

CITY OF PASADENA
City Council Minutes
March 31, 2021 – 8:00 A.M.
City Hall Council Chamber

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH
LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

The virtual meeting was convened pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on March 17, 2020, and was held solely by videoconference/teleconference

OPENING: Mayor Gordo called to order the special joint meeting with Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger at 8:06 a.m. The pledge of allegiance was led by Councilmember Kennedy.

ROLL CALL:
Councilmembers:

Mayor Victor M. Gordo
Vice Mayor Andy Wilson
Councilmember Tyron Hampton
Councilmember John J. Kennedy
Councilmember Steve Madison
Councilmember Gene Masuda
Councilmember Jessica Rivas
Councilmember Felicia Williams

Staff:

City Manager Steve Mermell
City Attorney/City Prosecutor Michele Beal Bagneris
City Clerk Mark Jomsky

**DISCUSSION REGARDING FEDERAL COVID RELIEF
FUNDING AND COORDINATION BETWEEN COUNTY AND
CITY**

Supervisor Barger thanked the City Council and City Manager Mermell for their coordinated efforts working together with the Los Angeles County to address COVID-19 impacts. She stated that the City will receive a direct allocation of COVID-19 relief funds within a two-year period; that she is willing to work with the City to determine what additional resources might be available to the City of Pasadena; and her goal in reaching out to the various Chambers of Commerce to reimburse and help jump start the economy, including small businesses, and non-profit organizations, that have been disproportionately impacted due the pandemic; and responded to questions.

Steve Mermell, City Manager, provided information on staff's discussions with County staff, with the support of Supervisor Barger, to work together to ensure the residents of Pasadena

receive the same level of support and opportunity to participate in federal relief programs and funding; and responded to questions.

Mayor Gordo spoke in favor of the City coordinating with the Los Angeles County, particularly related to programming and young people (i.e. better programs and staffing at city parks).

Councilmember Masuda requested that the Los Angeles County staff consider including fitness centers, spas, and yoga studios in their Personal Care and Retail Recovery grant program.

Councilmember Williams echoed Councilmember Masuda's comments related for the need for funds to assist fitness centers, spas, and yoga studios; and suggested that funding be made available to assist those business with implementing preventive measures to keep the population safe and healthy.

Councilmember Kennedy advocated for funding from Supervisor Barger for Robinson Park to provide a pool and pool house for young members of the community who are economically impacted by the pandemic.

Supervisor Barger responded that her staff will reach out to City Manager Mermell to provide information on Los Angeles County's recreation grant programs that might be utilized for Robinson Park pool funds.

Mayor Gordo asked staff to also apply for funds for the Villa Parke pool, which is also in need of repairs.

Councilmember Williams and Vice Chair Wilson spoke on the need for Los Angeles County staff to strategically consider the shift to a remote workforce and the impacts to the economy (i.e. invest in high quality jobs, training to accommodate the adjusted work environment, how to support bioscience types of employment, development, housing availability, etc.).

Councilmember Hampton advocated for funding for the City's Summer Rose Youth Program, which provides employment opportunities for Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) high school students that reside in Altadena, Pasadena and Sierra Madre.

Following discussion, by consensus of the City Council, and on order of the Mayor, the information was received and filed.

UPDATE ON VACCINATION EFFORTS IN PASADENA

Dr. Ying Ying Goh, Director of Public Health and Health Officer, provided an update on the number of Pasadenans who have received the COVID-19 vaccination and the breakdown of the data by race, ethnicity, and age; mass vaccination strategies; coordination efforts with the County; and responded to questions.

Councilmember Kennedy thanked Dr. Goh for her leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

Councilmember Hampton spoke on the need for additional Covid-19 vaccination outreach to the Latinx community; and reiterated his suggested door-to-door approach to distribute vaccinations.

Supervisor Barger recommended that Pasadena's Vaccination strategy include evening and weekend appointments for those individuals who are unable to miss work to get vaccinated. She provided information on Los Angeles County's decision to align to the Orange Tier of the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy; and responded to questions.

Councilmember Williams spoke on the need to support and expand the City's local health activities and programs.

Councilmember Rivas suggested a vaccination outreach program at the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Pasadena site as a joint collaboration effort with the City and Los Angeles County.

Mark Jomsky, City Clerk, reported that one email expressing concerns related to the COVID-19 vaccination distribution was received by an anonymous individual, which was distributed to the City Council, posted on-line, and made part of the public record.

Mayor Gordo summarized the follow-up items for the City and Los Angeles County staff as follows: vaccination efforts with DCFS office, City/County coordinated vaccination efforts, coordination of programs at local parks and community centers, possible funding for community pools; grant funding for Robinson Park and Villa Parke pool projects, and other parks in the City; job training efforts; and programming for PUSD after school and summer school. He also spoke on the need to address the importance of the Rose Bowl Stadium to the region and stated that he looks forward to a discussion on the matter at the next Rose Bowl Operating Company Board (RBOC) meeting scheduled for April 15, 2021.

Supervisor Barger stated that she would like to include coordination efforts with the Boys and Girls Clubs located in Pasadena.

Following discussion, by consensus of the City Council, and on order of the Mayor, the information was received and filed.

