

OFFICIAL MINUTES

PROPOSED DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET PRESENTATIONS      May 17, 2021  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL              3:00 p.m.  
SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE CULVER CITY  
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD,  
CULVER CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD,  
CULVER CITY FINANCING AUTHORITY BOARD,  
AND CULVER CITY PARKING AUTHORITY BOARD  
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

**Call to Order & Roll Call**

Mayor Fisch called the regular meeting of the City Council, Successor Agency to the Culver City Redevelopment Agency Board, Culver City Housing Authority Board and Culver City Parking Authority Board to order at 3:05 p.m. in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall via Webex.

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

oOo

Mayor Fisch indicated that the City Council would go into Closed Session to consider Items C-1 and C-4 and possibly Item C-2 before the regular City Council meeting.

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER MCMORRIS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VERA AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION.

**Closed Session**

At 3:06 p.m. the City Council adjourned to Closed Session to consider the following Closed Session Items:

**CS-1 CC:SA - Conference with Real Property Negotiators**

Re: 12337 to 12423 Washington Boulevard; 4061 to 4069 Centinela Avenue; and 4064 Colonial Avenue

City Negotiators: John M. Nachbar, City Manager/Executive Director; Sol Blumenfeld, Community Development Director/Assistant Executive Director; Todd Tipton, Economic Development Manager; and Todd Mooney, City Special Counsel/Successor Agency Special Counsel

Other Parties Negotiators: Culver Public Market, LLC

Under Negotiation: Both Price and Terms of Payment

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

o0o

**CS-2 CC - Conference with Real Property Negotiators**

Re: 9240 Culver Boulevard

City Negotiators: John M. Nachbar, City Manager; Sol Blumenfeld, Community Development Director; Todd Tipton, Economic Development Manager

Other Parties Negotiators: K-ZO Restaurant

Under Negotiation: Price, Terms of Payment or both, Including Use Restrictions, Development Obligations and Other Monetary Related Considerations

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

o0o

**CS-3 CC - Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation**

Re: Significant Exposure to Litigation - 1 Item

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)

o0o

**CS-4 CC - Public Employee Appointment**

Title: Police Chief

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)

o0o

**Reconvene**

Mayor Fisch reconvened the City Council, Successor Agency to the Culver City Redevelopment Agency Board, Culver City Housing

Authority Board, and Culver City Parking Authority Board to order at 4:13 p.m.

o0o

### **Closed Session Reports**

Mayor Fisch thanked the public for their patience and announced that that City Council had agreed by a vote of 4-1, with Vice Mayor Lee abstaining, to extend a conditional offer of employment to Manuel Cid as the Chief of Police for Culver City subject to the approval of an employment agreement with Chief Cid to be considered in open session by the City Council on the May 24, 2021 agenda, and he indicated that Item CS-3 had not been heard, but would be considered at the end of the meeting.

o0o

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Fisch led the Pledge of Allegiance.

o0o

### **Community Announcements by City Council Members/Information Items from Staff**

Council Member Vera questioned whether staff had been making plans for returning to in-person meetings.

Council Member Eriksson agreed that it was time to return to in-person meetings.

Vice Mayor Lee felt that a discussion regarding the specifics of returning to live meetings would be needed.

Mayor Fisch encouraged anyone interested to apply to a Committee, Board or Commission within the next 43 minutes, and he expressed support for following county guidelines regarding in-person meetings and returning once Council Members and staff were comfortable.

Jeremy Green, City Clerk, echoed that the deadline for the annual recruitment process to fill vacancies for Committees, Boards and Commissions was May 17 at 5:00 p.m.; she discussed technical difficulties; completion of applications online; she

noted that applications were available at [www.culvercity.org/serve](http://www.culvercity.org/serve); and she encouraged anyone having difficulty to call (310) 253-5851, or email [city.clerk@culvercity.org](mailto:city.clerk@culvercity.org).

o0o

#### **Joint Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda**

Mayor Fisch invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the City Council:

Mark Lipman observed that not many people had waited the extra hour to speak; reported community concern with an additional \$3 million allotted to the Culver City Police Department (CCPD) budget; discussed racial restorative justice; he felt the additional funding was inappropriate noting the contradiction of supporting additional police funding; discussed housing justice; homelessness; allocating money for shelters to prolong the problem of homelessness; putting money toward ending homelessness in the current budget; vacancy rates; concern with rubber stamping staff recommendations year after year; and the responsibility of the City Council to manage public money.

