

## **Council Report from Councilmember John Uy December 19, 2023**

### **I. Council Report: AMBAG Board of Directors Meeting - November 8, 2023**

I am pleased to provide you with an update on the recent regular board of directors meeting of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) that took place on November 8, 2023. As your representative on the board, it is my duty to keep you informed about the important discussions and decisions made during these meetings.

During the meeting, we discussed several key topics that are of great significance to our community and the entire Monterey Bay region. One of the highlights was the presentation of the revised draft regional growth forecast. This forecast provides valuable insights into population, housing, and employment trends, which will help us plan for the future and ensure sustainable growth in our area. We had a productive discussion on the forecast results and provided feedback to further refine the projections.

Additionally, the board had the opportunity to review and approve the Final 2023 Public Participation Plan. This plan outlines the strategies and guidelines for engaging the public in the decision-making process for regional planning projects. By adopting this plan, we are ensuring that our community's voice is heard and that we are actively involving residents in shaping the future of our region.

Another important item on the agenda was the approval of projects recommended for award under the Regional Early Action Planning Grants (REAP 2.0) Regional Competitive Grant Program. These grants will support initiatives aimed at improving transportation infrastructure, housing, and community development in our region. It is exciting to see these projects move forward, as they will have a direct impact on our community and contribute to our overall well-being.

Furthermore, the board received a report from the Executive Director, Maura Twomey, who provided updates on various ongoing initiatives and programs. Her report highlighted the progress made in implementing the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, which aims to create a safe, resilient, and equitable future for our region. It is reassuring to see the dedication and commitment of our executive director in leading these efforts.

Lastly, I would like to remind you that public participation is highly encouraged in these meetings. Your input is invaluable, and it helps us make informed decisions that reflect the needs and aspirations of our community.

In conclusion, the AMBAG Board of Directors meeting on November 8, 2023, was a productive and collaborative gathering where important decisions were made to shape the future of our region. As your representative, I remain committed to advocating for the best interests of Del Rey Oaks and ensuring that our community's voice is heard at the regional level.

**II. Council Report: Message of Councilmember John Uy on Veteran’s Day (November 10, 2023)**



I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude and pride as we reflect upon the remarkable contributions of our veterans and their families to the fabric of our community. Today, we stand united in paying tribute to the selfless individuals who have dedicated their lives to serving and protecting our great nation.

To our beloved veterans, we owe a debt that words alone cannot express. Your sacrifice, courage, and unwavering commitment to defending the values we hold dear have shaped the very essence of our community. Your sacrifices, often made far from home and in the face of adversity, have not only safeguarded our freedoms but have also inspired us to be better, to do better, and to cherish the liberties we enjoy.

To the families of our veterans, we acknowledge and honor your steadfast support. Behind every

brave service member is a network of loved ones who endure the challenges of separation and uncertainty. Your strength and resilience do not go unnoticed, and we are deeply grateful for the sacrifices you've made in the name of service to our country.

As we come together to commemorate Veterans Day, let us also reaffirm our commitment to supporting our veterans and their families. Whether through outreach programs, community

initiatives, or simple acts of kindness, let us ensure that the gratitude we express today extends into our everyday lives.

To our veterans and their families, you are not just a part of our community; you are the heart and soul of it. Your sacrifices have forged a legacy of bravery and resilience that will inspire generations to come. May this Veterans Day serve as a poignant reminder of the debt we owe, the gratitude we feel, and the unity that binds us all as proud members of this extraordinary community.

### **III. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the DRO City Council on November 14, 2023**

I am pleased to share with you the outcomes of our recent City Council meeting held on November 14, 2023. We convened with a singular yet significant agenda item: to receive a presentation from the Planning Commission Consultants, Denise Duffy and Associates, on the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development's Comment letter on the 6th Cycle Housing Element HCD Review Draft, and to consider potential revisions.

The 6th Cycle Housing Element is a critical component of our city's planning process. It outlines our commitment to meeting the housing needs of our community, particularly for low and very-low-income households. The State's Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) had provided comments on our draft, and this meeting was an opportunity for us to review and consider these comments.

