



Minutes
Redondo Beach City Council
Tuesday, February 4, 2025
Closed Session - Adjourned Regular Meeting 4:30 p.m.
Open Session – Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m.

4:30 PM - CLOSED SESSION – ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

An Adjourned Regular Meeting of the Redondo Beach City Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Light in the City Hall Council Chambers, 415 Diamond Street, Redondo Beach, California.

B. ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: Behrendt, Kaluderovic, Loewenstein, Nehrenheim, Obagi, Mayor Light

Officials Present: Mike Witzansky, City Manager
Melissa Villa, Analyst

C. SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND INVOCATION - None

D. BLUE FOLDER ITEMS – ADDITIONAL BACK UP MATERIALS - None

E. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS - None

F. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

F.1. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR - The Closed Session is authorized by the Government Code Section 54956.8.

AGENCY NEGOTIATOR:

Mike Witzansky, City Manager

Greg Kapovich, Waterfront & Economic Development Director

PROPERTY:

555 North Harbor Drive, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 (a portion of APN: 7503-008-901)

NEGOTIATING PARTIES:

Kevin Ketchum, Port Royal Marina, LGW Investments, LLC

UNDER NEGOTIATION:

Lease Status, Price, and Terms

- F.2. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR - The Closed Session is authorized by the Government Code Section 54956.8.**

AGENCY NEGOTIATOR:

Mike Witzansky, City Manager

Greg Kapovich, Waterfront & Economic Development Director

PROPERTY:

Portions of the Redondo Beach Marina Parking Lot, Seaside Lagoon, and California Surf Club 239 & 245 N. Harbor Drive, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 (portions of APN #s: 7503-029-900 and 7503-029-903)

NEGOTIATING PARTIES:

Allen Sanford, BeachLife Festival

UNDER NEGOTIATION:

Price and Terms

- F.3. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION - The Closed Session is authorized by the attorney-client privilege, Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1).**

Name of Case:

Garces, Daniel vs. City of Redondo Beach, Officer Pattel, and DOE OFFICERS 1-10

Case Number: 2:25-cv-414

- F.4. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION - The Closed Session is authorized by the attorney-client privilege, Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1).**

Name of Case:

Law Offices of Christian Contreras v. City of Redondo Beach

Case Number: 25STCP00193

Analyst Villa read title to the items to be considered in Closed Session.

City Manager Witzansky announced that the following would be participating in Closed Session: City Manager Mike Witzansky, City Attorney Mike Webb, Assistant City Attorney Cheryl Park, W.E.D. Director Greg Kapovich, Human Resources Director Diane Strickfaden and RBPD Chief Joe Hoffman.

Motion by Councilmember Loewenstein, seconded by Councilmember Nehrenheim, and carried by voice vote, to recess to Closed Session at 4:33 p.m.

The motion carried 5-0.

G. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION – 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Light reconvened to Open Session at 6:00 p.m.

H. ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: Behrendt, Kaluderovic, Loewenstein, Obagi,
Mayor Light

Councilmember Absent: Nehrenheim

Officials Present: Eleanor Manzano, City Clerk
Mike Witzansky, City Manager
Cheryl Park, Assistant City Attorney
Melissa Villa, Analyst

I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS

City Manager Witzansky announced that under Items No. F.3 and F.4, City Council unanimously authorized the City Attorney to defend the City in both of those matters.

J. ADJOURN TO REGULAR MEETING

Motion by Councilmember Loewenstein, seconded by Councilmember Kaluderovic, and carried by voice vote, to adjourn to the regular meeting at 6:01 p.m.

The motion carried 4-0. Councilmember Nehrenheim was absent.

6:00 PM – OPEN SESSION – REGULAR MEETING

A. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Redondo Beach City Council was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Mayor Light in the City Hall Council Chambers, 415 Diamond Street, Redondo Beach, California.

B. ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: Behrendt, Kaluderovic, Loewenstein, Nehrenheim,
Obagi, Mayor Light

Officials Present: Eleanor Manzano, City Clerk
Mike Webb, City Attorney

Mike Witzansky, City Manager
Melissa Villa, Analyst

C. SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND INVOCATION

Mayor Light invited Veterans and Active Military to stand and recognized them for their service.

Isabel, 5th Grader, Washington Elementary School, led in the salute to the flag.

Mayor Light called for a moment of silence.

D. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/AB 1234 TRAVEL EXPENSE REPORTS

Mayor Light thanked each Councilmember for the meetings held last week related to the recent fires and Redondo Beach First Responders for their work; announced that SCE has approved the City's plan for a 5-acre park underneath the powerlines west of PCH; reported attending the ribbon cutting ceremony of the Skate Park mural and the pavers, a civic seal presentation at Redondo Union High School; addressed upcoming events such as the Super Bowl Sunday 5K and 10K.

Councilmember Nehrenheim thanked Public Works for the work they are doing at Alta Vista; reported attending the ribbon cutting ceremony of the Skate Park mural and the pavers; thanked the Cultural Arts Commission for their work; commented on the availability of Wi-Fi access in the Harbor now; announced the upcoming District 1 community meeting.

Councilmember Loewenstein spoke about the Skate Park mural, the mutual aid provided by First Responders in the recent fires and the last District 2 community meeting; announced his last District 2 community meeting will be on February 19, 2025 via Zoom; noted that it will be about traffic around the high school and invited candidates running for local office to speak during the meeting; mentioned the upcoming Super Bowl Sunday 5K and 10K.

Councilmember Kaluderovic mentioned the Skate Park; thanked fellow Councilmembers for attending recent meetings and announced she will be starting the buggy race during the Super Bowl Sunday 5K.

Councilmember Obagi thanked Councilmember Behrendt for coordinating recent meetings with First Responders and expressed his appreciate to Redondo Beach First Responders for helping with the recent fires.

Councilmember Behrendt mentioned the recent community meeting; thanked fellow Councilmembers for spreading the word and RBPd and RBFD Chiefs, Harbor Patrol and the City Manager for making it happen.

E. APPROVE ORDER OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Nehrenheim, seconded by Councilmember Obagi, and approved by voice vote, to approve the order of the agenda, as presented.

The motion carried 5-0.

F. AGENCY RECESS – 6:14 p.m.

Mayor Light recessed to a Regular Meeting of the Community Financing Authority at 6:14 p.m.

F.1. REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY FINANCING AUTHORITY

CONTACT: STEPHANIE MEYER, INTERIM FINANCE DIRECTOR

RECONVENE TO REGULAR MEETING FROM AGENCY MEETING – 6:21 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: Behrendt, Kaluderovic, Loewenstein, Nehrenheim, Mayor Light

Councilmember Absent: Obagi

G. BLUE FOLDER ITEMS – ADDITIONAL BACK UP MATERIALS

G.1 For Blue Folder Documents Approved at the City Council Meeting

Analyst Villa reported receiving Blue Folder items for Item No. H.5 and J.1.

Motion by Councilmember Kaluderovic, seconded by Councilmember Nehrenheim, and approved by voice vote, to receive and file Blue Folder Items.

The motion carried 4-0-1. Councilmember Obagi was absent.

H. CONSENT CALENDAR

H.1. APPROVE AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING FOR THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AND REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 4, 2025

CONTACT: ELEANOR MANZANO, CITY CLERK

H.2. APPROVE MOTION TO READ BY TITLE ONLY AND WAIVE FURTHER READING OF ALL ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS LISTED ON THE

AGENDA

CONTACT: ELEANOR MANZANO, CITY CLERK

H.3. APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CITY COUNCIL MINUTES: NONE

CONTACT: ELEANOR MANZANO, CITY CLERK

H.4. PAYROLL DEMANDS

**CHECKS 30099-30112 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,815.39, PD. 1/31/25
DIRECT DEPOSIT 290184-290809 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,538,018.37, PD.
1/31/25 EFT/ACH \$9,423.24, PD. 1/17/25 (PP2502)**

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE DEMANDS

**CHECKS 117879-118038 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,447,878.43
EFT CALPERS MEDICAL INSURANCE \$503,719.98
DIRECT DEPOSIT 100009088-100009175 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$99,147.22,
PD.1/31/25**

CONTACT: STEPHANIE MEYER, INTERIM FINANCE DIRECTOR

H.5. APPROVE CONTRACTS UNDER \$35,000:

1. APPROVE A LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH VERITONE, INC. FOR A SOFTWARE APPLICATION USED TO REPORT ENFORCEMENT DATA TO COMPLY WITH STATE ASSEMBLY BILL 953 IN AN ANNUAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$9,800, PLUS \$100 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL USER, AND THE TERM MARCH 5, 2025 TO MARCH 4, 2026 WITH AN AUTOMATIC ONE-YEAR RENEWAL

