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UNTIL APPROVED BY THE
CITY COUNCIL

ADJOURNED SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CULVER CITY
CALIFORNIA

June 5, 2012
6:30 p.m.

Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting of the City Council was called to order at 6:41 p.m.

Present: Andrew Weissman, Mayor
Jeffrey Cooper, Vice Mayor
Jim B. Clarke, Councilmember
Micheál O'Leary, Councilmember
Meghan Sahli-Wells, Councilmember

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Mayor Weissman noted that this meeting was a continuance of the meeting from the night before.

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Joint Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Mayor Weissman invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the City Council:

Ireland and Shanda Free thanked Upward Bound and the City for their support and for the ERAF voucher that allowed them to afford their rent.

Booker Pearson, Upward Bound, thanked the City for their foresight, generosity, and compassion.

David Snow, Upward Bound, thanked the City for their support; reported serving over 100 families; and discussed the ERAF Program.

Mayor Weissman acknowledged the work of Upward Bound.

Responding to Councilmember O'Leary, Ireland Free explained that her favorite part of living in Culver City was having a place to live, her own room, and her friends.

Suzanne DeBenneditis reported receipt of a postcard from County Regional Planning; thanked Councilmembers for their hard work; discussed the urgency of the Council taking a united stand against fracking; the fact that certain things are unable to be regulated; she suggested establishing an advisory committee; and discussed volunteerism in the City.

Mara Neufeldt read a letter from Veronica Barr Jones of Culver City Moms Against Fracking that expressed opposition to fracking; discussed a proposed bill in Ohio; invited Councilmembers to attend and speak at their meeting at Vets Park on June 8 and everyone to attend the meeting in Council Chambers on June 12; and she asked for a total ban on fracking.

Debra Antoinaise reported that fracking was already taking place; she discussed undisclosed toxic chemicals being used; the energy crisis and the economic crisis; issues in other areas where fracking is taking place; and the economic, health, and environmental consequences of fracking.

Dr. Kin Kin Gee discussed chemicals used in fracking; the effects of chemicals on humans; the fracking process; noxious odors; effects on the neighborhood; she provided clarification regarding propylene glycol; and she agreed to provide the handout she had distributed to Councilmembers via email.

Neil Rubenstein read comments into the record from Dr, Patricia Siever of the Culver City Unified School District: "To the City Council: as a longtime resident of Culver City and also as a person who has devoted her life to educating our youth, I want to congratulate you, Mr. Mayor, on the Culver City Animal Services Program. You have realized through your positive actions the total benefit of our exemplary Animal Services Program to our children, parents, and community as a whole. While you, Mr. Mayor, are teaching our youth the global interpretation of humanitarianism and the interconnectedness and importance of ... I want to thank you for making the Animal Services Program a permanent reality to our wonderful community. I

know as a Culver City Unified School District Board Member that we have to remember to guard and secure those things that make us, and our children, appreciate our role as humans on the planet. Thanks again. Patricia Siever, Board Member Culver City Unified School District, Professor of History, West LA College."

Mr. Rubenstein further read comments from Dr. Amanda Futchi: "I am an original supporter of the Animal Services pilot program and I strongly support it to become a permanent program. All creatures in Culver City are part of the resident population and deserve our stewardship. Let's, with your help Mr. Mayor, make this a model program for the country. It is a great step in the right direction. Signed Dr. Amanda Futchi."

MaryLou Cardone referenced a comment from Councilmember O'Leary at the May 7, 2012 meeting that led her to believe that the pilot program had come to an end and a permanent Animal Services Program would become a reality.

Debra Weinrauch, Friends of Culver City Animals, requested that her comments be read into the record: Theodore Hertzfel once said: "If you will it, it is no dream." That statement is so true when it comes to Culver City. Every school, business, house, park, in fact every aspect of life in our unique City, began as a dream. And with the work of a caring government and the community those dreams became reality. I have had the opportunity to review many relevant pages in the proposed 2012-2013 budget, and especially page 176 wherein it is written as directed by the City Council the Animal Services Pilot Program is complete, the Police Department is recommending that the program become permanent. I am very pleased to know that a permanent Animal Services Program is included in the budget. As we all know, this program is very successful and the community loves it. The famed anthropologist, Jane Goodall once wrote: "Every individual matters. Every individual has a role to play. Every individual makes a difference." We want to thank Police Chief Don Pederson, Sergeant Hatrop, members of our police department and of course our City Council and staff. Each of you has made a positive difference in the lives of everyone, and I mean everyone living in Culver City.

