

RESIDENTS SUE CITY OVER PERMIT FOR COMMERCIAL AIRPORT OPERATIONS

By Daniel Diquinzio

SANTA MONICA—Residents of Santa Monica are suing the city for the commercial operations permit it granted to Santa Monica Airport to allow passenger air service. The names of the residents suing are Alan Levenson and Zina Josephs. They are working with the environmental non-profit Measure LC Defense. They filed the lawsuit last week in the Los Angeles Superior Court.

In the lawsuit, they claim that the city of Santa Monica violated the California Environmental Quality Act on October 9, 2025, when they permitted Delux Public Charter LLC, which operates as JSX Air, to begin conducting daily flights as the city made its decision using exemptions to avoid performing a comprehensive environmental review before making a significant change to the airport's operations as it never had daily scheduled passenger air service before.

In addition, the lawsuit claims the city of Santa Monica overlooked many environmental concerns, including the increased pollution the flights would cause and the impact this would have on local

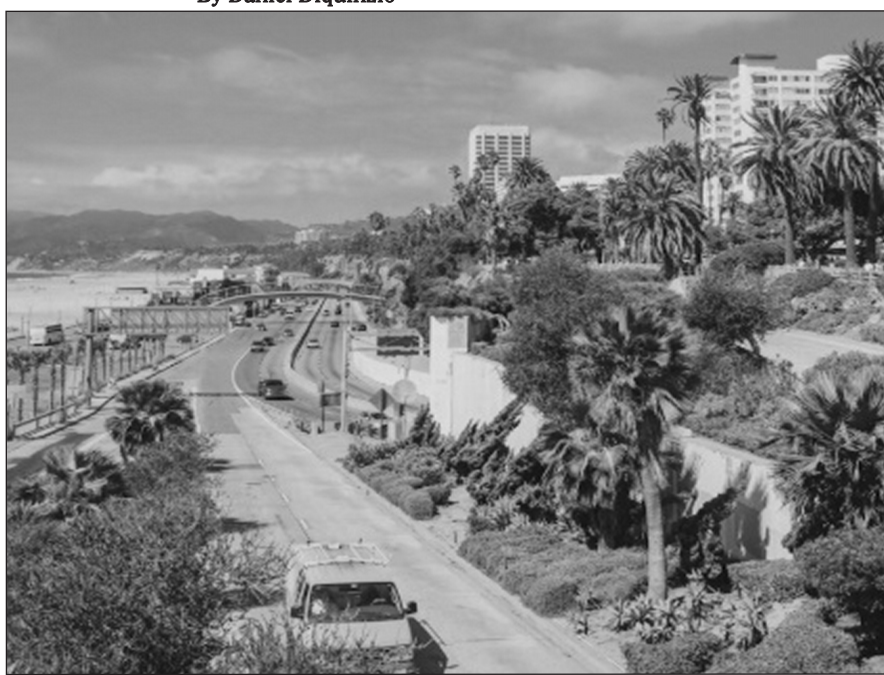


Photo courtesy of anna99t.

communities.

In response to these claims, the city of Santa Monica has exercised no discretion when considering JSX Air's request for the permit.

The city of Santa Monica claimed that the approval of the permit was exempt under a categorical exemption for negligible expansion of existing facilities, as well as under the

"common sense" exemption. They claimed the decision was a ministerial action, which gives the city management permission to operate with discretion when considering denying or issuing commercial operations permits. Residents have disputed these claims noting that the city failed to properly review the lease that JSX will need to make on space

at the airport.

The petitioners are seeking a writ of mandate compelling the city to rescind the permit approval and an injunction preventing Santa Monica from permitting JSK to operate at the airport until the city has fully complied with the requirements for an environmental review.

PCH AND TOPANGA CANYON CLOSURES FOR CALTRANS WORK

By Danny Jones

MALIBU—On Monday, November 24, the city of Malibu posted on its Facebook page that no work will take place from 6 a.m. Wednesday, November 26 thru Sunday, November 30 for the Thanksgiving holiday, except some emergency work on Topanga Canyon.

Work below is for November 24 and November 25:

PCH – TEMESCAL CANYON RD. TO CARBON BEACH TERRACE, MALIBU

-Temescal-Sunset: Reduced speed limit, 35 mph.

