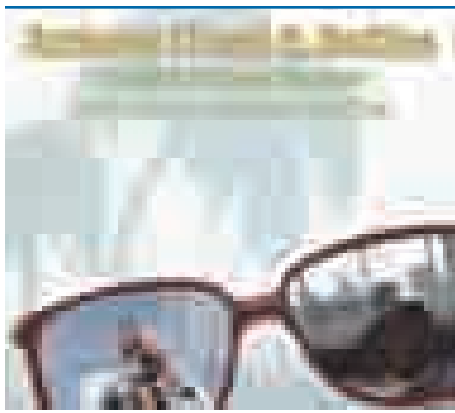


GENERAL SERVICES



Tony DeClue Retires

Asst. General Manager Tony DeClue, Club Member, retires with City Council ceremony and retirement party.



Tony DeClue.

Story and photos by Robert Larios, Director of Operations; Contributions by Yvonne Liu, Office of Finance

For General Services Assistant General Manager Tony DeClue, who completed 36 years of City service, October was a flurry of retirement celebrations.

The last retirement reception held in his honor concluded at the Quiet Cannon in Montebello Oct. 16.

Tony DeClue was recognized at a City Council meeting for his illustrious career Oct. 10.

Tony started his City career in 1971 while still in college at Cal State Los Angeles. He was an Administrative Trainee at Building and Safety.

After he graduated, he was appointed Junior Administrative Assistant, Public Works/Sanitation, Sewer Maintenance Division. After working there for a year, he took a leave of absence and went to live and surf in Hawaii.

He returned to the City in 1974 and resumed his career working at Building and Safety, Social Services and Consumer Affairs and City Clerk Elections. For the next 15 years, Tony worked on projects as varied as budgets for the Housing Authority, Community Development, Community Redevelopment Agency and the City Clerk's Office, Emergency Preparedness, and special projects involving taxes and revenues.

He joined the Mayor's Executive Management team in 1989, when he was appointed as an Assistant General Manager, Aging. There, he resolved some major financial problems and put their budget on sound footing. He helped start a LA's local Meals on Wheels fundraising efforts. He helped develop the nation's first ethnically diverse senior meal plan, adding six styles of cultural cuisines: kosher, Hispanic, African American, Korean, Japanese and Chinese. This became a national model. After the 1994 Northridge earthquake, Tony helped organize a number of senior relief programs.

In 1996 Tony was promoted to General Services, where he worked for the last 12 years. He was last Civil Service Assistant General Manager in City employment. Under four different mayors, he implemented major improvements to General Service's Security Services that benefited the Security Officers, including equal status as peace officers, better training, better pay, and state-of-the-art equipment.

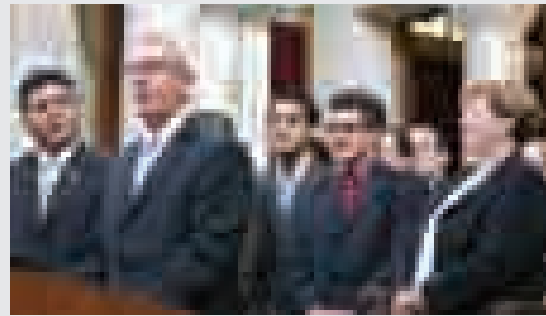
Utility Buyer Lina Senatin-Partosa, DWP, remembers that she met Tony when she was a Mayoral Aide, Aging. She later worked for Tony as an Executive Secretary at General Services. She has been a member of the City Employees Club since 2005.

Tony made sure that Accounts Payable Section paid its bills on time so that the City captured discounts from City vendors. He would ask for a monthly report from the Accounts Payable Section to explain why they were not able to capture the savings and save money for the City.

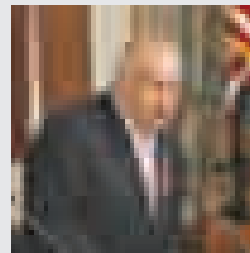
Lina, who has 28 years of City service, enjoyed working with Tony because he has a good sense of humor. "When we would be stressed out at the office, I would start singing, 'I feel good, I knew that I would,' [like James Brown], and Tony would join in with 'So good, So good, Ow!'" Lina said.

"What I admire about Tony is that he treats everyone the same, whether you are [a] staff [member], department head, or elected official. He treats everyone with the same respect," said Tina Fermin, Executive Administrative Assistant II, who had worked with Tony in the last year and a half. She has been a member of the City Employees Club since 2002.