Denise Duffy and Associates, our trusted consultants, provided a comprehensive presentation on the HCD's comments. They highlighted key areas for improvement, including the need for more specific commitments to actions and timelines in our housing programs, and the need to address housing for extremely low-income households and farmworkers. They also emphasized the importance of establishing processes and procedures to comply with Senate Bill 35, which mandates streamlined permit processes for certain housing developments.

We also opened the floor for public input, a cornerstone of our democratic process. We remain committed to hearing your voices and incorporating your feedback into our plans. We understand that the decisions we make impact each and every one of you, and we value your insights and perspectives.

After careful consideration of the presentation and the HCD's comments, we are now in the process of revising our 6th Cycle Housing Element to meet the statutory deadline on December 15, 2023. We are committed to ensuring that our housing plan not only meets state requirements but also addresses the unique needs of our Del Rey Oaks community.

We are proud of the progress we have made so far and are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. We believe that by working together, we can create a housing plan that ensures everyone in Del Rey Oaks has access to safe, affordable, and quality housing.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support. Together, we are building a stronger, more inclusive Del Rey Oaks.

#### **IV. Council Report: Thanksgiving Message of Councilmember John Uy during the Thanksgiving Season**



As we gather around our tables and in our hearts this Thanksgiving, let's take a moment to reflect on the abundance of blessings that grace our lives. ✨ This year has reminded us of the strength within our community and the power of togetherness.

I'm endlessly grateful for the opportunity to serve our wonderful town. Each day, I'm inspired by the kindness, resilience, and compassion that define Del Rey Oaks. Your unwavering support and dedication to making our community thrive truly make a difference.

Let's cherish this time to celebrate the spirit of gratitude, embracing the joy found in simple moments and the warmth of being surrounded by loved ones. ❤️👨👩

Remember, as we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them. Let's continue to uplift each other, extend a helping hand, and spread kindness wherever we go.

Wishing you all a Thanksgiving filled with love, laughter, and the company of cherished friends and family. May the spirit of gratitude guide us today and every day.

🍁🌟 Happy Thanksgiving, Del Rey Oaks! 🌟🍁

**V. Council Report: Supervisor Wendy Root Askew’s ‘Holiday Hello’ Commissioner Appreciation & Community Open House on December 1, 2023**



It is with immense pleasure and gratitude that I share with you the heartwarming experience I had the privilege to be a part of at Supervisor Wendy Root Askew’s ‘Holiday Hello’ Commissioner Appreciation & Community Open House on December 1, 2023.

This enchanting evening was a testament to the unwavering dedication and commitment of Supervisor Askew and her team towards fostering unity, collaboration, and progress in our district. The event

was not just a gathering; it was a celebration of the tireless efforts put forth in steering our community towards a brighter future.

In the heart of this warm and welcoming atmosphere, I witnessed firsthand the genuine passion and commitment Supervisor Askew holds for our community. Her leadership and unwavering support have been instrumental in propelling Del Rey Oaks towards growth and prosperity.

As a councilman representing our vibrant city under Supervisor Askew's jurisdiction, I am deeply grateful for her steadfast support and guidance throughout my tenure. Her visionary initiatives and collaborative spirit have played an integral role in advancing our shared goals for Del Rey Oaks.

Supervisor Askew’s dedication to community initiatives, her foresight, and her steadfast commitment to progress have made an indelible impact on our district. Her leadership shines as a guiding light, steering us towards a future teeming with positivity, growth, and opportunity.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Supervisor Askew for her tireless efforts, unwavering vision, and invaluable contributions that continue to elevate our community. Here's to a future marked by continued collaboration, progress, and a shared commitment to the prosperity of Del Rey Oaks.



In closing, I express my deepest appreciation for the opportunity to participate in this heartening event. Let us carry forward the spirit of unity and collaboration nurtured during the 'Holiday Hello' into our endeavors, working hand in hand for the betterment of our beloved Del Rey Oaks.