2. APPROVE A SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FOR USE OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY OFFICIAL VOTE BY MAIL DROP BOXES AND FOR THE REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK TO PERFORM CITY BALLOT RETRIEVAL AND DELIVERY SERVICES FOR THE CITY'S MARCH 4, 2025 GENERAL ELECTION AT NO COST TO THE CITY

3. APPROVE A CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH GROUP DELTA CONSULTANTS, INC. FOR GEOTECHNICAL REVIEW SERVICES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000 AND THE TERM FEBRUARY 4, 2025 TO FEBRUARY 3, 2026

CONTACT: STEPHANIE MEYER, INTERIM FINANCE DIRECTOR

H.6. REGRETFULLY ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF COMMISSIONER VIVEK GUPTA FROM THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZE THE

CITY CLERK TO POST THE VACANCY

CONTACT: ELEANOR MANZANO, CITY CLERK

- H.7. APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH COMMLINE, INC. FOR PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF REPLACEMENT RADIO INFRASTRUCTURE HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE AT A COST OF \$143,850 UTILIZING EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT FUNDS APPROPRIATED IN THE FY 2024-2025 BUDGET**

CONTACT: JOE HOFFMAN, CHIEF OF POLICE

- H.8. APPROVE THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE AVIATION BOULEVARD AT ARTESIA BOULEVARD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS (NORTHBOUND RIGHT TURN LANE) PROJECT, JOB NO. 40780, AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY CLERK TO ADVERTISE THE PROJECT FOR COMPETITIVE BIDDING**

CONTACT: ANDREW WINJE, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

- H.9. APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE ON-CALL CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH NICOLE JULES, DBA PRIORITY ENGINEERING, TO INCREASE THE NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT BY \$100,000 FOR A NEW NOT TO EXCEED TOTAL OF \$300,000 AND TO EXTEND THE TERM THROUGH FEBRUARY 3, 2027**

CONTACT: ANDREW WINJE, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

There were no public comments on the Consent Calendar.

Mayor Light pulled Item No. H.5, Subitem 3.

Motion by Councilmember Loewenstein, seconded by Councilmember Nehrenheim, and approved by voice vote, the Consent Calendar, as presented, except for Item No. H.5, Subitem 3, which was pulled for separate discussion.

Councilmember Obagi returned to the chambers.

Motion carried 5-0.

I. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

H.5. APPROVE CONTRACTS UNDER \$35,000:

- 3. APPROVE A CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH GROUP DELTA CONSULTANTS, INC. FOR GEOTECHNICAL REVIEW SERVICES IN**

AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000 AND THE TERM FEBRUARY 4, 2025 TO FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Councilmember Behrendt reported pulling this item as he will abstain from voting.

There were no public comments on this item.

Motion by Councilmember Obagi, seconded by Councilmember Kaluderovic, and approved by voice vote, Item No. H.5, Subitem 3, as presented.

Motion carried 5-0-1. Councilmember Behrendt abstained.

J. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

J.1 For eComments and Emails Received from the Public

Jamie Pagliano, Redondo Beach resident, spoke about being in attendance when Jim Light was appointed to fill Bill Brand's seat; recalled that Jim Light repeatedly stated he would not run for Mayor and played audios of those conversations; noted that Mayor Brand believed in integrity and in keeping one's word; opined he would be disappointed to see Mayor Light go back on his promise and questioned how anyone can trust someone who does not keep his promises.

Holly Osborne reported Metro made its decision for the "Metro Preferred Alternative"; discussed new important criteria that has developed specific to "redlining"; spoke about Lawndale being red; addressed a speech by Holly Mitchell on October 8th regarding the importance of green space.

Brad Waller, District 1, candidate for City Council, suggested that the City consider investing in a custom AI that would know how the City works, can be trained on processes and could facilitate the flow of information to residents through a "chatbot", such as information about what is necessary to build an ADU or how to get a business started in the City.

Sara Martin, Redondo Beach resident, spoke about good governance, transparency, accountability, responsibility to the public and good faith; addressed the unconstitutional and immoral actions of the Republican White House Administration and stated it is for the living to be dedicated to the unfinished work of those who fought for this country and ensuring that "government of the people, by the people and for the people, shall not perish from this earth" – Abraham Lincoln.

