

FY 2022 - 2023

CITY OF HERCULES
ANNUAL REPORT



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LETTER FROM CITY MANAGER

As the name of our City implies, Hercules is a City of strength. We demonstrate strength in our staff, our community and our flexibility. We remain steadfast in our commitment to adapt to change as we embrace continued growth, both geographically and ideologically.

While Hercules may be limited by size, we are limitless in our vision for the future.



We appreciated another year of partnership with our Library and Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District. Fiscal Year 22/23 brought several opportunities to the City for growth. For instance, we launched the Parks Master Plan and successfully extended our utility user tax (UUT). We also unveiled new communication tools and increased opportunities for engagement with City Hall.

While those are just a few examples, this Annual Report showcases many more accomplishments and concludes with a look to our future. I'm excited to share these achievements with you. None of these accomplishments could be possible without the dedication and leadership of our City Council.

Sincerely,
Dante Hall

CITY COUNCIL



ALEXANDER WALKER-GRIFFIN
MAYOR



DAN ROMERO
VICE MAYOR



DION BAILEY
COUNCILMEMBER



CHRIS KELLEY
COUNCILMEMBER



TIFFANY GRIMSLEY
COUNCILMEMBER

CITY MANAGER

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The City Manager’s Department is the executive office for the City of Hercules. The City Manager’s Office is responsible for overseeing all departments and the daily management of municipal governance. The City Manager’s Office works closely with the City Council to establish policies and implement the goals and objectives of the City Council.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



In the last year, the City Manager’s office continued growing communication and transparency through press releases, social media, the monthly Hercules Herald, flyers and community events. The

City has made it a priority to communicate with the public on a consistent basis, which has increased its reach and engagement with the community.

UUT Extension

In 2022, the City successfully extended its Utility User Tax (UUT), which was on the ballot for residents to vote. A UUT generates revenue for the City that can be used for essential services such as public safety, infrastructure and other municipal services. These funds can help to enhance the quality of life for residents, attract businesses and improve the overall economic outlook of the city. The UUT also helps to stabilize the City’s budget by providing a steady and reliable source of revenue.



COMMUNICATIONS

SOCIAL MEDIA



394,911
IMPRESSIONS



21,563
ENGAGEMENTS



260
FOLLOWERS



CREATED AN
INSTAGRAM
ACCOUNT

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT



1000
SUBSCRIBERS



369,342
PAGE VIEWS



177
MEDIA HITS



CITY CLERK

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The City Clerk is the information resource for the community, City Council and City Staff—preparing and distributing the agendas for the City Council and the Oversight Board meetings. The City Clerk’s office remains up-to-date with changes in laws and regulations and engages in networking within the City Clerk community to improve the effectiveness of its operations.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



The City Clerk’s office has achieved notable accomplishments over the past year, including supporting City Council meetings in compliance with the Brown Act, providing assistance to staff for presentations, **preparing over 30 council meeting agendas** and timely processing of Resolutions, Ordinances and Minutes.

The City Clerk’s office has also provided essential support to the Front Desk Senior Clerk, ensuring a welcoming and efficient environment for the public and staff. Additionally, the City Clerk’s office responded promptly to approximately **90 Public Records Requests**.



PUBLIC WORKS

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Public Works Department serves the community through the construction and maintenance of public city facilities and infrastructure as well as administering the Capital Improvement Program. This department upkeeps and operates everything from streets, sidewalks and streetlights to bridges, creeks and stormwater basins.

