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UNTIL APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

June 7, 2021
6:00 p.m.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Mayor Fisch called the special meeting of the City Council to order at 6:02 p.m. in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall via Virtual Webex.

Present: Alex Fisch, Mayor
Daniel Lee, Vice Mayor
Göran Eriksson, Council Member
Yasmine-Imani McMorris, Council Member
Albert Vera, Council Member

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Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Fisch led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Community Announcements by City Council Members/Information Items from Staff

Council Member Vera announced that it was Chocolate Ice Cream Day.

Council Member McMorris acknowledged Pride month and the importance of celebrating inclusivity.

Vice Mayor Lee announced the Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee (EHRAC) Juneteenth Celebration on June 19 noting that more information was available on the City website and on social media.

Mayor Fisch discussed upcoming City Council meetings including the June 17 Special meeting on the Inglewood Oil Field and the Joint City Council Planning Commission meeting regarding land use alternatives including an explicit discussion on R1 zoning on June 23.

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Joint Public Comment - Items NOT on the Agenda

Mayor Fisch invited public comment.

Eden M. was called to speak but was not present in the meeting.

Jane Leonard asserted that increasing density with up-zoning would not solve the problem of available affordable housing; discussed the importance of affordable housing; the Globe Avenue project; groups behind the upzoning effort; developers making the argument in order to make money; new developments that do not meet affordability requirements; housing, financial and land use policy that discriminated against minorities; progress being made; assertions that those advocating to keep single-family zoning are racist; her experience living in the City over the past 29 years; elimination of R1 zoning as reducing the variety of housing types in the City; permissiveness of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs); accessible greenspace; environmentalism; the pandemic; awareness of land use; and new opportunities to rezone vacant industrial and office buildings to create housing organically.

Kimberly Ferguson provided background on herself; asserted that housing near where one works is not a right; she expressed support for the creation of affordable, low income and housing for the homeless; she did not support a blanket change to R1 zoning in the City; she discussed the need to find a solution without destroying the family neighborhood feel; fear mongering tactics used by the proponents; the false narrative of exclusionary zoning; abolishment of despicable practices; the evolution of the City for diversity and inclusion; the need for thoughtful redesign of housing; requiring developers to adhere to standards; defining affordable housing in ways that put the projects out of reach for those most in need; concern with Council Members who are pro-developer; the need for public outreach to let residents know about the process; and she expressed hope that there could be a considered response to the issue.

Yana Grammer, New Earth, thanked the City Council for their consideration of accepting funding on their behalf; provided background on the organization; discussed their services; the partnership with the Culver City Police Department (CCPD); results; and program satisfaction.

Suzanne DeBenedittis provided background on herself; asked that the City Council mail postcards to all residents clarifying the intent of the housing discussion; she questioned how the City was planning to comprehensively address the needs of the homeless population; discussed Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) quotas; rent ranges; income levels; guarantees of affordable housing; publicity for ADUs and Junior ADUs (JADUs); and capping growth.

Khin Khin Gyi was called to speak, but did not respond.

George Greene, Hospital Association of Southern California, urged the City to reconsider the misguided premium pay ordinance for healthcare workers; discussed incentives and measures taken to take care of patients, communities and their staff; impacts to the ability of hospitals to make improvements; potential lawsuits; benefits of Southern California Hospital to the Culver City community; and he asked that the City look to find a better way to honor the efforts of workers.

Kelli Estes asserted that the elimination of R1 zoning was a broad topic that should be open to discussion by all community members; she wanted to see a larger meeting scheduled with time allowed for people to speak with proper advance, mailed notification; she asserted that social media outreach was not enough; observed that lesser topics like parkettes were afforded wide outreach; discussed inclusionary practices; equity; and she asserted that Downtown Culver City was becoming an exclusionary playground for the well-off.

Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin provided background on herself; discussed the upcoming meeting regarding possible elimination of R1 zoning in Culver City; she reported that many residents do not know what is taking place, and when they find out they are upset that they have not been notified about a change that could affect them for the rest of their lives; she expressed concern with the issue being brought forth by some Council Members and outside interest groups; discussed the large amount of time previously spent discussing Floor Area Ratios (FAR) and McMansions; the need for adequate, direct notice to all

residents for meetings held across the City and fact-based proof that proposals achieved stated goals; and verifiable calculations on impacts of suggested changes to City infrastructure.

Freddy Puza discussed Pride Month in June; the Stonewall Uprising; continuing issues; violence; risks for LGBTQ Americans; and he asked the City Council to support a Pride event in June.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding City recognition of a Culver City Pride Celebration; the annual proclamation for Pride Month; and City Council consensus to agendize a discussion of City support for an event.

Bryan Sanders was called to speak, but did not respond.

Jerry Abeles discussed the premium pay ordinance scheduled for consideration at the next meeting; litigation; the similar grocery store premium pay ordinance and closing of grocery stores; and more effective use of funding.

