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UNTIL APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

September 3, 2019
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Mayor Sahli-Wells called the special meeting of the City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall.

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

Note: The City Council also sits as Members of the Governing Board(s) convened as part of the meeting.

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dr. James Limbaugh.

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

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER FISCH, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER LEE AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT WHEN THIS MEETING IS ADJOURNED, THAT IT BE ADJOURNED IN MEMORY OF CHARLES "CHUCK" MCILVAIN AND THE OTHERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE CONCEPTION BOAT FIRE.

Mayor Sahli-Wells announced a General Plan event at The Wende Museum with the General Plan Update Advisory Committee on September 4 at 6:30 p.m.

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Joint Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Mayor Sahli-Wells invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the City Council:

Xochitl Madison, Vote 16 Culver City, provided background on the group; requested that an item be agendized to consider amending section 15.03 in the City Charter to allow 16 year olds to vote in local elections; and she discussed the benefits of allowing 16 year olds to vote.

Sarah Hager, Vote 16 Culver City, discussed scientific evidence to support reasons as to why 16 year olds should be allowed to vote; perceived immaturity; and she read quotes from politicians.

Rebecca Rottenberg discussed reasons that it makes sense to allow 16 and 17 year olds to vote; making voting a habit; the goal of creating the next generation of engaged and active voters; and she urged Culver City to take the lead for national change.

Piper Samuels, Vote 16 Culver City, discussed the argument that teenagers don't care; teenaged activists; pre-registered voters; she asserted that teenagers care but are not given an outlet; discussed cities where teenagers were enfranchised; making voting a habit; increased voter turnout for all age groups; and she encouraged the City Council to agendize a discussion of Vote 16.

Cooper Komatsu, Vote 16 Culver City, provided background on himself; questioned why he should not be able to vote on issues that affect his life; asserted that he was civically engaged and he wanted the chance to develop good, long term voting habits; and he asked that the City Council agendize discussion of putting Vote 16 on the 2020 ballot.

Simon Johnson provided background on himself; reported voting in the last election and felt there was not anything on there

that would have been inaccessible to him at 16 or 17; discussed the opportunity to increase civic engagement and voter turnout; and he asked that consideration of Voter 16 be added to the next City Council meeting agenda.

Pete Rockwell, Culver City Democratic Club, reported that the Club had voted to support Vote 16 Culver City,

Sam Gertsman reported comments on Facebook opposing the Vote 16 proposal as they saw it as a partisan issue to favor democratic candidates; discussed endorsement from Nancy Pelosi but a lack of support from Republicans; reported personal alignment with Republican party ideology, but endorsement of Vote 16; research showing capability of 16 year olds to make decisions like this; inspiring young people to vote; building voting habits; increasing voter turnout; and working together to make Culver City a better place for everyone.

Mark Lipman reported taking part in developer outreach for 11111 Jefferson on August 29; he expressed concern with the focus on talking points; discussed lack of respect for the community; attempts by the community to voice legitimate concerns; affordable housing units; legal requirements; the pointless exercise of developer outreach year after year; concern with a lack of good faith by developers; letting the community decide the fate of the community; land banking; community building; eminent domain; and he expressed concern with the developer calling the shots all of the time.

Jonathan Mirvish, Vote 16 Culver City, discussed the phrase "no taxation without representation" noting that starting at age 16 people are able to work and pay taxes and should therefore have representation.

Disa Lindgren expressed support for the request from Vote 16 Culver City to place an item on an upcoming City Council agenda for consideration and she noted the importance of participation and engagement in the democratic process.

Khin Khin Gyi invited everyone to the Americans for Democratic Action Southern California Education Foundation fundraiser on September 8 at the Peace Center.

Carlene Brown expressed support for Vote 16 Culver City.

City Council consensus was achieved to place consideration of Vote 16 on a future agenda.

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Receipt and Filing of Correspondence

Jeremy Green, City Clerk, indicated that correspondence had been received for Vote 16.

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SMALL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER LEE 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 - Study Session: Visioning and Goal Setting for the General Plan Update (GPU)

Ashley Hefner, Advance Planning Manager, introduced the item and the Advanced Planning Team.

Matt Ramey, Ramey and Associates, encouraged the Vote 16 advocates to get engaged in the process; discussed the General Plan as an opportunity for people to chart the course of the future of the City; initiating the process; he provided an overview of the major milestones and deliverables as well as the community engagement program; discussed the vision of the City Council and desired outcomes for the General Plan; expectations; the team involved in the process; the purpose of the General Plan; required elements; steps in the General Plan process; creating diverse engagement opportunities; preferred alternatives; policy framework; and opportunities to share.

Mayor Sahli-Wells invited public comment:

The following members of the audience addressed the City Council:

Paul Ehrlich expressed concern with long term affects of the rent moratorium; discussed flexibility with the 56 foot height limit; including the School District in the process; and up-zoning.

Mark Lipman expressed support for the presentation; discussed honoring the will of the community rather than having developers dictate the process; land banking; AB 857; prioritizing the people who need the support the most; and he asked that the community be put first in the visioning process and decisions made.

David Metzler discussed short term vs. long term goals; crises that need to be addressed immediately; implementation during the larger visioning plan; and he encouraged Council Members to visit each of the Commissions and Committees to get them working on issues concurrently.

Laura Stuart expressed concern with being in synch with the state; understanding repercussions of moving forward; potential lawsuits on land use; Supreme Court rulings; and flexibility with the General Plan for the future and current laws.

