

OFFICIAL MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

June 5, 2020
4:00 p.m.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Mayor Eriksson called the special meeting of the City Council to order at 4:05 p.m. in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall via teleconference.

Present: Göran Eriksson, Mayor
Alex Fisch, Vice Mayor*
Daniel Lee, Council Member
Meghan Sahli-Wells, Council Member
Thomas Small, Council Member

*Vice Mayor Fisch exited the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Eriksson.

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Joint Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Mayor Eriksson thanked the Culver City Police Department (CCPD) for the excellent job they have done to protect the City from organized looting and in supporting peaceful Culver City demonstrators in having their voices heard; he referenced email received; clarified that the budget that would be voted on in June contained no money for the Police Department Ballistic Rescue vehicle, having been removed from appropriations in March; and he indicated that the Culver City Police Department (CCPD) had been operating under seven of the 8 Can't Wait measures, with the final one to be implemented today.

Vice Mayor Fisch indicated the need to leave the meeting by 5:00 p.m. and he requested the vote be held before then.

Mayor Eriksson invited public comment.

The following individuals addressed the City Council:

Nancy Barba expressed appreciation for the announcement made by the Mayor; acknowledged that the Ballistic Engineered Armored Response Counter Attack Truck (BEARCAT) is not in the budget due to budget constraints; and she asked that the City Council reassess the message being sent to the community in light of current events.

Cicely Bingener provided background on herself; discussed acting locally during this time; people who want to take action to improve things; the lack of knowledge about the history and current manifestation of anti-Black/Muslim discrimination; she proposed a series of Zoom Teach-In webinars focusing on Culver City history, politics, policing, school discipline, housing policy, business, and personal experiences of people of color of all ages; and she asked for help with outreach to help enact positive changes.

Council Member Lee indicated that Ms. Bingener's contact information had been shared with staff.

Jessica Catellino discussed the Culver City Action Network (CCAN) petition; the need for a longer sustained conversation on Culver City policing; the large rally in front of City Hall organized by the High School students; and she noted that Culver City policing affects not just residents, but anyone who spends time in, or passes through the City.

Michael Plewa discussed privilege; his experience with CCPD as a white resident; he asked the City Council to reevaluate the deployment of CCPD officers to Beverly Hills on May 30, 2020 during a peaceful protest; discussed questions about whether CCPD officers had turned off their body cameras; treatment of residents within City limits; and he questioned what their orders were while in Beverly Hills, what their conduct was like, and how to hold the police accountable for their actions outside of the community.

Noah Zatz discussed accepting explanations without proof; the recently revoked policy to authorize the types of holds used in

the incident addressed in the lawsuit against the City for excessive use of force; oversight; concern that the CCPD Chief did nothing in his interview with Culver City News to acknowledge legitimate basis for fear in the Black community; diversity in hiring practices; failure to acknowledge structural racism; and the need for more acknowledgement of the real problem.

Sam Sachs expressed concern with the lack of acknowledgement of concerns from Black residents or people passing through the City by the Police Chief; 8 Can't Wait; defunding the police; Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) implementation of the 8 Can't Wait reforms without any improvement; and he questioned what Culver City was going to do to listen to the peaceful people in the street.

Katy Krantz discussed the peaceful protest organized by Culver City High School students at Veterans Park; the feeling that there is a problem in Culver City; profiling; regular instances of people of color, especially Black people, being pulled over; loyalty of the City Council to the Police Department; the need for a real conversation about how the police operate; and she expressed support for the proposed Teach-In Zoom webinars.

Mayor Eriksson received clarification that more speakers wanted a chance to be heard; he cited the policy of allowing 20 minutes for public comment at the start of the meeting; noted the deadline for Vice Mayor Fisch; and suggested allowing additional public comment later in the meeting.

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Receipt and Filing of Correspondence

Jeremy Green, City Clerk, reported receipt of public comment that she would read with the rest of the speakers.