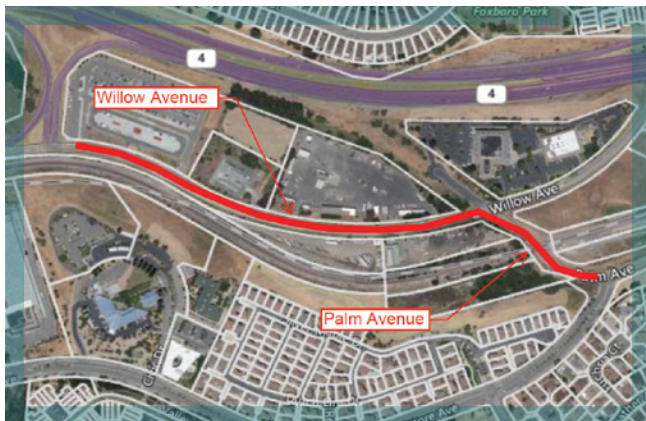
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Public Works Department has accomplished a series of impressive feats over the course of the year in community growth and maintenance.



The Maintenance & Operations Division repaired sidewalks at **61 locations citywide.**

A substantial number of permits were issued specifically by the Engineering Division, including 158 Encroachment Permits and 106 Sewer Lateral Certificates which totaled nearly \$65,000 in revenue in the 2022 calendar year. Beyond permit issuing, the Public Works Department successfully implemented GoGov (also known as Hercules Connect), a resident reporting software in the form of a phone application. GoGov was established on March 22, 2022 as a method for community engagement, broadcasting City updates and reporting and tracking repairs. Since GoGov's launch, the Maintenance & Operation Division has **responded to over 450 requests for repairs** and other services.



Willow/Palm Sidewalk Connector Project

The Willow/Palm Sidewalk Connector Project was awarded to R&S Construction Management, the low bidder, at the April 25 Council meeting in the amount of \$1,488,622. The majority of the cost is being funded with \$1.1M in grants. The project will install a sidewalk from the Hercules Transit Center along Willow Avenue to Palm Avenue and then along Palm to Sycamore Avenue. This will close the gap in the pedestrian network between the Hercules Transit Center (HTC) and the neighborhoods in northeast Hercules and unincorporated County. **Completing these improvements has been a high priority for many years.**

A recent major project the Public Works Department has undertaken is Sycamore Avenue Lower Sewer Trunk Main Capital Improvement Project. The construction of this **\$14 million dollar project is now underway** and will replace a mile of sewer pipe that has aged out of usage and must be updated to City standards. The older, 24-inch pipe will be replaced with a larger 30-inch pipe that will convey the increase in flow out to City buildout.



Sycamore Avenue Lower Sewer Trunk Main Capital Improvement Project

POLICE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Hercules Police Department serves a community of seven square miles and over 26,000 people. It is a full-service department that provides public safety, crime prevention, traffic enforcement, response to medical emergencies, keeping the peace and community engagement.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



After losing its long-time Chief to retirement, Hercules Police Department announced several internal promotions including Police Chief Vasquez and grew the department with two additional officers. The Department also hosted a variety of community events including multiple editions of “Coffee With A Cop”, “Breakfast With A Badge”, **Reading Across America** and the Citizen’s Police Academy with 22 participants.



22,953
CALLS FOR SERVICE



1,445
INVESTIGATED CRIMES



902
TRAFFIC CITATIONS



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Community Development Department oversees the maintenance and growth of the City in order to preserve its character and embrace diversity. They are responsible for processing development applications in accordance with the City’s adopted General Plan and zoning ordinance. They provide staff support to the City Council and Planning Commission as well as advisory services to the public interested in learning about zoning, land use, use permits and development standards.

The Community Development Department is also responsible for fostering the City’s economic development, including developing and implementing business assistance



grants and incentives and pursuing public-private partnerships for special projects such as Electric Vehicle charging stations.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



In 2022, Community Development completed a departmental organization and staffing assessment, which led to the restoration of the Senior Planner position that had been eliminated some years back. Recruitment is underway for this position, which will oversee review of planning applications and assist with long-range planning, required reporting, ordinance updates, technology improvements and regional agency committees. Community Development facilitated the approval of several major projects:

Owl Ranch plans for 40 single-family homes, including 2 affordable units.

