



CITY OF CARSON

MINUTES CARSON CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED SPECIAL MEETING OCTOBER 14, 2021 6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Mayor Lula Davis-Holmes via Zoom Teleconference.

ROLL CALL:

Chief Deputy City Clerk John W. Carroll, Sr. noted the roll:

Council Members via Zoom Teleconference:

Mayor Lula Davis-Holmes, Mayor Pro Tem Jim Dear, Council Member Jawane Hilton, and Council Member Cedric Hicks

Also Present via Zoom Teleconference:

Monica Cooper, City Treasurer; Sharon Landers, City Manager; Sunny Soltani, City Attorney; David Roberts, Assistant City Manager; John Raymond, Assistant City Manager; Saied Naaseh, Director of Community Development; Robert Lennox, Director of Community Services; Faye Moseley, Director of Human Resources and Risk Management; Tarik Rahmani, Director of Finance; and Eliza Jane Whitman, Director of Public Works

FLAG SALUTE:

Council Member Hicks led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION:

Council Member Hilton gave the invocation.

CLOSED SESSION (Item No. 1)

REPORT ON ANY PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS (CITY CLERK) -
None

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION ITEM (CITY ATTORNEY)

City Attorney Soltani announced the Closed Session item.

RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION:

The meeting was recessed at 6:04 P.M. by Mayor Davis-Holmes to Closed Session.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION:

The meeting was reconvened at 7:10 P.M. by Mayor Davis-Holmes with all members previously noted present.

REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS (CITY ATTORNEY)

City Attorney Soltani provided the Closed Session report as follows:

Item No. 1. 2021-811 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (CITY COUNCIL)

Recommendation: A closed session will be held, pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(4) because the City is considering whether to initiate litigation in one case.

ACTION: No reportable action was taken.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR MATTERS LISTED ON THE AGENDA (MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC)

This item was heard during Item No. 2.

DISCUSSION: (Item 2)

Item No. 2. 2021-808 CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF THE AMENDED RESOLUTION NO. 21-136 DECLARING A PUBLIC NUISANCE DUE TO FOUL ODOR FROM DOMINGUEZ CHANNEL AND ITS NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON RESIDENTS LIVING WITHIN ITS CLOSE PROXIMITY

Item No. 2 was heard after the Closed Session Report.

Mayor Davis-Holmes announced a report will be presented from the Los Angeles County Public Works Department.

City Manager Landers introduced Los Angeles County Director of Public Works Mark Pestrella who is one of the main leads on trying to determine what the source of the problem is.

Mark Pestrella, Director of Public Works for the Los Angeles County, introduced himself and his team: Angela George-Moody, Chief Deputy Director with Los Angeles County Public Works, and Russ Bryden, Incident Commander for the Department.

Director Pestrella gave an update of the Dominguez Channel odor condition. They discovered a source of an illicit discharge of materials in the channel, such as pallets, cardboard pieces, some actions which may be a criminal act. They will begin use of an epoleon treatment, an organic spray, tomorrow and to expect within three days the citizens in Carson should see a notable difference in the odor. Also, they will be implementing an aeration system which will introduce

oxygen in the water.

He stated the reimbursement program is up and running and would like everyone who has been impacted by the incident by moving away from home, caused pain, suffering and discomfort or acute health condition to call 211 and mention the Dominguez Channel Odor incident and the operator will guide to the resources.

The Reimbursement Program has three options for property owners or Carson residents:

1. Homes with heating and air conditioning systems; Reimburse households for filter inserts for those systems that are HEPA rated with activated carbon or other filters recommended by the County Health Department. He noted the recommendations are found online through the 211 number and the County Public Works website; Reimburse at a unit rate of \$60.00 per unit per household; receipts are required for reimbursement within 14 days of the request and will be paid within 21 days of the receipt of the receipt
2. Reimburse households for air purifier units if do not already have them can go to a mobile filtration unit. The limit for reimbursement is \$400 per household for homes 1,000 square feet or smaller and \$800 for households or homes above 1,000 square feet; receipts are required and will reimburse within 21 days
3. To be relocated will reimburse the household for one hotel room in Los Angeles County up to \$182 per day and hotel self-parking for one vehicle per day; meals and groceries will also be reimbursed at a rate of \$66 per day for each person currently residing full time in a household who have been relocated to the hotel; receipts are required for the hotel and parking but are not required for meals, groceries or incidentals

He encouraged residents to contact the 211 Helpline for further details on the program; making applications digital form but can also use paper and will respond within 24 hours. There is a set up in the east parking lot at the Carson Community Center located at 801 E. Carson Street, Carson, from 7:30 A.M. to 6:30 P.M. (Community Outreach Vehicle, big blue vehicle with Public Works on it). City, County Health, and Public Works staff are available to assist.

Russ Bryden provided website: lacounty.gov/emergency/dominguezchannel

Mayor Davis-Holmes asked if the County will assist if a resident cannot install their air filter or can they deliver.

