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UNTIL APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

June 1, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Mayor Eriksson called the special meeting of the City Council to order at 5:33 p.m. in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall via teleconference.

Present: Göran Eriksson, Mayor
Alex Fisch, Vice Mayor
Daniel Lee, Council Member
Meghan Sahli-Wells, Council Member
Thomas Small, Council Member

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Eriksson.

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**Community Announcements by City Council Members/Information
Items from Staff**

Mayor Eriksson discussed the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis; racism and injustice; support for the protestors in the common goal of justice and equality; working together to create change; the opportunists who come to the City and undermine the important message of the peaceful protestors; the need for peace and respect for the community; looting in Santa Monica that spilled into Culver City; attempts to loot Westfield Culver City; misinformation spread on the internet; transparency; appreciation for the professionalism of the Police Department; making sure that the conversation does not fade into the background as people return to their daily lives; making

sure that everyone is free from racism and oppression; remembering why people are angry; and he encouraged everyone to come together and do better.

Vice Mayor Fisch discussed underlying causes; black people living in fear; people's livelihoods destroyed; he did not want to see the streets dominated by anyone; noted the importance of de-escalation; justice; healing; freedom for black people and other people of color; he noted that the issue was not just about policing; discussed the way the police are asked to solve all problems in society in their daily jobs; and leading the way toward real freedom for everyone in the United States.

Council Member Lee discussed pressure put on the community and on public servants; the need for Culver City to emerge as an economically viable city; weathering the multiple storms of 2020; the importance of compassion; he encouraged people to reach out if they hear something that needs verification; discussed insurance differentials; addressing concerns; the importance of communication and keeping a community mindset at the forefront; the inability to solve institutional racism or national police brutality with words; the importance of being the example; things to work on; addressing equity and providing training; the long process requiring purposeful action from people at all levels; and long term work that needs to be done to solve the issue.

Council Member Sahli-Wells discussed the 1992 riots; the need to address systemic and institutional racism; the founding of the country on racism; the need for a culture shift; the role of local government; the work of the Government Alliance on Race and Equity; and she thanked everyone for stepping up to do the work necessary ahead.

Council Member Small thanked his fellow Council Members for their steady and compassionate leadership and he expressed confidence that the community would emerge with more justice and strength than ever before.

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Joint Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Mayor Eriksson invited public comment.

Mimi Ferrel, City Clerk Specialist, read public comment submitted by:

Dr. Janet Hoult: indicated that she would be seeking reappointment to the Disability Advisory Committee and she shared a poem to celebrate those who serve the City.

Prisca Gloor: expressed support for strong renter protections; she wanted to see Culver City be the kind of place where people can live and work and where affordable housing is available; asserted that the protests illustrated how dangerous it would be if Culver City Police had a Ballistic Engineered Armored Response Counter Attack Truck (BEARCAT); discussed the actions of the police in Camden, New Jersey; healing; and she urged the City Council to make the City more peaceful and vote against the BEARCAT.

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Receipt and Filing of Correspondence

Jeremy Green, City Clerk, reported receipt of email containing comments in support of specific applicants; noted 70 applicants had signed up to speak to advocate for 38 positions; and she received clarification that comments would be included as part of the packet for the meeting.

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SAHLI-WELLS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SMALL AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

CC - Interview of Applicants in Consideration of Appointments to Various Commissions, Boards and Committees

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding procedures for public speaking and for the interview process.

Mayor Eriksson invited public comment:

Jeremy Green, City Clerk, indicated that there were three applicants for one seat on the Civil Service Commission and one incumbent was reapplying.

The following individuals addressed the City Council:

Daniel Behrendt, Civil Service Commission and Committee on Homelessness applicant, provided background on himself; discussed his goals; and his motivation for serving.

Albert Vera, current Civil Service Commission Chair, discussed his service on the Commission and wanted to continue to serve.

Jeremy Green, City Clerk, reported that there were four applicants for one available seat on the Cultural Affairs Commission and one incumbent would be reapplying.

Neal Weiss, Cultural Affairs Commission applicant, provided background on himself; discussed the importance of art and culture; the role of the Commission; artistic productivity in reaction to world events; he felt that everyone is an artist and support is necessary, and, responding to inquiry, discussed the need to encourage, support and bring younger people into the fold with self-expression.