Dr. Chad Clark provided background on himself; discussed plans for a new Emergency Department at Southern California Hospital; the stroke certification process; the robust vaccination program; concern with government mandated premium pay for hospital employees; he wanted to see funds invested in building a new Emergency Department; and he advised against spending money on a problem that no longer exists.

Shana Crittenden was called to speak, but did not respond.

Dr. Stephen Carney provided background on himself; discussed improved care to patients in the community; asserted that the premium pay ordinance would negatively impact the ability to care for patients in the community; discussed planned improvements; he noted that many people deserved Hero Pay; and he stated that the negative impact outweighed the positive benefits.

Janeé Lennox was called to speak, but did not respond.

Eden M invited everyone to attend a screening of *Racially Charged, America's Misdemeanor Problem*; she noted the interconnectedness of issues and how small strikes against people set them back; she indicated that there would be a panel discussion after the screening; and asserted that overinflating

a police budget increased charges that ruin people's lives.

Mayor Fisch encouraged the speaker to email information to Council Members.

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Receipt and Filing of Correspondence

None.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

CC: Authorization for the City of Culver City to Serve as a Pass-Through Agency for Receiving State Funding of up to \$4.5 Million Over Two Years for a Culver City Based Non-Profit Organization - New Earth Organization

Mayor Fisch invited public comment.

Yasna Grammer spoke regarding the item during Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda, and no additional public comment was received.

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER MCMORRIN, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VERA AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZE THE CITY TO SERVE AS A PASS-THROUGH AGENCY FOR RECEIVING STATE FUNDING OF UP TO \$4.5 MILLION OVER TWO YEARS FOR A CULVER CITY BASED NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION - NEW EARTH ORGANIZATION.

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Public Hearings

None.

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Action Items

Item A-1

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

Mimi Ferrel, City Clerk Specialist, provided a summary of the material of record.

Mayor Fisch invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the City Council:

Stewart Bubar provided background on himself; discussed his desire to serve on the Civil Service Commission; and his understanding of Commission duties.

Peter Stern provided background on himself; discussed his experience; reasons for applying to serve on the Civil Service Commission; resolving workplace conflict; and the importance of treating employees fairly and justly.

Brenda Williams, current Cultural Affairs Commissioner, spoke indicating her desire to be reappointed; provided background on herself; discussed her experience on the Commission; serving on the Public Art Subcommittee; accomplishments; and work still to be done.

Leora O'Carroll provided background on herself and discussed what she believed the role of a Cultural Affairs Commissioner to be.

Adam Sriro provided background on himself; discussed his experience; his understanding of the role of a Cultural Affairs Commissioner; and goals for the Commission.

Roger Brett Naftzger provided background on himself; discussed his reasons for wanting to serve on the Parks Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Commission; the role of a Commissioner; goals if appointed; partnerships; the Turf Report; and he indicated that he wanted the City to be known for its parks.

Zirwat Chowdhury provided background on herself; reported applying for the PRCS Commission and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC); discussed her understanding of the roles of each body; responding to inquiry, she indicated that her first choice for service was the BPAC and that she would be willing to facilitate conversations with UCLA; she discussed public space in Culver City; activating negotiated space; and assessing needs.

Palvi Mohammed, current PRCS Commissioner, thanked the City Council for his initial appointment; discussed scope of services provided to the community by PRCS; appreciation for the dedication of staff; his accomplishments while serving on the Commission; and, responding to inquiry, he discussed innovative ideas by staff during the pandemic, rejuvenating existing activities, and continued support of existing activities.

Jane Leonard provided background on herself; indicated that she was withdrawing her application for the PRCS Commission in light of the application submitted by Commissioner Mohammed; she discussed the last round of appointments in March; the need for women to step-up in leadership roles in the City; discussions with women leaders in the community; City Council support for greater gender equity; female applicants during the current round; and she thanked the Commission for their time.

Andrew Reilman, incumbent Planning Commissioner; discussed his continued desire to serve; accomplishments during his tenure; support for the community and thoughtful development; consideration of issues of exclusionary housing; the history of redlining in the City; and representing those without a voice in the community.

Discussion ensued between Mr. Reilman and Council Members regarding RHNA numbers; pathways to home ownership; apartments; building wealth and comfort over generations; turning one parcel into four townhomes; his knowledge in the architecture and engineering community; and professional consultants who are part of the General Plan Update Committee.

Manjit Asrani indicated applying to the Planning Commission and the LAX Advisory Committee; provided background on himself; discussed housing issues; and development of infrastructure to support the new housing.

Discussion ensued between Mr. Asrani and Council Members regarding requirements for housing at different levels; the

definition of affordable; partnerships with surrounding cities; the need for a good plan for the City; providing buildings that improve the quality of life in the City; building consensus; City planning projects and policies; and the importance of evolving and growing.