Motion by Councilmember Loewenstein, seconded by Councilmember Nehrenheim, and approved by voice vote, to extend the speaker's time by 30 seconds.

Motion carried 5-0.

Sara Martin urged Council to consider its role in how it plays out here and in the nation's capital and claimed that "We the people" are responsible for the government the people elect and those who govern are responsible to the people.

Georgette Ganter, Mayoral Candidate, talked about this election being the first time that Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) will be implemented; referenced a postcard with a tutorial about it and urged anyone with questions to contact the City Clerk's office. Additionally, she spoke about Councilmember Behrendt's recent community meeting noting it was tear-jerking but inspirational and felt more of those community events are needed to thank First Responders.

Lisa Rodriguez, District 2, submitted documents alerting the public about Jim Light, Nils Nehrenheim and their organizational involvement, deceptive ways and lack of transparency.

Motion by Councilmember Nehrenheim, seconded by Councilmember Loewenstein, and approved by voice vote, to receive and file documents submitted by Lisa Rodriguez.

Motion carried 5-0.

Lisa Rodriguez spoke about unethical actions and co-mingled fundraising during Measure C; referenced an email regarding ROW and Measure C by Councilmember Nehrenheim and questioned his actions and those of Mayor Light.

Motion by Councilmember Nehrenheim to extend the speaker's time.

The motion failed for lack of a second.

Melissa DeChandt thanked Council for its work; spoke about the Cannabis Ordinance; noted that City residents voted against Measure E; opined the ordinance is similar to Measure E which is what the residents voted against and opposed it.

Austin Carmichael, District 5, commented favorably about the community meeting last night and thanked Council and First Responders.

Wayne Craig, District 1, shared the story of a friend who lives in Pacific Palisades whose house was saved by RBF. Additionally, he referenced allegations by a previous speaker and noted they are completely false.

Joan Irvine, District 1, Mayoral Candidate, mentioned Measure E; spoke about her cannabis advocacy; noted she was active in making sure it did not pass; talked about the dangers of the black market and urged residents to look at the reality of what is out there and how to protect children.

Councilmember Kaluderovic left the chambers.

Male speaker thanked Council for its work and voiced his support of everyone at the dais.

Miriam Butler (via Zoom), District 4, addressed last night's Planning Commission meeting where cannabis was discussed; spoke in opposition to cannabis dispensaries in the City; disagreed with comments made by the City Treasurer during the meeting about cannabis delivery being legal; spoke about track and trace being able to track cannabis delivery sales.

Councilmember Kaluderovic returned to the chambers.

Miriam Butler (via Zoom) continued her statement asserting that people are being misled; discussed the Planning Commission recommendations; believed all parks should be exempt as children visit parks and noted the ordinance's intent is one dispensary in North and another in South Redondo.

There were no other public comments on this item.

K. EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Light reported speaking with City staff and several Councilmembers and some members of the Planning Commission regarding Item No. L.1.

Councilmember Nehrenheim reported speaking with City staff and members of the public.

Councilmember Loewenstein reported speaking with City staff, members of the Planning Commission and Councilmember Behrendt.

Councilmember Kaluderovic reported speaking with City staff.

Councilmember Behrendt spoke with Mayor Light, Councilmember Loewenstein, City staff and members of the Planning Commission, Rob Gaddis, Wayne Craig, and Doug Boswell.

L. PUBLIC HEARINGS

L.1. PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS AN ORDINANCE THAT WOULD AMEND TITLE 10, CHAPTERS 2 (ZONING ORDINANCE) AND 5 (COASTAL LAND USE PLAN IMPLEMENTING ORDINANCE) OF THE REDONDO BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE PERTAINING TO ELECTRONIC MESSAGE DISPLAY SIGNS ON PUBLIC AND INSTITUTIONAL (P) ZONES AND ALL OTHER CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES

Recommendation:

- 1. Open the public hearing, take testimony;**

- 2. Give direction to staff on the language to include in the final draft Ordinance; and**
- 3. Continue the public hearing to February 18, 2025, to allow for consideration of introduction and first reading of an Ordinance modifying the regulations in the Municipal Code pertaining to electronic message display signs.**

CONTACT: MARC WIENER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Councilmember Behrendt requested a more thorough accounting, in the Administrative Report, of what may have transpired at a particular commission meeting, not just the sentiment of Commissioners, but the reasoning; if, for example, a concept was unanimously rejected and why so that when it comes before Council, Council has the full benefit of the work the commission and Staff did.

