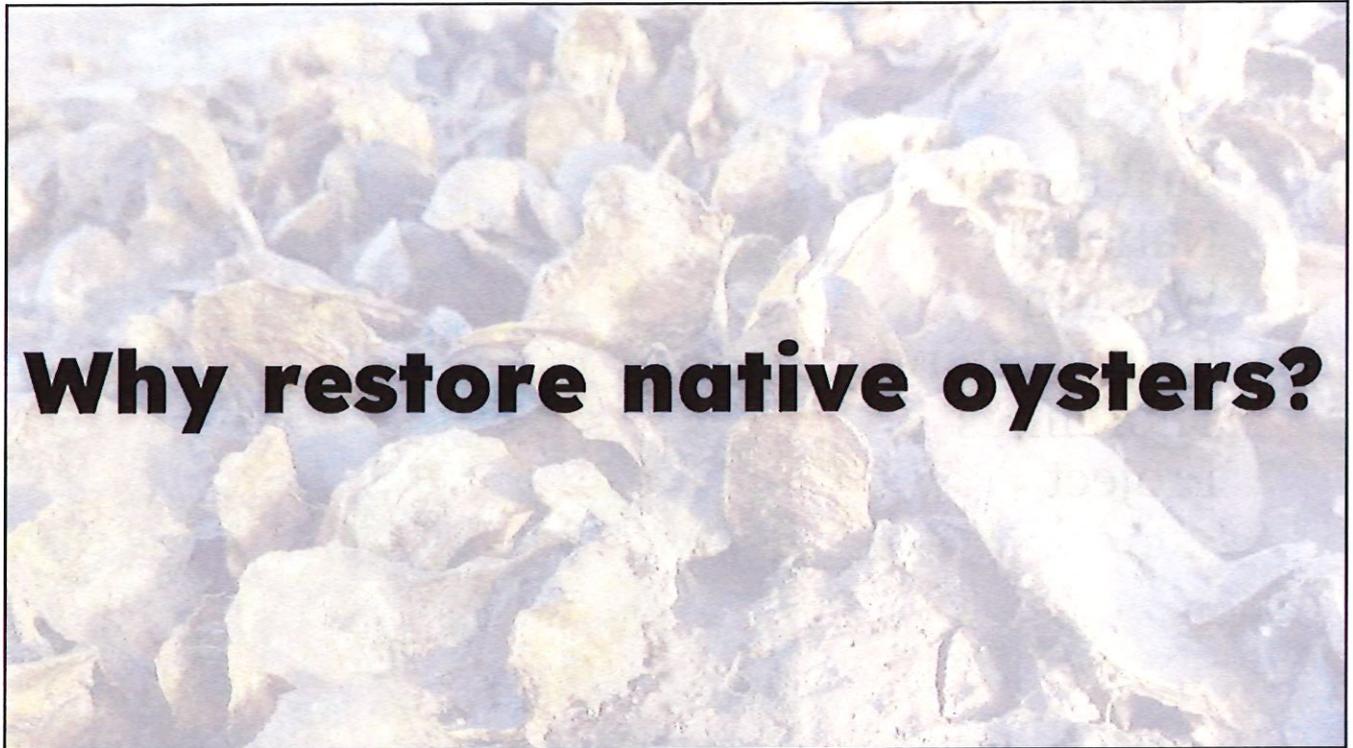
3

### The Olympia oyster: *Ostrea lurida*

- Only native oyster to U.S. West Coast
- Found in bays and estuaries on hard surfaces
- Form complex structured habitats
- 90% decline due to over harvesting and climate change
- Functionally extinct