-Sunset-Carbon Beach Terrace: Active work zone with possible single-lane closures, 25 mph.

-Unplanned single lane closures on PCH are possible anytime 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

PLANNED CLOSURES

-Ventura County Line-Guernsey Ave: Nighttime closures possible.

-Corral Canyon Bridge: Nighttime work.

-Las Flores-Sunset: Fire-damaged roadway, drainage, electrical, and slope repairs; nighttime lane closures as



Photo courtesy of Jamie Street.

needed, 9 p.m.-6 a.m.

-Big Rock area: Catchment wall construction; Northbound reduced to one lane 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

-Las Flores-Topanga (SCE trenching):

1. NB lane: 4 a.m.-3 p.m.; 9 p.m.-6 a.m.

2. SB lane: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; 9 p.m.-6 a.m.

-South of Topanga: Slope/culvert cleanup; Northbound Lane closed 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.

-Getty Villa area: Northbound Lane closed 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

TOPANGA CANYON BLVD

-Midnight-5 a.m.: Full closure nightly through November 30.

-5 a.m.-Midnight: One-way traffic control (postmile 2.5-2. for emergency work.

-SCE trenching (postmile 4.3-6.7): One-way traffic 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

-SCE night work near Topanga town center: One-way traffic 9 p.m.-5:30 a.m., through Wednesday morning.

SUBWAY WORK CAUSES ROAD CLOSURES IN BEVERLY HILLS

By Daniel Diquinzio

BEVERLY HILLS—The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority is currently working to extend the D Line of the subway. Some closures will be on Wilshire Boulevard due to work on the Wilshire/La Brea, Wilshire/Fairfax, and the Wilshire/La Cienega stations.

Travel between San Vicente and La Cienega Boulevards will remain open with two lanes of traffic open in each direction on Wilshire Boulevard.

On October 2, between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., the alley between Lasky and Spalding Drives was closed to allow geotechnical instruments that had to be removed.

Work will be done on the curb lanes on Wilshire Boulevard and at the Beverly Drive station. Two lanes will remain



Photo courtesy of Rahul Bhogal.

open between Beverly and Crescent Drives along Wilshire

Boulevard. Left turns will be restricted when vehicles travel

westbound towards South Cañon Drive.

BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL FACES LAWSUIT FROM FEMALE BANQUET MANGER

By Daniel Diquinzio

BEVERLY HILLS—The Beverly Hills Hotel is facing a lawsuit that was filed on November 5 in Los Angeles Superior Court by Elizabeth Jane Birr, who was the hotel's first female banquet manager.

In her lawsuit, Birr claims that the management of the Beverly Hills Hotel did not take proper action after she claimed that a male supervisor, the director of banquets, not only created a hostile work environment for her, but also created a toxic work environment in which she endured both sexual harassment and gender discrimination.

The Beverly Hills Hotel hired Birr in May 2022. In December 2022, she was promoted to banquet manager and oversaw high-profile events. The harassment included her abilities as a female manager being mocked, having her authority undermined, and being berated by the banquet director. In addition, she claims that she was forced to endure listening



The city of Beverly Hills. Photo courtesy of Noppadol Phongphanich.

to the director of banquets make homophobic and racist remarks, as well as making crude jokes.

She claims that the pay her male coworkers received increased three times, while she received no raise, and that she was mocked when she complained to the director about

her pay wage.

In May 2024, she submitted a complaint to the hotel's management about the harassment, including unequal pay and an investigation was initiated. Birr found that management excluded her from overseeing major events and assigned her demeaning tasks. A

month later, she was forced to go on medical leave because of high blood pressure and panic attacks. In her lawsuit, she claims that while she was on leave, hotel management continued to mistreat her. Birr is seeking both punitive and compensatory damages from the Beverly Hills Hotel.

GREAT RESULTS FROM MALIBU'S RAIN BARREL PROJECT

By Sharon Stice

MALIBU—On November 24, the city of Malibu Department of Development reported that the Free Rain Barrel project was a success. A total of 150 Free Rain Barrels were given away to 89 families. The water conservation project was a joint effort with the West Basin Municipal Water District.