Yasmine-Imani McMorris expressed appreciation for being able to serve on the General Plan Advisory Committee; concern that she had not heard the word equity in the presentation; and she wanted to make sure that, as former Mayor Small had noted, equitable growth was part of the process.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding the process; opportunities to think big before diving into the details; the importance of equity in the plan and the process; General Plan Guidelines from the state; changing regulations and requirements from the state regarding housing; the changing landscape of planning due to climate change and the housing crisis; doing the best job possible moving forward; challenges; The Supreme Court; attention to changes taking place; current policies; what is considered a General Plan issue; the General Plan as a living document; mobility; facilitating public transit; creative ideas about reallocating transportation resources; parking allocation; development processes; putting a more stable development infrastructure in place; improving community engagement around the development process; sustainability and climate resilience; clean energy; equity; allowing participation by undocumented individuals; infrastructure for unhoused individuals; creative approaches

to housing; converting parking structures into housing in the future; design; auditing current parking structures; reorganization of City departments; evaluating Committees and Commissions; creative ideas around Ballona Creek; realigning zip codes; clarity on which services to utilize; emergencies; the Inglewood Oil Field Amortization Study; revisiting the plan on a more frequent timeline; commonalities; initial comments; current data; engaging the entire City; maintaining the unique character of the City; engaging in a resident driven process; ensuring an age and family friendly City; sustainability; growth; transit corridors; weaknesses in public meetings and community input; homeowners vs. developers; raising the level of awareness and understanding; complacency; participation; communication; education; stability in the residential population; misperceptions; emissions; better use of existing infrastructure; dedicated bus lanes; regional transit strategies; the 2028 Olympics; embracing diversity; breaking out of the land use model that has dominated the country for many years; public amenities; consideration of transportation, land use and climate policy all together; urgent issues to be addressed; legal uncertainty; the responsibility of the City to provide housing commensurate with jobs; the local input approach vs. the transit and opportunity oriented approach; legalization of new forms of development; incrementalization; local capital; encouraging cooperative ownership and management; outside influence and money; democratizing planning; the Request for Proposal (RFP); fostering public ownership of the plan; the long-term vision for the City's future; public ownership of the vision for the City; the integrated team working with the City; a development that did not move forward because people were not being listened to; the project with the National Institute for Civil Discourse; work to reach a new level of engagement; the goal of inclusive growth; microtransit; working with the private sector; connectivity and mobility; the Ballona Creek project driven by a private developer; the speaker series; the age of the previous General Plan; the state of the City; the regional and local housing crisis; climate change; changes and possibilities; being in the present and planning for the future; the ability to create change; ensuring that the design of the City is inclusive; pride in the City; community engagement; talent within the City; the new Equity Manager position; the Government Alliance on Race and Equity; implicit bias training; examining inequities; creating a policy where there is not a public meeting unless it is accessible by public transit and child care is available; removing barriers to participation;

prioritizing issues; the preamble of the existing General Plan; accuracy of the vision set in the 1990s; Land Use Authority; Aging in Place; Safe Routes to School; designing the community with the most vulnerable in mind; gentrification; challenges; community benefit; paying for additional services; taxes; available avenues to make the system more equitable; finding the right balance; finding a way to thrive together and not feel alienated; carrying the positive aspects of the City into the future; the arts; the quality of community engagement; the Inglewood Oil Field land use issue; the stated goal to phase out oil drilling; being the community that doesn't use fossil fuel; the City's use of 100% renewable energy; addressing greenhouse gas emissions from the Transportation sector; placing addressing climate change as the highest priority; new construction without gas hooked ups; Renewable Natural Gas (RNG); implementation; engagement; measuring results; pop up demonstration projects; long, medium and short-term goals; prioritization; the budget process; street widening projects; finding sustainable funding sources to achieve goals; putting mitigation money toward active transportation; the process; explaining why density means less traffic, not more; providing examples; other cities; and making the commute the best part of the day.

Matt Ramey, Ramey and Associates, discussed commonality on the City Council; engagement; equity; inclusive growth; transportation and climate change; implementation; extreme innovation; and beginning the process without limits.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding holding meetings at places other than City Hall to engage the public; active community members; community benefit; participatory budgeting; determining benefits for projects; Development without Displacement; Lease to Own Programs; taking a new approach; turnover and displacement due to rising housing prices; exploration of policies to help small businesses stay in the community; large companies with internal services; commercial rent stabilization; constructing an inclusive process with different participants; events that don't seem like regular General Plan events; collaboration with other organizations; challenges; lessons learned; tracking who is participating and adapting; focusing on lively, useful public spaces; creating value through regulatory changes; providing benefit to people who want to build things and including community benefit; Sepulveda Pass planning; focusing on public health; resources on the General Plan Advisory Committee; upcoming Speaker Series events;

broadband strategies and opportunities; revision of the Los Angeles Community Plans; encouragement to the Advance Planning Team to engage with staff members at all levels; and appreciation to community members

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Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Mayor Sahli-Wells invited public comment.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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Items from Council Members

None.

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Council Member Requests to Agendize Future Items

Mayor Sahli-Wells noted the previous City Council consensus to agendize consideration of Vote 16.

Ashley Hefner, Advance Planning Manager, noted that there had been a question from the audience on where people can leave comments and she indicated that comments could be left in the comments section of www.culvercity.org/general-plan, the boards outside of Council Chambers, at outreach events, and she stated that in the future a specific project website would be set up and would include a comments section.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:39 p.m., the City Council adjourned in memory of Charles "Chuck" McIlvain and the other victims of the Conception Boat Fire to September 4, 2019.

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

MEGHAN SAHLI-WELLS
MAYOR of Culver City, California