

CITY OF COMMERCE
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD AUGUST 10, 2017, 6:30 P.M.
City Council Chambers

Call to Order

Vice-Chairperson Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Flag Salute and Invocation

Commissioner Peraza led the flag salute and invocation.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Baker; Equihua, Jr.; Gonzalez, Peraza, Viesca

Commissioner Not Present: None

Staff Present: Acting Liaison Tilley, Admin. Asst. Meneses

Staff Not Present: None

Public Comment

None.

SCHEDULED MATTERS

1. Introduction of New Commissioners and Brief Introduction of Commission Responsibilities

Clerk Maria Meneses introduced the new Commissioners: Carl Baker, Steve Equihua, Jr., and Steve Viesca. Acting Liaison Tilley welcomed the Commissioners and gave a brief summary of the Public Safety and Community Services Department's function. Each new Commissioner spoke about their background and experience.

2. Recognition of Three Outgoing Commissioners: Gallegos, Jimenez, Soria

Clerk Meneses stated that Rodrigo Gallegos and Sandra Jimenez were unable to attend tonight's meeting. Vice-Chairperson Gonzalez, Commissioner Peraza, and Acting Liaison Tilley thanked John Soria, now a Councilmember, for his service on the Commission and his contributions to the community. An award was presented to John Soria and a picture was taken. John Soria thanked everyone for the award and is excited to see the Commission move forward and work together to improve the well being of the community.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held April, May and June 2017 were tabled.

4. **Discussion on When to Reorganize**

After a brief discussion, the Commission decided to reorganize at tonight's meeting. Nominations for Chairperson were opened and Commissioner Viesca nominated Johncito Peraza. There were no other nominations. Yay votes: Baker, Equihua Jr., Gonzalez, Peraza, Viesca. Nay votes: none. All were in favor of Johncito Peraza for Chairperson. Nominations for Vice-Chairperson were opened. Chairperson Peraza nominated Carl Baker. There were no other nominations. Yay votes: Baker, Equihua Jr., Gonzalez, Peraza, Viesca. Nay votes: none. All were in favor of Carl Baker for Vice-Chairperson.
5. **National Night Update**

Acting Liaison Tilley reported that National Night Out was a success. Participation from L.A. County Sheriff's, Fire, City USAR, CSO's, Commissioners, the City Council, City staff, and Target was well received. Target was a contributor and supporter of the event. Staff brought back feedback from residents and information on issues they are having. Commissioners enjoyed attending the event and also provided the following feedback: it was a well planned event and staff listened to the concerns from residents; some parties were not well attended; there was not much activity in the Bristow area; and some people felt isolated.
6. **Upcoming Public Safety Recognition Luncheon**

Acting Liaison Tilley invited the Commission to attend the City event, which is to recognize all emergency responders who service the City. Sheriff McDonald and Fire Chief Osby will be our honorary speakers. The event will be held on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at Stevens Steak House, from 11:30am to 1:30p.m.
7. **Briefing on Pending Commission Visit to Bell Homeless Shelter**

Ed Saucedo, Social Services Coordinator, informed the Commission that the tour is scheduled for Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 7pm. The Commission meeting will be conducted for brief time and then adjourned to begin the offsite tour. For privacy reasons, a maximum of 10 people can attend. It was decided that next month's meeting will begin at 6pm, to allow time for the tour.
8. **Update and Briefing on Pending Ad Hoc Committee to Address Homeless Matters**

The new Commissioners were informed that homelessness has been a concern of the Commission, which prompted the creation of an ad hoc committee. A discussion was held on whether or not a committee is necessary. Commissioner Viesca motioned to determine in a few months if a committee is necessary. Social Services Coordinator Ed Saucedo stated that he felt the committee is necessary. Councilmember Hugo Argumedo was present at the meeting and stated that committees are beneficial because they can present ideas to the Commission, who can then present them to the City Council. Councilmember Argumedo advised that the City Council relies on committees to provide them with feedback. Commissioner Viesca retracted his motion. The Commission

decided to move forward with the established committee. It was decided that Commissioners Gonzalez and Viesca will serve on the Committee.

9. **Staff Reports**

Acting Liaison Tilley reported the following:

- **Neighborhood Watch Meetings** will be held on: **8/17/17**, 6:30 p.m. at Wilma/Jardine primarily to discuss a problem house on Strong Ave.; **8/31**, 6:30 p.m. at Cowlin/Jardine primarily to discuss a recent situation where a senior was robbed at gunpoint; and **9/7**, 6:30 p.m. on Miracle Place to discuss issues there. This meeting was requested by a resident.
- New Community Services Assistant (CSA) – Paul Rodriguez is our new hire and 1 position is pending filling. Current CSA's attending a meeting today to prepare for the beginning of school.
- Coyote Update – No attacks in last 6 weeks; warning signs have been posted throughout the City; 9 have been captured; stay alert, safeguard pets, and help spread the word.
- New Commissioner Orientation – An appointment will be set up for each new Commissioner to receive a dept. tour, orientation, and ride along.
- Homelessness – A task force has been offering services to homeless people in the City. Some take the assistance and others refuse it. Business owners have been pleased with clean up efforts.
- Next Agenda Item – Commissioner Viesca requested a crime stats report for the last 6 months, and prevention efforts be presented to the Commission.
- Weekly Crime Reports – Commissioners requested that they continue to receive from the Sheriff's Dept. a weekly crime report.

10. **Commission Reports**

Commissioner Equihua, Jr. had nothing to report. Inquired if CSO's report trash that they observe while on patrol. Acting Liaison Tilley stated she will speak with CSO's and CSA's about reporting more frequently.

Commissioner Viesca reported the following:

- He attended National Night Out events with Councilmember Soria. Ferguson issues related to lighting on all streets that lead onto Ferguson Dr. were reported. Lighting at Bristow was also a concern.
- He volunteered to serve on a homelessness task force.

Commissioner Gonzalez reported the following:

- He attended National Night Out.
- Requested that tonight's meeting be adjourned in memory of resident Jorge Garcia.

Vice-Chairperson Baker reported the following:

- The Traffic Commission has addressed lighting issues on Ferguson. Some changes were made but other requested changes could not be done for various reasons.
- He reminded everyone to report anything unusual that they observe
- He is concerned that CSO's are only focused on kids and should also focus on the vehicles

Commissioner Peraza reported the following:

- He attended National Night Out
- He has a concern about trash (mattresses) in the Bristow area, under the tunnel and requested that Code Enforcement conduct more patrol.
- He attended Neighborhood Watch Meetings where car break-ins and speed bumps were discussed.
- Next Agenda – requested that Ayers neighborhood issues be discussed
- Next Agenda – requested that Pedestrian Safety at Greenwood, Watcher, and Saybrook be discussed.

Adjournment

7:42 p.m., Chairperson Peraza adjourned the meeting in memory of resident Jorge Garcia.