According to the West Basin Municipal Water District newsletter, the Free Rain Barrel giveaway provides 1,500 free rain barrels annually which has the potential to save 650 gallons of water per year. The rainwater collected is not intended for human consumption. Its for keeping the lawn and gardens watered without having to turn on the faucet. It saves water, and it saves families money by lowering their water bills.

The gift of a free water barrel saved the recipients the additional cost of the barrels.



Rain barrels from local hardware stores can cost anywhere from \$60-\$135 each.

Under California Governor Gavin Newsom, the state has

endured water shortages, and water rationing in recent years leaving some fire hydrants at risk of running dry.

As the Los Angeles Fire De-

partment continues to remind people, keeping the land moist and rid of debris lowers the risks of more wildfires in the state.

JOB URIAH TAYLOR CHARGED IN VIOLENT ATTACK

By Daniel Diquinzio

SANTA MONICA—In 2023, Christian Hornburg was at the Santa Monica train station, and was attacked with a metal pipe and called racial slurs by Job Uriah Taylor. Hornburg, who is Black, was injured during the incident.

Taylor was not expected to go to trial as he had been diverted due to being diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder, an opiate use disorder, and bipolar disorder, but now faces a criminal trial.

In California, diversion is when a suspect who is mentally ill is instead to receive court treatment instead of jail time.

Taylor was charged with assault with a deadly weapon, attempted murder, and hate crime enhancements. He was granted diversion in March of this year by Judge Lana Kim.



Photo courtesy of Andi Wieser.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney, Nathan Hochman, submitted a petition seeking to have the judges ordered vacated as Job Uriah Taylor attacked two more African-Americans on the day he attacked Hornburg. Taylor's medical records indicate he engaged in hostile and aggressive action towards the staff on the facility in which he is being treated.

Last month, the California Court of Appeals granted that petition as they believed that nothing proved that Taylor would not be a danger to public safety if he was released.

Taylor will now face trial on the charges for which he was arrested. A pre-trial hearing will occur in December 2025. If he is found guilty, Taylor will face a life sentence in prison.

AUTO BURGLARY SUSPECT ARRESTED FOLLOWING CRASH

By Daniel Diquinzio

WEST HOLLYWOOD—On November 20th, a car crash occurred near City Hall in West Hollywood. Now, a suspect has been arrested by Deputies from the West Hollywood Sheriff's Department.

The name of this suspect is Malik Jackson. He is a resident of Los Angeles. He was booked on a felony attempted vehicle burglary charge.

According to the Sheriff's Department, around noon on November 20th, Sheriff's Deputies received a call reporting two men looking through the windows of cars in a parking lot near Sweetzer Avenue, north of Santa Monica Boulevard. A witness to these actions confronted them. The men then fled in a white sedan. When they tried to turn onto Sweetzer Avenue, their vehicle hit another vehicle, and then



A photo copy of Sam Szuchan on Unsplash.

the fleeing men drove onto the sidewalk and stopped in front of an apartment building.

It was then that a man and a woman fled from the vehicle.

The search continues for the two other suspects.

The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department urges anyone who possess information that can

lead to the arrest of the other two suspects to contact the West Hollywood Sheriff Station. Its phone number is (310)855-8850.

MAN ARRESTED AFTER KIM KARDASHIAN'S SKIMS STORE VANDALIZED

By Daniel Diquinzio

WEST HOLLYWOOD—On November 26, the flagship SKIMS Store, owned by Kim Kardashian, who appears on the reality series "Keeping up with the Kardashians" was vandalized. A man was arrested later that morning for felony vandalism.

The flagship SKIMS store is located west of La Cienega Boulevard. It carries Kim Kardashian's clothing line, which includes shapewear, underwear, and loungewear.

Deputies of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department arrived on the scene around 5 a.m. af-

ter receiving a report of a man spray-painting the store, which opened in April 2025. The walls were covered in words, including the phrases "we need that" and "Kimmy Bread," but, according to the authorities, these and the other words did not refer to the Kardashian

family. The cost of damage to the SKIMS Store is estimated at roughly \$400, and the words were removed later on Wednesday morning by a third-party contractor. The identity of the suspect has not been disclosed to the public.