Community Development Director Wiener narrated a PowerPoint presentation with details of the ordinance.

Motion by Councilmember Nehrenheim, seconded by Councilmember Loewenstein, and approved by voice vote, to open the public hearing.

The motion carried 5-0.

Community Development Director Wiener continued with the presentation addressing current definitions for signs and electronic message displays; reviewed the Planning Commission's recommendations which stated:

- Planning Commission unanimously expressed concern about the appropriateness of electronic signs in RB.
- Effect may have on community character if installed city-wide
 - Should be limited to the Harbor/Pier (Waterfront) area only
 - Planning Commission should review all electronic display signs
 - A CUP should be required for the signs rather than a Design Review entitlement.

W.E.D. Director Kapovich addressed electronic message signs in the waterfront and proposed modifications to the code; noted the intent of the electronic signage is not for advertisement but it is easier to make changes when businesses turnover or to alert people of closures due to weather and similar warnings.

Community Development Director Wiener reviewed recommended actions for the Council.

City Manager Witzansky expanded on options for City Council consideration and next steps.

Councilmember Loewenstein mentioned the CIP allocation in 2021/2022; expressed

concerns regarding electronic signage and billboards across the City and the potential of changing the character of the City; felt it is distracting to drivers and produces a lot of light pollution and asserted they should be limited on a case by case basis; talked about directory signs being part of administrative review as there is constant turnover and electronic signage being subject to Planning Commission review of a CUP; felt there should be an exemption for electronic directory signs in the Harbor.

Councilmember Loewenstein left the chambers.

Mayor Light mentioned the Amenities Plan noting that wayfinding signage is peppered throughout and talked about a comprehensive signage and wayfinding program; stated the Harbor Commission felt digital was the way to go because of constant changes, possibly be interactive similar to a mall directory and would be useful in advertising events such as the Kite Festival; opined pedestrian wayfinding signs should be separate from billboard-type of signs; mentioned that he did not realize how much the Planning Commission was against the electronic signage; asserted that the Harbor Commission should weigh in on this matter.

Councilmember Nehrenheim felt this should be reviewed by the Planning Commission without another stop at the Harbor Commission; talked about the Planning Commission overseeing the entire City for consistency; mentioned a digital sign at the Galleria from which revenue could be derived.

Councilmember Loewenstein returned to the chambers.

Councilmember Nehrenheim reported an electronic sign was a big hit with businesses in Riviera Village; stated he would be fine with the signage being on City property and seeing how that goes and spoke about moving forward with the project.

W.E.D. Director Kapovich reported the Harbor Commission has purview over all Conditional Use Permits and all design reviews within the Harbor and the Planning Commission has purview over everything outside the Harbor.

City Manager Witzansky noted that staff is not recommending a CUP, but rather a design review standard whether it be at staff level through administrative review, or at the Planning Commission or Harbor Commission level is what they are seeking direction on. Anything within the Waterfront area would default to the Harbor Commission; stated that if the City wanted the Planning Commission to review the signs, then they would have to add it to the list of items the Planning Commission is always involved in.

Councilmember Nehrenheim talked about having an administrative review which can be appealed through Planning.

Assistant City Attorney Park reported the code already indicates that a decision by the Planning Director can be appealed to the Planning Commission and its decision can be appealed to the City Council.

City Manager Witzansky reported the direction is sought as to whether, by right, this has to go to the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Nehrenheim stated he does not mean by right and does not want to extend the process.

Mayor Light disagreed on the Planning Commission having final say on something in the Harbor.

Councilmember Behrendt suggested moving ahead with the sign in the harbor that Councilmember Loewenstein originally requested in 2021; suggested returning to a future Council meeting to consider wayfinding and whether it should involve Planning or Harbor Commission review or both.

City Manager Witzansky spoke about upgrading the kiosk near the George Freeth statue with new display technology and suggested a more robust conversation about regulating electronic signs later on.

More discussion followed regarding the new display technology.

Councilmember Obagi spoke about the Galleria wanting to have this discussion and addressed developing a Planning or Harbor Commission review process.

