

## UFC Gym Grand Opening



UFC Gym recently held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Grand Opening Celebration to mark the opening of its largest UFC Gym.

The La Mirada City Council and representatives of the La Mirada Chamber of Commerce were present to join in the celebration. The gym also held a number of promotions to commemorate its grand opening.

Opening its first gym in 2009, UFC Gym has been named as the fastest growing franchise that unites mixed martial arts and fitness. The UFC gym is located at 14920 La Mirada Boulevard. The La Mirada location is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For more information on Grand Openings and the La Mirada Chamber of Commerce, call (562) 902-1970 or email [info@lamiradachamber.org](mailto:info@lamiradachamber.org).

## City Business Licenses Now Available Online

The City's online system for business licenses was recently upgraded. Businesses can now apply for new business licenses, close existing licenses, and upload the zoning application and home occupancy regulations through the City's website. Upon City staff's review and approval, payments can be made online through a secure payment portal.

The previous online system was limited to processing business license renewals, and new applications and closures had to be completed in-person or by mail. The new system also features a public access database where interested individuals can search for active businesses online.

For more information on the online business license system, contact the City's Business License Desk at (562) 943-0131.

## Mid-Year Budget Review Shows Strong City Finances

La Mirada's annual mid-year budget report reviewed during a recent City Council Study Session meeting showed stabilizing revenues and a continued commitment to public safety and investments in local infrastructure. The report examined current City revenues and expenditures, and projected estimates for the end of the 2016 fiscal year.

"The City's primary revenue sources have remained stable and are expected to exceed our conservative budget estimate," says City Manager Jeff Boynton. "Basic services continue to be delivered by a lean workforce and contract providers to achieve cost efficiencies."

At mid-year, property tax revenue was \$2.0 million. Property tax is projected to be close to the budgeted figure of \$6.0 million, and has shown gradual growth in recent years as home values have posted modest gains.

Sales tax revenue was \$2.41 million or 26.2 percent of the budgeted revenue. Sales tax revenue is projected to be consistent with the previous year's total of approximately \$9.1 million.

Economic indicators in the community continue to be positive as reflected by property values growing by more than 4 percent during the past year and area unemployment lowering to 4.1 percent. Building activity also increased with nearly 3,000 permits issued in 2015 compared to 2,600 during the prior year.

## Mayor Business Visits



The City reaches out to local businesses in order to foster strong relationships, improve communication, develop a better understanding of issues affecting business, and enhance La Mirada as an exceptional business location.

As part of its business outreach program, the City coordinates Mayor Visits at local business locations to discuss business operations and potential concerns. These visits can also be for various ceremonial events throughout the year including celebrating business anniversaries, expansions, grand openings, and more.

If you are interested in coordinating a visit with Mayor Steve De Ruse at your business location, contact the Economic Development Team at (562) 943-0131.

# Be Aware of Business Credit Tax Scams



The Internal Revenue Service has warned that taxpayers should watch for improper claims for business credits. The IRS specifically warning about Fuel Tax Credit Scams and Research Credit Scams.

## Fuel Tax Credit Scams

Fraud involving the fuel tax credit is considered a frivolous tax claim and can result in significant penalties and interest, and possible criminal prosecution.

The IRS routinely finds dishonest preparers who have enticed taxpayers to wrongly claim the credit to receive larger refunds. The federal government taxes gasoline, diesel fuel, kerosene, alternative fuels and certain other types of fuel. Certain commercial uses of these fuels are nontaxable. The tax is on fuels used to power vehicles and equipment on roads and highways.

Improper claims for the fuel tax credit generally come in two forms. An individual or business may make a false claim on its otherwise legitimate tax return. Or an identity thief may claim the credit in a broader fraudulent scheme.

The IRS has taken a number of steps to improve compliance processes involving fuel tax credits. IRS compliance filters are preventing a significant number of questionable fuel tax credit claims from being processed. For example, new identity theft screening filters have improved the IRS's ability to identify questionable fuel tax credit claims during return processing.