Eden Miller was called to speak, but did not respond.

Janee Lennox felt it was absurd to consider the increase to the already high CCPD budget; discussed continuing the long history of white supremacy in Culver City; using a Black agenda as political currency, but not coming through with promises made; she felt the Black community was being ignored; and she asked that Public Safety be reimaged and the police be defunded.

o0o

#### **Receipt and Filing of Correspondence**

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER MCMORRIN, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LEE AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE.

o0o

#### **Order of the Agenda**

Closed Session Items CS-1, CS-2 and CS-4 were considered at

the beginning of the meeting, before the regular session and that CS-2 would be considered at the end of the regular session.

o0o

## Action Items

### Item A-1

#### **CC:HA:PA:FA:SA - Budget Study Session - City Manager's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2021/2022: Presentation of the Proposed Budget for Each City Department by its Respective Department Head**

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding order of presentations.

Onyx Jones, Chief Finance Officer, provided an overview of the proposed Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget.

John Nachbar, City Manager, discussed key budget enhancement requests; the Mobile Crisis Intervention and Response Program; the permanent elimination of 8 police officers; replacement of 4 sworn positions by 4 civilian positions; interest in the number of sworn positions CCPD should have; tying a reduction in workload to the elimination of positions; programs to reduce workload; the county's Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) program; reducing the workload of police officers; and periodic examination of workload.

Onyx Jones, Chief Finance Officer, discussed receipt of the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association and the Operating Budget Excellence Award from the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers; new development in the City; the COVID-19 relief fund; the City-wide operating budget; budget enhancement requests; retirement costs; the General Fund; Other Funds; Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs); and next steps in the process.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding appreciation to staff for their efforts in bringing the City through COVID well financially; potential funding from the state; street light improvements; 5G obligations; and City Wi-Fi.

Manuel Cid, Police Chief, thanked the City Council for the vote of confidence; thanked community members and CCPD staff for their support; introduced staff; and provided a presentation on the proposed Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Police Department budget.

Mayor Fisch invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the City Council:

Shelly Rosekelly expressed disappointment with a proposed increase to the CCPD budget after a year of community input requesting the opposite; she urged the City to ensure that the budget reflected community concerns; expressed concern with a 6% increase to the CCPD budget and a 16% decrease in the Community Development budget, which includes Housing; discussed the need for a decrease to the CCPD budget; disingenuous Council Member references to Black Lives Matter and Martin Luther King Jr.; upholding the status quo of white supremacy; documented racial disparity; complicity of the City Council; she felt the recommendations from Culver City Action Network (CCAN) were the bare minimum to begin to reimagine Public Safety; she did not want to see any net growth of CCPD; requested a hiring freeze; discussed growing costs; steady and incentivized attrition; moving non-sworn positions outside of CCPD; the actions of the City Manager and failure to take direction from the City Council; and she wanted to see at least two Council Members vote no on the budget.

Ron Bassilian discussed the loudest speaker contest; consequences of actions on the CCPD issue reflected in 2022 voting; maintaining minimum standards of safety; divisiveness in the City and on the Council; and he wanted to see the City Council address concerns voiced by the community.

Jamie Wallace expressed appreciation for the work of the Chief Finance Officer; discussed the petition she circulated expressing concern about policing, safety and social equity in the country; she asserted that bias and racism needed to end; noted the importance of paying attention to what is happening in Culver City; asked the City Council to adopt the budget as proposed; expressed concern with singling out one person; discussed complex issues; pension and benefits; Public Safety as the major concern; and she asked the City Council to pay attention to issues of Public Safety, equity and justice for all.

Michelle Weiner discussed the public mandate to look at policing differently; pulling back; the most vulnerable who are at risk; the ongoing systemic problem; the almost \$3 million in proposed increases; she felt that not making cuts, and merely shuffling positions around was not addressing issues; asserted that the City Council should weigh in on any additional positions; discussed the Transportation budget and moving traffic management away from CCPD; support for Restorative Justice, but distrust of the process due to the lack of effectiveness to date; the need to put money into other departments to pick up the slack; and the need to move money from the bloated CCPD budget.