DISCUSSION REGARDING HERITAGE SQUARE SOUTH APPLICATION FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUNDS

City Manager Mermell provided introductory comments, and William Huang, Director of Housing, presented a PowerPoint on the item; and responded to questions.

Supervisor Barger provided information on County project, including current funding, which is the Lincoln Avenue Senior Apartment in Altadena. She spoke on the importance of providing housing for the senior population; and stated that she is open to working with the City of Pasadena and will ask her department to rethink the home fund allocation for the upcoming year, stating that she will provide an update within two weeks; and responded to questions.

Councilmember Kennedy spoke on the importance of providing affordable housing funds towards the Heritage Square South project for seniors, and asked Supervisor Barger for her assistance in securing the necessary funds to complete the project.

The following individuals provided comments on the matter:

Areta Crowell, Pasadena resident
Jill Shook, Pasadena resident

Following discussion, by consensus of the City Council, and on order of the Mayor, the information was received and filed.

UPDATE AND INFORMATION ON MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Areta Crowell, Pasadena resident, advocated for additional outreach and supportive services for homeless population in the City of Pasadena.

Supervisor Barger provided information on County staff seeking models that will replaces law enforcement and instead provides additional mental clinicians to conduct mental health outreach in

the homeless population and throughout the community. She is working with school districts in terms of linking mental health services with the school districts recognizing that such services may be linked to families in the community.

Mayor Gordo asked Supervisor Barger to ensure that County mental health staff and professionals attend a future City Council meeting to provide information on the various County portals and programs available to those in need of mental health services, including details and information for residents of Pasadena on how to access mental health services; and determine how best to provide mental health services to children and adults who are struggling with mental health issues as a result of COVID-19.

Supervisor Barger committed to having staff present the requested information at a future City Council meeting as detailed above.

Vice Mayor Wilson agreed with Mayor Gordo and spoke on the need for Los Angeles County staff to work directly with the school districts to provide mental health services to the youth who have been most impacted by COVID pandemic.

Councilmember Madison was excused and disconnected from the meeting at 9:38 a.m.

Councilmember Williams stated that she believes it would be helpful if the City employed social workers and mental health staff assigned to the City's Public Health Department as opposed to strictly relying on services from LA County. She also spoke on the need for police dispatch employees to be trained on understanding and identifying mental health issues when receiving calls for assistance.

Councilmember Hampton asked staff (both City and LA County) to provide training to school and program staff to recognize/identify potential mental health issues that children attending after-school and summer school programs may be suffering from and experiencing.

Supervisor Barger stated that she has reached out to PUSD program providers to work with them to ensure they are prepared to provide students the space and opportunity to express themselves, and will provide an update to the City Council on PUSD's preparedness to address such matters.

Mayor Gordo stated that staff should also include options for the private schools in the City to ensure access to mental health services for all students. He stated that he will work with the City Manager and Supervisor Barger to provide an update on access to mental health services or portals; mental health services for PUSD and private schools; mental health services specifically impacted by COVID-19 and particularly as we move out of the COVID pandemic; and "bed availability" for constituents with mental health emergencies.

Following discussion, by consensus of the City Council, and on order of the Mayor, the information was received and filed.

UPDATE ON DEVIL'S GATE DAM RESTORATION PROJECT

Nina Chomsky, representing the Linda Vista-Annandale Association, expressed concerns with dust control and diesel truck exhaust impacts, and provided comments related to the project.

Mark Jomsky, City Clerk, reported that a number of letters and emails expressing concerns and providing comments/suggestions on the matter were received, distributed to the City Council, posted on-line, and made part of the public record from the following individuals:

Nina Chomsky, representing the Linda Vista-Annandale Association
Elizabeth Krider, La Canada resident
Esther Kornfeld, Pasadena resident
Blair, representing Hahamongna Accountability Project
Darren Dowell, Pasadena resident
Marnie Gaede, La Canada resident

Supervisor Barger provided information on her staff's actions to address, follow-up, and closely monitor the work of the Public Work's staff related to the Devil's Gate Dam Restoration project, and will review the issues stated in public comment and the correspondence regarding idling trucks and dust control; and responded to questions.

Mayor Gordo requested that future updates on the Devil's Gate Dam Restoration project are presented to the Public Safety Committee.

Councilmember Hampton thanked Supervisor Barger for her representation on the project to ensure the mitigations are being managed; and spoke on the need for City staff to hold the Los Angeles County Public Work's staff accountable in terms of adhering to the agreed upon mitigation measures.

Following discussion, by consensus of the City Council, and on order of the Mayor, the information was received and filed.

UPDATE ON RECENT REVIEW AND ACTION RELATED TO COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES INSPECTOR GENERAL'S SECOND INTERIM REPORT ON IMPROVING OVERSIGHT

AND ACCOUNTABILITY WITHIN SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES, DATED FEBRUARY 2021

Due to time restraints, the item above was not discussed; and will be ajenized at a future City Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On order of the Mayor, the special joint meeting of the City Council adjourned at 10:09 a.m. in memory of all those that are ill and have lost their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Victor M. Gordo, Mayor
City of Pasadena

ATTEST:

City Clerk