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Receipt of Correspondence

None.

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Community Announcements By City Council Members/Information Items From Staff

Martin Cole, City Clerk/Assistant City Manager, presented alternative City Council meeting dates for June and July to address scheduling conflicts.

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Joint Action Items

Item JA-1

JOINT CITY COUNCIL/Housing Authority/Parking Authority/Successor Agency AGENDA ITEM: Budget Study Session - City Manager's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013: Presentation of the Results of a Ballot Measure Feasibility Study and Presentation of the Proposed Budgets for the City Council, City Manager's Office, City Clerk's Office, City Attorney's Office, Information Technology Department, Human Resources Department, Finance Department, Transportation Department and Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department, Fire Department, Police Department, Community Development [including the Parking Authority, Housing Authority and Successor Agency], and Public Works Department [including Capital Improvement Projects] (Note, the Fire Department, Police Department, Community Development [including the Parking Authority, Housing Authority and Successor Agency], and Public Works Department [including Capital Improvement Projects] are Scheduled for June 5, 2012.)

At the request of Mayor Weissman, Jeff Muir, Chief Financial Officer, summarized the changes on the adjustment sheet.

Michelle Williams, Acting Chief Information Officer, presented an overview of the proposed Information Services Department budget for 2012-2013.

Discussion ensued between staff and the City Council regarding technological advances in the department; parking enforcement;

coordination of different systems; appreciation for the share button on the agendas; the ashx format vs. the pdf format; site content management software; consolidating services; the current workload; potential collaboration and cooperation with the school district; virtual desktops; energy conservation; the City website; the Community Calendar; Culver City Proud; website policies; establishing a legislative corner; community involvement; getting the message out to the community effectively; benefits to revitalizing the Innovation Fund; and focusing on improving the structural deficit.

Serena Wright, Human Resources Director, presented an overview of the proposed Human Resources budget for 2012-2013.

Discussion ensued between staff and the City Council regarding Workers Compensation benefits; personnel and other contractual services; the self insurance fund; Live Scan fees; workers compensation; measures to mitigate costs; identifying trends; the Employee Assistance Program; special events and meetings; managing the workload due to the loss of employees; communication between City management and the City Council; an observation that having less employees compounds the work of Human Resources rather than lessening it; work of the City and the bargaining groups; and support for participation in the League of California Cities.

Jeff Muir, Chief Financial Officer, provided a summary of the proposed Finance Department budget for 2012-2013.

Discussion ensued between staff and the City Council regarding the ballot measure and communication with the public; the document presented on May 7, 2012; providing additional information on the Finance page; contractual services; staff workload; information provided; and credibility of the City.

Art Ida, Transportation Director, provided a summary of the proposed Transportation budget for 2012-2013.

Mayor Weissman received clarification regarding increased accident rates.

John Nachbar, City Manager, discussed preliminary information regarding a proposed downtown shuttle and associated costs for various parcels in an assessment district scenario; meeting with larger properties involved; creation of an assessment district; the viability of the assessment district approach; willingness of larger property owners; and initial feedback.

Discussion ensued between staff and the City Council regarding expanding the route; the headway; the number of vehicles; the route currently being considered; real time arrival and bus signal priority; the TAP program; the unveiling of the new buses; working to increase ridership; PR to increase fare box revenue; METRO; fostering a connection between school and the light rail; the Paratransit buses; significant reductions in the transportation fund; whether the Expo will affect usage of Culver City buses; increased service to Expo; recruiting; last year's clean fuel allocation; Measure R money; bus advertising; restrictions on ad income; Federal funding; the cost of new buses; fare collections; ridership trends; adding extra service to meet the demand of the Expo line; the West LA College route; advertising on Paratransit vehicles; moving the Paratransit service from Parks and Recreation to Transit; bus cameras; accident prevention; pedicabs and bike rental facilities near the Expo station; departmental special equipment; contractual services; counting of fare box revenue; the West LA College Automotive Program; the incentive program; creating a team atmosphere; using the new buses for the Expo station to give a good first impression; providing an information desk for when people get off Expo; rules for buses purchased with Federal dollars; ensuring that proper information and signage is available; station ambassadors; the transit hub on Robertson; providing information at every bus stop; maintaining the signage; availability of phone support; Google Transit; the 511 Trip Planner Service; restoring confidence in the bus system; the importance of first impressions; making transit as convenient as possible; the importance of a shuttle; encouraging use of the Expo Line; having a significant presence at the opening; the importance of Paratransit; maintaining levels of service; and potential improvements.

