



Carson Chamber of Commerce Fiscal Year Report 2009-2010

What We Do!

- Create a strong economy
- Provide networking opportunities
- Support the interest of business before government by lobbying on their behalf
- Promote business, city, and community events

LEGISLATIVE-BUSINESS ADVOCACY: Lobby and communicate with elected officials and decision makers on local, state and federal legislative and regulatory issues of interest to business.

2009-10 Legislative Advocacy Activities

- Participated in Monthly meetings of South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce (SBACC).
- Participated in South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce (SBACC) Planning Retreat.
- Attended City of Carson Economic Development Commission meetings.
- Participated in Assemblyman Warren Furutani's Small Business Roundtable Meetings.
- Carson Chamber of Commerce Chairwoman, Creasie James, served as SBACC Secretary and has been elected to serve as SBACC's Vice-President / Chair Elect for 2010.
- Promoted participation in the 2010 census by publishing articles in the Quarterly Newsletter and the E-news, providing a booth at the 2010 Business Expo, and having it as a featured topic at a Quarterly Breakfast.
- Organized Leadership Carson "Government Session".
- Nominated a small business for recognition as part of the Assemblyman Warren Furutani's "Buy California Small Business First Month" program.

Carson Chamber Of Commerce Board Support

- Provided reports on ballot measures that are in circulation or that have qualified for a ballot.
- Prepared agenda materials for monthly Legislative Affairs Committee Meetings.
- Provided reports to Carson Chamber Board and Executive Committee.
- Prepared legislative information for use in member recruitment.

Carson Chamber Of Commerce Legislative Affairs Committee Support

- Reviewed, revised and distributed the Chamber's annual Legislative Agenda.
- Prepared agendas and meeting minutes.
- Provide reports to Carson Chamber Board of Directors
- In addition to legislation on which the chamber took a position, information was also provided to the Committee on other issues and legislation.
- Tracked H.R. 1799, a federal transportation bill to increase the allowable weight of trucks on interstate highways under certain specified conditions.
- Informed EPA of Chamber support for implementation of SB 827 (Wright) to permit issuance of emission credits by SBAQMD to certain small businesses and public agencies
- Provided presentation on implications of H.R. 2454, American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009.
- State Water Reform Package
- State Budget development and budget reform efforts
- The San Pedro Waterfront Development
- Implementation of Proposition 11, California's new redistricting process
- Implementation of Carson Utility Users' Tax Citizen Advisory Committee
- S.B789, which would have allowed agricultural workers to select union representation by "majority card sign-up" instead of the present secret ballot method
- AB793 to clarify California's implementation of the federal "Lily Ledbetter" Fair Pay Act of 2009.
- SB356 to require public agencies to assess the impact of new regulations on small businesses and consider appropriate alternatives.

Correspondence Regarding Legislation And Other Issues

- Sent letters in support of SB 696, which would authorize provision of emission reduction credits to public works projects and small businesses to Senator Rod Wright with copies to Senator Oropeza, -Assemblyman Furutani and the SCAQMD. When SB696 was rolled into SB 827, a letter was sent to Governor Swarzenegger urging signature on SB827.

