

THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL
UNTIL APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

February 3, 2020
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

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Pledge of Allegiance

The City Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Council Member Fisch alerted everyone to be on the lookout for information coming in the mail about the March primary and he urged everyone to vote yes Measure CC.

Vice Mayor Eriksson reported attending the Independent Cities Association Winter Seminar and he indicated that he would provide a report at a later date.

Council Member Small reported on the mobility presentation at the recent General Plan Speaker Series; discussed alternatives

to one person and one car; resolving the conflict between cars and bikes; and he announced a panel on Homelessness at Culver Palms United Methodist Church on February 4 and the Visioning Festival at Sony on February 8.

Council Member Lee discussed attending the quarterly check-in with Los Angeles City Neighborhood Community staff and General Plan staff; a potential collaboration with the City of Los Angeles on a General Plan event around the TOD; and he announced an event he is organizing for Black History month on February 22 at Blackbird House of Coworking and Wellness.

Mayor Sahli-Wells noted that RSVPs and identification were necessary to attend the Visioning event at Sony; she discussed getting local control of Venice Boulevard from Caltrans; the California State Transportation Agency report on the Zero Traffic Fatalities Task Force; better determining speed limits in the state of California; the San Diego Bike Summit; and she stated that anyone with concerns about the Corona virus could reach out to Los Angeles Health and Human Services at 211, noting that additional information is available at: publichealth.lacounty.gov.

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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:

Julie Montgomery invited everyone to the African Arts Festival on February 8 at Star Eco Station.

Gabrielle Zaga asked for speed bumps or other measures to slow down traffic; discussed cut-through traffic on Lafayette Place; speed; the intersection at Braddock and Lafayette; heavy traffic near the elementary school; accidents at the intersection; lighting; and she asked the City Council to do something before there is an accident.

Lauren Alexander discussed traffic on Sawtelle and Braddock; accidents; noise; and jurisdiction.

Danielle Williams urged the City Council to install a stop sign at the intersection of Braddock and Lafayette; discussed

safety issues; proximity to the school; and she asked that a change be made before an accident occurs.

Sandra Alberts asked for a four-way stop sign at the intersection of Braddock and Lafayette along with a speed study and humps to slow down traffic; she reported witnessing a bad accident; and she described her experiences trying to get across the street.

David Metzler presented a photo he took at the intersection of Washington Boulevard and Main Street; discussed the pedestrian experience; he asked for a pedestrian scramble into the intersection to make it more pedestrian friendly going from Main Street into the Plaza and to consider prohibiting right turns on red from the parking garage; he showed a video of an emergency vehicle unable to get through on Washington Boulevard; and he suggested an alternative transportation lane and a dedicated bus lane.

Tami Fitzkoff expressed support for a four-way stop sign at Lafayette and Braddock; discussed increased traffic; and difficulty crossing Braddock.

Melissa Woiwode provided background on herself; discussed safety issues at Braddock and Lafayette; the rollover accident; she expressed concern with proximity to the school; driver confusion; and she requested a four-way stop at Lafayette and Braddock.

Harry Wells expressed support for a four-way stop at Braddock and Lafayette; discussed increased cut-through traffic; speed issues; making Lafayette one-way between Braddock and Lucerne; emergency vehicle access; and he suggested restricting right turns south on Lafayette at Lucerne to eliminate cut-through traffic.

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Receipt and Filing of Correspondence

Gabby Monzon, City Clerk Specialist, reported correspondence received for Items Not on the Agenda and 38 pieces for Item A-2.

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SMALL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER FISCH 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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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

CC - (1) Approval of an Amendment to the Existing Five-Year General Services Agreement with Image Property Services for Additional Services and Supplies in an Additional Amount Not-to-Exceed \$383,137 (for Contract Years Two through Five), and to Modify Contract Years to Coincide with Calendar Years; and (2) FOUR FIFTHS VOTE REQUIREMENT: Approval of Related Budget Amendment

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding auditing; verification; understanding the changes; internal quality control; and ongoing efforts to keep information flowing.

THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

1. APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE EXISTING GENERAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH IMAGE PROPERTY SERVICES FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPLIES IN AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$383,137 (FOR CONTRACT YEARS TWO THROUGH FIVE), AND TO MODIFY CONTRACT YEARS TO COINCIDE WITH CALENDAR YEARS; AND,
2. APPROVE A RELATED BUDGET AMENDMENT (REQUIRES A FOUR-FIFTHS VOTE); AND,
3. AUTHORIZE THE CITY ATTORNEY TO REVIEW/PREPARE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS; AND;
4. AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SUCH DOCUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY.

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Item C-2

CC - Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the City's Participation in the CalRecycle Beverage Container Recycling Pilot Project (SB 458 - 2017 and AB 54 - 2019) and Authorizing SoCal Recycling to Submit an Application to CalRecycle to Participate in the Pilot Project as the City's Approved Pilot Project Operator

Responding to inquiry from Vice Mayor Eriksson, Kim Braun, Environmental Operations Manager discussed proximity of the two locations to each other; the exemption of having more than one CRV recycling zone in the City; qualifying retailers; the option to pay a fine rather than have a recycling zone at their site; and resident feedback on a convenient area.