**VI. Council Report: Season's Greetings from Councilmember John Uy on December 6, 2023: Embracing Our Tapestry of Traditions**

Dear Residents of Del Rey Oaks,



As we immerse ourselves in the magic of this season, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude for the rich tapestry of traditions that illuminate our community during these special days. From the gleaming candles of Hanukkah to the radiant joy of St. Lucia Day, and the myriad celebrations leading up to the New Year, our diversity becomes a source of strength and beauty.

It's in the flickering lights of the menorah and the joyful gatherings for St. Lucia Day that we find the threads weaving our community together. The Winter Solstice marks a time of renewal, reminding us of the ever-revolving cycle of life and the promise of brighter days ahead.

As Christmas arrives, it brings with it a spirit of generosity, kindness, and togetherness. But our celebrations don't end there. We embrace the stories of Boxing Day and the heritage of Kwanzaa, finding unity in the richness of our differences and drawing strength from our shared humanity.

The anticipation of Omisoka heralds reflection and hope, bidding farewell to the old year and beckoning in the promise of a fresh start on New Year's Eve and Day.

In this mosaic of celebrations, let us cherish the moments spent with loved ones, embrace the diversity that colors our traditions, and find solace in the unity that binds us together as a community. Our differences are the brushstrokes painting a vibrant portrait of Del Rey Oaks.

May this holiday season fill your homes with laughter, your hearts with warmth, and your lives with a tapestry of beautiful moments that linger as cherished memories throughout the coming year.

From my family to yours, I extend heartfelt wishes for peace, happiness, and an abundance of joy this holiday season.

Warmest Regards,  
Councilmember John Uy

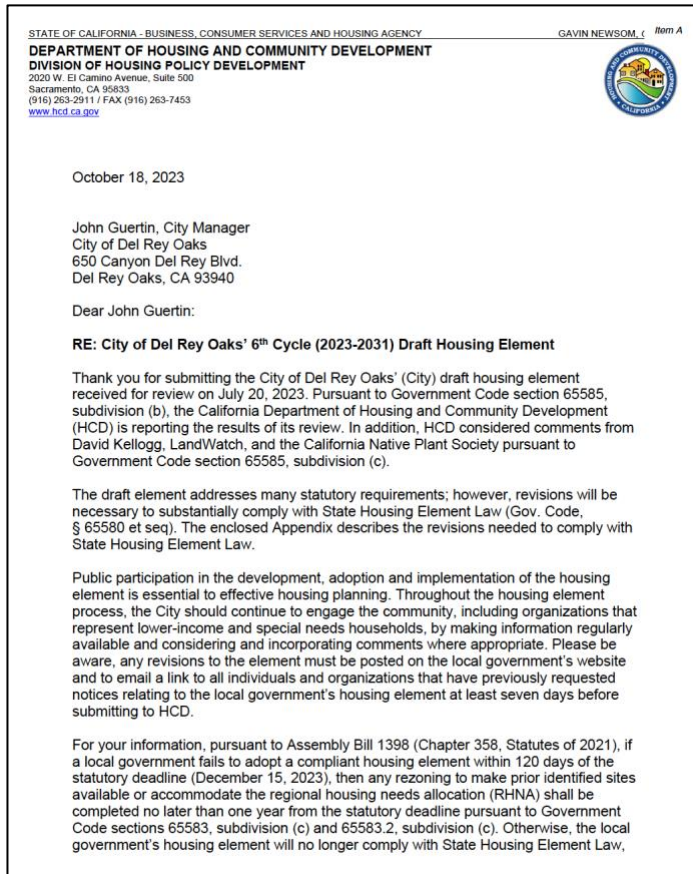


May your holiday season be adorned with the love of family, the warmth of friendship, and the magic of the festive spirit. As we gather around the tree, we're reminded of the true gifts in life – the people who make it meaningful.

Thank you so much for being the twinkling lights that brighten our days. Let's cherish the simple moments, create lasting memories, and continue to spread kindness wherever we go.