4



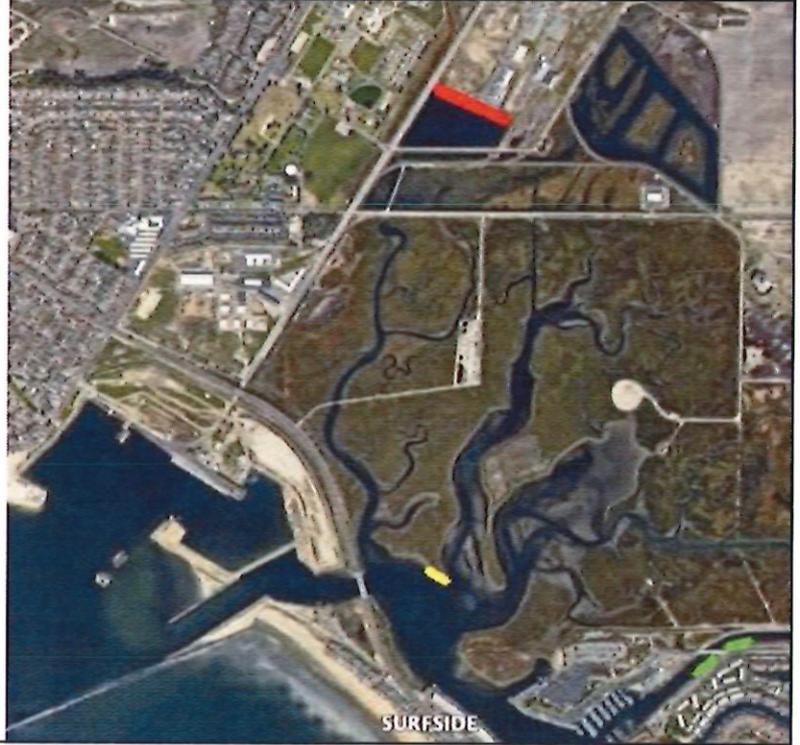
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- **Improve water quality by filtering sediments and pollutants out of the water**
- **Provide habitat for other species**
- **Can prevent shoreline erosion**
  - **forming reefs that act as natural breakwaters**
  - **trap and stabilize shore sediments**
- **Food source**



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# Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge Living Shorelines Project



7

**Bolsa Chica Channel**  
Potentially feasible area for restoration



**Inlet Peninsula**  
Potentially feasible area for restoration



**Forrestal Pond**  
Potentially feasible area for restoration



8

**Living Shorelines**



↙ ↘

**Shell Strings**                      **Shell Recycling**



9



**Shell Strings**

The Shell String Project invites participants to "oyster garden" by caring for baby Olympia Oysters. Each person nurtures their Shell String, returning it at season's end to place the young oysters in restored beds.

At season's close, our scientists help identify and count the offspring, fostering native Olympia Oysters and benefiting local waterways.

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**Shells for Shorelines is an oyster recycling program that takes donated oyster shells from restaurants and repurposes them for native oyster restoration programs in Southern California. This initiative helps reduce food waste, lower program costs, and engage the local community in marine science projects.**

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## Shells for Shorelines - Oyster Shell Recycling