Council Member Sahli-Wells noted that while there would not be a Fiesta La Ballona event this year, she suggested that Mr. Weiss apply for that Committee when positions became available.

Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin, Cultural Affairs Commission incumbent, thanked the City Council for their leadership during difficult times and for consideration of her reappointment; discussed equity and inclusion; past accomplishments and future goals; finding ways to help grantees continue through the pandemic; and the new Artist Laureate appointee.

Gerry Biernat, Cultural Affairs Commission applicant, provided background on himself; discussed his understanding of the position; goals; and the importance of the arts.

Gurbinder Ghotra, Cultural Affairs Commission applicant, provided background on himself and discussed goals.

Robert Klein, Cultural Affairs Commission applicant, provided background on himself; discussed branding and marketing; goals;

and, responding to inquiry, he indicated that he is 92 years old.

Andrew Lewis, Cultural Affairs Commission, Committee on Homelessness, and Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee applicant, provided background on himself; discussed the ability for growth in the City; providing an opportunity for fresh voices; and, responding to inquiry, he indicated that he had just moved to Culver City.

Council Member Sahli-Wells received clarification that applicants would receive only one opportunity to speak and she invited Mr. Lewis to make remarks on the other bodies he had applied for.

Andrew Lewis discussed his previous experience serving on a homeless committee in Los Angeles and he felt he would bring a different perspective to serving due to his personal background and experience.

Joes Segal, Cultural Affairs Commission applicant, provided background on himself; discussed the importance of art and culture in difficult times; goals for serving on the Commission; and he indicated that if not appointed, he would be happy to support in any way possible.

Jeremy Green, City Clerk, reported that one seat was available on the Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Commission and one incumbent was reapplying.

William Rickards, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission incumbent, indicated that he had originally joined the Commission a few years ago to fill an unexpired term; discussed previous service; challenges during the difficult time; the role of the Commission; the diverse community; changes and challenges with new development in the City; and programming.

Julie Zatz, Civil Service Commission applicant, provided background on herself; discussed her qualifications; and, responding to inquiry, indicated that she would be interested in serving on another body if the Civil Service Commission is disbanded.

Crystal Alexander, Planning Commission applicant, provided background on herself and discussed balancing competing needs.

Council Members expressed appreciation to Ms. Alexander for her efforts on the Finance Advisory Committee.

Nancy Barba, Planning Commission applicant, provided background on herself; discussed goals, and, responding to inquiry, she indicated that her focus would be on housing and the intermingling of climate policy, housing policy and social justice.

Marc Bauer, Planning Commission and Finance Advisory Committee applicant, provided background on himself; discussed unprecedented challenges faced by Culver City; the need for equity in all decision making processes; and, responding to inquiry, he provided additional detail on his finance background.

Keith Fine, Planning Commission applicant, thanked the City Council for their thoughtful comments at the opening of the meeting; he provided background on himself; discussed the role of Planning Commissioners; the importance of listening; designing for sustainability; and doing the right thing for Culver City.

Josh Goldstein, Planning Commission, Committee on Homelessness, and Finance Advisory Committee applicant, indicated that he wished to withdraw his application for the Finance Advisory Committee as the available position is for a local small business owner; provided background on himself; discussed current housing policy; neighborhood evolution; using the General Plan process to reduce the cost of housing near good jobs; zoning rules; subsidizing housing rather than vehicles; and goals if appointed.

Jeremy Green, City Clerk, clarified that there is a resident seat available on the Finance Advisory Committee and received clarification that Mr. Goldstein would be interested in serving on that body.

Responding to inquiry, Josh Goldstein indicated that he was interested in serving in any capacity, but his order of preference would be Planning Commission, Committee on Homelessness, and Finance Advisory Committee, and he discussed what he felt he could contribute.

Jeremy Green, City Clerk, reported that two seats would be vacant on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) and that additionally there were two incumbents who would be

reapplying, and, responding to inquiry, she explained membership structure and eligibility requirements.

Khin Khin Gyi, Planning Commission, Committee on Homelessness and Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee applicant, provided background on herself; discussed previous applications; and different perspectives.

Jeremy Green, City Clerk, announced that Anne Jensen had to withdraw her application and that David Metzler would speak as part of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee process.

Dan O'Brien, Planning Commission applicant, thanked the City for the process; discussed the great responsibility of serving as a Planning Commissioner; he provided background on himself; discussed the transformation of the downtown area; the role of the Planning Commission; and the General Plan Update.