Warmest Wishes,  
John, Michael, Elena, Romulo,  
and Holly

**VII. Council Report: Special Joint Meeting of the DRO City Council and Planning Commission on December 6, 2023**



I am thrilled to share with you an update on the special joint meeting of the Del Rey Oaks City Council and Planning Commission that took place on December 6, 2023, based on the comment letter from HCD. This meeting was a remarkable opportunity for us to come together and discuss the pressing housing needs of our community. It was a significant step forward in our ongoing efforts to address the housing needs of our community and ensure equal housing opportunities for all residents.

During the meeting, I had the privilege of suggesting that special needs groups should also include persons with chronic illness, military (active and veteran), the LGBTQ+ community, people of color, and students in the housing element. It is crucial that we recognize the unique challenges faced by these groups when it comes to finding decent and affordable housing.

By expanding our definition of special needs groups, we can ensure that our housing policies are inclusive and address the diverse needs of our community. It is our responsibility to create an environment where everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances, has access to safe and affordable housing.

We understand that students, in particular, face significant difficulties in finding suitable housing. As they pursue their education and contribute to our community, it is essential that we provide them with the support they need. By including students as a special needs group, we can work towards developing housing options that cater to their specific needs.

Furthermore, we recognize the importance of supporting our military personnel, both active and veteran, who have dedicated their lives to serving our country. They deserve our utmost gratitude and assistance in finding housing that meets their unique requirements. By including them as a special needs group, we can ensure that their housing needs are given the attention they deserve.



Additionally, it is crucial that we address the housing challenges faced by persons with chronic illness, the LGBTQ+ community, and people of color. These groups often encounter barriers and discrimination when searching for housing. By acknowledging their needs and including them as special needs groups, we can work towards creating a more equitable and inclusive housing landscape.

As we move forward, we will continue to prioritize the needs of these special groups in our housing policies and initiatives. We are committed to working collaboratively with community organizations, non-profit groups, and government agencies to develop targeted programs that address their unique challenges.

At the meeting, we also had the opportunity to present the requested revisions to the draft from the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). At this meeting, the Planning Commission and City Council held public hearings to accept public testimony on these revisions. We are grateful for the engagement of our community members, as their input is vital in shaping our housing policies.

Furthermore, we discussed various programs and initiatives aimed at facilitating affordable housing for all income levels. These programs include the development of mixed-use zoning designations, small lot residential subdivisions, and the facilitation of affordable rental units. We are committed to exploring funding opportunities and collaborating with agencies such as the Monterey County Housing Authority and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to support these initiatives.

In our efforts to affirmatively further fair housing, we are actively working towards providing equal housing opportunities for all residents. This includes enhancing housing mobility strategies, protecting existing residents from displacement, and encouraging new housing choices and affordability in high and medium-resource areas. We are also committed to addressing the needs of special populations, such as seniors, persons with disabilities, people with chronic illness, students, the military, people of color, the LGBTQ+ community, and female-headed households.

In conclusion, the special joint meeting of the Del Rey Oaks City Council and Planning Commission was a significant step forward in our commitment to providing affordable and inclusive housing for all residents. By expanding our definition of special needs groups, we are ensuring that no one is left behind in our efforts to create a thriving and inclusive community.

We are grateful for your continued support and engagement as we work together to address the housing needs of our community. Your input and feedback are invaluable in shaping our housing policies and initiatives. Together, we can build a community where everyone has access to safe, affordable, and inclusive housing.

**VIII. Council Report: Celebrating Solidarity and Community at the Pilipino-American Solidarity Alliance (PASA) Christmas Party on December 8, 2023, at the Moose Lodge, Del Rey Oaks, CA**



On December 8, 2023, I had the honor and privilege of attending the 20th Anniversary Christmas Party hosted by the Pilipino-American Solidarity Alliance (PASA) at the Moose Lodge in Del Rey Oaks, CA. This event was a testament to the vibrant spirit and unwavering dedication of an organization that embodies unity and support for immigrants settling into our community.

As someone who has experienced the challenges of building a new life in a foreign land, I was deeply moved by PASA's commitment to creating a welcoming environment for newcomers, particularly those from the Philippines. Their mission to assist immigrants in acclimating to our society struck a chord with me on a personal level.