City Manager Witzansky stated that staff is happy to continue conceptually working on this item and return at a later date to develop a better draft of the electronic wayfinding directory sign component of the code.

Councilmember Obagi favored moving ahead with the signage at the Waterfront and returning at a future date to consider other electronic signage in the Harbor or City.

Discussion followed regarding PI and/or City-owned zones, exceptions for directory signage and allowing four directory signs as well as on Mole D to test it out; defining "electronic" signage and distinguishing between directory signs and billboard signs.

Motion by Councilmember Loewenstein, seconded by Councilmember Nehrenheim, to move forward with the one sign allowance for the sign at Mole D, defer the matter on whether it should be reviewed by the Planning Commission and allow for the exemption of only four Pier directory signs at this point, with a deeper dive to be done later.

Discussion followed regarding review by the Planning or Harbor Commission or both, avoiding delays, trusting the Harbor Commission and leaving kiosks as an administrative process.

Mayor Light invited public comments.

Brad Waller, District 1, spoke in support of Councilmember Loewenstein's motion; expressed support for having future discussions regarding wayfinding signs; reported the Riviera Village Board was interested in having touchscreen signs in the area; talked about having wayfinding signs for Riviera Village, the Aviation/Artesia corridor and the Galleria area; commented on existing regulations for electronic billboard signs.

Austin Carmichael, District 5, agreed with Councilmember Loewenstein; talked about considering the entire community and having the Harbor Commission weigh in by attending Planning Commission meetings.

There were no other public comments on this item.

Councilmember Behrendt inquired about the size of the kiosk signs.

IT Director Mike Cook reported that the screens are double-sided, 55 inch television screens and noted the kiosks are about 6 feet tall and 3 feet wide.

Councilmember Behrendt continued with his point and painted a picture of having 30 square foot electronic signs in 53 locations throughout the City and stated the residents are not ready for that and neither is he; mentioned the reasons against having them throughout the City; felt that since the electronic sign is slated for the Harbor the Harbor Commission should have jurisdiction over the approval of it.

Discussion followed regarding the specifications of the four kiosk signs and the pros and cons of Harbor Commission review versus Planning Commission review.

Councilmember Loewenstein agreed with Austin Carmichael, noting that if the Harbor Commission wants to weigh in on the matter they should during a Planning Commission meeting; spoke against delaying implementation further.

Community Development Director Wiener shared the sign section of the code and noted the code specifies electronic signs should go to the Planning Commission for review.

In response to Councilmember Behrendt's inquiry, City Manager Witzansky reported this was last updated to accommodate the sign at the Performing Arts Center and the code section was for the two conceptualized sites (Performing Arts Center and the Redondo Union High School Auditorium). He added that this is the Planning Commission's purview, but if Council wants it to be the Harbor Commission it can be written to do that; noted the Planning Commission may have more design review practice but, the Harbor Commission receives such applications and has experience; stated staff views both as capable entities in this discussion.

Councilmember Behrendt referenced the code and felt this looks like it is under the Planning Commission's jurisdiction.

W.E.D. Director Kapovich stated that there is language that talks about when it comes

to CUPS and design reviews, the Planning Commission has purview unless it is in the Harbor.

Discussion followed regarding prior discussions to expand the jurisdiction of the Harbor Commission.

Councilmember Obagi talked about not delaying the project further.

Assistant City Attorney Park quoted from the code relative to Planning Commission design review noting that all references to the Planning Commission mean the Harbor Commission.

Councilmember Obagi offered a friendly amendment to the motion that review would be by the Harbor Commission.

Assistant City Attorney Park read from the municipal code relative to review of projects in the Harbor/Pier area and confirmed it would be at the purview of the Harbor Commission.

Councilmembers Loewenstein and Nehrenheim accepted the friendly amendment.

Discussion followed regarding fixing the code overall and getting the project done as quickly as possible under the jurisdiction of whatever body is appropriate.

Amended motion by Councilmember Loewenstein, seconded by Councilmember Nehrenheim, to move forward with the sign allowance for the sign at Mole D with final review by the Harbor Commission.

Mayor Light invited public comments.

Georgette Gantner recommended leaving it under the purview of the Planning Commission if it is going to slow things down.

City Manager Witzansky reported the design details of the sign are yet to be determined so neither Commission has seen or reviewed the plans, and the sign ordinance will be amended so there is no conflict.

