



minutes

COASTAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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June 15, 2020 Board and Stakeholder Meeting Minutes Zoom Electronic Meeting

Board Members	Roll Call
Isiah Cade	Absent
Louis Dominguez	Present left at 9:00 p.m.
Greg Ellis	Present
Doug Epperhart	Present
Bob Gelfand	Present
Noel Gould	Present
Richard Havenick	Present
Erika Hernandez	Present
Andrea Herman	Present
Daniel Kohn	Present
John Kopczynski	Present
Kathleen Martin	Present
Kavitha Muthuswamy	Present
Dean Pentcheff	Present
Shannon Ross	Absent
Robin Rudisill	Present
Jose Abraham Vargas	Absent

1. **TECHNICAL CHECKOUT FOR ONLINE MEETING** *(no substantive discussion or comment)*
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**
 - a. Johnny Vines commented regarding Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs); his property has 2 facilities in the back of the lot, one is a garage, they have been informed by the state that they need to go through a review process which includes fee, but the buildings are already authorized.
3. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Doug Epperhart. See list above for board attendance. There was a quorum with 14/13 Board members present and approximately 10 stakeholders in attendance.
4. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**
 - a. Noel Gould commented that speeding on Paseo Del Mar is out of control, it is worse than its ever been. They will address the issue at the next coastline and parks committee meeting.
 - b. Dean Pentcheff commented that he is planning on having an administrative committee meeting next month, prior to agenda setting meeting.

Recess for a committee of the whole meeting at 8:55 p.m. – reconvened 9:25 p.m.

5. MOTION REGARDING REFORM OF USE OF FORCE BY THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

Whereas the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council (CSPNC) recognizes improvements in Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) following the November 2000 Consent Decree filed between the City of Los Angeles and the United States Department of Justice and in the LAPD encouragement of Community Policing, De-escalation Strategies, and Education.

Whereas the CSPNC also recognizes further improvements are likely necessary at the LAPD and across the US following the dramatic and often fatal results of extreme use of force.

Therefore, be it resolved the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council recommends the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Police Department immediately adopt and implement the recommendations of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, “Responsible Policing and Use of Force Reform”, including the following reforms:

1. Requiring officers to intervene to stop another officer from using excessive force
2. Restricting, or prohibiting, the use of chokeholds, strangleholds, and carotid restraints
3. Requiring officers to de-escalate situations before using force
4. Using a Force Continuum or Matrix that defines and limits the types of force that can be used to respond to specific types of resistance
5. Requiring officers to give a verbal warning before using deadly force
6. Prohibiting officers from shooting at people in moving vehicles unless the person poses a deadly threat by means other than the vehicle
7. Requiring officers to exhaust all other reasonable alternatives before resorting to using deadly force
8. Requiring comprehensive reporting that includes both uses of force and threats of force.

Motion by **Bob Gelfand** to table the motion, no second, and passed with 8 yes (Ellis, Epperhart, Gelfand, Gould, Hernandez, Kohn, Kopczynski, and Muthuswamy), 6 noes (Dominguez, Havenick, Herman, Martin, Pentcheff, and Rudisill), and 0 abstention.

Motion to take from the table, passed without objection.

Motion by **Noel Gould** to send to the administrative committee, second by **Louis Dominguez**, and failed with 5 yes (Dominguez, Epperhart, Hernandez, Kopczynski, and Muthuswamy), 9 noes (Ellis, Gelfand, Gould, Havenick, Herman, Kohn, Martin, Pentcheff, and Rudisill), and 0 abstention.

Motion by **Bob Gelfand** to send to the administrative committee, second by **Noel Gould**, and passed with 12 yes (Ellis, Epperhart, Gelfand, Gould, Havenick, Herman, Hernandez, Kohn, Kopczynski, Martin, Muthuswamy, and Rudisill), 0 no, 1 abstention (Pentcheff), and 1 left meeting (Dominguez).

6. MOTION IN CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL FILE 20-0692 ON PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS TO THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

[Amendment by Richard Havenick: strikethrough removed, boldface added]

The Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council (CSPNC) recognizes the simultaneous urgencies of impacts to the City of Los Angeles budget resulting from COVID-19 and to the well-being of residents as related to institutional racism reflected throughout our social network **and public services**, including policing.

The CSPNC supports the intent of the Council File 20-0692 and the associated Motion presented by Council President Nuri Martinez on June 3, 2020 with revision to require two distinct efforts be implemented with more comprehensive review to address the simultaneous urgencies.