The evening was a tapestry of culture, camaraderie, and celebration. It was a joy to witness the diverse array of Filipino delicacies, from the beloved lechon to delightful desserts, showcasing the richness of Filipino cuisine. The performances were nothing short of incredible, reflecting the cultural heritage and talent within our community.

What struck me most was the palpable warmth and inclusivity that permeated the gathering. PASA's dedication to fostering a sense of belonging and solidarity among immigrants is truly commendable and serves as a beacon of hope and support for those navigating a new chapter in their lives.

As a councilman, it is both an honor and a responsibility to support organizations like PASA that champion diversity, inclusivity, and community engagement. I am committed to working hand in hand with PASA and similar groups to ensure that our city remains a place where everyone, regardless of background, feels embraced and valued.

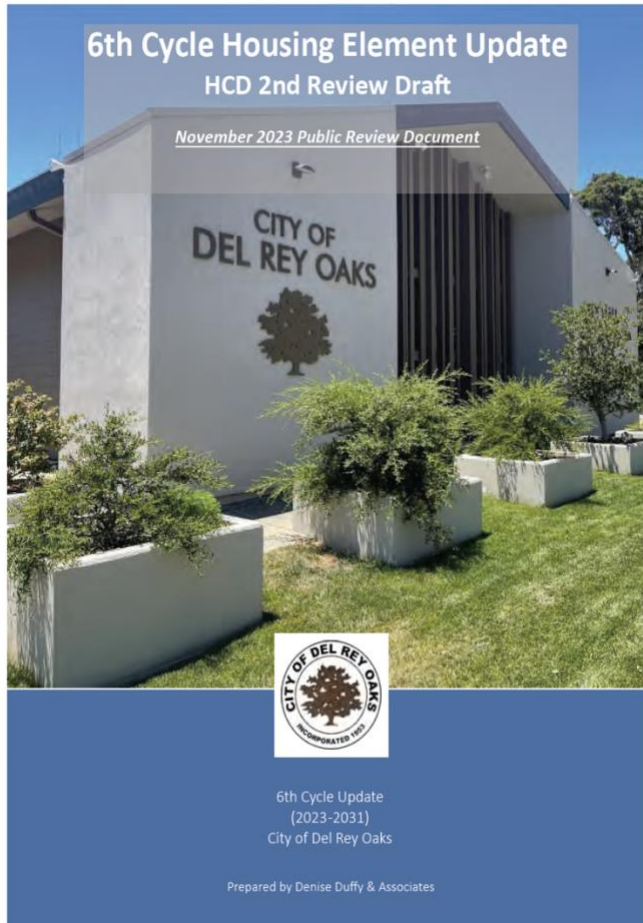
In conclusion, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to PASA for orchestrating such a memorable and heartening celebration. Let us continue to embrace and uplift our fellow immigrants, cultivating a community where everyone is not just welcomed but embraced with open arms.

Salamat po, PASA, for an inspiring and impactful evening! Mabuhay po tayong lahat!

# THANKS FOR *the Memories*



## **IX. Council Report: Special Meeting of the DRO City Council on December 13, 2023**



I write this report with an overwhelming sense of pride and gratitude as we convened for this momentous occasion on December 13, 2023. Our collective dedication and tireless efforts have culminated in a milestone achievement for our city: the completion and recommendation for approval of Resolution 2023-21 to adopt the General Plan Amendment, specifically the City's 2023-2031 6th Cycle Housing Element Update.

This endeavor represents not just a procedural task but a testament to our commitment to the welfare and growth of our community. In accordance with Government Code Section 65580 et seq., the preparation of the 6th Cycle Housing Element has been a meticulous and comprehensive process. It encapsulates a strategic blueprint for the development and sustainability of our city over the next planning period, 2023-2031.

At the heart of this Housing Element Update lies an exhaustive analysis of our housing needs. It identifies various constraints, both governmental and non-governmental, and proposes concrete strategies to overcome these hurdles. Through robust goals, clear objectives, and strategic policies, this Element paves the way for a more inclusive, vibrant, and sustainable Del Rey Oaks.

