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CULVER CITY GENERAL PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CULVER CITY GENERAL PLAN
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

September 17, 2020
6:00 P.M.

Call To Order & Roll Call

The special meeting of the Culver City General Plan
Advisory Committee (GPAC) was called to order at 6:22 P.M.

Members Present:	Patricia Bijvoet, Member Cicely Bingener, Member Peter Capone-Newton, Member Diana Hernandez, Member Yasmine Imani McMorris, Vice-Chair Ken Mand, Member Wally Marks, Member David Metzler, Member Jeanne Min, Member Paavo Monkkonen, Member Kristen Torres Pawling, Member Freddy Puza, Member Denice Renteria, Member Frances Rosenau, Chair Laura Stuart, Member Jamie Wallace, Member Andrew Weissman, Member Noah Zatz, Member
Members Absent:	Scott Malsin, Member Claudia Vizcarra, Member
Staff Present:	Ashley Hefner, Advance Planning Manager (Secretary) John Nachbar, City Manager Serena Wright, Assistant City Manager Carol Schwab, City Attorney Sol Blumenfeld, Community Development Director Lauren Marsiglia, Associate Planner Andrea Fleck, Administrative Intern
Consultants Present:	Eric Yurkovich, Raimi + Associates Saúl Sarabia, Solidarity Consulting
Speakers Present:	Julie Nelson, Race Forward Diana Zúñiga, Los Angeles County Alternatives to Incarceration Work Group

Karen Tamis, Los Angeles County
Alternatives to Incarceration Work
Group

Others Present: Chief's Advisory Panel community
members and City staff; Government
Alliance on Race and Equity City staff
representatives

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Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda

Secretary Hefner invited public comment. No attendees
requested to speak.

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Consent Calendar Items

There were no items on the Consent Calendar.

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Action Items

Item A-1

1. PRESENTATION ON AND DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC SAFETY IN CULVER CITY, WITH THE CHIEF'S ADVISORY PANEL (CAP), AND THE GOVERNMENT ALLIANCE ON RACE AND EQUITY (GARE) EMPLOYEE TEAM

Secretary Hefner invited City Council Members Meghan Sahli-
Wells and Daniel Lee to make opening remarks.

Council Member Lee thanked his colleagues and the City
Council for suggesting and approving that the item is
included in the General Plan process; emphasized that no
one event is where decisions will be made; encouraged
members of the public engaging with the GPAC to keep
comments relevant and contextual; reminded meeting
attendees that no changes would be made to this year's
budget and that the discussion is about the future;
mentioned the focus of public safety discussions on youth
and diversion and asked Members to consider adult residents'
experiences and how they have not felt represented or safe;
asked GPAC Members to think about what more could be done

and what data could be useful moving forward; acknowledged relevant current events; discussed how this conversation relates to unaddressed mental health challenges; and encouraged meeting attendees to listen to others.

Council Member Sahli-Wells thanked Council Member Lee; acknowledged recent tragic events and the difficulties facing Culver City and the nation, and provided uplifting words; stated that a goal of the General Plan Update (GPU) process is to ensure that all people are and feel safe in Culver City; stated that safety for some cannot come at the expense of others; described how the GPU process offers opportunities to reprioritize public spending for the future of public safety; explained the importance of centering equity in all policy and funding choices; explained how the City must listen, hear, and take residents' experiences of public safety seriously to be successful; and thanked GPAC Members, CAP Members, Government Alliance on Race and Equity City staff representatives, consultants, and members of the public for participating in the meeting.

Secretary Hefner thanked Council Members Lee and Sahli-Wells and introduced the City's consultant, Saúl Sarabia, moderator and facilitator for the evening.

Sarabia, of Solidarity Consulting, introduced himself as the City Manager's Office race equity and social justice technical advisor for public safety review; gave a brief overview of the meeting content; explained that the meeting structure would be broken up into two parts and that there would be two public comment periods for items on the agenda and invited Julie Nelson from Race Forward to present.

Julie Nelson thanked everyone and apologized for technical difficulties; mentioned the current events and offered her condolences; introduced herself and provided background information on the organization, Race Forward, and the Government Alliance on Race Equity (GARE); described multiple forms of marginalization; explained the reasons that GARE leads with the topic of race; described GARE's approach and national practice; shared definitions for racial inequity and equity; explained the differences between the terms diversity, equity and inclusion and individual, institutional, and structural racism; described

GARE's methodology for ensuring equity; and discussed GARE's Racial Equity Tool and how to apply it to the work GARE is doing in Culver City.

Sarabia asked meeting attendees to hold their questions until after the next presentation; clarified that Million Dollar Hoods (MDH) had a presentation at a previous meeting but that MDH was not on the agenda tonight; thanked Nelson for the presentation and reiterated the question of what government can do, what has government done, and what government will do in the future that affects how racial justice is achieved, particularly related to public safety; and invited Diana Zúñiga and Karen Tamis from the Los Angeles County Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) Work Group to present.