Hampton Inn Hotel at Sycamore Crossing—under Building review

Bayfront Blocks M-P-O—under Building review

PERMITS, GRANTS & CODE ENFORCEMENT



1,004
BUILDING PERMITS



58
PLANNING PERMITS



21
BUSINESS GRANTS AWARDED



\$176,760
BUILDING PERMIT REVENUE



\$28,045
PLANNING PERMIT REVENUE



801
CODE ENFORCEMENT CASES



695
CLOSED CASES

PARKS AND RECREATION

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Hercules Parks and Recreation Department offers programs suitable for the whole community ranging from camps and sports programs to educational classes and community and cultural events.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



2022 demonstrated Hercules residents' commitment to community engagement. Whether it be picnic rentals, participation in events, or registering for programs like Swim Lessons, Camps, Preschool, RAP, Sports or Fee

Classes, the community took full advantage of the many offerings provided by Parks and Recreation.

The department also held many special events such as EGGstravaganza, Splash-A-Palooza, Rec Expo Week, Lifeguard Trainings, Community Cleanup Day, Cultural Festival, Movie Nights, Fireworks Celebration, National Night Out, Unity Day, Trunk or Treat, Pumpkatakaz and Tree Lighting. Each of these events continue to grow in popularity with increasing attendance each year.

The aging sector programs were also popular. They included the daily congregate meal program, the Community Produce Program, the Senior Food Program, Blood Drives, Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program, Senior Day Trips and a variety of classes designed to keep people moving and their minds sharp.

- 13** Parks
- 9** Playgrounds
- 8** Picnic Areas
- 8** Tennis Courts
- 5** Community Centers
- 5** Swings
- 3.5** Outdoor Basketball Courts
- 3** Childcare Facilities
- 3** Multi- Use Field
- 2** Baseball and Softball Fields
- 2** Soccer Fields
- 2** Horseshoe Pits
- 2** Bocce Courts
- 2** Gazebos
- 2** Pools
- 1** Dog Park

POPULAR EVENTS OF 2022

1,700 people
(up from 75 in 2018)



2,000 people

2 cities
(Hercules & Pinole)



1 invisible bunny

700 people



100 people

FINANCE

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Finance Department is responsible for providing the City and its agencies (including the Successor Agency and the Public Financing Authority), with the fiscal oversight and controls necessary to ensure sound financial management.

2022 saw the highest number of business licenses issued, generating a total of \$257,000 in Business License revenue.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



For the 2022 Fiscal Year, the Budget document was recognized with the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), the highest honor in governmental budgeting. This award acknowledges our commitment to excellence in financial reporting and demonstrates our adherence to best practices in budgeting. The Finance Department also earned a clean opinion from our independent auditor last fiscal year.

The Finance Department processed and issued payments for more than 2,000 accounts payable invoices through checks, wires, ACH and purchasing cards. They also Issued 200 new purchase orders and 176 new contracts.

The Department continued to proactively address delinquent accounts and maximize City collections and cash flow through audit and collection efforts. Successfully refinanced the City's Bonds that generated over \$2 million in debt service savings.



LOOKING FORWARD

Looking forward to 2023, the City is committed to keeping the community engaged; enhancing the quality of life for residents; and making the city a great place to live, work and visit. Our focus is on improving infrastructure, economic development and municipal services while addressing the enduring impacts of the pandemic.

Major department initiatives for the 2023-24 Fiscal Year include advancing The Hub, updating the City's housing element and general plan, expanding the tax base through economic development projects, updating the municipal code and improving records management and information systems. We will also work to attract affordable housing developers, encourage local shopping and pursue sustainability and climate resilience initiatives.

We are proud of our achievements and grateful for the support of our residents, businesses and partners in the community. As we move forward, we are excited to build on our successes and face the future with optimism and determination. We thank everyone who has contributed to our progress and look forward to continuing to work together in the coming year.





Online at: CI.Hercules.CA.US

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