Importantly, this Housing Element isn't merely a bureaucratic document; it's a visionary roadmap that outlines programs and initiatives to meet our Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). It encapsulates the collective aspirations of our residents, ensuring adequate residential development sites with appropriate zoning to accommodate our growth requirements.

I am profoundly grateful for the collective dedication showcased by each member of our DRO community, our planning consultant, our invaluable City Hall staff, our diligent Planning Commission, and my fellow Council members. Your unwavering support, expertise, and heartfelt contributions have been the driving force behind this milestone achievement.

On this day, December 13, 2023, we stood on the precipice of history as the City Council approved this Resolution. The success of this motion not only signifies our compliance with state-mandated deadlines but also showcases our city's proactive approach and dedication to responsible city development.

As we embrace this pivotal moment, let us not forget the incredible impact of our collaborative endeavors. Together, we've laid the groundwork for a future that prioritizes accessibility, sustainability, and the fundamental right to safe and dignified housing for all.

From the depths of my heart, I extend my sincerest gratitude to each and every one of you. Your dedication and unwavering support have been nothing short of inspiring. Let us continue to work together, fueled by our shared vision, to build a brighter, more equitable future for Del Rey Oaks.



*Photo Caption: Celebrating Del Rey Oaks Future Together!*

## **X. Council Report: Celebrating the Radiance of Holiday Lights in Del Rey Oaks**

As I am writing this report on this one evening in December, I cannot help but pause and bask in the radiant glow that envelops our streets this time of year! The festive spirit has embraced our neighborhoods, adorning homes with a kaleidoscope of colors and twinkling lights that truly illuminate the essence of the holiday season. I want to take a moment to revel in the warmth and brilliance that our residents bring to Del Rey Oaks through their creative and festive decorations.

It is very fitting to celebrate something equally important in our community: the extraordinary display of camaraderie and community spirit that we witness as our residents adorn their homes with festive holiday lights. These vibrant displays not only brighten our streets but also warm our hearts, infusing our neighborhoods with joy, cheer, and a sense of togetherness.



I am delighted to showcase a sampling of the captivating holiday lights that grace our city's homes, though I acknowledge that these images only capture a fraction of the magnificence that adorns our streets. To each resident who has contributed to this spectacle, whether their home is featured in these images or not, your efforts have not gone unnoticed.

The dedication and creativity you've poured into decorating your homes are a testament to the love you hold for our community. I recognize that this labor of love requires time, effort, and a true commitment to spreading joy. Your festive displays have not only illuminated our neighborhoods but have also lit up the hearts of those who stroll through our neighborhoods and brought smiles to the faces of all who pass by.