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Recess

The City Council took a brief recess at 9:40 p.m.

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Reconvene

The City Council reconvened its meeting at 9:50 p.m. with all Councilmembers present.

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Daniel Hernandez, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, provided an overview of the proposed 2012-2013 budget for Parks, Recreation and Community Services.

Discussion ensued between staff and the City Council regarding contractual services; grant opportunities; organizations that provide legislative updates and notices of grant opportunities; grant application workshops; after school programs and summer camps; cost recovery; physical fitness; incorporating arts into the department; cultural affairs; better defining performing arts into the work plan; the Youth Sports Program and Adult Sports Program; a proposal to move the date of Fiesta La Ballona; the Senior Center; the practice of naming the neighborhoods after the parks; a request for an additional community garden in the City; the MOU with the Culver City Senior Citizens Association; departmental special supplies; part time salaries; utilization of the Senior Center; marketing the facility for rental; groups with longstanding relationships; fee categories; staff time used during events; wear and tear, maintenance and replacement; cost recovery parameters; vending machines; the grant process; a suggestion to allow dogs on leashes in parks; praise for the parks and the positive impact the community; and appreciation to staff for their efforts.

Further discussion ensued between staff and the City Council regarding finishing the budget presentation during the City Council meeting scheduled for June 11, 2012.

Chris Sellers, Fire Chief, provided an overview of the proposed 2012-2013 Fire Department budget.

Discussion ensued between staff and the City Council regarding praise for the Fire Department; response times; what happens to retired ambulances; agency accreditation; annual compliance reports; contingency plans; the State Homeland Security Grant Program; General Revenues; contract services; creating a combined Police/Fire station; placement of the Fire station; the Business Processes Committee; the Fire Department Tower Training Facility; the safety drill; grant funding; City Council vs. City Manager jurisdiction over the Fire Department; billable services; grant writing; and hazards associated with oil fracking.

Don Pederson, Police Chief, provided an overview of the proposed 2012-2013 Police Department budget.

Mayor Weissman invited public input.

The following member of the audience addressed the City Council:

Cary Anderson, Smart Parking Enforcement, discussed the practice of cheating parking meters; described his efforts to improve parking enforcement in the City; discussed the policies of other cities; expressed concern with special favors; and he proposed that something outside the system was needed and that his business could improve the situation.

Martin Cole, City Clerk/Assistant City Manager, read a written comment submitted by:

Amanda Mayeda

Discussion ensued between staff and the City Council regarding overtime costs; privatization of crossing guards; the tow company contract; clarification regarding who directed staff to maintain current procedures; safety and crime concerns related to the Expo Line; identifying new technologies; animal control; Charter review; the recycling program; special police services; outsourcing the alarm permit program; other contractual services; the strategic plan; bicycle thefts; coordination with the Culver City Bicycle Coalition; education; a request for more information regarding Auto Chalk; public partnerships; residential permit parking districts; revenue opportunities; service and the reaction of the community; balance; and evolving parking enforcement procedures.

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Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda (Continued)

None.

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Items from the City Council

Items from Councilmember Sahli-Wells

- Expressed support for an appeal of the 7-11 project to be heard by the City Council

Discussion ensued between staff and the City Council regarding the appeals process; the notice of decision and timing; the need to call for a special meeting in order to consider the item; and clarification that a member of the public could appeal.

Martin Cole, City Clerk/Assistant City Manager, discussed Commission applications and scheduling.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 12:15 a.m. on Wednesday, June 6, 2012, the City Council adjourned its meeting to a meeting on Monday, June 11, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

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Martin R. Cole
CITY CLERK of the City of Culver City, California
EX-OFFICIO CLERK of the City Council, City of Culver City,
California

ANDREW WEISSMAN
MAYOR of the City of Culver City, California