Diana Zúñiga and Karen Tamis, co-leads of the ATI Work Group, introduced themselves and shared their backgrounds; provided an overview of ATI; explained ATI's vision: "Care First Jails Last;" presented ATI's intercept roadmap; presented data on the racial disparities within the LA County Jail system and informed attendees where to find this data and more on their website; explained some of the key strategies and recommendations ATI suggested based on this data; discussed opportunities to implement ATI's recommendations; explained resources that could be leveraged to achieve a "Care First Jails Last" approach; and shared knowledge gained from the ATI initiative process.

Sarabia invited public comment on the presentation.

Secretary Hefner mentioned that staff received a questions regarding the tragedy in Culver City that was mentioned earlier during the meeting; and explained that information is not being made public out of respect to the family.

Lauren Marsiglia, Associate Planner, read eComments that members of the public submitted.

Christie Gaynor expressed concern that the Public Safety Survey seemed to lean toward defunding the police rather than defending the police; wants the survey to allow more write-in answers to accurately represent how the community truly feels; provided examples of questions from the survey that led to biased, uninformed answers; explained that

witnesses to police encounters do not have enough information to judge whether those officers are using excessive force, or whether someone is being racially profiled; opposed defunding the police; and shared her support for the Culver City Police Department (CCPD).

Shelley Rosekelly asked what outreach methods had been used to make sure that the City is getting community feedback from the communities most impacted by current policing practices (Black, Latino, and houseless communities living outside of Culver City) and asked how the City is reaching them for comment.

Luther Henderson stated that the presenters are ignorant of the historical institutions, events, and governmental policies that are in place today; mentioned that the assumption that equal opportunity translates to equal outcomes is wrong; urged the presenters to read relevant works by Thomas Sowell, Walter E. Williams, and Daniel Patrick Moynihan; expressed that the presentation does not address the real problem, which he identified as the lack of fathers in the black family and the public school system; and expressed support for the CCPD.

Marsiglia introduced Mark Lipman, who requested to speak.

Mark Lipman expressed that when he thinks of public safety, he thinks of housing; expressed that addressing homelessness in a meaningful way addresses community concerns over public safety; thinks housing, not policing solves homelessness; believes it should be the City's job to fund housing and supports shifting funding away from policing and toward housing if that is necessary; clarified that he is not calling to abolish the police and that he is pleased that Culver City has its own police department; and thinks that the police department needs to be scaled to the needs of the community.

Marsiglia stated that she received messages that some people could not hear while she was reading the eComments and informed attendees that the recording would be posted online after the meeting; and introduced the next person who requested to speak.

Donna Kent stated that the Culver City Police Officers' Association (POA) released a video attacking individual

members of the community that was filled with falsehoods that have not been counteracted; mentioned that the video said that the Culver City Action Network (CCAN) was a secretive organization but stated that CCAN has interacted with members of the Culver City POA so it is not secretive; and explained that she feels unsafe when the Culver City POA personally attacks people based on untruths.

Heidi Creve expressed support for community mental health centers and described how the community mental health centers could operate, what services could be provided, and outlined existing community mental health centers Culver City could learn from.

Sarabia closed the public comment period and invited questions and discussion by GPAC Members.

Discussion ensued between Members and staff on ATI's intercept roadmap; the difference in disparities in arrest rates for violent crimes and non-violent crimes in the MDH report on Culver City; how ATI's recommendations might apply to the MDH report; what racial justice programs might relate to traffic enforcement, and what preventative and restorative justice approaches might apply to non-violent offenses.

Zúñiga and Tamis responded and discussed the percentage of incarcerated people who were in pre-trial and not yet found guilty, a person's median length of stay in jail and how that affects potential intervention efforts, the cash bail system; the demographics, including mental health and substance use diagnoses, of people arrested for minor crimes; drivers of incarceration, including traffic violations; and restorative justice programs.

Sarabia asked Zúñiga and Tamis to explain what restorative justice is for those not familiar with the concept. Tamis described ATI's restorative justice programs for youth and their recommendations to create these programs for adults.

Discussion ensued between Members and staff on whether the ATI sees a role for police. Zúñiga and Tamis responded by explaining that ATI developed the sequential intercept model and intercept roadmap to determine what community interventions could apply and that ATI's goal is to create a

decentralized care system that diverts people from incarceration.

Discussion ensued between Members and staff on how transportation policy ties in with data about policing, any past studies that have affected a general plan update, and the relationship between general plans and policing. Sarabia explained that the 90-day public safety review deadline will not be the end of this discussion and the GPU has a longer time horizon and explained that public transportation, street maintenance, and traffic fatalities can all be analyzed through a racial equity lens. Zúñiga and Tamis explained that ATI has a recommendation regarding public transit and traffic citations and suggests that Culver City analyzes citations through a racial equity lens. Eric Yurkovich, of Raimi and Associates, explained that the GPU allows staff to analyze how different elements of the city interact with each other, e.g., housing, transportation, and public safety. Sarabia directed attendees to review UCLA's work on planning and equity and discussed the relationship between recent racial justice current events and public streets.