THAT THE CITY COUNCIL: ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE CALRECYCLE BEVERAGE CONTAINER RECYCLING PILOT PROJECT (SB 458 - 2017 AND AB 54 - 2019) AND AUTHORIZING SOCAL RECYCLING TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO CALRECYCLE FOR THE PILOT PROJECT AS THE CITY'S APPROVED PILOT PROJECT OPERATOR.

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER LEE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SMALL AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS C-1 AND C-2.

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Public Hearings

None.

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Action Items

Item A-1

CC - (1) Adoption of a Resolution to Enhance School Zone Safety by Establishing 15 Miles Per Hour Speed Limits on Certain Streets Adjacent to Public Schools, in Accordance with California Vehicle Code Section 22358.4 and Section 7B.15 of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

Gabe Garcia, Traffic Engineering Manager, provided a summary of the material of record.

Mayor Sahli-Wells invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the City Council:

John Heyl wanted to see enforcement; discussed previously installed signage and red curbs that are not enforced; safety issues; he presented photographs illustrating the lack of enforcement; expressed frustration with having his driveway blocked; and he asked the City Council to enforce new and existing signage.

Gabe Garcia, Traffic Engineering Manager, discussed the authority of the Police Department to use radar for enforcement with the adoption of the item.

Paulette Greenberg discussed hours of enforcement; when children are present vs. when school is in session; enforceability of the speed limit; speed bumps; and she thanked staff for their efforts to make the overburdened residential streets safer.

Jim Shanman, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, expressed support for the item; discussed traffic volume and driver behaviors as barriers to increased walking and biking to school; changes to survival rates associated with rate of speed; and he expressed support for enforcement.

Dr. Kelly Kent, Culver City School Unified District (CCUSD) Board Member, reported that the Superintendent supported the passage of the resolution as critical for the safety of the children in the City.

Khin Khin Gyi expressed support for the item; questioned the exclusion of the streets around El Rincon; discussed congestion in the area; current speeds around the school; the civil rights of children to expect safety and security; and she asked the City Council to reduce the speed limit to 15 mph when children are present on Overland between Jefferson and Sawtelle as well as on Sawtelle during school days.

Ken Mand expressed appreciation to the City Council and staff for their work to make the City safer; he wanted to see commitment of major resources necessary to advance mobility needs; and he asked that the item be expanded to include private schools.

Gabe Garcia, Traffic Engineering Manager, discussed qualifying streets for speed reduction; criteria; the residential component; state and national laws; private schools; time and resources; necessary budget enhancements; and adherence to California Vehicle Code Language.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding speed cameras; state legislation; The Zero Traffic Fatalities Task Force; a suggestion to write a letter of support for the cameras to save lives with reduced speeds; the importance of enforcement; street design; the neighborhood along Lafayette and Braddock; consideration of tools to change driver behavior; high visibility treatments; the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP); installation of safety infrastructure; projects in process; the expected timeline; private schools; state criteria necessary to justify stop sign installations; the City policy regarding speed humps; the process; studies and data collection; traffic calming devices; recent community meetings; concerns with streets that were not included; and the intent to make the process easier.

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER LEE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER FISCH AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL: ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO ENHANCE SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY BY ESTABLISHING 15 MILES PER HOUR SPEED LIMIT ON CERTAIN STREETS ADJACENT TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY BILL 321, SECTION 22358.4 OF THE CALIFORNIA VEHICLE CODE, AND SECTION 7B.15 OF THE CALIFORNIA MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES.

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Item A-2

CC - Approval of Design Plans and Specifications and Authorization to Publish a Notice Inviting Bids for Construction of the La Ballona Safe Routes to School Project, Grant Funded by the Active Transportation Program Cycle 2

Charles Herbertson, Public Works Director, introduced Naomi Iwasaki, the new Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator for Culver City.

Gabe Garcia, Traffic Engineering Manager, provided a summary of the material of record noting the interactive process and

response to public feedback, and he provided a presentation on proposed mitigations and potential locations.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding delineators on Washington Boulevard; the intersection of Washington and Elenda; vehicular cyclists through left turn lanes; sharrows; and the cycle track.`

Mayor Sahli-Wells invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the City Council:

Ron Hacker expressed appreciation to staff for their work and consideration of input; support for the current design; discussed remaining concerns; assuming that people will obey traffic laws; enforcement; and safety concerns.

Rauf Patel thanked the City for their support of King Fahad Mosque; discussed parking; safety issues; and he asked the City to make Huron and Washington a HAWK intersection.

Mary Daval urged the City Council to approve the plan; expressed support for staff; discussed adaptability; the first Safe Routes to School plan; benefits to going more slowly; additional requests for crosswalks and stop signs; and she asked people to weigh momentary inconvenience against increased safety.

Jim Shanman expressed support for the plan; discussed overall value to the neighborhood and affects to everyone in the City; crossings behind the school; the two-way protected bike lane; creating a new walkable and bikeable community; access; slowing traffic with the stop at Murietta; adapting the plan to address concerns; and he expressed support for City staff.