- Letter sent to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency urging it to deny a petition by the Natural Resources Defense Council which would delay implementation of SB827.
- Letter to City of Carson expressing concern about the proposed rate increase for Waste Management and offering alternative suggestions.
- Letter to Carson City Council urging that the Carson business community be “well represented” on the Utility Users’ Tax Citizens’ Oversight Advisory Committee.
- Letter of congratulations to newly elected Assemblyman Steve Bradford.
- Letter to authors and local representatives supporting AB 31 (amendment to Small Business Procurement Act), which would increase the size of a contract that the state may have with a small business from \$100,000 to \$250,000.
- Letter to authors and local representatives opposing HR 635, creation of a National Commission on State Workers’ Compensation Laws.
- Letter to authors and local representatives opposing to HR 2564, Paid Vacation Act which would create national law setting the conditions under which employers must provide paid vacations to employees.
- Letter to the State Joint Audit Committee supporting Assemblyman Warren Furutani’s request to audit the State’s effectiveness in contracting with small businesses.
- Letter to Assemblyman Furutani supporting ACR101, which would declare May 2010 as “Buy California Small Business First” month.
- Letter in support of Carson Redevelopment Agency’s (RDA) application to The Federal Environmental Protection Agency for an Environmental Assessment Grant. If approved this grant would provide funds for the RDA to conduct assessments on properties that may be contaminated.
- Letters in support of AB35 to develop a strategic plan for workforce development and career tech education.
- Letters in support of ACR 101 to designate May 2010 as “Buy California Small Business First Month”.
- Letters in support of H.R/4349 Hoover Power Allocation Act on 2009 to ensure that California continues to receive hydroelectric power from this source.
- Letters in support of SB1112 to permit agencies to extend deadlines for cleaning up brownfields.

Informed Members of the following:

- Several City Council agendas included items recommending on a new fee schedule for various city services and programs.
- The state is taking about millions of dollars from Carson’s Redevelopment Agency this year and is expected to take more next year.
- The Utility Users’ Tax Citizens Advisory Committee recommended that 1) no additional exemptions from the Utility User tax be given, other than those which were originally voted on as part of ballot measure and that 2) the City explore the development of a partnership with the Carson Boys and Girls Club to help defray the operating costs of the proposed Teen Center
- The City Council considered renewing its application to annex Rancho Dominguez.
- City of Carson was considering budget cuts and revenue enhancements that could affect businesses. Attended 3 Budget Meetings, took notes and disseminated information on potential and actual budget cuts and revenue measures to Chamber members
- Member of CalChamber
- Members of WACE - Western Associations of Chambers Executives
- Members of the Carson Women’s Club
- Members of the Carson Coordinating Council support YMCA Boys & Girls Club of Carson Featured legislative leaders Congresswoman Laura Richardson and Assemblyman Warren Furutani at Mixers
- Attended and participated in Carson Economic Development meetings
- Invited elected officials and/or their representatives to all Chamber meetings and events
- Attended South Bay Cities Council of Government Annual General Assembly
- Hosted special breakfast event featuring Congresswoman Laura Richardson
- Attended Senior Briefing held and hosted by Laura Richardson
- Attended Access to Capital hosted by AME and Emeritus Assembly Speaker Karen Bass
- Attended South Bay Regional mixer – Laguna Beach- Hosted by Redondo Chamber.
- Attended Holiday Mixer in Torrance hosted by Palos Verdes
- Prepared agenda materials and research for Carson Legislative Affairs Committee meetings
- Attended 3 Budget Workshops and City Council Meetings related to the Carson Budget and various proposed tax increases

- Published articles in the Newsletter related to upcoming elections and proposed legislation.
- Hosted "State of the City" Luncheon
- Publicized elections and sources of voter information
- Inaugural gala luncheon – Doubletree Hotel with special guest Mark Ridley Thomas, County Supervisor as speaker. Topic included opening of MLK Hospital.

COMMUNICATIONS: Utilize a variety of communication tools to promote economic growth and inform the business community about issues of interest

- Promoted Chamber and member sponsored events through Daily Breeze advertising, Press Telegram, Hub City News, Carson Venture Magazine, E-News publications, newsletters, E-mail blasts and website
- Published Newsletter Articles for Chamber Member updates
- Generated E-News bulletins with business information and schedules
- Hosted Business Expo and workshops for exhibitors and attendees
- Corresponded with elected officials regarding Chamber positions on public policy issues
- Purchased new computer and upgraded to new software for financial reporting in PDF file.
- Hosted and maintain Chamber website
- Worked to implement new software for paperless invoicing and improved communication
- Represented Carson Chamber at various regional and local events (see Community Outreach in Chamber Organizational Growth and Development section)
- Maintained office presence to assist the public and walk-in Chamber members
- Provided information and assistance by phone
- Introduced Text Messages to members
- Hosted Quarterly Breakfast – Integrated Social Media & Direct Marketing to Grow Your Business

