

## INDEPENDENCE DAY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

*"We are a vibrant, livable, and inclusive community dedicated to quality services, safety, financial strength, sustainability, preservation, and progress with equal representation for our community."*

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Alexander Hughes Community Center  
College Room  
1700 Danbury Rd  
Claremont, CA 91711



Thursday  
January 22, 2026  
7:00 PM

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

STACEY CAPONIGRO

KRISTA CARSON ELHAI

CHARLIE GALE

CHRISTINE MOORE

JULIANNE SALTZER

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Meetings are open to the public for in-person attendance.

### OPTIONS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public comment may be provided by one of the following methods. Each speaker will be given up to three (3) minutes to provide their comment.

### IN-PERSON LIVE COMMENTS

When the item you wish to speak to is announced, please proceed to the speaker's podium one by one.

### E-MAIL/MAIL

Written comments sent to the Alexander Hughes Community Center will be distributed to the Independence Day Committee and imaged and made available in the record of the meeting in the document archive, which can be found on the City website: [www.claremontca.gov](http://www.claremontca.gov) Email: [atudor@claremontca.gov](mailto:atudor@claremontca.gov) Mail: 1700 Danbury Road, Claremont, CA 91711.

**For assistance, comments, or more information, please contact Amber Tudor:  
(909) 399-5334.**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

### **ROLL CALL**

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **CEREMONIAL MATTERS, PRESENTATIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Committee has set aside this time for persons who wish to comment on items that are not listed on the agenda but are within the jurisdiction of the Independence Day Committee. Members of the public will have the opportunity to address the Independence Day Committee regarding all items on the agenda at the time the Committee considers those items.

General public comment will be taken for 30 minutes and will resume later in the meeting if there are speakers who did not get an opportunity to speak because of the 30-minute time limit.

The Brown Act prohibits the Independence Day Committee from taking action on oral requests relating to items that are not on the agenda. The Committee may engage in a brief discussion, refer the matter to staff, and/or schedule requests for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

All matters listed on the Consent Calendar are considered routine. The Independence Day Committee may act on these items by one motion following public comment. Only Committee Members may pull an item from the Consent Calendar for discussion.

1. INDEPENDENCE DAY COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

Recommendation: Staff recommends the Independence Day Committee approve the Independence Day Committee special meeting minutes of September 18, 2025.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM**

2. SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Recommendation: Staff recommends the Independence Day Committee nominate and select a new Chair and Vice Chair for the 2025-26 term.

### **CONTINUED PUBLIC COMMENT**

This time is reserved for those persons who were unable to speak earlier in the agenda because of the 30-minute time restriction.

### **REPORTS**

*Staff*

*Committee*

*Liaison*

**ADJOURNMENT**

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE CLAREMONT INDEPENDENCE DAY COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026, AT 7:00 PM IN THE COLLEGE ROOM AT THE ALEXANDER HUGHES COMMUNITY CENTER, 1700 DANBURY ROAD, CLAREMONT, CA 91711.

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990, THIS AGENDA WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN APPROPRIATE ALTERNATIVE FORMATS TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. ANY PERSON WITH A DISABILITY WHO REQUIRES A MODIFICATION OR ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN A CITY MEETING SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY CLERK AT 909-399-5461 "VOICE" OR 1-800-735-2929 "TT/TYY" AT LEAST THREE (3) WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING, IF POSSIBLE.

I, AMBER TUDOR, PROGRAM COORDINATOR OF THE CITY OF CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA, HEREBY CERTIFY UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE FOREGOING AGENDA WAS POSTED AT CLAREMONT CITY HALL, 207 HARVARD AVENUE AND THE ALEXANDER HUGHES COMMUNITY CENTER, 1700 DANBURY ROAD, ON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026, PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54954.2.

POST THROUGH: JANUARY 23, 2026

**Independence Day Committee  
Agenda Report**

TO: INDEPENDENCE DAY COMMITTEE

FROM: AMBER TUDOR, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

DATE: JANUARY 22, 2026

**SUBJECT: INDEPENDENCE DAY COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2025**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the Independence Day Committee approve the Independence Day Committee special meeting minutes of September 18, 2025.

**PUBLIC NOTICE PROCESS**

The agenda and staff report for this item have been posted on the City website and distributed to interested parties. If you desire a copy, please contact the Recreation and Human Services Department.

Submitted by:

Amber Tudor  
Program Coordinator

**Attachment:**

Independence Day Committee Special Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2025

**INDEPENDENCE DAY COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, September 18, 2025 – 7:00 PM  
College Room - Alexander Hughes Community Center

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Carson Elhai called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT** KRISTA CARSON ELHAI, CHARLIE GALE, CHRISTINE MOORE, JULIANNE SALTZER

**ABSENT** STACEY CAPONIGRO

**ALSO PRESENT**

Nancy Brower, Community and Human Services Commission Liaison  
Melissa Vollaro, Recreation and Human Services Director  
Kelly Love, Recreation and Human Services Coordinator  
Amber Tudor, Program Coordinator

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CEREMONIAL MATTERS, PRESENTATIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - None**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Vice Chair Carson Elhai invited public comment.

There were no requests to speak.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Vice Chair Carson Elhai invited public comment on the Consent Calendar.

