



## **CITY OF CARSON**

### **MINUTES CARSON CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING APRIL 28, 2020 5:00 P.M.**

#### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 P.M. by Mayor Albert Robles via Zoom Teleconference.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

City Clerk Donesia Gause-Aldana noted the roll:

#### **Council Members Present Via Zoom Teleconference:**

Mayor Albert Robles, Mayor Pro Tem Jim Dear, Council Member Lula Davis-Holmes, 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; Saied Naaseh, Director of Community Development; Tarik Rahmani, Director of Finance; Kevin Kennedy, IT Manager; Mike Whittiker, Human Services Manager; and Captain Skeen, Carson Sheriff's Station

Mayor Robles made comments about the City's COVID-19 Drive Thru Testing site.

Council Member Davis-Holmes offered comments related to the testing site. She noted resident's concerns about having to provide their personal information.

City Manager Landers noted the personal information being requested is similar to that of a patient visiting a doctor's office for the first time.

Discussion ensued about how billing will work. Mayor Robles confirmed that the test is free to the public in addition to their deductibles being waived.

Council Member Hicks spoke about mobile home park residents who do not have the ability to access to upload copies of their identification and personal information. He directed the City Manager to reach out to residents of mobile home parks advising them of the senior hotline number for testing information.

City Manager Landers noted she will mail all mobile home park residents a letter.

Mayor Pro Tem Dear noted his experience visiting the testing site. In addition, stating the

COVID-19 testing application is problematic for residents.

Council Member Hilton offered comments.

## **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

City Clerk Gause-Aldana read public comments from the following:

### Girlie Sangco - City Hall Comment Box

Suggested the city offer free Dial-A-Ride services to seniors; inquired where can residents get discounts on masks, gloves and sanitizer wipes. Also inquired about food banks not offering vegetables, fruits, soup and produce.

### Jaime Montecarlo, Esq. - Email

Applauded the Mayor and Council for establishing a free COVID-19 Drive-Thru Testing site in the city; reported that Nita's Restaurant has agreed to serve food and provide face masks to Carson senior residents on Saturday, May 2, 2020 from 11:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. at 22028 Avalon Boulevard, Carson.

### Elizabeth Foisia - Email

Thanked the Mayor and Council for bringing the COVID-19 Testing Site to Carson; and inquired if the city was prepared to open the testing site and methods of notification.

### Antonio – Email

Suggested a daily report be posted on the City's website regarding the testing site similar to the daily posts by the County of Los Angeles Public Health Department; encouraged the City to devise a plan to reopen the local economy

### Tim Burkhammer - Phone Call

Stated the COVID-19 testing is going well. He recounted his experience where had an appointment, but his wife did not but she was able to be accommodated by simply filling out a three-part questionnaire.

## **DISCUSSION: (Item 1)**

### **Item No. 1. 2020-262 COVID-19 UPDATE (CITY COUNCIL)**

Captain Skeen announced the Emergency Blood Drive on May 29, 2020 from 10:00 A. M. to 4:00 P.M. at the Carson Community Center; Spoke about resources for those dealing with social isolation and mental health issues related to Stay Home orders; and reported on crime statistics.

Council Member Hicks inquired about the process for individuals whose driver's licenses and identifications that are expiring soon being that the Department of Motor Vehicles offices are closed.

Captain Skeen stated that during the shutdown, the public should still keep their expired Identification/Driver License with them at all times. Courtesies are being offered during the state of emergency.

Council Member Hilton spoke about loitering that is taken place throughout the city at California State University Dominguez Hills and Dales Liquor Store. Captain Skeen addressed his concerns.

Mayor Pro Tem Dear inquired about homelessness. Captain Skeen addressed his question.

Assistant City Manager Roberts introduced Dr. Camille Babaie, Medical Director, US Health Fairs.

Dr. Camille Babaie addressed the federal mandate requiring all insurance companies cover the cost for COVID-19 testing including no deductibles for everyone and spoke about the following:

- Standard personal information required to verify insurance coverage and the identity of the person.
- Providing home testing for people with logistical barriers.
- Difference between saliva testing (pending Centers for Disease Control and Prevention approval) versus nasal swabs.
- Demographic data/information will be made available to the public as US Health Fairs gather the information.
- Recommended staggering employee testing times.

Council Member Davis-Holmes inquired about how soon a plan can be developed for mobile testing sites for the senior homes in the city. She also inquired about testing for the COVID-19 antibodies.

Dr. Babaie noted that US Health Fairs can work with staff to get a plan in place right away. In addition, she addressed her question about testing for antibodies.

Mayor and City Council thanked Dr. Babaie and US Health Fairs for assisting the city with bringing the Carson Drive-Thru testing site to fruition.

Council Member Hilton also noted the partnership with Herbalife for providing the drive thru testing site workers with protein bars and snacks to get them through the day.

Assistant City Manager Roberts gave a status on testing kits provided during the first and second day of testing. He publicly thanked IKEA for providing Tupperware for their testing equipment while providing testing during home visits.

Mayor Robles noted that the City has provided over 900 tests to residents during the first two days of testing.

Council Member Davis-Holmes inquired about how the general public was advised of the free testing site. Assistant City Manager Roberts noted social media, city website, plans to mail a letter to residents, and announcement on billboard sites throughout the city.

City Manager Landers announced that through research it was identified that only one person living in one of the city's different senior homes tested positive for COVID-19. She believed it to

be a testament to how well the senior homes are being managed and taken care of.

City Manager Landers introduced Terri Billups, representative of Small Business Administration (SBA).

Terri Billups spoke about the process for small businesses obtaining access to the Small Business Administration grants and funding through various lenders.

Council Member Hilton inquired about the SBA checking business owners' personal credit.

Ms. Billups noted credit verification is an indication that the business application for a grant/loan is being processed.

The following contact information was provided:

Ms. Billups, District Office: 213-634-3855

SBA Disaster Line: 1-800-659-2955

California Community Economic Development Association: 818-416-2555

Recommendation:           RECEIVE and FILE

ACTION:           Discussion was held, and directions given to staff as noted below.

City Clerk Gause-Aldana gave the Disaster Council summary of actions.

Council Member Hicks directed staff to be prepared to provide the City Council with benchmarks, cost estimates and list of other cities that provide their employees with hazard pay.

City Manager Landers and Captain Skeen spoke about the traffic impacts of various food throughout the city.

City Council authorized the City Manager to develop a process taking into account the city's local state of emergency related to special events that will impact traffic flow throughout the city, with no objection heard.

Mayor Pro Tem Dear noted the City's encroachment permitting process. He encouraged staff to not create a burdensome or lengthy process in order to facilitate programs/events considering the current public health crisis.

City Council authorized the City Manager to work with the two groups/organizations hosting events this coming weekend establishing a partnership for food giveaways, with no objection heard.

Mayor Pro Tem Dear noted his plans for an event with the L.A. Regional Food Bank.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (COUNCIL MEMBERS) – None.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 P.M. by Mayor Robles.

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Mayor Albert Robles

ATTEST:

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City Clerk Donesia Gause-Aldana