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

April 30, 2018
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Mayor Cooper called the regular meeting of the City Council, Culver City Housing Authority Board, Culver City Parking Authority Board, Redevelopment Financing Authority, and Successor Agency to the Culver City Redevelopment Agency Board to order at 7:06 p.m. in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall.

Present: Jeffrey Cooper, Mayor
Thomas Small, Vice Mayor
Jim B. Clarke, Council Member
Göran Eriksson, Council Member
Meghan Sahli-Wells, Council Member

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Invocation

The invocation was led by John Nachbar, City Manager.

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rafia Cooper.

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Joint Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Mayor Cooper invited public comment.

The following member of the audience addressed the City Council:

Colin Diaz, Culver City Chamber of Commerce, thanked Mayor Cooper and Council Member Clarke for their service and he invited everyone to the Women in Business Awards Ceremony noting that nominations were open, with information available at culvercitychamber.com.

Dr. Janet Hoult read a poem congratulating those who had served and those who would serve on the City Council.

Joanna Brody thanked Mayor Cooper and Council Member Clarke for their service.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

CC - Approval of Minutes for the Special City Council Meeting on April 16, 2018

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER CLARKE, SECONDED BY MAYOR COOPER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON APRIL 16, 2018.

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Receipt of Correspondence

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ERIKSSON, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER CLARKE AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE.

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Action Items

Item A-1

CC - Adoption of a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Culver City, California, Reciting the Fact of the General Municipal Election Held on April 10, 2018 and Stating the Results of Such Election in Accordance with the City Charter

Jeremy Green, City Clerk, provided a summary of the material of record.

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER CLARKE, SECONDED BY MAYOR COOPER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL: ADOPT A RESOLUTION RECITING THE FACT OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2018 AND STATING THE RESULTS OF SUCH ELECTION.

Jeremy Green, City Clerk, reported that the motion served to certify the results of the election and she presented a resolution for the signature of the Mayor.

Mayor Cooper signed the resolution.

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Item A-2

CC:FA:HA:PA:SA - (1) Administration of the Oath of Office to the Council Members-Elect; (2) Election of Mayor and Vice Mayor; and (3) Confirmation by the Financing Authority/ Housing Authority/Parking Authority/Successor Agency to the Culver City Redevelopment Agency that the Mayor and Vice Mayor of the City Shall Serve as Chair and Vice Chair of these Bodies, Respectively

Jeremy Green, City Clerk, introduced presentations from the following members of the audience:

Jeffrey Prang, Los Angeles County Assessor, discussed the reputation that Culver City has of being one of the best managed cities in the county and he presented scrolls to Mayor Cooper and Council Member Clarke.

Scott Houston, West Basin Water District, presented certificates of recognition and expressed appreciation to Mayor Cooper and Council Member Clarke for their work.

Jacqueline Hamilton presented certificates of Special Congressional Recognition from Congresswoman Karen Bass to Mayor Cooper and Council Member Clarke.

Council Member Clarke thanked Karen Bass for the work she is doing on behalf of overflights in Culver City.

Bernard Dory, presented certificates of recognition on behalf of Assembly Member Sydney Kamlager.

Shelly Wolfberg, City Manager's Office, presented scrolls to Council Member Clarke and Mayor Cooper from Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas.

John Nachbar, City Manager, presented commemorative tiles to Mayor Cooper and Council Member Clarke; reflected on the amount of activity, accomplishments and changes in the City over the past two terms; and he expressed appreciation for political leadership and support from Mayor Cooper and Council Member Clarke.

The following members of the audience addressed the City Council:

Marta Valdez expressed concern that the policy for mayoral succession might not be followed and she indicated that she wanted to see Council Member Eriksson become the Vice Mayor.

Jeremy Green, City Clerk, invited anyone who wanted to make departing comments to Mayor Cooper and Council Member Clarke to do so.

Council Member Sahli-Wells expressed appreciation for the service of Council Member Clarke and Mayor Cooper.

Council Member Eriksson thanked both Mayor Cooper and Council Member Clarke for their mentorship.

Vice Mayor Small discussed the trip to Capo d'Orlando, Italy; civility, camaraderie, friendship and professionalism; and he thanked Mayor Cooper and Council Member Clarke for their generosity.

Jim Shanman, Walk 'n Rollers, thanked Mayor Cooper and Council Member Clarke for their support of the Safe Routes to School Program; discussed improvements to walkability and

bikeability; and he invited everyone to participate in upcoming activities for Bike Month in May.

Reverend Carolyn Wilkins, Culver City Area Interfaith Alliance and Agape International Spiritual Center, thanked Mayor Cooper and Council Member Clarke for the inclusion, civility and kindness that they showed in their leadership.

Rebecca Rona Tuttle expressed hope that everyone would come together for the wellbeing of the City and residents, and she expressed gratitude to the Council Members for their service.

