



Reporting Graffiti from Land Phone 311

City Website www.anaheim.net

714-765-1918



District 5 is providing Pizza & sodas

Meetings & Handouts

visit <https://collinscorp.biz/ppnw>

Been to a **City Council Meeting** lately?

I started attending this year... on YouTube

See links on **our website page**, to watch from the comfort of your own home

<https://www.anaheim.net/2142/View-City-Council-Meetings>

Or on youtube



Are Meetings Important?

Are you comfortable with the recent rate increase notice?

With **Disney & OC Vibe investments** & housing authority grants, not to mention tariff insecurity...

Do we really need higher utilities & services?

Let's talk about it at the park
Wednesday May 21st @ 6pm



Pioneer Park Neighborhood Watch

Current Events



anaheim city council & planning commission meetings



Volunteers Needed

There are at least two openings for Block/Street Captains 2025.

Join us!

Block Street Captains 2025

Billy Jo Circle	Earl	earldandme@sbcglobal.net
Elsiena St	Volunteer Wanted	(Shelly Pro Tem) shelly@collinscorp.biz
Melinda Cr	Volunteer Wanted	(Shelly Pro Tem) shelly@collinscorp.biz
Milton	Celeste (& Charles)	Bzymama@aol.com
N Shakespeare	Georgia (& Dan)	gdenkers68@gmail.com
S Shakespeare	Greg	kidnap2@msn.com
E Seville	Kindal & Jere	kindalkincaid@gmail.com
Sunkist	Volunteer Wanted	(Shelly Pro Tem) shelly@collinscorp.biz
Tennysen	Ken	kkfairs@pacbell.net
Underhill	Web (& Dara)	webwhitlock@gmail.com

Pioneer Park Neighborhood Watch 2025

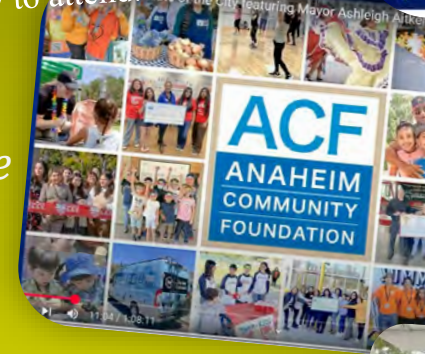
I attended my first State of the City

event this year & had a great time hearing about Anaheim's history, associations, & ambitions. I made new friends and got a chance to hug those I haven't seen in a while. I feel more connected to a wider circle of the city. Thank you for the opportunity to attend.

Anaheim's first female Mayor was escorted to the stage by the official Disney 'Dandies' to share her joy & celebrate in the myriad of cultures in our city, including Hispanic firsts & recent Arabic recognitions; & celebrate our Saskatchewan namesake (almost) & Sister cities in **Japan, Spain, & coming soon, Mexico.**

Mayor Aitkin announced that we are looking forward to multiple **Disney expansions** generating two **\$15M** payments for affordable housing and **\$8M** for community parks; and since the **25M visitors** we typically get annually funds 70% of our City Services, this is **Awesome!**

Our Pioneer Park ball field also got a shout out, but not as big a shout-out as the **OC Vibe** which represents a **\$4B** (with a B) investment in our city!



National Anthem by Tim Kepler Honda Center



ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Mayor Aitken proclaims Anaheim a place for all, highlights immigrants, visitors in State of the City
By Michael Slaten April 29, 2025

Mayor Ashleigh Aitken, at the annual State of the City address on Tuesday, proclaimed Anaheim as a place for all, recognizing the city's founding and growth by immigrants who came looking for a better life and the millions from around the world that visit.

"As a visitor city, we welcome everyone," Aitken said, "from those around the world who have made Anaheim their adopted home to those who come here to visit and enjoy all our city has to offer."

The annual address is a moment for Aitken to share reflections on the city's accomplishments over the last year and point to a broader message about its direction.

Aitken, drawing on the city's immigrant roots, said Anaheim is a place that has welcomed the world in, whether as a new home or an escape for a day at Disneyland.



Anaheim Mayor Ashleigh Aitken is escorted on stage by the Dapper Dans barbershop quartet where she gives her State of the City address on Tuesday, April 29, 2025 in Anaheim. (Photo by Mindy Schauer, Orange County Register/SCNG)

"So to all looking to build their American dream, to inspire their imaginations, to find prosperity and success, to embrace the future and to be part of something bigger than ourselves, you've come to the right place," Aitken said.