Responding to inquiry, Dan O'Brien discussed traffic issues; affordable housing; creative solutions; building size; opening opportunities for more affordable solutions; and ways to improve neighborhoods.

Natalie Tear, Planning Commission applicant, provided background on herself; noted the importance of expertise and listening; she discussed dividedness in the land use world; sustainable economic growth as a force for good; business and social impact; the Google Headquarters project; sustainability; adaptive reuse; and, responding to inquiry, she discussed accelerated changes due to COVID-19, Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) targets, and local green building ordinances.

Noah Walsh, LA West Vector and Vector-Borne Disease Control District applicant; provided background on himself and discussed his goals for the position.

Lucian Nocera, LAX Area Advisory Committee incumbent, thanked the City for their work during difficult times; discussed keeping the body relevant during the pandemic; work done by the Board; the relationship between Culver City and Los Angeles; and plans moving forward.

Mayor Eriksson acknowledged the work done by Mr. Nocera.

Kevin Klowden, LAX Area Advisory Committee incumbent, provided background on himself; expressed support for the work done by Mr. Nocera; discussed the transformation of the airport and

affects to Culver City; ongoing construction; goals; and he expressed appreciation to the City Council for their work during difficult times.

Jeremy Green, City Clerk, was instructed to read the comment submitted by Mike Berlin during consideration of the Landlord Tenant Mediation Board which he also applied for, and she indicated that the Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee was a new body with seven resident positions and one youth position.

Sienna Koizumi, Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee applicant, provided background on herself; discussed the importance of the recently created Committee; goals of the Committee; conflict that often accompanies diversity; she wanted to be a voice for other youth and to give back to the community; and, responding to inquiry, she indicated that she would work to be a liaison with others from her school.

James Lukas, Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee applicant, provided background on himself; thanked the City Council for their clarifying words during difficult times; discussed work to be done; repairing the community; setting an example of inclusivity; the goal of acceptance in the community and workplace; providing help for those who do not feel welcome; goals to help change things; and, responding to inquiry, he discussed his motivation to serve.

Kira Grimes, Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee youth applicant, discussed the role of the Committee; her goals if appointed; and responding to inquiry, she explained her motivation to serve.

Mimi Ferrel, City Clerk Specialist, read public comment submitted by:

Steven Fisher, Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee applicant: discussed his participation in the Human Relations Workgroup and his understanding of the responsibilities of the Committee.

Samia Bano, Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee applicant, provided background on herself; discussed what she saw her potential role to be on the Committee; healing and change-making; and, responding to inquiry, she discussed her experience in the Workgroup.

Samantha Courville, Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee applicant, provided background on herself; echoed previous sentiments; stated that silence was not an option; discussed her motivation to serve on the Committee; goals; noted the need for action at all levels; and, responding to inquiry, she discussed learning by listening, engagement and mobilizing other young adults.

Charles (Michelle) Dennis, Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee applicant, provided background on herself; discussed serving on the Human Relations Workgroup; the intent of the Committee; goals for the Committee; the importance of listening; and, responding to inquiry, discussed goals for the first year of the Committee.

Mayor Eriksson noted that Kimberly Griffin had sent a statement indicating that she would not be speaking.

Mariam Karson, Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee applicant, reported receipt of a Mom's Club email asking for volunteers; she provided background on herself; she felt she would be an asset to the Committee if appointed; and, responding to inquiry, she discussed goals for the first year of the Committee.

Haifaa Moammar, Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee applicant, thanked the City for their work during difficult times; discussed her advocacy and goals for the Committee; the importance of inclusivity and community outreach; effects of stereotyping and bias; treating all residents and businesses fairly; giving a voice to the voiceless; consensus dialogue; studying issues from different perspectives; and, responding to inquiry, she discussed first year goals.

Jared Morgan, Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee applicant, expressed appreciation for the diversity of applicants to all bodies; provided background on himself; discussed goals for the Committee; and, responding to inquiry, he discussed effective interaction with residents and priorities for the first year.

Jeremy Green, City Clerk, reported that a member of the General Plan Advisory Committee had stepped down; she discussed the bylaws; appointment procedures; outreach; and the glitch in the application system.

Travis Morgan, General Advisory Plan Committee, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee applicant, provided background on himself; discussed his focus; and, responding to inquiry, discussed increased biking when people feel safe; encouraging active transportation; providing community benefit; lane reductions; turning restrictions; micro-amenities; and creating more walkable communities.