People enjoy eating freshly shucked oysters and shellfish at restaurants



Our partnered restaurants collect oyster shells in buckets after meals

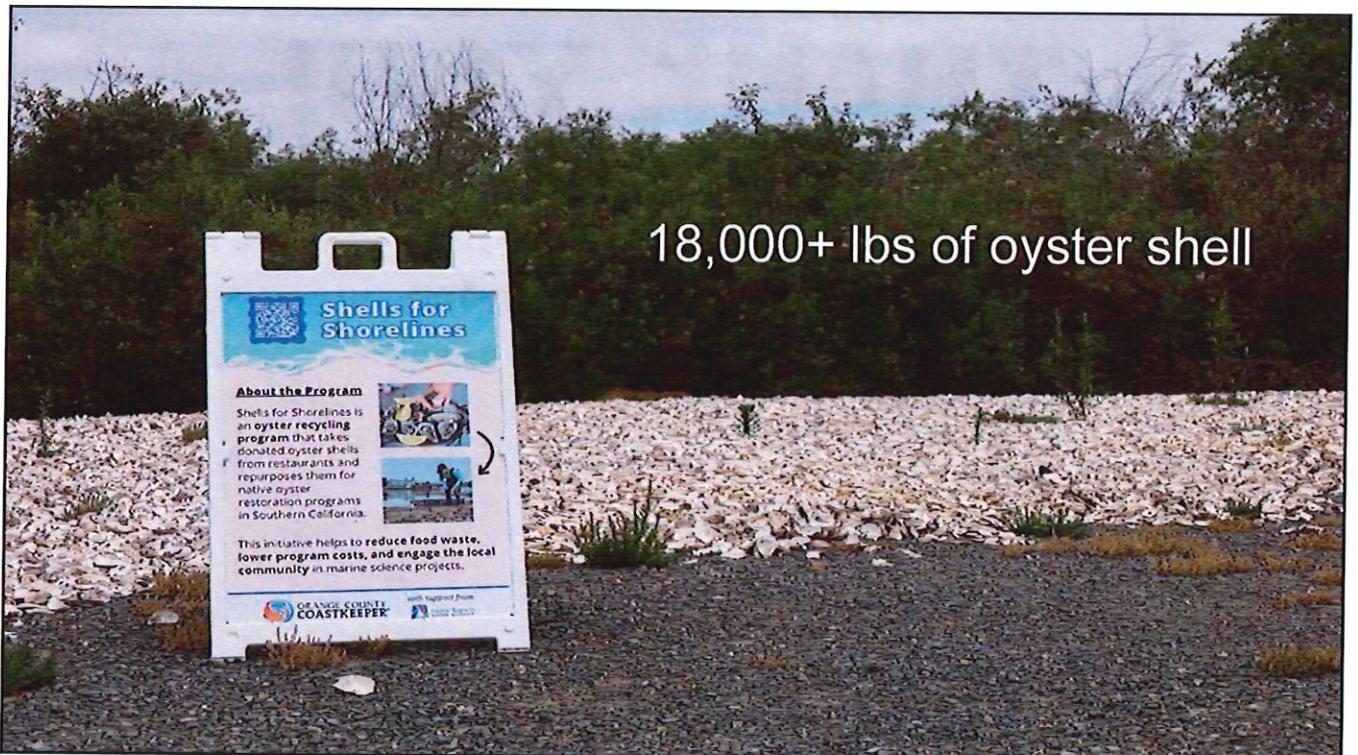


OCCK picks up the shells from restaurants and transports them to a drying facility



These shells bask in the sunshine for one year, undergoing a natural curing process that eliminates harmful pathogens and organisms

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18,000+ lbs of oyster shell

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### HUNTINGTON HARBOUR SHELL STRING PROJECT

Protect Local Waterways. Strengthen Marine Life. Support Coastal Resilience.






**Shell String Information Day**  
Friday February 20  
5:00-6:00pm  
Huntington Harbour Yacht Club  
3821 Warner Ave (Warner & PCH)

Learn more about the shell string program from Orange County Coastkeeper, ask questions, and sign up to participate. Enjoy libations upstairs at the bar.

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**Shell String Distribution Day**  
Sunday March 22  
11:00am-1:00pm  
Huntington Harbour Yacht Club  
3821 Warner Ave (Warner & PCH)

Pick up your shell strings from Orange County Coastkeeper and ask additional questions on how and where to suspend your shell strings.



**HUNTINGTON HARBOUR  
Yacht Club**

Brunch Buffet by the Bay!  
Open to the public Sundays  
10:30am-1:00pm  
\$20/member \$25/nonmember  
\$12 Kids 6-12y/o

**WHY THIS PROJECT MATTERS**

Olympia oysters are the only native oyster species on the West Coast, and their population has declined by up to 90%. These oysters are environmental powerhouses that:

- Naturally filter and clean coastal waters -
- Stabilize shorelines and reduce erosion -
- Create habitat for fish and marine wildlife -
- Help coastal ecosystems adapt to climate change -

Restoring oyster populations means cleaner water, stronger ecosystems, and a healthier coastline for our community.