Kelli Estes congratulated Chief Cid; discussed confusion at meetings; items that were voted on that not all of the Council Members understood; mixed-up agendas; the petition against defunding CCPD; reducing the CCPD budget by four positions; concern with being sufficiently staffed to cover the new development and large businesses coming into the City; she asserted that the City was working on behalf of the minority rule and would pay for it at election time; and she requested a report back from the Committee established by Mayor Fisch and Council Member McMorris.

Jane Lennox discussed the lack of care by CCPD for the people; the sitting Council Member who has experienced the brutality by CCPD; concern with all the time the CCPD has had to make changes but has done nothing; studies that show that reforms and training are ignored; she asserted that the budget was not close to what the people were demanding; and she indicated that they would not stop working for change.

Andrew Lachman acknowledged things that are baked into the budget as a result of contracts; offered the assistance of the Finance Advisory Committee to examine implementation of recommendations; discussed efforts to find reliable data to show the effectiveness of proposed changes; ensuring that the City follows sound policy; hearings on Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets (CAHOOTS), mental health and the juvenile redirection program; and working to support the City Council in achieving goals.

Mark Lipman asserted that he stood with Black Lives Matter; noted the necessity of reimagining Public Safety and the budgets; discussed the need to move forward and make changes; use of public money for the public good; social issues; addressing homelessness with housing; success with ending



homelessness in Bakersfield; recommendations he has been putting forth for years; funding the community for public good; allowing the police to address real crime vs. policing poverty; cost per prisoner and cost per homeless person vs. costs to house a person in existing housing; and he asked that the City Council stop using the homeless as the reason to densify the City as that is not true.

Jeannine Wisnosky expressed support for previous comments made; commended City staff for their work; discussed negotiations; nuances in policing; working to come up with something moving toward change; and she urged the City Council to adopt the budget as presented.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding innovative changes made by CCPD; changes to traffic enforcement; response to the Public Safety review; community engagement; data collection; the Racial Identity Profiling Act (RIPA); the Chief's Advisory Panel; the Use of Force review; cultural shifts in the organization; policing in a manner that is what the community would like to see; feedback on the Bike, Walk, Park and Talk program; staffing vs. workload; impacts of reductions to service levels; attrition rates; concern with overworking officers; finding the right balance; fiscal responsibility; the importance of placing trust in those appointed to guide the City; the ability for everyone to improve; concern with cutting the budget and expecting better results; unintended consequences; doing what is right for the entire community; ensuring measured and responsible changes moving forward; the MET Team; implementation of improvements; and reassessment of staffing moving forward.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding commitments made in April including: no layoffs, establishing baseline personnel, developing mobile crisis intervention service to respond to calls for well-being concerns, eventually removing the MET Team in a phased approach, staff was tasked to work with the Ad Hoc Public Safety Subcommittee to create a Citizen Public Safety Committee and eventually transition into an Oversight Body, pursue alignment with the county's Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) with the goal of reduced police interaction, arrests and prosecution for minor misdemeanors, traffic was discussed as a part of the ATI, ensuring adequate staffing and funding, and quarterly updates on progress; centering those closest to the pain; the historical and current relationship between the police and Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC); concern with having the



same conversation over and over again; power, privilege and class; who is centered when allocating money and planning policy and programming about how to move forward as a City; how to prevent and reduce harm; disproportionality on how the City is funded; investing in community well-being; the budget as a reflection of values; the commitment to the Mobile Crisis Unit; investment in the status quo training for police; the commitment to work toward alternative systems; the 37% increase in training; the K-9 program; community events; appreciation for what is being done day-to-day; looking at the long term plan; measuring effectiveness across the board in all departments; working to find alternatives to incarceration and criminalizing people; outcomes; creating more harm; and the importance of clarity on the plan for moving forward.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding rethinking use of force; Integrating Communication, Assessment and Tactics (ICAT); the goal of reducing use of force and ensuring no one gets injured; policy decisions; the commitment to fully implement agreed upon items; exploring possibilities within Traffic Enforcement; significant changes already instituted with regard to Traffic Enforcement; the need to be able to demonstrate a reduction in workload; additional reductions to staffing; the traditional role of counties to spend money on social programs and public health; the traditional focus on fundamental infrastructure; the shift to spending money in areas that cities usually do not spend money in; concern that the community is not being heard; concern with increasing the budget and with spending money on systems of harm; offsetting funding for training in another way; the conversation about effectiveness; tying the dollar amount to outcomes; addressing something that is not working by throwing more money at it; the intention that mobile crisis operates outside of CCPD; calling on the police to do things they are traditionally expected to do; items on the list that are being increased that are not compelled to be done; continuing to emphasize the focus on those who are traditionally harmed; finding a better balance moving forward; appreciation for the work of CCPD; and the systemic conversation about funding moving forward.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding additional use of Ballona Creek; opening up the gates; increasing patrols on the bike path; anticipated increased CCPD workload with additional development in the City; providing an effective and visible presence on the Creek; jailer staffing; compliance; response time; traffic; assigning officers to each

