



## October 2009 Newsletter

### Business News

### Harbor City company, Balqon Corporation takes the spotlight at Governors Global Climate Summit in Los Angeles



The Chamber of Commerce congratulates Balqon Corporation, who announced the release of its lithium-ion battery powered heavy-duty electric truck designed for use in-highway short haul applications.

Balqon Corporation is a leading developer of heavy duty electric trucks, tractors and electric drive systems. They also manufacture zero emissions heavy-duty electric vehicles for Class 7 and Class 8 applications.

### Welcome to our New Members

The HCHG Chamber welcomes new members: [Russell Investment](#), A Maverick Bookkeeping, [Happy Tots Montessori School](#), [L.A. Shares](#), [El Cuco Restaurant](#), [Baja Fish Grill](#), and [Atlas Marketing Products](#). Check out their services on their websites!

### HCHG Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Comments

The Harbor City/ Harbor Gateway area Chamber of Commerce continues to grow as the center hub, connecting businesses with each other, as well as to public meetings and events, larger legislative organizations, such as BizFed and SBCCA, and local government representatives. In these economical hard times, your membership benefits are increasingly important to your business.

• **The Breakfast Connection** is normally held on the first Thursday of each month, and features guest speakers and the opportunity for attendees to have a table top display.

• **Lunch Connections, Grand Opening events and other network opportunities** are held at various member locations. This provides a way for your business to be showcased if you are the host, and a way to reach out to others who host events. Upcoming events are posted on the [Home page](#), and in the [Calendar](#).

• **New benefits** have been added, including

- Free Admission to Roundtable Workshops
- Use of Chamber board room
- Custom Designed Business to Business Network Meeting
- **Total membership savings of up to \$1250! Ask us how you can best utilize the benefits.**

It is my desire that the Chamber of Commerce can serve each member with their individual needs. Please fill out our "How Can we Serve You" flyer, so that we know what your special needs are.

Joann Valle

### What's up with the Enterprise Zone?

Recently, the State of California had an application process for four new Enterprise Zone designations. The City, L.A. County and the City of Huntington Park jointly applied for a new and expanded Harbor Enterprise Zone. Unfortunately, the Harbor Area application was not successful. There were 15 applications for the four slots statewide. The City of Los Angeles Community Development Department is working quickly on alternative remedies. Specifically, adding the Harbor Area as an expansion to either the East Los Angeles or Los Angeles-Hollywood SEZ. Our previous zone contained approximately 8,000 acres. The add-on areas would be smaller but would not include residential areas as the old zone did. This is the best possible bridge to the next application opportunity that would be in 2010.

What benefits does an Enterprise Zone provide? 1). DWP rate reductions of 35% for power bills for new and expanded businesses. 2). A hiring tax credit of up to \$37,400 per employee over five years. 3). Sales tax rebates for equipment purchases.

### The Chamber connects businesses with Custom Alliance Services.

Balqon hosted the first alliance event at their plant in Harbor City after contacting the Chamber, requesting their help in building relationships with their business neighbors. After a brain storming session a plan for a luncheon was developed.

The Chamber of Commerce made the connections with all the businesses located on the same street as Balqon and invited them to

attend the lunch event.

The lunch benefited several businesses. Balqon was able to hire experienced electrical assembly workers who had been recently laid off from a nearby plant. They also were able to make a connection with one of their neighbors to create a plastic part for the truck which lightened the weight of the truck.

Creating success in business always is a challenge. Competition, uncertain economics, workforce issues, rising costs and more seem to conspire daily to undermine owners' and managers' best efforts to turn a profit. Add to the usual mix the effects of adverse government regulation or legislation and the potential for profitability can quickly vanish.

Since its formation more than sixty years ago, the Harbor City/Harbor Gateway Chamber of Commerce has helped area businesses grow and prosper by fostering a dynamic partnership between government, community and business, and worked to encourage a health and secure environment where all can thrive

## City Connection

Questions from the audience kept the City Attorney, Carmen Trutanich overtime at the Oct. 8 Breakfast Connection, held at the Holiday Inn 19800 S Vermont. Trutanich, the key note speaker provided insight into many of the controversial aspects of his job, and the support he has from his team.

Because I wasn't anointed, I got the largest cut", Trutanich said regarding the LA City budget cuts. After his talk, Trutanich answered questions ranging from medical marijuana issues to resources that are available to local organizations for gang prevention.

## Los Angeles County District Attorney Bad Check Restitution Program



**The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office** wants local merchants to be aware that more bad checks are passed during the holidays than any other time of year.

Merchants should take extra precautions when accepting a check during the holiday rush. Accept only checks drawn on a California bank account and always obtain identification, such as a valid driver's license; record pertinent information on the front of the check.

If a merchant receives a bad check, there is help available through the **District Attorney's Bad Check Restitution Program**. The program provides assistance *free of charge* for checks typically passed at the retail level or in exchange for service. The primary goal of the program is to obtain restitution and secondly, to hold check writers more accountable for their actions without creating an added burden to the criminal justice system.

This unique program requires bad check offenders pay restitution and attend an 8-hour diversion class at their expense. Those who fail to cooperate, risk having their case reviewed for a possible criminal filing. All this is accomplished *without cost to Los Angeles County taxpayers!*

For additional information on the program, contact **Victim Services** at **(800) 842-0733**.

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