There were no other public comments on this item.

Motion by Councilmember Nehrenheim, seconded by Councilmember Obagi, and approved by voice vote, to continue the public hearing to February 18, 2025.

The motion carried 5-0.

The amended motion carried 5-0, by voice vote.

RECESS/RECONVENE

Motion by Councilmember Behrendt, seconded by Councilmember Obagi, and approved by voice vote, to recess at 8:00 p.m.

The motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Light reconvened the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: Behrendt, Kaluderovic, Loewenstein (arrived at 8:06 p.m.) Nehrenheim, Obagi, Mayor Light

M. ITEMS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS AGENDAS - None

N. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION PRIOR TO ACTION

N.1. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE ORGANIZATIONAL ASSESSMENT COMPLETED FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AND THE ACTION ITEMS IDENTIFIED TO IMPROVE DEPARTMENT SERVICE

CONTACT: MARC WIENER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Councilmember Loewenstein arrived at this juncture. (8:06 p.m.)

Community Development Director Wiener narrated a PowerPoint presentation with details of the Community Development Department; recommended staffing and organizational actions:

- Permit Center Supervisor
- Third Plan Check Engineer
- Building and Safety Analyst

Discussion followed regarding evaluating ways to make it easier to obtain feedback, the need for additional positions, whether the budget exists to hire additional staff and considering the subject during upcoming budget discussions.

In reply to Councilmember Obagi, City Manager Witzansky offered to bring back a BRR on what the additional positions would look like and felt there are ways to offset the expenses associated with the Plan Check Engineer position.

Community Development Director Wiener presented a screenshot of the iWorQ Software System and addressed its capabilities and listed key points.

Mayor Light reported receiving multiple positive comments about Community

Development Director Wiener and thanked him for his work; noted there have been incremental improvements in the department for quite some time; felt that culture is one of the most important things to establish first.

Community Development Director Wiener responded to questions from Council regarding working cooperatively with other City departments, centralizing the information and being able to provide reporting on the status of permits/projects and additional capabilities of the software.

Councilmember Kaluderovic left the chambers.

Discussion followed regarding metrics and improved service.

Councilmember Kaluderovic returned to the chambers.

Councilmember Nehrenheim commented favorably about the item and the improvements that have occurred during his tenure.

Discussion followed regarding the ability for continued improvements and expediting processes, saving money while improving customer service, evaluating the fee schedule, auditing performance and the possibility of bringing on a resource, if additional help is needed, for audits.

City Manager Witzansky added that it will be a paperless process.

Councilmember Nehrenheim noted how much better the department has become since Community Development Director Wiener has joined the team; spoke about the staffing issues and asked about the auditing features of the iWorQ software; thanked City staff for the work done on this item.

Discussion followed regarding setting six months as an appropriate time to provide a status update to Council.

Community Development Director Wiener reported he would like to create a checklist for a strategic plan that provides information as to whether the City is complying with its goals.

City Manager Witzansky added that staff can provide Council with some feedback, in the next six months, on some of the more specific initiatives.

Mayor Light mentioned the importance of having a benchmark so one can compare what has been accomplished and urged staff to establish one.

Mayor Light invited public comments.

Austin Carmichael spoke about this being the first Council meeting of Black History

Month; read a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr. and appreciated that the Community Development Department is service-centric.

In reply to his questions, Community Development Director Wiener reported there is auto population in the system and reported the positions involve two new and one conversion.

There were no other public comments.

Motion by Councilmember Nehrenheim, seconded by Councilmember Obagi, and approved by voice vote, to receive and file the report and direct staff to return with a report in six months.

The motion carried 5-0.

O. CITY MANAGER ITEMS

City Manager Witzansky reported he will be attending the Cal Cities City Managers Conference in Rancho Mirage later this week and discussed items on the agenda for upcoming Council meetings.

P. MAYOR AND COUNCIL ITEMS

P.1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION REGARDING CITY ORDINANCES REGULATING NOISE GENERATED BY PROTESTS IN PUBLIC AREAS AND THE HOURS DURING WHICH PROTESTS ARE ALLOWED TO OCCUR

City Attorney Webb introduced the item and RBPD Chief Hoffman offered to respond to questions from Council.

