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County, City, Private Sector Team Provides Aid To Mexico City

At its first meeting following the September 19-20, 1985 Mexico City earthquake disaster, the Board of Supervisors directed the Chief Administrative Officer to coordinate authorized relief efforts to the earthquake stricken area.

The Disaster Services Section of the CAO's Intergovernmental Relations Division began the logistics required while inter-agency contacts were initiated to comply with United States protocol requirements for provision of aid to foreign governments by political subdivisions. To expedite coordination efforts, the County joined with the City of Los Angeles which has a "Sister-City" relationship with Mexico City and moved quickly to assess the needs of the disaster stricken area.

Directors of Health Services, Public Works, Facilities Management, Purchasing and Stores, and Forester and Fire Warden reviewed a list of needs provided by the Consul General of Mexico, Garcia-Lopez Santaolalla. They then identified all surplus items available for shipment to the proper authorities in Mexico City. Between September 27th and 30th, a total of seven airline flights donated by Mexicana and Western Airlines delivered nearly ten tons of County donated emergency, rescue, and medical equipment and supplies to Mexico City.

Heavy-duty earthmoving equipment, donated by the County and City, loaded on 20 rail cars provided by Union Pacific on September 28th and 29th, arrived in Mexico City on Sunday, October 6.

The Forester and Fire Warden Department provided staff and equipment to transport supplies from donor ware-

houses, to carton for shipping where necessary, and to deliver to airport or trainloading facilities. Several thousand pounds of additional emergency medical equipment are presently being stored in the County Fire Department warehouse in Pacoima, awaiting completion of shipping arrangements by air. Disaster Services staff is on call around the clock to coordinate rapid deployment of this equipment, once notice is received of a flight with available cargo space.

The State Office of Emergency Services (OES), worked with the U.S. Department of State, to coordinate efforts to fill official Mexico requests for technical assistance. Demolition and communications experts and trained rescue teams were among personnel sent to the Mexican disaster area from Sacramento, Los Angeles County and Orange County.

In addition to the County-City response, several private industry sources volunteered assistance. The Angeles Medical Corporation, donated a variety of needed specialized medical equipment. The Allflex Corporation made a \$5,000 cash donation on behalf of its employees to help defray shipping expenses. The Diamond Water Company provided a minimum 30-day loan of a fully-staffed, mobile water purification plant capable of purifying 15,000 gallons per day. The generator for this plant produces 75 K.W. Since only 15 to 20 K.W. is required to purify water, the remainder will provide an additional much needed power source to Mexico City.

It is expected that private sector aid will continue to require County coordination including transfer and shipping detail. Recently word was received

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Loading supplies for air-shipping to Mexico City earthquake disaster area are (left to right) County Fire Warden employees: Lou Padilla, Al Vasquez, W. Michael Perkins and Deputy Fire Chief George Demos.

Mexico . . .

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from the government of Mexico, via the U.S. State Department, that Mexico City is now ready to focus its requests on equipment that can be used to rebuild hospitals and schools.

Los Angeles County employees assisted Mexico City through their donations to both United Way and the Brotherhood Crusade. United Way, which has a long history of responding to the needs of neighbors in trouble, responded quickly to the plight of victims in Mexico City. In their first meeting following the earthquake, the United Way Board of Directors voted unanimously to provide its campaign partner, the American Red Cross, with emergency funds of up to \$350,000 to channel to the Mexican Red Cross.

In making the announcement, United Way Board Chairman Roy A. Anderson stressed the importance of being a good neighbor and of "being aware that there are many in the Los Angeles area who have been affected by this horrible catastrophe."

County of Los Angeles

DIGEST

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EDITORIAL STAFF

Room 783, Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Telephone: 974-1784

"United Way already supports the 14 local chapters of the American Red Cross, so that they will be ready if such a tragedy were to hit our community," said Anderson. "This additional commitment will provide immediate aid to help the people of Mexico City because, as neighbors, it is our responsibility to provide a caring vehicle."

The Brotherhood Crusade also responded immediately to the Mexico City earthquake disaster by establishing "Operation Brotherhood for Mexico" on October 4, 1985.

Danny J. Bakewell, President of the Brotherhood Crusade, stated that he hopes the initial contribution of \$5,000 from Brotherhood Crusade will stimulate community support and additional donations. He asks us to "remember, that not long ago, our community was hit with tragedy during the Baldwin Hills Fire, a fire that swept through a prosperous community and left it shattered and torn." The Brotherhood Crusade was one of the first organizations on the scene during that fire, and within hours allocated monies to a newly designated special fund set up to help the victims." In that same spirit of caring and sharing, "Operation Brotherhood for Mexico" will continue to organize relief efforts until our neighbors in Mexico City are back on their feet!