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SMALL, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR 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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Action Items

Item A-1

CC - (1) Adoption of A Resolution Ratifying the Proclamation of Local Emergency by the Director of Emergency Services of the City of Culver City, California, Issued on May 30, 2020 Related to the Violence Surrounding the Protests and Civil Unrest After the Tragic Death of George Floyd and Confirming the Existence of Such Emergency; and (2) Adoption of a Resolution Confirming Public Orders Numbers 1-5 Imposing Curfews for the Public Safety in the City Of Culver City

Jesse Mays, Assistant City Manager, provided a summary of the material of record.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding the curfew; resident feedback; concern with limiting free speech; intent; incidents in Culver City; long-term work being done on the Equity Subcommittee; support for the work done by CCPD; safeguarding businesses; beginning the healing process; the economy; clarification that there had been no arrests or citations for breaking curfew; the decision made by the City Manager; the gravity of the situation; support for peaceful protests; and moving the discussion forward.

Mayor Eriksson invited public comment.

The following individuals addressed the City Council:

Michael Plewa discussed the chilling effect of the curfew on protests; the escalation of police interaction across the county of Los Angeles; negative impacts to the reputation of Culver City; protests after the 4:00 p.m. curfew order; concern that the curfew was criminalizing being in Culver City if you were not a resident and preventing residents from participating in protests going on outside of the City; mass arrests by LAPD; the lawsuit and overturning of the curfew by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Black Lives Matter; he strongly discouraged a blanket order in Culver City regarding curfews; discussed deep segregation in Culver City; over-policing; he took issue with the comment made by Vice Mayor Fisch regarding defense of both property and life; and he asked that Culver City reconsider whether to enact further curfews.

Council Member Sahli-Wells reiterated that there were zero citations and arrests from the curfew and zero arrests of protestors; discussed incidents in Los Angeles; encouragement and participation in peaceful protests; and the body-cam issue.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding availability of the video from the officer in question's bodycam online; appreciation for comments from the public; the mutual aid agreement with neighboring cities; and best practices for safety.

Jeremy Green, City Clerk, read public comment submitted by:

Michelle Weiner: discussed her experience unintentionally breaking curfew; she did not feel that threats to business warranted a 4:00 p.m. curfew; expressed concern with putting people at risk of being detained by the police at any time and uncertainty of police training and efficacy; she questioned whether the police would be able to deescalate any situation; and she expressed hope that policies could be put into place that would enact specific measures for how and when this should be deployed.

William Scaringe: expressed opposition to all curfew orders; asserted that curfews were antithetical to a free society; discussed the First Amendment to the Constitution; the importance of respecting fundamental rights; assuming guilt before proof; peaceable assembly; and he felt the police should be trained to use focused force to subdue violent or destructive elements of the assembly.

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SMALL AND SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR FISCH THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

1. ADOPT A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY BY THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES OF THE CITY OF CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA, ISSUED ON MAY 30, 2020 RELATED TO THE VIOLENCE SURROUNDING THE PROTESTS AND CIVIL UNREST AFTER THE TRAGIC DEATH OF GEORGE FLOYD AND CONFIRMING THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH EMERGENCY; AND

2. ADOPT A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING ORDERS NUMBERS 1-5 IMPOSING CURFEWS FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY IN THE CITY OF CULVER CITY.

THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: ERIKSSON, FISCH, SAHLI-WELLS, SMALL

NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: LEE

Vice Mayor Fisch exited the meeting at 4:55 P.M.

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Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Mayor Eriksson invited public comment.

Leah Pressman expressed support for the decision not to fund the BEARCAT and hope that the item would not return as she felt it sent a terrible message to the community; she discussed the petition from CCAN; comments received; and the importance of the Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee.

Freddy Puza spoke in support of the CCAN petition; expressed support for the establishment of a strong independent civilian oversight committee; the ability to review citizen complaints and investigations about incidents as well as policies and practices including budgetary priorities; discussed community participation; positive steps; the need for transparency, oversight and accountability; hosting independent public forums on Police Department policies, practice, procedures, funding allocation and purchases; investigation and review of citizen complaints and misconduct; and he hoped that Culver City could commit to a true community policing structure.