Rick Tuttle thanked Mayor Cooper and Council Member Clarke for their service.

Council Member Clarke asserted that the election had resulted in a fundamental shift in the politics of the City; he congratulated the new Council Members-Elect; discussed the transition from campaigning to governing; election turnout; the mandate to represent all residents and act in their best interests; he offered advice, discussed diversity and encouraged independent thinking and disagreements; discussed intolerance and vitriol posted on social media as part of the election; the need to restore civility in public policy discourse; he applauded Vice Mayor Small for obtaining a grant to study civility in Culver City; expressed gratitude to City staff, residents who took the time to communicate with him, colleagues on the City Council and to past Council Members; he discussed the privilege of being Mayor; and his plans for the future.

Mayor Cooper thanked his family for their support; discussed representation of all residents; experiences over the past eight years; relationships formed; respect; and he thanked staff for their hard work.

Jeremy Green, City Clerk, informed Mayor Cooper and Council Member Clarke that their terms had come to completion and she administered the Oath of Office to Harden Alexander Fisch and Daniel Lee.

Council Member Sahli-Wells noted that history had just been made; commented on election turnout and the election of the most diverse Council in the history of the City; and she expressed certainty that the new Council Members would do a wonderful job serving the community.

Council Member Eriksson was looking forward to working with the new Council Members and learning of their interests.

Vice Mayor Small noted the historic nature of the election and he thanked and congratulated the new Council Members.

Council Member Fisch discussed election turnout; thanked the community for their support; and he expressed his excitement to serve the community.

Council Member Lee thanked those who voted for him; he was pleased to be the first African American Council Member in Culver City; noted the election of the first Asian American Council Member in 2016; expressed regret that there were no female candidates in the last election but hoped that there would be female candidates in 2020; and he noted that civic engagement in the City was dominated by female leaders.

Vice Mayor Small invited public participation.

The following members of the audience addressed the City Council:

Laura Stuart expressed concern that the City Council would not follow the policy of ascension; she discussed the origin of the policy; noted that no one should be denied the opportunity to serve as Mayor or Vice Mayor; she questioned what would happen if the election had gone a different way; she observed that the policy was in place to ensure an orderly transition; felt that honor was on the line; and noted that each Council Member was charged to serve all of the people.

Crystal Alexander discussed mayoral and vice mayoral rotation; expressed concern with disregard for the policy adopted in February 2017; she urged the City Council to take the principled path; acknowledged that City policy can become whatever the majority of the City Council determines it to be; noted that good governance includes policies which serve to fill in gaps between laws; discussed side effects and unintended circumstances; and she requested a risk assessment on the policy if it is determined it needs to be changed.

James Harris, Academy of Visual and Performing Arts Foundation, urged the City Council to appoint Council Member Eriksson to serve as Vice Mayor and he felt that not following the City policy would be divisive.

Heather Wollin expressed concern with a potential deviation of the City policy regarding the mayoral rotation; noted previous support of the policy from Daniel Lee, Council Member Sahli-Wells and Vice Mayor Small; asserted that the issue was about policy, not the election; and she expressed concern with undermining the authority of the City Council by making policies and then ignoring them.

Ron Bassilian expressed concern with the potential for violation of the policy for mayoral succession as he felt the policy provided for an equitable and orderly transition; he stated that if the policy is to be changed there should be a policy subcommittee with free and open debate, and changes made democratically through a vote; and he expressed concern with changing City Council policy to suit the party in charge.

Joseph Chan expressed concern with rumors regarding the mayoral succession; questioned reasons for not following City policy; hoped the policy would not be circumvented for political reasons; discussed trust between the City Council and residents; and he asked that the policy become law so that it could not be broken on a whim.

Jamie Wallace expressed support for following the City policy for mayoral succession; discussed previous support of the policy by the City Council; support for consistency expressed by Daniel Lee; and she felt that not following the policy would mirror what is going on in Washington, D.C.

Genevieve Peterson expressed excitement that the City Council would take on SB 54; felt comments made by Council Member Sahli-Wells dismissed the contributions of previous Council Members based on their gender; expressed concern that the mayoral succession policy might not be followed; she expressed hope that people were elected based on qualifications, not gender or race; and she wanted to see Council Member Eriksson move into the Vice Mayor position.

Kevin Lachoff reported seeing news on social media that the mayoral succession was in question; pointed out previous support of the policy by Daniel Lee and Council Members Eriksson, Sahli-Wells and Vice Mayor Small; and he hoped that the City Council would prove the social media pundits wrong.

Ken Mand noted that the policy had been followed inconsistently based on politics and who was in charge at the time; felt that the election spoke to the desires of people in the City; acknowledged the good work done by Council Member Eriksson; felt that the policy was essentially a non-policy; he asserted that Council Member Sahli-Wells had worked harder than anyone in the room and he wanted to see her ascend to be the next Vice Mayor; and he asked that all references to CCKind be removed from the City Charter.