Halloween Safety

Halloween is a fun occasion for all ages. In addition to traditional neighborhood door-to-door visits, there is also an increasing trend to attend Halloween parties and the Department of Consumer Affairs offers the following suggestions to ensure that your family's Halloween is a safe one!

- Accompany every youngster in your group to the front doors of the homes they visit.
- Bring all treats home and check them there. Only accept candy which is wrapped or sealed. Cut apart questionable pieces to check for foreign objects. Pay particular attention to any object resembling a pill or capsule.
- Report suspicious food items (infested or spoiled fruit or candy) to the Environmental Food and Drug Program, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, 313 North Figueroa Street, Los Angeles (phone: 974-7853). Report evidence of tampering (needles, razors, etc., in food items) to your area police or sheriff.
- Equip children with flashlights, not candles, to allow them to safely find their way.

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Calendar of Events

MUSIC CENTER

AHMANSON THEATRE

Center Theatre Group 1986-86 Season

"The Unvarnished Truth" — Sept. 27 - Nov. 16, 1985

Call (213) 972-7347 for Season Brochure - 3 more plays through March 22, 1986.

MARK TAPER FORUM

New Theatre For Now — 4 Festival Weeks

October 22 - November 24, 1985

"Dream Coast," "Planet Fires," Micro Operas and Legends.

Call (213) 972-7373

DOROTHY CHANDLER PAVILION

Los Angeles Philharmonic — Debut Season of Andre Previn as Music Director

October 10, 1985 - April 24, 1986 (31 programs)

Call (213) 850-2020 for ticket information.

MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY — EXPOSITION PARK

MAYA Treasures of an Ancient Civilization

Call (213) 744-MAYA for information.

Domestic Violence Awareness

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors hosted an October 9, 1985 reception and awards ceremony to highlight the 5th Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Week. Chairman of the Board, Supervisor Edmund Edelman, welcomed the guests and presented awards to many whose efforts during the past year have furthered the cause of ending family violence. Members, guests and supporters of the Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Council represented Board offices, 11 County departments, 15 private service agencies, plus delegates from Los Angeles City, Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN), and concerned citizens.



Ms. Cheryl Ward-Smith, Domestic Violence Council Chairperson delivers welcome speech. Ruth Slaughter, 2nd vice chairperson representing So. Cal. coalition Battered Women (seated).

Speakers reminded participants of the devastating effects of domestic violence and the urgent need to heighten awareness in the community. Family violence, a growing national tragedy, affects adults and children in all walks of life with far-reaching side effects on other crimes of violence.

The Los Angeles County commitment to combat domestic violence began early in 1979. At that time, the Board of Supervisors created the Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Council, realizing that the issue was both social and legal, and that a cooperative community effort was essential to reduce this problem. Thus, membership in the

Council consists of City and County departments working in partnership with private agencies to establish and maintain inter-agency cooperation to help alleviate family violence. Since its creation, the Council has centered its attention on battered women and their children by providing comprehensive programs in the areas of law enforcement, prosecution, legal services, courts, corrections, family services, public education, departmental training and data collection.

The Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Council is the first public-private sector organization to launch a comprehensive approach to family violence. This approach complements programs in other agencies and provides a multi-agency response to the problem of family violence.

During the past four years, the Council has accomplished the following:

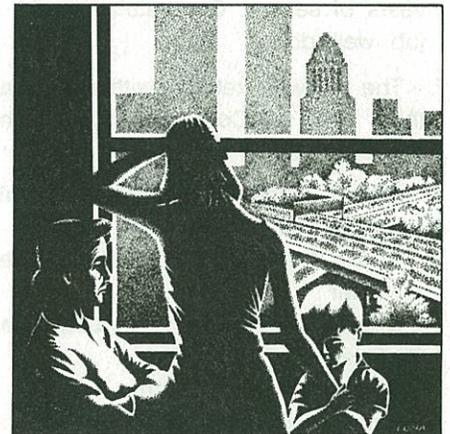
1. Worked extensively with the Los Angeles County Department of Community and Senior Citizens Service to help identify and utilize funds for shelters and other domestic violence services.
2. Submitted to the Board of Supervisors and the Los Angeles City Council recommendations regarding policies and procedural review of criminal justice agencies.
3. Assisted in the establishment of Domestic Violence Task Force groups in the San Fernando Valley and South Central Los Angeles Area.
4. Compiled, printed and distributed over 3,000 copies of a complete informational Directory of Services for Domestic Violence for use by public and community services agencies.
5. Compiled, printed and distributed over 1,500 copies of a Legal Assistance Handbook for Battered Women to public and community agencies.