Therefore, be it resolved, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council requests revision to the Council File 20-0692 to require the following two actions prior to proceeding with the currently defined budget cuts and reinvestment:

1. Convene the relevant City departments **including those associated with health and social services such as housing, public safety, mental health, and substance abuse treatment** to calculate future projected revenue shortfalls, **and fund these departments to ensure support for their operations**, ~~identify critical and urgent departmental needs to ensure minimum required funding is planned,~~ and develop recommended spending reductions to be suggested where departments' near-term funding can be deferred, delayed, or otherwise reduced.

[Amendment by Bob Gelfand: boldface added]

2. Convene the relevant City departments to identify **and remedy** potential areas of institutional racism inherent in City policies and operations across the complete spectrum of City services and develop a comprehensive implementation plan to ensure equality for all residents.

Motion to amend the motion **as noted above**, and passed with 14 yes (Dominguez, Ellis, Epperhart, Gelfand, Gould, Havenick, Herman, Hernandez, Kohn, Kopczynski, Martin, Muthuswamy, Pentcheff, and Rudisill), 0 no, and 0 abstention.

Motion by **John Kopczynski** to amend to add ‘...City departments to identify **AND REMEDY** potential areas...’ to number 2 **as noted above**, second by **Noel Gould**, and passed with 13 yes (Ellis, Epperhart, Gelfand, Gould, Havenick, Herman, Hernandez, Kohn, Kopczynski, Martin, Muthuswamy, Pentcheff, and Rudisill), 1 no (Dominguez), and 0 abstention.

Motion by **Andrea Herman** to approve the motion as amended **as noted above**, second by **Noel Gould**, and passed without objection.

7. MOTION ADOPTING PROGRESSIVE NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE LETTER

The Honorable Members of the Budget and Finance Committee
c/o Office of the City Clerk
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street, Rm 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012
clerk.budgetandfinancecommittee@lacity.org

Re: The Mayor's Proposed Budget

Dear Councilmembers Krekorian, Price, Koretz, Blumenfield, and Bonin,

The Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council writes to express our deep concern regarding the Mayor's Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year 2020-21 **COUNCIL FILE 20-0600** and urges you to revise the budget so that it reflects the values of our community. **At this critical time of converging health, economic, and racial justice crises, our city budget should be increasing funding for the vital social services on which so many Angelenos depend, not cutting those services to offset raises for police officers.**

We understand that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant revenue shortfalls for the City and that cuts in spending must be made. We question the priorities and values that are reflected in the Mayor's Proposed Budget, however, with regard to the cuts he has proposed—and those he has not.

Specifically, we are troubled that in a budget that cuts \$230 million in services, weakening vital programs that many Angelenos rely on and imposing furloughs on nearly 16,000 city workers, LAPD officer pay is simultaneously being increased by \$144 million. In relative terms compared to last year's spending—despite the great need created by the COVID-19 outbreak—the Mayor's Proposed Budget cuts City investments in housing programs by 9.4%, job programs by 8.9%, and homelessness programs by 6%—all while boosting its expenditure on police by 7.1%. This brings LAPD's share of the City's total unrestricted revenues to a whopping 54%.

Even before COVID-19, roughly one in three renters in Los Angeles spent more than half their income on housing, and there were over 36,000 unhoused people in our City. The pandemic will only make matters worse. Over half of Angelenos are now unemployed following the massive job losses stemming from COVID-19. And economists predict that many of the recent layoffs will be permanent. Without bold action from the City, more Angelenos will become severely rent-burdened or fall into homelessness.

We applaud the City's efforts to respond to the COVID-19 emergency: delivering meals to seniors, opening childcare centers for healthcare workers, purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE) for first responders, implementing a small business loan program, committing to providing rental assistance, and setting up testing sites, additional shelters, and more. These are the kinds of interventions Angelenos need at this critical and unprecedented time.

Sadly, the Mayor's Proposed Budget puts some of these very initiatives on the chopping block. The Department of Aging has reported that furloughs and office closures will directly affect seniors trying to enroll in meal services, many of whom do not have internet access and rely on staff to help them enroll in city programs via telephone. (CAO's May 19, 2020 Report on the Impact on City Services of the Furlough Program Included in the 2020-21 Proposed Budget, 7.) The Department of Economic Development anticipates that its cuts will cause delays in economic relief and related assistance to the thousands of workers and businesses impacted by the COVID-19 emergency. (*Id.* at 15.) The Department of Housing and Community Investment predicts that furloughs will reduce its ability to provide services to tenants, prevent poverty and homelessness, and create affordable housing. (*Id.* at 20.)