Sandra Onozato, Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee applicant, provided background on herself; discussed her motivation for applying to serve; the role of the Committee; goals; and, responding to inquiry, she discussed goals for the first year, education, the need to be open and flexible, opportunity in conflict, openness, and Leadership Culver City.

Rebecca Rona-Tuttle, Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee applicant, discussed the need for the Committee; collaboration; implementation of programs; goals for the Committee; suggested programs; focus; she provided background on herself; and, responding to inquiry, she discussed first steps in the process and goals for the first year.

Council Member Lee and Mayor Eriksson thanked Rebecca Rona-Tuttle for her work in Culver City.

Jeff Schwartz, Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee applicant, provided background on himself; discussed formation of the Committee; the perception of the City; noted the need for collaboration; acknowledging that class is part of equity; and, responding to inquiry, he discussed goals for the first year of the Committee, libraries as a place of last resort, social services, empathy, and appreciation for events sponsored by the Culver City Committee on Homelessness.

Carlos Valverde, Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee applicant, discussed events currently taking place; provided background on himself; his perception of the role of a Committee Member; goals; and, responding to inquiry, he discussed a just recovery for Culver City;, multiple languages in the City, outreach; dialogue, goals for the first year of the Committee, education, engaging all generations, and lived experience.

Council Member Lee thanked Mr. Valverde for his involvement in Culver City.

Jeremy Green, City Clerk, read public comment submitted by:

London McBride, Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee applicant: expressed regret at not being able to attend the meeting; discussed impetus for applying to serve; and goals.

Anthony McClaren, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee applicant, provided background on himself and asserted that creating bike paths would make people want to be outside more.

David Metzler, General Plan Advisory Committee, Planning Commission, and Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Resident Seat applicant, provided background on himself; discussed the importance of maintaining the small town feel of Culver City; effectiveness of doing the same thing over and over; traffic; pricing people out of the City; and, responding to inquiry, he discussed his views on mobility and indicated his order of preference on which body to serve on.

George Montgomery, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Local Business incumbent, indicated that he would like to see projects he has worked on come to fruition; discussed his impetus for joining the Committee; and, responding to inquiry, he discussed representation of local businesses.

Ron Smoire, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Resident Seat applicant, provided background on himself; discussed what he saw his role as a Committee Member to be; serving as an advocate for pedestrians; financial impacts to the City; and, in response to inquiry, he discussed what makes a walkable City.

Douglas Stanger, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Resident Seat applicant, provided background on himself; discussed accommodating traffic and pollution while saving natural resources; adopting alternate types of transportation; improved walking and biking experiences in the City; and he hoped to make a positive contribution if appointed.

Michelle Weiner, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Resident Senior incumbent, reported writing a letter to the City Council; discussed her interest in continuing to serve; improving sections of the Ballona Creek Path in Culver City; improved accessibility for walkers and bikers; the controversial issue of opening the Jackson Gate; conflict as a way of better understanding and a better resolution; the importance of listening to different voices in the community; she reported participating in the West LA College Subcommittee; and, responding to inquiry, she discussed ensuring the greatest

accessibility for the most people possible, identifying dangerous hot spots, improvements around La Ballona Elementary, and the Complete Streets Policy.

Rachel Feldstein, Committee on Homelessness applicant, provided background on herself; discussed effective response; and, responding to inquiry, she discussed her work at Community of Friends.

Steve Jones, Committee on Homelessness applicant, provided background on himself and discussed using a data driven approach to quantify results.

Karlo Silbiger, Committee on Homelessness incumbent, highlighted accomplishments during his time on the Committee; discussed providing regular updates to the City Council; and, responding to inquiry, he indicated that the City Council could help the Committee with outreach, he noted that new Members provided an opportunity to re-think the structure of the Committee, and he suggested that people with backgrounds working directly with homeless services, legal expertise, housing, or public policy would be helpful.

Council Member Sahli-Wells expressed appreciation for the regular updates from the Committee on Homelessness to the City Council, noting that she would like to see those from other bodies as well.

Jorge Alvarez, Disability Advisory Committee applicant, was called to speak but could not be heard.

Dr. Janet Cameron Hoult Disability Advisory Committee incumbent, read a poem about being disabled; thanked the City for creating the Disabled Advisory Committee; and discussed accomplishments while serving on the Committee.

