

OFFICIAL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL, CULVER CITY  
HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD,  
CULVER CITY PARKING AUTHORITY,  
FINANCING AUTHORITY BOARD, AND  
SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE CULVER CITY  
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD  
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

March 10, 2025  
7:00 p.m.

**Call to Order**

Mayor O'Brien called the City Council meeting to order at 6:46 p.m. with all Council Members present.

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**Recognition Presentations - 6:30 p.m.**

Item R-1

**CC - Presentation of a Proclamation Celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Culver City Symphony**

Vice Mayor Puza presented the Proclamation celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Culver City Symphony.

Clyde Mitchell, Culver City Symphony Maestro, expressed appreciation for the Proclamation; invited everyone to attend the upcoming 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert noting that all concerts are free and either at Veterans Memorial Auditorium or the Robert Frost Auditorium; discussed sharing music; visibility; the founding of the orchestra; and he noted that it was Women's History month and they regularly presented music from a diverse group of composers and conductors including female composers and conductors.

John LoMonaco, Culver City Symphony, invited everyone to the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert on April 6 at the Robert Frost Auditorium and he thanked the City Council for their time and recognition.

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Item R-2

**CC - A Proclamation Designating March as Women's History Month 2025**

Mayor O'Brien presented the Proclamation designating March as Women's History Month 2025.

Sally Unsworth, Cultural Affairs Manager, expressed appreciation for the recognition which spoke for itself, and noted that she was honored to stand alongside women in all ways, at all times.

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**Regular Session**

**Call to Order & Roll Call**

Mayor O'Brien called the regular meeting of the City Council, Culver City Housing Authority Board, Culver City Parking Authority, Financing Authority Board, and Successor Agency to the Culver City Redevelopment Agency Board to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Mike Balkman Council Chambers at City Hall.

Present: Dan O'Brien, Mayor  
Freddy Puza, Vice Mayor  
Bubba Fish, Council Member  
Yasmine-Imani McMorris, Council Member  
Albert Vera, Council Member

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**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor O'Brien led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Land Acknowledgement**

Mayor O'Brien read the Land Acknowledgement.

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**Community Announcements by Members/Updates from Commissions, Boards and/or Committees/Information Items from Staff**

Jeremy Bocchino, City Clerk, indicated that no updates were available from staff.

Vice Mayor Puza discussed the Open House for the Fox Hills/Hayden Tract Specific Plan on March 18; the screening of the M Factor at West LA College (WLAC) in honor of Women's History month on March 27; he wished everyone who celebrates a Happy Ramadan; noted the invitation from King Fahad Mosque that unfortunately fell on a City Council meeting night; discussed the Work Plan meeting; commitment to maintaining levels of service; concern with continued inappropriate exchanges between the City Manager and Council Members; the role of the City Manager; continued appreciation for the work of all City staff and the City Manager; the City Charter; and he asked for dialogue adjustment in order to get back to the budget process.

Council Member Fish wished everyone a Happy Women's History month; expressed appreciation to those present; discussed honoring continued work for gender parity and women's rights; attending the Walk More, Bike More festivals; he congratulated honoree Yolanda Davis Overstreet for her mobility and racial justice work; discussed the Screenland 5K; the Culver City Your Way Virtual Town Hall on March 13; budget Work Plan presentations; the significant deficit and ongoing structural deficit; the request that each department return with proposals that are 5% lower and 5% higher; pushback on the basis that staff morale would be affected; providing options on how to best use limited dollars to work for everyone; feedback from residents on the City budget and services they value; dependence on grants; different sentiments on how things should be spent, but common ground that the public should have a say in the process; critically examining the budget in an effort to grow; lack of a path for the public to have an impact on the budget; appreciation to Council Member McMorris for her consistent advocacy for a better budget process; and continued work to provide a voice for everyone in how resources are spent.