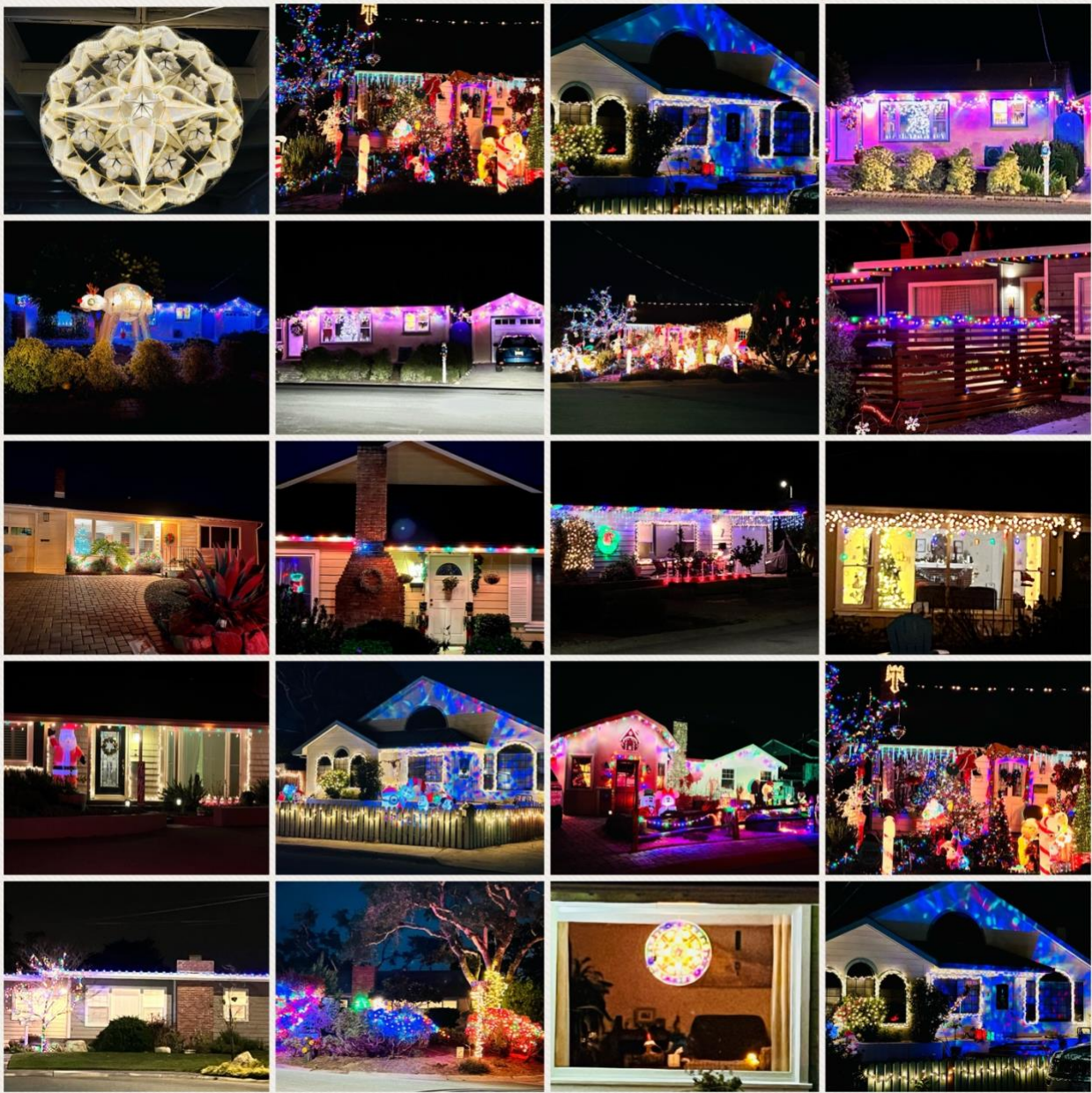
To every resident who participated in adorning our streets with these dazzling lights, on behalf of the entire city council and the community at large, I extend my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude. Your contributions have elevated the spirit of the season, fostering a sense of unity and warmth that embodies the very essence of Del Rey Oaks. It's a powerful reminder of the unity that binds us, transcending individual differences to create a shared tapestry of delight.

Let us take a moment to recognize and applaud our residents' efforts in making our city shine brightly during this festive time. Your dedication to spreading joy and creating a vibrant community spirit is deeply cherished and celebrated. Your efforts have not only made Del Rey Oaks a visual delight but have also reinforced the bonds that make our city an exceptional place to call home.

May the radiant glow of these holiday lights reflect the warmth of the season and inspire us all to continue building a community that shines brightly throughout the year.



Together, let us embrace the festive spirit and move forward with renewed vigor, inspired by the unity that shines brightly in Del Rey Oaks!