district to decrease response time; vacant positions; filling positions; assuring minimum staffing in patrol; high visibility patrols; increased crime rates; ensuring sufficient resources to deter, respond, and solve crimes, recover property, and bring people to justice; ensuring the ability to address needs; cameras and automatic license plate readers; using technology to deter crime; the salary ordinance; reflecting public concerns; the petition submitted by Jamie Wallace; concern with buying into a national narrative; the importance of reflecting community concerns; different opinions; CCAN seen as an extreme group; appreciation to the City Manager and Police Chief for putting together a budget that reflects community concerns; and appreciation for the work done to ensure that officers are cordial and addressing situations in a non-violent manner.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding clarification that no cuts to CCPD were being considered; positions that were budgeted but have not been filled; the community request for a 50% percent cut that was never a practical possibility; signatures gathered based on the false narrative of a proposed 50% cut; the history of the country showing that violence increases when poverty increases; the economic crisis that has impacted those at the bottom of the totem pole, not the top; different factors that affect increased crime; policy issues moving forward; ensuring that mobile crisis is outside CCPD but coordinating with Police and Fire and sometimes the Housing Department; maintaining the current MET Team; reevaluation after changes are made; itemizing training so it is clear what is being paid for; skills-based vs. ideological training; hearing diverse opinions; additional accessibility with virtual meetings; intimidation; concern that in-person meetings may result in less-participation as people feel unsafe for many reasons; consideration of other budget items; providing a hybrid model for meetings; and appreciation for the efforts of staff.

Mayor Fisch discussed making changes to line items; actual expenditures; positions that generally go unfilled; budgeting for 8 fewer positions; clarification that there is no intent to form a second MET Team at this time; looking at ways to take some of the work off CCPD; moving tasks out of CCPD; and specific items to change before the budget comes back before the City Council.

Further discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding increases to the amount allocated for training; the K-9 Program expense; state requirements; special events and

meetings; fear that has been shared; attending meetings where people do not feel safe; itemizing trainings; understanding core criticisms of the process; acknowledging language used; taking care with the events; dehumanizing whole groups of people; misleading percentages; being clear with intentions; impacts; community meetings; ensuring a net positive benefit to everyone; the importance of community engagement; paying for reports that are not heeded; overall concerns; rethinking deployment strategy; the potential opening of the Jackson Gate; the need to improve lighting on Ballona Creek; and regional cooperation.

Ken Powell, Fire Chief, introduced members of the Fire Department and presented a report on the proposed Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Fire Department budget.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding the process to establish a third rescue vehicle; paramedics on bicycles and motorcycles; pilot programs; increasing the number of female firefighters; appreciation to staff for their efforts; mental health crisis intervention training; collaboration with the Department of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and the Department of Mental Health Services to improve deployment for mental health patients; training; county-approved training; percentage of calls related to the unhoused; education; outreach; drone usage; the asset replacement fund; grants; maintenance and repair; increased response and travel time; changes due to COVID; working to improve turnout time; the Alternative Transportations Bill; development of a program with the county; eliminating the need to dial 911 to transport patients for mental health emergency services; providing the needed resources with a non-emergency response; takeover of the LA Weekly building by the LA County Community Clinic Association; ensuring that efforts are not duplicated; and additional collaboration with the Housing Department and other departments that provide emergency response.

Carol Schwab, City Attorney, introduced staff and provided a presentation on the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 City Attorney's Office budget.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding the increase to the Self-Insurance Fund; the Study of Neighborhood Air near Petroleum Sources (SNAPS) program; the Community Air Resources Board (CARB); Los Angeles District Attorney George Gascon; the ability of Culver City to prosecute crimes without the DA; state misdemeanors; municipal crimes; other cities exploring prosecution; staffing; outside counsel;

specialization; workload; the need for another attorney; and acknowledgement of budget constraints.