Marsiglia noted attendees asked that Yurkovich introduce himself. Yurkovich explained his role as a consultant with Raimi + Associates and discussed their role as the GPU lead consultant.

A Member commented on the GPAC and GPU's role in addressing racial disparities in Culver City.

Discussion ensued between Members and staff on the responsibility that the City of Culver City and Los Angeles County have on decentralized care and diversion, alternatives to incarceration, and mental health crisis responses. ATI agreed that addressing racial inequities requires a countywide approach and care model, suggested that Culver City collaborate with neighboring cities doing similar work, and discussed funding opportunities for racial analysis work that can help develop alternative models. Council Member Lee stated that they are developing a model to create a mobile crisis response. Tamis explained that ATI has various recommendations to support psychiatric mobile response teams that need to be available countywide 24/7. Nelson addressed county versus city responsibility and stated that while it is important to create county

response, Culver City also needs to address local issues around racial equity.

Discussion ensued between Members and staff about finding the middle ground between the lengthy data collection phase for people who have been calling for action for a long time compared to people who have just joined the conversation. Nelson explained that an iterative strategy development process is necessary to address structural racism since it was developed and solidified over centuries.

Sarabia invited Yurkovich to present highlights of the preliminary findings from the Public Safety Survey and mentioned that another public comment period would occur after the next two presentations.

Yurkovich explained the goal of the GPU and what the existing General Plan is; discussed the GPU engagement process describing activities before and during COVID-19; outlined upcoming engagement activities; explained how the General Plan can address racial inequities; discussed and contextualized the General Plan's approach to reimagining public safety in Culver City; and provided an overview of the *Community Survey on Public Safety and Law Enforcement in Culver City*, including its purpose, methodology, respondent demographics, and preliminary findings.

Secretary Hefner thanked Yurkovich and reminded Members to complete the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) participants recommendation survey and let her know if they need more time.

Sarabia emphasized that the Public Safety Survey is not the only way that the City Manager's office is gathering input on public safety; asked meeting attendees to hold their questions until after the following presentation; and invited Serena Wright, Assistant City Manager, to present.

Wright introduced herself and provided an update on the City Manager's Office Public Safety Review project, including timeline, objectives, meetings with targeted focus groups; discussed cities that have proposed funding cuts to police department budgets and are reimagining police services and their approaches; summarized some research on alternatives to policing or how to change

police services; and outlined upcoming meetings and their purposes.

Sarabia thanked Wright for her presentation, summarized the last few presentations, introduced Secretary Hefner to open public comment. Secretary Hefner invited public comment on these presentations. Marsiglia read the eComments submitted by members of the public.

Ken Griffin asked what percent of police budgets were reduced in other cities. Wright explained that the presentation shows the numbers, but not the percentages. Sarabia explained that staff is still synthesizing the research and findings.

Judi Sherman asked whether these changes are resulting in officers losing their jobs and whether the police are supporting these changes. Wright clarified that the Public Safety Review project has not proposed any changes in Culver City.

Sarabia closed the public comment period and invited questions and discussion by GPAC Members.

Discussion ensued between members and staff on how many people responded to the Public Safety survey; how the survey was distributed; and how valid the survey responses are. Yurkovich explained how many people have responded to the survey and that the survey results are still being tabulated, how the survey was distributed, and explained some of the data cleaning methods. Sarabia explained why and how the City Manager's Office is using multiple engagement efforts to achieve the City Council's mandate. Councilmember Lee explained what the purposes are for offering multiple ways for people to provide input.

Marsiglia stated that no other GPAC members requested to speak.

Sarabia asked whether any non-GPAC members had additional questions for Wright or Yurkovich. There were no other requests to speak.

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Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda

Secretary Hefner invited public comment. No attendees requested to speak.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Secretary Hefner stated that eleven eComments were received and provided to the GPAC members for review before the meeting.

MOVED BY CHAIR ROSENAU, SECONDED BY MEMBER MAND, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE GENERAL PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDANCE.

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Items from Members/Staff/Consultants

Member Mand announced that restaurants in the Culver City Arts District set up barricades to expand outdoor dining into the street and invited people to patronize the restaurants.

Secretary Hefner reminded the attendees to complete the TAC survey and thanked community members, GPAC Members, CAP Members, GARE City staff, City Council Members, and consultants for taking part.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:22 P.M., the General Plan Advisory Committee adjourned to a regular meeting on October 8, 2020, at 7:00 P.M.

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Ashley Hefner
SECRETARY of the Culver City General Plan Advisory Committee
Culver City, California

APPROVED _____

Frances Rosenau
CHAIR of the Culver City General Plan Advisory Committee
Culver City, California

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, on the date below written, these minutes were filed in the Office of the City Clerk, Culver City, California and constitute the Official Minutes of said meeting.

Jeremy Green
CITY CLERK

Date