Tony worked closely with SEIU and custodial staff. He oversaw major improvements in custodial services. General Services/Custodial Section became more competitive with the private sector and actually was able to win back



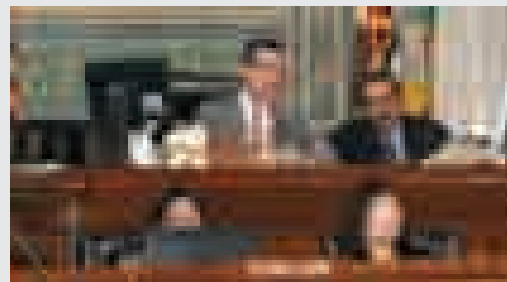
Tony DeClue with his family in the background, and Councilman Tony Cardenas on the left.



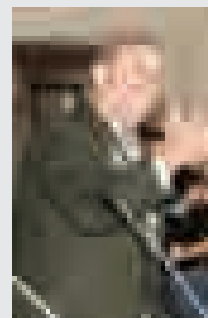
Councilman Dennis Zine gives his comments.



From left: Tony DeClue's son-in-law, Drew Jedlinsky; daughter, Jenny Jedlinsky; Councilman Tony Cardenas; Tony DeClue; Tony's wife, Laurie; and son, Chris DeClue. Not pictured: Tony's daughter, Shelley DeClue.



Council President Eric Garcetti.



Councilman Greig Smith.



Tony DeClue and Councilman Cardenas



**Council Chambers:
Oct. 10
Council Resolution**

**Reception,
City Hall South
courtyard.**

**Retirement Luncheon: Oct. 16
Quiet Cannon, Montebello**



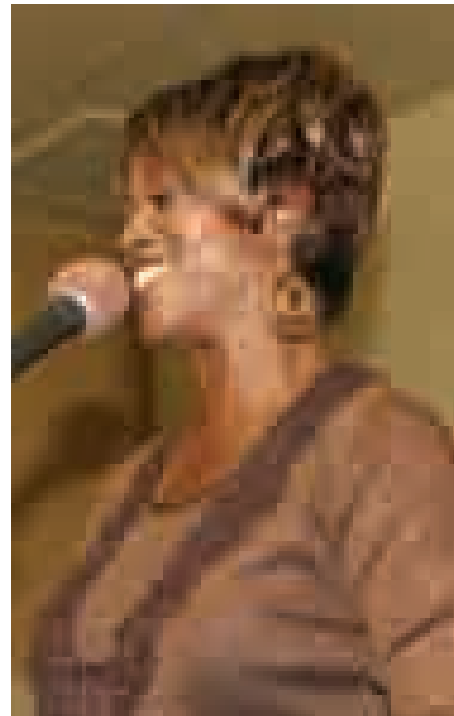
Phyllis Currie, Former DWP Chief Financial Officer, with Tony DeClue.



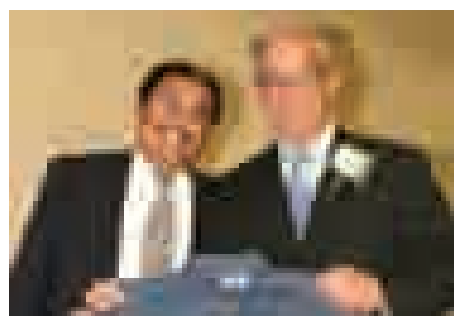
Tony Royster, General Manager, General Services, presents Tony DeClue with the City's official Retirement Recognition.



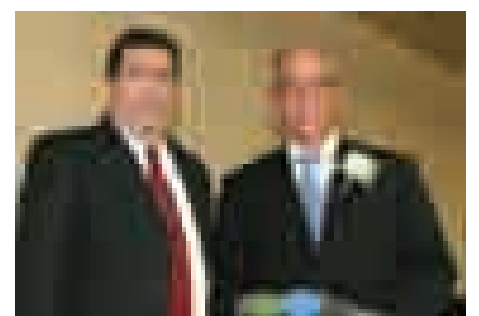
The Mistress of Ceremonies; Angela D. Sherick, Acting Asst. Manager of GSD



The extremely talented Sandy Mack, City Attorney's Office, singing a customized version of "At Last" tailored just for Tony.

