



# CITY OF BALDWIN PARK

## Press Release

### **For Immediate Release**

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### **Baldwin Park Celebrates Accomplishments, Highlights “A New Path Forward” in Annual State of the City Address**

**BALDWIN PARK, CA** - The City of Baldwin Park hosted its 2023 State of the City address on Thursday, March 30 at the Performing Arts Center of Baldwin Park. Speaking to residents, business owners and community partners, Mayor Emmanuel J. Estrada and members of the Baldwin Park City Council celebrated the City’s 2022 accomplishments, key projects and initiatives, while looking forward to Baldwin Park’s bright future.

“This past year was a defining period for Baldwin Park. Our decisions have set us on an upward trajectory that we believe will lead our beloved city to new heights and brighter futures for the people and businesses who call Baldwin Park ‘home,’” Mayor Emmanuel J. Estrada told the audience.

Mayor Pro Tem Monica Garcia, who has served the community for nearly 16 years on the City Council and six years on the City’s Planning Commission, highlighted the accomplishments of the Public Works and Recreation Departments, which were responsible for commencing, advancing and completing projects that will help to create safe and healthy neighborhoods in Baldwin Park.

“Judging from all of the progress made in 2022, our staff definitely have their work cut out for them in 2023, when many of these projects will be completed or nearly completed for our community to enjoy a higher quality of life in Baldwin Park,” said Mayor Pro-Tem Monica Garcia, noting the grant funding the City received to build the Maine Avenue Mini-Park and expand the Teri G. Muse Service Center.

Councilmember Alejandra Avila, who previously served the City as its City Clerk for nine years and has served on the City Council since 2018, told the audience about the services the City’s Recreation Department delivered in 2022. From delivering meals to seniors and low-income families to creating temporary housing communities to house the homeless, the City’s proactive steps to address and prevent homelessness were pivotal to cutting homelessness in half in 2022.

“We’re doing more than ever to end homelessness in Baldwin Park. The City is also providing fair housing services to dozens of residents and providing social services to hundreds of people on challenges ranging from homelessness to domestic violence,” said Councilmember Alejandra Avila, noting a \$1.2 million grant from the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments to deploy a citywide program providing sufficient real-time street outreach response, including health and mental health services, housing navigation and more, to support people experiencing homelessness.

Councilmember Jean M. Ayala, a teacher of three decades, acknowledged the City Clerk's Office and Human Resources, Finance and Information Technology Departments. During her remarks, Avila celebrated the transparency promoted by the City Clerk's Office, and the efficiencies made possible by Human Resources and Information Technology through successful recruitment efforts and upgrades to City software. She also highlighted the City's year-end budget surplus.

"Our Finance team has safeguarded the City's financial position well that past year," said Councilmember Jean M. Ayala. "This surplus means we can continue to strengthen the City's financial position by reducing our future unfunded retirement liabilities and setting aside money for emergency needs. In fact, we've already made progress on saving, nearly doubling our reserve fund over the past decade."

Councilmember Daniel Damian, a local entrepreneur and local housing advocate, acknowledged the passage of multiple city ballot measures. Damian played a leading role in informing the public about several of the measures, including measures that will serve to create greater political accountability. Another measure, Measure BP, will raise funds to pay for essential city services.

"The Measure has the potential of generating an additional \$6 million each year through sales taxes. And that \$6 million opens the door to possibilities like prioritizing police response for schools, keeping public parks and facilities safe and clean and continuing street maintenance and traffic management efforts," said Councilmember Daniel Damian. "Ultimately, Measure BP empowers our community to invest this revenue in our residents' priorities."

The full 2023 State of the City Address is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) on YouTube.

### **About the City of Baldwin Park**

Baldwin Park is a nearly seven-square-mile, suburban community of 72,000 residents in the heart of the San Gabriel Valley. As the hub of the San Gabriel Valley, Baldwin Park is known for its ease of access and mobility, young and diverse residents, and vibrant, growing business community. For more information, visit [baldwinpark.com](http://baldwinpark.com) or follow Baldwin Park on Facebook (@BaldwinParkCAGov), Instagram (BaldwinPark\_CAGov), and Twitter (BaldwinParkCA\_)

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