In her opening remarks during the May 21, 2020 Council Meeting, Council President Nury Martinez said, "As we start the new fiscal year, it is important to keep in mind the people who need us the most right now—working families, those living in poverty, communities of color that have long been forgotten, seniors and children." This budget balances itself on the backs of those very people—the most vulnerable among us—largely to offset a raise for LAPD officers. If officers simply received the same pay they did last year, the City could prevent two-thirds of these devastating cuts to critical services.

Some now will undoubtedly point to the recent civil unrest in our city as justification for the budget's prioritization of law enforcement over social services. While we agree that public safety should no doubt be one of the City's highest priorities, this is a moment when we must begin to understand as a society that policing is far from our most effective tool to ensure public safety—and, in fact, for Angelenos of color—and especially black Angelenos—it can pose a mortal threat to their very lives. **This is a moment for us to recognize that investments in housing and job security, mental health care, and after-school programs are our best investments in public safety. By cutting these services, this budget will not make Angelenos safer.**

As Councilmember Ryu observed in his recent comments on the budget, "If we make cuts to departments and services that serve low-income and working families, we will be paying for those cuts for decades to come." The Mayor's Proposed Budget puts political expediency over the urgent needs of the Angelenos who are suffering most acutely in this time of crisis, and it will cost our city dearly if enacted without significant revision.

We urge you, as our representatives, to rework the 2020-21 budget so that it meets the needs of this moment. Shift resources away from policing and direct them to vital social services. Invest in true public safety. Budgets are moral documents that reflect our values. What kind of city cuts services and increases spending on law enforcement when its people are struggling to eat?

What kind of city doubles down on policing at a moment when its deepest injustices are being exposed? What does that say about us? We need not take this path.

The coronavirus outbreak and the murder of George Floyd, together, have laid bare many hard truths—about the fragility of our healthcare system, the vulnerability of the many Angelenos living paycheck to paycheck, the real threat that police pose to Angelenos of color on a daily basis. By taking an honest look at where we are, however, we are presented with an opportunity to improve upon the past instead of repeating its mistakes. It is in that spirit that our Neighborhood Council asks you for a compassionate budget—and through it, for a more just, equitable, and humane Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Doug Epperhart, President of the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council

CC: Joe Buscaino
Councilmember, 15th District
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street, Rm 410
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Hon. Nury Martinez
City Council President
Councilmember, 6th District
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N Spring Steet, Ste 470
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Mayor Eric Garcetti
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Resolved, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council adopts and endorses the letter drafted by the Progressive Neighborhood Alliance directed to the City Budget and Finance Committee.

Motion by **Noel Gould** to amend the motion **as noted above**, no second, and passed without objection.

Motion by **Robin Rudisill** to approve the motion as amended **as noted above**, second by **Andrea Herman**, and passed with 14 yes (Dominguez, Ellis, Epperhart, Gelfand, Gould, Havenick, Herman, Hernandez, Kohn, Kopczynski, Martin, Muthuswamy, Pentcheff, and Rudisill), 0 no, and 0 abstention.

8. MOTION REGARDING MEETINGS BY DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT STAFF WITH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL PRESIDENTS AND OFFICERS

Whereas the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) has held online meetings that were limited to neighborhood council presidents in addition to DONE officers and staff, and as a result the substance of these meetings remains closed to other stakeholders, and the practice of holding these meetings in secret goes contrary to well respected principles and traditions of the Los Angeles neighborhood council system,

Therefore the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council objects to such limits for all such meetings, and calls on the City of Los Angeles to make all such meetings available for observation by all stakeholders.

Motion by **Bob Gelfand** to approve the motion above regarding meetings by Department of Neighborhood Empowerment staff with Neighborhood Council presidents and officers, second by **Louis Dominguez**, and passed with 14 yes (Dominguez, Ellis, Epperhart, Gelfand, Gould, Havenick, Herman, Hernandez, Kohn, Kopczynski, Martin, Muthuswamy, Pentcheff, and Rudisill), 0 no, and 0 abstention.

9. TRESURER'S REPORT – Louis Dominguez, Treasurer – Gave a brief overview of current funding levels

Budget and Finance (Consent Calendar)

10. APPROVAL OF MONTHLY EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR MAY 2020.

11. APPROVAL OF MONTHLY EXPENSES, INCLUDING APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S PAYMENT OF ALL RECURRING NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL EXPENSES INCLUDING (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) LLOYD STAFFING, THE MAILROOM, ANGELS GATE CULTURAL CENTER MEETING EXPENSES, VENDOR(S) FOR MEETING REFRESHMENTS, AND OFFICE SUPPLIES

Motion by **Louis Dominguez** to approve items 10. and 11. of the consent calendar, second by **Bob Gelfand**, and passed with 14 yes (Dominguez, Ellis, Epperhart, Gelfand, Gould, Havenick, Herman, Hernandez, Kohn, Kopczynski, Martin, Muthuswamy, Pentcheff, and Rudisill), 0 no, and 0 abstention.