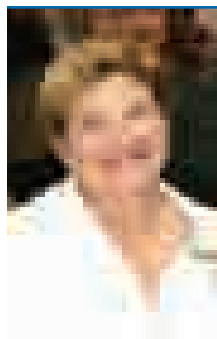


Rene Villa-Agustin, Asst. Director of Fuel Services, GSD

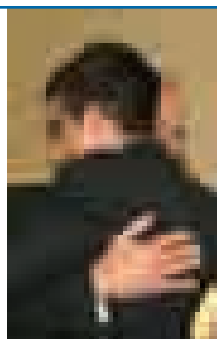


Alex Helou, Asst. Director of the Bureau of Sanitation

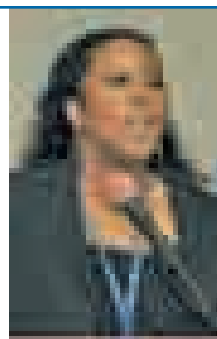
GENERAL SERVICES



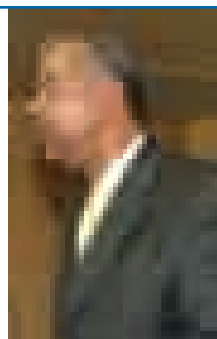
Tony DeClue's wife, Laurie.



Tony and son Christopher DeClue



Regina Adams, Assistant General Manager, Rec and Parks



David Paschal, Asst. GM GSD



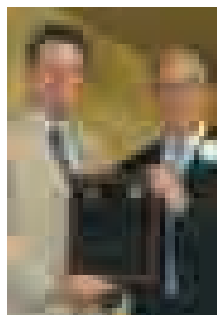
The beautiful sign given to Tony by Fleet Services, designed and painted by Ben Baca.

Tony DeClue Retires

- Continued



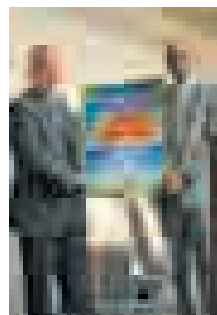
Tony DeClue with General Services/Fleet Services.



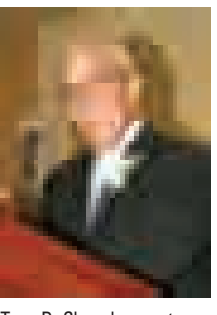
Bill Robertson, Director of Bureau of Street Services



Nick Pendorf, Director of Construction Forces, GSD



Leonard S. Walker, Director of Fleet Services



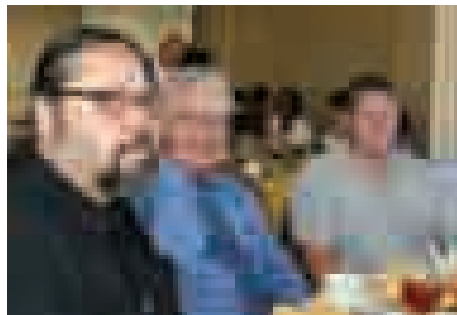
Tony DeClue shares stories of his good times working for the City.



Tony DeClue and artist Ben Baca, who painted the sign.



From left: Vince Garcia; David Honeywell; Janet Gnerlich, Club Member; and Josh Esquivel, Club Member.



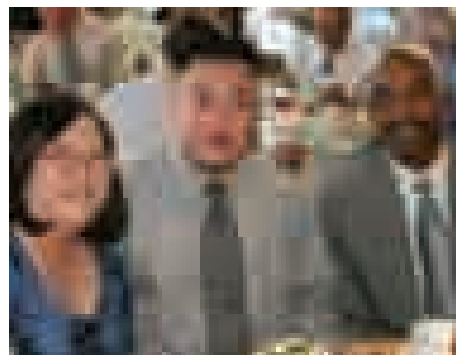
Art Flores, General Services/Fleet Services, Club Member; Jacque Lorraine, General Services/Fleet Services, Club Member; and Dan Parker, DWP, Club Member.



Tony DeClue with Ralph Burquist, Retired.



General Services/Fleet Services employees (from left) Keith Hall, Dave Wilson and Richard Coulson, Club Member.



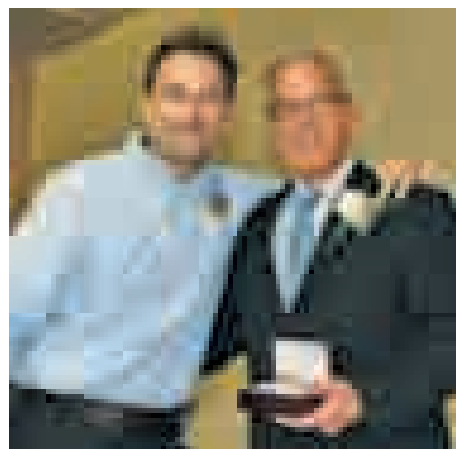
From left: Gail Tichman; David Ly; and Leonard Walker, Director, General Services/Fleet Services, Club Member.