Director Pestrella stated he is encouraging residents that they need to state if they can put the money up, install or pick up the unit, on their application so they would know how to address their situation.

Mayor Davis-Holmes asked if there will be a site for the units for residents to pick up. Director Pestrella stated he will need to coordinate the logistics and work with having a City official on the distribution for a prime location.

Mayor Pro Tem Dear suggested the County contact some hotel or motel chains to accommodate the Carson residents at a lower rate and compile a list for the residents. Director Pestrella responded the County already looked into and secured some rooms at the \$182 rate, working with other hotels, and would share with the city.

Mayor Davis-Holmes asked if hospital fees will be reimbursed. Director Pestrella recommended the residents save all their receipts associated with the incident for possible reimbursement.

Council Member Hicks asked if a resident can be reimbursed for the increase of their electric bill due to use of the HEPA purifier or air conditioner. Director Pestrella responded in the affirmative.

Council Member Hicks asked about the water table and individuals concern about drinking water in their homes. Director Pestrella responded to his question.

Council Member Hicks requested a representative from the Water Department give a report on the water condition. City Manager Landers responded in the affirmative.

Council Member Hilton asked about renting a room on a day-by-day basis because the rates change and will this be looked at on a case-by-case basis. Director Pestrella stated they will work with the hotels they have already discussed stays with to check for a weekly rate.

Council Member Hilton noted there are some residents who are directly at the channel and already vacated. He asked if the County will look into retroactive payment for those residents. Director Pestrella responded yes. Council Member Hilton referred to the three-tier option and if someone exhausted the options would the County look into as well. Director Pestrella responded yes.

Mayor Pro Tem Dear expressed the need to make sure the residents receive relief immediately.

Chief Deputy City Clerk Carroll, Sr. noted he received four public comments by mail. Written public comments received will not be read aloud and will be circulated to the Mayor and City Council and incorporated into the record.

Miyoshi called in

Asked how seniors can obtain information and who to call to have the County Public Works come to their home

Director Pestrella encouraged anyone who was impacted by the incident to call 211 and mention the Dominguez Channel odor incident which will provide the caller an operator to guide them to the resources available.

Crystal called in

Asked if the reimbursement program applies to non residents of Carson who are affected by the odor in the surrounding area

Director Pestrella responded yes.

Brandi Williams-Murdock called in

Asked the following: 1) Emergency funds budget for the City; 2) Why the City has not offered vouchers; and 3) Why a task force is not in place; concerned of plan of action for the crisis

Mayor Davis-Holmes offered comments regarding the City's actions regarding the odor.

City Attorney Soltani stated the City Council has taken expeditious action and offered comments to address the odor issue.

Council Member Hilton offered comments.

City Manager Landers offered comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Dear offered comments.

Council Member Hicks offered comments.

Isa Pulido called in

Reported the protest today was successful; asked why the refineries are emitting high levels of ppm ppb in the early mornings which is at risk; feels that the city should work with the state for funding of face masks and air purifiers for the residents

Ray called in

Suggested residents call the gas company representative to check the furnace/heater filter which they can replace for you since it is already covered in the service

- Recommendation:
1. WAIVE further reading and RATIFY Resolution No. 21-136 "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING A PUBLIC NUISANCE DUE TO FOUL ODOR FROM DOMINGUEZ CHANNEL AND ITS NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON RESIDENTS LIVING WITHIN ITS CLOSE PROXIMITY" which was adopted on October 11, 2021.
 2. DISCUSS and PROVIDE any further direction

ACTION: It was moved to 1) Waive further reading and ratify Resolution No. 21-136, as read by title only, 2) Adopt Resolution No. 21-141 approving a budget allocation of \$100,000, and 3) Direct staff to send a letter to the Governor declaring a State of Emergency, on motion of Davis-Holmes, seconded by Dear.

During discussion of the motion, Council Member Hilton stated with the State of Emergency would like to make sure we shine light on the issue where we need a faster reaction when things in crisis happen in the City which Dear and Hicks concurred.

Mayor Davis-Holmes thanked Director Mark Pestrella and his team for coming up with a solution to prevent from happening again the environmental restoration of the channel and their responsiveness.

The motion was unanimously carried by the following vote:

- Ayes: Mayor Davis-Holmes, Mayor Pro Tem Dear, Council Member Hilton, and Council Member Hicks
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (COUNCIL MEMBERS)

Mayor Davis-Holmes offered the following comments:

- Thanked the residents for being understanding, have the resources and allocated money, and the County has funding that is available. Contact the County at 211 and Carson City Hall at 310-830-7600 who are both available to assist.
- Thanked City Manager Landers, Assistant City Manager David Roberts, and the Emergency Operations Center staff for coming together and moving forward with the nuisance.
- Asked Director Mark Pestrella if he will be there tomorrow who confirmed will be ready to assist the residents with their applications.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 P.M. by Mayor Davis-Holmes.

Lula Davis-Holmes
Mayor

ATTEST:

John W. Carroll, Sr.
Chief Deputy City Clerk