There were no requests to speak.

1. Independence Day Committee Special Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2025

Approved and filed the Independence Day Committee special meeting minutes of July 10, 2025.

***Committee Member Gale moved to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Committee Member Moore, and carried on the following vote:***

**AYES:** *Committee Member – Carson Elhai, Gale, Moore, Saltzer*

**NOES:** *Committee Member – None*

**ABSTENTION:** *Committee Member – Caponigro*

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

### **2. SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Vice Chair Carson Elhai opened the floor for nominations for the office of Chair for the 2025-26 term.

Committee Member Moore nominated Stacey Caponigro for the office of Chair.

Nominations were closed and Vice Chair Carson Elhai invited public comment.

There were no requests to speak.

***Committee Member Moore moved to nominate Stacey Caponigro for the position of Chair for the 2025-26 term, seconded by Committee Member Gale, and carried on the following vote:***

**AYES:** *Committee Member –Carson Elhai, Gale, Moore, Saltzer*  
**NOES:** *Committee Member – None*  
**ABSTENTION:** *Committee Member – Caponigro*

Vice Chair Carson Elhai opened the floor for nominations for the office of Vice Chair for the 2025-26 term.

Committee Member Saltzer nominated Krista Carson Elhai for the office of Vice Chair.

Nominations were closed and Vice Chair Carson Elhai invited public comment.

There were no requests to speak.

***Committee Member Saltzer moved to nominate Vice Chair Carson Elhai for the position of Vice Chair for the 2025-26 term, seconded by Committee Member Gale, and carried on the following vote:***

**AYES:** *Committee Member –Carson Elhai, Gale, Moore, Saltzer*  
**NOES:** *Committee Member – None*  
**ABSTENTION:** *Committee Member – Caponigro*

### **3. 2026 4<sup>th</sup> of July Evening Program**

Amber Tudor, Program Coordinator, reported that the two options for the 2026 evening program are to host a fireworks show at Pomona College, once vendors and permissions are granted, or to host no evening program and utilize budget to enhance the Festival. She explained that the two options were based on the Committee's past practice.

The Committee discussed the lack of feasibility of a drone show based on Claremont's budget as well as the fact that 2026 is the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the community will expect fireworks.

Vice Chair Carson Elhai invited public comment.

There were no requests to speak.

***Committee Member Gale moved to recommend a Fireworks Show at Pomona College as the 2026 4<sup>th</sup> of July evening program, seconded by Vice Chair Carson Elhai, and carried on the following vote:***

**AYES:** *Committee Member –Carson Elhai, Gale, Moore, Saltzer*

**NOES:** *Committee Member – None*

**ABSTENTION:** *Committee Member – Caponigro*

4. 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026

Amber Tudor, Program Coordinator, reported that staff have considered some ways to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence including a tree planting in Memorial Park, and asked the Committee for suggestions for the 2026 event.

The Committee suggested utilizing Claremont Heritage for some 4<sup>th</sup> of July history, a bench at the park, having the community send in photos, or having speakers from each decade discussing 4<sup>th</sup> of July through the decades.

Vice Chair Elhai invited public comment.

There were no requests to speak.

***The Committee received and filed the report.***

5. 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival

Amber Tudor, Program Coordinator, reported on the traditional festival programming and asked the Committee for suggestions for the 2026 Festival.

Suggestions included a Ben Franklin impersonator and an American history trivia contest.

Vice Chair Carson Elhai invited public comment.

There were no requests to speak.

***The Committee received and filed the report.***

**REPORTS**

***Staff***

Melissa Vollaro, Recreation and Human Services Director, reported that staff will be working on request for proposals for fireworks, checking in with Pomona College about hosting, working on sponsorship, Kiwanis agreement, and the 2026 event budget. Additionally, the City's two-year budget process will begin in the new year and staff are busy with fall events.

***Committee***

Committee Member Gale reported that he received an email from Russ Binder about getting more floats in the parade.

***Liaison***

Commissioner Brower reported that the Community and Human Services Commission received the Friends of the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park annual report and will be reviewing 31 Community Based Organization funding applications. She also reported that the Tree Committee heard about tree removals from Edison on Forbes Avenue.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chair Carson Elhai adjourned the meeting at 8:02 PM. The next regular meeting of the Independence Day Committee will be held on Thursday, September 25, 2025, at 7:00 PM in the Alexander Hughes Community Center, 1700 Danbury Rd, Claremont.

ATTEST:

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Krista Carson Elhai  
Vice Chair

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Amber Tudor  
Recording Secretary

**Independence Day Committee  
Agenda Report**

TO: INDEPENDENCE DAY COMMITTEE  
FROM: AMBER TUDOR, PROGRAM COORDINATOR  
DATE: JANUARY 22, 2026  
**SUBJECT: SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

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**SUMMARY**

Each year the Independence Day Committee nominates and selects a Chair and Vice Chair to serve for the coming year.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the Independence Day Committee nominate and select a new Chair and Vice Chair for the 2025-26 term.

**PUBLIC NOTICE PROCESS**

The agenda and staff report for this item have been posted on the City website and distributed to interested parties. If you desire a copy, please contact the Recreation and Human Services Department.

Submitted by:

Amber Tudor  
Program Coordinator