The mayor spoke to a **sold-out crowd** at the Grove of Anaheim made up of the city's business and community leaders. The event is a fundraiser for the nonprofit Anaheim Community Foundation. It's the third State of the City address for Aitken since becoming mayor in 2022.

Guided on stage by a quartet of Dapper Dans from Disneyland singing about the mayor and Anaheim, Aitken's speech went over much of Anaheim's history and some of what's to come that make it a visitor destination, including **DisneylandForward**, **OCVibe** and the **2028 Olympics**.

Aitken said some 25 million people a year visit Disneyland, attend conventions or watch the Angels or Ducks play. Nearly **70% of Anaheim's revenue** -paying for the city's parks, libraries, police and fire departments -comes from visitors, Aitken said.

Aitken brought up several **firsts** that took root in Anaheim, some literally. The boysenberry, Disneyland, St. John Knits, Vans, the American Basketball Association and the grocery store chain Northgate Gonzalez Market all have origins in Anaheim.



Anaheim Mayor Ashleigh Aitken acknowledges the audience after she finishes her State of the City address on Tuesday, April 29, 2025 in Anaheim. (Photo by Mindy Schauer, Orange County Register/SCNG)

Northgate is one of the largest Hispanic grocery chains in the nation, Aitken said, and one of the biggest employers for Anaheim. And it all started on Anaheim Boulevard after Don Miguel Gonzalez arrived in search of the American dream," Aitken said. "Our city's history and legacy of innovation attract others who want to be part of the Anaheim story."

Anaheim is celebrating its **168th anniversary** this year, and **Disneyland's 70th**. The Disneyland Resort is on the cusp of a reinvigoration with the expansion of Avengers Campus and attractions and lands based on the films "**Coco**" and "**Avatar**." And the Honda Center was just confirmed to host indoor volleyball for the **2028 Olympics**.

In the coming weeks, the city will receive the **first \$15 million** that Disney pledged to the city for affordable housing as part of the approval for **DisneylandForward**. This summer, Disney will give **\$8 million** for the city's parks, Aitken said.

One announcement Tuesday is that Anaheim is looking to add a third sister city: **Guadalajara**, Mexico. Anaheim already has the sister cities of Mito, **Japan**, and Vitoria-Gasteiz, **Spain**. The city is in the early stages of forging ties with Guadalajara, Aitken said. "For all our city's ties to **Mexico**, with our shared history as part of Spanish America, with half of our residents tracing their roots to Mexico, with millions of yearly Mexican visitors, with friendly exchanges with the consulate in Santa Ana and with federal and state friends across Mexico, I always thought it was curious that we don't have a sister city in Mexico yet," Aitken said.

On a more street level, Aitken said the city has so far spent **\$35 million** buying and closing **problematic motels** along Beach Boulevard. The **Rebuild Beach Boulevard initiative** will soon hit another milestone when the 39 Commons retail center at Beach and Lincoln Avenue opens and new affordable housing communities are set to be built.

Ending her speech, Aitken highlighted the partnership forged between the city and The Walt Disney Company at the outset of Disneyland, with Walt Disney writing in 1953 that it would be "filled with the accomplishments, the joys and hopes of the world we live in. And it will remind us and show us how to make these wonders part of our own lives."

Los Angeles Times

Mayor Ashleigh Aitken hails Anaheim as a visitor city for all in annual address
By Gabriel San Ramon April 30, 2025

The Dapper Dans of Disneyland crooned as they introduced Anaheim Mayor Ashleigh Aitken during her annual State of the City speech at the Grove of Anaheim.

Taking helm of Orange County's most populous city three years ago in a time of turmoil and political corruption, Aitken implied by omission that Anaheim is in a more harmonious place now.

With Disneyland's 70th birthday a few months away and the Honda Center investing in renovations ahead of playing host to Olympic volleyball in 2028, Aitken looked forward to "greater things" to come.

Eschewing a lectern, she confidently strolled along the Grove's stage on Tuesday while boosting Anaheim as a city of immigrants and a global destination.



Anaheim Mayor Ashleigh Aitken is flanked by Disneyland's Dapper Dans during her 2025 State of the City address on Tuesday. (James Carbone)

"As a visitor city, we welcome everyone; from those around the world who have made Anaheim their adopted home to those who come here to visit and enjoy all our city has to offer," Aitken said.