Jennifer Carter, Planning and Advisory Committee on Housing and Homelessness applicant, provided background on herself; discussed her understanding of what the positions entail; what she would bring to the process; the need for equitable housing; urban planning; creative ideas; research on the best ways to build thriving communities; and she indicated that her preference was to serve on the Planning Commission.

Discussion ensued between Ms. Carter and Council Members regarding fear about what changes to R1 means; multi-unit housing next to single family homes; Housing First when it comes to homelessness; Project Room Key; changing needs in the world; empty office and commercial space; the need for more exploration; the Culver Steps project; the Baldwin Hills Nature Center; and appreciation to Ms. Carter for mentioning equity in the conversation.

Judy Scott, Landlord Tenant Mediation Board (LTMB) incumbent, provided background on herself; discussed her contributions to the Board; neutrality and confidentiality; and continuing to support justice for the weaker party.

Elias Platte-Bermeo provided background on himself; discussed his reasons for wanting to serve on the LTMB; his understanding of the role of a Board Member; goals if appointed; landlord/tenant power dynamics; underrepresentation of people in their 20s in all levels of local government; access to home ownership; renter protections; diversity; and equity.

Council Member McMorris expressed support for representation by a younger demographic.

Luciano Nocera provided background on himself and discussed his service on the LAX Area Advisory Committee.

Mimi Ferrel, City Clerk Specialist, reported that Carmen Patti had rescinded her application for the Advisory Committee on Housing and Homelessness (ACOH).

Anthony Rizzo provided background on himself; discussed his understanding of the duties for serving on the ACOHH; and goals if appointed.

Robyn Kupferman provided background on herself and discussed her understanding of ACOHH Member responsibilities.

Anne Diga Jacobsen indicated that the ACOHH was her secondary choice and that she would prefer to present when the Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) is being considered.

Amy Cherness provided background on herself; indicated that this was her second time to apply to the ACOHH; she discussed her understanding of Member duties; ways to help the homeless; and responding to inquiry, she discussed addressing mental health issues.

Vice Mayor Lee discussed vaccinations for the homeless by the Culver City Fire Department, and he noted that he had been in email contact with Lizbeth Mendez who had applied to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) and also expressed an interest in serving on the Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee (EHRAC).

Lizbeth Mendez expressed interest in serving on the ACOHH or the EHRAC; provided background on herself; and discussed her understanding of the roles of Committee Members.

Vice Mayor Lee expressed best wishes to Ms. Mendez with her scholarship speech.

Art Nomura, incumbent BPAC Member, discussed his goals for the Committee and accomplishments on the Committee.

Jack Galanty provided background on himself; discussed his previous service on the BPAC and accomplishments; expressed excitement about growth and the future of Culver City; allowing more access; and, responding to inquiry, and he wanted to see certain bicycles classified as equivalent to wheelchairs and to be allowed in Town Plaza and in other City areas.

Mimi Ferrel, City Clerk Specialist, indicated that the single applicant for the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles County West Vector-Borne Disease Control District had not registered to speak.

Anissa Di Vincente indicated that she was reapplying for the Labor Representative position for the EHRAC; she announced the upcoming Juneteenth event on June 19th; discussed her accomplishments on the Committee; and goals for the future.

Discussion ensued between Ms. Di Vincente and Council Members regarding the focus of the Historical Markers project and willingness to engage with other organizations beyond the Culver City Historical Society.

Mimi Ferrel, City Clerk Specialist, indicated that the applicants for the Fiesta La Ballona Committee had not registered to speak.

Anne Diga Jacobsen discussed her term on the BPAC; her background and experience; goals for service in the Resident Position on the FAC; diversity and equity; and ways she felt she could be of service on the ACOHH which she also applied for.

Vice Mayor Lee requested clarification regarding the reference made by Ms. Diga Jacobsen to representation of diverse perspectives on the FAC.

Shona Gupta provided background on herself; discussed her understanding of the role of an FAC Member; and she expressed eagerness to move the FAC work plan forward.

Mimi Ferrel, City Clerk Specialist, invited further public comment.

No requests to speak were received.

Mayor Fisch indicated that more applications had been received than available positions and he encouraged those not appointed to keep applying, noting that appointments would be made on June 14, 2021.

Council Members encouraged those people who applied, but did not speak, to make a public comment at the next meeting or to contact Council Members by phone.

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Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Mayor Fisch invited public comment.

Mimi Ferrel, City Clerk Specialist, indicated that no public comment had been received.

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Items from Council Members

None.

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Council Member Requests to Agendize Future Items

Mayor Fisch received City Council consensus to agendize a discussion of sending a letter of support for AB369 and SB679, and he indicated that he would provide information on both bills for distribution to Council Members.

Discussion ensued between Council Members regarding Sydney Kamlager and AB1400.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 8:52 p.m., the City Council adjourned to a regular meeting to be held on June 14, 2021.

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

ALEX FISCH
MAYOR of Culver City, California

Date: _____