Council Member Small thanked Dr. Hoult for her work and also for setting up the Artist Laureate Program.

Lisette Palley Disability Advisory Committee incumbent, discussed accomplishments while serving on the Committee; goals for the future; and inclusivity.

Marcy Sookne, Disability Advisory Committee applicant, discussed her previous service on the Committee; education; outreach; and goals for the future.

Jorge Sandoval, Disability Advisory Committee applicant, provided background on himself; discussed duties; goals; and, responding to inquiry, noted barriers that he faces caring for his mother in Culver City.

Jeremy Green, City Clerk, reported that the Fiesta La Ballona Committee had been listed, but the applicant had withdrawn; the event is cancelled for 2020; and appointments could be considered at a later date.

Keith Jones, Finance Advisory Committee Local Business Representative incumbent, provided background on himself; discussed his experience serving on the Committee; and work done on the FAC Subcommittees.

Kevin Lachoff, Finance Advisory Committee applicant for the Resident Seat, provided background on himself and expressed a desire to serve.

Darrel Menthe, Finance Advisory Committee Local Business Representative incumbent, discussed his work on the Committee and noted the importance of continuity.

Kasey Esser, Landlord Tenant Mediation Board Member At-Large applicant, provided background on himself; discussed the work and importance of the Board due to current events; the role of the Board; working to benefit both parties; education; and he clarified that he is a business owner.

Justin Lescoulie, Landlord Tenant Mediation Board Landlord Representative incumbent, discussed his experience serving on the Board; and, responding to inquiry, he discussed ways to increase the authority and effectiveness of the Board.

Taria Lewis, Landlord Tenant Mediation Board Tenant Representative incumbent, discussed her experience serving on the Board, and responding to inquiry, she discussed misguided ideas and the need to educate.

Mimi Ferrel, City Clerk Specialist, read public comment submitted by:

Michael Berlin, Landlord Tenant Mediation Board Member At-Large incumbent, and LAX Advisory Board applicant: provided background on his experience serving on the Board; discussed changing conditions; the importance of continuity; support for having the Board take on more responsibility; and he expressed his

regrets at not being able to attend the meeting due to a client meeting.

Jeremy Green, City Clerk, read public comment submitted by:

Demetria Richardson, Landlord Tenant Mediation Board Tenant Representative Seat applicant: expressed regret at not being able to attend the meeting; provided background on herself; discussed her understanding of the duties of the Board; and potential rent related disputes with the pandemic.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding term limits; information regarding the number of terms served for incumbents; and allowing others to serve.

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Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Mayor Eriksson invited public comment.

Mimi Ferrel, City Clerk Specialist, read public comment submitted by:

Mark Lipman: expressed deep concern with recent events; discussed the narrative and commentaries from news outlets; politicians blaming out of state agitators; poor people from local communities standing up to the years of oppression of black and brown people; the responsibility of the Los Angeles Police Department and unpunished brutality; police tactics; the "No Peace" portion of "No Justice, No Peace"; long term issues that have remained unaddressed; broken policies; violent response of police to peaceful protests; police provocation; and he asserted that the police departments have a lot to answer for.

Jeremy Green, City Clerk, read public comment submitted by:

Viviana Yupanqui, Cultural Affairs Commission applicant: noted difficulty in crafting an appropriate response to the Commission interview due recent events in the City, and she expressed interest in serving if she can still be a candidate.

Darryl Cherness: reported submitting an application for the Committee on Homelessness and questioned why his name was never called to speak.

Jeremy Green, City Clerk, indicated that she would contact Mr. Cherness to let him know that his name had not appeared on the attendee list.

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Items from Council Members

Council Member Sahli-Wells asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of George Floyd.

Mayor Eriksson indicated that he had spent more time on his anniversary with staff and Council Members than he had with his wife.

Council Members and staff wished Mayor Eriksson a Happy Anniversary.

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Council Member Requests to Agendize Future Items

None.

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SAHLI-WELLS, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR FISCH AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED IN MEMORY OF GEORGE FLOYD.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 12:13 a.m., Tuesday, June 2, 2020 the City Council adjourned in memory of George Floyd to June 8, 2020.

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Jeremy Green
CITY CLERK of Culver City, California
Culver City, California

GÖRAN ERIKSSON
MAYOR of Culver City, California