

Meet Culver City's Welder, Mr. Moises Aldana

Culver City (City) is a small municipality in Los Angeles County that is unique for its exclusive franchise hauling of waste conducted by city-employed staff and for being a local leader in sustainability issues. In the spirit of adhering to the mantra of "reduce – reuse – recycle," the City has a welder on staff, Mr. Moises Aldana, who can extend the life of metal and plastic refuse bins and containers through various innovative methods. On June 24, 2024, the City's Finance Advisory Committee awarded Mr. Aldana an Innovation and Performance Award for extending the life of City-owned refuse bins and containers.

Mr. Aldana has been an iron worker for over 30 years, having studied welding with the Carpenters Union and Compton College and attended labs to get certificates in light gauge and rebar steel. Upon being hired by the City, he noticed that when a bin was repaired, the complete caster was thrown away when the wheel within was salvageable. Additionally, there was no material for patches, an alley full of bins waiting to be repaired, and no budget for the welding shop. Mr. Aldana learned that on the tipping floor, people were separating metal into a scrap bin to be sent to a recycling center, which could be used to make repairs in-house. He utilized the help of tipping floor spotters and explained to them about the materials needed. They started separating bed frames, pieces of sheet metal like license plates, pipes, and chains to hold locks in place, and even City bus stop signs and staircase sheet metal landings from a recent remodeling of one of the City's fire stations.

Mr. Aldana continued fixing bins and containers and, in a few years, refurbished approximately 28 of them, all using recycled materials. His philosophy was that not only were there material savings but also that the City would have one more container that would increase inventory. The container would work for years, providing service until it was time to be discarded or destroyed.

Mr. Aldana's efforts not only extends the useable life of raw materials but also significantly reduces the City's expenditures on new equipment. His work is a testament to the potential savings that can be achieved through sustainable practices. Mr. Moises states, "Not all the materials that are thrown away are reusable or recyclable, but with the proper education, guidance, and help, others can learn what to do and how to do it." The City is fortunate and proud to have an employee like Mr. Moises Aldana on staff who is committed to sustainability in every facet of his role and is an example to his coworkers and to the industry at large.

For more information on Culver City's environmental programs and other efforts towards sustainability, visit [Environmental Programs - City of Culver City](#).