While Disneyland's milestone arrives in July with commemorative merchandise already on the shelves, Aitken touted the arrival of a "new era" with DisneylandForward, a \$2- billion expansion plan on its existing properties.

"Our city has cleared the way with approval on zoning and planning that will expand Anaheim as a global visitor economy in the decades to come," she said of Anaheim City Council's vote approving DisneylandForward a year ago.

With nearly 70% of Anaheim's general fund coming from the Anaheim Resort District, Aitken expected Disneyland's expansion to bring more money for the city's parks, libraries, community centers and public safety.

Anaheim also negotiated additional community benefits from Disneyland beyond expected tax revenue increases.

"In the coming weeks we will see Disney's first \$15 million contribution to affordable housing in Anaheim," Aitken said. "It is the first of two payments, with another \$15 million coming in the next few years." The corporation has also pledged to contribute \$8 million to the city's parks.

Aitken hailed OC Vibe, another multibillion-dollar project in Anaheim, as "transformative." The development will turn the land around the Honda Center into a hub of entertainment and housing.

"OC Vibe represents a \$4-billion -with a 'b' -investment in our city," Aitken emphasized. "That's not even counting the \$450 million being directly invested in our Honda Center."

For as vibrant as the business climate in the city appears to be, the Anaheim Chamber of Commerce almost disbanded before the speech in the wake of an FBI political corruption probe that first surfaced three years ago. Todd Ament, the Chamber's former president and chief executive, pleaded guilty to four felonies, including wire fraud, in connection to the investigation.

Ament cooperated with federal agents and surreptitiously recorded former Anaheim Mayor Harry Sidhu wanting to ask for \$1-million from Angels Baseball in political spending in return for negotiating the now-defunct deal to sell Angel Stadium and the land around it to a company controlled by team owner Arte Moreno.

A judge recently sentenced Sidhu to two months in federal prison for related crimes.

Slated to close, a new board of directors announced that the Chamber is going to reorganize a day before the speech. The Chamber also passed a resolution disassociating itself from the Anaheim Chamber of Commerce PAC, a spending vehicle that poured hefty sums into mayoral races, including in support Sidhu against Aitken in 2018.



Guests watch Anaheim Mayor Ashleigh Aitken deliver her State of the City address. (James Carbone)

"Having a Chamber of Commerce is a good thing, in general, for cities and it's a way to bring businesses together for the common good," said Tom Tait, who served as Anaheim mayor from 2010 to 2018 and butted heads politically with the local trade association. "That wasn't was what the Chamber was in Anaheim. It was run by special interests for special interests. Time will tell if this will truly be a fresh start." The Chamber's political influence in Anaheim even extended to past State of the City addresses that it organized until Tait wrested the event away from it in 2015. "Ament wanted to control my speech," Tait said. "If he couldn't, he threatened to have Councilwoman Kris Murray give the State of the City."

Aitken mentioned political corruption in her past two State of the City addresses and the city has approved several reforms under her tenure as mayor to increase accountability and oversight, including the hiring of an ethics officer. But in her latest speech, Aitken preferred to focus on the changes coming to Anaheim, from east to west.

She touted Rebuild Beach Boulevard, an effort to redevelop seedy motels along the highway into housing and retail. The city has spent nearly \$35 million buying, closing and clearing motel properties on Beach.

"In the days ahead, we will tear down the Rainbow Inn, our fourth demolition in four years," she said. "That will clear the way for townhomes and affordable apartments." Aitken praised popular chains slated to come to the intersection of Beach Boulevard and Lincoln Avenue, which will also be home to the first Dutch Bros location in Anaheim.

"As a city, we are building on a track record with our transformation of the Anaheim Resort, downtown Anaheim, the Platinum Triangle, and we are now leading the way on Beach," she said.

The mayor also praised Little Arabia, an enclave populated by small businesses, as a continuum of the immigrant entrepreneurial spirit that led Germans to start a wine colony in the late 1850s that turned into the modern city Anaheim is today.

She concluded with a Disney-like message on Anaheim's behalf to anyone looking to come to the city and better it by their own ambitions.

"To all looking to build their American Dream, to inspire their imaginations, to find prosperity and success, to embrace the future and to be part of something bigger than ourselves," Aitken said, "well, you've come to the right place."