The IRS has also begun broadening the identification criteria to ensure a more comprehensive compliance approach in selecting questionable tax returns.

## Research Credit Scams

The research credit is an important feature in the tax code to foster research and experimentation in the private sector.

Improper claims for the research credit generally involve failure to participate in or substantiate qualified research activities and/or satisfy the requirements related to qualified research expenses.

The IRS also sees improper expenses contained in some claims for the research credit. Certain activities, such as research after commercial production, adaptation of an existing business component, foreign research, and funded research are specifically excluded from the research credit.

Section 41 of the Internal Revenue Code provides a credit for increasing research activities, commonly known as the "research credit." To claim a research credit, taxpayers must evaluate and appropriately document their research activities over a period of time to establish the amount of qualified research expenses paid for each qualified research activity. While taxpayers may estimate some research expenses, taxpayers must have a factual basis for the assumptions used to create the estimates.

Unsupported claims for the research credit may subject taxpayers to penalties. Carefully review reports or studies prepared by third parties to ensure they accurately reflect your activities. Third parties who are involved in the preparation of improper claims or research credit studies also may be subject to penalties. For more information on Credit Scams, please visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).



## La Mirada Remains One of Region's Safest Cities

During the past year, the City of La Mirada experienced one of the area's lowest crime rates.

Overall, there were 923 Part 1 crimes reported in La Mirada in 2015. Part 1 crimes include murder, larceny, burglary, automobile theft, robbery, assault, and arson. This was an overall increase from 2014, however violent crimes dropped by nearly 14 percent.

The increase in Part 1 crimes is attributed to property related crimes including burglaries, larcenies, and vehicle thefts. Approximately 92 percent of Part 1 crimes were property crimes. Many of these cases were crimes of opportunity, where valuables were left in plain view, often in a parked vehicle. Some 36 percent of thefts involved vehicle burglaries.

Any crimes that can happen at home or in a neighborhood can also occur in the workplace and it is important for businesses to maintain similar crime prevention practices. A significant number of crimes that occur in La Mirada are crimes of opportunity.

The Public Safety Team released a public service announcement (PSA) to raise awareness of the increase in these crimes. Visit the City's website at [www.cityoflamirada.org](http://www.cityoflamirada.org) or <http://youtu.be/MtCK6v-kA3c> to watch the PSA.

If you or your place of employment becomes a crime victim, contact the La Mirada Community Sheriff Station at (562) 902-2960. Call 911 for crimes in progress or life-threatening emergencies.

### La Mirada welcomes the following new businesses:

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| Lil Shoppe Of Nails<br>15707 Imperial Hwy #C               | Unafrayed Sewing<br>14631 Rosecrans Ave #4        |
| Cricket Wireless<br>12741 Valley View Ave.                 | Amt Pet Grooming<br>12756 La Mirada Blvd          |
| All About Loving Care, Inc.<br>14241 E Firestone Blvd #400 | Silicontwo Usa, LLC<br>14747 Artesia Blvd #3D     |
| Magnetic Imaging Services<br>16700 Valley View Ave #305    | Affinity Counseling<br>15082 Rosecrans Ave        |
| Custom Creations<br>17021 Industry Pl                      | Baby Applesseed<br>14001 Rosecrans Ave            |
| Jtl Studio Systems, Inc.<br>14747 Artesia Blvd #3G         | Decton Staffing<br>16700 Valley View Ave #162     |
| Crystal Nails<br>12230 La Mirada Blvd                      | Kelis Threading & Beauty<br>12226 La Mirada Blvd  |
| Youn & Associates, A Prof. Corp<br>14752 Beach Blvd #205   | Rhonda Barrera<br>14620 Indutry Cir               |
| Gk Usa/Gawad Kahnga Usa<br>14241 Firestone Blvd #400       | Solinka Peruvian Restaurant<br>15720 Imperial Hwy |