Gerald Weiner, CCAN, pointed out that the idea of independent civilian oversight committees for the police department is not new and he indicated that he was in the process of putting together a proposal based upon the actions of other cities.

Annette Morasch found it disconcerting not to be able to see the City Council Members; discussed a public records request made to CCPD and their response; confirmation received from CCPD that they are not following any of the rules of the Racial Profiling Act; she stated that CCPD was changing its own policies to avoid providing data under the Racial Profiling Act; and she indicated that she has only seen people of color stopped in the City, handcuffed and sat on the sidewalk.

Carol Iskiwitch echoed earlier concerns about what was reflected in the response to comments about racism in the department by the Police Chief in the Culver City Crossroads article; the deep misunderstanding of racism and what is necessary for progress;

she called for CCPD to seek immediate guidance from experts on the matter; noted the need for robust oversight of public servants entrusted with the greatest power; she echoed the need to defund the police; discussed functions the police are called to do that they do not want to do; and she noted that defunding did not mean an end to law enforcement, but rather a structuring of what functions are assigned to which group of people.

Sebastian Hernandez expressed support for the CCAN petition; discussed the need to protect Black residents and residents of color from the continued tradition of police brutality; militarization; policies promoting the use of excessive force; transitioning from a whites only "sundown town" to an inclusive, multi-racial community that protects all its residents; the natural extension of work to establish Culver City as a Sanctuary City; he expressed appreciation that the BEARCAT would not be purchased and opposition to drones and license plate readers; discussed 8 Can't Wait; compliance; and the need to redirect money from the Police Department to other agencies as Los Angeles is doing.

Matthew Park discussed the culture in CCPD; collaboration with other police departments known for their own brutality; expressed appreciation that the BEARCAT vehicle would not be purchased; requested a stronger commitment that such equipment would not be purchased in the future; and discussed getting rid of the mechanism by which local law enforcement purchases military grade equipment.

Amanda Chacon discussed the paradigm shift in those communities that admit that they have a racial problem; concern that the Police Chief did not admit that there was a problem with racial profiling; discussed the experience of her Latino family in Culver City; the fact that CCPD solely stops people of color; she expressed support for a program to educate residents; and she asserted that there was no reason that CCPD should be at peaceful protests unless they do not agree the Black Lives Matter.

Tavleen Tarrant expressed support for the CCAN petition; highlighted Part 4 of the petition: Peace Centered Policing; she discussed the General Plan Update; civilian control; the portion of the general budget allocated for policing; noted that more policing does not necessarily mean more public safety, but rather means threat, fear, exclusion and even death to people of color; recent unsafe experiences with CCPD reported by people

of color; and she felt that work could be done together to make meaningful lasting change.

Samantha George reported receipt of an email from CCPD with an update and she asked for additional information regarding Police Department training.

Council Member Sahli-Wells asked that Samantha George email her request in order to make follow up a little bit easier.

Vanessa Martin provided background on herself; discussed alternatives to policing; the opportunity to reallocate resources from law enforcement and think more strategically about community policing; and she expressed support for defunding the BEARCAT.

Paula Amezola expressed support for the CCAN petition; felt it important to show support for all people; discussed the recent Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission meeting; transformation of services during the pandemic; she expressed concern with a decrease in the budget for social workers and mental health and the 12% increase in depression due to the pandemic; and she asked that the budget be reconsidered to reinforce mental health services for the most vulnerable.

Responding to inquiry, Jeremy Green, City Clerk, explained that public comment received as part of Receipt and File did not contain correspondence from the same people who spoke, and she indicated that 17 public comments had been received via ecomment after 3:30 p.m.

Mayor Eriksson stated that the correspondence received after 3:30 p.m. would be made part of the public record, but not read out loud.