The following member of the public addressed the City Council:

Andrew Lachman discussed budget suggestions submitted by the Finance Advisory Committee; presentations around potential revenue sources for the City that would not affect homeowners or small businesses; support of linkage fees as a way to address affordable housing and homelessness; public/private partnerships; investing and securitizing infrastructure; the actions of other cities; the need to increase mobility options; ideas on how to option off airspace as Los Angeles and other cities are doing; increasing revenue to expand parks and affordable housing; maintaining quality of life; important ideas for the City to explore; the American Rescue Plan; and he indicated that the Finance Advisory Committee was available to support.

o0o

#### **Consent Calendar**

Item C-1

**CC - (1) Approval of an Amendment to the Existing Parking Management Agreement with ABM Industries to Operate Culver City Parking Facilities for an Additional Three-Month Period; and (2) Authorize the City Manager to Approve Month-to-Month Extensions Thereafter for up to an Additional Three Months (for an Aggregate Total of Six Months)**

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VERA, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LEE AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

1. APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE EXISTING PARKING MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH ABM INDUSTRIES TO OPERATE CULVER CITY PARKING FACILITIES FOR AN ADDITIONAL THREE-MONTH PERIOD; AND,
2. AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO APPROVE MONTH-TO-MONTH EXTENSIONS THEREAFTER FOR UP TO AN ADDITIONAL THREE MONTHS (FOR AN AGGREGATE TOTAL OF SIX MONTHS); AND,
3. AUTHORIZE THE CITY ATTORNEY TO REVIEW/PREPARE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS; AND,

4. AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SUCH DOCUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY.

Mayor Fisch invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the City Council:

Aude Jackson, West LA for Black Lives, encouraged the City Council to be critical readers; he felt that hiding behind statements about being data driven was a way to allow liberal white supremacy to slow down progress and critical solutions that can be advanced; he challenged the City Council to be creative in advancing transformative solutions rather than supporting the status quo; discussed the fact that police do not prevent crime; preventing upstream causes that result in crime; advancing programs that use resources in a more responsible and transformative way; people who have the license to kill other people; he asked that the budget be considered a moral document; discussed finding and developing critical solutions; status quo ideas; defunding the police to refund the community; alternative solutions to handling issues without firearms; developing solutions for those who need leadership; alternatives to police involvement in all phases; living in a civilized society where people can handle issues without firearms and the intensive pressure of white supremacy; he asked that the City Council remember those unjustly killed by the police; and he asserted that Black Lives Matter.

oOo

Mayor Fisch indicated that the City Council would go into Closed Session to consider Item C-3.

MOVED BY VICE MAYOR LEE, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER VERA AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION.

#### **Closed Session**

At 8:40 p.m. the City Council adjourned to Closed Session to consider the following Closed Session Item:

**CS-3** CC - Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation  
Re: Initiation of Litigation - 1 Item  
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d) (2)

oOo

**Reconvene**

At 9:25 p.m. Mayor Fisch reconvened the meeting of the City Council, Successor Agency to the Redevelopment Agency Board, Housing Authority Board and Parking Authority Board.

o0o

**Closed Session Report**

Mayor Fisch indicated nothing to report out of Closed Session.

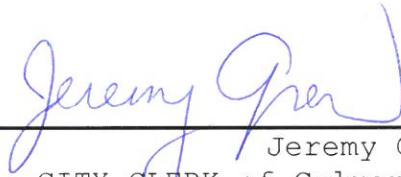
o0o

May 17, 2021

**Adjournment**

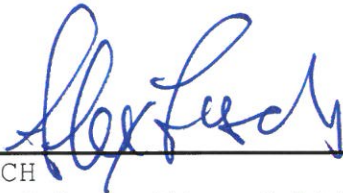
There being no further business, at 9:26 p.m., the City Council, Successor Agency to the Redevelopment Agency Board, Housing Authority Board and Parking Authority Board adjourned the meeting to May 18, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

o0o



---

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, and Culver City  
Housing Authority Board  
Culver City, California



---

ALEX FISCH  
MAYOR of Culver City, California and CHAIR of the Successor  
Agency to the Culver City Redevelopment Agency Board, Culver  
City Parking Authority Board, and Culver City Housing  
Authority Board

Date: 14 June 2021