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**WHAT IS THE SHELL STRING PROJECT?**

The Shell String Project is a hands-on community restoration program that allows waterfront residents to grow native Olympia oysters directly from their docks.

Clean oyster shells are strung together and suspended in the water, providing a safe place for baby oysters to settle and grow. At the end of the season, these oysters are transferred to protected restoration reefs where they continue rebuilding natural oyster populations.

**HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE** *It's simple and rewarding:*

- Sign up Friday, Feb 20 at HHYC or email [kaysha@coastkeeper.org](mailto:kaysha@coastkeeper.org)
- Pick up your Shell String on Sunday March 22 at HHYC
- Every 2 weeks, briefly expose shell string to sunlight to control unwanted growth
- Return the Shell String at the end of the season and help count the oysters you helped grow

**VOLUNTEER • PARTICIPATE • SUPPORT RESTORATION**

Email [kaysha@coastkeeper.org](mailto:kaysha@coastkeeper.org) to sign up



**ORANGE COUNTY  
COASTKEEPER**

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# THANK YOU!

**Questions?**

**[kaysha@coastkeeper.org](mailto:kaysha@coastkeeper.org)**

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RESOLUTION NO. 2016-73

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH AMENDING THE  
CITY'S CODE OF ETHICS

WHEREAS, on October 4, 1993, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 6524, which established a Code of Ethics to serve as a standard of conduct for all elected officials, officers, employees and members of advisory boards, commissions, and committees of the City of Huntington Beach; and

On August 4, 2003, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2003-51 amending the Code of Ethics; and

On January 20, 2004, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2004-2 amending the Code of Ethics, and

On February 16, 2010, the City Council approved a revised version of the Code of Ethics as recommended by the Intergovernmental Relations Committee,

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Huntington Beach does hereby resolve as follows:

1. That the City of Huntington Beach revised Code of Ethics, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated by this reference as though fully set forth herein, is hereby adopted and approved.

2. The City Council, City departments, and all boards, commissions, and committees are to formally review this Code of Ethics with their members annually during the month of January. The Mayor, City Manager and Chairpersons shall be responsible for accomplishing this review. New members of the City Council, boards, commission, and committees and new

employees are to be provided a copy of the Code of Ethics for their review when they are elected or appointed.

3. All elected officials, officers, employees and members of advisory boards, commissions, and committees of the City of Huntington Beach shall sign Acknowledgment of Receipt forms (Exhibit A). Said acknowledgments of the elected officials and members of boards, commissions, and committees shall be maintained on file with the City Clerk. Said acknowledgments of officers and employees shall be maintained by the Human Resources Department.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Huntington Beach at a regular meeting thereof held on the 21st day of November, 2016

*Jama Ratgeoda*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

*[Signature]*

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager

INITIATED AND APPROVED:

*Robin Estanis Law*

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

*[Signature]*

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

*P-10/20/2016  
MV*



# City of Huntington Beach

## INTER-DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Robin Estanislau, City Clerk *RE*

**DATE:** January 17, 2024

**SUBJECT:** COUNCIL MINUTE ACTION TO REVISE EXHIBIT "A" OF RESOLUTION NO. 2016-73 – CITY CODE OF ETHICS

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At the City Council meeting of January 16, 2024, the following minute action was taken to revise Exhibit "A" of Resolution No. 2026-73:

A motion was made by McKeon, second Van Der Mark, to direct the City Clerk to record in the official minutes that the City Code of Ethics was presented to the City Council, City Manager, Chairpersons, and City Department Directors for their review and distribution as required by Resolution No. 2016-73, *as amended to substitute the term "equality" for "equity" in Exhibit "A," City of Huntington Beach Code of Ethics.*

By copy of this memo, Resolution No. 2016-73, including a revised City Code of Ethics (Exhibit "A") is being shared for distribution purposes as directed.