Sapphire Reels, McManus District, asserted that the curfews were used to rob citizens of their right to mobilize to focus attention on the real issue for the protests: police brutality against Black people; she felt it was an attempt to silence voices; stated that there had been no incidents in the City; noted that the most resources were deployed to the Westfield Mall to protect corporate stores and questioned why "mom and pop" stores were not afforded the same level of protection; she felt the curfews made her fear for her life and unable to take her dog out; and she cited videos of the LAPD arresting citizens for breaking curfew.

Kelli Estes: expressed appreciation to the Police Department and the City Manager for their quick and smart action to prevent more massive destruction to businesses and residents; she expressed support for the comments made by Protect Culver City; she indicated that the curfew did not impact her; felt that Culver City was fairly safe due to the CCPD; and she felt the CCPD had transformed themselves into a more community based department.

Sarah Hagar, Vote 16: expressed disappointment with a conversation she had with Vice Mayor Fisch and his unwillingness to commit to policy change, and she noted the power of the City Council to reform the CCPD.

Mark Lipman: thanked the City Council for their efforts to address issues; discussed the long history of racism in Culver City; expressed concern with comments made by the Police Chief in the Culver City Crossroads interview; he asserted that racism is an inherent part of CCPD; he discussed the BEARCAT; show of force against peaceful protestors; concern with a false narrative about emergency vehicles; militarization of CCPD; the bottomless budget for CCPD; concern that the CCPD has too much power over the budgets and decision making process; politicians' fear of saying no to the police department; tweaks to policy language and minor reform as a way of sweeping the problem back under the rug; and the call from Black Lives Matter Los Angeles for changes to the budget.

Rebecca Schwartz: provided background on herself; asked how Black residents and residents of color could be protected from a continued tradition of police brutality, the militarization of police, and policies that promote the use of deadly force; discussed transitioning from a whites only "sundown town" to an inclusive multi-racial community; Sanctuary City status; she asked the City Council to cancel the planned purchase of a BEARCAT armored vehicle; discussed reordering fiscal priorities; the need to demilitarize law enforcement; divesting resources from over-policing and reinvesting in human services and community support; and she expressed support for the implementation of the 8 Can't Wait policies.

Jeremy Green, City Clerk, read email received via the ecomments portal.

Russell Crotwell: indicated full support for CCPD and asked the City Council to support the public interest of a strong police force.

Shelley Rosekelly: discussed peaceful protests of police brutality and support for the Black community; work to make living in a diverse, safe and just community a reality for all citizens; community meetings; the reputation of Culver City as a place that racially profiles and uses excessive force against people of color; she indicated that constituents demanded that the Mayor sign the Obama Foundation Pledge, cancel the planned purchase of the BEARCAT armored vehicle, adopt all of the 8 Can't Wait policies, establish robust, independent, ongoing civilian oversight of police misconduct, and center policing in the General Plan Update; and she asked the City to act now to live up to its ideals.

Peter Friedman: expressed opposition to Resolution 20-1036 CC; expressed support for the police force; and did not feel that CCPD should be restricted as a result of one police officer 1500 miles away.

Disa Lindgren: discussed ratification of the proclamation of a local emergency called in response to violence and property theft in Santa Monica; civil unrest in response to the murder of George Floyd; she expressed opposition to the decision made to impose a curfew and use the National Guard to protect the Westfield Mall, as well as to the actions of the City in the 1990s in response to the beating of Rodney King; and she discussed ways to effect real change.

Georgia Malsich: expressed concern with movement to defund CCPD and acknowledged that while a BEARCAT might not be needed, support for police officers was necessary by maintaining their budget for the coming fiscal year.

Yvonne Eadon: provided background on herself; wanted to see the City Council address the Black Lives Matter movement; asserted that white people could no longer be silent about the injustice the City was built upon; stated the need to divest from CCPD and into community resources; added that policing was no longer the model to use to structure community care; and she proposed that Culver City take the opportunity to set the example for Los Angeles, who is the largest incarcerator on the planet.

Monika Kirby: asked that the planned purchase of the BEARCAT armored vehicle be cancelled; she felt CCPD should not be provided with such power; and she asked that all of the 8 Can't Wait Policies be adopted.