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS GROWTH: Promote economic development opportunities in the South Bay for business retention and attraction

- MLK Groundbreaking Ceremony (South Health Center Groundbreaking)
- CEO University (Executive Coaching and Mentoring Programs)
- LA County Strategic Plan for Economic Development (LAEDC)
- Kaiser Permanente 60th Anniversary
- Congresswoman Laura Richardson 37th Congressional District, 3rd Annual Senior Briefing Luncheon
- Access to Capital Hosted by Emeritus, Karen Bass
- Attended monthly meetings of the Carson Economic Development Commission
- Participated in City of Carson's Business Energy Expo
- Publicized City of Carson's Summer Youth Employment initiative
- Organized Ribbon Cutting Events for new businesses and coordinated with local elected officials
- Provided Stamp Lease Program services for Certificate of Origins vital to the freight and transportation industry
- Endorse and promote business referrals for members
- Organized Membership Ribbon Cuttings coordinating with the City, LAUSD, SouthBay Pavilion and businesses
- Conducted business networking events
 - Inaugural Gala
 - State of the City
 - Holiday Mixer sponsored by BP Carson Refinery
 - Quarterly Breakfast (4) held at Carson Community Center
 - Held 10th Annual Business Expo Affair
 - Nissan Mixer & Ribbon Cutting

SPECIAL EVENTS: Event Coordination and Hosting

Special Events Vice Chair, Lena Whittaker, coordinates and plans all events throughout the year.

- Hosted Carson 2009 "State of the City"
- Inaugural Gala 2009 – Special Guest Speaker Mark Ridley-Thomas, LA County Supervisor-2nd District

- State of the City Event 2009
- Holiday Mixer 2009
- Guest Speaker at Sam's Club

Ribbon Cuttings held so far this year

- Haircare Oasis Ribbon Cutting
- Bay Alarm Company Ribbon Cutting
- Cash America Pay Day Advance Ribbon Cutting
- Carson Nissan Ribbon Cutting
- Just Tires Ribbon Cutting

Mixers 2009

- Harvest Festival Mixer at the YMCA
- Mid Summer Mixer at Panera Bread
- Bossa Nova Social Event – Hosted by Warren Furutani
- Coffee and Conversation with Warren Furutani

Quarterly Breakfast (4) Held at Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center

-September Quarterly Breakfast 2009

Sponsored by: Shell Oil Products

Topic: Code Enforcement: The Cornerstone of Carson's Life

-January Quarterly Breakfast 2010

Sponsored by: BP Carson Refinery & Alcoa Fastening Systems

Topic: Water Now. Water Later?

-March Quarterly Breakfast 2010

Sponsored by: Kaiser Permanente & Double Tree Hotel Carson

Topic: The Carson 2010 Census and Small Business Loans!

-June Quarterly Breakfast 2010

Sponsored by: Tesoro Refinery, Conoco Phillips, Anheuser Busch,

Waste Management, and Water Replenishment District

Topic: Integrating Social Media & Direct Marketing to Grow Your Business

-Give Donations to in Cancer Relay-for-Life Walk Purposes for August 2009

ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT: Improve the organizational capability and efficiency of the Chamber. Provide quality service to a cross section of the Carson area business community