Data gathered from the surveys taken to compile these publications provide information for domestic violence plan-

ning in Los Angeles County, and to improve existing services by identifying specific areas of need.

Ms Cheryl Ward Smith, Special Assistant to the District Attorney, chairs the Council, and Mrs. Dorothy Barton of the Los Angeles County Department of Community and Senior Citizens Services serves as the Council Coordinator.

Awareness Poster



November Blood Drives Scheduled

County departments continue to schedule blood drives in an effort to assist the Red Cross in their lifesaving work. Blood donors are needed now and you can help. The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in the following locations in November:

November 6 - Public Works Department, 2250 Alcazar - Room A-111, Los Angeles - 9:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

November 20 - High Desert Hospital, 44900 N. 60th Street West, Lancaster - 10:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

December is Blood Donor Month. Many departments have scheduled drives during this month. A listing of the December blood drives will be provided in an upcoming issue. Please help with a lifesaving gift this holiday season.

Congratulations Retirees

Topping the list of retirees this month are two Department of Health Services employees with more than 40 years each of County service. Freda W. Towels, Senior Supervising Clerk at the San Fernando Health Center is honored for 42 years of service. Catherine Javaras, Senior Departmental Personnel Technician at the L.A. County-USC Medical Center is honored for 41½ years of service. Congratulations for a job well done!

The following retirees with more than thirty years of County service will be missed and we wish them well:

Sheriff: James H. Wagner, Benjamin Hatfield, Robert H. Wright

Public Works: Richard R. Braun, Fred J. Miller

Crippled Children Services: Carl R. Gustafson

County Library: Jeanne Higashi
Parks and Recreation: Albert A. Johnson, Lorene May Kerr

Public Defender: Louis Vasquez
Harbor Medical Center: Dorothy Willoughby

Animal Control: Fredrick D. Smith
Fire Protection: Robert N. Hughes
Marshal: Roland Alfred Squires

Best wishes to the following retirees with over twenty-five years of County service:

Sheriff: John Bartoline, Hallet Sullivan, Harold A. Parsons, Jr., Richard Frank Pachal, Eugene Fox, Robert M. Pease

Rancho Los Amigos: Roman C. Roberson

Public Works: Anthony Alcala, Billy J. Weideman (Flood control)

Fire: George W. Sutter, Richard I. Vick

Wrm. Sprgs. Rehab.: Thelma Carter

DPSS: Joye T. Humphry
Facilities: J. Claudine Kelleher, Laverne T. Miller, Kirby Thirlo

Olive View: Fred N. Smith
Public Health: Ralph B. Smith

Affirmative Action

In a meeting with the Los Angeles County Affirmative Action Committee, Chief Administrative Officer James C. Hankla affirmed his commitment to the County's equal employment and promotional policies.

Mr. Hankla, invited to their meeting by the thirteen-member committee which represents a spectrum of employee organizations, asserted that discrimination would not be tolerated in any form! He made it clear that every person has the right to be treated fairly and objectively, and that employees can expect to be evaluated on their qualifications, not their race, sex, or national ancestry.

The Chief Administrative Officer stated that his objective is to assure equal opportunity employment and to ensure that all employees are provided the chance to be equitably represented in all occupational levels.

Halloween Safety

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If you purchase costumes, look for a "fire resistant" or "flame retardant" notation on their labels.

- Choose costumes that can be seen easily at night. Bright colors or special self-adhesive fluorescent tape will do the job.
- Choose costumes that are short enough to prevent tripping or catching on bushes and fences.
- Make sure that everyone wearing masks can see through them properly.
- Be on the lookout for young people straying into the streets. Review these basic safety rules with every member of your family:
 - (1) Look both ways before crossing streets.
 - (2) Cross only at corners.
 - (3) Walk, don't run.
 - (4) Never cross diagonally at intersections.
 - (5) Stay together.



Mrs. Sandra Ausman, County's Chief of Protocol

New Chief of Protocol Appointed

On October 8, 1985, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the appointment of Sandra J. Ausman as the County's Chief of Protocol. Mrs. Ausman succeeds Margaret Paterson Carr, the County's first Protocol Chief, who recently retired.

Mrs. Ausman's experience and exceptional qualifications range from serving on the executive committee of the L.A. County Host Committee during the 1984 Olympic Games, to currently serving on the board of the Music Center's Performing Arts Council, and the Downtown Women's Center.

The County's Chief of Protocol is a volunteer position with the responsibility for maintaining an ongoing liaison with the Consular Corps, extending hospitality and official courtesies to high ranking international visitors and working closely with our Economic Development Corporation. The Office of Protocol serves to showcase Los Angeles County to the international community as a good place to live and work.



Have a Safe Halloween!