Council Member McMorris discussed the importance of public engagement; upcoming meetings including Community Budget Workshops on March 11 at Vets and in Council Chambers on March 19, the Complete Streets Workshops on March 12 at Syd Kronenthal Park and on March 19 at El Merino Park, and Culver CityBus (CCBus) CC Your Way on March 13; Ramadan Mubarak; progress on gender equity; Women's History Month; commitment to accelerating process; Harriet Tubman Day on March 10; injustices that were legal at the time; Reproductive Justice Networks; support for undocumented neighbors; the importance of knowing your rights; additional information available from Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove; concern that diversity, equity, inclusion, and BIPOC have been stricken from federal use; the ongoing fight for freedom; difficulty being the only woman and Person of Color on the City Council; naming harm; the importance of lifting up the past and remembering that everyone belongs to one another; and she encouraged people to pick a cause and help.

Mayor O'Brien expressed support for the City Manager; acknowledged his complex job; discussed departments led by experts in their fields; the fact that Culver City is underserved and continuing to grow; the inability to cut vital services as Culver City is growing; the repeated message from the City Manager; disrespect vs. disagreement; the Annual 5K Run; work by the Parks Project, Nature Nexus, and the parks crew on the trail at Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook on March 1; Culver City Little League; the 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Walk and Rollers event; and he reported attending the U.S. Mayors' Civic Summit.

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**Joint Public Comment - Items NOT on the Agenda**

Mayor O'Brien invited public comment.

Jeremy Bocchino, City Clerk, read the City Council statement regarding hate speech.

The following members of the public addressed the City Council:

Todd Terrazas, AI LA, provided background on the organization; requested an off-cycle sponsorship for their third annual AI event in Culver City from May 27-30 focused on upskilling education for above and below the line workers in the entertainment/media industry; he likened the event to South by Southwest; discussed economic development for the Culver City

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area; growth and education; marketing support; and he agreed to reach out to the Economic Development Manager and to reach out again at the next meeting.

Mariah Fontijn, Culver City Residents for Peace, expressed gratitude for the February 25 EHRAC (Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee) Community Conversation; discussed attendance; boycotts in the community; the overwhelmingly positive response; those who wished they had more time in the small groups; and she encouraged the EHRAC and City Council to continue the Courageous Conversations and to provide more voice to members of the community, especially minority populations and those who have been feeling unheard.

Mara Bommarito, Culver City Sister City Committee, discussed the room in Veterans Building named for a former Sister City, and she asked for City Council consideration of renaming the room to the Capo d'Orlando Room during their centenary year.

Mayor O'Brien received full City Council consensus to send consideration of renaming the room in the Veterans Building to the Capo d'Orlando Room to Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Commission for consideration.

Marcell Hilliard provided background on himself; discussed the work of his company to secure a grant from the National Science Foundation to help develop innovative parking enforcement with AI robotics; solving budget shortfalls; and he agreed to provide his information and to meet with staff.

Alice H. discussed her participation in the Community Conversation on February 25; congratulated the City on the overall positive experience; appreciated participation by Council Members; hoped the EHRAC would continue to host moderated conversations to connect the community; discussed sincere participants; agreement on some points; community members who needed the time; the importance of seeing each other with the intent to hear one another; she encouraged those community members who refused to attend to come next time; and she felt the City Council should listen to what community members are saying and make resolutions and policies in an inclusive manner.

Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin discussed words that are banned or are disappearing in the federal government; the celebration of Women's History Month and International Women's Day; the importance of fighting for equality in local, state, and

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national politics; the Heart of LA Democratic Club; commitment to ensuring that women and girls have a voice in shaping policies that affect their lives; advancing gender equality, protecting reproductive rights, and advocating for fair wages; she asked everyone to join women as they push for a future where every woman has power, rights, and opportunities to thrive; and she asserted that the fight was far from over.

Melissa Sanders discussed the loss of millions of dollars while Council Member McMorris was on the LAHSA (Los Angeles Housing Services Authority) Board; she read a portion of UCLA's Initiative to Combat Antisemitism; discussed antisemitism within the community; different reactions to the EHRAC event on February 25; and the intent to do something good for the community.