Noah Zatz expressed concern with what he felt was a coordinated attempt to sow discord in the community; he noted that Council Member Cooper had been moved ahead of Vice Mayor Small and Council Member Eriksson; and he questioned whether those people who just spoken up against not following the policy had spoken up at that time.

Darlene Conte expressed support for working together to support the City Council.

Council Member Eriksson noted that the reason for having a policy is to provide transparency; he discussed development of policy based on learned experiences and to accomplish stability; reported his previous objection when Council Member Cooper was moved ahead and policy was not adhered to; observed that the policy passed in 2017 was identical to that passed in 2010 with the addition of the stipulation that one cannot serve as Vice Mayor for the last year of their term; discussed the rift created when former Mayor Silbiger was not moved forward; ensuring an orderly transfer; the policy of the City of Beverly Hills; instances when the policy has not been followed; comments made by Daniel Lee regarding consistency; support for Thomas Small becoming the Mayor; support for following the policy and healing the community; and he suggested that if the policy is not followed, that it be vacated.

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SAHLI-WELLS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ERIKSSON AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL ELECT VICE MAYOR THOMAS SMALL TO SERVE AS MAYOR.

Council Member Fisch discussed adoption of the mayoral rotation policy in 2017; the lack of consistency in compliance with the policy; amendments made to the policy; providing a rotational method; the current policy; the supposed mandated nature of the policy and conflicts with the City Charter; the intent of the prior City Council on

February 27, 2017; policy statement 2010-1; support for honoring a policy that equally distributes the honorary positions; the problematic nature of the rotation with 5 members and 4 year terms; the wide margin of support enjoyed by Council Member Sahli-Wells when she was elected; he observed that the Mayor and Vice Mayor have no special powers; discussed the projected structural deficit; the General Plan Update; ensuring that everyone gets a chance to be Mayor; and he suggested switching to 9 month terms to allow everyone a chance to serve.

Council Member Lee indicated that comments he made at the February 2017 meeting were politically motivated; noted the context of the current conversation; the mandate in Culver City to break with some of the policies and political establishment of the past; and he expressed support for the leadership of Council Member Sahli-Wells and wanted to see her serve as Vice Mayor.

Mayor Small noted the complex nature of the policy; discussed finding a way to make it better in the future; policy vs. principle; the definition of extenuating circumstances; he indicated that he needed to support Council Member Sahli-Wells on principle; and he expressed support for Council Member Eriksson serving as Mayor and Vice Mayor at some point.

Council Member Lee nominated Council Member Sahli-Wells to serve as Vice Mayor and Council Member Fisch seconded the nomination.

Discussion ensued between Council Members regarding vacating the mayoral succession policy, and further consideration of the policy at a future date.

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER LEE AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER FISCH THAT THE CITY COUNCIL: ELECT COUNCIL MEMBER MEGHAN SAHLI-WELLS TO SERVE AS VICE MAYOR.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: FISCH, LEE, SAHLI-WELLS, SMALL
NOES: ERIKSSON

Mayor Small and Vice Mayor Sahli-Wells received their pins.

Mayor Small introduced Irma Munoz with Mujeres de la Tierra, the Water Quality Control Board and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, who administered the Oath of Office to him.

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER LEE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER FISCH AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE FINANCING AUTHORITY BOARD, HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD, PARKING AUTHORITY BOARD, AND SUCCESSOR AGENCY BOARD: ADOPT RESPECTIVE MOTIONS CONFIRMING THAT THE MAYOR AND VICE MAYOR SHALL SERVE AS CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF THESE BODIES, RESPECTIVELY.

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Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Mayor Small invited public comment.

The following member of the audience addressed the City Council:

Robert Zirgulis, Short Term Rental Owners Association of Culver City, congratulated the new Council Members; indicated that he was looking forward to working with them; and he stated that he would not oppose any regulations put into effect that prevent people from being evicted to have their homes turned into Airbnbs.

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Member Requests to Agendize Future Items

Vice Mayor Sahli-Wells asked that an item be added to a future agenda to consider the mayoral succession policy.

Mayor Small expressed gratitude to his family for their support; discussed the unrecognized work that Joanna Lee Brody has done for Culver City; provided background on his family; and he indicated that he would keep pushing and continue to do the right thing.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:07 p.m. the City Council, Culver City Housing Authority Board, Culver City Parking Authority Board, Redevelopment Financing Authority, and Successor Agency to the Culver City Redevelopment Agency Board adjourned to May 14, 2018.

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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, Culver City Parking Authority Board, Redevelopment Financing Authority, and Culver City Housing Authority Board
Culver City, California

THOMAS SMALL
MAYOR of Culver City, California and CHAIR of the Successor Agency to the Culver City Redevelopment Agency Board, Culver City Parking Authority Board, Redevelopment Financing Authority, and Culver City Housing Authority Board