City Attorney Webb spoke about ordinances banning protests, noting they are not content neutral; referenced an ordinance banning amplified noise without a permit; suggested that would be the quick fix and proposed placing it on City Council's agenda of March 11, 2025. He discussed ordinances with specific standards in terms of decibel levels; talked about challenges in enforcement and recommended that Council give staff direction to modify the ordinance banning amplified noise with a specific time restriction, and after hearing from RBPD Chief Hoffman, ask for a BRR as to the additional costs of being able to enforce the decibel ratings more robustly.

Councilmember Loewenstein requested that it be done by February 18, 2025 and City Attorney Webb agreed.

Discussion followed regarding allowing protests on public areas, the large rat and protestors wearing rat masks and scaring patrons.

RBPD Chief Hoffman reported that the ordinance adds a reasonable tool that can be

enforced, realistically, to the department's toolbox as focus will be placed on the individual that is actually violating the Municipal Code.

Discussion followed regarding addressing drums, horns, cowbells through the noise ordinance.

RBPD Chief Hoffman stated that, if Council desires to have an ordinance based on sound decibel levels, he recommends that Council provide direction to return with a BRR on the costs involved in having a sound company conduct a survey on ambient noise levels at various places throughout the City, then contract with a consultant that could recommend potential modification considerations by Council on the ordinance so that it would be enforceable.

City Attorney Webb wondered whether it has to be amplified noise but noted people will normally come up with other ways to make noise; suggested contracting with a noise expert to do the tests and having a provision for an expert witness.

Discussion followed regarding challenges in identifying violators, Council's discretion to set time restrictions, the permitting process for amplified sound and the possibility of setting a place limitation.

Councilmember Behrendt asked for clarification from City Attorney Webb on the time being before 9:00 a.m. for no amplified noise; City Attorney Webb agreed.

More discussion followed regarding amplified noise and permitting.

Councilmember Obagi wondered if Sonesta could address this problem through its own private action since it is ruining the quiet enjoyment of their residents.

City Attorney Webb responded affirmatively and talked about giving the Police an effective tool to address the immediate concern.

Motion by Councilmember Loewenstein, seconded by Councilmember Obagi, to direct staff to return with a change in the ordinance to place a prohibition on amplified sound from 10:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. and produce a BRR on the cost of a comprehensive sound study and recommend changes to the Municipal Code related to sound enforcement.

Mayor Light invited public comments.

Joan Irvine, District 1, wanted to make sure this does not affect the Women's March and mentioned old ordinances in the City that need to be updated to be gender neutral.

There were no other public comments on this item.

The motion carried 5-0, by voice vote.

Q. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REFERRALS TO STAFF

Mayor Light reported receiving a call from Moses Rambler with Lanakila; stated their annual race is coming up and they will donate their proceeds to the recent Fire victims and have asked the City to waive its fees for the event; asked to agendaize the matter for the next City Council meeting. After discussion, Mayor Light asked that staff return with a BRR on the item on February 18, 2025.

Councilmember Nehrenheim reported the Public Works Commission spoke with the Public Safety Commission; referenced a referral he made in December and asked for a BRR on the options and costs associated with installing a bicycle lane from the City boundary on PV Boulevard and PCH.

Councilmember Obagi spoke about PFA Forever Chemicals on fire turnout outfits; imagined that firefighters who fought the fires in L.A. got exposed to a lot of bad chemicals such as asbestos and requested a BRR on total cleansing turnouts or whether they just need to be replaced and what those costs would be.

Motion by Councilmember Nehrenheim, seconded by Councilmember Obagi, and approved by voice vote, to place on an upcoming agenda an adjournment in memory of a District 1 community member, Ray Benning.

The motion carried 5-0.

R. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION - None

The Closed Session meeting was cancelled.

S. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION - None

The Closed Session meeting was cancelled.

O. ADJOURNMENT – 9:30 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, motion by Councilmember Kaluderovic, seconded by Councilmember Loewenstein, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. to an Adjourned Regular meeting to be held at 4:30 p.m. (Closed Session) and a Regular meeting to be held at 6:00 p.m. (Open Session) on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 in the Redondo Beach City Hall Council Chambers, 415 N. Pacific Coast Hwy., Redondo Beach, California.

Motion carried, 5-0.

All written comments submitted via eComment are included in the record and available

for public review on the City website.

Respectfully submitted:

Eleanor Manzano, CMC
City Clerk