Dan Morrill provided background on himself; discussed a study that found that micro-plastics and nano-plastics are accumulating in everyone's bodies over time; being at the forefront of the critical effort to break the plastic addiction using ordinances passed in other cities as a guide; effects of plastics to health; vision and foresight to implement the 4 Bs ordinance modifications proposed by BCR (Ballona Creek Renaissance); and he thanked the City Council for their attention to issues with plastic.

Marta Valdez discussed the need to get her sidewalk repaired; recent injuries; the high traffic area; she offered to pay for the repairs; noted previous requests for repair over several years; and she asked what it would take to get the sidewalk repaired.

Samia Bano, EHRAC Chair, spoke on her own behalf; discussed the Equity and Human Relations Award created to honor individuals for their contribution to equity and human relations in Culver City; the submission deadline; additional information available on the Culver City website; and she expressed appreciation for the Ramadan wishes.

Gary Anderson Public Information Officer for SBA, discussed disaster recovery resilience; the extension to the time frame for people to file for fire disaster assistance; low interest loans offered; fraud; phishing; protection from false claims; he asked anyone experiencing issues to report them; and he provided flyers with contact information.

Jeremy Bocchino, City Clerk, reported that fire resources were

available on the Culver City website .

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**Receipt and Filing of Correspondence**

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER MCMORRIN, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VERA AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY 3:00 P.M. ON MARCH 10, 2025.

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**Order of the Agenda**

Item A-5 was considered before Item A-1; Consent Calendar Item C-7 was previously considered and approved at the January 27, 2025 City Council meeting; and Item C-8 was considered separately .

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**Consent Calendar**

Item C-1

**CC:HA:SA - Approval of Cash Disbursements for February 15, 2025 to February 28, 2025**

THAT THE CITY COUNCIL, HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD, AND SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD: APPROVE CASH DISBURSEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 15, 2025 TO FEBRUARY 28, 2025.

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Item C-2

**CC:HA:SA:DC:PA - Approval of Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting Held on February 24, 2025**

THAT THE CITY COUNCIL, HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD, DISASTER COUNCIL, PARKING AUTHORITY BOARD, AND SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD: APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 24, 2025.

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Item C-3

**CC-Adoption of a Resolution Initiating Proceedings for the Levy and Collection of Annual Assessments for the Higuera Street Landscaping and Lighting Maintenance District and Ordering the Preparation of the Engineer's Report Thereon for Fiscal Year 2025/2026**

THAT THE CITY COUNCIL: ADOPT A RESOLUTION INITIATING PROCEEDINGS FOR THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS FOR THE HIGUERA STREET LANDSCAPING AND LIGHTING MAINTENANCE DISTRICT AND ORDERING THE PREPARATION OF THE ENGINEER'S REPORT, THEREON FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026.

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Item C-4

**CC - Adoption of a Resolution Initiating Proceedings for the Levy and Collection of Annual Assessments for the Landscape Maintenance District Number 1 and Ordering the Preparation of the Engineer's Report Thereon for Fiscal Year 2025/2026**

THAT THE CITY COUNCIL: ADOPT A RESOLUTION INITIATING PROCEEDINGS FOR THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS FOR THE LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE DISTRICT NUMBER 1 AND ORDERING THE PREPARATION OF THE ENGINEER'S REPORT THEREON FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026.

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Item C-5

**CC - Adoption of a Resolution Initiating Proceedings for the Levy and Collection of Annual Assessments for the Sewer User's Service Charge and Ordering the Preparation of the Engineer's Report, Thereon for Fiscal Year 2025/2026**

THAT THE CITY COUNCIL: ADOPT A RESOLUTION INITIATING PROCEEDINGS FOR THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS FOR THE SEWER USER'S SERVICE CHARGE AND ORDERING THE PREPARATION OF THE ENGINEER'S REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026.

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