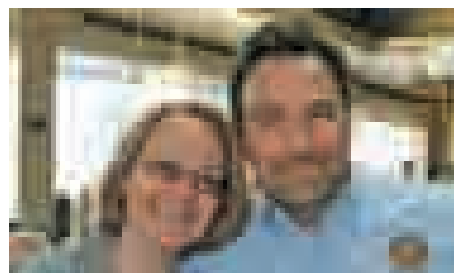
General Services/Fleet Services employees (from left): Kris Goolsby, Club Member; Toni Roberson; and Bob Nieto



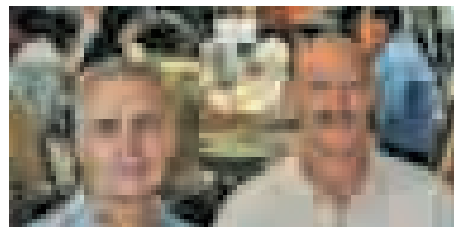
From left: Tony DeClue; Nick Pendorf, Club Member; Carol Holguin, Club Member; and Angie Rios, Club Member.



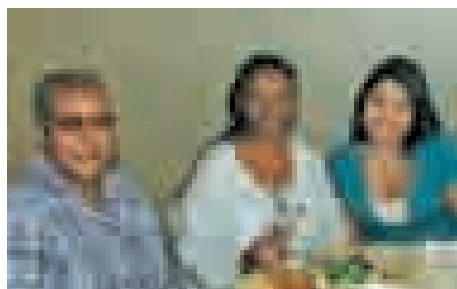
John Hawkins, Club President and CEO, presents Tony DeClue with a Club's Classic Divers watch.



Loretta Quenon, Director, General Services/Custodial Services, Club Member; with John Hawkins, Club President and CEO.



From left: Ben Baca (the artist who painted the sign) and George Giambastiani.



From left: Beverly Batiste; Allie Taylor, Club Member; and Maiyo Lara.



From left: Beverly Pleasant, Executive Administration Assistant III, Club Member; Sonya Flint, Executive Administration Assistant, Club Member; Biniko Hawkins, Executive Administration Assistant II; and John Hawkins, Club President and CEO.

contracts for expanded services at City-owned facilities that would otherwise go to private custodial firms.

Kevin Lee, Automotive Engineer II, and his staff purchase the fleet equipment for most City departments, including garbage trucks for Public Works/Sanitation and construction equipment for Rec and Parks. When Alvin Blain became General Manager for General Services, Tony took over the City's Clean Fleet Program and has ensured its continued success.

Kevin knew that Tony succeeded Alvin with an infallible background in finance and administration. "I was most impressed with Tony by how fast he learned the technical side of our business," Kevin says. "He learned it quickly, gave good advice and directed us to the right path."

Since 2000, the City has been switching out old models with environmentally friendly, fuel-efficient models. The City now has the largest hybrid fleet of more than 1,100 sedans, and has the largest municipal natural gas refuse and sweeper fleets in the nation. In fact, the City is way ahead of other municipalities when it comes to its commitment to alternative fuel vehicles.

Leonard Walker, Director of Fleet Services, worked with Tony during these last four years of his 20 years with General Services. "I will miss Tony for the 36 years of expertise he had in the internal workings of the City, especially the budget process," Leonard said. "Tony had the knowledge on getting the resources to get the job done."

"He was also a people person, and he supported the people at the ground level, like the City mechanics, that got the job done," said Leonard, who has been a member of the City Employees Club since 2005.

"Tony was also big on safety and often emphasized the importance of keeping the equipment in superb operating order. He was proactive on vehicle safety and the maintenance of city vehicle, making sure that [City vehicles] were safe and reliable," Leonard added.

Tony has always enjoyed a physically active lifestyle. During his retirement, he will be enjoying his favorite water sports including kayaking, swimming, fishing and surfing.

Tony said, "The hardest thing [about retirement] will be leaving the people I have worked with for so many years. I feel like I'm part of a family. And I feel that I have been able to make a small contribution to the citizens of Los Angeles."

Now that Tony recently bought a small motor home, he will be taking a break from teaching kids to surf the waves and to play soccer in his spare time.

Tony and his wife, Laurie, were to venture out in their motor home on a leisurely trip through Baja until the end of the year. He also plans on biking in the German wine country in Fall 2009. Other destinations on Tony's "bucket list" are Machu Picchu, the Galapagos Islands, Easter Island, the Fiji Islands, Tierra del Fuego and Mt. Kilimanjaro. Since Tony has been a member of the City Employees Club since 1974, maybe he will share these travel destinations through "Alive! Around the World" or "Adventures with Hal."

Congratulations from the Club, Tony, on your excellent career, and have a great retirement.



Retirement Luncheon: Oct. 16
Quiet Cannon, Montebello