- Recruited new Chamber members
- Renewed Chamber memberships
- Contacted delinquent members and sent reminders
- Recruited 36 Chairman Circle members (an increase from prior year)
 - Developed contents of Chairman Circle Packets for potential candidates
 - Created allocation list for all potential chairman circle member sponsorships
 - Created 2009-2010 online-banner for all Chairman Circle members
 - Created 2009-2010 banner for all e-news and newsletter publication materials
 - Created 2009-2010 financial tracking allocation report with summary reporting
- Regularly updated and maintained membership database
- Conducted Community Outreach
 - Participated in City of Carson 40th Anniversary Gala
 - Participated in City of Carson's Energy Expo
 - Attended Coordinating Council's Magnificent Women Event
 - Participated in Rotary Club Meetings and Events
 - Assisted Carson Boys and Girls Club
 - Assisted Gardena Carson Family YMCA
 - Participated in public school Career Day event
 - Promoted job openings sent in by members.
 - Participated in the Regional Chamber Mixer hosted by Redondo Beach Chamber
 - Participated in the Holiday Mixer hosted by the Doubletree Hotel.
 - Supported 2010 BP Earth Day Information – E-Blasted to all members.
 - Attended and supported Carson Coordinating Council Events-yearly Luncheon
 - Collected toys for Carson Sheriff's station toy drive.
- Chamber Ambassadors acted as hosts at various events

- Assisted in prize giveaways
- Assisted in planning and implementing Leadership Carson.
- Participated in Ribbon Cuttings and Other Ceremonies
- Welcomed New and Renewing Members – Via Telephone, Events, Email & Newsletters
- Processed Certificate of Origin requests
- Updated website software adding the ability to sort the Chamber's membership list by Category. This improvement also allows members to upgrade their directory listing.
- Upgraded to new software for financial reporting in PDF file.
- Working to implement new software for paperless invoicing and improved communication
- Amended and updated Chamber By-Laws
- Created Nominating Committee to develop a board ballot and implement nominees selected.
 - Secured nominees permission to place name on ballot
 - Gathered or updated biographical information for each nominee
 - Reviewed and culled mailing list to ensure only current members received ballot
 - Prepared ballot materials for mailing
 - Mailed ballot materials
 - Organized ballot tabulation
 - Notified nominees of results
- Assisted Special Events Committee with planning and implementing Chamber events
- Managed and produced a variety of communication tools such as E-news, newsletter, e-blast
- Managed and scheduled distribution of promotional flyers for member businesses
- Created Small Business Preferred Partnership Program

LEADERSHIP CARSON: Develop community leaders

- Vice Chair of Leadership Carson, Kim Richards, successfully implemented program improvements for 2010 classes.
- Created Leadership Carson Planning Committee based on team principles.
- Recruited approximately 19 students for 2009-10 class.
- Conducted six workshops which included:
 - Session 1 Community Leadership workshop at South Bay Pavilion
 - Session 2 State and Local Government
 - Session 3 History of Carson workshop held at the historic Dominguez Rancho Adobe
 - Session 4 Education workshop held at Cal State University LAHC
 - Session 5 Economic Development workshop held at Carson Toyota
 - Session 6 Public Safety-Carson Sheriff's Station and Carson Fire Station & Graduation
- Assisted with preparation of agenda, facility reservations, refreshments, coordination with Presenters, e-mail reminders to participants as needed.
- Requested certificates or letters of recognition for participants from elected officials
- Secured sponsorships for refreshments

BUSINESS EDUCATION: Support an educational system that communicates and educates local business; support job and career preparation for people

- Created board member orientation packet
- Updated "Online Resources" document for Board Members
- Notify business members of issues and events via newsletter, telephone and email
- Hosted Carson 2009 "State of the City" luncheon featuring updates on City Developments, business growth and other issues impacting the business community.
- Featured speakers on a variety of issues at Chamber events
- Created and distributed quarterly Newsletter Information mailing a total over 1500 mailings.
- Conducted workshops at Business expo on a variety of topics including, Health, Business Finances, Job Search Techniques, Access to Capital, Personal Appearance, Networking Skills and Reverse Mortgages.
- Wrote and distributed notes from important community meetings
- Disseminated information on elections and how to access non-partisan analysis and information on ballot measures