12. MOTION TO AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES FOR A NEWSLETTER

[Amendment by Kavitha Muthuswamy: boldface added.

Amendment by Bob Gelfand: underlined added, strikethrough removed]

The Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council authorizes the following expenditures associated with publication of the June 2020 newsletter: Reed Printing, an amount not to exceed \$1,300 for printing, and Perry Mailing, an amount not to exceed \$2,700 for mailing preparation and postage.

Further resolved, ~~the following shall be the policy of the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council and the language shall be used shall use the following language~~ in its upcoming newsletter:

BLACK LIVES MATTER

The murders of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd have forced us to confront white supremacy. We cannot ignore the racism in our nation nor can we turn aside when those whose job it is to enforce the law break the law. We cannot pretend that racism does not live in San Pedro and in other parts of our city, state, and nation. We must not look the other way.

Further resolved, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council shall use the following language on its website, Facebook, Instagram, and other social media postings:

BLACK LIVES MATTER

The murders of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and countless others have forced us to confront white supremacy. We cannot ignore the racism in our nation, nor can we turn aside when those whose job it is to protect and serve murder our own with impunity. We cannot pretend that racism does not live in San Pedro and in other parts of our city, state, and nation.

We believe in the power of neighborhood action. The neighborhood is where racism enters the places we live, work, learn, and play. The neighborhood is also where part of the solution begins. It is our individual and collective duty, and our privilege, to own the solution. The Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council is committed to addressing racism in our neighborhood, and also standing with our Black and brown neighbors through specific actions to end police brutality and to make meaningful investments for safer and healthier communities. We are committed to being actively anti-racist and accountable to each of you through meetings, programming and other communication. Join us in standing with Black lives.

THE COASTAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Motion by **Kavitha Muthuswamy** to accept the substitute motion above, second by **Kathleen Martin**, and approved without objection.

Motion by **Bob Gelfand** to amend the motion **as noted above**, second by **Richard Havenick**, and failed with 0 yes, 14 noes (Dominguez, Ellis, Epperhart, Gelfand, Gould, Havenick, Herman, Hernandez, Kohn, Kopczynski, Martin, Muthuswamy, Pentcheff, and Rudisill), and 0 abstention.

Motion by **Louis Dominguez** to approve the motion as substituted **as noted above**, second by **Bob Gelfand**, and passed with 14 yes (Dominguez, Ellis, Epperhart, Gelfand, Gould, Havenick, Herman, Hernandez, Kohn, Kopczynski, Martin, Muthuswamy, Pentcheff, and Rudisill), 0 no, and 0 abstention.

13. APPOINTMENTS OF COMMITTEE OFFICERS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS, AND BOARD

REPRESENTATIVES and other appointments as necessary, including: the appointment of Jessica Nelson to the Environment and Sustainability Committee, the Parks and Coastline Committee, the Port Committee, and the Administrative Operations Committee.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Bob Gelfand commented that he has spoken in the past about emergency preparedness and public safety, they have a public safety person from LAX person coming to present at future meeting.
- b. Kavitha Muthuswamy commented that CDC released a public service announcement regarding COVID-19 still spiking, accordingly please continue to wear your mask and social distance.
- c. Julien Antelin, Neighborhood Council Advocate, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) gave a report which included some of the following.
 - i. The fiscal year 2020-2021 administrative packet is available on their website.
 - ii. The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners has approved new uniform censure and removal policies for all NC's. Accordingly, DONE will be revising all NCs bylaws with the new policy language.

- iii. The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) 2019 annual homeless count results are now available.
- d. Kathleen Martin also commented the LAHSA homeless count results, she gave a very brief overview of the numbers. The Bridge Home site was set to open this week, they are still waiting for their certificate of occupancy.
- e. Robin Rudisill commented that she received in the mail a notice for a virtual public hearing for the MELLO Act on July 8th, from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.
- f. Bob Gelfand commented that tonight may have been the single best NC meeting to ever happen, a diverse group of people able to disagree, be civil, and still able to get something accomplished.
- g. Doug Epperhart commented that Bob Gelfand, himself, and Richard Havenick, have been involved with Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council for 19 years, and over the years, this group is probably the youngest, and most diverse group there has ever been. He thanked everyone for all their hard work.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – None

16. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m. The next regular meeting is Monday, July 20, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheryl Akerblom,
for the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council