Raul C. Contreras discussed alleviating concerns with the right on Elenda from westbound Culver; the crosswalks at Marietta; concern with rear end accidents; and he expressed support for speed bumps to slow traffic.

Horace Williams asked the City Council to support the plan.

Bryan Sanders expressed support for the plan; discussed the High Injury Network; safety; the protected bike path; and he read an excerpt of an email from Helen Chin to Emily Duchant regarding Elenda.

David Coles, Bike Culver City, discussed the current traffic situation around Ballona Elementary school; the importance of providing safe alternatives to reduce traffic; and he thanked everyone for their hard work.

Sandra Albers thanked everyone for their work; expressed support for the plan; and discussed safety concerns with the current situation.

David Bergman expressed concern with proposed interventions on Elenda Street which he felt were borne from dishonesty; he discussed the grant application; difficulty getting data on actual utilization of the bike lane during the Experience Elenda experiment; the net increase of three users; concern that the changes are ideology driven rather than data driven; the California Planning Report; comments regarding making the bike lane permanent; Vision Zero; and funding.

Dr. Kelly Kent, Culver City Unified School District, expressed appreciation for the effort put into the process; reported speaking with the principal of La Ballona; support for the entire project; discussed incidents; high visibility improvements; changes to parking regulations and increased traffic; and those fearful of participating in the Walk N Rollers Program.

Disa Lindgren expressed support for the work done by staff; discussed the importance of increasing safety; public input; improved mobility; and addressing climate change.

Dan Novoseller discussed Elenda Street; felt that school safe funds were being used to address traffic and biking; discussed houses in the area; misleading data provided in 2017; he asserted that no safety issues were apparent in the data provided; noted recent modifications to the plan; and he questioned where the traffic studies and accident data were.

Laura Leo read comments expressing strong support for the Safe Routes to School proposal from Jessica Catellino; provided background on herself; and she thanked staff for the crosswalk on Bentley.

Michelle Weiner discussed protective bike lanes and she suggested continuing the bike lanes to the high school, middle school and Farragut.

Kevin Lachoff thanked staff for their work on the Safe Routes to School project and he discussed his experiences taking his children to school.

Shavka Malek noted the need for a signal at Washington and Huron to make it easier to access the mosque.

Gabby Monzon, City Clerk Specialist, read comments submitted by:

Karim Sahli
David Metzler
Chimin L. Metzler
June Metzler
Tami Fitzkoff

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding public comment on the item; Vision Zero; prioritization; data proving that protected facilities are safer for users; choosing where to put money; funding; the grant system; data indicating that people are interested in using the roads for cycling or scooters but intimidated; support for the work of staff to accommodate needs; accident data; extensive public outreach; changes to the project resulting from public input; concern with bi-directional bike lanes on one side of the street; issues with the bike lane on Elenda; cost and impacts of having a protected bike lane on each side of Elenda; encouraging students to walk or bike on their own; standardization of outreach based on best efforts; bicycle and pedestrian improvements; focusing on residents and stakeholders rather than on those passing through; Elenda; crossing the street to access the mosque; providing safe options for bicycling families in the City; addressing changes in the City; length of the process; grant funding; targeting La Ballona due to the high volume and speed of cars along Washington Boulevard; budget prioritization; waiting until someone gets hurt; alleviating traffic by making alternatives available; appreciation for the patience of staff and willingness to work through issues; money spent on the project; increased construction costs; and other funding sources to cover additional costs.

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER LEE, SECONDED BY MAYOR SAHLI-WELLS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL: APPROVE THE DESIGN PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND AUTHORIZE THE PUBLICATION OF A NOTICE INVITING BIDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE LA BALLONA SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROJECT.

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Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Mayor Sahli-Wells invited public comment.

The following member of the audience addressed the City Council:

Mark Lipman discussed the Bearcat; public intimidation; providing a show of force; he questioned proper use of public money; suggested purchasing bikes for residents rather than purchasing a Bearcat; and he discussed public benefit for taxes paid.

Council Member Lee suggested that Member Lipman attend one of the Police Department meetings on the matter before returning to the City Council

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Items from Council Members

Mayor Sahli-Wells reported meeting with the Green Ambassadors from Linwood Howe; she shared letters with Council Members; and she read a letter from first graders asking for improvements along the Ballona Creek Bike Path.

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Council Member Requests to Agendize Future Items

Vice Mayor Eriksson discussed previous consideration of vaping and he questioned when that would be included in the smoking ordinance.

Carol Schwab, City Attorney, indicated that she would return to the City Council with additional information.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:39 p.m., the City Council adjourned to a regular meeting to be held on February 24, 2020.

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Jeremy Green
CITY CLERK of Culver City, California
EX-OFFICIO CLERK of the City Council and SECRETARY of the
Successor Agency to the Culver City Redevelopment Agency
Board, and Culver City Housing Authority Board
Culver City, California

MEGHAN SAHLI-WELLS
MAYOR of Culver City, California and CHAIR of the Successor
Agency to the Culver City Redevelopment Agency Board, and
Culver City Housing Authority Board

Date: _____