**Att:** Resolution No. 2016-73 with revised Exhibit "A" – City of Huntington Beach Code of Ethics

**c:** File  
Executive Team  
Administrative Assistants  
Board/Commission/Committee Staff Liaisons



## City of Huntington Beach Code of Ethics

### Preamble

The citizens of the City of Huntington Beach are entitled to responsible, fair and honest city government that operates in an atmosphere of respect and civility. Accordingly, the Huntington Beach City Council adopts this code to:

1. Describe the standards of behavior to which its leaders and staff aspire.
2. Provide an ongoing source of guidance to elected leaders, city officials and staff in their day-to-day service to the city.
3. Promote and maintain a culture of ethics.

### Pledge

On November 21, 2016, the City Council of the City of Huntington Beach adopted a Code of Ethics, which applies to all City elected or appointed officials, city employees, and members of its boards, commissions, committees, and task forces and requires the following pledge:

## Code of Ethics

### Responsibility

- I understand that the community expects me to serve with dignity and respect, as well as be an agent of the democratic process.
- I avoid actions that might cause the public to question my independent judgment.
- I do not use my office or the resources of the city for personal or political gain.
- I am a prudent steward of public resources and actively consider the impact of my decisions on the financial and social stability of the city and its citizens.

### Fairness

- I promote consistency, equality and non-discrimination in public agency decision-making.
- I make decisions based on the merits of an issue, including research and facts.
- I encourage diverse public engagement in our decision-making processes and support the public's right to know.

### Respect

- I treat my fellow city officials, staff, commission members and the public with patience, courtesy, civility, and respect, even when we disagree on what is best for the community and its citizens.

### Honesty

- I am honest with all elected officials, staff, commission members, boards, the public and others.
- I am prepared to make decisions when necessary for the public's best interest, whether those decisions are popular or not.
- I take responsibility for my actions, even when it is uncomfortable to do so.



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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PROCESS FOR THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CODE OF ETHICS**

- All current elected and appointed city officials including current members of all city boards, commissions, committees, and task forces, and all current city employees will be given a copy of the newly adopted City Code of Ethics following its adoption on November 21, 2016 and asked to sign an acknowledgement form at that time.

### **THEREAFTER:**

- All elected officials of the city will be given a copy of the City Code of Ethics and asked to sign an acknowledgement form at the time of their swearing in.
- All new employees of the city will be given a copy of the City Code of Ethics and asked to sign an acknowledgement form as part of their new employee orientation.
- Each new member of a city board, commission, committee, or task force will be given a copy of the City Code of Ethics and asked to sign an acknowledgement form at their first meeting.
- Acknowledgment of Receipt forms for elected officials and members of boards, committees and commissions shall be maintained on file with the City Clerk. Said acknowledgments for officers and employees shall be maintained on file with the Department of Human Resources.



**CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH  
CODE OF ETHICS**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT FORM**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please type or print first and last name)

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Board/  
Department:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF ORANGE                    ) ss:  
CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH        )

I, ROBIN ESTANISLAU the duly appointed, qualified City Clerk of the City of Huntington Beach, and ex-officio Clerk of the City Council of said City, do hereby certify that the whole number of members of the City Council of the City of Huntington Beach is seven; that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the affirmative vote of at least a majority of all the members of said City Council at a **Regular** meeting thereof held on **November 21, 2016** by the following vote:

**AYES:**       Posey, O'Connell, Sullivan, Katapodis, Hardy, Delgleize, Peterson  
**NOES:**       None  
**ABSENT:**   None  
**RECUSE:**   None



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City Clerk and ex-officio Clerk of the  
City Council of the City of  
Huntington Beach, California



**CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH  
CODE OF ETHICS**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT FORM**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please type or print first and last name)

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Board/  
Department:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_