Haifaa Moammar: expressed agreement with observations made by Katy Krantz that is it always Black people who are profiled by CCPD.

Emily Smith-Greenaway: provided background on herself; expressed appreciation for the work of City Council Members; concern with a lack of communication during recent events; discussed hastily enacted curfews; threats of lawsuits; the need for civilian oversight of the CCPD; concern with the silence of Chief Bixby; the CCPD budget; unnecessary use of lethal force by police officers; the generic statement provided by CCPD to the community; and increased militarization of the CCPD.

Lila Swenson: expressed concern with incidents of ongoing police brutality against Black men, women and children; she expressed support for the Black Lives Matter movement; requested that the City Council agendaize a discussion of meaningful reform and partial defunding of CCPD; expressed concern with bodycams being turned off, racial profiling, and weapons of war; and she wanted to see a cap in the City Master Plan on how much of the City's budget can be used on the Police Department.

Shifra Teitelbaum: discussed the need to examine the role and behavior of the police, the share of the City budget allocated to policing, and practices and history of racial profiling, escalation and mistreatment of Black people and other people of color; she requested increased transparency about police misconduct; wanted the planned purchase of the BEARCAT armored vehicle cancelled and used as a starting point for fiscal reform; requested adoption of the 8 Can't Wait policies; expressed support for establishing robust, independent and ongoing civilian oversight of CCPD; and she asked that policing and the risks it can pose to public safety, participation and belonging to be addressed in the General Plan Update.

Ron Bassilian, Protect Culver City: provided background on the organization; discussed the CCAN petition; he disputed claims of police brutality; cited changes and reforms already enacted in the CCPD; diversity of the City and CCPD; the CCPD track record of safety; acknowledgement that seven of the 8 Can't Wait policies had already been adopted; recent rioting and looting; the increased need for the police force to protect life and property; concern that CCPD is being smeared by being called the problem rather than the solution; discussed defunding police departments; concern with calls to divert \$7

million in CCPD funding to bridge housing; and he asserted that the reputation of CCPD needed to be protected along with their ability to do their work and keep their jobs.

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Items from Council Members

Council Member Sahli-Wells reported on the recent Oil Drilling Subcommittee community meeting with much public attendance and participation; indicated that a recommendation on the amortization study for the Inglewood Oil Field would come forward soon; discussed work on the Racial Equity Action; the Government Alliance on Race and Equity; expressed appreciation for changes made by CCPD on the 8 Can't Wait recommendations; she encouraged people to look at the CCPD website; announced plans to hold an Equity Subcommittee Virtual Town Hall; expressed support for the proposed mobile Teach Ins; noted calls and emails received about different policies to be considered by the City; and she expressed appreciation for the public comment and participation, noting much work to be done.

Council Member Small thanked Council Members Lee and Sahli-Wells for their proactive work.

Mayor Eriksson thanked everyone for their contributions and work to resolve issues and meet expectations.

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Council Member Requests to Agendize Future Items

None.

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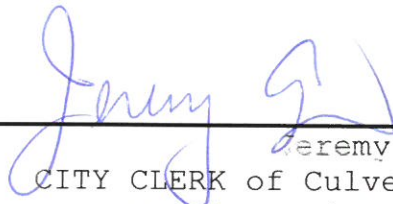
Jeremy Green, City Clerk, indicated that any public comment that had been sent in would be collected and sent to the City Council.

June 5, 2020

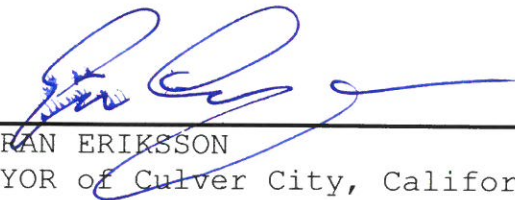
Adjournment

There being no further business, at 5:59 p.m., the City Council adjourned to June 8, 2020.

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



GORAN ERIKSSON
MAYOR of Culver City, California