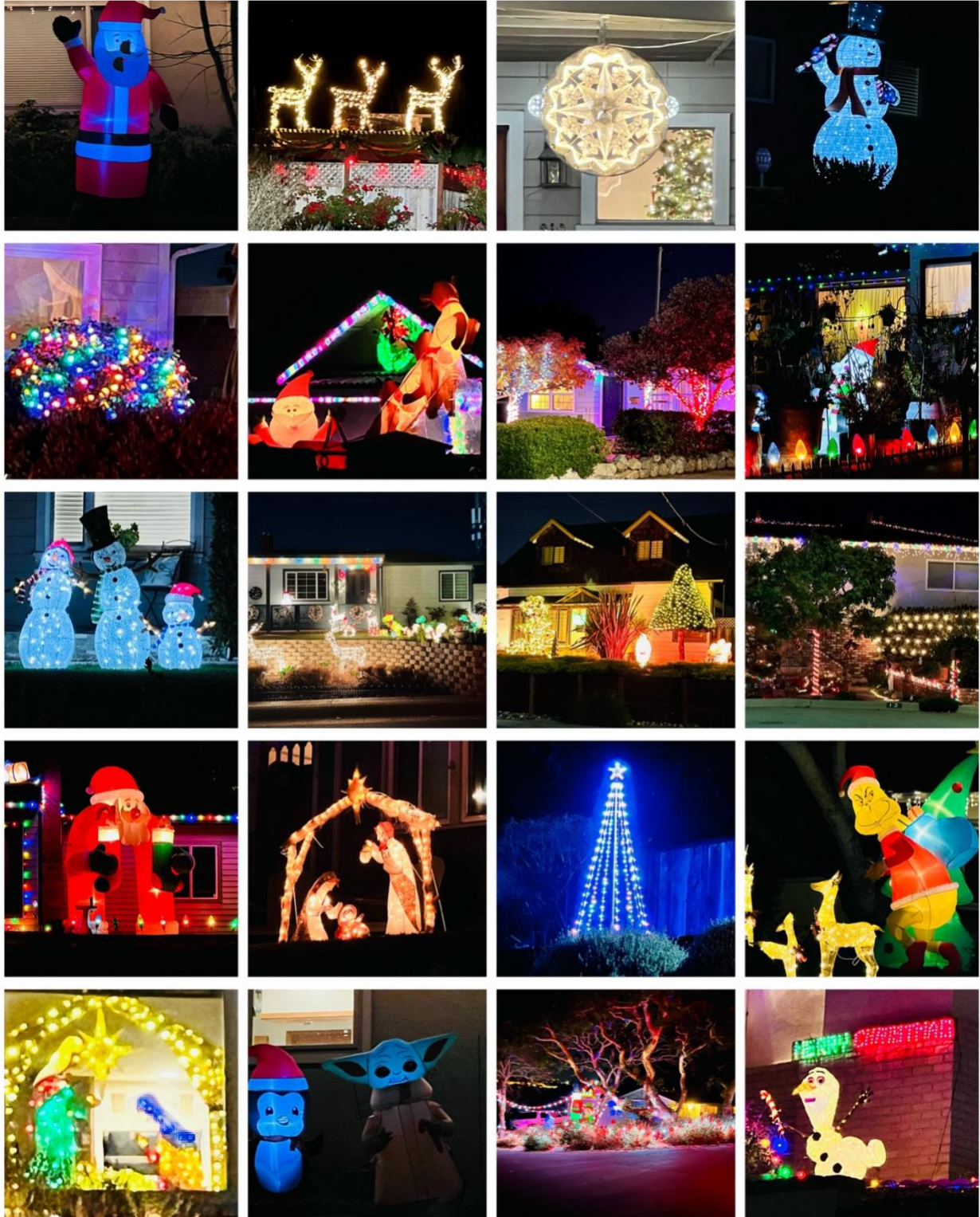




The twinkling lights that now grace our city not only illuminate the physical landscape but also light up the hearts of those who stroll through our neighborhoods. It's a powerful reminder of the unity that binds us, transcending individual differences to create a shared tapestry of delight.



To each resident who has taken the time to weave their holiday magic into the fabric of Del Rey Oaks, I extend a heartfelt thank you. Your dedication to spreading joy and brightening the lives of your neighbors does not go unnoticed. I want to assure everyone that, even if their home is not featured in our collage, their contribution is cherished and acknowledged.



In the spirit of community, let us take a moment to collectively express our gratitude to those who have turned our streets into a symphony of colors. Your efforts have not only made Del Rey Oaks a visual delight but have also reinforced the bonds that make our city an exceptional place to call home.

